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Happy New Year!

Another year has passed. And a new year is dawning. There have been some changes with the RARC Executive Board: We now have a new Vice President Dave Peters KB9EWG and a new Secretary Jon Melbo KD9WPD. Welcome to the Board Jon. Carl Thurston KC9HDS is now a Member at Large, as is Bill Wood KE9XQ. Drew Neve AB9NE is again our President and Scott Cross KB3MKD continues as our Treasurer. Shawn Hicks KD9KGQ has stepped aside as our Secretary. He did a fantastic job but he has other responsibilities to deal with that made him decide to leave the Board. Thanks again to Shawn for his good service. As you can see, our board has changed only slightly, just a bit of a reshuffling of office holders. Over the past several years, our Executive Board has been doing such a good job that it was deemed unnecessary to change things much. It is hoped that we will continue to have the kind of progress this year that we have experienced in past years. Oh yes, there have been challenges to deal with, like the shift of location of the Holiday Party from Schmidty's to North Country Steak Buffet, due to Schmidty's going out of business. Thanks to the quick thinking of Roger Reader KA9BKK we were able to redefine the location of the Holiday Party. There are other things that we will have to monitor and adjust as time goes on I'm sure, but the Board Members should be up to the task. So Happy New Year to all.

73 de Carl KC9HDS.

UPCOMING Events for January 2024

- ◆ RARC Sunday Night 2 Meter Net is held on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control operators for January are:

January 7, 2024	David kd9epn
January 14, 2024	Rick kd9gvs
January 21, 2024	Wayne k0wlo
January 28, 2024	Mark kb9ofk
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **January 2...**Post Holiday Party at North Country Steak Buffet
- ◆ **January 16...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Fork and Fable. All members are welcome to attend.
- ◆ **January 27...**Winter Field Day at Dave English Shelter, Onalaska

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Hello, RARC Members and Friends!

It's Christmas Eve as I'm writing this. I hope all of you have a wonderful Christmas and get to spend time with those who are important to you. The Post-Holiday Party invitation has been emailed and RSVPs are coming in. Please join us as we look forward to seeing you. RSVP head of time if you are able. Please join us even if you are not able to RSVP, but don't be upset if there isn't a gift for you. The 2024 Membership forms will be mailed, too. Don't wait for that to come before you RSVP for the Party.

This has so far been an unseasonably warm December. There have been many Decembers that I've been able to regularly fish through the ice. Any attempt at ice forming has since disappeared and it's melted this year. I'm sure we'll have some, but it's strange to not have it by late December.

It gets me thinking about what I'd like to do to improve my portable radio station for next year. I've got a chance to get out and work on a new antenna with this nicer weather.

We have some things to work on regarding the club's equipment, too:

- ⇒ How do we want to use the club equipment?
- ⇒ Should we keep our new radio in the trailer?
- ⇒ Can the trailer use some upgrades?
- ⇒ How might we better store the equipment that is kept in it so it doesn't interfere with the operating position?

⇒ What equipment do we want to keep?

⇒ Can the operating position use a facelift?

There is always something we can do to improve what we have to make it more serviceable, or easier to use. These are questions we should ask every year, but we only have one year immediately ahead of us. Some attention should be paid to that in 2024, and the winter is a good time to get that sort of thing done. It will allow us better use of our equipment, and it will give us a more polished appearance when the public (and hopefully prospective members) sees us using it.

I expect 2024 to be another busy, and enjoyable year for the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. We were able to add some new events and we made some changes in 2023, and we're always looking for more. We can expect a licensing class early in the year. Perhaps it'll be a hit and inspire another one later. The club is only as good as its members, though. Please let me know if there is something you'd like to see the club do. Please let me know if you feel that the club is holding you back in any way. Effort goes into making events accessible to members, but there's always more that can be done. Of course, if you wish to offer your talents in a way to improve what is happening in the club, please let me know about that, too.

Tnx es 73,

Drew Neve

AB9NE





Nuggets

Save the dates

We have reservations for the Dave English Shelter at Community Park in Onalaska for Winter Field day January 27, for the Glen Fox Shelter in Glen Fox Park in Onalaska June 22 for Field Day, and for Rowe Park Shelter #2 in Onalaska for July 28 for the club picnic. We are trying to get Bethany Church for our Swapfest for June 15. More on that when we have word.

We are preparing for ham radio classes to start early next year. If any of your friends or other acquaintances are interested let us know. When the time and place is set we will let you know.



BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO



Wanted: Articles for The Key

Please submit your Article by the 26th of the month and include "The Key" in the subject line.

Send your Amateur related classified ad(s) to Scott, NLT noon the 26th of each month to kb3mkd@arrl.net. Please Include "The Key" in the subject line.

Looking for items for this space

CLUB INFORMATION



Riverland Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 621

Onalaska, WI 54650

- * The Key is published monthly and e-mailed to members and friends of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club by the 28th of each month. The newsletter focuses on news, announcements and activities of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. It may also consist of news and information of interest to the Amateur Radio community as a whole. Guest editorials and articles related to Amateur Radio are welcome. Contribution articles should be submitted NLT the 26th of the month. Address any correspondence or anything that should be included in the newsletter to: Scott Cross KB3MKD@arrl.net. Please include the word "Key" in the subject line of your submission.
- * The Riverland Amateur Radio Club maintains a website at rarc.qth.com. More information about the club can be found there as well as past copies of The Key.
- * RARC also maintains a Facebook page where members add information and share their Amateur Radio adventures. Please friend us at Riverland Amateur Radio Club—RARC.
- * RARC maintains a repeater that is located on the WXOW television tower above La Cresent, MN. 146.970 pl 131.8.
- * RARC holds a weekly 2meter net on Sundays at 8:00 PM on the 146.970 repeater.
- * Trustee Meeting is held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Fork and Fable at 5:30 PM, all club members are welcome.
- * Program evening is held the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM, elmer session at 6:30 PM at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 401 West Avenue in La Crosse.
- * Weekly "Breakfast Club" Ragchew on the 146.970 repeater on Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Stop by to say "hi".

Below are listed your RARC 2022 Board of Trustees and contact information.

President.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.

Vice-President.....David Peters, KB9EWG Email...kb9ewg@gmail.com

Secretary.....Jon Melbo. KD9WPD Email melbo.jon@gmail.com

Treasurer.....Scott Cross, KB3MKD Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net

Trustee.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS Email...kc9hds@gmail.com

Trustee.....William Wood, KE9XQ Email ke9xq@aol.com

Repeater Trustee.....Roger Reader, KA9BKK Email...readers@centurytel.net

Newsletter Editor.....Scott Cross Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net