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Things to Consider...

Its time again to think about what needs to be done for the continuance of our club. Over the years we have had ups and downs that have been a real challenge. We always seem to come out the better for our efforts. A lot of the credit for this should go to our Executive Board. It hasn't always been easy to do the things that were needed to be done to keep it all together, but our members have some how managed to do what must be done to make it work. Oh yes, we have had some rocky events in the past that have tried our metal. Events that made the members of our Executive Board question whether we are doing the right things for the betterment of our club. What has happened in the past should stay in the past. Hopefully we have learned from them. Looking forward; we need to be proactive about some of the things that need changing. Our current Executive Board has been fairly unchanged for quite some time. It has been rather comfortable for many of us to be able to rely on the Board to do what needed to be done. However, some of the Board members are becoming a bit stretched and as a result there needs to be new RARC members who are willing to be nominated and elected to the Executive Board.

By and large, the duties of the Board are not too difficult and most of the time things are resolved easily. It would be good if every RARC member would consider being a member of the Board. If no one new steps up to put their names up for consideration, we will be forced to continue with our current Board as we have done for so of a
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UPCOMING Events for October 2023

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

November 5, 2023	Mark kb9ofk
November 12, 2023	David kd9epn
November 19, 2023	Rick kd9gvs
November 26, 2023	Wayne k0wlo
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **November 7...**Monthly club meeting at UUF La Crosse
- ◆ **November 21...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Fork and Fable. All members are welcome to attend. Notice new date and place.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Hello, RARC Members and Friends!

I've mentioned a time or two about this CW class that I'm taking through the CWOps organization. It's an eight week class that'll run through October. I've just finished week five as I'm writing this.

It's a challenging class that requires diligence to keep up. Morse code is one of those things that you don't improve without putting forth some effort. I can see myself getting better, though. I'd recommend the CWOps classes to anybody who is interested. There are four levels of classes that go from the start (learning the code) through the finish of head copy at 25 WPM. I'm in the third level (intermediate training).

Morse code is a mode that is better for DX and poor band conditions than voice modes due to the narrower bandwidth and lack of modulation. The digital modes can do better than cw, but you also have reliance on a computer. That can be a problem at times.

Proficiency at morse has been a goal of mine that I pushed to the side for decades. Getting involved in it again brings back nostalgic memories of my teenage start in ham radio as a novice. My first call was KA9EXY. I was a member of the Ozaukee Radio Club from 1978 until I joined the Army in 1983.

Handheld radios with frequency synthesizers were new things then. Radios (HF and VHF) that had crystal frequency control were still very common. Many hams still had tube radios, but most of the new radios were solid-state with tube finals. Icom and Ten-Tec stand out in my recollection as having solid-state finals.

I bought a Ten-Tec Century 21. It received voice and cw, but transmitted cw only. The output power was about 25 watts. Radios at that time did not feature built-in keyers as today's radios do. A keyer was an accessory and required a separate purchase. As a teenager I could not afford one. I hooked a straight key up and tapped my way through my novice years (1977-1980). My code was up to about 15 WPM. I couldn't tap any faster. I was also eager to try new modes once I upgraded. My Elmer (Terry, WA9AWO - America's Worst Operator) took me to the Federal Building in Milwaukee where the FCC officials from Chicago would set up to proctor exams on certain days. He took his Extra exam while I took the General. Terry was fantastic at cw. Another member of ORC said he thought Terry would probably be

able to operate CW and SSB at the same time for Field Day. If I've met anyone who could, it would have been him. He told me going into the exam that I should ask to test for Advanced. That would let me get a peek at the Advanced exam after passing General. There was not a release of question pools in those days. That sneak peak didn't do me much good, but I was thrilled to have passed my General class exam and earned a new call: KB9LLO. I held that call until I passed the Extra exam in 2007. My involvement in radio was spotty after 1983. It was nonexistent while I was in the Army with short intervals of activity during college and early years of working. Field Day was a thrill for me and it still is. Ozaukee Radio Club typically entered class 4A with two CW stations and two SSB stations. This was before computers were prevalent, so logging was done on dupe sheets. I will not go so far as to say computers do a better job during the event, because dupe sheets were very quick and reliable. The computer records we have now make counting the results and submitting them much quicker and easier, though.

We did most of the set-up Friday afternoon, then there was a potluck dinner and a table of booze in a surplus Army tent. A lot of Sheepshead was played. There was a volunteer from the club (no, it wasn't me) who prepared meals for the group. I remember one morning he started to make pancakes and discovered that the Hungry Jack box he brought out was actually potatoes, not pancake mix. The pancakes were a little runny that year.

They tried a wire antenna held up by a weather balloon, too. I do not recommend we try that. It floated away and the wire fell over the power lines.

They had a 25' tower on which to put a yagi antenna. The Armstrong method was used to control its direction as a rope could swing it around very effectively. I don't know that it worked any better than the dipoles we used last year. I also remember the generators as being much louder than the ones we use. I'd also like to see us put more emphasis on solar power. Some things do not inspire nostalgia.

Tnx es 73,
Drew Neve
AB9NE



Nuggets

The Tone-Squelch can be set on your radio to receive the transmitted tone for when a repeater signal is transmitted with the tone. This has two advantages. First it will prevent your receiver from breaking the squelch if there is noise on your receiver frequency that is NOT from the repeater. Secondly, if you do not have a YAESU Fusion radio, the Tone-Squelch will prevent your receiver from opening when a digital conversation is going on, so you don't hear the digital noise.

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Wayne Oliver
KOWLO



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 Swap-fest for June 15. More on that when we have word.



Things to Consider...(Continued)

many years. This would not be a problem with some of the current members as many those individuals have little to do other than show up to the meetings and vote on the various proposals that arise in the normal course of RARC business. The main offices that need to be filled are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and several Trustees. Each of these offices are required for the continuance of our club as 501(C3) non profit organization. Granted that most of these positions are more ceremonial than functional, but they are still necessary for the smooth operation of our club and to remain in compliance with regulations.

Please consider being nominated and elected to our Executive Board. The members of it will help out anyone new who is elected to it. As you probably already know. The members of the Executive Board are elected at large in a secret ballot. Once a member has been elected to the Executive Board, it is the members of that Board that determines what office each elected officer will fill. There has been some misunderstandings about how and why it is done this way, but it is a way that the various duties can be fairly considered for each member. Further it might be a good idea to remember that most of the RARC business is conducted by the Board itself, thus lifting the responsibility of those decisions from the membership at large. All decisions concerning the dispersal of funds from the RARC Treasury in excess of \$500.00 per item must be okayed by a quorum of 25% of the paid up membership in order for the disbursement to be the made. Also, an annual audit of the disbursement of funds must be made and reported to the membership. These things are necessary to keep everything honest and correct.

Having said all of that: Please consider being a member of our Executive Board. The members of our current board that remain, will help all new members to work out the details of the office that they are assigned to.

Thank you and 73 Carl kc9hds.



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

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