



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Once Up-on a Time     | 1 |
| President's Comments  | 2 |
| VHF/UHF Happen-       | 4 |
| Farewell Tour         | 5 |
| Buy, Sell, Trade, ISO | 6 |
| Club Info             | 7 |

## Once upon a time...

All good fairy tales start with "Once upon a time..." Since the information in this missive is very loosely based on historical data, I have decided to name it so. If there is someone out there with more accurate information on this subject, feel free to respond with that information. Otherwise, here is my remembrance of the things relating to the "history" of our club trailer.

At our last Executive Board Meeting a quarry was put forth about the status of our club trailer. Since I was one of the senior members present, I was asked about some of the details of its origin. As I get older, I find that my memory plays tricks on me at times, so I have to reflect on a give subject over time to come up with anything that borders on what might be termed "historically correct." Having

reflected on this subject of the club trailer, here is what I recall.

Our club trailer was purchased by the County Emergency Coordinator with funds give to him by Homeland Security. So I can sort of place its purchase some-time after the 911 attack. If someone has a more precise date, please let me know. I'm saying this as most of the historical documents from that time period have disappeared, so I must rely on my foggy memory. Anyway, as I started to say, the trailer was perched by the La Crosse County Emergency Coordinator and given/loaned to the RARC to be set up and used for emergency communication purposes.

Continued on page 3

### UPCOMING Events for April 2024

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

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| April 7, 2024  | Greg k9lec   |
| April 14, 2024 | David kd9epn |
| April 21, 2024 | Rick kd9gvs  |
| April 28, 2024 | Wayne k0wlo  |
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **April 2...**Program Night: UU Fellowship Hall 7:00pm. Elmer time 6:30 pm
- ◆ **April 13...**Hams in the Park
- ◆ **April 16...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.

## PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

I'm writing this with Riverland Amateur Radio Club's first licensing class in several years going on in the next room. I can hear the discussion. The instructors are presenting the material well, and the participants are attentive and asking relevant questions.

I've already taught my portion of the instruction, so one of my co-teachers is on now. I'm very proud that this club is interested in teaching classes for prospective Hams. I'm very proud that we've got five members who are interested in helping to teach. I'd like to thank Scott, KB3MKD, David, KB9EWG, Jon, KD9WPD, and Mike, KB9HV, for stepping up and offering to teach. It sends a message to our students that there is so much interest in their success. I'd also like to thank Roger (ahead of time) for coming to help proctor the exams.

A hallmark of a worthwhile radio club is the Elmering that is available to people. Elmering, in our club, is available to seasoned members along with the newcomers. I consider myself one of the more seasoned members, and I consistently learn things from other members.

Elmering happens whenever we get together. It happens in classes like the one we're conducting now, and it happens during informal chat sessions. It definitely happens at events that we hold. I was thrilled that people who hadn't seen my antennas before the WI QSO Party remarked that, "Wow, I really like the way you did that!". I was able to point out some of the nuance of the antenna design, and it was a great teachable moment.

We are toward the end of a flurry of activity that started mid-Winter. We had Winter Field Day, WI QSO Party, St. Patrick's Day Parade. We have Hams in the Park starting up in a few weeks, so there will be opportunity to continue both operating and Elmering. Members of Riverland Amateur Radio Club have presented themselves with distinction at all of these events.

We conducted the WI QSO Party with a multi-transmitter effort for the first time that I know of from the shelter at the Stoddard Village Park. We were happy to have that facility rather than the pop-up fishing shanty that we used in 2023. Several members approached me during the event about using the facility for Field Day. I was glad they did, because I was already thinking that way. We looked into seeing if the facility would be available to us for that weekend. It turns out that it will be, so we've reserved the facility. It will serve us very well for Field Day. Stoddard Village Park is only a few blocks from the American Legion Post where we'll hold our Swapfest this year. Take a look and familiarize yourself with it. We'll use the shelter that is further South; away from the baseball diamond.

I'm starting to feel my Field Day enthusiasm build already.

There are many great activities that this club holds. Don't miss out on the opportunity that you have to be a part of it. Your participation makes it better for all of us.

73

Drew AB9NE



## Once Upon a Time... (continued)

It was supposed to belong to the county EC but the actual paperwork of ownership has since been lost like most of the historical information about it. It was to be emblazoned with lettering designating it as an "Emergency Communications" trailer on the sides and on the roof (so that airplanes could identify it from above). It took many club meetings to accomplish this, as there was difficulty getting a consensus as to how to accomplish the task. After many unsuccessful attempts to resolve it, mainly due to our treasurer's unwillingness to approve the funds need to have it so painted, our President at the time went ahead and had it painted and so it was done. I'm not sure who paid for the painting of it, but once done it has remained so emblazoned. As time wore on the trailer's location was "lost" by the CEC and so it has remained with our club ever since.

About ten years ago I was assigned the task of refitting it to fulfill it's designated task. At the time I was the event coordinator for our annual Field Day Event. Several people volunteered to help with that project, but no one showed up to help, so I enlisted my wife and one of my sons to help me with it. As I recall a budget of \$150.00 was greed upon so I proceeded to make it happen. I scrounged up material from where ever I could find it and the refurbishing of the trailer was completed in time for the event. Wood for the operating positions was donated by Western Wisconsin Technical College's Wood Working Department and various other materials were found here and there to complete the task. The trailer was to have a dual purpose for our club. It was to house all of our radio equipment as well as its designated use as a communication trailer. This was a compromised arrangement as that equipment took up most of the room in that small trailer, so that when we wanted to use it operate as a communication trailer all of that "stuff" had to be removed to make room for radio operations. Over time, it was further modified to include solar panels and a battery system to make it truly a mobile radio station.

Since then it has been in use for Field Day Events, Parks on the Air Events and other Special Events put on by the RARC. There are now several people who want to get rid of it, but so far it remains at Greg Miller KA9FOZ's QTH where he stores it and cares for it. I hope that this clarifies some of the history of that trailer. Feel free to add and further information about that trailer. In the meantime I wish you all 73 and I'm looking forward to your responses.

Carl kc9hds.



Picture Courtesy Rick KC9GVS


## VHF/UHF happenings

Happy Spring everyone,

This month the focus will be on another device that is common to radio site installations that I was introduced to during the downtime of the local 444.475 repeater. This device is called a circulator and is also known as an "ferrite circulator" or "isolator". A circulator is oftentimes used at a radio site that is congested with other transmitters and has a lot of RF in the area. A circulator can also be considered a "one way valve" that passes RF energy out to the antenna, but does not allow RF back to the transmitter or power amplifier, thereby protecting equipment from large reflected signals (from antenna or feedline failure for example.) The isolator also can be used for reflected power detection and measurement as well as decoupling amplifier stages.

The circulator is typically a part of a larger device referred to as an intermodulation suppression panel. The suppression panel consists of one or more isolators, a low pass filter, and one or more dummy loads. It provides a constant 50 ohm load protecting the transmitter from faults in the antenna system as

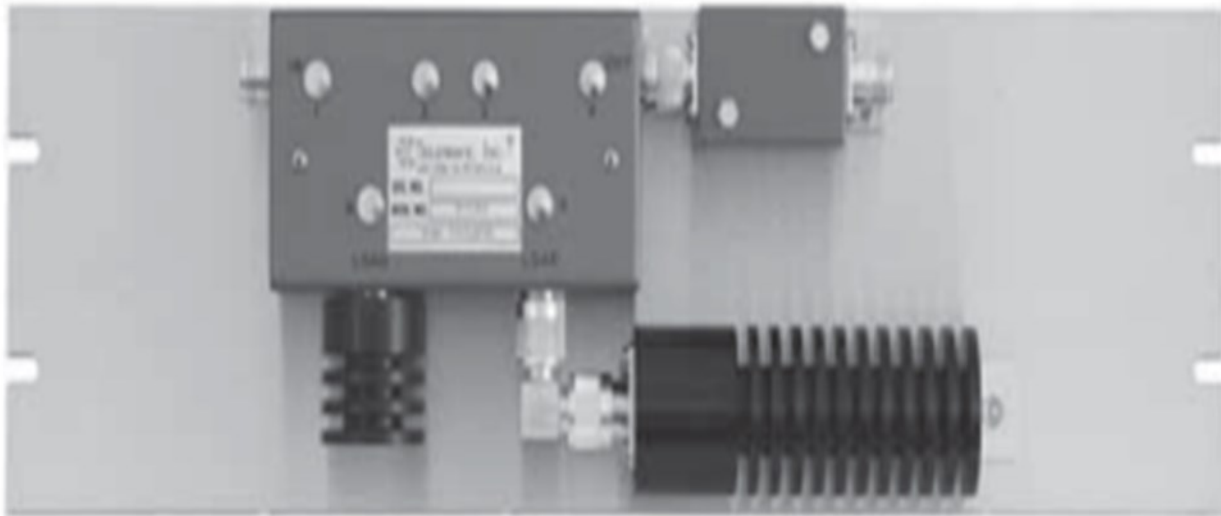
mentioned earlier, as well as reducing intermodulation distortion.

The reason for the low pass filter is that circulators are not linear devices and can generate harmonics of their own. This intermod suppression panel also needs to be tuned much like a duplexer. Tuning can be factory provided when ordering through a commercial vendor.  They also can be field tuned to a certain degree, if it becomes necessary due to a frequency change.

Pictured below is a typical arrangement of an intermodulation suppression panel. The larger rectangular device is the circulator, the smaller box to the right is the low pass filter. This particular unit is a 400- 512Mhz dual isolator model with two dummy loads.

73 for now....

Rick KD9GVS



## Farewell Tour

Longtime Riverland Amateur Radio Club friend 'The Forty Meter Band' is making plans for its farewell tour to begin later this summer. Members of the band cite tensions between them and the rival 'Thirty Meter Band' as sowing the seeds for the break-up. "All good things must come to an end, and this looks as though it will be the end for us.", said co-founder and longtime beacon D. B. Fading. "We had a good, long run, but nothing as been the same since that fateful day in 1979 when The Thirty Meter Band appeared seemingly from nowhere. Thirty Meters had our groove, but that little additional reach that really seemed to draw attention from our traditional following."

The Thirty Meter Band has also taken full advantage of it's relationship with that stalwart of the charts, WWV, too. "You know, WWV has always had that extra something special. Nobody can match its rhythm section... so precise. People mistakenly associ-

ate Thirty Meters with it, and it just makes everything harder for the rest of us." Members of the band have been largely silent about their plans after the tour. A notable exception is bassist Eddy Current. He and his live-in partner, Teri, have been appearing in smaller venues as a separate act. They will be moving to a larger profile as his responsibilities end with The Forty Meter Band. They will appear as an opening act during the Farewell Tour with the name 'Eddy and His Teresis'.

The Forty Meter Band will be missed. Do yourself a favor and don't miss this band while you still have the chance to enjoy.



Picture Courtesy Rick KD9GVS

## Volunteer Needed

Riverland Amateur Radio Club is in need of a volunteer to coordinate our efforts with Rotary Lights and liaison with the Rotary Lights leadership.

Our club, for many years, has decorated a tree as part of Rotary Lights, we've helped to clean Riverside Park after Rotary Light's opening night, and we've appeared in the Rotary Lights Parade at times.

Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ, has been our liaison for several years, has served with distinction, but would like to pass it along to somebody else.

The liaison does not have (and should not) do all of the work. There are many of us who look forward to

spending Saturday after Thanksgiving out in the park.

The liaison handles the communications with the Rotary Lights, arranges for the tree decorating (and tear-down) and park cleaning, and attends the award ceremony where we receive a check from Rotary Lights for helping to clean the park. The Rotary Lights folks have the process very well in place, you just need to let those of us in the club know where and when our efforts will be wanted.



## 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.*

Wanted: Ham shack, antenna and other ham radio related pictures that can be used in the Key.

*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](http://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 Las Margaritas 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