



# OPEN MIC

A NEWSLETTER OF THE  
RUNESTONE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, W0ALX

JULY 2016

W0ALX RARC, 15125 160<sup>th</sup> Ave, Villard, Minnesota 56385-2350

[www.w0alx.org](http://www.w0alx.org)

Alexandria Rpt: 146.790-

442.025+ (88.5)

Sauk Centre Rpt: 147.255+

## SCHEDULE FOR JULY 16

8am: Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alex

10am: Monthly RARC Meeting, Glenwood State Bank, Alex

Mike W0MKE will conduct the program for this month's club meeting. He mentioned something about Ham Radio and Raspberry Pi. Who doesn't like Raspberries?

## PRESIDENTIAL SPLATTER...

### 1963 Ham Radio Exam

My novice days were 1962 – 1963. I lived in Osakis and the nearest exam office was in St. Paul, three hours away (no I-94 then). Exams were given four times a year. I was 18 years old starting Tech School in a month with my novice ticket expiring soon. I knew darn well that I better pass my general on the first try because I knew that I would not get the chance to try again till the following summer. That would be 10 whole months without ham radio. The pressure was on. When I arrived at testing site, downtown St. Paul, the testing room was packed. The other examinees seemed to all have slide rules, and that scared me.. Not only did I not have one, I barely knew how to use one. "Do I need a slide rule for this exam?" I asked. "Yes!" one of the older men said. However, before the exam began, I found out that those guys were all taking commercial exams.

The first part of the exam was code; if you didn't pass that, you went home. If you passed the receiving portion, then you had to send with a hand key (unless you brought your own bug), but everyone usually passed the sending test. In those days, as I remember, the receiving test was some sort of text of a maritime nature: one ship signaling another. It was not a ham radio QSO or anything like that, so it was completely unpredictable. You had to have a minute of solid copy to pass. I handed in my paper and waited for the results. The FCC examiner was a crusty old guy and he was in a bad mood. He started going through a large stack of papers. "Smith? Where are you Smith?" Smith raised his hand. "YOU FLUNK!" said the FCC man. "Jones? Raise your hand Jones. Oh, there you are. YOU FLUNK!" And so it went, one flunk after another, until he came to my paper. "Johanson? Where is Johanson?" I raised my shaking hand, almost crawling under my desk at the same time. "Come on up here, son, and send some code for me."

I walked out of there with a new General Ticket but had to wait three weeks for the paper license to come in the mail before I could operate with my new privileges....73 WA0EBZ

## RUNESTONE ARC MEETING MINUTES JUNE 18

1. Members present: WA0EBZ, KG0DX, W0JAR, N0RCL, KB0INZ, W0MKE, W0XPC, W7ISD, and KC0SAL.
2. President WA0EBZ called meeting to order at 10am.
3. May minutes were referenced. W0MKE moved to approve, W0JAR seconded, passed.
4. Treasure Report: Beginning balance \$3612.90; ending balance same.
5. Trustee Report: The MS Tram will be using 790 and 255 repeaters for the major bike tour.
6. No Education report.
7. Tech Report: repeaters seem to be working OK.
8. Public Information: KC0SAL and KG0DX participated in KEYL's Open Mic radio show to promote Field Day in particular and Amateur Radio in general. FD article appeared in Echo Press and the Browerville Blade plans to visit our FD site.
9. The annual RARC picnic will be on August 27 around noon at the Kensington Runestone Park. The plan includes setting up W0ALX before the noon meal and then operating afterwards for a time to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of RARC. W7ISD made mention that doing CW is more difficult while eating. (hi hi)
10. Field Day discussion: -will need power cords, fence posts/puller, band pass filters, move club trailer to KB0INZ qth at conclusion of FD, bring antenna analyzer, computer logging, bring your own food/beverage, breakfast at Jan's Place, and operate from Law Enforcement Center.
11. KB0INZ and WB0KUG have keys for Viking tower. The climbing harness' are in a locker in the radio room.
12. Short continuing discussion on storage/communications trailer. No action taken at this time.
13. W0MKE will provide July club program.
14. We need Net Controls for November and December.
15. It was agreed that KC0SAL should proceed to establish a Twitter account for RARC prior to FD activities.
16. Motion by W7ISD to adjourn, KB0INZ seconded, passed.
17. Field Day videos provided by WA0EBZ were quite enjoyable.

## 2016 MONDAY NITE NET CONTROLS

January	Tom KD0MOM
February	Jim KB0INZ
March	Bill KG0DX
April	Mike W0MKE
May	Roger KD0UTA
June	Bill KG0DX
July	George N0RCL
August	Jim KB0INZ
September	Jim NN0Q
October	George N0RCL
November	
December	

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 16: 8am Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alex

July 16: 10am Runestone Monthly Club Mtg, Glenwood State Bank, Alex

Aug 6: 8am Breakfast, Truckers Inn, Sauk Centre

Aug 20: NO MONTHLY RARC MEETING or BREAKFAST

Aug 27: 10am W0ALX 80<sup>th</sup> Operational Activity, Kensington Runestone Park

Aug 27: 12 noon, RARC Annual Picnic, Kensington Runestone Park

Aug 27: 1pm W0ALX 80<sup>th</sup> Operational Activity, Kensington Runestone Park (til about 3pm)

### **A BIG “THANK YOU” AND “THE WINNERS ARE:”**

Some time ago KG0DX was asked by the family of Maggie N0NYV and Joe KA0PPU (SK) to determine what of their radio “stuff” may be of interest to RARC members. We decided that there was one 2meter transceiver, three small 12 volt power supplies, one multimeter, a Heathkit educational breadboard and a 12/17 meter 3 element Cushcraft yagi; all of which will be given away via door prizes over time to club members. The Cushcraft yagi was awarded to W0XPC at the breakfast table prior to FD setup. The second item to be drawn for was the 2 meter mobile radio—those members who participated in this years Field Day had their name put in a hat and the THE WINNER was KB0INZ who went home with a Yeasu FT 7900. And of course, a BIG THANK YOU goes to Maggie and her family for making these things available to us.

### **SOMETHING TO CHECK OUT:**

Ever wonder what the band conditions are like on a given day for a given band. Well, look no further than [www.bandconditions.com](http://www.bandconditions.com) for the answer. A very informative site and loaded with information as to whether or not you should spend a lot of time spinning the dial. Have fun with this one.

### **2016 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS**

Wayne WA0EBZ	PRESIDENT
Norm W7ISD	VICE-PRESIDENT
John W0JAR	TREASURE
Bill KG0DX	SECRETARY
Wayne WB0KUG	TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Jim KB0INZ	TRUSTEE
John W0JAR	DIRECTOR (2017)
Mike W0MKE	DIRECTOR (2018)
Norm W7ISD	DIRECTOR (2019)
Andy KC0SAL	PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

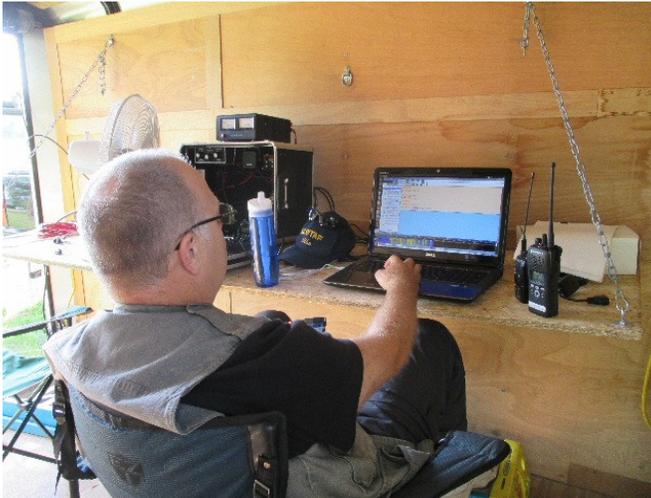
# RUNESTONE RADIO CLUB.....FIELD DAY 2016



KB0INZ, KC0SAL, W0XPC, KD0UTA



KB0INZ looks real hungry



KC0TAF working lots of PSK31



WA0EBZ working SSB, W0MKE logging



KC0SAL working the PSK31 station



WAS IT WINDY OR WHAT?????