



O P E N M I C



A NEWSLETTER OF THE
RUNESTONE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, W0ALX

W0ALX RARC, 2301 S Le Homme Dieu Drive NE, Alexandria, MN 56308
www.w0alx.org Alexandria Rpt: 146.790- 442.025+ (88.5) Sauk Centre Rpt: 147.255-

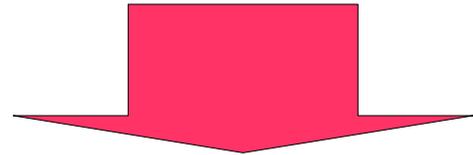
WOW

The RARC will once again be sponsoring the annual Special Event Discovery of the Kensington Runestone as found in November of 1898. This Special Event will begin on October 18 with breakfast at the Brass Lantern around 7:30am. Then we'll move to the Runestone Park near Kensington at 9:00am to begin setting up antennas and stations. We're planning on a SSB and PSK31 station and perhaps one more if we're lucky. Should be operational around 11:00am. We'll need operators and logging personnel for activity that will extend into the evening (10:00pm or so). The Special Event will commence again on Sunday morning (October 19) at 8:00am and tentatively end that afternoon between 3 and 6pm. On Monday and Tuesday, October 20 and 21 participants are encouraged to continue operating from their home stations. All operations for this particular WOW Special Event must end by midnight of October 21.

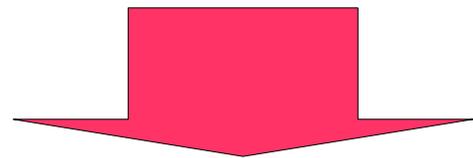
All logging should be done using software that is capable of producing ADIF files. Send logs to kg0dx at arrl dot net. If there are fewer than 20 QSOs logged paper or spreadsheet type logs may be used. This because the data needs to be typed into a logging program which can produce QSL labels for the certificates and QSL cards.

We'll talk further regarding details and answer questions at the club meeting September 16.

SEPTEMBER 2014



YOU JUST GOTTA COME!



**RARC MONTHLY MEETING
7:00PM SEPT 16
GLENWOOD STATE BANK**

**PROGRAM: GROUP DISCUSSION ON
WIRE ANTENNAS**

PLEASE TRY TO BRING DRAWINGS, PLANS,
PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUR WIRE ANTENNAS THAT
YOU ARE, OR HAVE USED, USING WITH YOUR
TRANSMITTERS. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU CAN
BRING ENOUGH COPIES FOR 10-15 PARTICIPANTS.
THANK YOU.....

NEW HAMS ARE DIFFERENT

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This is going to be a bit of a ramble, but I need to get some thoughts down about new hams, and maybe get some feedback on these ideas from both new hams and guys that have been around for a while.

Recently, I visited the All Hands Active (AHA) makerspace here in Ann Arbor. Several of the "makers" that use this space have recently gotten their ham licenses—most of them in one of my one-day Tech classes. I was down there trying to get them interested in attending Field Day, and in particular, in operating the GOTA station.

There were four of us sitting around, talking about amateur radio, the projects they were working on, Field Day, and other stuff. In the past, they had also expressed an interest in doing something with WA2HOM, our station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. While it was a great discussion, it was apparent to me that it was going to be difficult to get them out for Field.

It dawned on me that these new radio amateurs were just not interested in the "old" amateur radio. Sitting in front of shortwave radios and exchanging fake signal reports with other guys sitting in front of shortwave radios is just not their idea of a good time. I think that if you take a step back and try to look at it through their eyes, you'll see where they're coming from.

What are they interested in? Well, one guy is having a blast playing around with RTL SDR dongles. He's also trying to figure out a way to rig up wireless link to light a light at bus stops around his house when a bus is approaching. Another is working on a Hinternet-type project. I helped him out a little bit last summer setting up a wireless node at his house.

This is perhaps one reason why there are so many more licensed radio amateurs these days, but yet there seems to be less activity on the HF bands these days. HF is just not where it's at for these new guys.

One consequence of this is that the old amateur radio clubs don't have much to offer the new guys. In fact, one of them told me that the one time that he attended the local club meeting, he got such a hostile response that he decided not to return.

I'm finding this all quite interesting. I do intend to pursue some kind of joint activities between the All Hands Active maker group and WA2HOM and see where that goes. They may not be interested in working DX on 20m, but they do seem to be interested in the IRLP node that we're in the process of installing there.

(con't next column)

RARC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

KG0DX Bill	President
W7ISK Norm	Vice President
W0KJCJ Norm	Treasure / Trustee
KB0INZ Jim	Secretary
open	Technical Director
KC0UTN Ric	Education Director
W7ISD Norm	Director (2015)
N0QXM Nick	Director (2016)
W0JAR John	Director (2017)

2014 NET CONTROL AND MEETING GOODIES

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>	<u>GOODIES</u>
JANUARY	KC0UTN/NN0Q	KG0DX
FEBRUARY	W0KJCJ	W0KJCJ
MARCH	NN0Q	NOCE
APRIL	N0RCL	KD0UTA
MAY	KD0MOM	KD0RAV
JUNE	KB0INZ	N0NYV
JULY	KD0UVA	KD0UVA
AUGUST	KC0UTN	PICNIC
SEPTEMBER	NOCE	NOCE
OCTOBER	KB0INZ	W7ISD
NOVEMBER	KG0DX	KC0UTN
DECEMBER	KC0UTN	CHRISTMAS PARTY

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sept 13: 10:00am PICO Net Get-Together at the Cactus Inn in Perham, lunch around noon, fun time
- Sept 16: 7:00pm RARC Monthly Club Meeting, Glenwood State Bank
- Sept 20: 8:30 Sat Coffee, Depot, Alexandria

- Oct 4: 8:30am Sat Coffee, Trucker's Inn, Sauk Centre
- Oct 18: 7:30am Sat Coffee, Brass Lantern, Alex
- Oct 18: 9:00am Set-up for W0W, Kensington Park
- Oct 19: 8:00am Continue W0W, Kensington Park
- Oct 21: 7:00pm RARC Monthly Club Meeting, Glenwood State Bank

I'm not sure where this is all headed, but what I do know is that these folks have a lot of energy and creativity. If we can couple that with our knowledge and experience, then I think that we'll be a good fit for one another. It's going to take open minds all around, though.

I'm really interested in hearing from all of you about this. Have your clubs made contact with the "makers" in your area? Do any of them have ham radio licenses? Are there any interesting ham radio/maker projects going on in your area?