

# HAM RAG

Rockford Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Visit our website for more club and area ham information in the Rockford area at <http://rara.tripod.com>

February 2003

## MIKE OBERG, AB9AY, CHOSEN HAM OF THE YEAR FOR 2003

Mike Oberg, AB9AY, was chosen as the 2002 Rockford Amateur Radio Association's Ham of the year. Mike is a long time ham, his former call was WB9JAU. He is a caring man, a member of the Retired Men's Club at the YMCA, a Christian man and works many hours for his church. In all ways he represents Amateur Radio very well.



Mike Oberg (left) accepting the Ham Of The Year Award from Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, (right) and Shari Harlen, N9SH (center). Photo by WA9NTT

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Be our Valentine this month and renew your dues. you will get your new membership card in april. The repeater codes will change on April 1st. Non-members no longer receive the ham rag after March 31st.

Next Meeting: 7:00 P.M.

Program this month:  
QSL Procedures  
presented by Gary Hilker, K9LJN



Located at the OSF Center for Health Care 5510 E. State St. Rockford, IL (Across from old Phar-Mor & next to Tumbleweeds)

**Silent Keys: David Brown, KC5ZTC, Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU, and Kalpana Chawla, KD5ESI.**



Photo by Space.com

February 1, 2003 - The world has lost 7 great heroes today. The catastrophic loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia and her crew

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From left to right: David Brown, KC5ZTC, Rick Husband, Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU, Kalpana Chawla, KD5ESI, Mike Anderson, William McCool, and Ilan Ramon.

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was a shock to everyone world-wide. On behalf of the entire Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) team,

I would like to extend our deepest expressions of sympathy to the friends and family of the STS-107 crew.

Today's events clearly demonstrated the challenging and sometimes sobering aspects of space travel. Space travel is not easy. It is hard. We do our best to ensure there are adequate safety nets in place to ensure mission success. But sometimes something goes wrong and we are not successful. Unfortunately, this is what we all experienced today.

It is essential that we learn from what happened from today and use this information, and our new heroes' spirit, to springboard us to new, safer levels of space travel. Our quest for space must continue despite these tragic losses...just like the sailing and arctic explorers of old.

It should be noted that 3 of the 7 crew members on STS-107 were amateur radio operators: Mission Specialists David M. Brown, KC5ZTC, Kalpana Chawla, KD5ESI and Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU. On a personal note, Kalpana Chawla or "KC" as she affectionately called, worked closely with the ARISS team for several years as our astronaut liaison. She stepped down from this position when she began preparations for the STS-107 shuttle flight. We will deeply miss her tremendous support, positive attitude, and heroism.

This is a difficult time for all of us. Let's work together to keep the torch of space travel alive in the hearts and spirits of humans worldwide. And most importantly, please keep the astronauts, their family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Frank H. Bauer,  
KA3HDO  
AMSAT-NA V.P.  
for  
Human Spaceflight  
Programs Chairman,  
ARISS International



People wishing to express their sympathies can send notes to this address:

Johnson Space Center  
NASA Road 1  
Houston, TX, 77058

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As a member of the Retired Men's Club he worked with the other men selling Christmas trees at the Highcrest Shopping Center. When he saw that someone could not afford the marked price of the tree, he would discount the price so that the people could get the tree that they wanted.

Mike is a VE, and takes this job very seriously. He is at the library every third Saturday of the month, and if he cannot be there he makes arrangements for someone to take his place. He has volunteered for the last two years as co-manager of the On The Waterfront ticket booth. This means he worked from one half hour before the festival opened until the ticket booth shut down in the evening. He has taught the technician classes for the last two years, and of those that finished the class has had 100% pass. In fact when the latest class only had one remaining student he was willing to go out to the class and teach that one person. That is dedication. Thank you Mike for all that you do, and congratulations on being chosen Ham of the Year.

De, **Shari Harlan, N9SH**

## Presidents Log February 2003

This months log starts with a Thank You to everyone that attended our Awards Dinner at Thunder Bay, we had a great turnout, and Thank You to **Shari Harlan N9SH** for doing a great job as Dinner Chairperson. I would like to congratulate our award winners for this year **Herb Eckstein K9AMJ** for being awarded the Exemplary Service Award for 25 years of service to RARA and **Mike Oberg AB9AY** for being this years Ham of the Year. Congratulations to both for these well deserved awards.

Our presentation this month will be **Gary Hilker K9LJN**, his presentation will be the correct QSL Procedures. Also, if there are any presentations you would like to see at the meetings, please let one of your officers or board members know and we will make sure the program is presented.

Please keep in mind the Skywarn training being presented at the April RARA meeting, all hams must have this training at least every 2 years to stay current

Please also keep in mind this is membership dues time again, please see **Rich Ludwig, K9PK** with your membership dues. New cards with the new autopatch code will be sent out at the end of March to all paid members.

If you know of any hams that are not members of RARA or some of the members that have not been to a meeting in a while, please invite them to our next meeting.

As always, your comments and/or suggestions are always welcome, your officers and board members are here to serve you.

73, and see you at the meeting.

**Scott KB9YRW**

## HERB ECKSTEIN, K9AMJ, GIVEN EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD

**Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ**, was recognized at the Rockford Amateur Radio Association awards banquet with an exemplary service award. Herb is only the second person to receive this award.

When I was first licensed in 1975 the repeater, 146.61 was already on the air. Since that time the club's repeaters have multiplied and so has the work involved in keeping them running. Many times after a severe storm Herb can be found at one or the other repeaters trying to get it back on the air for us to use. Many

people do not realize that he has volunteered more than 200 hours each year on repeater repair and maintenance. He allows the club to use some of his equipment for repeater operation. He has donated test gear and radio equipment to some club members and also the non-club members. It really does not make a difference to him. If you are a ham, Herb is willing to help.

Herb is an Extra class licensee, a former Ham of the Year, has been involved in the On The Waterfront ticket sales along with his wife Sharon, and has been a board member

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Herb Eckstein , K9AMJ,  
receiving award from Shari  
Harlan, N9SH.

Photo by KA9SOG

## Rockford Amateur Radio Association Monthly meeting of the membership

January 10, 2003  
Thunder Bay Grille

**Members present:** Attendees of the RARA Awards Banquet

RARA President **Scott Allshouse, KB9YRW**, called the meeting to order at 8:10 pm.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the December meeting, as recorded by past secretary **Richard Nelson, N9ZO**, were read by **Wendy Owano, KC9BCF**. A motion was made by **Larry Carlstrom, K9LC**, to accept the minutes as read, seconded by **Jim Miller, W4JR**, and the motion was carried by voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Past treasurer, **Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ**, reported that the club balance through December 31, 2002, was \$4,286.73. A motion was made by **Shari Harlan, N9SH**, to accept the report as presented, seconded by **Chuck Liljgren, WB9UMC**, and the motion was carried by voice vote.

**Old Business:** President **Scott Allshouse, KB9YRW**, thanked all the Board of Directors from last year. He appreciated the help he was given during his first year as president. Special thanks were extended to Carl and Gene for their many years of experience with the club that helped Scott during his first term as president. Scott introduced the new RARA Board of Directors to the banquet attendees.

**New Business:** **Larry Snyder, KOHNM**, recognized and thanked **Shari Harlan** for her time and effort that was put into organiz-

ing this year's Awards Banquet. Thank you Shari—great food and a good time was had by all!

**Eric Hultgren, N9MCS** announced that he has a new repeater up and running at 147.255 with a plus offset.

The April 2003 RARA meeting will feature a presentation on SKY WARN. All are welcome to attend and to encourage others to hear this interesting presentation.

The next RARA Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, January 28, 2003, St. Anthony's Hospital, at 7 pm.

Thanks from the group of attendees was extended to **John Auerswald, KA9SOG**, for the most recent edition of the RARA Ham Rag. Thanks John for your efforts!

Scott asked for patience on the part of the club members regarding the problems involving the 610 repeater. The Board of Directors is working on solving this problem.

Scott reminded everyone that dues for 2003 are payable to Treasurer **Rich Ludwig, K9PK**.

**Shari Harlan, N9SH**, presented an Exemplary Service Award to **Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ**. Herb is a long-time ham and has donated over 200 hours a year on repeater maintenance and repair. Herb is a great asset to RARA and the surrounding area. Congratulations Herb on your much-deserved award!

Next, Shari, Carl, and Gene presented the Ham of the Year Award to **Mike Oberg, AB9AY**. Mike has been a ham for many years. He has helped teach two technician classes, been a volunteer examiner every month, and has co-managed the ticket

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several times. He has worked for the last 25 years or more behind the scenes making sure that the club repeaters are up and running on a daily basis. Thank you Herb for being there and all the years of service to amateur radio in the community.

De, **Shari, Harlan, N9SH**

### ***RARA Officers for 2003***

**President: Scott Allshouse KB9YRW**  
**Vice President: John Auerswald KA9SOG**  
**Secretary: Wendy Owano KC9BCF**  
**Treasurer: Rich Ludwig K9PK**  
**Director: Shari Harlan N9SH**  
**Director: Joe Roling N9HEZ**  
**Director: John Birly AA9SK**  
**Director: Larry Snyder K0HNM**  
**Newsletter and Web Site:**  
**John Auerswald KA9SOG**

### **For Sale**

For Sale from the  
"projects never completed shelf":

(2) Iomega Jazz 1 GB removable disk drives. One new, one used. External. SCSI interface supplied. Seven Jazz platters (1 GB) are part of the package. Writes at speeds similar to a normal hard drive. Great backup or transfer mechanism.

Price: make an offer.

(4) SyQuest 230 MB EzFlyer Disks (media). New. Price: Cheap

(1) Seagate Ultra wide SCSI Hawk, 7200 rpm, 2.1 GB disk drive. New - sealed. Run OS from this drive for a really fast PC/Server system. Price: any reasonable offer.

Email [k0hnm@arrl.net](mailto:k0hnm@arrl.net)  
Or call 815-765-0233, Larry.

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booth for RARA at the On the Waterfront event the past two years. Congratulations to you,

**Mike!**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **Carl, W9TQ**, seconded by **Gene Harlan, WB9MMM**, and the motion was carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Owano,  
RARA Secretary



Wendy Owano, KC9BCF, reading the minutes at the 2002 Awards Dinner.

Photo by KA9SOG

**Remember to renew your  
membership TODAY  
and get the benefits a ham club can give.**

**ENFORCEMENT:  
COORDINATED REPEATER VS.  
COORDINATED REPEATER**

Two coordinated repeaters in the North-East have squared off over the use of a repeater pair. And if the FCC does decide to try to solve this one, it may need the wisdom of a King Solomon. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

Connecticut's Northville Amateur Radio Association's NA1RA machine is coordinated by the Connecticut Spectrum Management Association. This is a relatively new repeater coordinator that was formed a few years after the failure of the Tri-State Amateur Repeater Council. Tri-State was the group used to serve parts of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

And now Northville has complained to the FCC about interference to its NA1RA operation coming from the W2KGY repeater. This is a system operated by the West Point Military Academy Amateur Radio Club at West Point New York. But unlike most cases where one repeater is coordinated and the other is not, W2KGY holds coordination from UNYREPCO -- The Upper New York Repeater Council.

When one repeater is coordinated and the other is not, the answer is simple. The uncoordinated repeater bears the majority of responsibility to clear up interference to the coordinated machine. But in this case, both machines appear to hold legitimate coordination but from different adjoining coordinators. In other words, at least at this writing, both repeaters appear to be on the same channel pair because a coordinator says that's where each respective systems should be.

So far, the only action by the FCC has been to send out an information gathering letter to UNYREPCO. UNYREPCO has responded and a copy of that response has been forwarded to the Northville group for its reply along with a recommendation that a response from the Connecticut Spectrum Management Association be included as well. Only after digesting that response is the FCC likely to render a decision as to whether or not it will get involved. Well let you know what the agency decides.

For the Amateur Radio Newslite,  
Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF.

**ENFORCEMENT:  
OPERATION BEFORE LICENSE  
ARRIVES BRINGS SET ASIDE.**

The FCC has set aside of General Class license of John Gregory, W3ATE, of Lake Placid, Florida. This, for operation outside of his Technician class license privileges prior to receiving his General class license grant.

According to the regulatory agency at various times in 2002 Gregory apparently checked into a net on 14.300 MHz while still licensed as a Technician. He was issued Warning Notices regarding this matter on May 6 and June 6, 2002 but letters were returned to the FCC marked unclaimed.

Now the FCC has issued another notice to Gregory that gave him 20 days to explain his actions. If he fails to respond the FCC says that his General class application will be dismissed. (FCC)

## HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT PRESENTS THE FUTURE

Slow Scan TV and a possible plasma cloud experiment were among possible future projects discussed at a recent meeting of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station or ARISS International Team. According to the ARRL Letter, the group included representatives from ARISS partner countries, their national ham radio societies and several national AMSAT groups.

Among other experiments discussed was a slow-scan television system camera that could be launched later this year. It would allow school groups to see as well as hear the astronauts during ARISS contacts.

Also discussed were a number of other future possibilities. These ranged from crossband operation from VHF to 10 meters using PSK-31 and a full-duplex voice repeater to comparing the performance of various solar arrays and even conducting a plasma cloud experiment. No details were available on what that might entail but plans are well under way to activate a 70-centimeter station from the I-S-S. (ARRL, ARISS, CQ)

**Have anything or would like to submit an article to be put in the Ham Rag or the website. Contact me by Email at [ka9sog@arrl.net](mailto:ka9sog@arrl.net) and visit <http://rara.tripod.com> for any late breaking news and information.**

## THE NEXT AMATEUR RADIO EXAM SESSION IN LOVES PARK, IL IS 9AM SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2003.

**North Suburban  
District Library  
6340 N 2nd St.  
Loves Park, IL**

Check-in is from 9AM till 11AM. We require two signature ID's (one must be a photo ID).

If you are a licensed amateur radio operator bring your original current license and a copy.

If you are using a CSCE for an element credit bring the original and a copy.

Copiers available at site. (We need to see the originals & keep a photocopy of each document used for element credit.)

The test fee for 2003 is \$12.00. Walk-ins welcome.

There were 2 applicants at the test session on Saturday January 18, 2003 Resulting in 2 New License. New Technician's **Ben Binate, KC9DBV, Jarred Mcquire, KC9DBW.**

Thanks to **Rusty Cordell WB9QYV, Richard Tidberg WF9J, Mike Oberg AB9AY, Ray Quimby AA9YC, Gene Harlan WB9MMM & Shari Harlan N9SH** for making this session possible.

Randy Scott, W9HL, [W9HL@arrl.net](mailto:W9HL@arrl.net)

**Rockford Amateur  
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HAM RAG ONLY \$5

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RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:  
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