

HAM RAG



Visit our website for more club and area ham information
In the Rockford area at <http://w9axd.org>

February 2007

President's Corner

Well,

Another month has gone by. I want to start off by thanking everyone for voting for me.

I also want to thank everyone for coming to the banquet.

I had a fantastic time. The meal was fabulous. My beef was just like I like it, still mooing!

I would also like to thank all those that served last year.

I appreciate all that you have done for the club.

I hope to have a lot of fun this year.

I have some great ideas for field day. I also have some special things in store for later..

It's a surprise and I'm sure you all will love it.

I would strongly urge all of you to attend the next meeting. It should be very interesting.

We have a presentation on the new DSTAR system from ICOM. I'm looking forward to it and hope to see you all there. Have a great month!

73,

Don- KB9AYF

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• NEXT MEETING

• Friday

- February 9, 2007
- LOCATION
- *St. Anthony Medical Center*
- *St. Anthony Room #1041*
- *5666 E. State Street*
- *Rockford, IL*

To get to the meeting room go to the main entrance, turn right at the desk-go to the end of hall to the Meeting rooms.

From the Desk of the Vice President....

The February 9th Rockford Amateur Radio Association meeting will feature a presentation on D-STAR by Mark Thompson, WB9QZB.

D-STAR is a digital protocol developed by the Japanese government and Japanese Amateur Radio League. Icom is the first manufacturer to manufacture D-STAR-compatible radios, although the protocol is open to anyone.

D-STAR enables simultaneous digital voice and data transmission. At present, digital voice can be sent on 144, 440 & 1.2 GHz (4800 bps) concurrently with low speed asynchronous data (950 bps) in a narrow 6.25 KHz channel. High speed data (128 kbps) can be sent concurrently using TCP/IP on 1.2 GHz in a 130 KHz channel.

D-STAR repeaters are connected via the Internet, which enables worldwide connections across the D-STAR network. Imagine having a broadband Internet connection via your mobile rig.

Among the many possible applications, D-STAR promises enhanced emergency communication handling - the efficiency of simultaneous voice and data communications, as well as graphic and other large file transfers that are difficult or impossible with current packet technology.

Mark, WB9QZB, will present the D-STAR system in detail, with an update on Icom technology, the radios currently available that support D-STAR, and what is in development. Mark has been actively involved for many years in local packet and digital radio activities, and has been featured on Hap Holly's RAIN Report.

Please join us for an informative and entertaining evening, Friday, February 9th at 7:00 pm. The RARA Meeting Place is the Saint Anthony's Hospital / OSF Center for Health, Room # 1041, 5666 E. State Street, Rockford, IL at 7PM.

If you can't make the meeting visit the Illinois Digital Ham Yahoo Group for more information about D-STAR:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/illinoisdigitalham/>

PLEASE PASS THIS ANNOUNCEMENT ON TO OTHER CLUBS & HAMS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED.

Secretary's Report

RARA Club Meeting Minutes 12-13-06

Meeting was called to order by newly elected president, Don Russell, KB9AYF, at 7:05 pm at the end of year banquet at Lino's.

Official club business was turned over by former president Shari Harlan, N9SH, to Don.

Awards were given out during the evening to various members of the club who had given of their time and person to the benefit of the club and community.

Our congratulations go out to those people.

There was no old business.

New business Dues are being collected now. Please see Gene, WB9MMM, to get paid up. Your dues help keep the club going!

Motion to end the meeting was made and approved by the club, in which the banquet ended. A wonderful time was had by all.

News You Can Use...

It's that time of year again! Time to pay your club dues! If you haven't, see club treasurer Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, and do it today.

There will be VE Paperwork upgrades available at the March meeting, for those who need it. For more info, see Shari Harlan, N9SH, and she'll fill you in.

As of February 17, 2007, if you need to use the auto-patch function on the repeater, you will have to dial 1-815 and the phone number you wish to call.

A member association with common interest of public service to the community through the use of amateur radio.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

January 20th there were no upgrades.

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, February 17, 2007.

Because of the changes to the CW requirements and the possibility of a large number of Amateurs wanting to upgrade

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER by calling 815-877-4328

Location:

St. Anthony Hospital

5666 E. State Street

Rockford, Il

Exams will be held in the St Francis Room (just right of the front entrance after you enter).

Check-in is from 9:00 AM til 10:30 AM.

What You Need To Bring To A W5YI-VEC Session

1. Your original Amateur License (unexpired or within the 2 year grace period) and a copy to attach to the paperwork.
2. Any valid CSCE that you are using for credit. Again the VE's have to see the original and have a copy to attach to the paperwork.
3. Two forms of Identification with your signature on them. One must be a picture ID (drivers license, passport, school ID, library card, credit card, etc.)
4. Test Fee \$14.00 cash or check. (please make checks payable to W5YI-VEC)

Contact Information

Randy Scott, W9HL

W9HL@arrl.net

815-877-4328

FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 9:30 am. An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company. Everyone is welcome to attend.

“Red Flame Family Restaurant” 915 S. Alpine Rd

Across from Alpine Park

AB9KA HAM I-Q Refresher

Answers on Page 11

Technician

How can you determine how many watts are being drawn by your transceiver when you are transmitting?

- A. Measure the DC voltage and divide it by 60 Hz
- B. Check the fuse in the power leads to see what size it is
- C. Look in the Radio Amateur's Handbook
- D. Measure the DC voltage at the transceiver and multiply it by the current drawn when you transmit

General

Which of the following is true of a lead-acid storage battery as it is being charged?

- A. It tends to cool off
- B. It gives off explosive oxygen gas
- C. It gives off explosive hydrogen gas

Extra

What is the amateur station activity known as fox hunting?

- A. Attempting to locate a hidden transmitter by using receivers and direction-finding techniques
- B. Attempting to locate a hidden receiver by using receivers and direction-finding techniques
- C. Assisting government agents with tracking transmitter collars worn by foxes
- D. Assembling stations using generators and portable antennas to test emergency communications skills

**RARA Officers and Board Positions
2007**

• Officers:

- **Don Russell** - KB9AYF - President
- **Bob Neumann** - W9TZU - Vice President
- **Chuck Derwent** - K9SAN - Secretary
- **Gene Harlan** - WB9MMM - Treasurer

• Board Members

- **Carl Cacciatore** - W9TQ
- **Kurt Eversole** - KE9NJ
- **Shari Harlan** - N9SH
- **Dan Hunt** - KC9ATR

• Ham Rag Editor

- **Christi Russell** - KC9HUE

It's official! Morse code requirement ends Friday, February 23.

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. On or after that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, starts a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement - still a matter of controversy within the amateur community - is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" R&O that settled the matter, at least from a regulatory standpoint.

The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The R&O appearing in the Federal Register constitutes the official version of the new rules.

It is on the web in PDF format at,

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-729.pdf>.

Continued on page 9.....

For Sale

The following items are being offered for sale:

2.4 Ghz Parabolic BBQ Grill antenna. Wireless Internet? Originally purchased from Bob Myers and was never mounted. Price \$50.00

Radio Shack Digitraveler GPS (part #20-1601). This is a hockey puck GPS unit that will provide NMEA 0183 output. Includes a suction cup windshield mount. Perfect for use in a mobile APRS tracker. Requires 3 AAA batteries, or an external 5 volt power source. Price \$35.00

Diamond X-50 2m/70cm fiberglass vertical antenna. Originally purchased in an estate sale and never used. Some minor paint is flaking off at the very end of the antenna, but otherwise appears to be in good condition. Price \$60.00

Antron 17 meter short whip mobile antennas (qty 2). Including a tower mounting bracket. All in new condition. This will make a 17 meter dipole antenna. Price \$45.00

RARA Repeaters

146.610 -	ENC/DEC pl 114.8	W9AXD
147.000 +	ENC/DEC pl 114.8	W9AXD
223.880 -	ENC/DEC pl 118.8	W9AXD
ATV	input 1250 Mhz/ 434 Mhz	W9ATN
	output 421.25 Mhz	

Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please email KC9HUE at chilly73@gmail.com

Continued

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, Technicians will gain CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters.

Once the revised rules are in place, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) may redeem it for an upgrade. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 may apply at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) test session, pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, and receive an instant upgrade.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 - the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data subband be set at 3635 kHz, so that there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz subband.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page, <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>.

ZCZC AG05

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 5 ARLB005

>From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT January 24, 2007

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of Amendment of Parts 1 through 105 of the
Commission's Rules to limit any attempt to implement any format of
Understanding or to implement any format of Regulations applicable
to Requirements for Regulation of the Rules of the Commission.

WT Docket No. 05-501 RM-10781, RM-10782, RM-10783, RM-10784,
RM-10785,
RM-10786, RM-10787, RM-10805, RM-10806, RM-10807, RM-10808, RM-10809

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING AND ORDER

Adopted: July 15, 2005 Released: July 19, 2005

Comment Date: 60 days after publication in the Federal Register

Reply Comment Date: 75 days after publication in the Federal
Register

By the Commission: Notice of Proposed Rule making

1000. A: No radio system owner, or radio system operator, or person
or persons acting on the direction, or suggestion, or supervision,
of any radio system owner, or radio system operator, may try,
attempt to try, or make or make any attempt to try, to comprehend or
understand, any or all, in whole or in part, of the herein mentioned
Federal Communication Commission Regulations, except as authorized
by the Administrator or an agent appointed by, or under the
supervision of, the Administrator.

1000. B: If any radio system owner, or radio system operator, or
group of associated radio system owners or radio system operators,
becomes aware of, or realizes, or detects, or discovers, or finds,
that he, or she, or they, are, or have been beginning to, or are
about to understand the Federal Communication Commission Rules or
Regulations or any of its provisions,
(he) (she) (they) must immediately, within three (3) days of such
discovery or awareness, notify, in writing, the Administrator.

1000. C: Upon receipt of any such above notice of impending
comprehension, the Administrator shall promptly cause said Federal
Communication Commission Rules and/or Regulations to be rewritten in
such a form and manner as to completely and totally eliminate any
further possibility of comprehension by any radio system owner, or
radio system operator, or person or persons acting on the direction,
or suggestion, or supervision, of any radio system owner or radio
system operator.

New Federal Law—Springing Forward in March, Back in November

Months after Indiana passed the law that got it in step with the rest of the country, the federal government announced a major change in Daylight Saving Time. In Aug. 2005, Congress passed an energy bill that included extending Daylight Saving Time by about a month. Beginning in 2007, DST will start the second Sunday of March and end on the first Sunday of November.

From: Chuck - AB9KA

Answers to I-Q Refresher

Technician

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A. Attempting to locate a hidden transmitter by using receivers and direction-finding techniques

RARA BOARD MEETING MEETS ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 PM

St. Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL

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1000. D: The Administrator may, at his or her option, require any radio system owner, or radio system operator, or person or persons acting on the direction, or suggestion, or supervision, of any radio system owner, or radio system operator, who commit(s), or attempt(s) to commit, or exhibit(s) any propensity to commit, the offense of understanding or comprehending the Federal Communication Commission Rules and/or Regulations, or any part thereof, to attend courses of remedial instruction in said Rules and/or Regulations, until such time as said radio system owner, or radio system operator, or person or persons acting on the direction, or suggestion, or supervision, of radio system owner, or radio system operator, demonstrate that they are no longer capable of exhibiting any comprehension or understanding of anything.

Comment period: Persons wishing to comment upon said NPRM have until April 1, 2007 to send in comments regarding the above NPRM to the aforementioned agency, in triple quadruplicate. typed, certified, registered, no carbons, initialed and notarized with a photo identification authorized by the Transportation Security Agency, including original radio system license or licenses, medical certificate, three letters of recommendation from employer, police chief and FBI signifying no felony or misdemeanor convictions, poor work habits or personal disgusting habits which would offend the Administrator, including but not limited to: smoking, drinking, profanity, watching R rated movies, owning cable TV, non-church attendance, voting Democratic, listening to rap or rock music, joining trade associations, speaking to attorneys, or talking snippy to anyone in Gettysburg.

Send comments to:

Administrator
Federal Communications Commission
Docket #: 24857-23.45.3562.A5PU.(6)b
Attn: Past Due Comments
125 E SW St. NW, E, S
Big Gray Building
Third Floor, Second Door on Right
Desk 4, In-Basket 7
Near Wastebasket
Washington, D.C. 20591

Include \$29.95 for shipping and handling payable to: Administrator



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126
Email: chilly73@gmail.com
Web: www.w9axd.org

Nets	
Thursday 8PM	Saturn 146.610 - 114.8
Monday 8PM	2 Meter 146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM	ARES 147.195 + 114.8

February 2007

place address label here

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Single Adult: \$25.00 Adult w/Family: \$30.00

Single Senior: \$15.00 Senior w/Family: \$20

Student: \$15.00

Above rate includes the RARA monthly newsletter, Ham Rag, via email.

Ham Rag Via U.S. Postal Service: \$12.00 extra

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

13 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email _____

Renewal _____ New _____ Retired _____

Radio Interests _____

Other Interests _____