

HAM RAG



RARA Mission Statement

A member association with common interest of public service to the community through Amateur Radio

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Radio's on the Titanic

Rich, K9PK, presented a very interesting program at the July 11, 2008, general meeting. He had plenty of pictures and extremely detailed description of the equipment on board. I have been aware of the dangers of the equipment we use in the practice of our hobby, having started in the days of the mercury vapor rectifying tubes, but seeing what it meant to be a radio operator in the days of the Titanic was quite a wake-up call. The operators literally put their life on the line to use those radios. The radio rooms had high voltage, spinning motors, and enough RF to make your hair stand on end. Its amazing see the history of radio presented in detailed as Rich provided. Thanks Rich for all the information and presenting it to use in a way we could all understand and appreciate. It was one of the better presentations this year.

Family Picnic & Hidden Transmitter Hunt

Grab a dish to pass, some utensils to use and bring the Family out to Alpine Park, Shelter #1 at 1:00 PM Sunday, August 10, 2008. Our history with weather hasn't been the best this year, so no promises on there. But Mike Oberg, Committee Chair for the picnic, promises good Chicken and Soft drinks for all. (Maybe good weather too.)

As a special event, there will be a hidden transmitter hunt as part of the picnic this year. Bring a radio and antenna and try your skills. I am looking forward to the challenge. Sounds like fun

OTW

If you haven't had a call from Steve – K9LLI, asking you to volunteer a few hours of your time to work at *On the Waterfront*, don't wait, call him. This is our income producing event for the year, we need everyone's help. Everyone.

See you at the picnic, let's eat and let's find the hidden transmitter(s) too. Ok, call Steve, now.
73 & Good DX,

August 2008

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NEXT MEETING

August 10, 1 PM

LOCATION:

Alpine Park, Shelter # 1

PROGRAM:

Lots of good food and fellowship

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: DO-64 TRANSPONDER ON THE AIR

From Amateur Radio Newsline

The 435 to 145 MHz linear transponder onboard the Delfi D Oh 64 satellite has been activated. The transponder uplink is 435.570 to 435.530 Mhz and the downlink is 145.880 to 145.920 MHz. All frequencies are +/- Doppler shift that can be up to 3 kHz at 145 MHz and the transponder is inverting. This means Lower Sideband is translated to a Upper Sideband signal on the downlink.

Delfi D Oh 64 was built at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. Since it was launched in April it has been collecting educational research data for use by the university students with the assistance of Radio Amateurs around the world.

More information on this satellite can be found at: Delfi-C3: <http://www.delfic3.nl/> (ANS)

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CP4 CONTROLLERS NEED YOUR REPORTS

Jason Anderson, KI6GIV, at California Polytechnic State University is requesting amateur radio operators worldwide to assist with capturing the telemetry of the Cal Poly CP4 satellite.

According to Anderson there has been some unpredictable behavior on the CP4 satellite. He says that controllers only have contact with the bird once every 12 hours so would be extremely helpful if they could get some global support in collecting beacon transmissions. This, in order to get a more complete picture of the satellite's health.

CP4 downlinks on 437.325Mhz using FSK lower sideband modulation. The baud rate is 1200 with beaoning every minute. Audio or decoded binary data along with other reports go by e-mail to jander06 (at) calpoly (dot)edu

COMING EVENTS

August 9--Western Illinois ARC Hamfest, Eagles Alps, 3737 North 5th Street, Quincy, IL. Talk in 147.030 PL 103.5

August 10--Rockford Amateur Radio association family picnic, 1 PM, Alpine Park Shelter # 1

August 10--Hamfesters RC Hamfest, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone-Wilmington Road, Peotone, IL. Talk-in 146.52 Simplex

September 12--Rockford Amateur Radio meeting, St Anthony Hospital

September 13-14--Chicago FM Club Radio Expo, Boone County Fairgrounds, US 20 & 76, Belvidere, IL Talk in 146.76 PL 107.2; 147.255 + PL 114.8; 444.725+ PL 118.8

September 19-20--Northern Illinois DX Assoc. W9DXCC Convention, Holiday Inn, 1000 Busse Rd., Elk Grove Village, IL. Talk-in 147.36

September 20-21--Peoria Area ARC Peoria Superfest 2008, Exposition Gardens, 1601 West Northmoor Rd., Peoria, IL. Talk-in 147.075+ PL 103.5

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

Latest news and events on our web page: <http://www.w9axd.org>

RARA Club Meeting

July 11, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by President Paul Franklin, K9RNR with 23 people in attendance.

All in attendance were asked to introduce themselves and state what they have done with ham radio recently.

Secretary Report – The May Minutes were accepted as presented in the June Hamrag. No June report was presented as there was no General RARA meeting in June, the meeting was replaced by the breakfast in the park.

Treasurers Report – was read by Rich, K9PK for the period of May 26 thru June 23, 2008:

Income	\$0.00
Expenses	\$30.16
Ending checkbook balance	\$509.67
Ending savings balance	\$5,695.70
Cash on hand	\$6,205.37
Gain/Loss from last year	\$1,225.47

A motion to accept the report was made by Gordy, KC9NEX and 2nd by Shari, N9SH. All Approved.

Old Business

1. Public information – A short report was given by Gene, KA9BOD about efforts made to publicize proclamation, field day, WNTA interview and meeting info
2. Breakfast in the park – Chuck, AB9KA not present to report but he did a great job, great food, good time. Thanks Chuck for a good job.
3. Field Day – Kurt, KE9N not present to report rap up and scores. Everyone had a good time. Thank you Kurt, KE9N and Dick, KC9BCB for a good job.
4. Website – Bob, KC9ICH now the official webmaster. He reported on the several improvements made and thanked everyone for sending in input and pictures. Bob reported that if you go to the club roster and click on a name it takes you to QRZ.COM for info on that person. You may want to update your personal info on QRZ.COM.
5. On the Air Contest – Bob, KC9ICH reported that there was a winner for the May CW contest and he presented Dave, W9MG with an award as the winner with 126 contacts.
6. Family picnic – Mike, AB9AY was not present to report. Picnic will be Sunday, August 10 at Alpine Park, shelter #1 at 1 PM. Bring a dish to pass and your own tableware and utensils. Chicken and soda will be provided.
7. On the Waterfront – This year our booth will be at the Kids Castle. A sign up sheet was passed around for workers to work a 4 hour shift. There was limited response to help with this fund raiser which is the only source of funds to run the club.

New Business

1. Classes for Tech & General at RVC – Carl, W9TQ reported that the Tech Class is scheduled for 10-25-08 and 11-1-08. Tentatively the General class will be 11-15-08 and 11-22-08 but still not confirmed by RVC. We need a minimum of 5 students to hold the class and the rough cost is about \$45 + registration fees including the study manual.
2. WNTA interview can be seen on the W9AXD website. Thanks to Don, W9DRR and Chuck, AB9KA for providing audio and pictures of the event.
3. Gene, WB9MMM reported that Larry, K0HNM has a slightly damaged Gap Titan DX antenna that he would like sell for \$75 if anyone was interested.
4. July Club Contest – Bob, KC9ICH said the July contest will be for most contacts using digital mode.

Meeting closed at 7:55 PM. Program was on “Radios on the Titanic” presented by Rich, K9PK.

Submitted by: Gene, KA9BOD, RARA secretary

RARA FAMILY PICNIC

Have you thought about trying a fox hunt? Come to the picnic. We had so much fun last year we are going to have another fox hunt this year. We have four transmitters now (last year we had two) so we are going to hunt all four at the same time. Try to find as many as you can as fast as you can in any order. The hunt won't be too tricky, and there won't be any obstacles to climb or anything like that. This will be just an easy hunt over civilized terrain. All the transmitters will be in the area within easy walking distance.

The transmitters will be FM on two meters, so you can use an HT or a handheld scanner. It helps to have a directional antenna, but you might try "body fading." That's where you hold your HT close in to your chest and the signal will be weakest when it's directly behind you, shielded by your body. When you get close to the transmitter, you can take the antenna off your HT to attenuate the signal. I remember Tom N9VJU saying he has used "body fading" successfully in years past. I used the trick once in my neighborhood to locate an unsecured Wi-Fi wireless network access point so I could warn the owner that his home network was accessible to anyone.

Most fox hunters use directional antennas. The popular thing seems to be the tape measure beam, a three element Yagi with a PVC pipe boom and elements cut from a steel tape measure. There are instructions to build it on the Internet at home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm. There's also a two-element version at home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/snif_bm.htm. That looks nice and compact; I think I'm going to build one of those.

An attenuator helps when you get close in. Otherwise you might find your S-meter pegged no matter what direction you point your antenna. At the picnic our transmitters will be only 50 milliwatts, so you might get by without an attenuator until you get very close. Last year, Jim KC9CYR used an aluminum foil-covered paper towel tube to cover his HT antenna as an attenuator. Be creative. But, if don't have anything, you can still try "body fading."

For a radio, either an HT or a handheld scanner will work fine. An S-meter helps. There are some purpose-designed receivers available. Gene WB9MMM and I both use the VK3YNG fox hunt sniffer and a tape measure beam. You can read about the VK3YNG on his website at users.bigpond.net.au/vk3yng/foxhunt/foxhunt.html, and check out the reviews on eham.net. It was chosen by the USA ARDF team. It's synthesized, has an audio tone S-meter, and a built-in automatic attenuator that lets you get right on top of the transmitter and still get a bearing. (Gene's is for sale – see elsewhere in the Ham Rag.)

Usually you don't walk straight to the fox. In fact, it helps to go past it and use the bearings you get to zero in. And, remember to think in three dimensions. When you are very close, try turning your beam sideways and scanning up and down to see if the fox is up in a tree. Don't focus entirely on your meter. Pay attention to obvious clues – that isn't cheating. But, don't just guess, either.

Be sure to check out Joe Moell's website, www.homingin.com, for tips and ideas. Come to the picnic and bring your HT and anything else that might help and have fun!

73, Rich K9PK

The RARA picnic will be August 10th, 1 PM at Alpine Park, Shelter # 1.

RARA will provide chicken and soft drinks. If you have a favorite soft drink such as Dr. Pepper or any other and you think that we may not have that, please feel free to bring your own.

You will need to bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Mike Oberg, AB9AY

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air

A question was brought up at the July 29th RARA board meeting whether the club wanted to be involved with JOTA (jamboree on the air) this year on October 18. Contact was made with the BSA Council HQ and they would be interested in letting us set up stations at their building to operate the event. If you are interested in helping in any way, (time, equipment, operating) please contact Gene, ka9bod or any RARA board member. "

73,
Gene KA9BOD
RARA secretary
Email: ka9bod@arrl.net

FOR SALE

VK3YNG Fox Hunt Sniffer and tape measure beam--\$150.00.
Several years of QST and CQ magazines free to a good home.
Call WB9MMM or N9SH at 815-398-2683

Hungry for breakfast? On Friday mornings a group of hams meet at the Red Flame on South Alpine Road at 8 AM for breakfast and conversation. Why not try and join in the fun and meet some old friends and make new ones?

HAM RADIO CLASSES TO BE HELD AT ROCK VALLEY

RARA will be holding a Tech class on October 25th and November 1st. The General class will be November 15th and 22nd. Registration will be through Rock Valley College Adult Continuing Education.

2008 RARA OFFICERS and BOARD

President--Paul Franklin, K9RNR, 815-298-2251

Vice President--
Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, 815-398-2683

Secretary
Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, 815-226-1806

Treasurer--Rich Ludwig, K9PK, 815-547-6435

Directors:
Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875
Chuck Derwent, K9SAN, 815-519-0848
Mike Oberg, AB9AY, 815-399-0961
Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-623-3623
Repeater Chairman:
Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ, 815-399-6822
Ham Rag Editor:
Shari Harlan, N9SH, 815-398-2683

AREA 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-Cable Channel 57

146.805 - ENC/DEC pl 114.8 K9AMJ

224.4400 - ENC/DEC pl 118.8 K9AMJ

147.255 + ENC/DEC pl 114.8 WX9MCS

444.725 + pl 118.8 WX9MCS
Linked to FISHFAR

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AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

July 19th there were 4 applicants resulting in 3 new Technician and 1 upgrade

New Technician

Michael Holt

Melinda Belken

Rockie Belken

Upgrades

Clifford Ensley II, KI6LBD, General

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, August 16, 2008.

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

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

Latest news and events on our web page: <http://www.w9axd.org>



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email shari@hampubs.com

Web: www.w9axd.org

NETS

Monday 8 PM 2 Meter 146.610 - 114.8

Thursday 7 PM ARES 147.255 + 114.8

Thursday 8 PM SATERN 146.61 - 114.8

August 2008

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Single Senior: \$15.00 Senior w/Family: \$20.00

Student: \$15.00

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

Ham Rag Via USPS: \$12.00 extra

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

Renewal _____ New _____ Retired _____

Radio Interests _____

_____ ARRL _____

Other Interests _____