

# HAM RAG



## RARA Mission Statement

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

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Expectations for the ARRL Digital Voice Communications for Amateur Radio video presentation were not the highest for a club presentation. For one, it was another video, no live presenter. And two, digital voice, come on, didn't we go through that with SSB and FM years ago. Who needs digital audio in amateur radio? Well, ..... the video was great, both of them! And if you want to see a Ham's Ham Shack, it's in this video. The comparison between the "normal" voice signals to digital is amazing. The DVD presentation is one way to provide an example without lugging around a ton of equipment. If you missed the video and you get a chance to see it, do it. It's that good.

And yes, we did go through the AM to SSB and that new fangled stuff called FM quite a few years ago. Some of us did it kicking and screaming, others found the new stuff exciting, something to dig into and (should I say it?) something to learn about. There seems to be quite a benefit to digital voice, even in amateur radio. It's going to happen, it has started and it's just a matter of time to see how fast it will be common place on HF as well as VHF.

## JOTA

The great organizer - Gene Stankiewicz - KA9BOD, did it again!! Jamboree on the Air 2008, JOTA was more than successful this year. There were enough examples of "What we do" to make your head spin. The scouts walked away with a fine example of Amateur Radio. There was a DX QSL display, satellite, Packet, SSTV, SSB on HF, 2 meter FM, APRS, and hands on direction finding. Each station had its own area and presenters. Oh, and there were cookies. The dedication to the club and the hobby was well displayed. Thanks to all that worked on this project to make it the success it was, and thanks to the members that came out to help or just to see what was going on. RARA is quite an impressive group that does impressive stuff!

## RARA Meeting

Rockford has many unique areas. We hear or read about some of them, but we don't know why they are there or what they do. Rockford's Midway Village is one of those areas. One of our members, Carl Cacciatore - W9TQ, is on the board at Midway Village. I asked Carl if he would arrange for someone from Midway Village to come to our meeting and give us some information about Midway Village. David J. Dynes has agreed to do just that and will present "An Introduction to Midway Village" at our November meeting. The presentation will start off our meeting this month, with the business meeting at the end.

The RARA meeting will be at OSF in the usual first floor meeting space. Hope to see you at the meeting, Friday night, November 14, 2008, at 7:00 pm!

73 & Good DX,  
Paul - K9RNR

## November 2008

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### NEXT MEETING

Friday  
7:00 PM

November 14, 2008

### LOCATION

St. Anthony Hospital  
5666 E. State Street  
Rockford, IL

### PROGRAM

David J. Dynes from Rockford's Midway Village will present information about Midway Village. The business meeting will follow the program.

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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

## AWARDS BANQUET TO BE HELD JANUARY 10, 2009

The RARA Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2009 at Lino's, 5611 East State Street.

We plan on cocktails at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM. We need a minimum of 30 people for a private banquet room.

The seven course dinner includes: Relish Tray, Soup, Garlic and Pizza Breads, Lino's Special Salad, a Variety of Pasta Mostaccioli-Ravioli-Tortellini), Coffee, Spumoni, and the entree.

Choice of entree:

Baked Lasagna	\$16.00
New York Strip Steak	\$24.00
Baked Cod	\$18.00
Baked Chicken ala Lino	\$16.00

All prices include tax and tip and are rounded up to the nearest dollar.

Remember if you worked at the On the Waterfront ticket booth, you will get \$5.00 off per shift worked. In other words, if you worked 1 shift you will receive \$5.00 off, 2 shifts \$10.00 off and so forth. Supervisors will receive their dinner courtesy of the club to say thank you for all the hard work.

To make your reservation call Shari Harlan, N9SH, at 815-398-2683 by December 31. All reservations must be prepaid. Send your check payable to RARA to Shari Harlan, 5931 Alma Dr., Rockford, IL. 61108.

### This Weekend on the Radio:

This week, look for the NCCC Sprint on November 7. The WAE DX Contest (RTTY), the JIDX Phone Contest, the OK/OM DX Contest (CW), the Kentucky QSO Party and the CQ-WE Contest are all November 8-9. The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon is November 9 and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint (SSB) is November 13. Next week is the ARRL EME Contest on November 15-16 and the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest (SSB) on November 15-17. The NCCC Sprint is November 14. The JT Hamradio-50 Anniversary DX Contest and the Feld Hell Sprint are November 15. The SARL Field Day Contest, the All Austrian 160 Meter Contest and the RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest (CW) are November 15-16. The EU PSK63 QSO Party is November 16, the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is November 17 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is November 20. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/>>, the ARRL Contest Update <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/>> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>> for more info.

Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>>.

From The ARRL Letter Vol. 27, NO. 44, November 7, 2008

**Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.**

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# HAM OF THE YEAR---2008 NOMINATION

The Ham of the Year is an honor that is presented to the R.A.R.A. member who has contributed the most to the club and to amateur radio in general during the year. This year the selection will be made by a committee established to evaluate the nominations of deserving candidates from those submitted by club members.

Your nominee should be chosen using two basic criteria: The nominee must be a RARA member and should have performed exemplary service for amateur radio during the year 2008.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to fill out the form below, or a facsimile, completing all of the requested information. Nominations may be mailed or emailed to KA9BOD at the address below or handed to me at the next club meeting. All nominations must be received by December 12, 2008. They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Mail or email nominations to: \_\_\_\_\_nd  
Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD  
3531 Cross St.  
Rockford, IL 61108  
ka9bod@arrl.net

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_

I nominate the above person for the RARA Ham of the Year 2008 - award for the following reasons:

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_

RARA Club Meeting  
October 12, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by President Paul Franklin, K9RNR with 16 people in attendance. Everyone was asked to report what they have done in ham radio since the last meeting and what they normally do. Everyone was also asked if they use the 147.000 repeater. Only 1 person uses it occasionally.

Secretary Report:

The September 2008 meeting minutes were published in the October Ham Rag. Gordie, KC9NEX made a motion to accept the minutes as published and seconded by Chuck, K9SAN. All approved.

Treasurer Report:

Rich, K9PK reported for the period of August 26 thru September 29, 2008 as follows:

Income	\$147.00
Expenses	\$55.29
Ending checkbook balance	\$530.11
Ending savings balance	\$5,199.19
Cash on hand	\$5,729.30
Gain/loss from last year	\$1,349.67

Chuck, AB9KA made a motion to accept report as read and seconded by Dave, W9MG. All approved.

Old business:

1. Web Page – Bob, KC9ICH reported that he is adding a list of repeaters and working on linking with Google Earth to show its location.
2. On the Air Contest – Bob KC9ICH said that there were no entries for the longest distance and the new contest will be “Most contacts on any mode not used before”.
3. On the Waterfront – Paul, K9RNR reported that we have not gotten the results yet from OTW.
4. JOTA –Gene, KA9BOD provided a summary of the planning for the event on Saturday, October 18. The scouts have been bringing it up at their round table meetings each month. Attendance will be subject to how the weather is that day. Robert, KC9ICH will operate PSK31 on 20M using a dipole, Kurt, NE9J and Steve, K9LLI will operate 40M phone and Dave, W9MG will provide a vertical for them, Chuck, AB9KA will demonstrate APRS, Don, W9DRR and Joe, K9PJJ will operate 2M/440, Rich, K9PK will demonstrate Fox hunting and have some keys/oscillators for CW, Carl, W9TQ will be there for general info and training, John, KC9IED will be available to discuss ARES, Bob, WB9NTT will take pictures and Dick, KC9BCB will monitor the refreshment area.
5. Ham of the Year nomination forms are available on the website and in the Ham Rag.
6. Field Day results – Kurt, KE9N reported the following: In 2008 we operated 3A, total QSL's 823, total points 3,254, (CW 433, Digital 51, Phone 339). In to 2007 we operated 6A, had 435 QSL's and 2,508 points. The only problem is that due to a logging program problem the 2008 results did not get submitted in the required timeframe.

New Business:

1. Election of officers and board for 2009:  
President – Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX  
VP – No one  
Treasurer – Rich Ludwig, K9PK  
Secretary – No one  
Ham Rag Editor – No one  
Board of Directors – Chuck Dewent, K9SAN, Robert Larson, KC9ICH, Mike Oberg, AB9AY and Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ.
2. Dan, KC9ATR has a friend who can reserve Roland Olson Forest Preserve if we are interested. There WAS some discussion that a closer site like **Aldeen** may be a better choice for visibility of event but no firm commitment.
3. Carl, W9TQ has made arrangements with an outfit to make RARA members shirts or jackets if you are interested. They will have the club LOGO and your CALL above the left pocket. Please refer to the bottom of page 6 in the October Ham Rag for more details and prices or contact Carl, W9TQ,

The meeting closed at 8:12 PM followed by a video provided by Jim, W4JR on HF Digital Audio and VHF digital Audio which were produced by the ARRL. In my opinion they gave me the best explanation of the plus and minuses about this new mode.

Submitted by:  
Gene, KA9BOD  
RARA Secretary

**Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.**

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

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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## FOR SALE

VK3YNG Fox Hunt Sniffer and tape measure beam--\$150.00  
Contact WB9MMM or N9SH at 815-398-2683

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**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?

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### Fall RVC General Class

Due to lack of enrollment RVC has canceled the General Class beginning 11-15-2008. Thanks everyone for your help to set this up -- we will again try this spring. Also in addition to the RVC Adult Education Classes we will be offering a class at the Center for Learning for Retired on Mondays beginning in February 2009 for 8 weeks during the day. I hope that we will be able to get some interest there. We will be out with more information soon on this class.

Thanks,  
Carl

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### 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

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### 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 107.2 WX9MCS  
Linked to FISHFAR

**Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.**

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

# Amateur Radio Exam Notice

October 18th there was 1 applicant resulting in no upgrades

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, November 15, 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](mailto:W9HL@arrl.net)  
815-877-4328

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## LOGO CLUB SHIRTS AND JACKETS

We have made arrangements to make RARA club members shirts and or jackets if you are interested. They will have the club LOGO and your CALL above the left pocket.

The shirts will be white or egg shell white with the RARA logo and call letters. There will be two styles of shirts and one jacket.

A. Long sleeve Denim cloth button down the front with a cost of \$25 .

B. Short Sleeve Polo Shirt with a cost of \$21.

C. A Zip up Windbreaker with a cost of \$30.

There is an up charge for extra large sizes. A \$2 extra for 2X and \$4 extra for 3X and larger sizes.

Those interested can place their order at the meeting or call me by 11/14/08

Carl, W9TQ

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Summary of the RARA JOTA demonstration on  
July 18, 2008

RARA operated JOTA from Alpine Park Shelter #1 in Rockford, IL on Saturday, October 18 from 10AM to 4 PM. We set up the following stations: Robert, KC9ICH operated PSK31, RTTY and slow scan TV on 20M using a dipole, Kurt, NE9J and Steve, K9LLI operated 40M and 20M phone and Dave, W9MG provided a vertical for them, Chuck, AB9KA demonstrated APRS, Don, W9DRR and Joe, K9PJJ operated 2M/440, Rich, K9PK demonstrated Fox hunting and had some keys/oscillators for CW, Carl, W9TQ was there for general info and training, John, KC9IED was available to discuss ARES, Bob, WB9NTT took pictures and Dick, KC9BCB monitored the refreshment area of coffee, lemon aide and cookies.

There were about 7 scouts and 3 scout leaders that signed our log representing 3 different troops.

Robert, KC9ICH used the new HRD/DM780 program which allowed him to operate the various modes of PSK31, RTTY and slow scan. He was able to make several contacts in each mode. Kurt, NE9J and Steve, K9LLI operated on 20M and 40M phone and made about 6 contacts on each band, all stateside. A couple of the scouts got to talk to one of the contacts.



(Kurt, KE9N and scout making contact.)

Chuck, AB9KA set up a nice demonstration of APRS. He had a Google earth satellite view of the park on a laptop computer and a backpack with a station that allowed us to see him move around the park. Don, W9DRR and Joe, K9JPP were able to catch the ISS as it passed over but were unable to make contact. Several of the boys got to hear the exchange.

Rich, K9PK demonstrated fox hunting with his VK3YNG fox hunt Snifter and tape measure beam and 3 hidden transmitters. Several of the scouts enjoyed this exercise. Rich also brought a straight key and an iambic key each connected to an oscillator and a sheet with the letters and code so that the scouts could see what it is like to send morse code. The scouts had a ball.



(Scouts fox hunting.)

(Dave, W9MG assisting scout with code.)



In summary, we had expected more scouts to attend but all of the hams had a good time and got to see a variety of operating modes. Special thanks to everyone who gave of their time to come out and operate and also to everyone who came out in support.

73,  
Gene, KA9BOD



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email [shari@hampubs.com](mailto:shari@hampubs.com)

Web: [www.w9axd.org](http://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

# November 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 \_\_\_\_\_