

# HAM RAG



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



## July 2009

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### RARA Mission Statement

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

## President's Column

Greetings,

As I write this letter for the July Ham Rag, Field Day is coming up this weekend June 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>. I hope that the weather will not be too hot or stormy and everything will be fine. I will report next month (August) on how we did. This past month we also had our Breakfast in the Park, for those who attended, all seemed to have a good time, and had plenty to eat despite the power failure we had. (Note to all, next year make sure we bring a generator just in case) One of the highlights from that event was when Gene Duncan, (W9GD) showed up. As many of you already know, Gene had a stroke a few years ago at a Field Day event, and is in a wheel chair with very limited mobility. It was a major undertaking for him to attend. I for one am glad that I can now place a face with the name and call. I also want to thank all who donated when we passed the hat to help Gene with his expenses of renting a vehicle capable of bringing him up for the breakfast. I also want to thank Chuck Derwent, (K9SAN) for stepping up and taking on the job of chairperson for this event. This was his first time for this event and he and his helpers, who I must also thank, did a fine job of serving everyone a wonderful breakfast, despite the cold and rainy weather.

The next event we have scheduled is the club picnic. This is August 16th at Alpine Park, shelter #1 just like last year and we still need a chairperson to coordinate this event. If you are interested in this position, please contact myself or any board member with questions. Another large event is just around the corner, and that is the On the Waterfront. This is our only fundraiser for the club, so please make time to be able to help sell tickets. The more volunteers, the easier it is for all. We are going to start making a list of all who can work, and when they are available so we can be ready when the time arrives.

That is all for now so 73, and see you at the next club meeting.

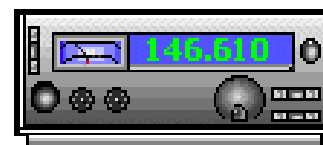
Gordon Seaman (KC9NEX)

### NEXT MEETING

**Friday  
July 10, 2009  
7:00 PM**

**Program Topic:  
TBA**

**Location  
St Anthony  
Medical Center  
Room # 1041  
5666 E. State Street  
Rockford, IL**



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

## Secretary's Report

There is no Secretary's Report for June due to no regular RARA meeting and having Breakfast in the Park.

### **Mutterings from the Vice President-**

It seems to me that it's time for a little soul searching – again. Why is it that there are more hams showing up for the Friday morning breakfasts than for the monthly RARA meetings? Various numbers have been tossed out as to the population of hams in the metropolitan area of Rockford that range from 200 way up to a, hard to grasp, count of nearly 1000. Wow. Since I can't count very high without taking off my shoes and socks it best that I skip any attempt at a census.

Nevertheless, what is different about our Friday mornings from our Friday evening gatherings? Duh. It's food. On the surface, it might seem to be the main factor, but my gut ( that's my stomach talking ) says otherwise. That argument has to be countered because often there is a post RARA meeting assembly at some restaurant which negates the obvious. Would a donut or two entice more noses to show up? So, does one theory go down the drain? Maybe the difference is something more subtle but I don't know what to say.

WHAT DO YOU SAY? Speak up.

Is the RARA monthly meeting addressing or meeting your needs? I'm not talking about RARA, the club/organization. That's another topic for another day. It's that period of time from 7 PM to about 9 PM on the second Friday of the month that is of concern for the moment. I realize that this writing is preaching to the choir and maybe the underside of some birds in a cage but how about the choir speaking up to start some ideas going. Let's try some brain storming at the next RARA meeting.

See you on the air.

73,

Steve Thorne, K9LLI

### New Location

### **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.*

***“The Stockholm Inn”***  
2420 Charles Street  
Rockford, IL 61108



Hello all Radio Amateurs;

I just want to extend an invitation to you to come to the suburbs of Chicago for the 43rd annual Central States VHF society's annual conference. If you have any interest in the VHF and UHF weak signal activities, this gathering is for you. This year the conference is being held at the Elk Grove Village Holiday Inn, on Busse Road in the village of Elk Grove, Illinois, on the dates of July 23 through the 26th. (This is the motel where the annual W9DXCC conference has been held, and the recent TAPR meeting last summer)

The conference starts with registration on Thursday evening, with a social gathering, and extends through Friday, with antenna measuring, preamp measuring and talks/seminars. Saturday, the seminars continue, and a banquet and prize drawing are featured Saturday night. Other features include a dealer display, of VHF/UHF goodies, flea market, family program with tours of famous Chicago attractions, rover and antenna displays, and lots of socializing with familiar voices, so you can put a voice with a face.

Much more detailed information on this years conference can be found at the website; <http://www.csvhfs.org>, including links to the motel for those who plan to stay the duration, and a link to an online registration page for conference registration. Many in the Chicagoland area may opt just to attend for the day on Saturday, but come and join us for the entire weekend if you can.

For more information, you can contact me, or please send an email to Kermit W9XA, who is this years president and organizer. He can be reached at [w9xa@yahoo.com](mailto:w9xa@yahoo.com)

Thanks for considering;

Ken Boston W9GA  
Promotions; Central States VHF society

## RARA Information Net

The purpose of the net will be to disseminate RARA related information as well as other Amateur Radio related information. As a club sponsored activity, please check in with Net Control and help make this net a success. The Net Control will be rotated between the club members, with all amateur radio operators encouraged to check in. (RARA members as well as non-members)

Let any of the officers and board know you thoughts and ideas. If you wish to be a net control operator, let any of the officers know. All are encouraged and welcome to participate.

146.610 (pl 114.8) repeater at 8:00 pm, every Monday, except on holidays.

### Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please call me or email me at [ke9n@arrl.net](mailto:ke9n@arrl.net).

**Cut-off for the August 2009 issue will be Thursday, July 30, 2009.**

Kurt - KE9N, Editor



# FIELD DAY 2009



Many thanks to all of those who made our field day a success. Everyone had a great time and the food was outstanding! Thank you Chuck, AB9KA, Linda, KC9FAH, and Dan, KC9ATR, for all your work and culinary skills. I will have a report at the August meeting as to our total points and number of contacts made. Below are a few pictures for your review. ~~~ Kurt Eversole - KE9N



← Gary Hilker at the CW Station.

We better → listen to the lady, she know's the best way!



← Are (2) Steve's better than one? Steve Thorne & Steve Twigg on 20 phone.

Gordon at the → helm on 80 SSB, with Kurt watching.



← Time for a little of that fantastic food!

Linda and → Chuck taking a well deserved break.



← Al Fischer pounding out the q's on 40 phone.

Gordy Seaman → taking a 12 hour cat nap!



# HAMTOON



THIS WAS THE BEST HAM FEST, LOOK AT THESE GREAT BUYS. COULD YOU STORE THEM FOR ME TILL MY WIFE IS OUT OF TOWN ?

# HAMTOON



JUST LOOK AT THAT, HE HAD TO BUY ANOTHER TRAILER JUST FOR HIS HAM EQUIPMENT ! AND NOW WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO GO ON VACATION !

Courtesy Of Woody W7EPP

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

June 20th there were 3 applicants resulting in 3 new licenses

Shannon Larson  
Jack Riverdahl  
Alexander Rydin

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, July 18, 2009.

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

# DX NEWS AND CONTESTS

## SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
<b>5R8KD</b>	MADAGASCAR	JULY 4 TO JULY 17	LotW
<b>LX0HQ</b>	LUXEMBOURG	JULY 11 TO JULY 14	LotW
<b>VK9NI</b>	NORFOLK ISLAND	JULY 22 TO JULY 29	W3HNC
<b>TK9X</b>	CORSICA	JULY 25 TO AUGUST 1	EA4URE
<b>OH0</b>	ALAND ISLAND	JULY 26 TO AUGUST 7	CT1BWW
<b>TF</b>	ICELAND	JULY 31 TO AUGUST 11	IW4BLZ
<b>OJ0</b>	MARKET REEF	AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 2	CT1BWW
<b>SU8LH</b>	EGYPT	AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 9	SU1SK
<b>3B7FQ</b>	AGALEGA & ST. BRANDON	AUGUST 10 TO AUGUST 30	K5XK
<b>SV9</b>	CRETE	AUGUST 21 TO OCTOBER 5	BURO
<b>3D2G</b>	FIJI	SEPT. 6 TO SEPT. 7	PG5M
<b>T2G</b>	TUVALU	SEPT. 8 TO SEPT. 14	PG5M
<b>ZK2BJ</b>	NIUE	SEPT. 18 TO SEPT. 25	????
<b>3D2/C</b>	CONWAY REEF	OCT. 3 TO OCT. 13	TBA

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

RSGB IOTA Contest July 25-26, 2009  
 CQWW DX Contest, RTTY, Sept. 26-27, 2009  
 CQWW DX Contest, SSB, October 24-25, 2009  
 CQWW DX Contest, CW, November 28-29, 2009

**Note:** Source for this column include the NG3K website.  
 Information submitted by Kurt - KE9N

### 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

146.805 - ENC/DEC pl 114.8 K9AMJ  
 224.440 - ENC/DEC pl 118.8 K9AMJ  
 147.255 + ENC/DEC pl 114.8 WX9MCS

444.725 + ENC/DEC pl 107.2 WX9MCS  
 Linked to FISHFAR

### 2009 RARA Officers and Board

President - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034  
 Vice President - Steve Thorne, K9LLI, 815-399-9161  
 Secretary - Al Fischer, KD9CA, 815-885-3926  
 Treasurer - Rich Ludwig, K9PK, 815-547-6435

Directors:  
 Chuck Derwent, K9SAN, 815-519-0848  
 Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, 815-332-2479  
 Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875  
 Mike Oberg, AB9AY, 815-399-0961  
 Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH  
 Ham Rag Editor - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784

**RARA BOARD MEETING MEETS ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 PM**  
**St. Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL**

## ITEMS FOR SALE / WANTED

### FOR SALE

Icom 735 + Icom Mic + Matching Pwr Supply ---	\$395.00
includes 500 cycle CW filter	
Kenwood TS-120S + Matching Power Supply ----	\$275.00
TenTec Triton Model 544 HF XCVR + PS -----	\$335.00
MFJ 207 Antenna Analyzer -----	\$55.00
Auttek QF-1A Audio Filter AC Version -----	\$55.00
Auttek QF-1 Audio Filter -----	\$35.00
Shure Mobile Mic #404 w/PJ068Plug-----	\$25.00
Curtis EK-430 CMOS Keyer -----	\$55.00
Hy-Gain 14AVQ Vertical Antenna 40-6 Meters-	\$55.00
Drake WV-4 VHF Wattmeter 20-200Mhz-----	\$75.00
Super Antennas MP-1 Port. 80-6 Meters -----	\$99.00
Bird QRP Wattmeter -----	\$49.00
Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr. Paddle -----	\$90.00
Heil HM-IC Mobile Mic. -----	\$65.00
Heil Goldline HMM-K Dual Element mic. -----	\$55.00
Radio Shack DSP 40 Filter (RARE)-----	\$40.00
Mirage B34G 2 Mtr. Amp. NIB-----	\$85.00
Hustler RM 80 meter coil-----	\$25.00
Palomar Preselector Model 408 -----	\$99.00
Heathkit HR-1680 Rcvr -----	\$99.00
Turner +2 Desk Mic -----	\$20.00
KVM Switch 4 PORT NIB-----	\$25.00

For more information contact Steve Thorne, K9LLI at 815-399-9161 or e-mail : [steve.thorne@att.biz](mailto:steve.thorne@att.biz)

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Yaesu FT-1000D with Kenwood desk mic w/stand, Kenwood speaker and phone patch. Like new condition. \$2000.00 firm. Contact Louis Rossi, N9FBC, at 815-966-7974

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MFJ-259B antenna analyzer (like new) ----- \$200.00 Contact Dennis - K9VMY

### WANTED

SMA H/T antenna for 2 mtrs. and 440, such as Comet SMA 24 / SMA 503 or Diamond RH77CA / SRH-519

For more information contact Steve Thorne, K9LLI at 815-399-9161 or email: [steve.thorne@att.biz](mailto:steve.thorne@att.biz)

*If you wish to post a ham radio item for sale on the RARA website, send the information in an email to: [robert@kc9ich.com](mailto:robert@kc9ich.com)*



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: ke9n@arrl.net

Nets

Monday 8 PM	RARA Info.	146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM	ARES	147.195 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATERN	146.610 - 114.8

place address label here

**July 2009**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_

Radio Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Other Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 8465  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126