

# HAM RAG



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

## May 2009

### 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,

Here it is May already and the club has many irons in the fire for our members already this year. The first event coming up is Breakfast in the Park, which is on Saturday, June 13, 2009 at the Alpine park shelter number 1. At this time, this event is in danger of cancelation due to the absence of volunteers to help with its planning and execution. We have until the board meeting on May 26 to either continue with this event or cancel it depending on volunteers. These events are for you our members, and are only possible due to volunteerism from our members. It is up to you, to make these events happen.

Also in June is Field Day, which is the weekend of the 27th and 28th. Kurt, KE9N is in the process of setting up this event again this year. I know we will have a great time and good turnout from the membership for this club sponsored event. Make sure you mark your calendars for this weekend, come out, enjoy, and operate if you are able. For further information on this event please contact Kurt, he is also the ham rag editor if you were not aware.

On a final note, many of you already know about the City of Rockford's new antenna structure ordinance. The way it is worded will affect most, if not all ham radio operators in the community. Be aware that the club is in the process of devising a strategy to try to get this changed to a more workable situation for all ham radio operators. We will keep you informed of our progress as this evolves.

73, and hope to hear you on the Monday night net at 8:00 pm on the 146.610 repeater with a pl of 114.8

Gordon Seaman (KC9NEX)

**Harlan Technologies** has a new owner. Shawn Harlan, KA9BXA, is now the owner of Harlan Technologies. Shawn will be continuing to make amateur radio call sign badges for the ham community. He is also selling the ATV transmitter and receiver boards that Harlan Technologies has carried in the past. The new telephone number is 815-543-0894. The new address is 135 Wilson, Machesney Park.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's column -	page 1
Secretary's Report pg.	2 & 3
Amateur Creed -	page 4
Licensing Info. -	page 5
DX & Contest Info. -	page 6
Hamfest Information -	page 7
Items for Sale -	page 8
News and Views -	page 9

### NEXT MEETING

**Friday  
May 8, 2009  
7:00 PM**

**Program Topic:**

**FIELD DAY PLANNING,  
and ANTENNA MATCH-  
ING USING COMPUTER  
GRAPHIC PROGRAMS**

LOCATION

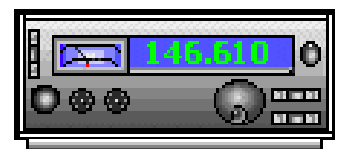
St. Anthony  
Medical Center

**\*\*\* Hickey Room \*\*\***

*(down the gift shop hallway)*

5666 E. State Street  
Rockford, IL

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



## Secretary's Report



### RARA Club Meeting April 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by president Gordon Seaman KC9NEX with 22 Hams in attendance.

#### Secretary's Report:

Al, KD9CA reported that the minutes for the March 13<sup>th</sup> Club meeting was published in the April Ham Rag. Dave W9MG made a motion to accept the minutes as published and Kurt KE9N seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Rich, K9PK read the report for the period February 24<sup>th</sup> through March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Income:	\$115.00
Expenses:	\$ 32.61
Net Income/Loss	\$82.39
Ending Checking Balance:	\$503.80
Ending Savings Balance:	\$6525.55
Ending Total Cash On Hand	\$7119.35

Rich reported that the Club was \$229.19 ahead of the same time last year.

#### Old Business:

Gordy reminded everyone that we still needed Chairman for the Breakfast in the Park scheduled for Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>, Family Picnic Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup>, On the Waterfront and JOTA. Field Day's Chairman is Kurt KE9N and it is on Saturday and Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### New Business:

Gordy asked for a show of hands to see how many hams would buy or consider buying D-STAR equipment if we put up a D-STAR repeater. There were 10 hams showing interest.

John Cotner asked for volunteers on upcoming events.

The OSF Heritage Run Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>. A total of 7 radio operators are requested.

The March of Dimes Walk on Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. 5 radio operators.

The Literacy Council- Half Marathon, Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>. 5 radio operators.

The Rockford Marathon and Half Marathon on Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>. 17 radio operators have been requested and so far 8 have signed up.

Jim Miller W4JR brought a number of Ham related items and all were free for the taking.

John Lawrence N9OTC reported that the city of Rockford on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 had changed the rules governing Radio Amateur antenna support structures and antenna sizes. He read excerpts from the Rockford regulations that are very restrictive and appear to be contrary to local governments being required to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio installations.

Gordy asked John if he would find out as much as he can regarding the Rockford regulations and report back to the board so that RARA could investigate if and what might be done.

Gordy asked John to be the temporary head of this committee.

*(continued on next page)*

## Secretary's Report *(continued)*

Kurt, KE9N, said there would be at least 1 station at Field Day operating 40 and 80 meter CW and Phone. He also asked that anyone else wanting to operate their station should let him know. He said that Dan and Linda Hunt would take care of the food.

Kurt then passed out a questionnaire that would give him an idea of what Hams were available to operate and help with set up and what equipment would be available on Field Day. He said that he thought set up should be early even if there was a penalty.

Dick Fleming then gave an excellent presentation on station grounding and was given a round of applause.

Kurt made a motion to close the meeting at 9:20PM and Gene KA9BOD seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Submitted by:

Al - KD9CA

RARA Secretary

### 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)

The net is a new project for the club, your input as to what to include is needed and appreciated. Let any of the officers and board know your 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.

### Looking for Additional Monday Night Net Control Operators



I am looking for additional people to help run the Monday Night "RARA Monday Night Information Net" as a net control operator. A net script, checkin log sheet, and schedule will be provided to assist with the task. Currently we have 6 NCO's rotating the duties so they handle the net once every 6 weeks.

You would be responsible for running the net, passing club information and gathering other information of interest to hams in general. The only time required is your preparation time and the time it takes to actually run the net, which is a little less than an hour on the Monday night you are scheduled. The only equipment needed is a 2M radio with PL and antenna that gets you into the repeater for adequate communication.

If you would like to help, please contact Gene, ka9bod at 815-226-1806 or by email at [ka9bod@arrl.net](mailto:ka9bod@arrl.net).

73,  
Gene KA9BOD

## **The Amateur Creed**

**In the Light of Day, and Dark of Night,  
I'll crank my power full to the right,  
To show my RF strength and clout,  
And repeatedly my callsign shout!**

**Because I must, I must divine,  
If in Lord Howe I'm 5 and 9,  
And in Tonga, Gabon, and Mayotte,  
I need to know my signal's hot!**

**3B9 and VU7,  
Send me straight to DX heaven!  
Calls from lands oh so exotic,  
If I miss them, I'll go neurotic!**

**To snag the rare ones, I'll use each trick:  
I'll skip work, I'll call in sick!  
I'll miss birthdays and traditions,  
Just to work DXpeditions!**

**And when my family members whine,  
I'll say, "Hang on, there's VQ9!"  
But should I incur some wifely wrath,  
I'll just cry, "Not now! Ten's hot long path!"**

**To keep my rep as pile-up buster,  
I stay logged on the DX Cluster,  
And I read each bulletin,  
QRZ and Ohio Penn.**

**And though my money gets swiped by tramps,  
I'll keep mailing crisp "green stamps",  
In the hopes my work so hard,  
Nets for me a third-world card.**

**The QSL, the Holy Grail!  
The DXer's joy that comes by mail.  
And though we prize these souvenirs,  
It sure takes long – it takes like years!**

**With each contact I near my goal,  
Of DXCC Honor Roll.  
And with every packet spot I'm seein',  
I keep hopin' for a North Korean!**

**And so I'll say, "5-9, 7-3"  
"By the Buro's fine by me!"  
By Boulder K and Grey-line edge,  
I promise here, I make this pledge:**

**In the Light of Day, and Dark of Night,  
I'll crank my power full to the right,  
To show my RF strength and clout,  
And repeatedly my callsign shout!**

© 1999 K5IQ

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

**Editors Note**

If you would like to have something published , please call me or email me at ke9n@arrl.net.

**Cut-off for the June 2009 issue will be Friday, May 29, 2009.**

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

**AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE**

\*\*\*\*\*

April 18th there were 3 applicants resulting in 1 new license

Robert Baker Technician

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**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 Undecided Restaurant” 915 S. Alpine Rd*

# DX NEWS AND CONTESTS

## SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
<b>JD1BMH</b>	OGASAWARA	MAY 2 TO MAY 12	JG7PSJ
<b>ZD8KR</b>	ASCENSION ISLAND	MAY 4 TO MAY 11	G0UNU
<b>3D2ZW</b>	FIJI	MAY 6 TO MAY 8	OK2ZAW
<b>V6</b>	MICRONESIA	MAY 11 TO MAY 16	JA7HMZ
<b>ZK2V</b>	NIUE	MAY 16 TO JUNE 20	LotW
<b>TK</b>	CORSICA	MAY 22 TO JUNE 11	F5MCC
<b>C6AMS</b>	BAHAMAS	JUNE 1 TO JUNE 14	NA6M
<b>8Q7CQ</b>	MAIDIVES	JUNE 1 TO JUNE 15	G0VJG
<b>SX5LA</b>	DODECANESE	JUNE 8 TO JUNE 14	SX5LA
<b>ZY0F</b>	FERNANDO DE NORONHA	JUNE 10 TO JUNE 15	PY2WAS
<b>S92LX</b>	SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	JUNE 13 TO JUNE 27	DK7LX
<b>V29JKV</b>	ANTIGUA	JUNE 23 TO JULY 3	W6JKV
<b>5R8KD</b>	MADAGASCAR	JULY 1 TO JULY 15	LotW
<b>OY</b>	FAROE ISLANDS	JULY 27 TO JULY 29	IW4BLZ

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

Nevada QSO Party, May 9, 2009  
 50 MHz Spring Sprint, May 9, 2009  
 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW, May 30-31, 2009  
 RSGB IOTA Contest July 25-26, 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  
 Repeater Chairman - Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ, 815-399-6822



**HAM RADIO AND ELECTRONIC FLEA MARKET**  
*Also featuring Antique and Vintage Radios – now Bigger and Better than ever!*

**SIX METER CLUB OF CHICAGO**

**52<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL**

**HAMFEST**

and *Antique Radio Club of Illinois* Swap Meet

**Sunday, June 21, 2009**

at the

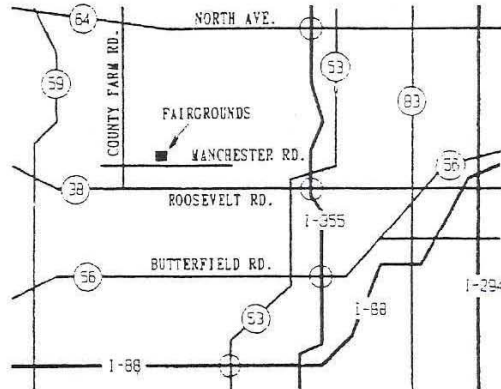
**DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, Illinois**

2015 Manchester Road (North of Roosevelt Rd. [Rte. 38], East of County Farm Rd.

GPS COORDINATES: N41°51.96804, W088°8.03634

**GATES AND FLEA MARKET OPEN 7 A.M. BUILDINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC 8 A.M.**

- All Weather, Large Outdoor Flea Market AND we've expanded to the spacious, air-conditioned Main Exhibition Hall!
- AMSAT, ARRL, Skywarn and Dealer Displays
- Good Food and Refreshments at Reasonable Prices
- Free Parking – no extra charge for outdoor space
- Donation Auction at 11 a.m. – Proceeds to ARCI (Radios, Test Eqpt., Parts Only – NO PCs)
- Overnight RV Parking w/110 V hookup -- must Register in Advance!
- 1<sup>st</sup> - \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$200, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$100 awarded at 1 p.m.
- TICKETS: Advance \$6.00; At Gate \$8.00 – Use form below to order advance tickets.
- ARRL VE Testing 9-11 a.m. \$15 Exam Fee
- TALKIN: K9ONA 146.52, K9ONA/R 146.37/97 (107.2)
- ALL TRAFFIC ENTER GATES WEST OF BUILDING
- INFORMATION: E-Mail [WD9GJK@arrl.net](mailto:WD9GJK@arrl.net) or call our 24 Hour InfoLine – (708)442-4961.



**VISIT OUR WEB SITES:**  
**SIX METER CLUB OF CHICAGO: [www.k9ona.com](http://www.k9ona.com)**  
**ANTIQUÉ RADIO CLUB OF ILLINOIS: [www.antique-radios.org](http://www.antique-radios.org)**

**PLEASE NOTE: ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PERMITTED**  
**NO SALE OF FOOD OR BEVERAGES IN FLEA MARKET -- All Sellers Responsible for Cleanup of Their Spaces!**

Return with check payable to "Six Meter Club of Chicago" and Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope to: Six Meter Club of Chicago, 3532 Raymond Avenue, Brookfield IL 60513-1204 *no later than June 1, 2009.*

*Please send Tickets/Reservations as follows:*

ADVANCE TICKETS (every attendee age 12 and over).....#	@ \$6.00 ea. = \$	_____
COMMERCIAL DEALER TABLES 8 ft. w/110 V.....#	@\$15.00 ea. = \$	_____
INDOOR FLEA MARKET TABLES (no electric).....#	@\$12.00 ea. = \$	_____
OVERNIGHT RV PARKING FAIRGROUNDS FEE (includes 110V).....#	@\$20.00 ea. = \$	_____

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEMS FOR SALE / WANTED

### **FOR SALE**

16 Foot. aluminum streetlamp pole with 4 bolt base. \$75.00, pay RARA. Contact Dave Bond, W9MG

MFJ-1724B 144/440 mag. Mount antenna -----	!7.00
Maldol HVU-8 Vertical Antenna -----	\$200.00
Hy-Gain TH-3JRS 3 Element Beam -----	\$150.00
Cushcraft AR-270 144/440 Vertical -----	\$85.00
Alinco DJ296T 220 HT -----	\$150.00
Yaesu VX-150 2 Meter HT -----	\$100.00
Alinco DR605T 144/440 Mobile -----	\$175.00
Kenwood TM731A 144/440 Mobile -----	\$125.00
Kenwood TM-V7A 144/440 Mobile -----	\$275.00
A-99 Plus Groud Plane Kit -----	\$75.00
Homemade 11 Element 2 Meter Beam -----	\$50.00
11 Element 2 Meter Beam -----	\$25.00
Cushcraft AR-6 6 Meter Vertical -----	\$40.00
MFJ-949-D Tuner -----	\$110.00
Mirage C22G 220 Mhz Amplifier with preamp -----	\$95.00
MFJ-924 440 Mhz Antenna Tuner -----	\$75.00
MFJ-862 144/220/440 Cross Needle Wattmeter -----	\$50.00
D-104 Microphone -----	\$50.00
Radio Shack SWR Meter -----	\$25.00
Radio Shack HTX-10 25 watt 10 Meter Mobile -----	\$60.00
Comet CF-416A diplexer -----	\$45.00
AES PPCL-1 Speaker -----	\$20.00
Workman KS-1 Dual Band Mag. Mount Antenna -----	\$17.00
(2) Rohn Top Tower Sections -----	\$20.00 (ea.)
Hammarlund HQ-100 Receiver and Speaker -----	\$75.00

Contact Richard Nelson, N9ZO for futher information. (815) 547-8686

**SALE PLANNED.** On the weekend of May 28, 29, and 30 there will be a sale at 5931 Alma Drive. We have ham radio books: ARRL Handbooks, Antenna books, license guides, etc. Radios, antennas, test gear, tools, computer books and software, and a lot of other "stuff." Call Shari, N9SH, at 815-398-2683 if you have any questions.

### **WANTED**

Mic or Speaker Mic for Yaesu VX-1R  
Mfg. model # MH-34B4B  
Mic or Speaker Mic for Radio Shack HTX-200  
Mfg. model # 19-310  
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 Thorn, K9LLI at 815-399-9161 or email: [steve.thorn@att.biz](mailto:steve.thorn@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)*



**The 2009 ARRL National Convention and Dayton Hamvention: Two Weeks and Counting!** (Apr 30, 2009) -- On May 15-17, hams from all over the world will make their way to the Hara Arena, located in Trotwood, Ohio for the 2009 ARRL National Convention and Dayton Hamvention®. Held annually since 1952, Hamvention is one of the largest Amateur Radio gathering in the world.



**The K7RA Solar Update** (Apr 24, 2009) -- Teased again, on Wednesday, April 22 we saw sunspot 1015 fade away, just as it was about to slip over our Sun's western limb. It emerged only briefly, late on April 21, and by Thursday it had disappeared. Sunspot numbers for April 16 through 22 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 11 with a mean of 1.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.9, 69.8, 69.9, 70.1, 69.8, 71, and 71.1 with a mean of 70.2. The estimated planetary A indices were 6, 5, 8, 4, 4, 5 and 4 with a mean of 5.1. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 4, 8, 4, 3, 3 and 2 with a mean of 3.9. The outlook for the near term is more of the same, quiet conditions. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions for April 24-30. The US Air Force and NOAA predict a nice quiet planetary A index of 5 until May 6-9, when they expect to see a planetary A index of 15, 8, 8 and 8.



**Houston Representative Introduces Amateur Radio Bill in Congress** (Apr 30, 2009) -- On Wednesday, April 29, Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) introduced HR 2160, the *Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009* in the US House of Representatives. This bill, if passed, would "promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response." The bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.



Google surprised amateurs worldwide on April 27th by posting "Google" in Morse code to note the birthday of [Samuel Morse](#), born in 1791. Even though the dot-dash version of the code was initially conceived by his assistant, Vail, it was Morse that persevered and created the telegraph system.



Found just off the National Mall on the west side of 7th Ave, between E and F streets, this plaque commemorates Samuel Morse's groundbreaking achievement. (Photo - N0AX)



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

**May 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