

HAM RAG



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

RARA Mission Statement

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

June 2012

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CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY

June 23rd and 24th is our annual Field Day event, which is being held at Reuben Aldeen Park, 623 North Alpine Road, Rockford, IL. Come out and join the fun!

Tom Shouler, N9VJU, will be heading up our Saturday morning with "Breakfast in the Park" at 7:00 am while we start setting up the stations. At 1:00 pm Saturday to 1:00 pm on Sunday we will be operating Field Day with 2 different stations. One is for SSB, and the other is for CW and digital. If you never operated before, this is an excellent time to learn. Kurt, KE9N, will have a SSB station set up for you to make contacts with, and learn about proper techniques. Dave Larsen, N9ZXL, and Tom Oberg, AB9AY, will be operating the CW station, and would be happy to have you come by and visit or operate. Robert Larson, KC9ICH, and Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, will be operating the digital modes. Find out how easy it is to get into digital communications. Everyone is invited, and with a control operator present, you can operate regardless of your license class. And don't forget to bring an appetite, as there will be food to eat, people to see and fun to be had!

Sunday afternoon brings us to the "Family Picnic". We could use some help getting this coordinated, so if you can lend a hand let me know.

We also need help in setting up radios and antennas, operating and logging, and teardown, so if you have not already made plans let me know what you would like to do. My phone number is 815-389-2784, or you can e-mail me at : ke9n@arrl.net.

For directions to Field Day, check out the Field Day locator on the ARRL web page at :

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>

On the left side, type in W9AXD in the "location or call sign" field and then press "search". You may then zoom in on our location, and click on the marker for more details.

Many of us are planning to stay overnight, so bring a tent, camper, or whatever you have, and enjoy camp-ing and ham radio in the same weekend.

See you at Field Day 2012!



NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY
June 8, 2012**

**Location:
Foundation Room**

**Saint Anthony OSF
5666 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois**

**Program: Field Day
Preparation**

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

President's Message

This month is Field Day. Our monthly program will be Field Day preparation.

Kurt Eversole, KE9N, will chair the Field day program. Kurt will also be looking for a few volunteers.

Breakfast in the Park will be field day Morning. As the head chef I will start serving at 0700 hr (7:00AM for non hams). We will set up for breakfast at 0600 hrs. so we will be able to start serving by 0700 hrs.

On Sunday afternoon we will conclude Field Day with Picnic in the Park

Hope to see you at St. Anthony's for the meeting.

Tom N9VJU

From the Treasurer

For the period 24 April 2012 to 28 May 2012
Submitted to the Ham Rag by John G. Olson 2012 RARA treasurer.

Income :	\$ 15.00 (Dues)
Expenses:	\$ 48.00 (Postal Box Rental) \$2052.42 (147.000 repeater, approved Sept. 2011, 146.610 antenna, approved Oct 2012)
Ending Checkbook Balance:	\$2618.83 (per check register 28 MAY 2012)
Ending Repeater checking balance:	\$ 300.00 (per 30 APR 2012 Statement)
Ending Savings Balance	\$3221.27 (per 30 MAR 2012 Statement)**
Ending total cash on hand:	\$6140.10 (net decline of \$2085.42)

** Savings account statements are issued by Alpine Bank quarterly

Dues for 2012 are overdue.

Make checks payable to RARA or Rockford Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Please send to:

RARA

P.O. Box 8465

Rockford, IL 61126-8465

Remember to include the application form published monthly in the Ham Rag.

From the Acting Secretary

Secretary's Report for the May 11, 2012 Monthly Club Meeting

The meeting was brought to order at 7:18 PM by President Tom Shouler, N9VJU.

The secretary's report from the April 13, 2012 club meeting was read by John Olson, W9JGO, acting secretary. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Gordy Seaman, KC9NEX and seconded by Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO. Unanimously accepted by voice vote.

The treasurer's report for the period 31 March, 2012 to 24 April, 2012 was read by treasurer John Olson. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Jim Holich, AB9SX and seconded by Kurt Eversole, KE9N. Unanimously accepted by voice vote.

Among those attending were guests Len Anderson and Jan Anderson, both aspiring hams.

Kurt Eversole spoke about the upcoming field day operation and passed out sheets for those planning on attending to fill out. Field Day is June 23 / 24. Breakfast in the Park precedes the field day set up. Field day operation starts at 1PM Saturday and ends at 1 PM Sunday. Tear down Sunday is followed by the annual Family Picnic. All events will take place at Aldeen Park 623 N. Alpine Rd., Rockford. We need volunteers for the Family Picnic!

Tom Shouler spoke about a request for volunteers to help design and test antennas for 900 MHz telemetry transmitters. Rock Valley College is also being asked. Dennis Johanson, K9VMY, volunteered to communicate with the person requesting this assistance.

Jim Holich spoke about the need to contact IL senators about a recently passed house bill concerning state wide amateur radio antenna regulations superseding the current city and county ordinances, many of which seem to be pointed towards cell phone tower regulation, rather than practical regulation of amateur antennas and supports. The bill number is not known at this time, but will be published in the next Ham Rag.

A short recess was followed by a repeat of the eqsl program by Robert Larson, KC9ICH. The program was again well received. Thanks, Robert!

The meeting drew to a close at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John G. Olson, W9JGO, acting secretary

CW - No! Dave Larsen did NOT make this one



Hey Guys! I just wanted to let you know that I operated W9AXD under the supervision of E.J. Jones (then WA9ZCP) back in 1967. We were in junior high school in Beloit, WI. As I remember we worked some phone and logged and then got to man the Benton Harbor lunchbox on 6 m during the night. I have a picture of E.J. and I posing in front of the Winnebago County Civil Defense trailer.

I was 13 years old then and you guys gave me the opportunity to really see what ham radio was like. I'm now 56 yrs old with the call of W0JM and am enjoying the hobby as much as ever. So please remember to recruit those young guys and gals to help log or pull a shift with a licensed ham. If you would like I'd be happy to send along the picture.

73's - and thanks for giving a little 13 year old a chance to operate field day.

Jeffrey D. Martin - W0JM
5308 Abbott Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55410



AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

May 19th there were no applicants.

Thanks to Shari Harlan N9SH, Mike Barry KN9Z and David Bailey KC9QYY for volunteering their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9AM June 16, 2012. Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10:30AM. We require two signature ID's (one with a photo). If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator bring your current license and a copy. If you are using a CSCE for an element credit, bring the original and a copy (We need to see the originals & keep a photocopy of each document used for element credit). No copier on site. The test fee is \$14.00. Bring a non-programmable calculator.

Location:

OSF St Anthony Medical Center
5666 E State St
Rockford IL

Exams will be held in the St Francis Room (Main Entrance then turn right).

Rusty Cordell WB9QYV
wb9qyv@aol.com

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	

2010 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-877-9129
Vice President - Open
Secretary - Open
Treasurer - John Olson W9JGO 815-399-4368

Directors:

Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO 815-979-0329
Kurt Eversole, KE9N 815-389-2784
Dave Larsen, N9ZXL 815-399-8205
Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX 815-234-5034
Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875
Ham Rag Editor - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796
Repeater Chairman - Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-979-1049

The K7RA Solar Report

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 22 ARLP022
From Tad Cook, K7RA
Seattle, WA June 1, 2012
To all radio amateurs

Average daily sunspot numbers sank more than 28 points this week (nearly 26%) to 81.9. Average daily solar flux declined more than 16 points to 111.6. This is for the seven days of May 24-30, and is compared to the previous seven days, May 17-23.

No new sunspots appeared over the five days of May 26-30, but on May 31, three new sunspot groups appeared. One day earlier the sunspot number was 78, while the total relative sunspot area was 400. On May 31 those numbers dropped to 73 and 330, even with the new spots.

On May 30, sunspot groups 1486, 1488, 1490 and 1492 were in place. By May 31, 1486 and 1488 disappeared, and new sunspot groups 1493, 1494 and 1495 emerged. But the total area of all visible spots was less than the day before.

You can track the fading of sunspot groups and the emergence of new ones at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/forecasts/SRS.html>. The dates shown are always for the new UTC day, the one following the day for which the data is shown. So the report marked June 1 is actually displaying data gathered on May 31.

In this report the area for each sunspot group is listed, and this is expressed in millionths of a solar hemisphere. The total sunspot area for the day, along with the sunspot number, is displayed along with solar flux resolved to whole numbers at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftplib/indices/DSD.txt>.

The short term outlook is revised from the one given in yesterday's ARRL Letter, with solar flux peaking around 125 on June 2-7, hitting a minimum of 105 on June 27-28, then peaking at 120 on July 1-12.

The latest prediction has solar flux at 120 on June 1, 125 on June 2-7, 120 on June 8-15, 115 on June 16-18, 110 on June 19-26, and 105, 105, 110 and 115 on June 27-30, then 120 on July 1-12.

Predicted planetary A index is 5 on June 1-2, then 10, 15, 18, 15 and 10 on June 3-7, 5 on June 8-11, 8 on June 12-13, 5 on June 14-17, and 15, 12 and 8 on June 18-20, and 5 on June 21-25.

With the start of a new month, we can revisit our moving averages for sunspot numbers. We've been observing a three-month moving average, based on whole calendar months, so the latest average is for March, April and May 2012. About a month ago we were reporting for the months of February, March and April. It is a simple arithmetic - with an accent on the third, rather than second syllable - average, with a total of all sunspot numbers divided by the number of days in the period.

So over September 1 through November 30, 2011, there were 91 days and the sum of all daily sunspot numbers for that period was 10,808, yielding an average daily sunspot number of 118.8 when the sunspot number total is divided by the number of days. The next period covered October 1 through December 31, 2011, with a total sum of all daily sunspot numbers of 10,913 divided by 92 days, giving us an average daily sunspot number of 118.6. That period in Fall 2011 had the highest sunspot numbers seen so far in Cycle 24.

The three month moving averages of daily sunspot numbers for the three month periods ending January 2010 through May 2012 were 15, 22.4, 25.7, 22.3, 18.5, 16.4, 20.4, 23.2, 28.9, 33, 35.6, 31, 30.1, 35.3, 55.7, 72.3, 74.4, 65.9, 61.5, 63, 79.6, 98.6, 118.8, 118.6, 110, 83.3, 73.7, 71.2, and 87.3. As you can see, the numbers are up slightly over the past few months. The monthly average sunspot numbers for February through May 2012 are 50.1, 78, 84.5 and 99.4.

The K7RA Solar Report

Go to

<http://phys.org/news/2012-05-science-nugget-solar-particles-infiltrating.html> to read an article on Ground Level Enhancements, or GLE, a rare event in which a sudden rise in neutrons coincides with an energetic solar flare or coronal mass ejection. A GLE detected on May 17 was the first GLE of the current solar cycle.

Dave Blood, W1AFC of Oberlin, Ohio had some comments on WA8MEA's recent query on LUF and MUF. Dave wrote, "MUF is affected by solar UV light mostly and therefore is governed by the daily solar flux

levels. The LUF, as mentioned, is set by daytime absorption in the D-region at about 100 km heights (hence by the number of radio wave passes through it (up and down) and the number of ionospheric hops supported by the F-region at 300 km heights). The absorption is altered by the instantaneous X-ray radiation from the Sun and this can vary up and down highly during solar flare activity. Radio 'Blackout' conditions occur when the absorption is so high that the LUF exceeds MUF for any propagation path distance for long periods from 20 minutes to several hours."

Dave worked for Raytheon for several decades on over-the-horizon radar from 1960-1992. Dave has been a ham for 60 years.

Rick McCurdy, WA1GTP is in FN31si in Ivoryton, Connecticut. He wrote, "On May 23 at 1550 UTC I received RADAR on 432.100, first time in years! Heading was WSW from (Essex) New London/New Haven CT area. Very few openings on 6 meters but April 30 worked short E skip to VE2DLC, FN58rk, 527 miles. Also Florida openings May 24, not much else."

We received another geomagnetic forecast from F.K. Janda, OK1HH. He predicts quiet to active conditions on June 1, quiet on June 2, quiet to unsettled June 3-4, quiet to active June 5, active June 6-7, quiet to active June 8-9, quiet to unsettled June 10, quiet June 11-12, quiet to active June 13, mostly quiet June 14, quiet to unsettled June 15-16, quiet to active June 17, mostly quiet June 18, active June 19, and quiet to unsettled June 20-21.

Sunspot numbers for May 24 through 30 were 96, 86, 70, 83, 87, 73, and 78, with a mean of 81.9. 10.7 cm flux was 115.5, 117.2, 110, 110.7, 110.3, 106.3 and 111, with a mean of 111.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 8, 6, 4, 4, 6, 6, and 6, with a mean of 5.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 11, 8, 5, 3, 3, 5, and 5, with a mean of 5.7.

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



Hamfest Information

Sunday June 3, 2012

Starved Rock Radio Club (W9MKS) Hamfest
 Bureau County Fairgrounds 811 West Peru Street
 Matthew Weaver, KB9VZH
 319 DeSoto Street Ottawa IL 61356
 815- 313-5924
 kb9vzh@mchsi.com

Sunday June 17, 2012

Six Meter Club of Chicago 55th Annual Hamfest
 DuPage County Fairgrounds
 2015 Manchester Road
 Wheaton, IL 60187
 Mike Huedepohl, WD9GJK
 3532 Raymond Avenue Brookfield, IL 60513
 708-485-5481
 wd9gjk@arrl.net

Sunday July 15, 2012

Fox River Radio League Hamfest and Electronics Market
 Aurora Central Catholic High School
 1225 North Edgelawn Drive
 Aurora, IL 60504
 Dawn Williams, KC9LQS
 1203 Brandywine Circle Batavia, IL 60510
 630-531-1670
 kc9lqs@yahoo.com



Presents
RADIO EXPO 2012
 Saturday September 15th One Day Only

BOONE CO FAIRGROUNDS - US Rt 20 & IL 76 BELVEDERE, IL

42° 16' 54" N / 88° 51' 7" W



Radios -Antennas- Computers - Electronics for everyone!
 Grounds Open For Set Up Friday At Noon - Flea Market Opens - 6 AM
 Exhibit Buildings Open - 8 AM To 4 PM

* Newest Amateur Equipment From Major Manufacturers And Surplus Electronics *

Advanced Tickets \$ 8 with 4 stubs - At The Gate Tickets \$ 10 with 2 stubs (Kids Under 12 Free)

FREE PARKING - Outdoor Electrical Hookups Available - VEC Testing 9 - 12 Noon

On Grounds Breakfast And Lunch Available RVs / Motor Homes - Water - Electric \$25.00 - No Waste Service

Talk-in On The CFMC Repeater 146.76 (107.2 Hz PL) Linked To WX9MCS 147.255 (114.8PL) & 444.725 (107.2 Hz PL)
 (Grounds / Local Area Talk In 146.550)

Got Expo Questions ??? Email Us Today cfmc.radioexpo@yahoo.com Or Call us 630-847-5317

Name _____ Call _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Table Reservations for both buildings-\$20.00 per table (8ft long) _____ x \$20.00 = _____
 4 or more tables - \$15.00 each _____ x \$15.00 = _____
 Advanced sale tickets 4 Stubs - \$ 8.00 - REQUIRED with tables _____ x \$ 8.00 = _____
 Inside _____ / Outside electric _____ - Flea market - \$ 10.00 = _____
 Total _____

** Building assignment at discretion of CFMC / Do not mail table or ticket requests after Aug 27, 2012 **
 Make check out to: CHICAGO FM CLUB 6348 N Milwaukee Ave #103 Chicago, IL 60646
 Remember to send a #10 (4 in by 9.5 in) self-addressed stamped envelope with your request.



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: jholich@comcast.net

<u>Nets</u>		
Monday 8 PM	RARA Info.	146.610 - 114.8
Monday 9 PM	10M SSB Net	28.375 +/- USB
Thursday 7 PM	ARES	147.255 + 114.8

place address label here

June 2012

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.

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