

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.

Merry Christmas

2014 Election Results

2014 Election Results:

President, Robert Larson, KC9ICH

Vice President, Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO

Treasurer, Shannon Larson, KC9QBC

Secretary, John Olson, W9JGO

Board Member, Ron Callahan, N9SZV

Board Member, Jeff Andrews, KC9ZMR

Board Member, Rich Range, WB9SFG

Board Member, James Holich, AB9SX

Repeater Trustee, Scott Francis, KG9SF

Repeater Chairman, Rich Range, WB9SFG

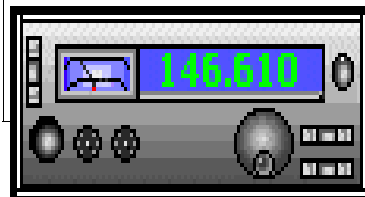
Webmaster, Robert Larson, KC9ICH

Hamrag Editor, (OPEN)

December 2013

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NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
December 13, 2013

Location:
Foundation Room

Saint Anthony OSF
5666 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois

Program:
2 meter / 70 cm J-Pole
Antenna Project

Kurt Eversole KE9N

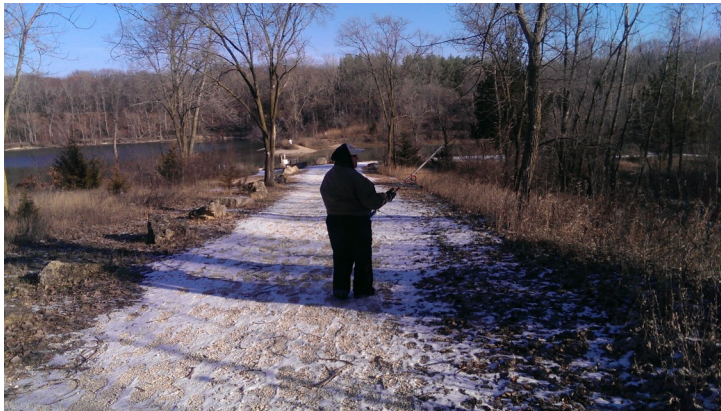
Latest news and events on our web page: <http://www.w9axd.org>

Big Thunder Fox Hunt Rich Range WB9SFG

Last Sat. (11/30/13) Jim Holich, AB9SX and myself attended the Big Thunder fox hunt in Belvidere. The day started out chilly but improved in time. We met in the Baltic Mill parking area of the park district in order to give the fox time to hide. Today there were 2 foxes to find which made it a bit more interesting. Once in place we headed in the direction of the Spencer Conservation Area and the hunt was on. Being observers, Jim and I tagged along with who ever we could. A lot of walking, up and down trails and through the woods and around a number of ponds and small lakes. The first fox would transmit a variation of audio tones for about 2 minutes and then would be silent for 1 minute. The second fox, on a different frequency would do the same. You could take your pick of which fox you wanted to find first. The first fox was found in a round container about 15” tall that originally was used for welding rods and hiding in a rotted out log! The second one was in a plastic peanut bottle in a wooded area. We sure learned a lot from this hunt and they are excited about RARA joining them for future hunts.



BTARC Fox Hunt November 30, 2013



AREA Repeaters

146.610 -	ENC/DEC pl 114.8	W9AXD
147.000 +	ENC/DEC pl 114.8	W9AXD
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

2013 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO, 815-979-0329
Vice President - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309
Secretary - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796
Treasurer - Shannon Larson, KC9QBC, 815-540-0309

Directors:

Kurt Eversole, KE9N 815-389-2784
Richard H. Range WB9SFG— 630-697-1344

Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309
Ham Rag Editor - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796
Repeater Chairman - Richard Range, WB9SFG 630-697-1344

From the Secretary

Treasurers Report

The Treasurers report was read by Robert Larson on behalf of Shannon Larson. Motion to approve was made by Larry Schubert, AC9GO, and seconded by Jeff Andrews, KC9ZMR. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

New Business

Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO, requested that we take a moment to recognize our Veterans in honor of Veterans Day.

Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO, recognized Jim Miller, W4JR, for his 73rd anniversary in Amateur Radio and asked Jim to talk to the club about his experiences.

Steve Twigg, W9SWT, mentioned the Special Events contests going on over the weekend.

Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO, gave an update on the repeater controller

General Meeting

We had a 50/50 drawing and Dave Lewis, K9YM, was the winner. Dave Larsen, N9ZXL, brought an amateur radio project he had made, sealed in a box, to auction off to raise money for the club. Rich Range, WB9SFG, was the auctioneer, and after a lively bidding exchange between Larry Shubert, AC9GO and Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO, the winning bid of \$36 went to Doug Abrahamson.

Presentation

Robert Larson gave an excellent presentation on JT65-HF, that included a power point presentation and video and audio examples of this weak signal digital mode. Everyone enjoyed the presentation.

Regards,

Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

November 16 there were 2 new licensees and 1 upgrade. Congratulations to:

Brian J Fenzel, Technician
Keith J Gade KB9HVO, Extra
John W Sterkeson, General

Thanks to Rich Range WB9SFG, Shari Harlan N9SH, Steve Twigg W9SWT and Joseph Moore KA9LMK for volunteering their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9AM November 16, 2013. Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10AM, no exams started after 10:30. We require two signature ID's and one photo. If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator bring your current license and a copy. If you are using a CSCE for exam credit, bring the original and a copy (We need to see the originals & keep a photocopy of each). 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 (Bus US20)
Rockford IL

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

Rusty Cordell WB9QYV
wb9qyv@aol.com

The K7RA Solar Report

From Tad Cook, K7RA
Seattle, WA December 6, 2013
To all radio amateurs

Solar activity bounced back this week, with average daily sunspot numbers increasing from 63.6 to 102.9, and average daily solar flux from 130 to 132.9. There were no periods of disruptive geomagnetic activity, although November 30 and December 1 were slightly unsettled. There was another uptick in activity yesterday, December

5, when the solar flux readings at Penticton were 157 at 1800 UTC, 149.6 at 2000 UTC and 156 at 2200 UTC. The daily reading at 2000 UTC (local noon in British Columbia) is always the official solar flux value for the day. The sunspot number for December 5 was 103, up from 98 the day before.

Predicted solar flux for December 6-7 is 155, on December 8-9 it is 150, then 145 on December 10-11, 135 on December 13-14, 130 on December 15-16, 135 on December 17, 130 on December 18-19, 125 and 130 on December 20-21, 125 on December 22-23, 130 on December 24-26, and 125 on December 27-28.

There is an odd solar flux peak at 165 predicted for January 8, but this seems to be a remnant of a prediction from November 25 through December 1, when there were many days in mid-December, late December and early January with solar flux predicted at 160-165. On December 2 these predictions were radically revised downward, with the exception of January 8. From November 25 to December 1 the solar flux prediction was 165 for January 4-10, but starting on December 2 that prediction was revised to solar flux at 130 on January 4-7 and 135 on January 9-10 and 130 on January 11-12, with January 8 standing alone at 165.

You can see these changes at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/forecasts/45DF.html>, at least for a few weeks.

Predicted planetary A index is 8 on December 6, 12 on December 7-8, 5 on December 9-12, then 10 and 8 on December 13-14, 5 on December 15-25, then 12, 10, 8, 12 and 10 on December 26-30.

OK1HH sends his geomagnetic prediction from the Czech Republic. He sees quiet to unsettled conditions December 6-7, mostly quiet December 8-11, active to disturbed December 12, quiet December 13-14, mostly quiet December 15, quiet to unsettled December 16, quiet December 17-18, quiet to unsettled December 19, quiet December 20-24, mostly quiet December 25, quiet to unsettled December 26, quiet to active December 27, quiet December 28, mostly quiet December 29, and quiet on December 30-31.

NASA released a new Solar Cycle Prediction, but nothing has changed except the date: <http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>

Actually the information seems a bit dated, but of course they are dealing with smoothed sunspot numbers, which are immune to daily variations. The smoothed sunspot number is an average for an entire year, so we are always six months behind in knowing the latest real smoothed number. Go to <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf1992.pdf> and note the numbers for January through April 2013 on page 18. This report is over a month old, but at that time the April 2013 value was the latest known smoothed number. Each month after that incorporates progressively less real sunspot data and more predicted numbers.

The K7RA Solar Report

But also note that in this table they show the current cycle peaking in April and May of 2014. So we may not be at the peak for this cycle after all.

Larry Godek, W00GH of Gilbert, Arizona sent this: "I was listening on Tuesday afternoon (December 3) for VU7AG, weakly on SSB and then with a polar sound later in the PM. Had called him a couple times on CW early on with no response but the frequency was crowded with people all over the place hearing him apparently. Working on the bench and listening at the same time, kinda. Well the signal seemed to be getting stronger and after donning the headset I could not hear as many stations calling him as before but he was working a lot of 7-land and 0 call area stations. I tuned around up and down about 2 KHz from his frequency but couldn't hear any of the stations he was calling.

"Then I heard a good loud 7-land station go back to him with the exchange. I quickly zero beat him and when the VU7 stood by I gave him a quick call. He came back to a W0, so I called him again and he came back with my call. That was at 2151:30 on December 3 on 14.030 MHz. That was really the only time during all of his operating that I really heard him well enough to make a contact. I had heard him on SSB but getting into that fray with only 100 watts and a low 4 element Yagi doesn't get me many contacts against the multi-KW and 100ft plus stacked beam stations.

"Then at 2301 I worked JA3HAW and at 2304Z I worked JH0KZQ on 29.6 MHz FM. I've worked Europe and South America on 29.6 FM, but it's been many a year since I even heard a JA on that frequency. I thought I heard some Russian stations as well but not knowing the language it was hard to tell where they were from. Then today, December 4 at almost the exact same time I worked the JA3 and JH0 stations, again on 29.6. They were calling CQ DX. I didn't hear them go back to any other station before the path was lost.

"BTW, I have heard nothing of the VU7 again since yesterday although I hear lots of other stations working him."

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, k7ra@arrl.net.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/wlaw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Sunspot numbers for November 28 through December 4 were 100, 95, 102, 104, 124, 97, and 98, with a mean of 102.9. 10.7 cm flux was 132.9, 128.5, 131.2, 130.5, 133.7, 135.7, and 138, with a mean of 132.9. Estimated planetary A indices were 2, 8, 9, 10, 2, 7, and 4, with a mean of 6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 1, 6, 7, 7, 1, 6, and 3, with a mean of 4.4.

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.

"Morning Glory Restaurant"

***9155 Alpine Street
Rockford, IL 61108***



HAM OF THE YEAR---2013 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 R.A.R.A. member and should have performed exemplary service for amateur radio during the year 2013. 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 to AB9SX at the address below or handed to me at the next club meeting. All nominations must be received by December 13, 2013. They will remain confidential.

Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Mail nominations to:
Jim Holich
315 Beacon Drive
Belvidere, IL 61008
jholich@comcast.
net

Nominee. _____ Call _____

I nominate the above person for the RARA Ham of the Year-2010 award for the following reasons:

Treasurers Report

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION Inc.

November 26, 2013

Primary Checking:

Beginning Balance 10/29/13 _____	2,395.73
Deposit _____	75.00
Ending Balance 11/26/13 _____	2,470.73

Organization Savings:

Beginning Balance 10/29/13 _____	3,224.18
Quarterly Interest Earned _____	0
Ending Balance 11/26/13 _____	3,224.18

Repeater Committee Checking:

Beginning Balance 10/29/13 _____	300.00
Ending Balance 11/26/13 _____	300.00

Deposit: 50/50 Raffle Donation October	27.00
Sale of Club's Power Supply	35.00
50/50 Raffle Donation November	13.00

Shannon K. Larson KC9QBC
Treasurer, RARA

HamFest Information

West Allis Radio Amateur Club 2013 Swapfest

Saturday January 4, 2014 Waukesha County Expo Center Forum 1000 Northview Road Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186

Contact: Phillip Gural, W9NAW S67W12944 Larkspur Road Muskego Wisconsin 54956

Phone—414-425-3649 Email: janphil68@att.net

Additional Information on JT65A and JT9 Digital Modes

Here's a website from Dec., 2013 QST (bottom of page 51) with "Old Codger" instructions (Free to copy with credit for author). The article on page 30 of this issue explains why it works so well. <http://www.obriensweb.com/wsjsx.html>

Submitted by

John Olson K9JGO



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 PL
Monday 9 PM	10M SSB Net	28.375 +/- USB
Daily 6 PM	Illinois Traffic Net	3.905 LSB

place address label here

December, 2013

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