

HAM RAG



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

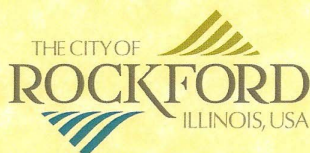
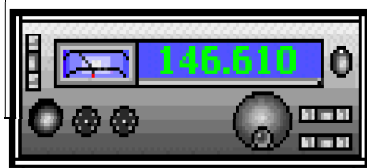
RARA Mission Statement

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

July 2013

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Lawrence J. Morrissey
Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Rockford has more than 600 licensed Amateur Radio operators who have demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing emergency radio communications; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators donate their services free of charge to the City of Rockford in the interest of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators are on alert for any emergency, local or world-wide, and practice their communication skills during the American Radio Relay League's Field Days exercise; and

WHEREAS, this year's Amateur Radio Field Days will take place on June 22nd and June 23rd; and

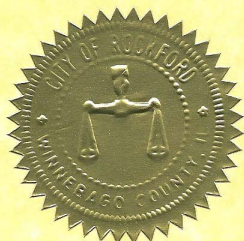
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. MORRISSEY, Mayor of the City of Rockford do hereby proclaim the week of June 17, 2013 as:

"AMATEUR RADIO WEEK"

in Rockford, Illinois in recognition of this important emergency preparedness exercise, and call upon all citizens to pay tribute to the Amateur Radio operators of our city.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the city of Rockford to be affixed this 17th day of June 2013.

MAYOR LAWRENCE J. MORRISSEY
CITY OF ROCKFORD



EXCELLENCE EVERYWHERE

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
July 12, 2013

Location:
Foundation Room

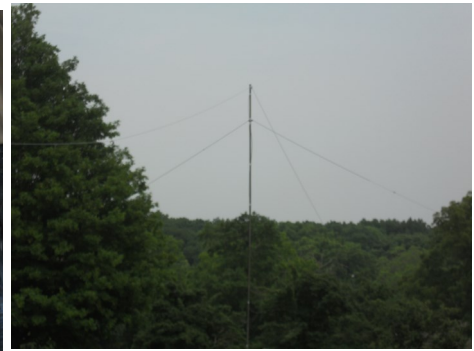
Saint Anthony OSF
5666 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois

Program:
Fox Hunting Amateur
Radio Style

Robert Larson,
KC9ICH

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

2013 Field Day



AREA Repeaters

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

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
 Steve Miles— KC9WBH

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

Central States VHF Society Conference

Hi folks;

I would like to extend an invitation to your membership to consider attending the Central States VHF Society conference this summer, being held in the greater Chicago area. Please distribute this invite to your members via your club remailer. I have copied below the general information from the CSVHFS organizing committee;

Greetings !

The online registration for the 2013 Central States VHF Society Conference is now available. The 2013 Conference will be held near Chicago at the Elk Grove Village, IL, Holiday Inn from Thursday July 25th until Sunday July 28. This year's Conference location allows for free Hotel transportation to and from the Chicago-O'Hare Airport and has easy access from major interstate routes.

Activities begin with onsite check-in and registration Thursday afternoon with the offering of a trip to the Schaumburg Boomer's baseball game at 5PM. Friday morning's activities feature the Antenna Range (144MHz-24GHz) measurements, Rover Row, Dish Display and Noise Figure Measurement Contest.

In addition to the world-class technical presentations on topics about activity on the amateur bands VHF/UHF and above; this year's conference will feature a return of the free-admission "VHF-101" introductory session on Saturday Morning !

For a up-to-date schedule of events please check the Central States VHF Society website at;
<http://www.csvhfs.org/2013conference/agenda.html>

The 2013 Conference is honored to welcome active VHF operator and CEO of the American Radio Relay League, Mr. Dave Sumner, K1ZZ as the Saturday Banquet speaker. This will be a presentation you will not want to miss!

The Family Program includes the Schaumburg Boomer's baseball game on Thursday evening, a Friday trip to downtown Chicago's famed Michigan Avenue Shopping District and a Saturday bus trip to the Chicago Museum Campus that includes the Field Museum of Natural History, the Adler Planetarium, the John G Shedd Aquarium and the Chicago Museum of Modern Art.

This year we will be offering a (free) Sunday tour of the Fermilab National Accelerator in Batavia Illinois. There will be a group car-pool from the Hotel at 10AM Sunday and although there is no bus transportation arrangements can be provided for the return trip to O'Hare airport after the tour. This tour will present a glimpse into the hardware behind the scenes in the world of High Energy Physics. Included will be a short stop by the superconducting RF laboratory - where the RF is REALLY cool...A pair of comfortable walking shoes is suggested for the 3 hour tour.

The Central States VHF Society registration page can be found at ;
<http://www.csvhfs.org/2013conference/2013Registration.html>

Please make early plans to attend. We look forward to seeing you in July for the 2013 Central States VHF Society Conference near Chicago.

For the 2013 CSVHF Committee

73,

Kermit Carlson W9XA

From the Secretary

Secretary's Notes for the RARA June 14, 2013 meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Doud Abrahamson, KC9SDO, at 7:10 PM. The meeting opened with introductions, followed by a reading of the secretary's report for May, 10,2013. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Larry Schubert WB8PKS and seconded by Doug Abrahamsom, KC9SDO. The motion was carried. The treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Shannon Larson, KC9QBC. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Kurt Eversole, KE9N, and seconded by Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX. The motion was carried.

A call for old business was made. An update for the Midway village project was given and a work day planned to determine the circuitry ffor the system. Rich Range , WB9SFG, John Olson, W9JGO, and Jim Holich, AB9SX. The work day was successful and we are ready to try a full test within the next few weeks. Some woodwork is yet to be done. We will be ready to install the systemor the fall season, 2013. Rich is also in the process of talking to the Railway Museum at Union, IL regarding telegraph operation possibilities there.

New business topics were the report from the repeater committee chairman Rich Range, WB9SFG. We will need two new controllers. Kurt Eversole, KE9N suggested a workday to repair a SteppIR antenna from an estate. The antenna would then be sold, and the proceeds used to purchase the equipment. The date is TBD.

After the business portion of the meeting concluded, a short break was followed by a discussion and planning of the RARA Field Day..

At 8:45 PM a motion was made by Larry Schubert, WB8PKS, to close the meeting. It was seconded by Robert Larson, KC9ICH, and the motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Holich, AB9SX

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

June 15th there was 1 upgrade. Congratulations to:

Upgrade:

Brian D Cihak KC9ZBE, General

Thanks to Alvin Alexander KC9GIO, Joseph Moore KA9LMK, Jim Holich AB9SX and Steve Miles KC9WBH for volunteering their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9AM July 20, 2013. Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10:30AM. 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 an element 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 July 5, 2013
To all radio amateurs

This week solar activity fell and then rose again, with average daily sunspot numbers down 23.6 points to 86.1. Average daily solar flux fell from 122 to 107.2. The solar flux on Thursday, July 4 rose to 137.7, the highest since May 16, fifty days earlier.

There was an active geomagnetic day on Saturday, June 29 when planetary A index was 51, high latitude college A index was 73, and mid-latitude A index was 40.

The high geomagnetic activity actually occurred on Friday night on the West Coast, with a planetary A index of 6 at 0300 UTC (Saturday UTC time) and 7 at 0600 UTC. My friend Diana Sorus has been asking me when to go out to see aurora, and I've told her to go to a dark place and look north when the K index is high.

I suggested watching <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftplib/indices/DGD.txt> and the daily predictions at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftplib/forecasts/45DF.html> and to hope for clear skies. The usual problem in the Puget Sound basin of the Pacific Northwest is we have so many overcast days, the chances of seeing aurora are limited. You need just the right combination of high K index (5 or 6 or more), dark skies, and clear weather. Diana wanted to be sure to catch the next one, so she subscribed to a service from spaceweather.com which calls or texts her whenever the K index reaches some threshold designated by her.

Last Friday evening she got that call, but unfortunately was too tired from working that day to venture out of the city to watch for aurora. This is unfortunate, because aurora was visible that night in many places, including areas far south of us (aurora is more intense the further away you are from the equator). Skies here have been clear for days, and we had a heat wave over the weekend. I don't know when she will get that chance again. Could be next week, next month or next solar cycle. I wasn't watching conditions closely enough to go out and observe for myself.

As you can see at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftplib/indices/oldindices/2013Q2DGD.txt>, <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftplib/indices/oldindices/2013Q1DGD.txt>, <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftplib/indices/oldindices/2012DGD.txt> and <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftplib/indices/oldindices/2011DGD.txt> the right combination is rare.

Back on March 1, 2011 the numbers look high enough, but locally the peak activity was during daylight. March 11, 2011 also had a peak at daylight, although the evening hours may have been good also, but March in Seattle tends to be overcast. I tried to find weather records online that would tell me the sky conditions, clear or overcast, but it seems I found everything but that. I did find visibility, which is typically 8-10 miles. An alternative for us is to hop on Interstate 90 and head east 100 miles over the Cascade mountain range to Eastern Washington, where skies are often clear.

The latest prediction (Thursday, July 4) has solar flux relatively high for the next few days, at 140 on July 5 and 6, 135 on July 7, 140 on July 8 to 10, then 135, 130 and 120 on July 11 to 13, 125 on July 14 to 16, 130 on July 17 to 19, then 120 and 115 on July 20 and 21, and 110 on July 22 and 23. The forecast shows solar flux reaching a minimum of 100 on July 26 and 27, then another minimum at 95 on August 2, and another peak at 130 on August 13 to 14.

The K7RA Solar Report

Predicted planetary A index is 20 on July 5, 15 on July 6, 8 on July 7, 5 on July 8 to 16, followed by 10 on July 17, 15 on July 18 to 20, 18 on July 21, and 5 on July 22 to 26. The geomagnetic indices then show active conditions for the following six days.

OK1HH tells us he predicts geomagnetic conditions as mostly quiet on July 5, quiet to active July 6, quiet to unsettled, July 7, quiet July 8 to 15, mostly quiet July 16 and 17, quiet to active July 18 and 19, active to disturbed July 20, quiet to active July 21, mostly quiet July 22, quiet July 23 and 24, quiet to unsettled July 25, and quiet to active July 26 and 27.

At the beginning of the new month, it is now time to look at our 3-month moving average of daily sunspot numbers. The average for the three months centered on May, 2013 (April 1 through June 30) was 106.4, the same as the 3 month average centered on April, 2013 (March 1 through May 31). Actually the two averages were not exactly the same, with the latest 3 months lower by .028. The early period had a sum of 9,792 divided by 92 days, and the latest total was 9,683 divided by 91 days. The daily sunspot number average for June was just 80.2, a drop from 125.6 in May.

The progression of our moving 3 month average for the past year, centered on June 2012 through May 2013 was 96.5, 91.9, 89.9, 81.2, 82.3, 74.4, 82.8, 73.6, 80.7, 85.2, 106.4 and 106.4.

Some radio amateurs have said that perhaps this will be a double-peak solar cycle, like the last one. We don't know what the rest of the year will bring, but the most recent NASA prediction said the peak of the current cycle would likely be in the summer of 2013, which is now. Remember that exciting period of relatively high activity (at least for this weak solar cycle) in fall 2011? Our 3-month moving averaged peaked in October and November 2011, at 118.8 and 118.6. Now we get two months in a row with 3-month averages higher than any period since the end of 2011, at 106.4 and 106.4. I hope this isn't as high as it goes.

As we've noted during peaks of the previous solar cycles 22 and 23, because the determination of the peak is actually seen using a 12-month moving average, we don't really know when the peak was until well afterward, perhaps a couple of years out. The long moving average is used to determine the official peak because there is so much day-to-day and month to month variation in sunspot numbers.

Sunspot numbers for June 27 through July 3 were 71, 83, 67, 85, 102, 101, and 94, with a mean of 86.1. 10.7 cm flux was 99.5, 101, 100.2, 102.8, 107.8, 114.3, and 124.5, with a mean of 107.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 8, 22, 51, 11, 8, 4, and 4, with a mean of 15.4. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 8, 20, 40, 11, 10, 5, and 4, with a mean of 14.

NNNN

/EX

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***



For Sale or Trade

Code Practice Oscillator MiniKits

For sale. \$10 each, includes schematic. All boards are assembled and tested. Circuit will easily drive headphones or a small speaker. Each board measures approximately 1.25" square and is great for mounting in a small project box or on a wooden board. See Dennis K9VMY at the next club meeting, or contact via e-mail k9vmy@arrl.net. Note: shipping is not included.

HamFest Information

Fox River Radio League

Hamfest

Sunday 07/14/2013

Aurora Central Catholic High School
1255 North Edgelawn Drive
Aurora, IL 60504
<http://frrl.org>

Talk-In: 147.210 +600 (PL 103.5)
Contact: Dawn Williams , KC9LQS
PO Box 673 Batavia, IL 60510
Phone: 630-531-1670
Email: hamfest@frrl.org

Tech Fest

Western Lake County Amateur Radio

Society

Sunday 08/18/2013

Grant Township Center
26725 West Molidor Rd.
Ingleside, IL 60041

Talk-In: 147.030 (PL 107.2)
Contact: Joe Serocki N9IFG
35144 Sheridan Dr. Ingleside, IL 60041

Email: joeserocki@gmail.com

6th Annual Racine Megacycle

Freefest 2013

Saturday 08/10/2013

Firemen's Park
9600 Charles Street
Sturtevant, WI 53177
<http://www.w9udu.org>

Talk-In: 147.270 + (PL 127.3)
Contact: Paul Gianonni KC9PG
9228 Millstone Dr.

Mt. Pleasant, WI 53406
Phone: 262-456-0357
Email: KC9PG@yahoo.com

Chicago FM Club

Radio Expo 2013

Saturday 09/07/2013

Boone County Fairgrounds
8791 IL Rte. 76
Belvidere, IL 60041

Talk-In: 146.76 minus (PL 107.2)
Contact: Michael Brost WA9FTS
5127N. Monterey Dr., Norridge, IL 60706

Phone—708-983-9288

Email: mikeb2006@comcast.net

Treasurers Report

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INC.

JUNE 25, 2013

PRIMARY CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 5/28/13	_____	1,893.63
Deposits	_____	170
Withdrawals	_____	(578)
Ending Balance 6/25/13	_____	1,485.63

ORGANIZATION SAVINGS:

Beginning Balance 5/28/13	_____	3,223.38
Interest Earned	_____	0
Ending Balance 6/25/13	_____	3,223.38

REPEATER COMMITTEE CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 5/28/13	_____	300.00
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Field Day 2013





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
	RARA	147.000 - 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

July, 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