

HAM RAG



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

RARA Mission Statement

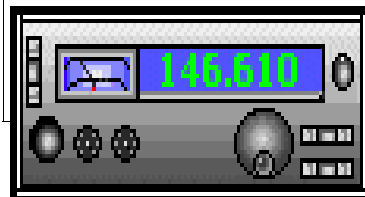
A member association with common interest of public service to the community through the use of amateur radio.

November 2013

Veterans Day Issue

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Signal Corps Training Davis Illinois 1939 Illinois National Guard

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
November 08 ,2013

Location:
Foundation Room

Saint Anthony OSF
5666 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois

Program:
JT-65-HF
The Ultimate Low Signal
Digital Mode

Robert Larson—KC9ICH

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

The War Years (Ham Radio History)

November is the month that we remember and honor our family and friends who have served in the military. I was fortunate to spend some time recently with Bob Dizzier KC9LLS. Bob served in World War II. His contemporaries are known as “the greatest generation”. As one of our senior veterans, Bob is representative of all our military veterans. All of them have served to protect our freedoms and their efforts should be applauded. If you ask them, they will just modestly say it was their turn.

Bob was called up from the reserve forces to backstop those who had given their lives. I may be mistaken, but I think Bob was in the Illinois 6th. He entered basic training in February of 1943. He went to Fort McClendon, Alabama. He was assigned to the Infantry PA Depot. After basic, he left from Newport Beach Virginia on the Empress of Scotland with 4000 other troops to cross the Atlantic. During the crossing he happened to be on deck when he viewed a periscope at about 6 a.m... Fortunately, no attack was made. They arrived in North Africa in July of 1943. It didn't take long after his induction to put him to work.

He was assigned to the MP's. From the port to in Morocco, he was transported in World War I steam engines and boxcars. The boxcars held 80 men and 8 horses during that war, but they were reserved for troop movements exclusively when Bob got there. He spent some time in North Africa stationed in the Atlas Mountains, Spanish Morocco, French Morocco, French Algeria, and French Tunisia.

Bob was assigned to the 1st Armored Division as an MP in Tunisia. Leave it to the Army to train you for one thing and assign you to another. He was also able to see the Kasserine pass used by the military since Alexander the Great. You may have heard of it from the scene in the movie Patton. His function varied from Brig guard to traffic control on the landing beaches. He did what was needed.

From North Africa, he left on the Dutch ship Johann DeWitt to Italy. There he served under General Mark Clark assigned to guard the 5th Army headquarters at Naples, Italy. The troops were mixed. Bob tells the story about an altercation between some Arab, French and Senegalese soldiers while stationed there. He also tells of riding trains where German saboteurs placed de-railing mechanisms on the tracks.

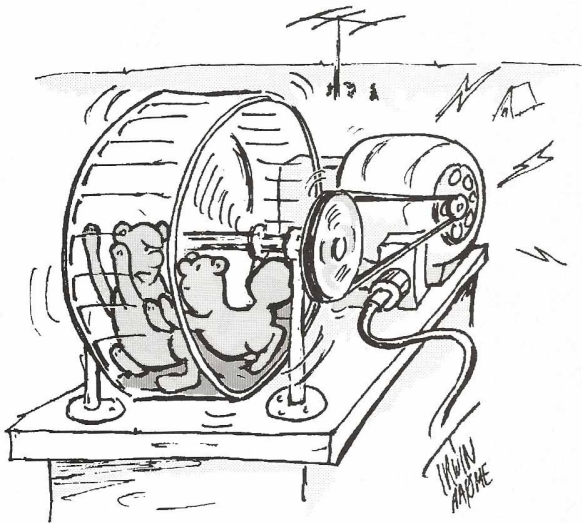
One time there was an accidental bombing at Casino where he was stationed. He was so close that he was able to save some bomb fragments from the American bombs. He still has some fragments in a box that he showed to me. Headquarters was strafed numerous times while he was there.

The Army in its infinite wisdom decided that Bob had enough fun there, so he was assigned to the group charged to invade France. He departed Naples in August 1944. They arrived in Southern France where he was assigned to the second wave of troops in the landing. The MP's were supposed to direct the off-loading of equipment and materials. Imagine Bob's surprise when he found out that the 1st wave wasn't there, and he had nothing to direct. He was involved in combat that wasn't supposed to happen. He describes the barrage balloons and the confusion at the landing.

After that, his unit travelled by truck and train towards Germany. In Germany, he was assigned to guard American troops held in the Brig for various reasons. One of the Captains was sent to the Buchenwald Concentration Camp as one of many witnesses. Bob said that when the Captain returned, he was visibly shaken. That was unusual for a seasoned Officer. Bob was then re-assigned to LeMans, France for the rest of his tour of duty.

Bob left for home on a Liberty ship and the passage took much less time than getting there. They sailed to New York from LeHavre, France on the S.S. Argentina in a week. He was fortunate to be discharged from Fort Grant in Rockford.

We wish all the veterans the best, and truly respect them and their service in our behalf. We give you a hearty “73” from all the members of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association.



'I really *hate* Field Day!'



'It's best not to disturb Daddy when he's chasing rare DX!'

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
 244.440 - 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

Secretary's Notes for the RARA September 13, 2013 meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO, at 7:10 PM. The meeting opened with introductions, followed by a reading of the secretary's report for September 8, 2013. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Kurt Eversole, KE9N. 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 John Olson K9JGO. The motion was carried.

A call for old business was made. An update for the Midway village project was given. Dave Larsen completed the needed woodwork on the sounder box. Jim Holich was to send an e-mail to Midway to advise of progress.

After a short pause for socializing, a presentation on EasyPal was made by Kurt Eversole KE9N. It seemed to have wide acceptance.

At 9:20 PM a motion was made by Fred Miner W9WOQ to close the meeting. It was seconded by John Olson K9JGO and the motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Holich, AB9SX

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

October 19 there was 1 new licensee and 1 upgrade. Congratulations to:

New:

Kurt C Keith, Technician

Upgrade:

Larry C Schubert WB8PKS, Extra

Thanks to Rich Range WB9SFG, Shari Harlan N9SH and Steve Twigg W9SWT 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 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

The K7RA Solar Report

It's been a lively couple of weeks, with plenty of sunspots and great HF propagation. The average daily sunspot number for the week was 161.6, unchanged from last week's average of 162. Solar flux values were up quite a bit though, rising from 139.6 to 158.3, quite a healthy jump.

On October 26 the Penticton solar flux reading was 171.8, but NOAA downgraded it to 165, probably because the higher value was an outlier caused by solar events overloading the receivers at Penticton.

Just before ARRL CW Sweepstakes this weekend, predicted daily solar flux for the near term is 140 on November 1, 135 on November 2, 130 on November 3-4, 135 on November 5, 140 on November 6-8, then 105, 110, 120, 125, 130 and 135 on November 9-14, 140 on November 15-18, 145 on November 19, 150 on November 20-21, with flux values peaking at 155 on November 22-25, then dropping to a minimum of 105 on December 6.

Stable geomagnetic conditions are predicted for Sweepstakes weekend, with a predicted planetary A index at 5 on November 1-6, 8 on November 7-8, 5 on November 9, then 12, 15, 10 and 8 on November 10-13, 5 on November 14-25, 8 on November 26-27, 5 on November 28 through December 6, and 12, 15, 10 and 8 on December 7-10.

As October ended yesterday, we can now calculate our 3-month moving average of daily sunspot numbers. The average daily sunspot number for the three-month period centered on September, 2013 (including all daily numbers from August 1 through October 31, 2013) was 91.2, reflecting the recent uptick in solar activity.

So far in 2013 the averages are 73.6, 80.7, 85.2, 106.4, 106.4, 97.5, 85.6, 77.4 and 91.2.

The monthly averages for June through October 2013 were 80.2, 86.2, 90.2, 55 and 127.2. You can see that the month just ended was a very strong period.

You may recall in our last Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP043 that Ganesh, VU2TS joked (I think he was joking?) about the possibility that contesters might charge the ionosphere with some of the big antennas and power beamed skyward.

Apparently K9LA took this seriously enough to do the math, and his comments are quite interesting, and show us just how far-fetched this idea is.

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA wrote, "Recently a QST reader asked the same question. My response to him was that the power density needed to modify the E region is around 1 milliwatt per square meter (from 'Radio Techniques for Probing the Terrestrial Ionosphere,' Hunsucker, 1991). That translates to a huge ERP (effective radiated power). For example, the HF ionospheric modification facility (commonly called an ionospheric heater) at Tromso, Norway has an ERP of about 360 megawatts. Their transmitter puts out 1.4 megawatts and the gain of their antenna is 24 dBi, which results in about 3 milliwatts per square meter at 100 km.

"Now let's assume there are 1,000 contesters on the same band, each running 1 kilowatt into a 10 dBi antenna. Let's further assume they are all beaming to the same spot in the E region that's about 400 km down the road (in other words, they're all within an 800km diameter). And let's even further assume that all of these signals are on at the same instant of time and arrive at that spot in-phase. That works out to 0.08 milliwatts per square meter - which is still an order of magnitude less than needed. The F region is even worse, as the transmitted power density decreases due to the increased height.

"Thus I have a problem with the theory that many, many transmitted signals can enhance the ionosphere. I believe the bands are simply open more than we think, and a massive amount of activity (as in a contest) shows this. Note that 10-Meters was really good for several days before the contest - when the amount of people on was considerably less."

Thank you, Carl. Nice to see the numbers applied to this concept.

Mike Khokhlov, UA9CIR of Ekaterinburg in Asiatic Russia wrote, "We have just participated in the CQ WW SSB contest and with SF above 160 and A-index below 5 that was the propagation of a lifetime. Not sure if I will ever experience that in my life again when the 3 things coincide: high SF, low A and CQWW.

"We are now crossing fingers for the active region to return on the next lap. The CW leg is 4 weeks after the SSB. With the Sun's cycle of 27 days we have Hope."

Mike Treister, W9NY wrote, "Had such a marvelous time operating the CQ WW SSB contest just on 10 meters. Seems like at times the entire world was coming in at the same time, no matter which way my TH7 beam was pointed. I have not seen conditions this good on 10 meters in decades. Many stations around the world coming in to my northwest Indiana QTH S9 running only 10 watts. I noticed around sunset Saturday and Sunday signals from South American reaching me long path with my beam toward Japan, with that curious fluttering. Signals would be S9 long path and drop to S3-4 with my beam turned around to the south. Managed 1651 QSOs with 110 countries -- a real blast. Stations from the other side of the world such as India, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taipei, all very clear and S9. I was running Japanese stations like they were next door. WOW. Hope these sunspots keep up for a while, and I am ready to check out 6 meters."

The K7RA Solar Report

Peter Gambee, who I think may be K6TTD of Sacramento, California, wrote:

"Weren't some solar scientists saying that we had already passed the second peak of Cycle 24? Well, guess they blew that one.

"I've been licensed since the late 1970s, and have worked my share of DX as a novice during some decent solar cycles. Was QRT through most of Cycle 23, and during the first peak of the current cycle, so missed out on some decent DX.

"I was afraid I'd missed the boat on this cycle - until the end of September rolled around. During the past two weeks I've worked more DX, in more regions of the globe, than I have since I was first licensed.

"In less than ten days I have logged over 50 DX contacts, on virtually every continent, most of them new ones for me.

"Here is one example of my recent stints on the air: BA8AG in Sichuan China, Z21DXI in Zimbabwe, ZS2I in South Africa, CN2PM in Morocco, YB9Y in Indonesia, DU3NQM in the Philippines - all in a single thirty minute stretch on October 23rd on 10 meter CW.

"Almost every pileup I dove into, I was successful on my first or second try. Lately, it has gone this way nearly every time I have sat down at the key and put out a call.

"My rig is an Elecraft K3-100, into a two element Yagi at 30 Feet. A decent setup, but no giant killer by any means. DXing ISN'T supposed to be this easy! I know I've been blessed by a sudden burst of sunspots, and big-time dumb luck. I'm thanking my lucky sunspots, knocking on wood and having an absolute BLAST.

"Assuming a decent response rate with my QSLs, I may be able to hit DXCC by the end of 2013.

"Here's hoping this 'second peak' holds out for another few months at least."

Bob wrote, "On Sunday afternoon (10/20) I was able to work D44AC (Cape Verde) on 15M SSB. This type of a contact may be no big deal to the veteran, high powered DXers. However, I run a modest station:

70 W into a ground mounted Gap vertical. The fun thing about this Sun cycle is I have worked more African stations than ever before in my 43 year ham career. There also was far more CW and data activity heard on 10M than I recall for a long time. "Hams with modest stations, do not be afraid to jump in when you hear DX. For whatever reason, I have been able to get through."

Sunspot numbers for October 24 through 30 were 148, 148, 171, 206, 155, 171, and 132, with a mean of 161.6. 10.7 cm flux was 160.6, 161.4, 165, 166.9, 159.9, 152.6, and 141.9, with a mean of 158.3.

Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 6, and 12, with a mean of 4.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 3, 3, 2, 2, 3, and 10, with a mean of 3.6.

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

Milwaukee Repeater Club

2013 Swapfest

Saturday November 11, 2013

Elks Lodge

5555 West Good Hope Road

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53033

Talk-In: 146.910 (PL 127.30)

Contact: Matthew Moog, KC9COY

10600 W Upham Ave Hales Corners Wisconsin 530130

Phone—414-254-2849

Email: m.moog@themoog.com

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club

2013 Swapfest

Saturday November 03, 2013

Monarch Gardens

3211 West Spencer Street

Appleton, Wisconsin

Talk-In: 146.760 (PL 100.00)

Contact: Anthony Mach, AB9IO

773 Yorkshire , Neenah Wisconsin 54956

Phone—920-722-0482

Email: ab9io@yahoo.com

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

Treasurers Report

PRIMARY CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 9/24/13		2,755.63
Deposit		150.00
Withdrawal		509.90
Ending Balance 10/29/13		2,395.73

ORGANIZATION SAVINGS:

Beginning Balance 9/24/13		3,223.78
Interest Earned		0.40
Ending Balance 10/29/13		3,224.18

REPEATER COMMITTEE CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 9/24/13		300.00
Ending Balance 10/29/13		300.00

Deposit:

Vacuum tube sockets sold		135.00
Membership application fee		15.00
Total		150.00

Shannon K. Larson KC9QBC
 Treasure, RARA



The origin of QRP.





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

November, 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