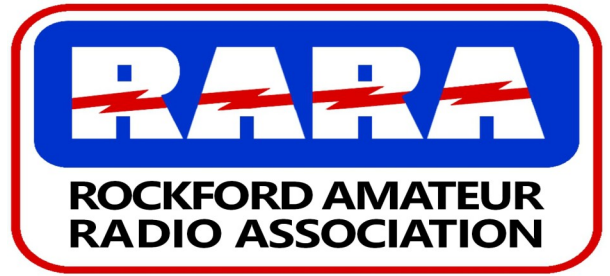


HAM RAG



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.

August 2015

President's Column

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Dear Members,

We had a great 2015 Field Day this past month. A special thanks to Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO for organizing the event for us, and for his efforts in the honoring of the veterans in our club, and hearing the stories of their service. Thank you Jim Miller, W4JR, Mike Oberg, AB9AY, and Al Abanes, KD9AHZ, for your service.

Also, thanks to those who brought equipment, food, and those that assisted with the antennas and everyone that operated and logged during the event. Photos from this year's Field Day and the Boy Scout merit badge class and contacts are on the web at... <http://w9axd.org/fieldday2015.html>

This month's program will be a video on "WLW 500 KW Transmitter - "The Nation's Station" provided by Kurt Eversole, KE9N. See you all at the meeting on Friday, August 14th.

73,
Robert Larson – KC9ICH



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Upcoming Contest

ARRL August UHF Contest is August 1-2: The focus will be on the bands 222 MHz and above when the ARRL August UHF Contest gets under way August 1-2. During this time of year in North America, there is a greater chance of enhanced tropospheric propagation that can extend the usable range of UHF+ frequencies from line of sight to several hundred miles. William Hepburn's Worldwide Tropospheric Ducting Forecast website is an excellent resource. Many radios now include the 70 centimeter band, and antennas are small and easy to make. Rovers are always welcome too, for those who enjoy getting out and about. New rules for VHF+ contests allow all entrants to use assistance, including the use of self-spotting, to find other stations. The contest exchange is your Maidenhead grid square.

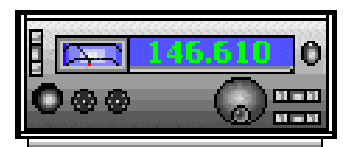


NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
August 14, 2015
7:00 pm

**"WLW Video,
500,000 Watts"**

Location:
**OSF St. Anthony
Medical Center**
5666 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108
Foundation Room



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

Secretary's Report



RARA Club Meeting Minutes for July 10, 2015

Before the meeting a slideshow of Field Day June 27-28 pictures was shown. The meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. with 17 attendees. The June 12, 2015 club meeting minutes were read. (Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX made motion to accept minutes, seconded by Kurt Eversole, KE9N – all approved.) The Treasurer's report for June 30, 2015 was read. (Kurt Eversole, KE9N made the motion to accept the report, seconded by Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD – all approved.) Round-table introductions were given.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO – The Boy Scouts have invited us to do the JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) this year: Oct. 17th 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. by Kegels on Perryville & Harrison. They would like us to set-up one or more stations. This would be an excellent opportunity to get back into the public.

Jim Holich, AB9SX – Midway Village asked that we operate the telegraph station for History Explorers Day, August 9th from noon to 4 p.m. Dave Larsen, N9ZXL & Al Abanes, KD9AHZ agreed to operate. Can get manuals for anyone interested in being an operator.

Kurt Eversole, KE9N – The 610 repeater is working well. Dennis Johanson, K9VMY made adjustments to the cavity filters and John Huntley tightened the connectors going to the isocoupler and there doesn't seem to be any problems since. Also Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX & Kurt updated the firmware. Dennis & Kurt went up to the 147.000 repeater right before this meeting, for cavity filter adjustments. The repeater committee is looking at moving the antenna away from other antennas.

Chuck Ingle, AB9KA asked to address the club. He distributed a handout: County of Winnebago, IL EAS – Emergency Alert System, local activation & test procedures 2013 broadcast handbook.
Referenced website: http://www.winnebagoheriff.com/intro/emergency%20systems_test.html

Background history – prior to a few years ago, ARES was a great emergency communications organization working with former Winn. Co. Sheriff, Don Gasparini. ARES was disbanded and not operational. February 2015, Shari Harlan, N9SH – ASM/ASEC of the Illinois section of the ARRL called asking to create a new formation of ARES (independent from Skywarn). The Sheriff's office wants ARES to cooperate with their office in manning a desk at the EOC located under the new justice building in Rockford, IL.

Text from website to explain what Chuck further explained: "The Winnebago County ESDA (Emergency Services and Disaster Agency) oversees emergency preparedness and response in the case of any weather, chemical or nuclear emergency or disaster. Emergency and disaster preparedness and responses are coordinated with all government entities; police, fire, rescue, public works. The ESDA Coordinator oversees civilian volunteers consisting of ESDA general volunteers, ESDA EOC staff volunteers, amateur radio operators, four wheel drive emergency weather drivers, specialized emergency hazardous material handlers, heavy duty rescue and clerical staff operation."

Potential repeater: K9RFD, trustee-Jeff Anderson. There is a candidate for the EC (emergency coordinator.) The FCC encourages local plans and in 2008 Chuck Ingle started a county plan but it references ARES. The ESDA needs help. Radio operators can apply to the ESDA now. Application process on website. Kurt Eversole offered the repeater committee as an independent for assistance on repeater issues. Due to further interest Chuck Ingle said he would ask Bud Turner (ESDA Coordinator) to come and talk to us. 50/50 raffle held - Won by Dennis Johanson, K9VMY, and \$20.00 donated to our club.

Program: "RARA Field Day 2015 – Scout Merit Badge Class" a video by Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD.

Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX – Is anyone interested in the Illinois QSO Party on October 18th? HF contest to get as many counties as you can. Interested were: Gordon, Kurt, Alvin, Phil-KD9EDX, Bob-KC9ICH & Shannon-KC9QBC.

Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX made motion to adjourn meeting at 9:05 p.m., seconded by Len Soderblom, KD9CDC – approved.

Submitted by Shannon Larson - KC9QBC

RARA Events and Information

UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

August 14, 2015 - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

August 25, 2015 - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

September 11, 2015 - General RARA Meeting 7:00 at OSF

September 29, 2015 - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

October 18, 2017 - Illinois QSO Party

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

July 18, 2015 there was 1 upgrade.

Congratulations to:

Martin L. McCardle KD9DQQ Upgrade to Extra

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM August 15, 2015. 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 a copy of your FCC ULS page with your call sign. 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).

Jim Holich AB9SX
jholich@comcast.net

RARA Information Net

The purpose of the net is 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 is rotated between the club members, with all amateur radio operators encouraged to check in. (RARA members as well as non-members)

Let any of the officers and board know you 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.

Voice of America

Weak Solar Activity Puzzles Scientists

By George Putic

July 17, 2015 10:20 PM

At almost regular intervals, our sun displays phenomena benignly called sunspots. Actually, they are violent storms.

Space scientists closely observe this activity, because it may have adverse effects on communications, navigation and even power grids. But the diminishing intensity of the last two solar cycles leaves them puzzled.

When gigantic electromagnetic storms occur on the sun, we see them eight minutes later, which is how long it takes the light to reach Earth.

It takes the first charged particles ejected by the storms 20 to 30 minutes to arrive.

They are dangerous to humans, so if the storm is intense, astronauts aboard the International Space Station are advised to move into specially protected areas.

After a day or two comes the biggest part of the storm, the coronal mass ejection.

"That is billions of tons of solar material that's blown away from the sun," said Alex Young of NASA's Heliophysics Science Division. "It's traveling millions of kilometers an hour, but that is relatively slow."

Several government agencies, as well as the U.S. Air Force, observe the space weather, as they call it, 24 hours a day. NASA does it in order to protect its astronauts and the sensitive electronics of its spacecraft, but also because many questions about our star still need to be answered. One of them is why the sunspots follow a roughly 11-year cycle, from low to high activity.

"Also, sometimes the intensity is higher and sometimes it is lower," Young said. "The current solar cycle that we are in is much lower than the previous one."

Another big question: Why is the sun's atmosphere hotter than its surface?

"Particles are much farther and farther apart," Young said, "but the temperature — that is, how fast these particles are moving — increases very quickly, going from tens of thousands of degrees up to millions of degrees."

Several satellites are constantly observing the sun, as well as the environment between the sun and Earth, sending pictures and other data. Young said we have been looking at the sun in incredible detail for only 30 to 40 years, and because our star is about 4 billion years old, that is only a tiny fraction of its long life.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/weak-solar-activity-puzzles-scientists/2867474.html>

Editors Note

If you would like to have something published, please call me or email me at kurt.eversole@gmail.com.

Cut-off for the September 2015 issue will be Sunday, August 30, 2015

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

ODDS AND ENDS

OUR BREAKFAST FRIEND, DR. CHARLES (CHAS) POWELL IS GOING TO BE IN TANZANIA THE WHOLE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

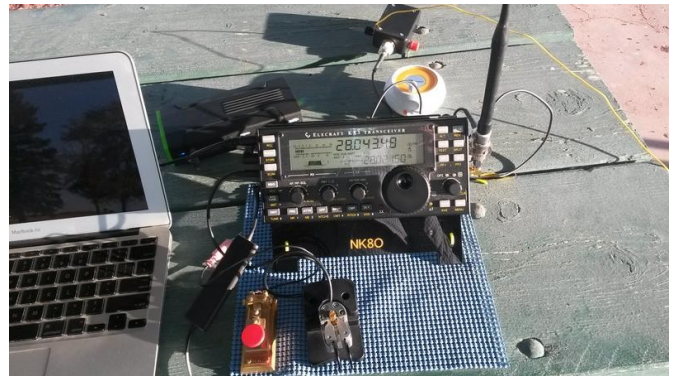
HIS CALL SIGN THERE IS : 5H3DX

HIS USA CALL SIGN IS NK80

HE WILL BE USING HIS KX3 AND SMALL AMP AND HEX BEAM ANTENNA..

HE IS USUALLY ON CW ON THE QRP FREQ'S. OR THE SKCC FREQ'S.

DAVE N9ZXL.... 73....



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

2015 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309

kc9ich@arrl.net

Vice President - Open

Secretary - Bruce Carlson, N9OHT, 815-218-1764

bruce.n9oht@gmail.com

Treasurer - Shannon Larson, KC9QBC, 815-298-7549

shannon1234@sbcglobal.net

Directors:

Ham Rag Editor and Repeater Chairman - Kurt Eversole, KE9N
815-389-2784 kurt.eversole@gmail.com

W9AXD License Trustee - Scott Francis, KG9SF,
815-874-7170 kg9sf@arrl.net

Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796 jholich@comcast.net

Dennis Johanson, K9VMY, 815-255-4603 k9vmy@arrl.net

Dave Larsen, N9ZXL, 815-914-6078 n9zxl@att.net

Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034 gleasman@outlook.com

FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

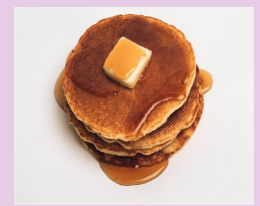
Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 9:30 am. An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

"The Morning Glory"

408 7th Street

Rockford, IL 61104



AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

History Explorers Day: Hands-On Victorian Food

Sunday, August 9, 2015 from 12 – 4 pm

Get your appetite ready as we time travel to the 1800s and explore how people prepared food in the past! Families of all ages can meet costumes re-enactors in the Victorian Village and work with them to prepare various foods. Activity stations include ice cream churning, butter making, bread baking, open fire cooking, canning and preserving, grinding spices, setting the formal table, and everyone's favorite after meal activity: dancing!

Admission: \$8 Adults: \$5 Children (ages 3 – 17)

Museum Members are Free

Purchase admission tickets online, in the museum gift store and at the gate the day of the event. Call 815-397-9112, ext. 104, for further information.

Enjoy telegraph demonstrations by the Rockford Amateur Radio Association.



Bruce Carlson, N9OHT will be operating Special Event Station W9M for Midway Village World War II Days, September 26 and 27. The call sign has been also registered for 2016's event. He'll be operating from his home shack down the street from the event but close enough to hear the explosions of the battles. A special event QSL card has been ordered. This is a test for the station and if successful we'll look into go full scale for September of 2016 with additional operators. If anyone is interested in operating 15m or 40m please contact Bruce at bruce.n9oht@gmail.com. You can look up the event station on QRZ under W9M for more information.

73,
Bruce - N9OHT



2015 September VHF: September 12-14

Dates: The second full weekend of September. Begins 1800 UTC and runs through 0259 UTC Monday.

Objective: For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degree x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada. Stations in KH0-9, KL7 & KP1-KP5, CY9 and CY0 count as W/VE stations and can be worked by DX stations for contest credit. Go to www.arrl.org for more info.

ITEMS FOR SALE

For Sale:

Tarheel 400A Screwdriver Antenna, (like new) asking \$400

Includes:

- **Antenna (\$509 New)**
- **MT1 Mount (\$119 New)**
- **CH1 Capacitance Hat (\$69 New)**
- **Ferrite Decoupling Core**
- **Manual Switch**
- **20 ft Extension Cable**

http://tarheelantennas.com/model_400a

ANTENNA SPECIFICATIONS

Lower Mast Length -- 4 ft.

Frequency Coverage with 6ft. whip -- 1.6 to 26 MHz

Power Rating -- 250 watts P.E.P.

Typical SWR -- 1.5 to 1 or less

Total Height with 6ft. whip at 26 MHz -- 10'4"

Total Height with 6ft. whip at 1.7 MHz -- 12'4"

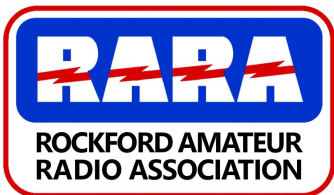
Weight -- 9 lbs



Figure 1. Photo From Tarheel Website.

Asking \$400 (\$600 value new).

Call: Dennis Johanson/K9VMY 815-255-4603



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126
Website: www.w9axd.org
E-mail: kurt.eversole@gmail.com

Local Area Nets

Monday 8:00 PM RARA Info. 146.610 - 114.8
Friday Night Fun Net 8:00 PM 147.255 + 114.8
Illinois Traffic Net (daily) 6:00 PM 3.905 LSB

place address label here

August 2015

**ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

website: w9axd.org

Membership Type : New Renewal
Annual Fees: \$10 - Student (up to age 24)
 \$25 - Adult \$15 - Senior (age 62+)

Above rate includes the RARA monthly newsletter, Ham Rag, via email
Ham Rag via USPS: \$12 extra

Name _____
Call Sign : _____
Email Address : _____
Address : _____
Town : _____ State : _____ Zip : _____
Home Phone # _____ Work # _____
Cell # _____ Ext : _____
Radio Interests _____

May we make your phone and e-mail available for other RARA members only?
Yes No
Comments _____

RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO:
ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 8465
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126