

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.

Presidents Column

Dear Members,

I hope you and your families had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Last months meeting was great, with many bringing in QSL cards and log books to share. We all got to see some very special QSL cards new and old. One of them was painted on a thin piece of veneer. See page 3 for some pictures.

The website has been updated and includes photos of the Midway Village telegraph installation.

The general meeting for January will be a video presentation called "ARRL at 100: A Century of Ham Radio"

Thank you all for allowing me to continue serving the RARA in 2015. See you at the meeting!
Robert Larson - KC9ICH

RARA DUES AND DON'TS

It's that time of year to renew your RARA membership for the year 2015. Listed below are some simple "dues and don'ts".

1. **Do** pay your dues, and don't forget, because if we don't receive your dues, we won't have anything to do.
2. **Don't** forget that your dues support the RARA repeaters, and other RARA activities. Your membership and attendance make RARA fun!
3. **Do** remember that without your dues, we wouldn't be able to have monthly meetings, and you would not be able to go out for pizza afterwards!
4. **Don't** forget about your wife (or husband) at home, and attending the meetings or other RARA functions gives them a break from you for a while. It's like a vacation for two at the same time !!!!!

Listed below are the membership fees for 2015.

STUDENT (up to age 24) - \$10.00 per year

ADULT ----- \$25.00 per year

SENIOR (age 62+) ----- \$15.00 per year

Application forms are on the last page of the Hamrag

Make checks payable to: Rockford Amateur Radio Association

Membership applications accepted by Treasurer - Shannon Larson, KC9QBC



January 2015

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NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY

January 9, 2015

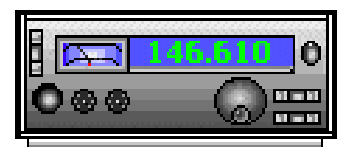
7:00 pm

Presentation:

**ARRL at 100:
"A Century of
Ham Radio"**

Location:

**St. Anthony
OSF Medical Center
Foundation Room
5666 E. State Street**



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

Secretary's Report



RARA Club Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm. Robert Larson welcomed everyone.

The November 14, 2014 meeting minutes were read and approved (Mike Proctor, AC9JZ made a motion to accept, seconded by Tom Shouler, N9VJU). Approved.

The Treasurers report (Nov. 25, 2014) was read (Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX made a motion to accept, seconded by Jim Holich, AB9SX). Approved.

New Business:

WCRA (Wheaton County Radio Amateur) flyer was shown for January 18th hamfest. Adv. purchase is available, \$10 at the door. Robert had 2 free admission tickets which were taken by Gordon Seaman.

Alvin Alexander discussed field day (June 27 and 28, 2015). Would like to get members involved to split up duties. A form was passed out for members to sign for volunteer opportunities. Gordon suggested the meal should be on the 2nd day.

Gordon let us know that Robert Larson has donated a weather radio to be interfaced with the 147 repeater.

John Olson talked about getting RARA out to various local publications, digests, Rock River Times, senior living newsletters, etc.

Gordon asked if we have RARA tri-folds for the VE testing sessions. Jim Holich offered to print some.

Jim Holich introduced two new members (Mike Proctor-AC9JZ and Steve Hammerslag AC9KA).

Kurt Eversole gave a repeater update on today's work. He spoke to the radio station (John Huntley) about getting an Internet connection (for future Echolink). The station is to get back to us in 2 weeks. Corporate at the station needs to be contacted to provide a rationale for the need of Internet for 146.610.

Old Business: None

The 50/50 raffle was won by John Olson, W9JGO. Total of \$25.00 was given to the club.

Program: QSL cards, eQSL, and logbooks. Robert used the projector to look up a number of ham calls in eQSL. Various members presented their QSL cards and logbooks.

Motion to adjourn was made by Gordon Seaman, 2nd by Kurt Eversole. The meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

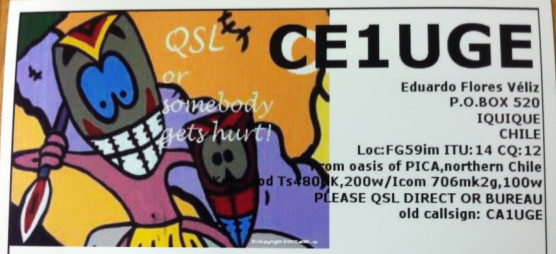
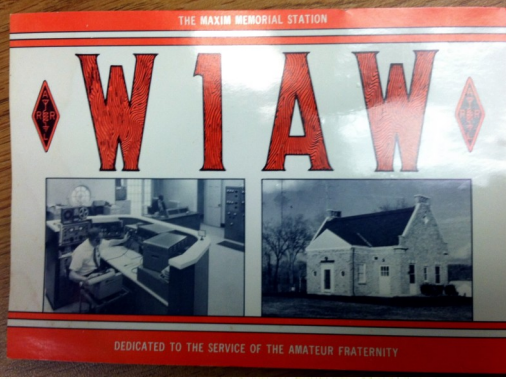
Editors Note

If you would like to have something published, please call me or email me at ke9n@arrl.net.

Cut-off for the February 2015 issue will be Saturday, January 31, 2015

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

December Meeting Highlights



To: AB9SX This confirms our 2-way SSB QSO
 Date: November 10, 2013 Time: 16:18 UTC
 Band: 10M UR Sigs: 59



K9PZZ
 Thanks for the 5A.1 MHz.
 A3J contact of JUNE 23, 1971
 1813 GMT.
 Your signals RST: X8 TNX FB QSO, 73.
 Check it out! WA6GVC/WA1NEU
 George Hart, WINJM, Trustee
 ARRL Headquarters
 225 Main Street
 Newington, Conn. U.S.A. 06111

FRANCIS PARKMAN AMERICAN HISTORIAN
 JACK OLSON
 2713 COLORADO AVE.
 ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
 61109



DATE TIME	STATION CALLED	CALLED BY	HIS FREQ OR DIAL	HIS SIGNALS RSD	MY SIGNALS RST	FREQ. MC.	EMIS. SIGN TYPE	POWER INPUT WATTS	TIME OF ENDING QSO	OTHER DATA
2/19/52	KN9JOP	KN9LLI	7185	599	479	7187	A1	25	2115	Name of Mr. Mohan, Ill.
2/22/52	KN5LRE	KN9LLI	7185	488		7187	A1	65	20125	Marge of the Parcell Okla.
2/22/52	KN9JOP	KN9LLI	7185	499	589	7187	A1	65	22445	Don Sumner - OKLA. Hwy
2/22/52	KN9JOP	KN9LLI	7185	599	599	7187	A1	65	2150	Don with wife nice copy on 15m
2/23/52	KN9JOP	"	31150	599	599	21150	A1	65	2130	Bob Gudrun - finally out on 15m
2/23/52	KN9LYN	"	31150	599	599	21150	A1	65	1635	Jim Jack W.H.S. 15m
2/23/52	KN9LLH	"	7166	599	599	7166	A1	65	1715	Regan - Burlington Wis.
2/23/52	KN9LMA	"	7166	489	599	7166	A1	65	1730	Delmar N.J.
2/23/52	KN2KSO	"	21150	479	468	21150	A1	65	1710	Lally - Newark N.J. 13964
2/23/52	KN8JW	"	7166	499	579	7166	A1	65	1600	Graves - Mo.
2/23/52	KN9HWK	"	"	599	579	7166	A1	65	1630	DON PARK FALLS - WIS. NO ADD.
2/23/52	KN9LDX	"	"	599	579	"	"	"	2030	Edo (Fredley)
2/23/52	KN9IKS	"	"	489	599	"	"	"	2110	Muscatine - Iowa
2/23/52	WA9OIC	"	"	489	599	"	"	"	1745	Lou - Carbondale - Ill. 1730
2/23/52	KN9LEI	"	"	489	599	"	"	"	1800	Have come back after first time
2/23/52	TEST	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1805	Have answered
2/23/52	KN3CBX	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1600	Have come back after first time
2/23/52	KN6OFT	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1600	Have come back after first time
2/23/52	KG0YL	"	31150	489		21150	"	"	1715	Ken - 6069 Greenwich Valparaiso, Ind.
2/23/52	KN4ENG	"	7166	489	599	7166	"	"	1850	DON'T COME BACK AFTER THE FIRST TIME
2/23/52	KN9ISA	"	7166	489	599	7166	"	"	1825	NAME IS GEORGE
2/23/52	KN9LHP	"	7166	489	599	7166	"	"	1640	DIXON - ILL. MORGAN STEEL (239 Main St)
2/23/52	KN9LIC	"	"	599	599	"	"	"	1650	KEN REZ COOPERSVILLE MICH 105 N.W. of Grand Rapids
2/23/52	KN8IVA	"	"	379					1730	D. had come back after first time
2/23/52	KE8KE	"	"	498	599	7166	"	"		2410 W. 17th St. CHAS. INDIANAPOLIS
2/23/52	KN9LAZ	"	"	599	489	"	"	"		Miss. answer
2/23/52	KN6LLT	"	"	599	489	"	"	"		SKIP DEN ZONIA - HIGH RIVER ST
2/23/52	KN8HGO	"	"	599	589	"	"	"		4TH & NOBLESVILLE - IND. RALPH
2/23/52	KN7JIT	"	"	599	589	"	"	"		613 S. 8th St. HOPKINSVILLE

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)

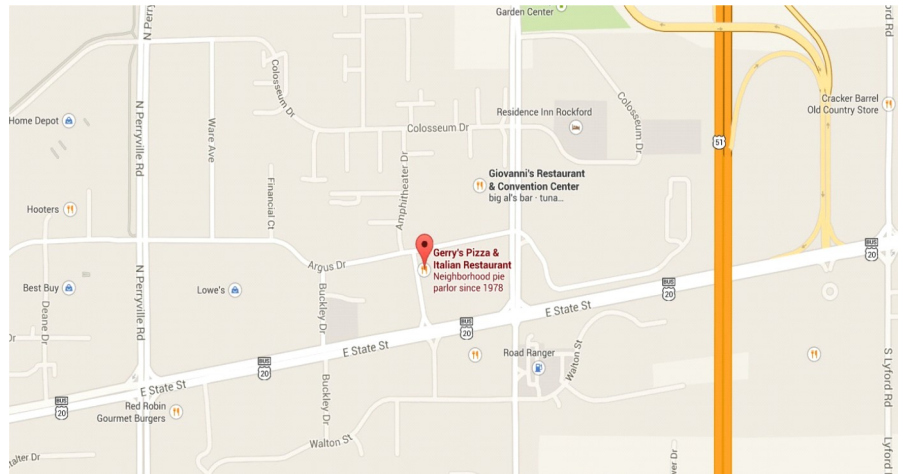
Let any of the officers and board know you thoughts and ideas. If you wish to be a net control operator, let any of the officers know. All are encouraged and welcome to participate.

146.610 (pl 114.8) repeater at 8:00 pm, every Monday, except on holidays.

CELEBRATION MEETING TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 13, 2015

We will be holding our February meeting at **Gerry's Pizza** to celebrate the new year. Bring your spouse, and get to know other members of the RARA family. The starting time is 6:00 pm, and you may order anything you would like, as you will be responsible for your own expenses to be paid by you. RARA will not be offsetting any expenses from funds in the treasury. Come and enjoy the fun! The "Ham of the Year" award will be presented as well.

Gerry's Pizza
7403 Argus Drive
Rockford, IL
(815) 399-2031



Bruce Carlson, N9OHT and **Paul Johnston, W9PJ** would like to announce that www.W9USA.org, the website for the **Illinois Historical Radio Society**, has gone live.

We are still in the building phase of the website but the 1933 Amateur Radio Convention has been posted which is very interesting to read.

Mission:

The IHRS is dedicated to preserving the history of and creating an interest in Antique amateur radio receivers, transmitters, related equipment and events.

Goals:

To promote an interest in all radio equipment, but with an emphasis on equipment manufactured and events that occurred in the State of Illinois. To establish a museum or a display in an existing museum featuring amateur radio equipment, literature and memorabilia.

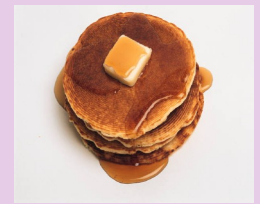
If you have any questions contact Bruce, N9OHT at bruce.n9oht@gmail.com

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



UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

January 9, 2015 - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF
“ARRL at 100: A Century of Ham Radio”

January 27, 2015 - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

February 13, 2015 - **Celebration Meeting at Gerry's Pizza 6:00 pm at OSF**

February 24, 2015 - RARA board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

March 13, 2015 - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

RARA Repeater News by Kurt Eversole - KE9N

On December 20th, 2014 we finally got our chance to have our new antenna for the 146.610 repeater installed. One of the beacon lights had failed on the tower that the 146.610 repeater antenna is mounted, and the radio station engineer, John Huntley, called me that night and said the tower climber would be there in the morning to replace the beacon lights. He would at the same time put up our antenna, which we have had in storage, waiting for a moment like this. With the assistance of Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, John Huntley of Townsquare Media, the tower climber, and myself, the switching of the antennas was underway.



John Huntley and Kurt Eversole raise the new antenna to the tower climber.



Up, up, up, to the 350' level on the tower that our antenna is positioned.



Inspection of the old antenna shows the possible failure point that would have occurred in time.

After the installation of the new antenna was completed, tests were performed with Ron Callahan, N9SZV and Scott Francis, KG9SF confirming the operation of the new antenna. Inspection of the old antenna indicated the need of replacement to the new one. Thanks to everyone who helped on this project.

Kurt Eversole - RARA Repeater Chairman

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

Japanese Satellites Carrying Amateur Radio Payloads are Launched into Deep Space

Japan has successfully launched its Hayabusa 2 asteroid sample-return mission into deep space, and with it, two satellites carrying Amateur Radio payloads. A Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) rocket lifted off on schedule early on December 3 (UTC), carrying the Hayabusa 2 spacecraft on the first leg of its journey to Asteroid 1999 JU3. Along for the ride into deep space are two Amateur Radio satellites, Shin'en 2 (Abyss 2) and ARTSAT2: DESPATCH. The launch had been postponed twice owing to unfavorable weather conditions. Shin'en 2 will identify as JG6YIG, while ARTSAT2:DESPATCH will use the call sign JQ1ZNN.

Shin'en2 carries a 0.1 W CW beacon on 437.505 MHz and telemetry on 437.385 MHz (0.8 W) using a mode similar to *WSJT*. It also will carry a F1D digital store-and-forward transponder with an uplink of 145.942 MHz and a downlink at 435.270 MHz (0.4 W), but *not* the Amateur Radio Mode J linear transponder announced earlier. The data format is posted on the Kagoshima University website.

ARTSAT2:DESPATCH carries a 7 W CW transmitter on 437.325 MHz and will have onboard the first sculpture ever to be carried into deep space. The ARTSAT2:DESPATCH deep-space mission has announced that it is seeking "exceptionally skilled ham operators" as part of its "cooperative diversity communication" experiment. This effort will attempt to intercept signals from the spacecraft not only at the ground station in Tokyo, but at Amateur Radio stations around the world, "in order to reconstruct the original data from the spacecraft."

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

December 20th there was 1 upgrade.

Thanks to Jim Holich AB9SX, John Olson W9JGO and Shari Harlan N9SH for volunteering their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9AM January 17, 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 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

Tip of the month:

Reports are circulating about operation from Mount Athos, SV#/A. This is a Greek entity (country status) island that doesn't show up very often. First reported recent operation was as of December 30th.

There has been recent activity from 1A0C, Sovereign Military Order of Malta. This is another Mediterranean DX jewel.

T6T has been active and workable from Kabul, Afghanistan.

Reports indicate that operation from Navassa Island is to begin probably before next month's HAMRAG. Navassa is an American-owned entity island near Puerto Rico, so this one should be somewhat easy for NA stations.

No activity has been noted from Minami Torishima, JD1---. The same prefix is used for Ogasawara, which is also a Japanese entity island. Ogasawara has been sporadic, with intense operation for a couple of days followed by a period of inactivity which lasts a week or so.

Tip #2:

Watch the DX Clusters online. QRZ.com has a nice cluster on the main page under "databases". Other popular clusters can be found by googling DX summit, DX heat, and DX watch. The clusters show real-time DX spots.

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

RARA BOARD MEETING MEETS ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 PM
St. Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL

Free!
One Admission Ticket
with 2 Tables!

Waukesha, Wisconsin
43rd ANNUAL MIDWINTER

Table Prices
Same as Last Year

SWAPFEST

Ham Radio, Computer, Electronics

One week later
than originally
advertised

→ **SATURDAY - JANUARY 10, 2015**

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

\$200 Grand Prize - Drawing at 11:00 AM (must be present to win)



60 Years

ADMISSION:	\$5.00 Advance - \$6.00 at Door
RESERVED TABLES:	\$20 each before Jan. 1
8 foot	\$24 Jan. 1 or after
ELECTRICAL OUTLET:	\$22 (advance only)

AMATEUR EXAMS: 9:00AM-11:15AM - on site in Arena Oconomowoc Room

- Bring your:
- Original license plus copy
 - CSCE (if you have one) plus copy
 - Photo ID.

The WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB

Sponsors of: Midwinter Swapfest • WI QSO Party • WARAC Scholarships • Worked All WI Counties Award
For more information please call Phil, W9NAW, 414.425.3649 or visit www.warac.org

Waukesha County Expo Arena
1000 Northview Rd (County Trunk FT)
Waukesha, WI 53188

I-94 west of Milwaukee to Exit 294 (County J)
1.2 miles south to County FT
0.6 miles west to Expo Arena

FREE PARKING

GPS Coordinates
Lat: 43.03304 Lon: -88.24207

Swapfest Advance Registration Form

RESERVATION DEADLINE: Jan 1, 2015

Advance Tickets	_____	\$5 ea. =	_____
Table Reservations	_____	\$20/24 ea. =	_____
Electrical Outlet	_____	\$22 ea. =	_____
(Advance only)		Total Enclosed \$	_____

\$20 ea. before Jan. 1
\$24 ea. Jan. 1 or after

NOTE: Table reservation does not include admission. FREE admit ticket with every 2 tables.

Name: _____ Call: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Phone: _____ Email (optional): _____

Mail with S.A.S.E. to:
Please use a #10 business size
(9-1/2 x 4-1/8 in.) envelope

WARAC SWAPFEST
P. O. BOX 1072
MILWAUKEE, WI 53201

WCRA 48TH ANNUAL MID-WINTER HAMFEST

ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET COMPUTERS AND PC PARTS & OTHER GADGETS AMATEUR RADIO EXPOSITION

FEATURING

- Free Parking
- Heated Indoor Facility
- Paved Parking Lot
- Food
- Amateur Radio Exams
- Educational Forums



An ARRL Hamfest

Tickets:

Advance, 4 raffle stubs \$8

At the door, 1 raffle stub \$10

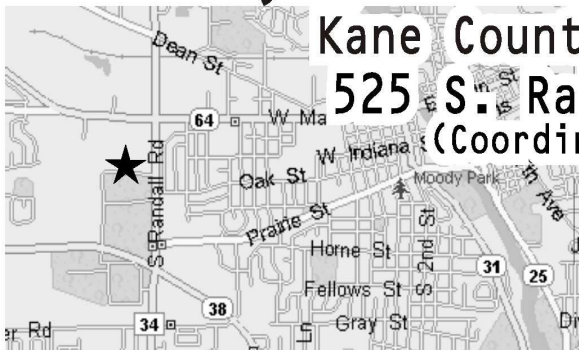
Children under 12 admitted at no charge

Exhibit Floor Rental:

\$25/table (\$30 after 1/7, if available)

Electricity available for \$10

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2015 Doors Open 8AM



Kane County Fairgrounds Expo Center
525 S. Randall Rd., St Charles, IL
(Coordinates: N 41.9056, W 88.34232)

www.wheatonhamfest.org

(630) 604-0157

INFO@W9CCU.ORG



Advance Ticket and Flea Market Table Order Form

Name _____ Call _____ Tickets @\$8.00 = \$ _____

Address _____ Tables @\$25.00 = \$ _____

Electricity (\$10.00) \$ _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please include an e-mail address so that we can confirm your order along with an SASE for delivery of tickets..

Mail to: WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60187-1055



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: ke9n@arrl.net

Local Area Nets

Monday 8 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

January 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