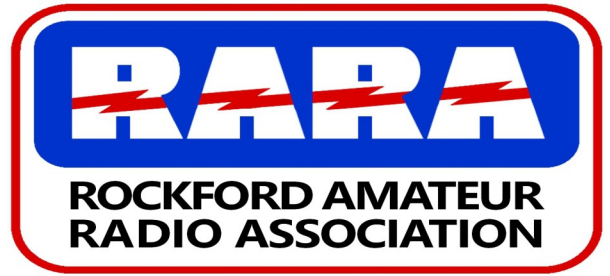


# HAM RAG



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.

## Field Day 2015

A little over a week ago, the Rockford Amateur Radio Association concluded a Field Day to remember. Our Field Day site was at Alpine Park, shelter #1. The weather conditions were ideal; clear sunny skies, low humidity, and temperatures in the 70s. That might have been enough to explain the early arrival of over thirty participants that morning, however, the smell of sausage, scrambled eggs, potatoes, hot biscuits and gravy, might have had something to do with it as well. That morning's brunch happen by the efforts of Shannon Larson, KC9QBC, who labored with a smile and no complaints. The members of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association (RARA), wish to express to you many thanks for a job well done.

At 10:00 a.m. the association honored three of its military veterans, each from a different era: World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. These men, Jim Miller, W4JR, Al Abanes, KD9AHZ, and Mike Oberg, AB9AY, represent living history to the spirit of American exceptionalism. The members of RARA thank you for your military service gentleman.

A new addition to this year's Field Day was the hosting of a Radio Merit Badge class for the local Boy Scouts. After the Scouts had successfully completed their merit badge class, the members of RARA provided the means for the Boy Scouts to make a few on air contacts. When the Boy Scouts started their class at 11:00 a.m. there began a steady stream of visitors to the Field Day site with amateur related questions. Many thanks to Kurt Eversole, KE9N and Robert Larson, KC9ICH, for setting up their stations.

This continued up until the official start time of on-air operations at 1:00 p.m. and continued for several hours beyond. In fact, there was a strong representation of operators who remained throughout the night until noon on Sunday, making contacts. If you didn't participate in this year's Field Day, then you really missed out. Hope to see you next year.

Thanks to everyone who helped and came out to support our Field Day this year!

73,  
Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO  
Field Day Chairman 2015

July 2015

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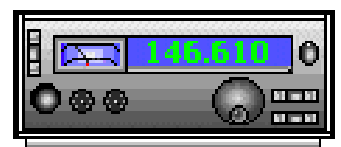
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## NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY**  
**July 10, 2015**  
**7:00 pm**

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

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



## Secretary's Report



### RARA Club Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. The minutes of club meeting for May 8, 2015 were read. (Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, made the motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Dave Bond, W9MG. All approved.) The Treasurer's report for May 26, 2015 was read. (Kurt Eversole, KE9N, made the motion to accept the report, seconded by Dennis Johanson, K9VMY. All approved.)

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Kurt Eversole, KE9N – Tried to reach the technician for the Illinois Repeater Association but no answer. Left message and will continue to call.

Introductions and the 50/50 raffle held - \$23.00 was won & donated to the club by Jeff Makeever, AC9KX.

1<sup>st</sup> program: "Field Day Information" by Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO

2<sup>nd</sup> program: "Field Day Rules" and "Competitive Operating Strategies" by Kurt Eversole, KE9N

Field Day Questions & Answers

Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by Shannon Larson, KC9QBC

### 2015 RARA Officers and Board

**Officers:**

President - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309  
[kc9ich@arrl.net](mailto:kc9ich@arrl.net)

Vice President - Open

Secretary - Bruce Carlson, N9OHT, 815-218-1764  
[bruce.n9oht@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.n9oht@gmail.com)

Treasurer - Shannon Larson, KC9QBC, 815-298-7549  
[shannon1234@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shannon1234@sbcglobal.net)

**Directors:**

Ham Rag Editor and Repeater Chairman - Kurt Eversole, KE9N  
815-389-2784 [kurt.eversole@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.eversole@gmail.com)

W9AXD License Trustee - Scott Francis, KG9SF,  
815-874-7170 [kg9sf@arrl.net](mailto:kg9sf@arrl.net)

Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796 [jholich@comcast.net](mailto:jholich@comcast.net)

Dennis Johanson, K9VMY, 815-255-4603 [k9vmy@arrl.net](mailto:k9vmy@arrl.net)

Dave Larsen, N9ZXL, 815-914-6078 [n9zxl@att.net](mailto:n9zxl@att.net)

Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034 [gleasman@outlook.com](mailto:gleasman@outlook.com)

### 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

### Editors Note

If you would like to have something published, please call me or email me at [kurt.eversole@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.eversole@gmail.com).

**Cut-off for the August 2015 issue will be Friday, July 31, 2015**

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

## RARA Events and Information

### UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

**July 10, 2015** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**July 28, 2015** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**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

### AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

June 20, 2015 there were 3 upgrades and one new Technician Class oassed

Congratulations to:

Ronald M Beck	KD9DFM	Upgrade to Extra
Philip J Golian	New	Technician
Robert C Parro III	KE0BAC	Upgrade to General
John W Sterkeson	KC9ZYT	Upgrade to Extra

Thanks to Steve Twigg W9SWT, Rusty Cordell WB9QYV, and Mike Proctor AC9JZ for volunteering their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM July 18, 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).

Jim Holich AB9SX

[jholich@comcast.net](mailto:jholich@comcast.net)

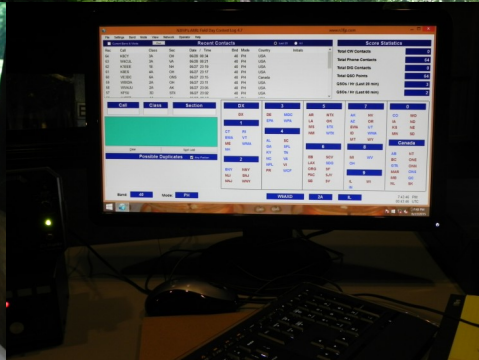
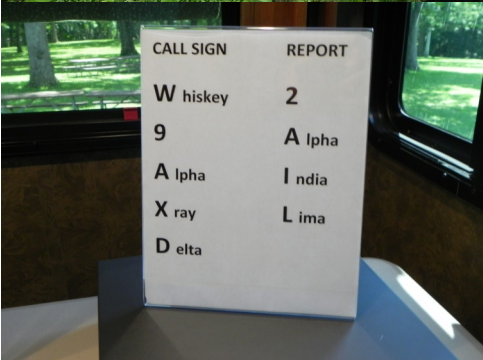
### RARA Information Net

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.**

# FIELD DAY 2015



# FIELD DAY 2015



Thank  
You  
Everyone  
Who  
Made  
Field  
Day  
Possible

## 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

**OAK CREEK, WISCONSIN** — The **South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Inc.** will hold its **S-wapfest '15'** Saturday, July 11 at the American Legion Post 434. Contact: Robert (414) 764-3871. Email: <[wb9tik@arrl.net](mailto:wb9tik@arrl.net)>. Website: <<http://www.gsl.net/wa9txe>>. Talk-in 146.52.

**CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS** — The **Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club** and the **Montgomery County Amateur Radio Emergency Corp.** will hold the **West Central Illinois Hamfest** Saturday, August 1 at the Macoupin County Fairgrounds. Contact: Jim Pitchford, N9LQF, (217) 854-3352. Email: <[james@royell.org](mailto:james@royell.org)>. Website: <<http://www.k9mce.org>>. Talkin 444.250 (PL 103.5). VE exams.

**CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA** — The **Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club** will hold **Hamfest 2015** Sunday, August 2 at the Teamsters' Hall. Contact: Dave Wilson, KBØDW, (319) 393-3776. Email: <[krk9840@msn.com](mailto:krk9840@msn.com)>. Bob Klaus, NØYWB, (319) 521-1134. Email: <[n0ywb1@gmail.com](mailto:n0ywb1@gmail.com)>. Website: <<http://cvarc.rf.org>>. Talk-in 146.745. VE exams and card checking.

**PEOTONE, ILLINOIS** — The **Hamfesters** will hold their **81st Annual Hamfesters Hamfest** Sunday, August 2 at the Will County Fairgrounds. Contact: Dave Bulowski, N9KPD, 6030 Brookwood Drive, Oak Forest, IL 60452. Website: <<http://www.hamfesters.org>> or <<http://www.ham-ham.org>>.

**SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS** — The **63rd Annual W9DXCC Convention** will be held Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12 at the Hyatt Regency. Contact: Casey Coley, 23083 High Ridge Road, Barrington, IL 60010. Email: <[casey@w9lp.org](mailto:casey@w9lp.org)>. Website: <<http://www.w9dxcc.com>>. Card checking.

**BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS** — The **Chicago FM Club** will hold its **Hamfest** Saturday, September 12 at the Boone County Fairgrounds. Contact: Chicago FM Club, 218 S. Fairview Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Phone: (773) 614-4733. Email: <[wa9orc@gmail.com](mailto:wa9orc@gmail.com)> Website: <<http://www.chicagofmclub.org>>. Talk-in 146.76- (PL 107.2) or 443.750+ (PL 114.8). VE exams.

**PEORIA, ILLINOIS** — The **Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **Peoria Superfest**, Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20 at the Exposition Gardens. Contact: PAARC, P.O. Box 3508, Peoria, IL 61612-3508. Phone: (309) 692-3378. Email: <[w9uvi@arrl.net](mailto:w9uvi@arrl.net)>. Website: <<http://www.w9uvi.org>>. Talk-in 147.075+ (PL 156.7). VE exams.

## ARRL Website Has New Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 Page

Now that there is Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 legislation in both chambers of the US Congress, the League has a [combined web page](#) to accommodate activities on behalf of both bills. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is [H.R. 1301](#) in the US House of Representatives and [S. 1685](#) in the US Senate. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 page provides a clearinghouse for all information on these identical pieces of legislation.



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

## The Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch

Because of the well-known and woeful lack of DX during these warm summer months I'm compelled to turn this edition's topic to ham radio lore. Readers licensed 25 years or more are probably aware of The Wouff-Hong and The Rettysnitch. Those licensed less than 25 years (called 'newbies') may not be.

Nearly a hundred years ago, in 1917 to be exact, an article appeared in QST magazine on this topic. It was written by T.O.M. (The Old Man), who was much later revealed to be none other than Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, founder of the American Radio Relay League.

It seems that on a cold winter evening that year T.O.M. was in the attic of his parents' home in Hartford CT. tuning through the shortwave bands looking for a contact. Remember, radio was new in those days, and there weren't very many hams around. Well, through all the noise and static he finally ran across a rather strong signal, possibly even in Hartford. This was on CW, of course - microphones weren't in the hands of hams yet. The guy's sending was completely unreadable. T.O.M. found that after 30 minutes of listening, the only distinguishable phrase he could copy was "Wouff-Hong". He decided then and there that an instrument of torture, to be used on individuals with such miserable operating techniques, needed to be found, and that it would be called, of course, the Wouff-Hong. Several years later, The Rettysnitch was added, designed perhaps for lesser offenses.

Lest you think I'm kidding, the original Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch are on public display at ARRL headquarters in Newington CT. Each year at midnight of the last day of the ARRL National Convention, initiation ceremonies are held into the Royal Order of The Wouff-Hong.

Little is known about how The Wouff-Hong and The Rettysnitch are held during use, or the exact manner in which they are deployed. This is left to the reader's imagination.

So, everyone should check and recheck their own personal operating techniques. We haven't had a good Rettysnitching around here for a long time.



The Wouff-Hong (lower right) and The Rettysnitch (lower left)  
Photo courtesy of ARRL Museum



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: [www.w9axd.org](http://www.w9axd.org)

E-mail: [kurt.eversole@gmail.com](mailto: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

**July 2015**

**ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

website: [w9axd.org](http://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