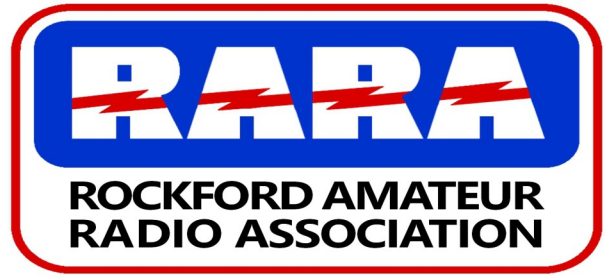


# HAM RAG



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.

**September 2015**

## President's Column

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Dear Members,

I hope you all enjoyed the last meeting presentation on WLW Radio in Cincinnati. Thanks to Kurt Eversole, KE9N, for providing the DVD video.

Don't forget to attend the CFMC Hamfest at the Boone County Fairgrounds on September 12th. See page 4 for more information.

This month's meeting is September 11th. The program will be on Margaret Hamilton. The 1960's programmer who's software made the moon landing in 1969 possible. The MIT guidance system. Hope to see you all at the meeting.

73,  
Robert Larson - KC9ICH



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## NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY**  
**September 11, 2015**  
**7:00 pm**

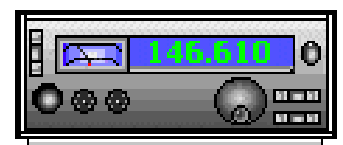
**"Margaret Hamilton  
and the MIT  
Guidance System"**

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

## Launch Date Set for AMSAT Fox-1A

AMSAT Vice President of Engineering Jerry Buxton, N0JY, has announced that the Fox-1A CubeSat will launch on October 8 from California. It initially had been set to launch in August. Fox-1A will include an FM transponder with an uplink frequency of 435.180 MHz, and a downlink frequency of 145.980 MHz. The first phase of the Fox series 1-Unit CubeSats will allow simple ground stations using hand-held transceiver and simple dual-band antennas to make contacts.

The **Fox-1** CubeSats also will be able to transmit continuous telemetry during normal transponder operation. The satellites will feature 200 bps telemetry in the audio spectrum below 300 Hz. — *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*



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

## Secretary's Report



### RARA Club Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. with 20 attendees.

The July 10, 2015 club meeting minutes were read. (John Olson, W9JGO, made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Len Soderblom, KD9CDC – all approved.)

The Treasurer's report for July 28, 2015 was read. (John Olson, W9JGO made motion to accept the report, seconded by Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO – all approved.)

#### Old Business:

Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX – We now have a call sign for the Illinois QSO Party. It is K9K.

#### New Business:

Chuck Ingle, AB9KA – gave invitation to our club to conduct future Field Day event at the VFW in Roscoe. He is on the board of directors and they have given approval for us to come take a look. They would like to offer their facilities and provide portable toilets at no charge (rent). They have land and a patio which has power. Benefits include public involvement, especially with the VFW members and the Roscoe Village President. There are medical facilities: North Pointe, OSF Rockton and OSF Rock Cut.

Shari Harlan, N9SH – introducing guest, Marianne Geiger, KT9KS who is the Winnebago County EC (emergency communications) candidate.

Marianne Geiger, KT9KS – introduced herself.

Len Soderblom, KD9CDC – suggesting our club running a station at the county fairs in our area for public relations.

#### Introductions

Dave Bond, W9MG – request for help repairing his tower which was damaged in the tornado.

Marianne Geiger, KT9KS – August 23<sup>rd</sup> is a fly-in at the Poplar Grove Airport.

The 50/50 raffle won was by Shari Harlan, N9SH (\$9.00 for club).

Program: "A Trip through WLW" a video by K7AGE on the most powerful station in the 1930's.

Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX made motion to adjourn meeting at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Len Soderblom, KD9CDC – all approved.

#### 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 October 2015 issue will be Wednesday, September 30, 2015**

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

## RARA Events and Information

### UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

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

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

October 9, 2015 - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**October 18, 2017 - Illinois QSO Party**

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

### AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

July 18,, 2015 there was 1 successful applicant

Congratulations to: Thomas F. Harrison Technician Class

Thanks to John Olson, W9JGO, Steve Twigg, W9SWT, Bob Mitchell, W9IGB, and Mike Proctor, AC9JZ for their time and assistance.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM September 20, 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](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.**

# HAMFEST INFORMATION

DEALERS

FLEA MARKET

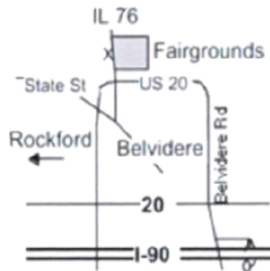
FOOD – Breakfast – Lunch

VEC TESTING

9AM – NOON

Talk-in CFMC Repeater

- 146.76 – 107.2PL Chicago
- 443.750+ 114.8PL Chicago
- 147.225+ 114.8PL Rockford
- 444.725+ 107.2PL Rockford
- DMR-Marc Coverage
- 444.80625 +5 Color Code 4
- DMR-DCI Coverage
- 443.08125 +5 Color Code 1



RADIOS!

COMPUTERS!

ELECTRONICS!

Boone County

Fairgrounds

8791 IL 76

US Rt 20 & IL 76

Belvidere, IL

61008

42°28.10' x 87°56.44'

FREE PARKING

RVs or Motor

Homes

Water-Electric \$35.00

No Waste Service

Indoor Market: 8AM – 3PM

Outdoor Flea Market: 6AM – 3PM

## Saturday September 12th, 2015

Advance Tickets - \$8.00 – At the Gate - \$10.00 – Kids under 12 Free – Tickets required with tables

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$8 = \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Call \_\_\_\_\_ # of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ First 1 – 3 Tables ea.

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Additional tables above 4 ea.

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 – Inside Electric \_\_\_\_\_ Outside Electric \_\_\_\_\_

For event questions: Call 773-614-4733 Make Check payable to: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

Email [wa9orc@gmail.com](mailto:wa9orc@gmail.com) Chicago FM Club

Flyer on website <http://www.chicagofmclub.org> 218 S. Fairview Ave  
Park Ridge, IL 60068

CFMC reserves the right to make any necessary changes required

## WORDS OF WISDOM by Shannon Larson - KC9QBC

As media recalls Hurricane Katrina, which started August 23, 2005 in the Bahamas and made Florida land-fall on August 25th then swept through the gulf devastating the Louisiana coast on August 29th causing significant deaths in New Orleans, I am reminded of the tremendous value of amateur radio communications. If you look up "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications" on Wikipedia online you can read that this was the largest disaster response by U.S. amateur radio operators.

There is another tragic anniversary coming up: September 11, 2001 attack upon the World Trade Centers. Radio operators played a big part in so many different ways.

I encourage you to take a moment and look up the following YouTube videos ([www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com)): "Amateur Radio - Hurricane Katrina interview and audio", "HAM Radio remembers 9/11", and "NYC 9/11 Ham Radio".

Are we ready to act in case of an emergency? I know I am not confident enough.

Now that the Winnebago County Emergency Communications is requesting U.S. amateur radio operators to join their efforts... it is something to think about.

Shannon Larson, KC9QBC

### 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](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:

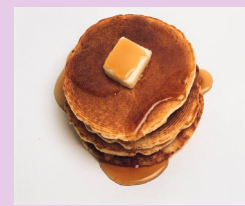
Ham Rag Editor and Repeater Chairman - Kurt Eversole, KE9N  
815-389-2784 [kurt.eversole@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.eversole@gmail.com)  
W9AXD License Trustee - Scott Francis, KG9SF,  
815-874-7170 [kg9sf@arrl.net](mailto:kg9sf@arrl.net)  
Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796 [jholich@comcast.net](mailto:jholich@comcast.net)  
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)

### 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***







## ICOM'S BIG VENTURE

On the weekend of August 22-23 at the Ham Radio Exposition in Tokyo, ICOM introduced their latest HF and 6 Meter transceiver, the IC-7300. So what, you say?

The IC-7300 is the first Software Defined Radio (SDR) to be marketed by any of the "Big Three" manufacturers. SDR has been around for awhile. The Flex Radio, now in its fourth generation of SDR is possibly the best known radio of this kind. But what exactly is SDR?

I won't pretend to know. Anyway, it'll be the subject of a future column. But up until now, SDRs have essentially been unimpressive, no-knob boxes stashed away under the desk or in a closet. A cable connects the SDR to your computer, where, voila! Your "radio" appears on your monitor. Airline captains no longer fly the airplane with their feet on the rudder pedals and their hands on the controls. Instead, they "fly" computers which in turn fly the airliner. In the same way, SDR operators run their computers, which in turn operate the radios.

It's just too much for an OT like me. But my younger readers may want to start taking notice of SDR, the wave of the future. Anyway, back to the IC-7300. From what I find, it seems to be a "hybrid" SDR. The rig still has controls, and it sports a TFT touch screen. But the "innards" are all SDR. The unit utilizes "RF Direct Sampling" which in words may be expressed as BPF>A/D>FPGA>DSP>D/A standalone.

At the introduction in Tokyo, ICOM stated that the IC-7300 should sell for "under 150,000 Yen", or about \$1,200 USD. Could be interesting.

Wish I could tell you more, but I don't know everything about electronics. Hey, I'm not Radio Shack.

73,  
Scott - KG9SF

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](mailto:bruce.n9oht@gmail.com). You can look up the event station on QRZ under W9M for more information.

73,  
Bruce - N9OHT



## ITEMS FOR SALE

HP LaserJet 1018 Printer; Includes power cord and USB cable (USB 2.0 supported). Drivers and user manual available at: <http://support.hp.com/us-en/product/HP-LaserJet-1000-Printer-series/1814092/model/1814093/product-info> Cartridges (black) are available at local office supply stores or online at HP.  
Price \$50.00 ( \$411.00 New)



HP DeskJet 970 cxi Printer; Includes power cord and parallel cable. Drivers and user manual available at: <http://h10025.www1.hp.com/ewfrf/wc/product?cc=us&lc=en&product=61818> Cartridges (tricolor) are available at local office supply stores or online at HP.  
Price \$35.00 (\$308.00 New)



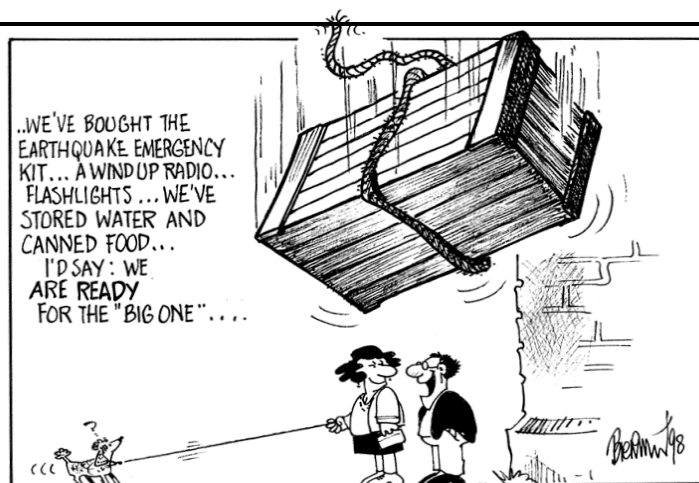
HP Photosmart 7760 Photo Printer; No cables included. Drivers and user manual available at: <http://h10025.www1.hp.com/ewfrf/wc/product?cc=us&lc=en&dlc=en&product=305375> Cartridges (black, tricolor, and photo) are available at local office supply stores or online at HP.  
Asking \$45.00 (\$309.00 New)

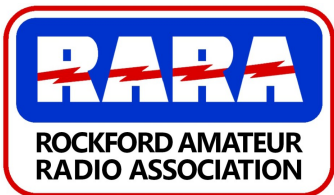


HP Deskjet 3915 Printer; Includes USB cable. Drivers and user manual available at: <http://support.hp.com/us-en/product/HP-Deskjet-3900-Printer-series/445471/model/1139566> Cartridges (black, tricolor) are available at local office supply stores or online at HP.  
Asking \$30.00 (\$99.00 New)



Call Alvin Alexander (KC9GIO) at 815-505-5013, or email [kc9gio@arrl.net](mailto:kc9gio@arrl.net) for more information.





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

# September 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