

# 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.

## President's Log

Dear Members,

Better weather is here. Time for building antennas and doing the outside maintenance of our stations.

This month's meeting will be presented by Kurt Eversole KE9N. His topic will be the 146/440 J-Pole antenna. Also presenting will be Dennis Johanson with information on selecting the right coax cable to get the most power up to an outdoor VHF/UHF antenna and get the best performance possible.

Special thanks to the Elmers' in our organization who are helping some of our new licensees.

Also, Technician Class license courses will be at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center during the month of April.

Please see the Ham Rag for more information.

Robert - KC9ICH

## April 2016

### Contents

- 1-President's log
- Events
- 2-Meeting Minutes
- 3-Exam Results
- Classes, Info Net
- 4-Friday Breakfasts
- 5-Hi-Tech HT
- 6-Repeater Notice
- 7-Silent Keys
- ARES News
- 8-QST-1972
- 9-Satellite News
- 10-Area Repeaters
- Officers & Board

## NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY**

**April 8, 2016**

**7:00 pm**

**Presentation:**

**"146/440 J-Pole**

**Antenna" &**

**"Selecting the Best**

**Coax" By:**

**Kurt Eversole, &**

**Dennis Johanson**

**Location:**

**St. Anthony**

**Medical Center**

**Foundation Room**

**5666 E. State Street**

**Rockford, IL**

## UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

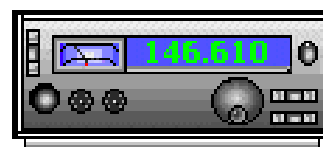
**April 8th** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**April 26th** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**May 13th** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 at OSF

**May 31st** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

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



## RARA Club Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. With 23 attendees.

Treasurer's report for February 23, 2016 was read. (Kurt Eversole-KE9N made motion to accept report, seconded by Tom Shouler-N9VJU – approved.) Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> club meeting minutes were not available.

### Old Business

- Alvin Alexander-KC9GIO: upcoming Field Day notice is in this issue of the Hamrag. We are still looking for operators and equipment. This year we have a safety officer, Len Soderblom-KD9CDC who is an EMT. Contact Len if you have any existing medical conditions before participating in Field Day exercises so he can prepare.
- Mark Broman-N9CNW (District Chairman Boy Scouts): Awarded “Jamboree on the Air” patches to Alvin Alexander- KC9GIO and Len Soderblom-KD9CDC for their efforts in making the event successful.

### New Business

- Kurt Eversole-KE9N: National Contest Journal ([ncjweb.com](http://ncjweb.com)) KS90 world record. Three stations (guys) were rover in a Chevy Suburban. They made 4,700 contacts!
- Scott Allshouse-W9SBA: Technician classes will be April 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> at OSF Hickey Room (5666 E State St, Rockford, IL). Classes will be taught by myself, Chuck Ingle- AB9KA, Marianne Geiger-KT9KS, and Mike Proctor-AC9JZ.

Introductions and 50/50 raffle held.

Presentation: “Introduction to HAM NATION” Bruce Carlson-N9OHT

New repeaters and their capabilities, a picture slideshow by Dennis Johanson-K9VMY

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Prepared by Shannon Larson-KC9QBC, added information is bracketed.

(Mike Proctor edited Technician class information.)

## Amateur Radio Exam Results

March 19, 2016 there were 3 Technician Class Passed; 3 Upgrades to General class: and 1 upgrade to Extra Class. Congratulations to:

Fiduccia, Andrew	Technician	
Hipp, Adam J	Technician	
Hirsch, Corey A	Technician	
Larson, James T	Extra	KC9GOA
Long, Randy D	General	KD9FPK
Scoggin, Brian J	General	KE0HOZ
Werthmann, Earnest E	General	W9EEW

Thanks to John Olson W9JGO; Robert Mitchell KU9I; Joseph Moore KA9LMK, Kevin Grant W9KLG, and Jim Holich for 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 April 16, 2016 . Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10AM, no exams started after 10:00 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 or a copy of your license. 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)

## Amateur Radio License Classes

Technician license classes will be held April 9, 16 & 23 at OSF Hickey Room (5666 E State St, Rockford, IL). Classes will be taught by Scott Allshouse-W9SBA, Chuck Ingle- AB9KA, Marianne Geiger-KT9KS, and Mike Proctor-AC9JZ.

Contact Scott Allshouse for information, [w9sba@comcast.net](mailto:w9sba@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.**



# ALL HAMS WELCOME!

## GOOD FOOD, GREAT COMPANY

Parking in Rear-Handicap Accessible



### FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

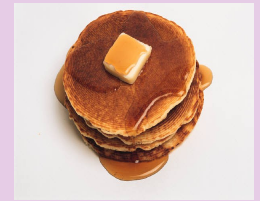
Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 9:30 am. An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company.

*Everyone is welcome to attend.*



**“The Morning Glory”**

211 7th Street  
Rockford, IL 61104



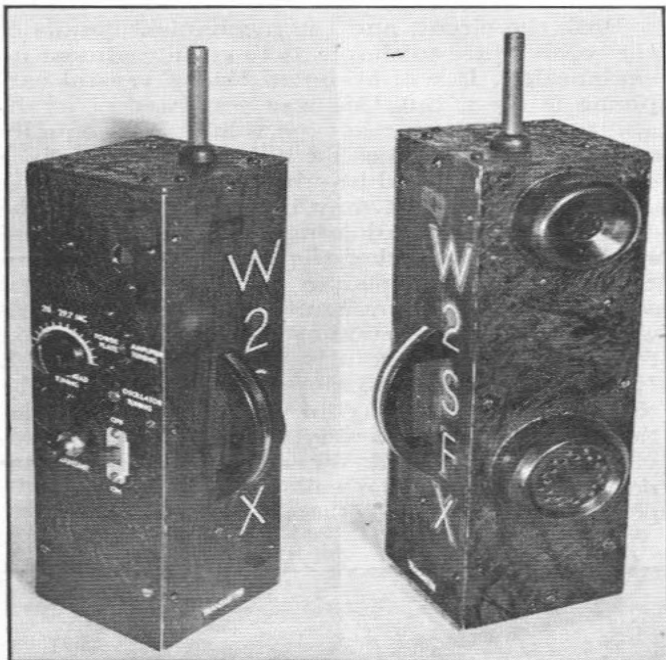


## A 10-Meter Handie-Talkie

*A Self-Contained Transmitter-Receiver of Many Uses*

BY DONALD M. LAUNER,\* W2SFX

A COMPLETE station which can be carried easily in one hand can be a source of a lot of fun at ham gatherings, or even around the home station, and may be an important link in an emergency set-up. But there is another field wherein the handie-talkie is invaluable: in TVI test work direct from the scene of the interference. Because it is designed for use in the 10-meter band, the simple little unit described herewith is ideal for this type of work.



Two views of the 10-meter handie-talkie described by W2SFX. At the left is the control side, showing the receiver tuning, on-off switch, send-receive switch, and the screwdriver adjustments for transmitter tuning. The view at the right shows the side on which the microphone and earphone are mounted.

Its coverage compares very favorably with that of similar units on other frequencies. In a recent test in conjunction with a fixed station which used only about 5 watts and a simple folded-dipole antenna, a solid QSO was maintained while the author walked twenty blocks through midtown Manhattan. Greater range could have been attained, but for fatigue and the curiosity of the passers-by!

\* 31 West 11th St., New York 11, N. Y.

Considerable experimentation with tubes and circuits preceded the final form, but the unit as it appears here is easily constructed and has no critical components or adjustments. Three 3A5 tubes are used, but since they are dual triodes the result is the equivalent of a 4-tube transmitter and a 2-tube receiver. The final stage runs only 1-watt input to one half of a 3A5, and that is doubling, but the output seems entirely adequate for the purpose. Crystals in the 7-Mc. range are used, and other low-cost components are employed throughout. The receiver is the familiar superregen in its simplest possible form, which may cause some raising of eyebrows in select 10-meter circles. Nevertheless, the one-tube arrangement works very smoothly, and is capable of satisfactory reception of any signal which is S4 or better on a good communications receiver.

### *Mechanical Details*

Since it is probable that each individual will wish to include certain changes from the form shown here, the purpose of this section will be to describe a convenient and practical method of construction, rather than to give a part-by-part construction procedure. The entire frame is made of  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch aluminum sheets, using aluminum angle stock for all right-angle connections, as shown in Fig. 1. The frame is in the form of an "H," with the receiver and filament and microphone batteries in one side and the transmitter in the other. The "B" batteries are carried in the bottom section.

All four sides are  $3\frac{1}{4}$  by  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The inner partition is  $3\frac{1}{4}$  by  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches. When this is assembled, as seen in Fig. 1, the various parts may be mounted. It is unlikely that the parts will be duplicates of those used by the writer, so their placement is left to the discretion of the builder. Care should be used in the layout process, to be sure that sufficient room is left for all the batteries. The "H"-shaped chassis should contain all the parts, so that the sides may be removed readily for servicing the unit. The microphone and earphone units used were taken from an Army-surplus telephone handset. Facing these items, the transmitter is in the left side of the case and the receiver in the right.

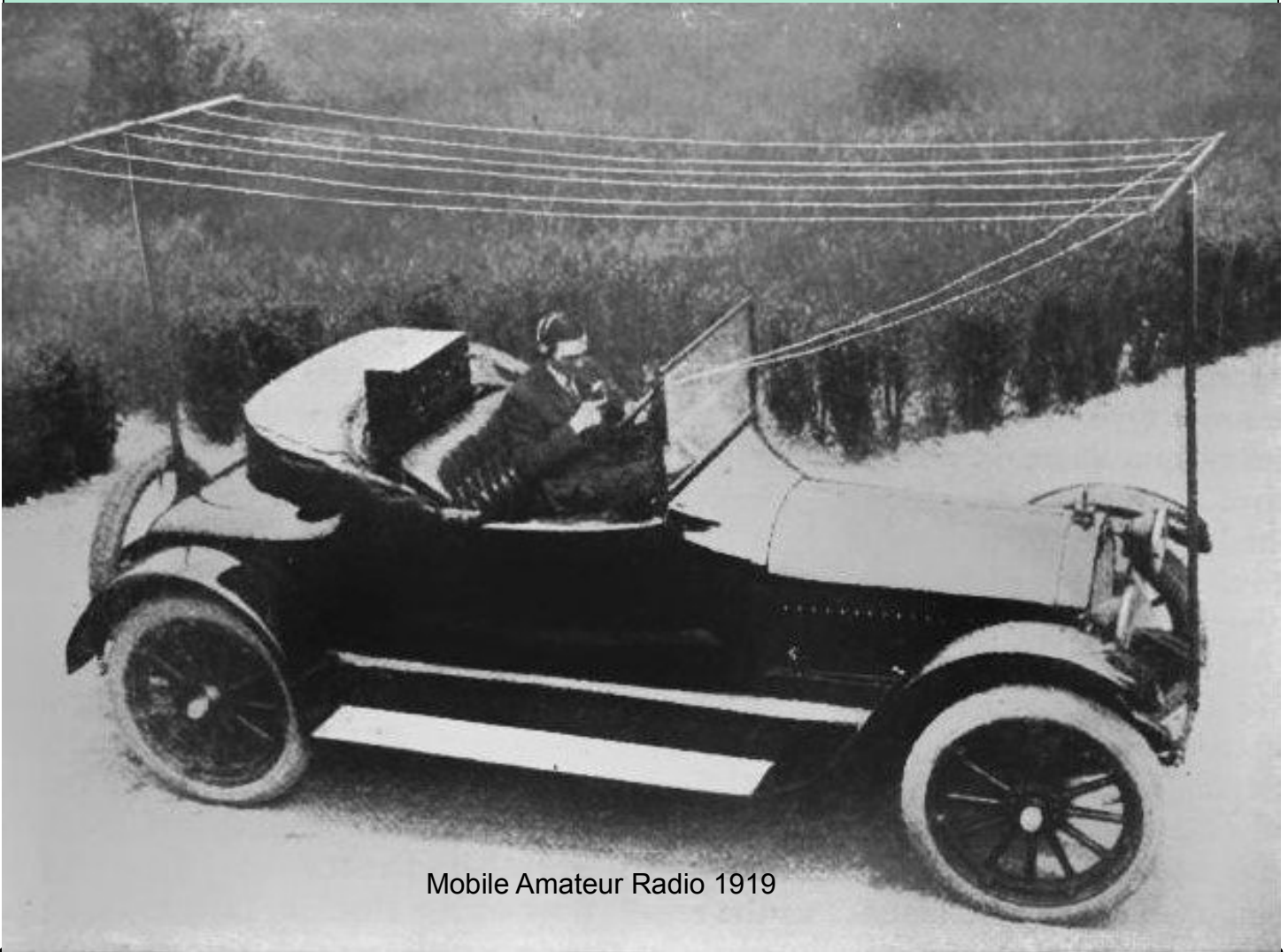
### *The Transmitter Portion*

The transmitter employs no trick circuits or components. The first half of the first 3A5 is a standard triode crystal oscillator on 7 Mc., the

## Notice of Repeater Use April 30, 2016

The 146.610 repeater will be used for a Simulated Emergency Test, from 7:30 AM until approximately 1 PM on April 30, 2016. This will involve a simulated airplane crash at the Rockford Airport, with first responders, ambulances, hospitals, and the Northern Illinois ARES participating.

### A BLAST FROM THE PAST



Mobile Amateur Radio 1919

#### Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please call me or email me at [ac9jz@live.com](mailto:ac9jz@live.com) Cut-off for the May 2016 Hamrag will be Saturday, April 30, 2016

Mike - AC9JZ, Editor



## SILENT KEYS

Cameron F. Young, 52, KB9OPB, of Rockford passed away March 22, 2016 after a sudden illness. Born June 20, 1963 to Fred and Mary Lou Young. He is survived by father, Fred Young; sister, Jill (Keith) Struss; niece and nephew, Breanna and Zachary. Predeceased by his mother, Mary Lou. Cameron will be missed by his friends and family for always researching every possible way to resolve a problem and providing natural and holistic approaches to medicine when possible. He was an avid CB radio user, and amateur radio operator and will be missed by all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Hultgren N9MCS

Bud, A Great Elmer

Bud Frohardt, W9DY ex W9GFF became a Silent Key recently. Bud was an active ham for most of his life. He was an Illinois State Police telegraph operator and radio maintenance technician. Bud began DXING in 1939. Bud had 381 countries worked. I first met Bud in 1968, we were both members of the NIDXA, Northern Illinois DX Assn. Bud taught and helped countless hams get their licenses. Rod Newkirk, W9BRD, the editor of the "Hows DX" column in QST FROM 1947 to 1978, coined the term Elmer...after Bud, whose birth name was Elmer Frohardt Jr. Now you know the rest of the story.

Paul Johnston, W9PJ

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS ARES NEWS

Northern Illinois ARES is busy preparing for some upcoming events, and they are fast approaching! Here's a partial list from the near future:

\* Saturday, April 2, 2016 (morning only) - Arny Johnson Run: 8 of us are helping out Joe Burkhardt, the organizer, with communications. There will be no breakfast at the Stockholm Inn this day.

\* Saturday, April 9, 2016 (0900) - Regional hospital communications test. There also will be no breakfast at the Stockholm Inn on this date.

\* Saturday, April 30, 2016 (morning, perhaps into early afternoon) – Rockford/Chicago International Airport disaster drill. This will be a community-wide drill that involves all 3 local hospitals, has volunteer victims, and will simulate the crash of an Allegiant Airlines plane. Obviously, I guess there will be no breakfast on this date either!

There are more things on the horizon coming up in June and possibly July. It's going to be a busy summer!! Thanks to everyone who has supported us in our efforts, and thanks to the members for really coming through and participating.

Marianne Geiger KT9KS

RARA BOARD MEETING MEETS ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM  
St. Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL

# QST

April 1972  
75 Cents

devoted entirely to

# amateur radio



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ARRL





# First amateur radio in geosynchronous orbit to improve communications in disaster areas

An amateur radio transponder is being prepared to be sent into geosynchronous orbit in 2017 to help, according to Virginia Tech News. Researchers at the Ted and Karyn Hume Center for National Security and Technology say that it will allow great development in communication.

"Seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, a new ham band will be available for the Americas," said Robert McGwier, a research professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Hume Center's director of research. "It will allow rapid development to disaster areas and support long-haul communications for first responders."

The device would be the first amateur radio sent to a geosynchronous orbit, which would greatly enhance communication capabilities for other amateur radio operators, especially for disaster areas and emergency situations. The Hume Center team met with Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate in September in order to discuss the project. On the global scale, there is today more than 2 million amateur radio operators, the community has a long history in emergency communications assistance, in case traditional communications (Internet and cell towers for example) should fail at crisis areas. However, ham radio signal only requires compact equipment, which can be easily transported to an emergency site.

"Hams show up at every disaster, no matter what," said McGwier, referring to amateur radio operators. After events like Hurricane Katrina and Indian Ocean tsunami, "for days, the only way that people communicated out of those communities was amateur radio."

As matter of fact, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) did sign an agreement with American Radio Relay League (ARRL) back in 2014, which describes the cooperation between the two organisations in case of emergency situation, although it is Federal Communications Commission, who has the regulations to authorize the use of ham radios in situations where property and/or lives are in danger.

But the truth is, even ham radios are not always available.

There might a problem when a geomagnetic storm strikes the planet because most of the amateur radio signals bounce off from ionosphere (part of the upper atmosphere) and, this can affect the efficiency of the signals, making them unpredictable. Instead of using "ionosphere bounce-off" signals, satellites would allow more efficient logistics - reliable access supplies, medical assistance and up-to-date situation changes. That is why geosynchronous orbit is critical in such situations. It needs to be made sure that satellite would be accessible for radio operators.

In favor of geosynchronous orbit "talks" also the fact that it has the same rotation as the Earth's - few minutes under 24 hours. Satellite on geosynchronous orbit is easy to locate and access. In this case, the satellite will be accessible for amateur radio operators in Americas, including the students and researchers at the Virginia Tech Ground Station because the satellite will always be within the band of American longitudes.

The satellite will be operated from Millenium Space Systems (MSS) on behalf of the US Air Forces and AMSAT (Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation) will operate the radio. The design is being made by Virginia Tech Students - therefore, the project is a unique collaboration between the university, nonprofit organisations, private companies and the federal government.

The team at Hume Center also engineers a ground terminal that could be used by emergency personnel, in order to relay their communications through the satellite. The setup could be deployed through ARRL and AMSAT, being the critical connection in national emergency response system, which allows trained operators to mobilize to disaster areas in hours after the disastrous event has occurred.



There is always a way

DemotivationalPost.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

### 2016 RARA Officers and Board

#### Officers:

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

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

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:

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

Kurt Eversole, KE9N 815-389-2784 [kurt.eversole@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.eversole@gmail.com)  
W9AXD License Trustee - 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)

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Hamrag Editor - Mike Proctor, AC9JZ, 815-414-2329  
[ac9jz@outlook.com](mailto:ac9jz@outlook.com)





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

E-mail: [ac9jz@live.com](mailto:ac9jz@live.com)

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

April 2016

**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