

HAM RAG



Visit our website for more club and area ham information
In the Rockford area at <http://www.w9axd.org>

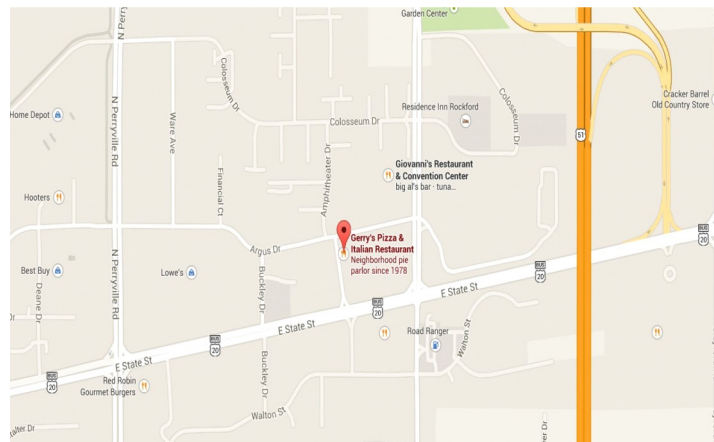
RARA Mission Statement

A member association with common interest of public service to the community through the use of amateur radio.

CELEBRATION MEETING TO BE HELD JANUARY 8, 2016

We will be holding our **January 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 5:00pm to 6:15pm for cocktails, with dinner starting around 6:30pm. 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



January 2016

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NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
January 8, 2016
7:00 pm

Annual
Celebration and
Awards
Meeting

Location:
Gerry's Pizza
7403 Argus Drive
Rockford, IL

RARA DUES AND DON'TS

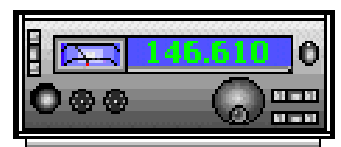
It's that time of year to renew your RARA membership for the year 2016. Listed below are some simple "dues and don'ts".

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!



Membership applications accepted by Treasurer - Shannon Larson, KC9QBC

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



Secretary's Report



RARA Club Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. with 22 attendees.

The November 13, 2015 club meeting minutes were read by Bruce Carlson, N9OHT. (Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX made the motion to accept the minutes, and seconded by Len Soderblom, KD9CDC –all approved.)

The Treasurer's report for November 24, 2015 was read. (Larry Schubert, AC9GO made the motion to accept the report, and seconded by Dave Bond, W9MG – all approved.)

Robert Larson, KC9ICH – read a club website email from Dave Walker, KA8SCN, a founder and first president of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association. He lives in Ohio.

Ham of the Year forms were distributed to those who haven't yet voted.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Kurt Eversole, KE9N – read an email from Kevin, N4KM, about contesting.

Introductions of all attendees were made.

50/50 raffle was won and donated by Lowell Wheeler, K9HDB (\$28.00).

Around the room "Show & Tell – Bring your favorite Ham Shack device or accessory."

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. (Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX made the motion, and was seconded by Len Soderblom, KD9CDC – all approved.)

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 your 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.

Editors Note

If you would like to have something published, please call me or email me at ac9jz@outlook.com

Cut-off for the February 2016 issue will be Saturday, January 30, 2016

Mike Proctor, AC9JZ, 815-414-2329

UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

January 8, 2016 - Celebration Meeting at Gerry's Pizza 5:00 pm

January 26, 2016 - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

February 12, 2016 - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

February 23, 2016 - RARA board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

March 11, 2016 - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

Congratulations to the following:

Max Gersh General
Justin Perkins Technician
Trifone Whitmer Technician / General

Many thanks to Steve Twigg W9SWT, Jeff Makeever AC9KX, and Joseph Moore KA9LMK.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9am January 16, 2016 . Walk-ins are welcome. Check-ins are from 9am-10am, no exams are 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).

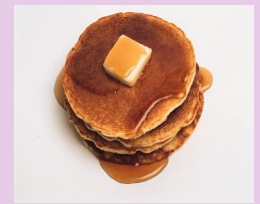
Jim Holich AB9SX
jholich@comcast.net

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



First amateur radio geosynchronous satellite to launch in 2017

December 29, 2015 by Dan KB6NU

It was recently announced that researchers at the Ted and Karyn Hume Center for National Security and Technology, part of Virginia Tech University are preparing to send an amateur radio transponder into a geosynchronous orbit in 2017. “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, N4HY, a research professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Hume Center’s director of research. This would be the first amateur radio payload in a geosynchronous orbit, and would significantly enhance communications capabilities for amateur radio operators, in particular following natural disasters or other emergency situations.

Amateurs have, of course, been communicating via satellite for decades. The first Orbiting Satellites Carrying Amateur Radio, or OSCAR, satellites were launched in the 1960s. Until now, however, these satellites have been in low Earth orbit (LEO), and were only available for short times when they happened to be overhead.

A geosynchronous satellite, however, would be accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A geosynchronous orbit has the same period as the Earth’s rotation — just under 24 hours. That makes them easy to locate and access, as they are almost always in the same spot in the sky. In this case, the satellite will always be within a band of longitudes over the Americas, continually accessible to any amateur radio operator there, including the students and researchers at the Virginia Tech Ground Station.

One expected application is emergency communications. This satellite will allow amateur radio operators to help emergency personnel reliably access supplies, logistical support, and medical assistance. The key is to ensure that the satellite would always be accessible to the radio operators — which is why the geosynchronous orbit is critical.

The satellite itself will be operated by Millennium Space Systems on behalf of the United States Air Force; the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, also known as AMSAT, will operate the radio, which will be designed and built by Virginia Tech students — making this project a unique collaboration among the university, nonprofit organizations, private companies, and the federal government.

The Hume Center team is also engineering a ground terminal that emergency personnel could use to relay their own existing communications channels through the satellite. This setup could be deployed through the American Radio Relay League and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation as a key part of a robust national emergency response system, allowing trained operators to reliably mobilize to disaster areas in the first critical hours after a devastating event.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

National Parks on the Air

Throughout 2016, Amateur Radio will be helping the National Park Service celebrate their 100th anniversary. Hams from across the country will activate NPS units, promote the National Park Service and showcase Amateur Radio to the public.

1) Duration of National Parks on the Air

The ARRL National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event runs in parallel with the National Park Service's centennial. The program runs from 0000 UTC January 1, 2016 through 2359 UTC December 31, 2016.

2) Goals of National Parks on the Air

a) Promote the capabilities of Amateur Radio to the general public through operations at eligible NPS Administrative Units.

b) Promote the NPS Centennial and the heritage of the National Park System through Amateur Radio.

c) Encourage portable Amateur Radio operation from as many of the officially-listed National Park Service administrative units and recognized Affiliated Areas as possible.



4) Eligibility

The ARRL National Parks on the Air program is open to all licensed radio amateurs.

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

Vice President - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034

gseaman@outlook.com

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

bruce.n9oht@gmail.com

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

shannon1234@sbcglobal.net

Directors:

Repeater Chairman - Kurt Eversole, KE9N

815-389-2784 kurt.eversole@gmail.com

W9AXD License Trustee - Scott Francis, KG9SF,

815-874-7170 kg9sf@arrl.net

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

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

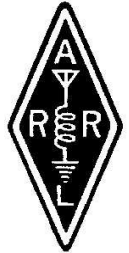
Larry Schubert, AC9GO, 815-624-7772 schubert1@charter.net

Hamrag Editor - Mike Proctor, AC9JZ, 815-414-2329

ac9jz@outlook.com



WCRA 49th ANNUAL MID-WINTER ELECTRONICS HOBBY EXPO (HAMFEST)



HAM RADIO, COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET

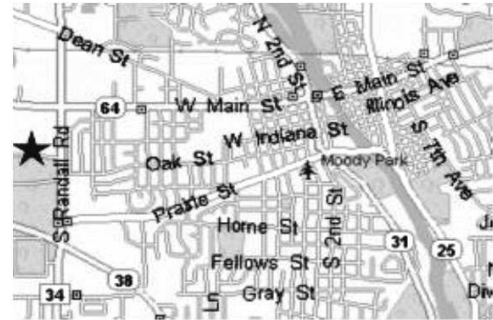
Sunday, January 17, 2016

Doors open at 8AM (closes at 1pm)

Kane County Fairgrounds Expo Center

525 S. Randall Rd., St Charles, IL

(coordinates: N 41.9056, W 88.34232)



FEATURING

Free Parking * Heated Indoor Facility * Paved Parking Lot * Hourly Prizes
Food * Amateur Radio Exams * Educational Forums

Tickets:

Advance, 4 raffle stubs \$8

At the door, 1 raffle stub \$ 10

- Children under 12 admitted at no charge
- Boy and Girl Scouts under 18 in their official scout uniform admitted at no charge

Exhibit Floor Rental:

\$30/table (\$35 after 1/1, if available)

(\$5 discount/table after 2 tables)

Electricity available for \$10/drop

1 chair per vendor provided

(\$2 for each additional chair)

Talk-In on WCRA's 2M Repeater 145.31/- (107.2 Hz)

and National Simplex Frequency 146.52 MHz

(630) 604-0157

info@w9ccu.org

www.w9ccu.org

Advance Ticket and Flea Market Table Order Form

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

Address _____ Tables @ \$30.00 = \$ _____

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

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! (3 max)

Table Prices
Same as Last Year

Waukesha, Wisconsin
44th ANNUAL MIDWINTER

SWAPFEST

Ham Radio, Computer, Electronics

SATURDAY - JANUARY 9, 2016

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

(Seller setup 6:00 to 8:00 AM)

\$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 - Center Court Sports Complex (across from Arena)

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, 414.425.3849 or visit www.warac.org

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

FREE PARKING

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

GPS Coordinates
Lat: 43.03304 Lon: -88.24207



Swapfest Advance Registration Form

RESERVATION DEADLINE: Jan 1, 2016

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 (3 max).

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

NOTE: Tables are reserved on a first-come first-served basis - main floor first, then balconies.
 I will accept balcony tables if no main floor tables are available.



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: ac9jz@outlook.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

January 2016

**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