

# 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

Members,

I just received the RT Systems configuration software and cable for my new Yaesu FT-2DR System Fusion handheld. So far I've got it installed and talking to the radio. Made an original image of the radio and saved it. Excellent product.

The basic configuration settings for using the W9AXD repeaters can be found on the website near the bottom of the home page.

This month's program will be by Marianne Geiger with the Northern Illinois AREAS.  
See you at the Friday meeting.

73

Robert Larson-KC9ICH

## November 2016

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### NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY**

**November 11, 2016  
7:00 pm**

**Presentation:**

**ARES Field Event**

**By:**

**Marianne Geiger**

**&**

**Ham of the Year  
Nominations**

**Location:**

**St. Anthony  
Medical Center**

**Foundation Room**

**5666 E. State Street  
Rockford, IL**

## UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

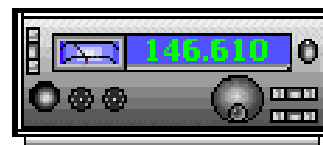
**November 11th** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**November 29th** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**December 9th** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 at OSF

**December 27th** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

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



**HAM OF THE YEAR - 2016 NOMINATIONS**

***The Ham of the Year is an honor that is presented to the R.A.R.A. member(s) who has contributed the most to the club and to amateur radio in general during the year.***

Your nominee should be chosen using two basic criteria: The nominee must be a R.A.R.A. member and should have performed exemplary service for amateur radio during the year 2016.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to fill out the form below, or a facsimile, completing all of the requested information. Nominations may be e-mailed or mailed to Robert Larson, KC9ICH, at the address below or handed to me at the next club meeting. All nominations must be received by December 9, 2016.

They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated. Email or mail nominations to: Robert Larson, KC9ICH  
3911 Shirley Road Rockford, IL 61108-1950 [kc9ich@arrl.net](mailto:kc9ich@arrl.net)

**Nominee** \_\_\_\_\_ **Call** \_\_\_\_\_

**I nominate the above person for the RARA Ham of the Year award for the following reasons:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Call** \_\_\_\_\_

## Amateur radio provides critical communications when all else fails

A catastrophic blackout could take out modern modes of telecommunications. And that could spell big trouble for people and agencies that rely on power to communicate via the Internet or cellphones. "It's a very big concern throughout the country and the world, said Adam Cohen, special agent in charge of the Buffalo FBI office.

There's been increased public attention surrounding the possibility of an electromagnetic pulse, or EMP, which could overload the power grid and produce widespread blackouts.

"Everybody expects their phones to work and they expect to be able to send a text or an email message when they need to," said Cohen. "If telecommunications systems are down people won't be able to reach out to friends or family members."

It's also a concern for first responders and emergency operations centers that rely on timely information during a natural disaster or deliberate attack.

"It's conceivable that you would be without power for months," said Steven Piotrowski, who works for Erie County Emergency Services. Piotrowski, an amateur radio operator, says an electromagnetic pulse could come from a massive solar storm, or a high altitude nuclear detonation. "It could cause substations to fail. It could cause local transformers to fail. The power surge could cause lots of things in your house to fail, or in commercial structures. It could be devastating."

Piotrowski says most communications sites, especially those dealing with public safety, are engineered to a high standard with backup generators. "Generators run on fuel. Eventually the fuel would run out and then the sites would start to fail," he said.

Adam Cohen says a more "realistic event" could involve a cyberattack from a hostile nation-state. "Or by somebody doing hacking activity against telecommunications systems that could possibly have some significant impacts on our ability to use our telecommunications systems," Cohen explained. "It's conceivable that what is done, or the damage that takes place, could spread throughout the entire national telecommunications system."

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[Click here](#) To continue reading.

# Anyone can talk on a radio



**Hams learn to  
COMMUNICATE!**

## ARES NEWS

Northern IL ARES will now be holding our monthly meetings at the Eagle's Club, 3829 11th St, Rockford, IL 61109, just south of bypass 20. This should be more convenient for our members in Stephenson, Boone, and Winnebago counties.

We have also changed the meeting time, for just this month, to the **4th Monday**, at **6:30 PM**, since I will be out of town for our usual meeting day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 6:30 PM.

We are now holding our weekly net on the 147.195 repeater, + PL 114.8, at 7 PM each Thursday. We plan to still use the 146.610 repeater for back up and special events.

We wish to thank RARA, and the Repeater Committee for the use of the repeater.

Don't forget to come to this month's meeting, I will be giving a presentation about our ARES event in the park. 73

Marianne Geiger, MD [kt9ks@arrl.net](mailto:kt9ks@arrl.net) Northern Illinois ARES Emergency Coordinator

## RARA Club Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:11 p.m. with 15 attendees.

Treasurer's report from Sept. 27, 2016 was read. Motion to accept by Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX. Second by Larry Schubert, AC9GO. Motion passed.

Minutes were read from Sept. 9, 2016 meeting. Motion to accept by Len Soderblom, KD9CDC. Second by Larry Schubert, AC9GO. Motion passed.

**Old Business:** Bruce Carlson gave a summary of special event station W9M

### **New Business:**

- \* Kurt Eversole will be resigning from the Board and not be Vice-President in 2017
- \* Repeater control radios have been installed at both repeaters
- \* Friday Night Fun Night will be on the 610 repeater for the coming Friday.
- \* The old repeater Alinco radio is on consignment at HRO (Dennis)
- \* Bruce Carlson explained what Remote Controlled ham radio is like
- \* Robert Larson had RARA mugs available for \$15

### **Additions or nominations to our RARA Board:**

- \* Vice President: Len Soderblom
- \* Director: Tom Shouler N9VJU
- \* Director: Larry Schubert, AC9GO

Motion was approved to accept these positions for 2017

**Presentation:** Dennis Johanson showed photos of HRO in Milwaukee as well as his new long wire antenna set up at his home. W9EVT 's station setup on Washington Island was shown from photos on QRZ.com. Robert Larson presented on his Field Strength Meter. Gordon Seaman presented on his Yaesu FT-2D radio

50/50 raffle. \$29 collected, won by Jim Hall (collected \$14.50)

Motion to adjourn at 8:37 pm by Len Soderblom, KD9CDC, second by Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX

Prepared by Bruce Carlson, N9OHT, Secretary

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM INFORMATION

There were no applicants for the October 15, 2016 testing session.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM September 17, 2016. Walk-ins are welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10AM, no exams started after 10:00AM. We require two signature ID's and one photo. If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator bring a copy of your FCC 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

### 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.**

# ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Membership:  New  Renewal  
Annual Fees:  \$35 - Adult  \$25 - Senior, 62 yrs. or older  
 \$20 - Student, up to age 24

Above rate includes the RARA monthly newsletter, Ham Rag, via email  
Ham Rag via USPS: \$12 extra

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: The Northern Illinois Skywarn Net is now Saturday nights at 8:30pm.  
147.255+ pl 114.8**

### AREA Repeaters

146.610 - pl 114.8 W9AXD  
147.000 + pl 114.8 W9AXD  
147.195+ pl 114.8 W9RFD  
146.805 - pl 114.8 K9AMJ  
224.440 - pl 118.8 K9AMJ  
147.255 + pl 114.8 WX9MCS  
444.725 + pl 107.2 WX9MCS

### 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  
[glseaman@outlook.com](mailto:glseaman@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  
[glseaman@outlook.com](mailto:glseaman@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 [##k9vmj@arrl.net](mailto:##k9vmj@arrl.net)

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

Larry Schubert, AC9GO, 815-624-7772 [schubert1@charter.net](mailto:schubert1@charter.net)

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

# HAM RADIO BREAKFAST



All ham radio enthusiasts, and spouses, are welcome!

Every Friday.

Most arrive between 8AM and 8:30AM.

Orders taken as we arrive.

Spring Garden Restaurant  
4820 N 2nd St, Loves Park, IL 61111



# Learning Morse Code without Trying

## New study demonstrates silent, eyes-free text entry

It's not exactly beating something into someone's head. More like tapping it into the side.

Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology have developed a system that teaches people Morse code within four hours using a series of vibrations felt near the ear. Participants wearing Google Glass learned it without paying attention to the signals —they played games while feeling the taps and hearing the corresponding letters. After those few hours, they were 94 percent accurate keying a sentence that included every letter of the alphabet and 98 percent accurate writing codes for every letter.

This is the latest chapter of passive haptic learning (PHL) studies at Georgia Tech. The same method — using vibrations while participants aren't paying attention — has taught people braille, how to play the piano and improved hand sensation for those with partial spinal cord injury.

The PHL projects are all led by Georgia Tech Professor Thad Starner and his Ph.D. student Caitlyn Seim. The team decided to use Glass for this study because it has both a built-in speaker and tapper (Glass's bone-conduction transducer).

In the study, participants played a game while feeling vibration taps between their temple and ear. The taps represented the dots and dashes of Morse code and passively “taught” users through their tactile senses — even while they were distracted by the game. The taps were created when researchers sent a very low-frequency signal to Glass's speaker system. At less than 15 Hz, the signal was below hearing range but, because it was played very slowly, the sound was felt as a vibration.

Half of the participants in the study felt the vibration taps and heads a voice prompt for each corresponding letter. The other half — the control group — felt no taps to help them learn.

Participants were tested throughout the study on their knowledge of Morse code and their ability to type it. After less than four hours of feeling every letter, everyone was challenged to type the alphabet in Morse code in a final test.

The control group was accurate only half the time. Those who felt the passive cues were nearly perfect.

The research was recently presented in Germany at the 20th International Symposium on Wearable Computers.

[Click here To continue reading.](#)



### Hamrag Editor's Message

If anyone is interested in taking the position of Hamrag Editor, please contact any board member, including myself. This is a very fun job, not difficult, and quite rewarding. If you have any problems, I've found that help is a phone call or email away. I experienced the camaraderie and the teamwork of RARA. I'm willing to pass the torch, if you wish to volunteer.

**Mike Proctor, AC9JZ**

## ROCKFORD AREA 2 Meter Nets

### Sunday

Green County ARES Net\_\_ Monroe, WI

7:30 PM

145.110 - PL 123.0

Big Thunder Net\_\_ Belvidere, IL

8:00 PM

147.375 + PL 100.0

Whiteside County ARES Net\_\_ Sterling, IL

8:00 PM

146.850 - PL 114.8

### Monday

RARA Info Net\_\_ Rockford, IL

8:00 PM

146.610 - PL 114.8

Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club Net\_\_ Malta/DeKalb, IL

8:30 PM

146.730 - PL 100.0

### Tuesday

Rock County Public Service Net\_\_ Janesville, WI

7:00 PM

145.450 - PL 123.0

Tuesday Night Tech Net\_\_ Dakota/Freeport, IL

8:00 PM

147.300 + PL 88.5

Ogle County ARES Net\_\_ Oregon, IL

9:00 PM

147.165 + PL 146.2

### Wednesday

Greater Beloit Amateur Radio Club Wednesday Evening Net\_\_ Beloit, WI

7:30 PM

147.120 + PL 123.0

Stephenson County Repeater Association Wednesday Evening Swap Net\_\_ Freeport, IL

8:00 PM

147.390 + 114.8

### Thursday

Winnebago/Boone/Stephenson Counties ARES Net (northernlaresnet.org)\_\_ Rockford, IL

7:00 PM

147.195 + PL 114.8 Backup 146.610 - PL 114.8

### Friday

Friday Night Fun Net\_\_ Rockford, IL

8:00 pm

147.255 + pl 114.8

### Saturday

Northern Illinois Skywarn Net\_\_ Rockford, IL

8:30 PM

147.255 + PL 114.8