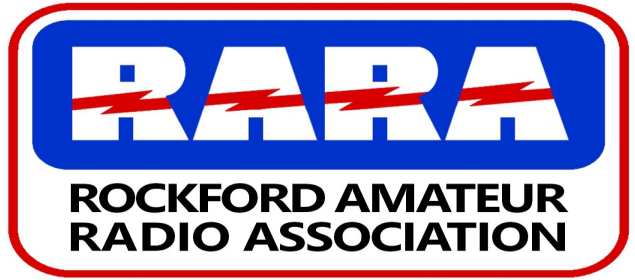


# HAMRAG

Visit our website for more club and area ham information at <http://w9axd.org>, or join us on Facebook at this [LINK](#)



## RARA Mission Statement

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

August 2017

## Presidents Message

Greetings all,

Well here it is August already, high temps, high humidity, and in Northern Illinois, you never know about the rain. This month we are having two guest speakers attend our meeting, the main speaker will be Kermit Carlson, W9XA, who holds the position of Central Division Director for the ARRL. Kermit has been a guest speaker at our meetings before and always has presented interesting subjects to those attending. If you have any questions pertaining to the ARRL, please bring them to the meeting for Kermit.

The second speaker attending will be Sean Rafferty, W9STR, who is going to be talking about Skywarn, and the hope of setting up a completely new group in league with the Northern Illinois ARES group. This could be the start of a new group in Northern Illinois to fill a void in emergency communications. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting.

Sincerely,  
Gordon Seaman KC9NEX  
2017 RARA President



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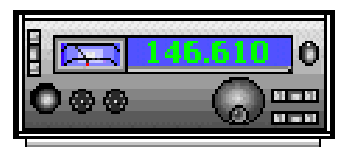
## NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY  
August 11, 2017  
7:00 pm

## “ARRL News and Information”

By: Kermit Carlson,  
W9XA

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



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

## Secretary's Report



### **RARA MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES JULY 14, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, at 7:15 PM. Nine people attended.

Gordon, KC9NEX, asked if anyone wanted the minutes of the June meeting to be read. No one required the reading of the minutes as they had been posted on the W9AXD web page.

Tom, N9VJU, moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Larry, AC9GO. The motion passed unanimously.

No treasurer's report was read as the Treasurer, Jennifer, KD9FMJ, was absent.

#### Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

#### New Business.

Gordon, KC9NEX, reported that Robert Larson, KC9ICH, is the new repeater trustee.

John, N8TA, asked how the new brochures produced by Randy, AC9OF, will be used. After a brief discussion among members, Gordon, KC9NEX, stated that brochures can be distributed when license exams are given.

#### Main Program Presentation

Gordon, KC9NEX, provided a power point presentation summarizing this year's Field Day operations. The presentation showed pictures of the various stages of setup and operations. The classification for K9K (our Field Day call) was 2A, which meant that emergency power was used, and we had two stations operating. Gordon stated that 1,150 bonus points were earned. Bonus points are given if Field Day stations complete certain activities such as providing for a safety officer, inviting certain dignitaries, the presence of the media and so forth. A detailed chart showed the number of contacts by band and mode.

It was reported that the Channel 13 report on the newscast was well done and favorable to RARA.

At the end of the presentation and discussion John, N9JHG, made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Tom, N9VJU. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Submitted by John Mori, N8TA

### **FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST**

Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 10:00 am. An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company.

*Everyone is welcome to attend.*

***"The Spring Garden Family Restaurant"***

***4820 N. 2nd Street  
Loves Park, IL 61111***



#### **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 September 2017 issue will be Wednesday, August 30, 2017**

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

## Local Events and Information

### UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

**August 11, 2017** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**August 22, 2017** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**September 8, 2017** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**September 19, 2017** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

### 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.**

### Repeater Information

Robert Larson, KC9ICH, has accepted the position of being the trustee of the W9AXD station license. Being the trustee entails setting policy and on the air practices of both the 146.610 and the 147.000 repeaters. Any questions or ideas should be addressed with Robert. His phone number is 815-540-0309 or email at [rlarson4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rlarson4@sbcglobal.net).

**NOTE:** Both repeaters will function with both digital and analog radio signals but the repeater requires time to determine whether the signal is digital or analog. To operate the repeater properly you must first be sure the frequency is clear, then key and hold the microphone button down for **1-2 seconds**. Then begin speaking. If you fail to do this, the first part of your message will be lost.

### 2017 RARA Officers and Board

#### Officers:

President - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, [kc9nex@gmail.com](mailto:kc9nex@gmail.com)

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

Secretary - Bruce Carlson, N9OHT, 815-218-1764, [brucecarlson72@gmail.com](mailto:brucecarlson72@gmail.com)

Treasurer - Jennifer Van Zieleghe, KD9FMJ, 815-222-4221, [jenleek@usa.com](mailto:jenleek@usa.com)

#### Directors:

Repeater Chairman - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, [kc9nex@gmail.com](mailto:kc9nex@gmail.com)

Jacek Gadja, KD9ELI, 773-505-5604, [hyacinth27109@yahoo.com](mailto:hyacinth27109@yahoo.com)

John Goodwin, N9JHG, 815-520-3842, [goodwin49@gmail.com](mailto:goodwin49@gmail.com)

Larry Schubert, AC9GO, 815-624-7772, [larry.schubert@gmail.com](mailto:larry.schubert@gmail.com)

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

Webmaster - Randy Long, AC9OF, 815-978-6673, [randy@rdlgraphics.com](mailto:randy@rdlgraphics.com)

Repeater License Trustee - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309, [rlarson4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rlarson4@sbcglobal.net)

## Around The Globe

### ARRL President Issues Call for Members to Reach Out to their Senators to Support S. 1534

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, is calling on League members to urge their US Senators to support the [Amateur Radio Parity Act](#) of 2017, S. 1534. ARRL has opened a [RallyCongress page](#) to simplify the task.

"[W]e are at a crossroad in our efforts to obtain passage of The Amateur Radio Parity Act," Roderick said. He said the campaign to secure passage of the bill scored a major victory earlier this year when H.R. 555 passed unanimously in the US House of Representatives. Obtaining passage of the companion Senate bill, S. 1534, is the final legislative hurdle.

"Now is the time for all hams to get involved in the process!" Roderick said. "Many of you already live in deed-restricted communities, and that number grows daily."

He urged radio amateurs now restricted by a homeowners association from installing effective outdoor antennas to visit the RallyCongress site and e-mail their two US senators. He also encouraged those not currently affected by deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) to support their fellow radio amateurs by doing the same.



### W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet

(July 21, 2017) Online registration is now available and much of the program is in place for the 2017 W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet in suburban Chicago. This year's keynote speaker will be ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. The ARRL has approved the gathering as an Operating Specialty Convention. Discounted hotel rooms can also be booked now. Sponsored by the Northern Illinois DX Association, W9DXCC will also offer Contest University and DX University programs on Friday, with presentations for new and veteran DXers and contest operators. The daylong session on Saturday will feature speakers, exhibits, QSL card checking, a CW pileup contest and many valuable prizes. The evening banquet is a time to relax and enjoy our keynote speaker. For non-ham family members, Woodfield Mall, which offers a wide array of shopping, is one traffic light south of the convention site at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, 1800 East Golf Road. Updates and Registration: <http://w9dxcc.com>



For more information: John McCormick, [K9KE@arrl.net](mailto:K9KE@arrl.net)

### Oklahoma Radio Amateur is First to Score Satellite VUCC from Greenland

It took just 4 days -- some of that time without much sleep -- but ARRL member Gabe Zeifman, NJ7H/VE6NJH, of Oklahoma City recently became the first radio amateur to earn VUCC -- working 100 grid squares -- by satellite from Greenland. In fact, his is the first VUCC award of *any* kind from Greenland. A relatively new licensee, Zeifman, 22, has managed to activate more than 300 grid squares via satellite, as well as nearly 20 DXCC entities. Apart from the operating accomplishment, Zeifman told ARRL, he was attempting to inspire newcomers.

"I thought it could get more people interested in satellites in general -- VUCC is very achievable for anyone -- and could also get more people interested in roving," said Zeifman, who began training this week to become an air traffic controller. "I was overwhelmed by the support I got; it was really astonishing the number of people that helped!" He said one operator activated eight grids for him, while others who don't typically rove, visited at least one neighboring grid square to give him a new one.

"It was really cool to see our community throughout the world come together to help in this goal," he said. "I really first envisioned this idea when I realized I had nearly 70 grids confirmed from Iceland, and I thought 'hmm, OX [Greenland] is an even better location; I bet it's possible.'" Zeifman said he prefers the linear-transponder satellites, such as SO-50, rather than the FM satellites. He said he may one day get into HF more seriously, but, for now, he finds VHF/UHF/SHF "more fascinating." He said the trip to Greenland, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands with his mother and his sister, was "fantastic," although, he noted, "they may have sometimes been annoyed by my getting up at 3 AM or several times in the night to work passes."

# The Somewhat Dark Side

## Many Special Events Will Be on the Air to Mark the Total Solar Eclipse in August

Radio amateurs from several states will gather in southern Illinois on August 17-21 to operate special event station [W9E](#), leading up to and during the 2017 solar eclipse on August 21. W9E, which will operate from Marion, Illinois, is one of several announced solar eclipse special events.

"This will be the first total eclipse on American soil since 1991, the first on the mainland United States since 1979, and the first to sweep across the entire country since 1918. It will be an event you do not want to miss!" the W9E announcement said. "The far southern tip of the state of Illinois is the only place viewers can see the totality of the eclipse."

W9E plans to operate on 80, 40, and 20 meters (and perhaps other bands, if conditions permit), on CW, SSB, and digital modes (JT65, JT9, and PSK31). All amateur operators visiting the area for the eclipse are invited to visit. A copy of your license and photo ID are required to operate. Amateur Radio license testing also will be offered during the event.

While the W9E special event is under way, organizers are planning a joint exercise with ARES® Illinois District 11 Emergency Coordinator W. Bruce Talley, WA9APQ, hoping not only to assist with local communication during the eclipse but to coordinate with other ARES groups as the eclipse travels from northwest to southeast.

"Our plan is to be proactive and ready to respond as needed," said Talley. "Local volunteers and those from outside the area are welcome to [sign up in the database](#). We are especially interested if you are coming to the area to view the eclipse and know where you will be stationed."



## Other Total Eclipse Special Events

The South Dakota's Black Hills Amateur Radio Club in South Dakota plans to operate [special event K0E](#) on the day of the eclipse, August 21, 1500-1930 UTC, from Harrison, Nebraska. Operation will be on 20 meters (14.260-14.280 MHz) and on VHF and UHF. [Contact](#) Bob Ewing, W0RE, for more information.

The Near Zero Sunlite, Great American Eclipse N0S special event will take place August 20-22, 1400-2200 UTC, in Crystal City, Missouri, sponsored by the [Jefferson County Amateur Radio Club](#). Operation will be on or about 3.850, 7.250, and 14.300 MHz. QSL with SASE to Jim Berger, WA0FQK, 131 Ozark Dr., Crystal City, MO 63019.

K7E will be on the air for the Great American Total Solar Eclipse 2017 special event, August 21-22, 1500-0300 UTC, from Laramie, Wyoming, near the path of totality, on or about 7.183 and 14.256 MHz. QSL [Perry Lehman](#), N7FST, 19828 N. 78th Ln., Glendale, AZ 85308.

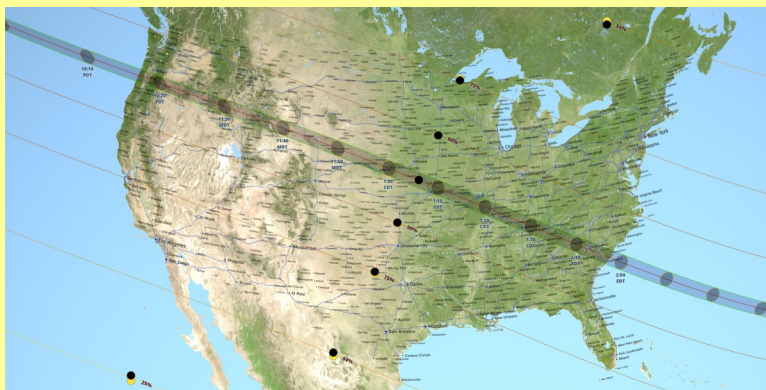
The North East Wyoming Amateur Radio Association ([NEWARA](#)) will field special event W7S from historic downtown Gillette, Wyoming, August 19-21, 1200-0600 UTC, on or about 3.945, 7.265, and 14.265 MHz as well as on 147.360 MHz. QSL to [Garth Crowe](#), WY7GC, P.O. Box 2208, Gillette, WY 82717.

The Lincoln County Amateur Radio Club ([LCARC](#)) will operate special event N7E, August 20-22, 1600-1900 UTC, from Newport, Oregon, on or about 3.820, 7.200, 14.245, and 28.350 MHz. Contact [Michael Eastman](#), N7ONP.

Total Solar Eclipse special event N9E will be on the air on August 21, 1400-2000 UTC, from Hopkinsville, Kentucky, 7.180-7.190 MHz. Contact [Peter Herman](#), KD9VV.

The Lewis and Clark Radio Club ([LCRC](#)) will operate special event K9HAM from Godfrey, Illinois, on August 21, 0900-1700 UTC, on or about 7.225 and 14.280 MHz. [Contact](#) the LCRC for more information.

The Southern Illinois University Amateur Radio Club ([SIUARC](#)) will sponsor W9S, August 18-22, 0000-2359 UTC, from Fulton, Illinois, CW on 160 meters and all modes on 80 through 10, with a focus on the lower bands. Satellites and 6 meters are also possible. QSL to Martin A. Schuette, N9EAT, P.O. Box 29, Fulton, IL 61252.



# RARA MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you would like to join the Rockford Amateur Radio Association, please fill out the form below and mail it (with the membership fee payment) to the address shown at the bottom of the form. If you would like to join at our next meeting (see 1st page for meeting details), fill out the form and bring the form with your payment to the meeting and see our treasurer, Jennifer Van Zieleghe, KD9FMJ. **Thank you for your support!**

## ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Membership Type :  New  Renewal

Annual Fees:  \$20 - Student (up to age 24)

\$35 - Adult  \$25 - 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**