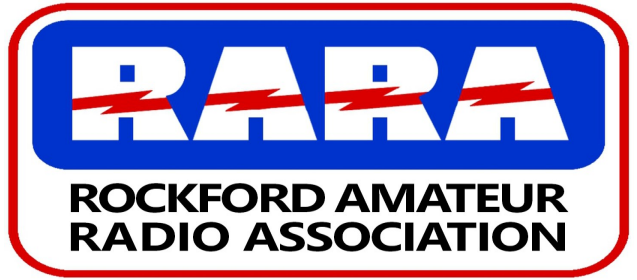


# HAMRAG

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.

## November 2017

## Presidents Message

Greetings All,

Here it is November already and the year is almost over. The cold weather is starting to settle in, and we all know this means that those last minute tower projects are on our minds.

Last month we held our nominations for our officers and board members for 2018, and I am happy to announce we had almost a full slate of candidates. The only position we have open is for a Hamrag editor for 2018. If you are interested in possibly taking this position over please contact one of the Board members.

There is discussion at the board level as to where to hold the annual banquet in January next year. Since we cannot get enough people to take over the entire back room at Gerry's Pizza, I need to know if anyone has any other ideas for another venue, or if the sharing of the room is not an issue. Please think about this and let me know at the November meeting or send me an email at my address listed in the Ham rag.

On a final note **DUES are due by December 31, 2017**. If your dues are not paid by January 31, 2018 you will be removed from the email list when the new Hamrag is posted. This will be reinstated when your dues are paid, but could take a month to finish processing.

For those of you interested in Wires-X, please plan on attending our November meeting where this topic will be presented. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,  
Gordon Seaman KC9NEX  
2017 RARA President

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## NEXT MEETING

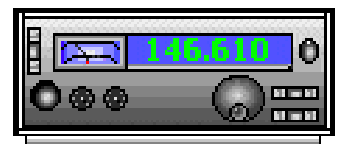
**FRIDAY**  
**November 10, 2017**  
**7:00 pm**

**“Wires-X and DMR Presentation”**

**By: Carl Walthall**  
**N8CDW**

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

**Foundation Room**



## Secretary's Report



### RARA Membership Meeting Minutes October 13, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX. There were 15 people present.

A motion was made by Kurt Eversole, KE9N, to accept the minutes as printed in the Hamrag. Seconded by Ron Callahan, N2RON. The motion passed.

The Treasures report was read by Jennifer Van Zieleghe, KD9FMJ. A motion to accept was made by Larry Schubert, AC9GO. Seconded by Jimmy Curtis, KC9GOL. The motion passed.

No old business.

New business:

Kurt Eversole, KE9N, reported that the club sold our old 2 meter cavity filters for \$350.00.

Jennifer Van Zieleghe, KD9FMJ, reported that Gene Duncan's (W9GD) tower and antenna are still located at the nursing home in Oregon, IL. She inquired about its disposition and will see if the club can remove them.

Jim Hall, WA9EEE, reported that Jim Miller, W4JR, has all of his equipment for sale.

Kurt Eversole, KE9N, reported that he would hold the Illinois QSO party at his home and he had secured the call sign K9K for the event.

Nominations were held for 2018 positions and were as follows:

President: Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX

Vice President: Randy Long, AC9OF

Secretary: Joe Perry, K9JPP

Treasurer: Jennifer Van Zieleghe, KD9FMJ

Trustees: Larry Schubert, AC9GO, Jacek Gajda, KD9ELI, John Goodwin, N9JHG, Greg Kuczek, W9VOX

Ham Rag Editor: Open

A motion to adjourn was made by Jimmy Curtis, KC9GOL, and was seconded by Jennifer Van Zieleghe, KD9FMJ. The motion passed.

### 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 December 2017 issue will be Sunday, November 26, 2017**

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

## Local Events and Information

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 10, 2017** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**November 21, 2017** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

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

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

### RARA Repeater Information

Both repeaters (146.610 and 147.000 (both have a pl 114.8)) will function with both digital and analog radio signals, but the repeaters require 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.

### Area Nets

**Monday Night 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 Jimmy, KC9GCR, (net control). **146.610 (pl 114.8) repeater at 8:00 pm, every Monday, except on holidays.**

**Tuesday Night Tech Net** - at 8:00 pm, **145.110 (pl 123.0)**. Anthony, N9ARB, is net control.

**Wednesday Night Stephenson County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Net** - at 7:00 pm on **147.390 (pl 114.8)**. N9ARB, Anthony, is net control.

**Friday Night Fun Net** - Every Friday night at 8:00 pm on **146.610 (pl 114.8)** repeater with Jimmy, KC9GCR as net control.

### 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 Gadj, 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)

## Election Time

Elections for 2018 Officers and Directors will be finalized at November meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

I ask that **all members** participate by emailing me at [kc9nex@gmail.com](mailto:kc9nex@gmail.com) before our meeting if you are interested in any one of these positions, have questions about responsibilities, or recommend another member for a position.

Below are general descriptions of the responsibilities for each position.

- **President** – presides at all meetings according to the Rockford Amateur Radio Association's constitution, by-laws and rules of order. Appoint all committees, sign official documents and carry out the recommendations of the Board of Directors. The President is also Chairman of the Board.
- **Vice President** – will preside over meetings if President is absent and coordinate meeting presentations.
- **Secretary** – will keep meeting minutes, roll of members, provide applications for membership, and oversee amendments, changes & additions to the constitution and by-laws.
- **Treasurer** – is custodian of monies received and expended, keeping records and issuing the Treasurer's Report to the Board of Directors monthly.
- **Directors (4+)** - The Board of Directors shall include these Officers, a minimum of four Directors, and current editor of the monthly bulletin (Hamrag).

The President appoints the Hamrag editor, webmaster, and repeater committee chairperson. Contact me if you are interested in any of these positions.

73,  
Gordon Seaman  
KC9NEX



## HAM OF THE YEAR 2017

### HAM OF THE YEAR---2017 NOMINATIONS

The Ham of the Year is an honor that is presented to the RARA member(s) who has contributed the most to the club and to amateur radio in general during the year. This year the selection will be made by a 3 member committee established to evaluate the nominations of deserving candidates from those submitted by club members.

Your nominee should be chosen using two basic criteria: The nominee must be a RARA member, and should have performed exemplary service for amateur radio during the year 2017.

More information on this will be presented at the December RARA meeting, and in the next Hamrag. Now is a good time to reflect on the merits of the other members in our organization for the past year.



## News From Around The Globe

### American Red Cross Hails "New Partnership" with ARRL Following Puerto Rico Deployment

The American Red Cross (ARC) this week thanked ARRL and its "Force of 50" hurricane recovery volunteers who deployed to Puerto Rico earlier this month, and it suggested a new level of partnership now exists between the two organizations. ARC Senior Vice President, Disaster Cycle Services Harvey Johnson this week wrote ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, to express his organization's gratitude for "all your amazing volunteers for the unwavering commitment demonstrated during the response to this unprecedented disaster in Puerto Rico." Johnson said the team's actions "made a significant difference" in the lives of those affected.

"This mission marked an exciting new path for our two organizations with it being the first time we deployed ARRL volunteers to a Red Cross relief operation," Johnson wrote. "I continue to hear incredible stories about how the ARRL volunteers supported individuals, communities, and partner organizations during their time in Puerto Rico." ARRL and the American Red Cross have a long-standing memorandum of understanding ([MOU](#)) to cooperate in emergencies and disasters.



American Red Cross

### Aiming for a "Clean Sweep" is Big Part of ARRL November Sweepstakes' Appeal

For many, [ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) (SS) is the premier ARRL fall operating event, with the lure of a "Clean Sweep" being the ultimate goal. The challenge of SS — or "Sweeps" — is to work as many stations in as many of the 83 [ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada \(RAC\)](#) sections as possible within the 24 available hours. The number of sections worked is a score multiplier. Be the first in your neighborhood to work all 83 and qualify for a "Clean Sweep" mug!

SS takes place on separate November weekends. The CW weekend is November 4-6, and the phone (SSB) weekend is November 18-20. The contest period for each contest begins at 2100 UTC on Saturday and continues through 0259 UTC on Monday (remember that the shift back to standard time occurs during the CW weekend). Stations may operate 24 hours of the available 30 hours.

In a change this year, logs are due **5 days** after each event. SS is a "domestic" contest with broad appeal, and even stations with modest equipment and antennas can enjoy success. Many stations like to operate in the QRP category (output of 5 W or less).



### New Digital Modes Changing Complexion of Bands and Perhaps of Ham Radio

The wave of software-based digital modes over the past several years has altered the atmosphere of the HF bands. Some suggest the popularity of modes that make it possible to contact stations neither operator can even hear has resulted in fewer CW and SSB signals on bands like 6 meters and 160 meters. Traditional modes require far more interaction and effort on the part of the operator; the newer digital modes, not so much. The recent advent of the still-beta "quick" FT8 mode, developed by Steve Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT -- the "F" and the "T" in the mode's moniker -- has brought this to a head. Some now wonder if FT8 marks the end of an era and the start of a new, more minimalist age.

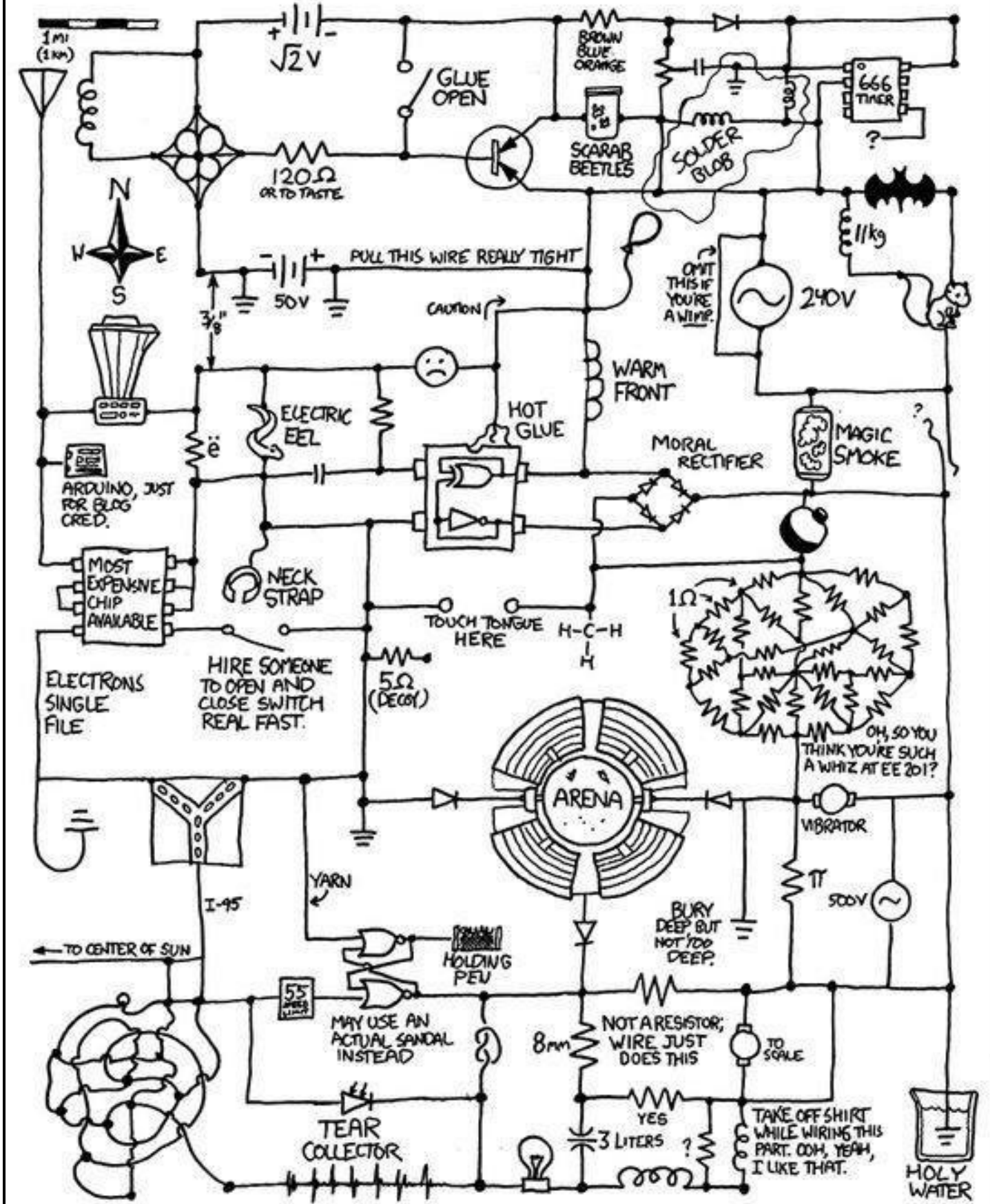
"We've been as surprised as anyone about the rapid uptake of FT8 for making QSOs on the HF bands," Taylor told ARRL this week. Rather than viewing FT8 as a total game-changer, he sees a dividing line between such digital modes and more traditional modes.

"SSB and CW are general-purpose modes," Taylor asserted. "They are good for ragchewing, DXing, contesting, emergency communications, or whatever. FT8 and the other modes in [WSJT-X](#) are special-purpose modes. They are designed for making reliable, error-free contacts using very weak signals -- in particular, signals that may be too weak for the more traditional modes to be usable, or too weak to hear."



Joe Taylor, K1JT

# Understanding a Simple Flow Chart



# 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