

HAMRAG

October
2019

Oct. 11th

Current & Future

ARRL

Activities/Programs

By: Scott DeSantis - KB9VRW

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Membership
Form



Next Meeting: ARRL • Friday Oct. 11th • 7:00 PM

Location: St. Anthony Medical Center • Foundation Room • 5666 E. State Street Rockford, IL

President's Message



2019 RARA Officers & Board

Officers:

President/Webmaster
Randy Long, AC9OF
815-978-6673
randy@rdlgraphics.com

Vice President
Jennifer Van Zieleghe
KD9FMJ
815-222-4221
jenleek@usa.com

Secretary
Greg Kuczek, W9VOX
815-713-5461
w9vox@comcast.net

Treasurer
Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX
815-262-0294,
kc9nex@gmail.com

Directors:

Jacek Gadj, KD9ELI
773-505-5604
hyacinth27109@yahoo.com

Kurt Eversole, KE9N
815-389-2784
kurt.eversole@gmail.com

2 Open Directors
Please Volunteer

Special Projects:

Repeater Chairman
Kurt Eversole, KE9N
815-389-2784
kurt.eversole@gmail.com

Hamrag Editor
Lynn Long, KD9IFP
815-978-6673
randy@rdlgraphics.com

Repeater License Trustee
Robert Larson, KC9ICH
815-540-0309
rlarson4@sbcglobal.net

It's with a sad heart I announce that John Mori, N8TA has resigned from the RARA board this month. As always with RARA family comes first and his family needs him at this time. His friendship, mentoring, insight and guidance will be greatly missed at the board, club and personal level. Please keep John and his family in your prayers.

On a more upbeat note, thank you to all the club members who stepped up last month and volunteered for different positions within RARA. It was exciting to see so many members who have decided to become radioactive. I have updated the elected office and volunteer listings on pages 5-8 to now include all of the members who have volunteered along with the remaining positions and opportunities that are still open.

Unfortunately we have a serious problem that needs to be addressed. This last month it was brought to my attention that two of our current board members have exceeded the allowable service time on the board as outlined in the club's by-laws. This was an oversight last year that needs to be corrected for 2020. We also have three other board members who only have one more year that they can serve on the board. That means two current board members cannot serve in 2020, three more will limit out at the end of 2020, we are already two board members short right now due to the lack of volunteers and one recent resignation in 2019. That is seven out of eight board positions will change within a 14 month period. That is a drastic and unacceptable turnover in such a short time span. This is why we need our membership to step up every year and take an active role at the leadership level. We need a year to train and provide guidance to the next group who will be in leadership in 2021. It's imperative that every year we elect a certain amount of new members to the elected officer positions so that continuity in leadership can continue. This also helps prevent the loss of knowledge on how things should operate and can operate within an active club.

So plan to attend our October 11th meeting and step out of your comfort zone and take on a leadership or volunteer position (see pages 5-8). We need to finalize our slate of elected candidates and volunteers this month so we can vote in our new leadership team at the November 8th meeting.

Come ready to be radioactive in 2020.

Also, remember to turn in your "Ham of the Year" forms to any board member (see page 14).

Randy Long, AC9OF
2019 RARA President



Editor's Note

Another full Hamrag - thanks for the articles and information.

We still need a new Hamrag editor for 2020 - please keep this going and step up and help.

Thank you for the kind words and the support over the past couple of years.

Lynn Long KD9IFP
Hamrag Editor
randy@rdlgraphics.com.



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.

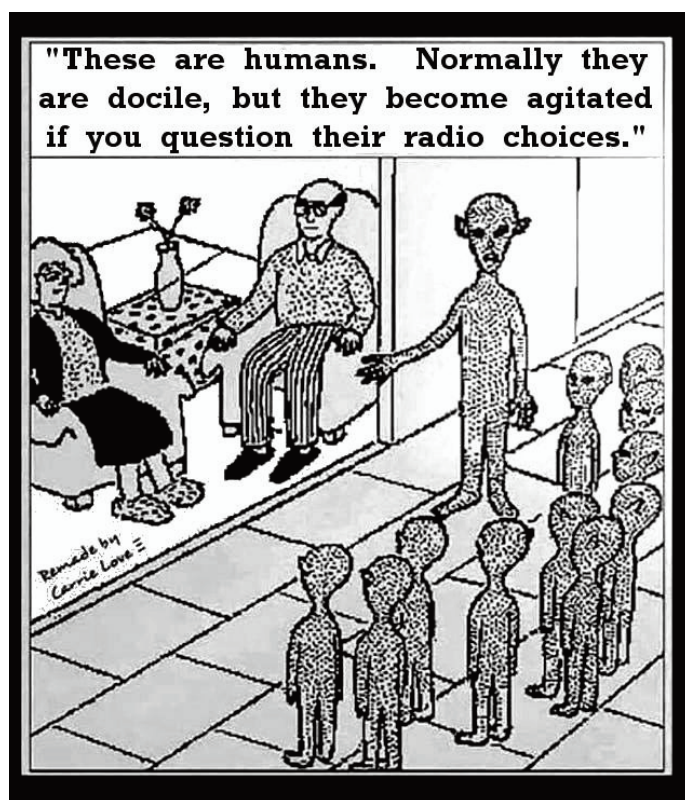
**Everyone is
welcome to attend.**

"The Spring Garden Family Restaurant"
4820 N. 2nd Street
Loves Park, IL 61111

RARA HAMMentor

The program keeps moving forward. We are working on a magazine article, PowerPoint and possible handouts that could be made available for other clubs to start this type of program within their local clubs.

This program will only work locally if you are willing to step up and help. See a board member at the club meeting or give us a call - we can point you in the right direction for help or to become a mentor.



RARA Mission Statement

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



Programs 2019

October - Officer Nominations For 2020
& ARRL - Current & Future Activities/
Programs - Scott DeSantis - KB9VRW

November - Fox Hunting

Meetings

Oct 11, 2019

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

Oct 15, 2019

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

Nov 8, 2019

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

Nov 19, 2019

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

RARA Repeaters

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.



Ham Testing

In September we had 2 successful applicants:

Kuroda, Christopher T.
Technician

Palmer, Gregory B.
Amateur Extra N9GBP

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM Oct. 19, 2019.

Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10AM, no exams started after 10:30.

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. 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 Officers, Directors, Chairmen & Program Coordinators - Responsibilities & Openings For 2020

Nominations for 2020 Officers, Directors, Committee Chairmen, Program Coordinators and Special Event Chairmen will be made at the October 11th meeting. Nominations will be finalized and presented to club members in the November Hamrag and at the October 11th meeting. RARA club members will vote for Officers and Directors at the November 8th meeting.

If you plan to nominate someone other than yourself for an elected or volunteer position at the October RARA club meeting, that club member must be in attendance to accept or pass on the nomination.

I ask that all members participate by emailing me at randy@rdlgraphics.com before our October 11th meeting if you are interested in any one of these positions, or have questions about the responsibilities.

Below and on pages 6 & 8 are the general descriptions and responsibilities for each Officer, Director, Chairman, Coordinator and Special Event position available within RARA for 2020.

President (Elected November Meeting) Open In 2020

Presides at all meetings (monthly club and board 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 and an automatic member of the Repeater Committee. This position starts at the January 2020 club meeting.

Vice President (Elected November Meeting) Open In 2020

Presides over meetings if President is absent. This position is also the coordinator for all of the monthly club meeting programs (selecting and scheduling programs – with input and help from the RARA Board). This position starts January club meeting 2020.

Secretary (Elected November Meeting) Open In 2020

Keeps meeting minutes (monthly club and board meetings), roll of members, provide applications for membership, and oversee amendments, changes & additions to the constitution and by-laws. This position starts January club meeting 2020.

Treasurer (Elected November Meeting) Open In 2020

Is the custodian of monies received and expended, keeping records and issuing the Treasurer's Report to the Board of Directors every month at the RARA board meeting. This position starts January club meeting 2020.

Four Directors (Elected November Meeting) All Four Positions Open In 2020

- 1. James Holich**
- 2. Bill Calow**
- 3. Larry C. Schubert**
- 4. Open**

Attend monthly board meetings and are required to be current active RARA members.

The Board of Directors shall include above Officers, plus a minimum of four Directors, and current editor of the monthly bulletin (Hamrag). All four positions start January club meeting 2020.

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RARA Offices & Volunteer Opportunities...

Other Openings/Opportunities to Volunteer that should also be filled by the November 2019 RARA meeting and approved during the first board meeting of 2020:

The goal for 2020 is to have the following volunteer positions filled by RARA club members other than the elected board members. The goal is that no RARA club member or board member will need to be in any more than one elected or volunteer position during the year of 2020. With that said any club officer or member may volunteer to be on as many committees or volunteer to help with as many events as they desire during the year. We have over 50 club members and are growing each month – there is no reason we as a club can't make this happen – step up today and help RARA.

NOTE: If we do not have RARA club members step up to fill a chairman or coordinator position, along with an adequate number of volunteers to participate in planning and to execute an event or program, non-supported volunteer opportunities will be dropped for 2020. Club member participation will determine how active or inactive RARA is for 2020 – it will be your choice and the board will support the membership's decision on RARA's direction for 2020.

RARA Volunteer Opportunities For 2020

Hamrag Editor (Volunteer Position*) Open In 2020

Gather information, articles, photos and lay out the HamRag. Then provide a PDF file of the HamRag by the first of every month to the webmaster to be posted at the RARA website. Also, to mail out hard copies to members who have paid and requested to receive the HamRag in that form. This position starts with the January 2020 issue.

Webmaster (Volunteer Position*) Open In 2020

Maintain and update the RARA website as needed. This position starts January 1, 2020.

Field Day Chairman (Volunteer Position*) Open In 2020

- 1. Larry Schubert**
- 2. Thomas Shouler**

To coordinate the RARA club members in the annual ARRL Field Day event. This will include creating a committee for the purpose of organizing, planning and the execution of the event according to the rules provided by the ARRL. Planning for this event is to start as soon as the chairman is approved.

September Ham Fest Booth Chairman (Volunteer Position*) Open In 2020

To coordinate the RARA club members in the annual September Ham Fest event. This will include creating a committee for the purpose of organizing, planning and the execution of the RARA booth at the event. **This is an important event as it is RARA's only source of fund raising each year.** Not only will this include setup, running and teardown of the RARA booth for the event, but during the year collect items that are donated to the club that may need cleaning or inspection. This committee will need to find volunteers to help throughout the year to make this a successful event. Planning for this event is to start as soon as the chairman is approved.

Repeater Committee Chairman (Volunteer Position*) Open In 2020

- 1. Thomas Shouler**
- 2. John Goodwin**

To coordinate the RARA club members in the operation and upkeep of the two RARA repeater systems. This will include creating a committee for this purpose. The RARA Board President is an automatic member of this committee. This position starts January 1, 2020.

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RARA Offices & Volunteer Opportunities...

Repeater Trustee (Volunteer Position*) Open In 2020

1. John Goodwin

The Repeater Trustee is the "chief control operator" for the club station license. It is the duty of the trustee to act in the best interests of RARA, the station license belongs to RARA, not to the trustee individually. The Repeater Trustee ensures that the two RARA repeaters are operated within the repeater code as outlined by the RARA Board. The Repeater Trustee must be an active member of RARA who will follow all FCC rules at all times. This position starts Jan. 1, 2020.

Ham Mentor Coordinator (Volunteer Position*) Open In 2020

1. James Holich

To coordinate the RARA club members with Hams that request help through RARA's Ham Mentor Program. This person will be the main contact person for the mentor program. This can include creating a committee for the purpose of organizing, planning and the execution of the program or it can be coordinated by a single member. This position starts January 1, 2020.

Club Meeting Greeter Chairman (Volunteer Position*) Open In 2020

1. Jon Cleaver

To coordinate the RARA club members to be door greeters to welcome potential, new and old members at the door during monthly club meetings. This will include creating a committee for the purpose of organizing, planning and the execution of the program. Planning for this event is to start as soon as the chairman is approved. This position starts January 1, 2020.

Monday Night Net Coordinator (Volunteer Position*) Open In 2020

To coordinate the RARA club members to be net control operators of the RARA Monday Night Net (on the 146.610 or 147.00 RARA repeaters). This will include getting members to volunteer to be net control and/or backup net control. Net to be conducted on Monday nights based on the number of volunteers available (once a month, twice

a month or weekly). It is also the responsibility of the coordinator to ensure that the approved RARA net script is followed.

Annual January Awards Banquet Chairman (Volunteer Position*) Open In 2020

To coordinate the annual RARA awards banquet. This will include creating a committee for the purpose of organizing, planning and the execution of the event. Planning for this event is to start as soon as the chairman is approved. This position starts January 1, 2020.

Special Event/Program Coordinator(s)/ Chairmen (Volunteer Positions as needed*) Open In 2020

Other than the events or programs listed above – other opportunities may arise during the year or you have an idea for a program or event that you would like to see during 2020. Such as a fox hunt, special outreach, special event that you think RARA should be a part of. Step up and make your case to the RARA board and volunteer to be the chairman. As the chairman, your duties will include creating a committee for the purpose of organizing, planning and the execution of that program or event.

Club Meeting Program Presenter(s) (Volunteer Positions – RARA needs 10 programs for monthly club meetings in 2020)

- 1. James Holich - Antenna Tuners**
- 2. Scott DeSantis - KB9VRW - ARRL**

- 3.**
- 4.**
- 5.**
- 6.**
- 7.**
- 8.**
- 9.**
- 10.**

This is the one volunteer opportunity where any RARA club member can volunteer to do one program or as many as they would like to do during the next year. Just volunteer by letting the board know what your topic is going to be for the night, what month you would like to take and get ready to present. We would like to complete

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RARA Offices & Volunteer Opportunities...

the program calendar for 2020 during the last two months of this year. That way club members can see what the programs are going to be for the upcoming year. Step out of your comfort zone, take on a club program in 2020 and have fun.

(*) This is part of all the above volunteer position descriptions:

All volunteer positions can only be filled by active RARA members and must be approved by a vote of the RARA Board. All volunteer positions answer to the RARA board and the RARA board has the final say on how a program or

event is run. Any funds needed for a program or event must first be approved by the RARA board before the volunteer can commit the club to payment for outside services, fees or other items that might be needed for the program or event. It is the responsibility of all program or event volunteers to keep the RARA board up-to-date on the planning progress or execution of an event or program throughout the year as needed or requested by the RARA board.

Contact me if you are interested in any of these positions - Randy AC9OF

My SWR Is Too High To Transmit by Kerry Tatlow KD9MAP

Occasionally I hear folks say that they are afraid to run their transmitter if their SWR is too high, fearing damage to the final amp.

I've consulted several sources, and I think that is probably not true for a modern rig.

Looking at the operating manuals for modern ICOM and Yaesu rigs, they say that the xmtr has protection circuitry to automatically reduce power to prevent damage, whatever the cause. (It may not have that protection on all of its bands, so you must consult your operating manual.)

In high SWR situations, the reflected power doesn't get reabsorbed by your xmtr circuitry; it gets re-reflected back toward the antenna. If the SWR is real bad, the power gets reflected back and forth several times before eventually radiating out of the antenna. Each reflection results in losses in the transmission line, and it is merely those losses you are trying to avoid when your goal is low SWR.

Remember also that an antenna with a single resonance frequency can't possibly give a perfect SWR across an entire band without using an antenna tuner.

I think if you find yourself in a high SWR situation that you can't quickly diagnose and remedy, go ahead and use the transmitter anyway, as long as people are copying you successfully. Of course you will diagnose and fix it whenever you are able, but meanwhile don't panic about breaking your rig just because your SWR is too high.

Good sources of info about this:

- Your rig's operating manual.
- ARRL Handbook.
- "Reflections III Transmission Lines and Antennas," by W2DU is a must-read. <https://archive.org/details/ReflectionsIII>
- By far the best book I've found on how RF (and LF AC) moves thru transmission lines is Johnson's 1950 "Transmission Lines and Networks." It is the most accurate and in-depth explanation of this stuff. However, the math is (necessarily) very very difficult.

Many thanks to Kurt KE9N for reviewing this article before publication!

Volunteer & Help!!!!!!

The Head of the Rock Regatta is a rowing race of 5,000 meters (3.2 miles) on the Rock River, beginning at Martin Park and finishing at the YMCA. It is a sanctioned event of the United States Rowing Association, requiring the observance of US Rowing race protocol. The Head of the Rock has expanded over the past 34 years into one of the Midwest's premier rowing events with clubs also competing from as far away as Alaska. There are now over 65 teams with 2000 participants. Collegiate teams are represented, and 16 US Rowing licensed referees maintain safety and fairness of the race. The event attracts over 5,000 spectators each year.

The Rockford Regatta began in 1985 as a challenge match between the University of Wisconsin and Northwestern University. The original match was conceived by local Rockford rowers, Rob Espeseth (a U.S. Olympian) and Dennis Kaderabek. The very next year 275 athletes and 14 clubs competed in the 1st Annual Head of the Rock Regatta. The Head of the Rock has grown over the past 34 years into one of the Midwest's premier rowing events. It is a

sanctioned event of the United States Rowing Association and is listed in the US Rowing Rules of Rowing as a Nationally Recognized Regatta. For at least 12 years amateur radio has been the go-to group for radio communications.

This year we are looking for at least 22 hams to participate in this event. You do not need to belong to any group or organization to be involved in this great event.

You do not need to have expensive equipment to be involved (an Ht will do) just a willingness to be involved and help no matter what the weather may bring.

This will be a great chance to not only test your equipment but also your communicating skills with other hams from northern Illinois. Bring your families along to help you out or just have them enjoy the day on the rock river.

If you would like to get involved please contact Bill Calow KC9OJP at kc9ojp@comcast.net

Could You, Would You Like To Be....

Calling all RARA club members who would like to have the opportunity to be net control for the new Monday night net.

As of August 26, the RARA Monday night net came back to the 610 repeater in our new Not-A-Net Net format. This new net format makes it easier for someone who has never had the opportunity to be net control to step in and operate like a pro. The new format is relaxed, more conversational, easier for both the listener and the net controller. Step up and volunteer, see how easy it is and how much fun you'll have.

If you would like to volunteer to be net control there are only a handful of requirements that you need to meet. First, you must be a RARA member. Second, you must have a commanding, quality signal to the 610 repeater. Third, the ability to read a simple paragraph to open the net for the evening. And finally, you must want to have fun.

If you're interested please contact one of the RARA board members and volunteer today.

This is a great radio active opportunity.

Area Nets

MONDAY

7:00 PM - RARA Monday night Not-A-Net net (Rockford Amateur Radio Association) The 146.610 MHz repeater has a minus offset. The PL tone is 114.8 Hz.

8:00 PM - VARA (Valley Amateur Repeater Association) Net 176.79 (-, 107.2)

8:00 PM - WX9MCS Repeater Ham Radio Traders Net (Echolink) 444.725

8:00 PM - McHenry County ARES/RACES Net 146.835 (-,91.5)(This net is also conducted on the 1st and 3rd Saturday's of each month @ 8:00pm)

8:30 PM - Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club Net 146.730 (-, 100.0)

9:00 PM - 10 Meter Net 28.375 Rockford, IL

TUESDAY

7:00 PM - Rock County ARES / RACES 145.450 - PL 123.0 Janesville, WI

8:00 PM - Tuesday Night Tech Net, 145.110 (pl 123.0). Tony, N9ARB, is net control.

9:00 PM - Wisconsin ARES / RACES Statewide - Digital 145.610 - KB9UNX-10 Winlink 2000

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM - Wednesday Night Stephenson County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Net, 147.390 + offset (pl 114.8). N9ARB, Tony, is net control.

7:00 PM - WX9MCS Repeater National Weather Service in Chicago/Romeoville Weekly Weather Net 444.725 (Echolink)

8:00 PM - Freeport Swap Net 147.390 Freeport, IL

8:00 PM - N9SZV Six Meter Net 51.540 FM Simplex

9:00 PM - Madison Amateur Radio Association 147.150 - PL 123.0 Madison, WI

THURSDAY

7:00 PM - Thursday Night Northern Illinois ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Net and Thursday Night Northern Illinois Skywarn net, on the 147.195 + offset (pl 114.8) repeater.

9:00 PM - ATV Net Video 439.250 (cable channel 57) Voice 144.340 Rockford, IL

FRIDAY

8:00 PM - Friday Night Fun Net - Every Friday night, on the 146.610 - offset (pl 114.8) RARA repeater with Jimmy, KC9GCR, as net control.

SATURDAY

8:00 PM - McHenry County ARES/RACES Net 146.835 (-,91.5) This net is conducted on the 1st and 3rd Saturday's of each month (also ever Monday @ 8:00pm)

SUNDAY

4:30 PM - Illinois ARES Net 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month 145.350 - PL 107.2 (Chicago) 46.925 - PL 100.0 (Kane County)

7:30 PM - Arrow Net 144.410 Woodstock / Mc Henry

8:00 PM - Big Thunder ARES Net 147.375 - PL 100.0 Belvidere, IL

8:00 PM - Southern Wisconsin Listeners (SWL) Net 147.150 - PL 123.0 Madison, WI

OTHER NETS

HF Net Information - Head on over to the RARA website and take a look at the "Nets" page. We now have listings and links to great HF nets.

Ham Radio Adventures by Larry Schubert - AC9GO

It happened so long ago that I can't remember the year let alone the date. I remember that I was tuning around the ham radio bands when I heard what sounded like a desperate call for help. "Can anybody help me? This is the yacht Honeybee." Was it a hoax? I wondered. Anyone who has a radio on the amateur frequencies should know that you have to identify your station with your call sign, but no the plea continued. "This is the yacht Honeybee. I need help. Can anybody help me?" By law at the time, no one could legally help this desperate man. It almost hurt to listen to his calls. These calls had gone on for some time. I know it seemed like an hour, but it may have only been 10 or 15 minutes. I held back from saying anything, and was about to pick up the mike when another Ham called to the man and explained that he had better have a reason to be on the air, and that he was in violation of federal law.

The man came back with an explanation that sounded more like fiction than fact. It couldn't have been written any better by Hemingway. Imagine, if you can, that you are a deck hand on a yacht in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean when the captain and owner of the yacht dies of a heart attack. It is dark. There is no one on the yacht but you, and now a dead body. The Captain had only given you the information as to where you are going, and you know you left Miami. You have no idea where you are, or how to get to where you are set to meet the rest of the family. It is dark, as dark as only the sea can make it, with nothing but the yacht to provide light. By the compass on the boat, you know what direction you are headed, and really little else. Scary to think about isn't it.

At this point another group of Hams joined the first to help this man. One called the Coast Guard in Washington D.C., and another called Miami who handed it off to New Orleans because they could make better contact because of the way radio waves skip in the ionosphere at the

frequency where they were transmitting. Here in the upper midwest I could hear most of the conversation which lasted late that night. I remember the Hams relaying information to the man that at a certain point he would see two lights from light houses, and that he should make a turn to a set heading to the south. This was before the days of GPS, and satellite telephones let alone cell phones, which would be almost worthless in that situation. At some point, the man was able to get to his destination. It was this incident that perhaps precipitated a change in the law, because soon after this, the law was changed. At this time, if you have an emergency and no license, and Ham radio is the only form of communication available, you may use it to contact someone for help but only if you are in a life threatening situation.

Over the years Hams have provided assistance to people in need wherever communication is needed. They are the only means of communication many times when disaster hits. You will find them in large numbers at times when a hurricane has wiped out all other forms of communication. Hams spot tornadoes for community protection. Out west you may find large groups of Ham operators, helping keep track of forest fires, and fire fighters. Hams meet daily on a Ham radio network to assist ships at sea, (14.300 mhz) and let them know the latest in weather developments, as well as vessels that are missing at sea. Today we often communicate by digital means where large quantities of information can be transferred at one time like names of hurricane survivors for family and friend inquiries.

A number of years ago I went with a number of Hams from the Rockford area to provide communication for the victims of the Plainfield, Illinois tornado. When we arrived most of us were asked to provide communication for the Salva-

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Ham Radio Adventures...

tion Army that was providing meals and other items 24 hours a day to anyone who needed help. The Hams in the area were asked if we could provide some relief to the Hams in the Plainfield area that had been on the air for most of the week, and needed some down time. I was there for 24 hours straight. The destruction was unbelievable. Whole subdivisions were wiped out. All utilities were destroyed, and I was assigned to a truck that was providing hot meals to everyone all night long. We provided meals to utility workers, helpers, as well as victims of the F-5 tornado that had taken 29 lives and injured over 350 people just the Tuesday afternoon before. The tornado is considered the strongest to hit Illinois in the twentieth century. It is the only F-5 known to ever hit the greater Chicago area.

There was no warning. The weather bureau had issued a severe thunder storm warning. After this storm, the bureau learned to issue tornado watches and warnings in time for people to seek shelter. Ham radio plays a part in this as well as weather spotters to spot troubling weather before it hits. This is not to down play the addition of Doppler radar and the computerized models that help detect these storms. Radar can tell them where it is possible, but people have to see the storm to detect tornadoes.

I was so tired when I left Plainfield that I stopped along side of I 39 between I 80 and Rockford because I was falling asleep. The 24 hours without sleep finally took it's toll. I was tired but fulfilled because I was able to help a lot of people that night just providing communication between net control and the people I was working with for the Salvation Army. We heard a lot of stories that day from the people that survived the storm as well as the generosity of the people that donated food and clothing to the Salvation Army. My means of communicating that day was the cheapest handheld radio on the market at the time. It was a small Kenwood handy talky. I had two batteries, which lasted the whole 24 hours or so that I was there. I think that it ran about 5

Watts on high power and about 150 Miliwatts on low, and I had to run it on high most of the time. Nothing fancy, this little thing had thumb wheels to set the frequency, and switches for the tone. There were no memory channels. If you didn't remember a frequency, and it's sub-audible tone you were not able to get into the repeater.

There have been a number of Ham radio adventures through the years. Like the time I chased a small tornado down the road in Michigan. Got a little close for comfort on that one! Listening to a ship in the Pacific talking to a Doctor on shore about a medical problem that a sailor had with an infected abscess on his shoulder, and what they needed to do before they got him to shore. These types of things used to all be taken care of by Ham radio, as well as servicemen calling home for Christmas with phone patches.

I remember one night listening for the Hurricane net at about the time the storm was hitting the shore in the south. A number of guys were trying to check in, but the storm had disrupted communications so bad that they could not hear each other. At the time I was running the Illinois Single Sideband net, and well versed in running a net, since I could hear most of the people calling I hopped on the air and suggested that I could take check ins until the net control could take over. After a little while he showed up, and apparently had been copying me because he knew who all had checked in.

There have been a lot things I've done over the years with Ham radio. Some of it on the air, and some just listening. As I write this there is a storm about to hit Florida. There are Hurricane nets set up on 20m and 40m. On 20m 14.325 mhz upper side band, and on 40 m at 7.268 mhz lower side band. These are run out of the National Hurricane Center. Other frequencies to watch include the Maritime mobile net on 20m at 14.300 mhz, and three 80m LSB nets at 3.815, 3.950, and 3.940 mhz. Good spots to listen to, and who knows you may be able to help in some way. If you aren't licensed yet, we can help you

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Ham Radio Adventures...

with that. The ARRL has plenty of resources. The test is 35 questions. Passing is only 75% or 27 out of the 35 questions. There is no longer a morse code requirement to pass any of the Ham radio tests. The tests are multiple choice. They are taken from a pool of questions that changes each 4 years. <http://www.arrl.org/question-pools> is the url to the question pools for all three licenses. The Technician is the first, then General second, and for all the privileges the Exrta class. Practice tests are available at several places on the internet. When I took my Extra class license in 2012, I used several. I had an ap on my phone, I used several on the Internet. The Arrl.org had a practice test. QRZ.com had a practice test both good, but the one I liked the most was at HamStudy.org. I also purchased an Extra class license book from the ARRL. If you are just starting out. I would suggest that you get a

license manual from the ARRL. It will cover almost everything you need for the Technician license. The club (RARA) will supply you with an Elmer, that's what we Hams call a mentor in Ham speak, and any other help you need along the way for setting up your station or anything. On top of that, the club offers programs once a month on topics like Building or installing antennas. Satellite or space station communication, digital communication, low power communication, using Linux in place of Microsoft, or Apple in your computer, portable communication, setting up a ham radio in your car or RV, and the list goes on. Say, if I can help, let me know. The tests in the area are listed here in the Rag. I want to talk to you on the air.

73 from Larry AC9GO EMAIL
larry.schubert@gmail.com

RARA Makes a Donation To The Roscoe VFW Post

RARA made a donation and thanked the Roscoe VFW post for allowing RARA to conduct Field Day at thier post location. This marks the third year of this great working relationship between the Roscoe VFW and RARA. **A BIG THANK YOU!**



HAM Of The Year

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 committee appointed by the RARA Board. This committee will evaluate the nominations of deserving candidates from those submitted by club members. All nominations need to be submitted on or before the November 8th RARA Meeting.

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

Email or give your nomination form to one of the RARA Board Members and they will pass it along to the Ham of The Year committee.

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 2019.

HAM Of The Year

I nominate _____ Callsign _____

To be RARA's 2019 "Ham Of The Year" for the following reasons:

Submitted By: _____ Callsign _____

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 cover for meeting details), fill out the form and bring the form with your payment to the meeting and see our treasurer. **Thank you for your support!**



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

website: w9axd.org

Membership Type: New (New memberships after July 1st are 1/2 price) Renewal

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

\$35 - Adult (25-61 years old) \$25 - Senior (Starts the year you will turn 62)

Above rate includes the
RARA monthly newsletter, HamRag (website download)
HamRag 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

All membership applications to become either a new member or to be reinstated as a member of RARA must be approved by the RARA board.

Approved: _____ Membership Year ____/____/____ to ____/____/____