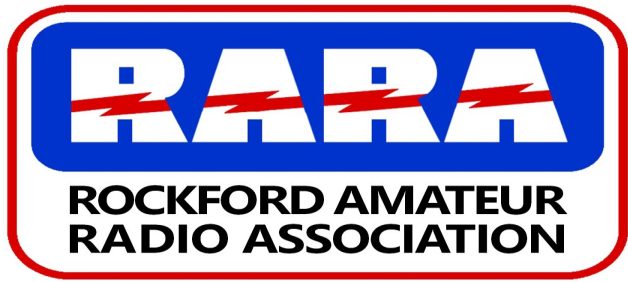




HAMRAG



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.

December 2023

Presidents Message

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hello Everyone,

Our December meeting will be an online (Google Meet) meeting at 7:00pm about ham radio show and tell. Pick out an item ham radio related to show us and tell us why you like it. It's always fun to learn and see other people's things and get some new ideas to try.

The meeting link is: <https://meet.google.com/sdi-xxrn-zfp>

Last month we held our nominations for our officers and Board members for 2024, and I am happy to announce we had almost a full slate of candidates. Congratulations to those who came forward and volunteered their time in the various positions so that RARA continues to offer ham radio activities and services to the community. The only position we have open is for a Webmaster for 2024. If you can help us by taking this position, please contact one of the Board members. We need your help!

RARA annual DUES are due by December 31, 2023. Please consider joining RARA and paying your dues for 2024. The membership form is found on the last page of the Hamrag, and also is posted on the RARA Facebook page. Your contribution keeps our repeaters going, as well as provides the funds to sponsor various activities throughout the year, and promoting our efforts to help new people join the ham radio ranks. If your dues are not paid by January 31, 2024 you will be removed from the email list when the new Hamrag is posted. This will be reinstated when your dues are paid.

I want to thank all of the RARA members for their work and ideas that led us to have a very good year. Please continue to support the new Board and Verna Schubert, KD9YUM, as the new Hamrag editor by submitting your articles and information.

I hope to see you Friday night on Google Meet!

73,
Kurt Eversole - KE9N

President's Message - page 1
Santa Net - page 2
Local Events & Info. - page 3
Operating Events - page 4
It's Christmas Time - page 5
Year End Review - page 6
DX News - page 7 & 8
Ham Of The Year - page 9
Hamfest Information page 10
Membership Form - page 11

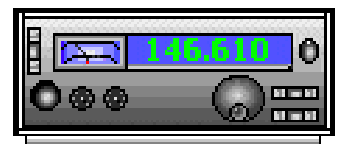
NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
December 8, 2023
7:00 pm

“Ham Radio Show and Tell”
(online meeting only)

On Google Meet
The meeting link is:

<https://meet.google.com/sdi-xxrn-zfp>



Calling Santa on 3.916

Get the kids on the air with Santa Net!

Hello and Holiday Greetings to all!

www.CQSanta.com is the place where you can get your child, grandchild, neighbor child or special needs folks on the air to talk to the Big Man himself, Santa Claus! For 18 years on 3.916 MHz we have hosted the Santa Net, where you can get on our list and we will check it twice!

We have a live stream on YouTube every night as well, so if you're a tech class or don't have a license, or just don't have a radio to use, we can also do a one-way shout-out to your kids. SWL folks are welcome as well.

So go to www.CQSanta.com and tell us your call sign (or let us know if you don't have one), what the kids' names and ages are, and what they might like for Christmas - maybe some "Secret Santa" stuff like the name of their pet... Santa enjoys uploaded videos to YouTube and linked to our site as well!

We hope you will participate this year... we're on every night from 7:00 Central (01:00 UTC) right up to Christmas Eve.

Thank you Santa Net Relays and NCS,
Ed KI4YTV



2024 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-633-0089, n9vju@comcast.net
Vice President - Larry McFall, KD9HKX, 815-900-1820, lpmcfall@charter.net
Secretary - Larry McFall, KD9HKX, 815-900-1820, lpmcfall@charter.net
Treasurer - Verna Schubert, KD9YUM, 815-505-8170, schubie2@charter.net

Directors:

Antonio Felix, KD9YUK, 815-566-5705, toniofelix@hotmail.com
Larry Lisle, K9KZT, 815-397-9595, l.lisle@usa.net
Matt Marshall, W3MBX, 815-222-5959, matthew.marshall@gmail.com
Kevin Puckett, N9EGF, 815-218-1551, krpuckett@gmail.com

Hamrag Editor - Verna Schubert, KD9YUM, 815-505-8170, schubie2@charter.net

Webmaster - Open

Repeater License Trustee - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, kc9nex@gmail.com

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

FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Meets every Friday morning from 7:30 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 Spring Garden Family Restaurant"

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



Local Events and Information

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 8, 2023 - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm on Google Meet

December 20, 2023 - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm on Google Meet

January 12, 2024- General RARA Meeting

January 24, 2024 - RARA Board Meeting

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.

Local Net Information

Mon - 7:00pm - RARA Info. Net & CW Lesson, 146.610 (-) offset, pl 114.8
8:00pm - McHenry Cnty. RACES Net, 146.835 (-) offset, pl 91.5

Tues - 7:00pm - Health & Tech Net & CW Lesson , 146.610 (-) offset, pl 114.8
7:00pm - Rock County Public Service Net, 145.450 (-) offset, pl 123.0

Wed - 7:00pm - Stephenson Cnty. ARES Net, 147.390(+) offset, pl 114.8
7:30pm - Greater Beloit Radio Net, 147.120 (+) offset, pl 123.0

Thurs - 7:00pm - Northern Illinois Skywarn Training Net, 147.195 (+) offset, pl 114.8, with the Health & Tech Net & CW Lesson following.

Fri - 8:00pm - Friday Night Fun Net, KC9GCR, 146.610 (-) offset, pl 114.8

Sat - 8:00pm - Saturday Ragchew Net, 146.610 (-) offset, pl 114.8
9:00pm - Saturday Night Fun Net Milw., 146.910 (-) offset, pl 127.3

Mon. thru Friday - 8:00am to 9:00am - Senile Net, 14.287 (HF USB)

Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please call me, or email me at schubie2@charter.net

Cut-off for the January 2024 issue will be Friday, December 29, 2023

Verna, KD9YUM, Editor

Operating Events

ARRL 10-Meter Contest

Introduction and How to Operate

Contest Objective: For amateurs worldwide to exchange information with as many stations as possible on the 10-meter band.

Your [ARRL membership](#) helps support the ARRL Contest Program – the world’s largest with many different events from HF through microwave. Along with your membership, you’ll get free access to the National Contest Journal, the ARRL’s online archive of QST articles, and the Technical Information Service. Contesting builds skills and understanding – come join the fun!

Contest Period (All dates are maintained in the [ARRL contest calendar](#)):

Second full weekend in December. Begins 0000 UTC Saturday and runs through 2359 UTC Sunday. Operate for a maximum of 36 hours out of the 48-hour period. Off times must be at least 30 minutes long.

Log Deadline: Upload your log at contest-log-submission.arrl.org no later than SEVEN (7) days after the contest is over at 2359 UTC. Paper log forms are available on the [ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#) web page.

Bands and Modes: Use only the 28 MHz band. Both phone and CW may be used. Contact stations only once per mode.

Categories: Single Operator and Single Operator Unlimited stations in any power category can enter as Mixed-Mode, CW-Only, or Phone-Only. Multioperator stations may only enter as Mixed-Mode. See the Special Rules and HF Categories sections for details.

Limited Antennas Overlay: Any Single Operator or Single Operator Unlimited entrant can enter using the Limited Antennas Overlay. Operation is limited to the use of single-element antennas such as a single vertical, end-fed wire, or a single dipole antenna no more than 50 feet above ground at its highest point. The antenna(s) may cover multiple bands, as in the case of multiband verticals and dipoles with fan or trap constructions.

Contacts: All stations may contact any other station on both CW and Phone.

Exchange: All stations send a signal report. W/VE stations, including Alaska and Hawaii) send their state or province. (District of Columbia stations send “DC”.) Mexican stations send their state or province. DX stations send a serial number. Maritime mobile stations send ITU Region (1-3).



It's Christmas Time

What to buy your Ham for Christmas

by Larry Schubert AC9GO

Let's face it, hams are not the easiest to buy for at Christmas time, or for our birthdays for that matter. So let's give our loved ones some ideas. Most of us like personalized baseball type hats with our call and our name. From time to time we need another because we do tend to wear them until they are old and worn out, but beyond that there is never anything obvious.

Now my daughter came up with a couple of sweat shirts this past couple of years that I really have enjoyed. One says "All you really need is ham radio" and the other says "ham radio Grandpa. like any other Grandpa, but radio active." Just had to wear that one to see my radiologist. He said "You know you aren't radioactive don't you?" "No, I said just active on my radio." I like to see him smile. I think those are available on Amazon.

The ARRL has a store where you might find something for your ham. The Radio Amateur handbook might be a good gift. They still have the "100" edition for 100 years. And if your Ham likes to put up antennas the Antenna book might be a good choice. They have a number of books, and if you know your Ham's interest if it be to upgrade the license or make something with a micro computer, they have a number of books to cover it, including E-books. They also have apparel like shirts, jackets and rain gear.

A few other places to look might be Ham Radio Outlet, DX Engineering, or Gigaparts. I've done business with all three of these, and they seem to be reputable. They also generally have catalogs on line, and you could get some ideas from them. Another ham outlet is R&L Electronics. I have never purchased anything from them, but I've never heard anything bad about them. They do have a catalog on their web site.

Here is something almost all hams would like. It's called Hamclock. Hamclock runs on a Raspberry Pi computer, and will run on any 1080p monitor or TV. Inovato has the computer called Quadra and everything loaded into it including several ham radio programs for \$49.95 You can check it out on several videos available on YouTube, and on their website inovato.com. One of the better videos that I've seen was made by W6LG. The clock that this replicates was a Geotron that most hams could not afford because it cost thousands of dollars.

Does your ham like electronic kits? One of the best resources I've found is a company called Jameco Electronics at Jameco.com. They have a fantastic selection of all kinds of kits from simple things like a small Christmas tree with LED's to micro computer kits that you can use to build any number of things to learn what you can do with a small dedicated micro board, Plus small Robots.

If your ham likes audio systems check out Parts Express at parts-express.com. They have all kinds of speakers and kits to build speakers, as well as amplifiers, and audio parts. They also have Solder stations and solder from the small tube to the one pound rolls.

Well I hope I've given you a little help buying for your ham. Every year I'm asked what I want, and I have a hard time thinking of things. Usually, I can't really think of anything on the run. Whatever you get I'm sure your ham will like it, and have a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

73, Larry Schubert, AC9GO

Year End Review 2023

By Larry Schubert, AC9GO

Under the leadership of Kurt, KE9N, and the RARA officers and Board, the club was able to open up after Covid and once again have in person meetings and events. With the help of many club members, we were able to get together and enjoy the fellowship of ham radio.

In the spring we had a get together at the YMCA Camp Winnebago, just off of Highway 2, north of Rockford. The brain child of Larry, K9KZT, the event was a no cost, no frill get together where we were able to buy things, sell things, and visit with a number of our friends, many that we had met on the air, but had never seen in person. The camp was secured by Matt, W3MBX. Everyone enjoyed the get together, and it was deemed a success.

Field Day 2023 was held at the YCMA camp as well. Again Matt, W3MBX was instrumental in procuring the site, and Kevin, N9EGF, was able to get a TV interview that aired on the local news more than once, and brought a number of people to the site. In addition, Kurt brought his RV to the camp, and the hams used his facilities to run Field day. We had a number of hams using the GOTA (Get On The Air) station in the pavilion, where visitors had a chance to talk on the air for the first time. The station generated a lot of interest in ham radio, and several people said they would be interested in a licensing class. Larry, K9KXT, and I put one together and ended up with three in the class. One of the teens passed the test, and the other is planning on taking the test soon. Tony got KD9YUK, and my XYL surprised me after she got the ham bug at a GOTA station that she visited while on vacation to see her family out in California. She took her test after studying on her own and is now known as Verna, KD9YUM. She is now working on her General class license, and by the way she loves to cook and loves her call.

Another event that the club was involved with was the Boy Scout's JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) along with the Big Thunder Amateur Radio Club in Belvidere. RARA set up five stations, Big Thunder set up several fox hunts for the kids, and also answered a number of their questions. The event was held at the YMCA camp which has turned out to be our favorite spot for group get togethers. Along with talking with people around the US and Canada, the kids even made at least one contact in Germany. The scouts were also witness to some digital communications around the world. There were a lot of hams involved in the event, and the kids were able to experience some things that they hadn't been exposed to before. Who knows, it could trigger an interest that could last a lifetime, and they might invent something that saves the world, or makes life a little better for everyone. Jon, AC9VE, was the organizer of the event and also was the Scoutmaster. Also contributing was Kurt, KE9N, Kevin, N9EGF, Matt, W3MBX, Tony, KD9YUK, Dave, W9CJS, Jim, KC9GOL, Verna, KD9YUM, and myself were all working with the scouts, and I'm sorry if I've missed someone. The Big Thunder club also had a number of members there.

POTA (Parks On The Air) has seen a lot of activity at Rock Cut State Park. In the top activations 3rd John, NG9M, 4th Jennifer, KD9FMJ, and 5th David, W9CJS with Dave, N9ZXL. In QSO's 2nd was Jennifer and 5th John. Good work.

In short, 2023 was a great year to learn together, laugh together, and explore the wonderful world of ham radio together. 2024 promises to be even better!

73, Larry, AC9GO

TX5S Clipperton Island

TX5S Team will be active from Clipperton Island, IOTA NA - 011, 18 January - 2 February 2024.

Team - Jacky ZL3CW, Dave K3EL, Steve W1SRD, Ricardo PY2PT, Gene K5GS, Heye DJ9RR, Laci HA0NAR, Walt N6XG, Rob N7QT, Glenn KE4KY, Chris N6WM, Arliss W7XU, Philippe FO4BM, Dave WD5COV, Andreas N6NU, Nodir, EY8MM, Allan, EA3HSO, Francesco, IK0FVC.

Equipment Week:

During the first week of December several team members will meet in Northern California to prepare the campsite and radio equipment for shipment to our boat Shogun which is docked at San Diego. We will inventory the tents and review their installation procedures, the Elecraft transceivers will be integrated with the computers, amplifiers, and the island's WIFI environment will be configured and integrated with Starlink. The EME and satellite stations are separate turnkey packages. Shogun will provide meals on the island; we will provide the necessary campsite logistics and management.

Clipperton Island ATNO Day Planned

Clipperton remains #26 most wanted in Europe and #37 most wanted globally. It will have been 11 years since the last major DXpedition to Clipperton we know there are many people that need it for an All Time New One and band fills.

Log Uploads

We plan to upload the logs at least once a day to both Clublog and to M0URX.com. Shortly after we leave the island confirmation requests (OQRS) will be processed only at M0URX.com.

Not in Log and busted calls will be investigated by submitting the form at M0URX.com.

Please, no emails about Not in Log or busted calls, you must use the reporting form on the OQRS system.

FT8 Operation

The team will use WSJT-X exclusively for all FT8 operation. We plan to use Fox / Hound on non-standard frequencies. Occasionally, we might start up on a standard frequency in normal mode, then QSY.



T32TT Kiritimati Island

T32TT Team will be active from Kiritimati Island, IOTA OC - 024, Kiribati, 6 - 28 December 2023. Team - Members of the Rebel DX Group.

This will 90% digital activity (if you like it or not). Here's what you can expect:

FT4 UP to 10 streaming signals on each band.

FT8 UP to 10 streaming signals on each band.

You will be able to contact T32TT on normal mode and F/H mode using any software you wish. We will use dedicated FT8/FT4 frequencies and standard frequencies depending on traffic. Please check dx cluster for CW and SSB frequencies.

Activity will start on December 5th.

– 12 x Digi stations. – 2 x CW. – 1 x SSB.

Hexbeam antennas, dipoles between the trees, Rebel multi element vertical systems. 1200w amplifiers will be used for most of the bands.



VU4N Andaman Islands

Krish, W4VKU will be active as VU4N from Andaman Islands, IOTA AS - 001, 16 - 26 December 2023. He will operate on 160 - 6m, FT8, SSB.

The Andaman Islands are a large archipelago in the Indian Ocean. It is about 1400 kilometers from here to the mainland. The capital is the city of Port Blair, which is home to about 100 thousand people. The archipelago includes 204 islands, most of which are uninhabited.

It is here that the sea border between the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea passes. Visually, the archipelago looks like an arc of 750 kilometers. The eastern coast is delineated by a southern ridge, the height of which reaches 800 meters above sea level. The highest point is considered to be Diglipur. From the west, the archipelago is surrounded by coral reefs. The underwater terrain abounds with volcanic lava accumulations, rocks and caves.



(This is an editable PDF Form. Fill in the information with your keyboard, then save the PDF, and then attach it to an email to: n9vju@comcast.net

HAM OF THE YEAR - 2023 NOMINATIONS

The Ham of the Year award is an honor that is presented to the RARA member(s) who has contributed the most above and beyond what was required to the club and to amateur radio in general during the past year. This year the selection will be made by a committee of three RARA members established to evaluate the nominations of deserving candidates from those submitted by club members. **All RARA members should vote for their nominee of choice.**

Your nominee should be chosen using two basic criteria: The nominee must be a RARA member, and should have performed exemplary service for RARA and amateur radio during the year 2023. Please take a few minutes to fill out the form below, or a facsimile, completing all of the requested information.

Nominations must be e-mailed or mailed to Tom Souler, N9VJU at the address below. All nominations must be received by December 15, 2023. They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Email or mail nominations to:

Tom Souler – N9VJU
5236 East Drive
Loves Park, IL 61111
email: n9vju@comcast.net

Nominee(s): _____ Call(s): _____

I nominate the above person(s) for the RARA Ham of the Year 2023 award for the following reasons:

Signed: _____ Call: _____

Hamfest Information



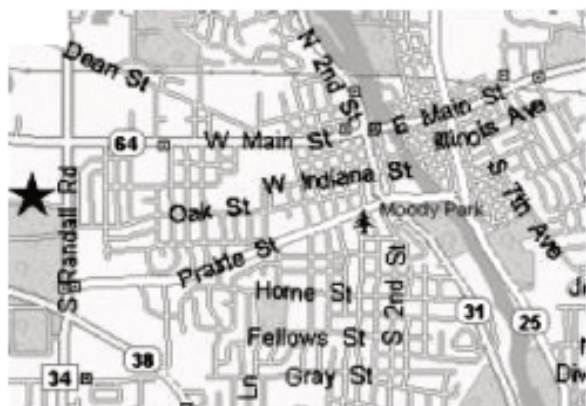
WCRA 57th ANNUAL MID-WINTER HAMFEST (ELECTRONIC HOBBY EXPO) *HAM RADIO, COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET*



Free Parking • Heated Indoor Facility
Paved Parking Lot • Food • Amateur Radio Exams
Educational Forums • Raffle Prizes

Sunday, January 14, 2024
Doors open at 8AM (close at 1pm)

Kane County Fairgrounds Expo Center
525 S. Randall Rd., St Charles, IL
(coordinates: N 41.9056, W 88.34232)



Current Forums:
9:00 AM - RT Systems
More To Follow

Tickets:

Advance, \$8 (4 raffle stubs)
At the door, \$10 (1 raffle stub)

- Children under 12 admitted free
- All Scouts under 18 in their official scout uniform admitted free

Exhibit Floor Rental:

\$30/table (\$35 after 1/1)
Electricity available for \$15/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) 923-5447 info@w9ccu.org www.w9ccu.org

ORDER ONLINE

Advance Ticket and Flea Market Table Order Form

Name	Call	___ Tickets x \$8.00 = \$ ___
Address		___ Tables x \$30.00* = \$ ___
Email	Phone	___ Electrical Drop x \$15.00 = \$ ___
		___ Extra Chairs x \$2.00 = \$ ___
		Total Amount Enclosed = \$ ___

Mail to: WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60187-1055



website: w9axd.org
email: w9axdrara@gmail.com

2024 RARA Membership* Form

Dues are \$25.00

(This is an editable PDF Form. Fill in the information with your keyboard, then save the PDF, and then attach it to an email to: w9axdrara@gmail.com. See below for mail in information and/or PayPal information)

Date: _____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

Name: _____ Callsign: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone - Home: _____ Cell: _____

Can we release your e-mail and phone number to members only? Yes _____ NO _____

Are you a member of the ARRL (American Radio Relay League)? Yes _____ NO _____

What things do you like to do with ham radio?

What things do you want to do, but need more information to do so?

Would you be available to make a presentation on some part of our hobby and what?

Do you have any questions that we can help you with presently? If so, explain below.

Mail In: Please fill out all the information on the form and mail it with \$25.00 to the following address:

Rockford Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 8465
Rockford, IL 61126

Make your check payable to: Rockford Amateur Radio Association.

For Internet application and payment:

To use PayPal, click on the link below. After clicking "Send" and then logging in, enter \$25.00 in the "Dollar Amount", and click "Send", to complete your payment to RARA. Also, **DON'T** forget to email your completed form to: w9axdrara@gmail.com for your membership application. *Thank you for your support!*

PayPal Link:



*Membership is based on approval of the RARA Board. The membership fee will be returned if you are not approved. New memberships are good from 10-1-2023 thru 12-31-2024.