

HAM RAG



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AUGUST 2005

Gene Duncan, W9GD receives WAZ Award (Story on page 7)

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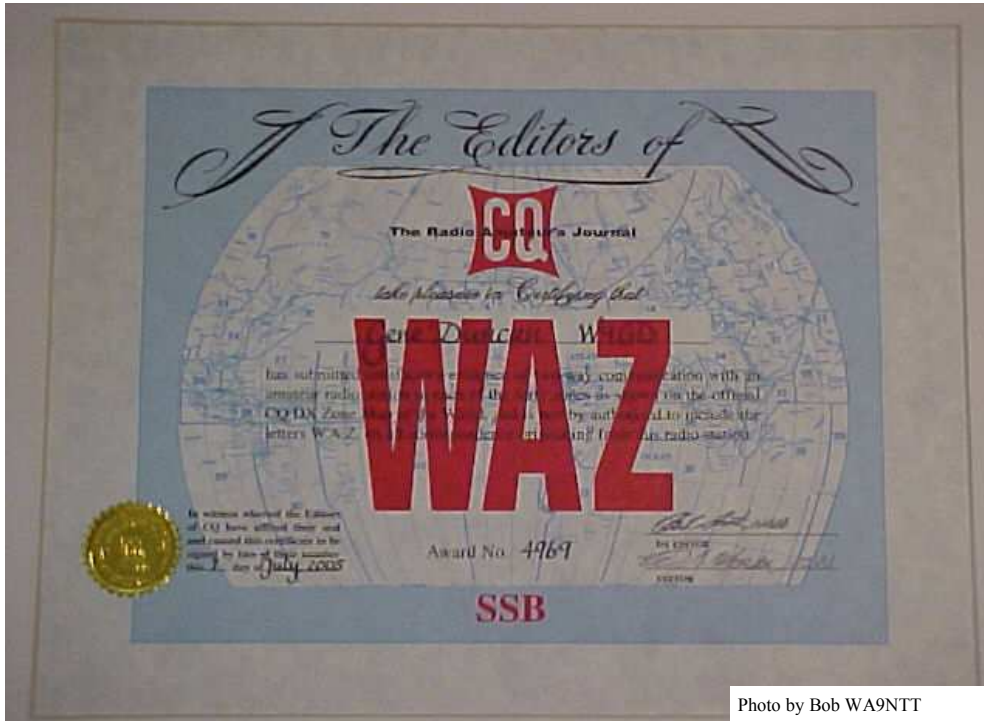


Photo by Bob WA9NTT



Delores Massey (Duncan family friend), Gene Duncan W9GD and Gary Hilker K9LJN who presented W9GD with his long coveted WAZ award.
Photo by Bob WA9NTT

NEXT MEETING

Friday, August 14, 2005

The program for this month's meeting will be:

RARA FAMILY PICNIC
(Noon—6 PM)
(and short meeting)

LOCATION

Alpine Park
Shelter # 2
Rockford, IL

Alpine Park is just south of the corner of Alpine Rd and State St. Enter park off of Alpine Rd and take the first left as you go into the park, go up the hill to shelter #2.

Presidents Corner - AUGUST 2005

PREZ SEZ – Happy HOT Summer!! We have several activities coming up in the next few weeks.

We have the triathlon at West Lake Village. Call Moe Bolte to volunteer to help. 509-3579, or Wayne Hanson at 397-7555. Sun. Aug, 7, 2005. 07:00 till about noon. We need about 8 more people.

State Street Mile. Call Gene Harlan to volunteer to help !!! 398-2683 or Paul Franklin at 298-2251. Sat. Aug, 13, 2005. 1600 hrs at Swedish Hosp Emergency entrance.

On The Waterfront. Fri Sat Sun – Sept 2, 3, 4, 2005. Call Bill Peters to volunteer to help !!! 654-9590. This is our one and only Fund Raiser for the year. 40-50 people to fill all slots. Please step up and join us for good fellowship and fun. We will also provide buttons for the workers, The shifts are a minimum of 4 hours. You may work additional days or shifts if you desire.

We are looking for a person to step up and assume the Secretary slot. It will only be for the remainder of the year. Please raise your hand.

73 Bill

From the desk of the Vice President...

On October 8th at the Rockford Airport, there will be many Boy scouts (about 5 thousand) for “Air Camp.” Eric Rademacher has asked this club to assist with setting up some stations. Please contact me at kc9dnn@hotmail.com or Eric at k9kqb@arrl.net. Please volunteer, as this is an opportunity we just can't afford to pass up for the sake of Ham Radio. Also for more details contact Eric at his e-mail or his phone number at 815-479-0670.

Tim KC9DNN

RARA FAMILY PICNIC

August 14, 2005

(Noon—6 PM)

Alpine Park Shelter # 2

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is invited, members and non-members.
Dinner is targeted to be about 1:30 PM.

Please bring:
DISH to PASS
your own TABLE SERVICE
Your own special pop

The club will provide:
Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns & condiments
Water and basic pop

Secretary's Report

Rockford Amateur Radio Association July 8, 2005 General Meeting Minutes

Approximately 26 members were present at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Bill Peters WB9MCZ.

Bill asked if there were any corrections to the minutes posted in the July 2005 Ham Rag. A motion to accept the minutes as printed was made by Chuck WB9UMC and seconded by Gary K9LJN and unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report

Carl W9TQ read the treasurers report for the month of June as follows. The beginning cash on hand was \$5,796.82. Income \$126.00, expenses \$970.69 (\$107.13 Breakfast in the Park, \$213.58 147.00 repeater repair, \$19.90 for telephone and \$580 for club insurance) for a net lose of \$844.69. Check book balance is \$818.56, savings account balance \$4,133.57 for a ending total cash on hand of \$4,952.13. (Last years cash on hand was \$5,263.90 for a loss from last year of \$311.77.) Motion to accept treasurers report by Shari N9SH and seconded by Dennis K9VMY and unanimously approved.

Old Business

Club Insurance – Carl W9TQ reported that our club insurance covers anyone at our events both members and non-members because we are a not-for-profit with no employees.

Repeaters 147.00 / 223.880 – has not been moved yet. Bill WB9MCZ and Herb K9AMJ have not met with Precision Automotive or Al's Motor Homes to arrange a time.

Park Reservation Rebate – Bill WB9MCZ reported that we have received the \$40 rebate for the cancelled field day sites in Alpine Park.

On the Waterfront – Bill WB9MCZ reports we are doing fairly well getting workers but we still need about 10 more people. Starting next week, members will be contacted to get the additional workers.

Gene Duncan W9GD QSL cards – During the process of selling Gene's property, his QSL cards were misplaced which he now needs in order to get his WAZ (worked all zones). Gene W9GD has made the honor roll in the past and definitely made the contacts but needs the cards in order to prove the contacts were made. Gary K9LJN reported the search status trying to find the cards.

Boy Scout Encampment at Rockford Airport – Eric Rademacher K9KQB, Illinois Affiliated Club Coordinator reported on the plans underway for this October 8 event that expects about 5,000 scouts. Amateur radio clubs from all over Northern Illinois are being asked to help with demonstration on all aspects of amateur radio. Since the event is happening here in Rockford, RARA should be the host club.

Field Day 50 year Reunion – Gene KA9BOD gave a summary report on this 50 year reunion. Five of the original 10 participants in field day were present and the event was considered a success. Don AE5K who organized the event was very pleased with the support by RARA members.

New Business

OSF St Anthony Request – The RARA board received a letter from Dr Eric Bening, MD regarding a fund raiser for Trauma Center Fluid Warmer Equipment and asked for a \$100 donation. The RARA board voted to present the request to the club membership. Chuck WB9UMC made a motion "to donate \$100 for the equipment" and seconded by Colleen KC9EWJ. The motion was amended by Gene WB9MMM "to up the amount to \$200" and seconded by Gary K9LJN. (OSF St. Anthony does not charge us for the use of the meeting rooms for club meetings, board meetings, VE testing and the ATV repeater.) The membership unanimously approved making a donation of \$200 for the Trauma Center Fluid Warming Equipment.

Tech Class – Carl W9TQ reported on the upcoming class at RVC on 10-22-05 and 10-29-05. Students will take the test in the afternoon of 10-29. After taking this class, students can take the class and walk out with a ham license. Spread the word among your friends.

State Street Mile – Gene WB9MMM is looking for about 10 hams to help with this event on Sat. August 13 and would like to

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use ATV if we get enough help.

Girl Scout Run – Gene KA9BOD is looking for 3 hams to help with this new Girl Scout event on September 17.

RARA Secretary – Nicholas KB9SKW has been absent from both club and board meetings for the past three months. A motion was made by Dave W9MG and seconded by Gary K9LJN to send Nicholas a letter requesting his resignation. Since Nicholas has not been able to be contacted by phone, Bill WB9MCZ will send the letter with a “requested receipt”. Membership approved unanimously.

Bob WA9NTT made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Dennis K9VMY. Meeting closed at 8:10 PM.

After a short break, several people did a show and tell on some equipment they made and use.

Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, acting secretary

SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

By Gary K9LJN

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
C93DX	MOZAMBIQUE	NOW TO AUG 10	UT5UGR
5X1W	UGANDA	NOW TO AUG 13	JA1DOT
FW5ZL	WALLIS & FUTURA	NOW TO AUG 13	FR5ZL
TF/EA3EKS	ICELAND	NOW TO AUG 13	EA3EKS
PY0F/CT1BWW	FERNANDO DE NORONHA	NOW TO AUG 14	CT1BWW
7Q7HB	MALAWI	NOW TO SEPT 24	G0IAS
TL8DV	CENTRAL AFRICA	NOW TO SEPT 30	W3MC
JW2TOA	SVALBARD	NOW TO NOV 1	LA2TOA
SU8BHI	EGYPT	NOW TO DEC 31	HA3JB
SV5/IV3IPS	DODECANESE	AUG 13 - 20	IV3IPS
TY/F6FVX	BENIN	AUG 13 TO SEPT 06	F8DQZ
3A/F5RBB	MONACO	AUG 29 TO SEPT 04	F5RBB

Note: Sources for this column include the 425DXN, ARRL, NG3K and NJDXA websites.

FORMER LOCAL GUY DOES GOOD IN ARRL 10 METER CONTEST

In the July 2005 issue of QST on page 101 there is a picture of Kevin Milhorn N4KM who took top honors for US and Canada in the single operator low power CW only category in the 2004 ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Kevin currently resides in Fruitland Park, FL. He is originally from Polo, IL where he had the call sign of KS9O. The contest story about Kevin is on page 102.

Submitted by Gene W9GD and Gary K9LJN

FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 9:30 am at
the **Morning Glory Restaurant**, 408 7th St, Rockford

An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company.
Everyone is welcome to attend.

FOX HUNTING NEWS

Editors note: I received this email from Rich K9PK about his involvement with fox hunting. This is a fun activity with amateur radio that tests your skills and provides great fellowship. It can also be a great skill to learn especially when there is a need to find a jammer similar to the one recently in the news in California or the source of an interference problem. It only takes a minimum of a directional antenna and attenuator or even a handheld with your body as an attenuator to get involved or you can get as sophisticated as you can afford. Don't have the equipment, then go along as a driver or assistant. This is a great way to learn the ropes.
Gene ka9bod editor

Hi Gene,

Just a note about some fox hunting I've been up to lately. I participated in the regular Milwaukee fox hunt Friday night, June 10th. It was a miserably hot and humid evening and everybody agreed not to run, but it was a lot of fun especially my being new to the sport. I learned a lot from this highly experienced group. They have good equipment and they know how to use it. I was fortunate to win (or maybe they weren't being very competitive that night.)

I've attached a couple of photos of me and my fox hunting rig. These aren't from the Milwaukee hunt; they were taken at the start of the fox hunt that followed the RARA picnic last year. You can see my tape measure beam and VK3YNG fox hunting receiver. Also alongside in one photo is Jim KC9CYR and his setup. Jim used an HT and an aluminum foil covered tube for an attenuator. The other photo is of the full group, again from the RARA hunt.

The VK3YNG receiver is a nice bit of engineering. It features an audio tone signal strength meter, a built-in automatic attenuator, and a synthesized tuner. I believe this is the only fox hunting receiver that combines all three of these features.

The Milwaukee hunt was a lot of fun and I hope to go up there again soon. I would go up there a lot more often if they didn't always meet on the second Friday of the month – that's RARA night! It's a nice bunch of people and the pizza is great too.



Photo by Larry K0HNM



Photo by Larry K0HNM

73, Rich Ludwig K9PK

Excerpt from the Milwaukee Fox Hunt News by Paul Gruettner WB9ODQ:

Friday, June 10th, 2005, the fox, WB9ODQ, offered two separate hunts to challenge the hunters. For the first hunt, all of the hunters gathered at the golf course parking lot at Whitnall Park, just north of Rawson Avenue, on 92nd Street. From there, all of the hunters headed out on foot in a northwest direction and soon took them to a portion of a nature path, near a large pond and a waterfall. With summer here, there was a lot of thick foliage where the transmitter could be hidden. However, all of the hunters seemed to think the signal was coming from an area where a sign post and a trash can were. All of the hunters were searching the same area at the same time, but couldn't seem to find the fox, even after searching all the trash in the trash can. That's when K9PK took first place honors as he discovered the transmitter at the base of the sign and realized that the sign post was actually the antenna. All of the other hunters followed seconds behind for a 4 way tie for second place.

The second hunt started at the location of the first transmitter, with the hunters getting a weak easterly reading. After heading out, all of the hunters discovered that they had lost the signal. After a couple minutes pasted by, all of the hunters headed back to the start where they knew they were able to get a reading. It did not take long for the hunters to discover that the transmitter was very close to the start. In fact, the transmitter was hid at the base of a small bush, only about 20 feet from the starting point. Unfortunately, the fox ran into some problems with the transmitter only minutes before the hunt was to start. The transmitter fell from the tree branch it was in and snapped off the wire it was using for an antenna. The wire snapped right at the base of the circuit board of the transmitter. So with only minutes to spare, and no quick fix, the fox changed the location of the transmitter, and moved the transmitter close enough to the starting point where the signal could be heard. Without an antenna, it only had about a 30 foot

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range. Well, once again, K9PK came through to take first place honors and found this transmitter in just 8 minutes. And as before, the remaining hunters all came in for a tie for second place. After the hunts everyone met over at Organ Piper Pizza.

Here are two examples of fox hunt results.

Hunt #1 (At the Sign Post Up Ahead)

Fox: WB9ODQ

Place Hunter Total Time

- 1 K9PK 16 Minutes
- 2 (Tie)WB9GZP 17 Minutes
- 2 N9CFK 17 Minutes
- 2 WA9BFH 17 Minutes
- 2 KC9GMW 17 Minutes

Hunt #2 (No Antenna)

Fox: WB9ODQ

Place Hunter Total Time

- 1 K9PK 8 Minutes
- 2 (Tie)WB9GZP 9 Minutes
- 2 N9CFK 9 Minutes
- 2 WA9BFH 9 Minutes
- 2 KC9GMW 9 Minutes

Official Observers: K9HXA/N9DFE

Submitted by Rich, K9PK

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Additional **volunteers are needed** to help provide communications for these upcoming events. Its an opportunity to help other organizations in the Rockford community by providing communications to help with the management and control of the events. It is an opportunity to put our communication skills and equipment to good use and also helps promote amateur radio. The typical event usually takes a couple of hours of our time and gives us an opportunity to observe the event up close. Usually the only equipment needed is a 2M handheld or 2M mobile radio.

Listed below are the events and the coordinator organizing the amateur radio operators.

- State Street Mile—August 13—WB9MMM
- YMCA Triathlon - August 7 - N9CCE
- Girl Scout Thin Mint Sprint—Sept 17- ka9bod
- CROP Hunger Walk - Columbus Day wknd
- Head of the Rock Regatta - Columbus Day wknd

All amateur operators are welcome to help out. You do not have to be a member of RARA or ARES to participate. No special training is required. All it takes is a willingness to participate. Don't be shy, give us a hand.

Gene KA9BOD

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, August 20, 2005.

Location: St. Anthony Hospital
5666 E. State Street
Rockford, IL

Exams will be held in the St Francis Room (just right of the front entrance after you enter).

Check-in is from 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM.

What You Need To Bring To A W5YI-VEC Session

1. Your original Amateur License (unexpired or within the 2 year grace period) and a copy to attach to the paperwork.
2. Any valid CSCE that you are using for credit. Again the VE's have to see the original and have a copy to attach to the paperwork.
3. Two forms of Identification with your signature on them. One must be a picture ID (drivers license, passport, school ID, library card, credit card, etc.)
4. Test Fee \$14.00 cash or check. (please make checks payable to W5YI-VEC)

Contact Information
Randy Scott, W9HL
W9HL@arrl.net
815-877-4328

RARA Repeaters

146.610 -	pl 114.8	W9AXD
147.000 +	pl 114.8	W9AXD
223.8800 -	pl none	W9AXD
ATV input 1250 Mhz/	434 Mhz	W9ATN
output	421.25 Mhz	

The Worked All Zones award

The Worked All Zones award (WAZ) was started in 1945 by CQ Magazine. The basic Award for Mixed, CW, or SSB modes does require confirmed two-way contact with amateurs in all forty zones throughout the world. These contacts must also be made on any combination of the 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 Meter frequency bands.

The two most difficult zones for us to work from the Midwest (during this portion of the sunspot cycle) are zones 23 and 26. Zone 23 includes Mongolia (JT), central and western China (BY9 & BY0), plus a small portion of Asiatic Russia (UA0Y) immediately north of Mongolia. Zone 26 includes Cambodia (XU), Laos (XW), Myanmar (XZ), Thailand (HS) and Vietnam (3W). The main problem in contacting these two zones is very difficult propagation and a lack of licensed amateur radio operators.

In my opinion, the WAZ award is more difficult to attain than the basic DXCC award because it requires a much greater knowledge of ionospheric propagation patterns to contact all forty zones rather than one hundred individual countries. So if you are looking for a different operating challenge, WAZ might be something to consider.

73 & DX, Gary – K9LJN Sources for this article are CQ Magazine and N5FG (the WAZ award manager)

Editors note:

As you may know, Gene W9GD has been in a nursing home for the past several years. When Gene's home and his belongings were sold off, in the process, his QSL cards were misplaced or lost. Initially, Gene was not able to work with ham radio because of his health condition but he gradually improved to the point where he could get on the air again. Several local hams got together and helped get equipment setup including a tower and beam near his room in the nursing home. Today, even though Gene is in a wheel chair, he is able to get on the local repeaters and also occasionally gets to work some DX which has been his passion as long as he has been a ham. Several years ago he had attained 5 band DXCC and made the DXCC honor roll with 330 countries confirmed.

Gene never got around to submitting his QSL cards for the WAZ award from CQ Magazine and recently has had a desire to get the award. He talked with many of the DX buffs to see if they could help find his cards. I know that Dennis W9SS, Gary K9LJN and others made a significant effort to find the missing cards to no avail.

Gary K9LJN contacted the WAZ awards manager at CQ Magazine who said he was satisfied that Gene had worked all zones under his original call sign of K9IKP and was in the process of re-issuing the WAZ award with his current call sign of W9GD. The award was sent to Gary K9LJN who framed it for presentation. Gary made arrangements with the nursing home for a small ceremony and along with Bob WA9NTT made the trip to Oregon on Wednesday July 20 to present the award to Gene.

Congratulations Gene W9GD on receiving the award and THANK YOU to Gary K9LJN for going the extra mile for a fellow ham.

Gene KA9BOD, editor

Goldie Floberg Run Saturday July 23, 2005

Goldie Floberg race director George Tillett and Jan Pennell of the Goldie Floberg Center want to thank the hams who helped with communications for the Goldie Floberg Run in Roscoe on Saturday July 23, 2005. Robert KB9RWL, Karen KB9PHC, Brian KB9OXS, Paul K9RNR, Rocky N9OCW and Gene KA9BOD. There were about 85 runners in this 2 mile/5 mile run/walk. Both races started promptly at 7 AM and were totally done by 8:30 AM. There was a threat of rain during the race but it held out until 8:40 then it poured for a while. Mr. Tillett really appreciates the involvement of amateur radio because with our help there is a safety net for the runners should they get into trouble.

Gene KA9BOD

On the WATERFRONT Fundraiser

RARA involvement is manning a ticket booth in which the volunteers work in 4 hour shifts.

Please contact Scott W9SBA or Bill WB9MCZ if you can help.

RARA Officers and Directors - 2005

President – Bill Peters, WB9MCZ
Vice President – Tim Peterson, KC9DNN
Secretary – Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW
Treasurer – Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ
Directors: Dan Hunt, KC9ATR
Gene Harlan, WB9MMM
Scott Allshouse, W9SBA
Wendy Owano, KC9BCF
Newsletter—Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD
Web Master—Paul Franklin, K9RNR

ITEMS FOR SALE

To place an ad, please email the Ham Rag editor at:

KA9BOD@ARRL.NET

Dates to look forward to

Family Picnic, August 14th at Alpine Park shelter #2
On the Waterfront, Sept 2, 3, & 4 Club Fundraiser

***** HELP *****

It is important to us to have accurate addresses for both home and e-mail. Please let us know if there is a problem.

If you would like to have something published, please call me or email me at ka9bod@arrl.net.

Cut-off for the September 2005 issue will be Friday August 26, 2005.

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

Tech Class at Rock Valley College

RVC is scheduling a Tech Class this fall. The class, COM-812-RV will be held on 10-22-05 and 10-29-05. The class will start at 8:00 AM and end at 4:00 PM with testing taking place the afternoon of the 29th at approximately 2:00 PM.

Carl W9TQ

ON THE WATERFRONT FUNDRAISER

September 2, 3 & 4

The club mans a ticket booth on all three days. Typically in 4 hour shifts. **Mark your calendars and plan to volunteer some time.**

Contact Bill WB9MCZ to volunteer
654-9590

WE NEED YOU

ON THE WATERFRONT is a MAJOR fundraiser for RARA.

We man a ticket booth near one of the stages so that you have good music while you work. Due to the handling of money, we have to have a **scheduled list of volunteers by the end of July** prior to a leader training session the first week of August.

Volunteers receive the following benefits:

- Free On the Waterfront button (\$12 value)
- Reduced rate at the RARA awards banquet
- Listen to good music while you work
- Opportunity to work with fellow hams & friends
- Family members 18 & older can work with you (All workers get a free button)



Free Technical advice for hams.
WB9LHU Earth Works 965-9841

**ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Single Adult: \$25.00 Adult w/Family: \$30.00
Single Senior: \$15.00 Senior w/Family: \$20
Student: \$15.00

Above rate includes the RARA monthly newsletter, Ham Rag, via email.

Ham Rag Via U.S. Postal Service: \$12.00 extra

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email _____

Renewal _____ New _____ Retired _____

Radio Interests _____

Other Interests _____

Suggestions: _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:
ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 8465
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126
Email: ka9bod@arrl.net
Web: www.w9axd.com

<u>Nets</u>	
Monday 8PM	2 Meter 146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM	ARES 147.195 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATURN 146.610 - 114.8

AUGUST 2005

place address label here