

HAM RAG

Visit our website for more club and area ham information
In the Rockford area at <http://w9axd.com>



OCTOBER 2005

Election of officers at the October meeting

See page 3 for slate of nominee's

Presidents Corner - OCTOBER 2005

PREZ SEZ – Well, We're moving into a busy part of the year.

First comes our elections. Currently we have no one running for the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary. We will be calling everyone on the roster again to generate interest in these offices. We have to fill these vacancies so that we can have a functioning organization. I would like to have some of the younger members take the helm. So --- please consider doing your part in promoting Amateur Radio in our communities.

This month we will have the regular business meeting plus elections plus a program.

FYI --- I called today and the numbers for Waterfront won't be out till next week. I'm hoping that I will have them for the membership meeting.

See you soon – 73's, Bill WB9MCZ

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From the Desk of the Vice President...

Recently the Rockford, IL Post Office had a drill to test the current ability of Winnebago County, if the Anthrax detection equipment at the Post Office detected such an agent. We had people from various agencies, first responders, and about 80 volunteer to play victims. (Interesting note: ARES was not asked to participate.) During the drill it was noticed that there was major breakdowns in many areas of the operation. Also some of the important organization was seriously lacking, and there was a communications breakdown. Many problems were properly identified, and addressed at the debriefing afterwards. It was a success in the fact that we should be better prepared in the event of a real emergency. But to be safe, we should have another drill, to make sure suggestions are implemented, and continue to evolve into a more effective plan.

Tim KC9DNN

NEXT MEETING

Friday, October 14, 2005

The program for this month's meeting will be:

Prepare for Emergencies

Wayne Hansen KA9IMX

LOCATION

St. Anthony Medical Center
5666 E. State Street
Rockford, IL

To get to the meeting room go to the main entrance, turn right at the desk- go to the end of hall to the Meeting rooms.

Secretary's Report

RARA Club Meeting September 8, 2005

Meeting called to order by president Bill WB9MCZ at 7:05 PM.

The August meeting minutes were read by Bill WB9MCZ. Chuck WB9UMC made a motion to accept the minutes and seconded by Chuck AB9KA with unanimous approval.

Treasurers Report

Carl W9TQ read the treasurers report for the month of August as follows. There was \$0.00 income, expenses \$415.12 (\$50.23 phone, \$94.89 picnic, and \$270.00 misc. on the waterfront expense). The check book balance of \$195.82, savings balance of \$4,138.31 for a total cash on hand of \$4,334.13. (Last years cash on hand was \$4,975.39 for a loss from last year of \$641.26). Shari N9SH made a motion to accept the report as read and seconded by Jim KC9GOL with unanimous approval.

Old Business

RVC Ham class – Carl W9TQ reported that the class is scheduled for October 22 and 29 for those interested in taking the class. Tell your friends and neighbors.

On the Waterfront – Bill WB9MCZ expressed thank you to everyone that helped with this club fund raiser especially Carl W9TQ, wife Carol and friends, Gene WB9MMM, Shari N9SH and friends, Scott W9SBA and wife Marlene, Wendy KC9BCF and friends who were the key supervisors for the event. These supervisors and crews handled between \$80 – 90,000 over the three day event at our booth. THANK YOU.

Need Chairman - There is a need for a chairman for the nominating committee for the election of officers that will take place at the October meeting. We also need a chairman to organize the awards banquet which is held in January. Good places go fast so reservations need to be made as early as possible.

Boy Scout Encampment October 8 – The RARA ATV group will be participating in the event and currently Steve James KA9NPT has most other radio demos covered from other clubs in the area. The event is not open to the public so all participants must be pre-registered to take part in the demos.

Repeater status 147.000/223.880 – So far, we have not been pressed to move the tower. There is consideration to move the equipment to another building on the site. No decisions have been made yet.

New Business

Emergency trained volunteers – Shari N9SH reported that the ARRL is looking for Em-comm trained, all levels, hams to assist the amateur radio operations for Hurricane Katrina. If you are able to spend some time in the disaster area send an email to the ARRL at Katrina@ARRL.org to volunteer your services.

August Ham Rag – Paul K9RNR reported the reason for getting multiple notices. It was determined that only those people who use the ARRL forwarding service did not initially get the notice because the new ARRL ISP encountered a problem which took several hours to get fixed.

Hot link – Bill WB9MCZ reported that MSNBC.com had a nice article on amateur radio involvement in the disaster area.

Sunspot information – Dennis K9VMY reported that a good website for information on sunspot explosions is at N3KL.org.

ISS Contact – Shari N9SH reported that Rockford is still in line to make contact with the ISS but it will probably be sometime in 2006 before it happens.

Motion made by Carl W9TQ to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Chuck WB9UMC at 7:45 PM

The program was provided by George Planic W9GWP gave a very informative talk and slide show about all aspects of APRS, the equipment, software needed and its uses via amateur radio.

Submitted by Gene KA9BOD, acting secretary.

Nominee's for Officer / Board elections

Nominating committee members Gary Hilker K9LJN, Bob Davidson WA9NTT and Dave Bond W9MG canvassed the entire membership and have provided the following list of nominee's:

President -

Vice President -

Secretary -

Treasurer - Carl W9TQ

Board of Directors— (Vote for two)

Larry Carlstrom K9LC

Kurt Eversol KE9NJ

Dan Hunt KC9ATR

Chuck Liljegren WB9UMC

Mike Oberg AB9AY

Wendy Owano KC9BCF

Dick Nelson N9ZO

SPECIAL NOTICE

There will be election of club officers at the October meeting. As of the board meeting on September 25, NO ONE has stepped forward for the positions of President, Vice President or Secretary. PLEASE CONSIDER ONE OF THESE POSITIONS. It is an opportunity to guide the club into the future. Without officers, the club status is in jeopardy.

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

September 17th there were 6 applicants resulting in 4 new Technicians and 1 General.

Albert Walker New Technician

John Wente New Technician

John Cotner New Technician

Richard Sandison New Technician

Michael O'Brien New General

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, October 15, 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

SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

By Gary - K9LJN

| CALLSIGN | QTH | WHEN | QSL VIA |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------|---------|
| A52SY | BHUTAN | NOW TO OCT 10 | ON4ON |
| K7C | KURE | NOW TO OCT 10 | N4XP |
| V51/DJ4SO | NAMIBIA | NOW TO OCT 12 | DJ4SO |
| T32Y | EAST KIRIBATI | NOW TO OCT 15 | IT9YRE |
| ST0RM | SUDAN | NOW TO JUNE, 2006 | T93Y |
| ST2T | SUDAN | NOW TO SEPT, 2006 | S57DX |
| ZD8I | ASCENSION IS. | NOW TO JUNE, 2008 | G4LTI |
| | | | |
| FH/F6AML | MAYOTTE | OCT 10 – 14 | F6AML |
| GU5XW | GUERNSEY | OCT 12 – 19 | G5XW |
| VK9XG | CHRISTMAS IS. | OCT 23 TO NOV 11 | W0YG |
| A35BO | TONGA | OCT 24 TO DEC 1 | HB9FBO |
| TF/N0HJZ | ICELAND | OCT 26 – 30 | N0HJZ |
| ZB2/ON5UR | GIBRALTAR | OCT 27 TO NOV 3 | ON5UR |
| 6W1RY | SENEGAL | OCT 29 – 30 | F5VHJ |
| ZP0R | PARAGUAY | OCT 29 – 30 | W3HNC |
| 4X0WV | ISRAEL | OCT 29 – 30 | W8HC |
| JW5E | SVALBARD | OCT 29 – 30 | JW5NM |
| GD6IA | ISLE OF MAN | OCT 29 – 30 | K1EU |
| XU7TAS | CAMBODIA | OCT 30 TO NOV 10 | ON4AJV |
| 5W1?? | WESTERN SAMOA | NOV 4 – 7 | W2RDX |
| H40HL | SOLOMON IS. | NOV 5 – 11 | HL1XP |
| ZK2LU | NIUE | NOV 7 – 30 | W2RDX |

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

FOX HUNTING UPDATE

Editor note: I received an email from Rich K9PK with an update on his fox hunting activities. Gene KA9BOD

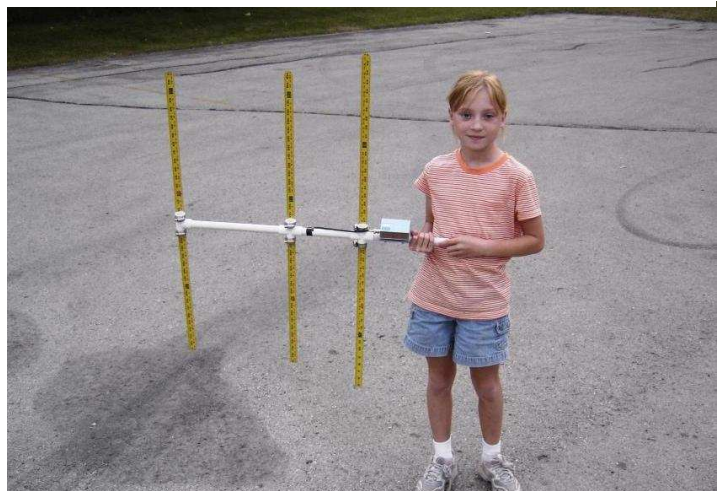
September 9th, Sarah and I participated in the Milwaukee fox hunt. Well, Sarah did the hunting and I just held the flashlight – it was mostly after dark. There were two hunts, both in Whitnall Park Southwest of Milwaukee. Sarah found the first transmitter in 20 minutes, a tie for fourth place. It was buried at the bottom of a tree with the antenna disguised as a vine going up the tree.

We got a little scratched up in the woods looking for the first transmitter so we decided not to look for the other one, opting instead to walk back to the parking lot. It was dark, we were unfamiliar with the park, the roads were winding and we managed to take a wrong turn and get lost. We used our fox hunt rig to find our way back. The other hunters honked their car horns to help but by then we were just around the curve from the parking lot.

After the hunt we all went to Culver's Restaurant to celebrate.

Sarah and I had a good adventure and a fun time. It's a nice father-daughter activity. Next time in that park, though, I am going to bring my GPS!

73, Rich K9PK



Sarah Ludwig, age 9 fox hunting with dad.

Photo by Rich K9PK (dad)



OSFSM

SAINT ANTHONY MEDICAL CENTER
FOUNDATION COUNCIL

August 18, 2005

Rockford Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 8465
Rockford, IL 61126-8465

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of the Sisters, Administration and Staff of OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center, I would like to sincerely thank you for your generous response to our need for a Level 1 fluid warmer. Your gift of \$200.00 will go directly toward these extra pair of "eyes and ears" for our emergency department.

This specially-equipped fluid warming and infusion device features advanced monitoring with audible and visual alarms that doctors call "a huge advantage for patients *and* staff." This equipment is vital as we continue to provide the highest level of care as a Level I Trauma Center. OSF Saint Anthony is committed to improve the quality of life for others in need. We greatly appreciate your partnering with us to purchase this lifesaving technology.

As always, we continue to rely upon generous community members to keep this Medical Center at the forefront, providing the highest quality care to all who turn here – especially those having suffered massive trauma. Thank you for helping to support this project through the Foundation Council at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center. Your friendship and support help us to better serve our community and continue our Mission "with the greatest care and love."

Again, thank you for endorsing the purchase of this critical upgrade.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Zumwalt, CFRE
Executive Director

Per IRS regulations, we affirm that you have not received any item of value in return for your contribution to the OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Foundation Council.

OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM

Have you been wondering how to prepare for an emergency, *where do you start, what do you need?* Join us for this meeting where you will find the answers to these questions, as well as things you may not have thought about. This information could make life easier for you in an emergency.

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.

We are looking for "elmers" (mentors) for the participants. This is an excellent way to share our hobby and help a new ham learn. This is also a way to help get more people into ham radio so that we don't lose our frequencies.

Carl W9TQ

NEW FEATURE ON THE 146.61 REPEATER

Starting Monday September 12, Brad WW9WW will host the ARRL AUDIO NEWS on the 146.61 repeater **after** the completion of the 8 PM net which is hosted by Diane WB9VLK.

Responses to the Audio News will be re-evaluated at the November RARA board meeting to determine if it should be continued. Please forward your comments to Brad whose email address is WW9WW@yaho.com or any RARA Board Member.

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

- Head of the Rock Regatta—Oct 9— Wayne KA9IMX
- Boy Scout Encampment—Oct 8—Eric K9KQB
- CROP Hunger Walk—Oct 16—Wayne KA9IMX

All amateur operators are welcome to help out. You do not have to be a member of RARA or ARES to participate. All it takes is a willingness to participate. Don't be shy, give us a hand.

LAST EVENTS UNTIL SPRING

Gene KA9BOD

***** HELP *****

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

Cut-off for the November 2005 issue will be Friday October 21, 2005.

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

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 | |

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

EARTH WORKS
COMMUNICATIONS

913 N MAIN ST
ROCKFORD IL 61103
815/965-9841

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

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.

HAM OF THE YEAR---2005 NOMINATION

The Ham of the Year is an honor that is presented to the R.A.R.A. member 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 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 R.A.R.A. member and should have performed exemplary service for amateur radio during the year 2005.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to fill out the form below, or a facsimile, completing all of the requested information. Nominations may be mailed to N9SH at the address below or handed to her at the next club meeting. All nominations must be received by December 9, 2005. They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Mail nominations to:
Shari Harlan, N9SH
5931 Alma Drive
Rockford, IL. 61108
N9sh@hampubs.com

Nominee _____

Call _____

I nominate the above person for the RARA Ham of the Year-2005 award for the following reasons:

Signed _____

Call _____



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 |

place address label here

OCTOBER 2005

**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