

# HAM RAG



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

## SEPTEMBER 2005

### Presidents Corner - SEPTEMBER 2005

#### Well, we've had a very busy month and more activity is coming.

To begin with, I thank everyone who helped with these projects. Triathlon, State Street Mile, Family Picnic, and special thanks to the 36 people who pulled off the Waterfront Booth. These projects are the practice we need for emergency call outs, and the bread and butter for our club treasury. Those of you that haven't helped, I'm hoping you'll be able to help with the upcoming activities (Head of the Rock, Crop Walk, Hobo Run plus others that may call later.

Nominations for officers will be in Oct. There are several offices that will be vacated because of constitutional and personal reasons. Please consider yourself for one of these positions. They're not difficult nor do they require much time. They do however give you an opportunity for personal growth.

The Awards Banquet will be in January. I need someone to agree to arrange the meal and party reservations for this event. There are quite a few restaurants to choose from. However this has to begin in September to insure that we get to go where we want.

There will be a form in next month's Ham Rag for you to nominate a person for Ham of the Year.

A reminder **UGH!!!** Winter is coming on. Antenna work needs to be completed. Line up some winter projects to be done. Read your QST's and see what has been presented since suggested Jan. 05.

Mark your calendars for all of the winter contests.

Find a new ham and become an Elmer! (Remember the help you received when you were just licensed!)

Those of you who are not on the Waterfront crew, Have a safe holiday. See you the 9<sup>th</sup> at the Sept. Meeting.

73 Bill WB9MCZ

### ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A DISASTER????

#### September is National Preparedness month. (see article page 3).

A disaster plan can mean the difference between life and death.

##### If you must evacuate -

How will you escape your home? Where will you meet family members?  
What will you take with you? Where will you go? Clothing and bedding?  
Special personal items, ex. medications, glasses, personal documents, etc

##### If you can stay in your home—(Do you have supplies enough for at least 3 days)

Water— 1 gallon / person / day? Food — nonperishable 3 day supply?  
Kitchen items and a way to heat food? A safe room in secure area of your home?

These questions and many more will be discussed at a RARA club meeting in the next few months. (Source for above material from "Community Emergency Response Team" Participant Manual.)

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

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### NEXT MEETING

Friday, September 9, 2005

The program for this month's meeting will be:

#### APRS

(Automatic Packet Reporting system)

George W. Planic  
W9GWP

#### 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

### Rockford Amateur Radio Association August 14, 2005 Picnic Meeting Minutes

A total of about 29 people (hams and families) attended the picnic at Alpine Park. Three guests attended Jim KC9GOL, Andy K9JMW and Dave WB9EEH.

A short informational meeting was called to order by Bill WB9MCZ at 2:06 PM.

The following topics were brought up.

1. Boy Scout encampment on Oct 8. Eric Rademacker K9KQB is coordinating other clubs from around the area to setup demo stations for this event but RARA should have some involvement.
2. Saturday October 8 may be a very busy day as this is also the day for the "Head of the Rock Regatta" which requires several ham operators to help with communications. This may also be the day of the CROP Columbus Day hunger walk.
3. A \$200 contribution was made to OSF St Anthony for the trauma center fluid warmer equipment.
4. Carl W9TQ mentioned the upcoming tech class at RVC on October 22 and 29. He asked for "elmers" to help with the students.
5. We are in need of a nominating committee chairman for the election of officers in October.
6. Special thanks were expressed for the hams who helped with the State Street Mile and also for the volunteer cooks for the picnic. Chuck WB9UMC and Chuck AB9KA did an excellent job. Thank you all.
7. On the Waterfront volunteer schedules will be sent out this evening. Still looking for supervisors for Sunday.

Motion to adjourn by Dan KC9ATR seconded by Shari N9SH all approved. Meeting closed at 2:35 PM

Submitted by Gene KA9BOD acting secretary.

## From The Desk Of The V.P. ....

**I have really good news for this month. George Planic W9GWP is going to speak on APRS. It will be a PowerPoint Presentation.** I'm writing here a short primer on this topic, so you will have time to think of some questions to ask George while he is here. Long story; short... tune your **HT** to **144.390Mhz**, use a **TNC**, a **GPS**, and go for a drive. Someone else can look you up on the net, and see you blipping down the map. There are many more applications than this however. Born in 1984 on a VIC 20, and revised several times by Bob Bruniga. It has become the powerful tool it is today. Today APRS is used for weather, public events, search & rescue, emergencies, and nosy spouses. APRS stands for **A**utomatic **P**acket **R**eporting **S**ystem. This system uses unnumbered packet frames to transmit information such as position, speed, heading, temperature, wind speed and wind direction. You can even send text messages back, and forth. There has been some myths, and misconceptions. Also some of the sites on the web is out-dated. He is going to address some of this, give more up to date info, tips, and tricks. From what I understand one myth is that you need a TNC. There are two other ways: One is the internet, and the other is using your **soundcard** hooked up to your radio. Hopefully this will drum up some excitement, and we will see more people at this meeting. So please come to this meeting with your questions.

Tim KC9DNN

## SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2005

ARRL is a coalition member supporting a nationwide effort to encourage Americans to better prepare for emergencies. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross, National Preparedness Month 2005 is "to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action," according to a joint news release of both entities.

"No community is truly prepared for a disaster until every individual, family and household takes personal responsibility for preparedness," said the Red Cross. "Chapters across the country are helping people learn how to create a family disaster plan so that each person knows what to do, where to go, and how to contact loved ones." ARRL has a longstanding memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Red Cross.

Throughout September, Homeland Security and the Red Cross will work with government organizations and the private sector to highlight the importance of public emergency preparedness. ARRL joins more than 125 national organizations to distribute emergency preparedness information, host events and sponsor activities across the country.

National Preparedness Month will teach Americans about preparing for emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist threats. Events, activities, and messages across the nation will encourage individuals to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, be informed about different threats and get involved in preparing their communities. The initiative launches on September 1, 2005 in Washington, D.C.

ARRL will sponsor Amateur Radio Awareness Day and this fall's Simulated Emergency Test as part of its annual effort consistent with National Preparedness Month goals. See next story.

### [AMATEUR RADIO PUBLIC AWARENESS DAY EMERGENCY POWER OPERATING EVENT SET FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17](#)

Amateurs will participate in a 15-hour operating event on emergency power. On that day, amateurs make contacts with others who are also using only emergency power to demonstrate preparedness for emergency communications for the public. Emergency power can be any source that is completely separate from commercial mains: solar panels, generators, storage batteries, alternators powered by bicycles, battery packs in HTs, and wind power, for examples. Operation can be from home or field.

Times: 9 AM Eastern (6 AM Pacific) on Saturday, September 17, 2005, until 12 AM Eastern (9 PM Pacific). All bands and modes included. The exchange is up to the individual operators but can include the traditional signal report, location, and the type of emergency power being used, for examples. W1AW will be QRV on generator power. A special QSL card will be available to those stations using emergency power that contact W1AW. (A regular QSL card will still be available to those stations that wish to contact W1AW, but who are not using emergency power). Please include an SASE with your card request, and please indicate the power source that was used (if applicable).

(Source information from ARRL—ARES E-Letter for August 17, 2005)

Pictures of the RARA Picnic can be seen on the RARA website at:  
[WWW.W9AXD.COM](http://WWW.W9AXD.COM)

## DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- **Water** - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- **Food** - at least enough for 3 to 7 days
  - non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
  - foods for infants or the elderly
  - snack foods
  - non-electric can opener
  - cooking tools / fuel
  - paper plates / plastic utensils
- **Blankets / Pillows, etc.**
- **Clothing** - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes
- **First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs**
- **Special Items** - for babies and the elderly
- **Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes**
- **Flashlight / Batteries**
- **Radio** - Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- **Cash** - Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.
- **Keys**
- **Toys, Books and Games**
- **Important documents** - in a waterproof container
  - insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- **Tools** - keep a set with you during the storm
- **Vehicle fuel tanks filled**
- **Pet care items**
  - proper identification / immunization records / medications
  - ample supply of food and water
  - a carrier or cage
  - muzzle and leash

(This info from the National Hurricane Center website under "Be Prepared" [www.nhc.noaa.gov/](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/))

**Editors note:** Although the information above is from the Hurricane site, it is applicable to any situation of a disastrous nature. There are several websites with additional lists to help you prepare. After watching Hurricane Katrina the last couple of days, a person never knows when a disaster of some sort will happen in our area, many times without warning and time to gather what you need. Since September is National Preparedness Month, take some time to sit down and think about how you can prepare yourself and your family. Time spent could save your life or at least make the event easier to deal with.

Gene KA9BOD

October meeting is election of officers  
Please say yes and volunteer to help guide the club.  
We need a few good people.

## SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

By Gary - K9LJN

<b>CALLSIGN</b>	<b>QTH</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>QSL VIA</b>
TY/F6FVX	BENIN	NOW TO SEPT 6	F6FVX
5R8HS	MADAGASCAR	NOW TO SEPT 8	IZ4AKV
ST0RM	SUDAN	NOW TO SEPT 15	T93Y
7Q7CE	MALAWI	NOW TO SEPT 16	IN3VZE
K7C	KURE	NOW TO OCT 8	N4XP
ZD8I	ASCENSION IS.	NOW TO MARCH 2006	G8WVW
HB0/ON7TQ	LICHTENSTEIN	SEPT 17 – 23	ON7TQ
T32S	EAST KITIBATI	SEPT 28 TO OCT 15	IT9RYE
A52SY	BHUTAN	OCT 3 – 10	ON4ON
GJ/OO4IPA	JERSEY	OCT 5 – 10	ON6ZV

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

### AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

August 20th there were 2 applicants resulting in 1 new Technician.

Robert Larson

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, September 17, 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

**\*\*Please note, there is a contribution bottle on the snack table at the club meeting. If you snack, please contribute\*\***

## 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@yahoo.com or any RARA Board Member.

### 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

### **\*\*\* 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 October 2005 issue will be Friday September 23, 2005.**

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

### SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

- Girl Scout Thin Mint Sprint—Sept 17- ka9bod
- CROP Hunger Walk - Columbus Day wknd
- Boy Scout Encampment—Oct 8—Eric K9KQB
- Head of the Rock Regatta—Oct 8

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

## 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		

## 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**



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

### 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

## 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.



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126  
Email: [ka9bod@arrl.net](mailto:ka9bod@arrl.net)  
Web: [www.w9axd.com](http://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

## SEPTEMBER 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