

HAM RAG

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



JANUARY 2006

— January is membership renewal time. —

Presidents Corner

Happy New Year!

First of all I would like to thank all of the officers and board members for 2005. It was a good year for the club, and we hope to build on that this year.

The second thing I would like to mention is the annual Awards Banquet that is coming in January at the Mayflower in Loves Park. Be sure to get your reservation in to Sue Peters, KA9GNR. This should be a fun evening. Expensive? Not really, especially if you happened to work a shift at our ticket booth at On the Waterfront. Remember, if you worked one shift you will get \$5.00 off the cost of your meal. Two Shifts? Well call Sue and find out how much you get off. If you were a shift supervisor you will get your meal free. Not a bad deal.

What I would like to do this year is take a good look at the direction we would like our club to go. Also Kurt and I will be asking, "What are you willing to do for RARA?" Amateur radio is changing every day and we need to be able to look at the changes and see if we want to go in that direction. We need a "game plan" for the coming year, so at the board meeting on the 31st of January we will begin to draft a purpose statement for the club. Is our purpose emergency communications? Dxing and contests? Being a repeater club? Or are we all of these and more? We are going to look at all of this and more. We would like to hear your ideas about where you would like to see the club one year from now--even five years down the road. We also need to be working on getting more new members, and getting them involved in the activities of our club. I am looking forward to this year.

Come to the dinner meeting in January for a very enjoyable time with friends and then we will get down to work.

73,
Shari, N9SH
ARRL Illinois Section Manager, N9SH@ARRL.ORG

From the Desk of the Vice President....

Welcome to 2006! I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday season. Usually during this time we have a few days off of work to enjoy the company of family and friends, and yes, to connect, configure, or load the latest and greatest gift from our amateur radio want list we may have received. (that is if you were good last year!) We also have time to reflect on our role in our amateur radio hobby, both in what we accomplished last year, and what we can do in this following year. If we do not set goals for our hobby, we will not achieve them. What can we do to become better ham radio operators? Maybe being better prepared in case of an emergency in our station, or more proficient as an operator during these times.(contests really help in this area) We all can think about what we can do to help our own RARA club in 2006 and strengthen our organization. The year 2005 presented us with opportunities to serve the public and demonstrate how amateur radio can SHINE when others could not. We cannot let them down now, they depend on us. We just have to be prepared! Please share your ideas at the meetings and maybe we all can accomplish our goals with everyone's help.

Best wishes for 2006,
Kurt Eversole – KE9NJ

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NEXT MEETING

**Saturday
January 14, 2006**

The program for this month's meeting will be:

Awards Banquet

LOCATION
*Jrichard's Mayflower
5040 N. 2nd Street
Loves Park, IL*

Secretary's Report

RARA Club Meeting December 9, 2005

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President Bill WB9MCZ.

Secretary Report – The minutes from the November meeting were read privately by members. Chuck WB9UMC made a motion to accept minutes and seconded by Shari N9SH. All approved.

Treasurers Report – Carl W9TQ not present, report read from board meeting as follows: Period of October 26 to November 26, 2005. Income \$1,904.00 (Dues \$90.00, RVC class \$238.00 and OTWF \$1,576.00). Expenses \$187.37 (phone 52.07, snacks \$24.95, Ham Rag 105.35 and misc. exp \$5.00). Check book balance of \$1,891.44. Savings balance of \$4,143.52 for an ending cash on hand of \$6,034.96. This was \$394.14 more than last year at this time. Shari N9SH made motion to accept and seconded by Tim KC9DNN. All approved.

Old Business

Ham of the year – Tonight is the last chance to submit an entry. Committee will make selection at end of meeting.

Website – A new link has been added on the W9AXD website on equipment modifications. (MODS.DK)

147.000/ 223 Repeater status – There has been no activity to remove or relocate these units. We will not be doing anything until spring.

New Business

BPL trials – Shari N9SH reported that there are BPL trials this month in the Princeton, IL area. Ed Hare from ARRL HQ is planning on coming out to help with testing.

Snack table – As of January 1, the snack table will be discontinued at the meeting.

ATV Meeting – Gene WB9MMM reported that there will be an ATV meeting on Dec. 17 3 PM at Sam's on Charles Street. Main topic will be a progress update on what is going on.

Friday morning breakfast – The meeting place may move to a different restaurant starting in January. The group is looking for a new place because the prices went up considerably. A consideration is "The Red Flame Family Restaurant" on Alpine Rd.

February 2006 meeting – Program will be a presentation by John Lawrence N9OTC on his experiences in New Orleans in support of the hurricane victims.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Tim KC9DNN presented a program on an overview of PSK31.

Submitted by Gene KA9BOD, acting secretary.

W9AXD.COM Webpage down during Holiday

You may or may not have noticed that the W9AXD.COM web site was down for an extended period of time over the Christmas weekend. The hosting vendor, Global Internet Solutions (GISOL), was notified of a critical security vulnerability within the Linux operating system by Red Hat. GISOL applied the preventative security updates to the operating system as outlined by Red Hat. The updates took longer than expected. Due to the extended down time the GISOL apologized for the inconvenience and extended our service one month as compensation.

73, Paul - K9RNR, Webmaster

Editors note: This is short notice but here is a great opportunity to share our hobby and get kids involved and exposed to our hobby. Give your kids or grandkids a chance to talk on the radio. Gene KA9BOD

(Reprinted from ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, No. 50)

KIDS' TURN AT THE RADIO: FIRST KIDS DAY OF 2006 IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

The second Sunday in January is the day to turn your shack over to the kids for some ham radio fun with a purpose. The first running of Kids Day 2006 begins Sunday, January 8, at 1800 UTC and continues until 2400 UTC with no limit on operating time (the second Kids Day will be Saturday, June 17). Kids Day provides a terrific opportunity to show youngsters what Amateur Radio is all about--and that includes its role in emergency communication. ARRL Education and Technology Program ("The Big Project") Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, says Kids Day can be a great opportunity spark change and get kids and families thinking about emergency preparedness.

"While you are coaching the youngsters who visit your shack--and their parents too--on how to make contacts and new friends via ham radio during Kids Day, why not take a few moments to ask them about their family's plans to deal with emergency challenges?" he says in December 2005 QST (see "Kids Day 2006" on p 45). "Why not use the opportunities offered by Kids Day to show the youth in your neighborhood that ham radio can be loads of fun, and that ham radio is a way that they can contribute something very valuable to their communities?"

Call **"CQ Kids Day."** The suggested exchange for Kids Day contacts is first name, age, location and favorite color. It's okay to work the same station more than once if the operator has changed. Suggested frequencies are 14.270-14.300, 21.380-21.400 and 28.350-28.400 MHz. Contacts via VHF repeaters are okay too, with permission from the repeater owner. Observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/3rdparty.html>>.

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate, which becomes the youngster's personalized "sales brochure" for ham radio, Spencer says. The League asks everyone taking part in Kids Day to complete a short survey and post comments afterward <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html>>.

Doing this provides access to download the certificate page, or participants can send a 9x12 self-addressed, stamped envelope to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

Spencer notes that this year's hurricane season highlighted one of the real values that ham radio brings to the community--a spirit of resilience. "By their very nature, ham radio operators are interested in personal preparedness and community service.this is resilience," he says. Spencer suggests that Kids Day sponsors take advantage of the opportunity to show how ham radio offers a way for participants to contribute something very valuable to their communities.

"A very effective advertising strategy is to get kids hooked on an idea," he says. "The kids in turn go home and 'bug' their parents about the idea. You plant the seed in a young mind, and they will take care of the rest!"

Spencer believes Kids Day activities can result in a family emergency plan campaign that could save lives, and future community planners who know communication and how to communicate.

"Make that personal connection that may result in a new licensee and, perhaps, more resilient individuals by opening your station and inviting kids and neighbors to share in your hobby," Spencer urges. "You just might find yourself re-infected with that enthusiasm that you once had."

Visit the ARRL Web site for full information on Kids Day <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>>.

**Its time to renew your membership
Please ensure that we have your current email address**

SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

By Gary - K9LJN

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
DP0GVN	ANTARCTICA	NOW TO JAN 11	DD1TG
TR8CR	GABON	NOW TO JAN 12	F8EN
JD1YBJ	MINAMI TORISHIMA	NOW TO JAN 15	JA1DDH
UP1SAT	KAZAKHSTAN	NOW TO JAN 15	RW6HS
T30DX	WEST KIRIBATI	NOW TO JAN 22	OH6DX
VP8PJ	ANTARCTICA	NOW TO JAN 30	DL5EBE
TT8PK	CHAD	NOW TO FEB 28	F4EGS
XU7ADI	CAMBODIA	NOW TO MAR 6	SM5GMZ
VQ9OG	CHAGOS	NOW TO DEC 31	W9ROG
CE0Z?	JUAN FERNANDES	JAN 20 – 28	N2OO
600N	SOMALIA	JAN 20 TO FEB 3	I2YSB
5H1C	TANZANIA	JAN 24 TO FEB 2	F5TVG
6W/G4WFQ	SENEGAL	FEB 4 – 17	G3SWH

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

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

December 17th there were no applicants

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, January 21, 2006.

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 till 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

2006 RARA Board of Directors

Shari N9SH – RARA President

I was first licensed in September 1975 as WN9SFT. Upgraded to General in 1977 and held the callsign of WB9SFT. In 1980 I upgraded to Advanced and 20 years later I upgraded to Extra. I have also held the callsign KB9SH for two years before changing it to N9SH in June 2000. I have held the offices of RARA Secretary, Vice-President and President. This is the third time as President. I am currently Section Manager for the Illinois section. My term of office will end June 30, 2006 as I have decided not to run for reelection. When I have time to operate I enjoy working 17 and 20 meter phone. I like contesting, but I have not had the time to do much in the last few years. I am married to Gene, WB9MMM and we have two children, Shawn, KA9BXA, and Wendy. We have four grandchildren who we love to have around to spoil.

Vice President – Kurt Eversole – KE9NJ

I currently hold an Extra class license and have been a ham for 29 years and am a member of the ARRL. My favorite mode of operating is SSB 10-80 meters and enjoy contesting such as WPX, November Sweepstakes, and CQWW. I also operate on 2 meters at times.

Treasurer - Carl A. Cacciatore - W9TQ

Carl is an Extra and has been a ham for 31 years and an active member of RARA for 30 years. He is a member of ARRL and the W5YI VE Testing group here in Rockford. Carl can be found on 17 and 20 meter SSB and 2FM. Carl was the 2002 RARA Ham of the Year

Secretary – Colleen Peterson – KC9EWJ

I got my license after my husband Tim did, because I saw him having so much fun. October 2003 is when I became a ham. Since then I have been doing my best to help people with Ham Radio and have even gotten my children interested. My daughter Kirsten is only six and she can't wait to get her license. My son Timmy is three and we can't keep him away from the radio!

Director - Wendy Owano - KC9BCF

Wendy holds a Technician class license and has been a ham for 3 years. She has been a RARA member for 3 years and enjoys 2 meter FM activity.

Director - Bill Peters - WB9MCZ

Bill currently holds an Advanced license and has been a ham for 32 years. He has been an active member of RARA for 4 years. He is a life member of ARRL and is part of Winnebago ARES. Bill's favorite mode of operation is 15 cw and phone and 2 FM.

Director - Timothy L. Peterson - KC9DNN

I got my first ham ticket on "April Fools Day," 2003 as a Technician. My first radio is a Radio Shack 2M mobile HTX-252, it still works fine, and was bought on clearance. It did not take long before I wanted to try more. I decided that the next radio would have to be one that could grow with me. About two years ago I bought a Yaesu FT-897 HF/VHF/UHF All mode Transceiver. Listening to the HF bands was all I needed to want to upgrade my license. Got General, and in May of 2005 I finally got Extra. Larry Snyder was my Elmer, and helped with many questions, and probably would not have gotten this far with out his help. I enjoy working on many of the HF bands, mainly workong PSK31, and SSB Phone. I still use repeaters on commutes, and like to experament with new modes or bands. Building is another matter, that includes antennas, an Iambic paddle, and a antenna tripod. I'm always toying with ideas, seeing what I need or want, and how could I built it. Lastly, another area that is important to me is serving others. Whether it is helping at a public event, "Elmering," or doing my part in protecting amateur radio. By caring for Ham Radio, I have found myself caring about other aspects of my life. So God, Family, Work, and Ham Radio keeps me very busy, and just as happy.

Director - Dan Hunt - KC9ATR

I have been a ham since December 2001. I can work, 6m, 2m, 70cm, 1.2gh and I like to work these bands in as many modes that I can. My interest at this time are mainly public service with skywarn and other events that come up. Also I am one of three assistant emergency coordinators for Winnebago County ARES. (Editor note : Dan was 2004 Ham of the Year.)

Editor, News Letter - Gene Stankiewicz - KB9BOD

Gene has an Advanced license and has been a ham for 27 years and an active member of RARA for 18 years. He is a member of ARRL and Winnebago ARES. Gene likes to work 2 and 440 FM, 10/15/20 SSB and work community events.

Thank you Thank you

I would like to thank all of those that have helped me with the Ham Rag this past year and hopefully I did not miss anyone. Bill WB9MCZ, Tim KC9DNN, Gary K9LJN and Randy W9HL have been contributors with monthly articles.

Bob WA9NTT has been very helpful with getting pictures for me at several events.

Rich K9PK and Jim W9JR have provided both articles and topic ideas multiple times.

Others who have helped with articles are Wendy KC9BCE, Shari N9SH, Dick KC9BCB, Carl W9TQ, Gene WB9MMM, Chuck AB9KA and Wayne KA9IMX.

Special thanks to Paul K9RNR who has provided all the background help with getting the Ham Rag published via the W9AXD website. Also, thank you Paul for all of your effort in maintaining the website.

THANK YOU ALL,

Gene KA9BOD, Ham Rag Editor

Technician & General Classes Scheduled for Spring 2006

RVC has approved the dates for the spring 2006 ham classes. The classed will be held at the following dates:

Technician Class 3/18/06 and 3/25/06 from 8 AM to 4 PM.

General Class 4/22/ 06 and 4/29/06 from 8 AM to 4 PM.

Carl W9TQ

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

Do you have a question about radio?
Call Scott, WB9LHU Earth Works
965-9841

Editors Note

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

**Cut-off for the February 2006 issue will be Friday
January 27, 2006.**

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

2006 RARA Officers and Board (Elected October 14, 2005)

President—Shari Harlan, N9SH
Vice President — Kurt Eversol, KE9NJ
Secretary — Colleen Peterson, KC9EWJ
Treasurer — Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ

Directors:

Bill Peters, WB9MCZ
Tim Peterson, KC9DNN
Wendy Owano, KC9BCF
Dan Hunt, KC9ATR
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.

The location may be changing sometime in January so listen to the nets for further information.



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

JANUARY 2006

January is membership renewal time

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