

HAM RAG



RARA Mission Statement

A member association with common interest of public service to the community

November 2007

President's Corner

What an amazing time. Lots of recent events and some real Ham radio fun. On the Club side I would first like to thank all those who ran for office and made Gene Harlan's (WB9MMM) work easy as Nominating chairman. My Congrats go to: David Peterson, KA9GEU, President; Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, Vice-President; Susan Peterson, KC9JDT, Secretary; Rich Ludwig, K9PK, Treasurer. Board of Directors: Chuck Derwent, K9SAN, Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, Mike Oberg, AB9AY, and Robert Larson, KC9ICH. Lets continue to have fun as a club next year.

I did have an interesting phone conversation with John Huntley, the engineer from the cloud company where our 146.610 VHF repeater is located. He also is a ham KK7IW! Some of you may have noticed some odd stuff going on with it, including some of the AM station there leaking in as well as de-sense and wideband noise. They had taken a massive lightning hit and it obliterated some of the Iso-couplers used to isolate the tower and our equipment. There was also some use of RG8 and RG213 coax jumpers by us and some other tenants. As you are probably aware, the outer shielding of those brands of coax is not 100% and does leak a little rf in and out. Not only leaking our signal out but also leaking their local RF back into our equipment, possibly creating noise, spurs and other nastyness, so he replaced all the jumpers with some brand new Andrew LDF4-50A Heliac, which has much improved characteristics and is 100% shield. He also replaced our ground straps and slightly relocated the cabinet as part of a project to improve the entire building were we are being co-located. He has done this without charge to use and it is greatly appreciated. Thanks, John, for your help in eliminating some of the noise and other weirdness on the repeater!

On a personal note, I added a ham antenna on my Latham tower site at ~270ft agl. It is a Hustler G6-270R 2M/440 Dual bander. It is being fed with 7/8in Heliac. I have an APRS DIGI/Igate node up and running as KB9AYF-10. It has a range around 60 Miles. Its working fantastic! I had a blast the 1st couple days it was up. I didn't have a N-Male to PL-259 adapter, so I couldn't hook up either of my radio's but I did have an N-Male to SO-259. Then it hit me... Passive coupling... that it! I took my 1/4 wave mag mount off my jeep and stuck it on the side of a cabinet in the building and screwed the pl-259 to the repeater antenna with that jumper I mentioned. Now the two basically make a passive repeater. I grabbed my Motorola HT on 440 and brought up Fishfar full scale! It worked like a charm. I talked to a few people over there and mostly listened to Chicago traffic. I then went home got the correct adapter and got my dual band mobile hooked up.

What a blast, working Dubuque, Davenport, Burlington, Peoria, Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago and some I just have no clue where they were. Madison and Milwaukee were 40-60 over S9 on 2m and 440. I worked mobiles in Chicago and Baraboo, WI. It was a real blast. I still giggle over the passive coupling... Its one of those in theory, yeah that should work, but I had never tried until then.. It really works!

Don, KB9AYF

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NEXT MEETING

Friday

November 9, 2007

Program:

David and Susan Peterson will continue their discussion on Club restructuring.

LOCATION:

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

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

Latest news and events on our web page: <http://www.w9axd.org>

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EDITOR'S QRM

Friday Morning Breakfast meets every Friday morning from 8 A.M until about 9:30 A.M. At the Red Flame Family Restaurant, 915 S. Alpine Road. An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, is recovering at home after suffering a stroke on October 12th. We wish all the best for Gene. Regina Perry, KC9JVI is recovering from and October 23rd surgery. Get well soon.

We are trying something new with the Hamrag this month. A lot of you have been having trouble opening the Hamrag, so this month Paul, K9RNR, is putting it on the W9AXD website. I hope that this helps you receive the newsletter. 73, Shari, N9SH

From David Peterson and Susan Peterson

At the September 14 meeting, it was suggested by the membership (see the October 12 Ham Rag for reference) that we should improve the meeting programs. It was further suggested that we should form interest groups which meet to discuss interests and to then report highlights of our discussions to the membership.

At our upcoming RARA meeting on November 9, we will begin to learn from the interest group concept. We will divide ourselves into groups using the whiteboard to allow us to select which group or groups into which we would like to organize ourselves. HF and VHF categories come to mind. Other sets and, if needed, subsets, can be added at the whiteboard. We can sign up for more than one group and move between groups if we like. At the end of our talk session one person can summarize the group's discussion for all to hear and comment on.

Our club is an open club. If you have anything to add or subtract from what we are doing, speak up.

In the meantime, I may be reached with your suggestions and/or comments at davidpeterson@northboone.com. Or, if you prefer, you can call us at 815-912-2556.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

73

David and Susan

Riley Hollingsworth to stay at FCC

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Special Counsel for the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, has decided not to retire. He had announced last week that he would leave the FCC in January 2008.

Riley states, "After spending the entire weekend thinking about the decision [to retire], it became more and more clear to me that it just isn't the right decision for me right now. There are several issues on the table that I want to continue to work through with the amateur community."

The Enforcement Bureau is the primary organizational unit within the Federal Communications Commission that is responsible for enforcement of provisions of the Communications Act, the Commission's rules, Commission orders and terms and conditions of station authorizations, as well as enforcement of Amateur Radio rules (Part 97).

Secretary's Report

RARA Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Don KB9AYF. Introductions were made of the twenty members present and a new member, Ed KC9MDV was welcomed. Gene WB9MMM gave the treasurer's report. Shari N9SH has not yet received the check from working On the Waterfront.

Old Business

Gene WB9MMM reported a need for antenna help from Fred Mertz. Bob WA9NTT volunteered to help. Chuck AB9KA reported that five have enrolled in the Technician class at Rock Valley College on October 20 and 27. The General class on November 10 and 17 has three enrolled. Carl W9TQ is co-teaching the courses with Chuck. Bob WA9NTT reported that a 50 foot tower and a Titan Gap antenna are available. Gene WB9MMM said that organizers of the September 13 and 14 Ham Fest at the Boone County Fair Grounds were happy with it.

Election Results

Elections for officers and board members for 2008 were uncontested and the results are:

President – David Peterson KA9GEU
Vice President – Gene Harlan WB9MMM
Secretary – Susan Peterson KC9JDTL
Treasurer--Rich Ludwig, K9PK
Board Members--
Chuck Derwent K9SAN
Chuck Ingle AB9KA
Robert Larson KC9ICH
Mike Oberg AB9AY

Motions to have the ballots accepted by unanimous vote were made by Fred W9WOQ and seconded by John W9JGO.

Continuing Business

Dan KC9ATR has Ham of the Year forms for those who wish to make nominations. Chuck AB9KA reports that John KC9IED thanks all who helped with the Head of the Rock Regatta. Portable dual band J-pole antennas (DBJ-2) worked very well at this event. Don KB9AYF has extra materials for anyone interested in making one. Chuck has Ham Radio Outlet catalogues available on the front table. Gene WB9MMM asked for corrections to the latest RARA Roster list which was distributed. Shari N9SH asked for volunteers to help in the Crop Walk on October 21 at 2:00PM at the Discovery Center. New member, Ed KC9MDV asked about most possibilities. Members offered advice. David KA9GEU discussed a recent *Wall Street Journal* article indicating that a ham has started transcribing books into CW. He also stressed the need to follow up on the six major RARA goals developed at the last meeting.

Program

A PowerPoint presentation on How APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) was made by Gene N9MXQ. Information can be found at the website: <http://www.aprs.net>.

Susan Peterson KC9JDT

General Class to be held at Rock Valley College

Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, and Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, will be teaching a general class at Rock Valley College on November 10th and November 17th. The class will run from 8 AM till 4 PM on the 10th and from 8 AM to 3 PM on the 17th. Exams will be given to the class at the end of the second class.

FOR SALE

ICOM IC718 Transceiver; ASTRON RS35M Power supply

Call Mike Oberg, AB9AY, at 815-399-0961 for details

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

Latest news and events on our web page: <http://www.w9axd.org>

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ARES News

ROCKFORD, IL - In London, they do it on the Thames. In Boston, they do it on the Charles. And in Rockford, they do it on the Rock. It's the sport (although some call it the art) of rowing.

On Sunday, October 7, more than 1,700 rowers from throughout the USA will gather in Rockford for the 22nd annual - Baird Head of the Rock Regatta brought to you by the YMCA of the Rock River Valley's Rowing Club. Participants hail from 60 rowing clubs and universities, and they'll row 550 boats in 42 events.

It's a glorious sight! Picture a crisp autumn day, a brilliant blue sky and hundreds of sculls skimming along the Rock River and powered only by the synchronized muscle-action of precision rowing teams. It looks like poetry in motion, but it's a strenuous sport. Rowers range from teens to seniors and novices to masters. There are men's, women's and mixed teams, as well as pairs, quads, octets and everything in between. Spectators may enjoy food, music vendors and college displays and alumni gatherings on the grounds of the race site.

Winnebago County, Illinois - ARES Amateur Radio operators/stations serving for this event were:

Coordinator John - KC9IED

Net Control 1 Eric - N9MCS

Net Control 2 Sam - NW9T

Start Line Judge Gene - KA9BOD (AM) & Al - KD9CA (PM)

Start Line (Boat) Joe - KA9MTH

First Aid/Medical Bill - WB9MCZ (AM) & Alvin - KC9GIO (PM)

Dock A (Receiving) Brad - AA9G (AM) & Eric - KC9DUX (PM)

Dock B (Launch) Dan - KC9ATR

Dock C (Launch) Larry - KB9KCK (AM) & Sue - KA9GNR (PM)

Dock B Boat Tracker Linda - KC9FAH

Dock C Boat Tracker Paul - K9RNR (AM) & Chuck - AB9KA (PM)

Amateur Radio organization providing service: Winnebago County, Illinois - ARES

Location: Winnebago County (Major City is Rockford), Illinois

Sunday, October 21, 2007 - marked the 21st anniversary of the Rockford area CROP Walk.

CROP WALKS provide a learning experience for walkers which invites walkers to reflect on their relative privilege, and exercise their hope toward a world that works for all. CROP WALKS are community-based fund raising events that raise money for local hunger-fighting agencies as well as the international relief and development efforts of Church World Service. This annual event is aimed at addressing hunger - locally and worldwide. The money raised through sponsorships and the CROP WALKERS is used to help fight hunger worldwide, providing relief and development assistance in more than 80 countries. Up to 25% of the local proceeds are donated to local hunger agencies. A goal of \$50,000 - with \$12,500 going directly to local food banks, food pantries and meal sites - has been set for the 2007 Rockford CROP Walk. The local beneficiaries include the Greater Rockford Pantry Coalition and Northern Illinois Food Bank - Rockford Branch.

The CROP WALKERS walked from the River Front Museum Park, up to and across the Jefferson Street Bridge, down along the bike path to Auburn Street Bridge and return to the Museum Park.

What: Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Training Meeting and Powerpole Party

When: November 17, 2007, 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon

Program: Checkins and introductions, EmComm Update, "Power Supplies and Battery Packs"-brief presentation, and a "Powerpole Party"-workshop.

Anderson Powerpoles have become the standard power cable connector for ARES emcomm groups all across the country. We will have a supply of 30 Amp. Anderson Powerpoles, an Anderson Powerpole crimping tool, soldering gun, and supplies, etc. along with detailed instructions, coaching and assistance for persons who wish to update/modify their radio power cables and adapters to the Powerpole standard. Ideally, all ARES volunteers would have Powerpole connectors on their power cables to maximize interchangeability of batteries packs and power supplies during Emcomm events. So, bring your radio power cable(s), adapters, etc. to the meeting. Powerpole sets are available at our cost (i.e., one end of a power cable) will be \$1.00 = \$2.00 per connection. All ARES and RARA members are welcome.

Where: Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Center, 2623 Edgemont in Rockford. The facility is located at the corner of Glenwood and Edgemont Avenue, on the North-West corner of the Rockford Memorial

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

Latest news and events on our web page: <http://www.w9axd.org>

Hospital campus. The Rockford Memorial Hospital Thrift Shop is directly across the street. The hospital is directly south of the Training Center. There is parking at the north and south ends of the building. Please enter the building from the front, South end. **(Directions:** If coming from the north, drive south on Rockton Avenue, turn right on Glenwood and left on Edgemont. If coming from the south, drive north on Rockton Avenue, turn left on Lawndale and right on Edgemont. Drive past the hospital on the right to the end of the block and turn right into parking lot. To help us plan for the number of participants, please contact John Cotner - KC9IED, at kc9ied@arrl.net and indicate that your are planning to **attend and how many Powerpole connections you wish to make.**

RARA BANQUET

The RARA Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2008 at Lino's, 5611 East State Street. Cocktails will be at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM.

The banquet menu will feature a 7-course dinner which includes: Relish tray, soup, garlic and pizza breads, Lino's special salad, a variety of pasta (Mostaccioli- Ravioli-Tortellini), coffee, and spumoni. There will be a cash bar.

Choices of meat main course will be:

Baked Lasagna (vegetarian)-----	\$16.00
Baked Chicken ala Lino-----	\$16.00
New York Strip Steak-----	\$24.00
Baked Cod-----	\$18.00

All prices include tax and tip. Remember is you worked at the On the Waterfront ticket booth this year you will get \$5.00 off for each shift that you worked. Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors will get their meals at no charge.

Please call Shari Harlan, N9SH, at 815-398-2683 by January 4, 2008 to make your reservation or send a check payable to RARA to: Shari Harlan, 5931 Alma Drive, Rockford, IL. 61108/

2007 RARA Officers and Board

President--Don Russell, KB9AYF, 815-985-1545

Vice- President

Secretary--Chuck Derwent, K9SAN, 815-239-2247

Treasurer--Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, 815-398-2683

Directora:

Dan Hunt, KC9ATR, unlisted

Kurt Eversole, KE9NJ, unlisted

Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, 815-3322479

Shari Harlan, N9SH, 815-398-2683

AREA REPEATERS

146.610 - ENC/DEC pl 114.8 W9AXD

147.000 + ENC/DEC pl 114.8 W9AXD

223.880 - ENC/DEC pl 118.8 W9AXD

ATV input 1250 Mhz/ 434 Mhz W9ATN

146.805 - ENC/DEC pl 114.8 K9AMJ

224.0400 - ENC/DEC pl 118.8 K9AMJ

224.4400 - ENC/DEC pl 118.8 K9AMJ

147.255 + ENC/DEC pl 114.8 N9MCS

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio Exam session in Rockford, IL. On Saturday, November 17, 2007.

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 a W5YI-VE session:

1. Your original amateur license (unexpired or within 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:

Radny Scott, W9HL
W9HL@arrl.net
815-877-4328

At the August 18th session there were 4 applicants resulting in 3 new licenses and 1 upgrade.

New License

Gary L. Woodruff, Technician
Benjamin G. Roche, Technician
Timothy W. Murphy, General

Upgrade

John H. Cotner, Jr. KC9IED, Extra

At the September 15th session there were 2 applicants resulting in 2 new licenses.

New License

Austin J. Polnow (Ed) Technician
Richard F. Ricket, Technician

At the October 20th session there were 4 applicants resulting in 2 new licenses.

New License

Edwin Colson II, Technician

The next RARA Board meeting will be Tuesday, November 27, 7:00 P.M. At St Anthony Hospital. Members are welcome to attend.

Input for the December Ham Rag will be due November 30th.

HAM OF THE YEAR---2007 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 2007.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to fill out the form below, or a facsimile of, completing all of the requested information. Nominations may be mailed to KC9ATR at the address below or handed to him, at the next club meeting. All nominations must be received by December 12, 2007. They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Mail nominations to:
Dan Hunt
P.O. Box 3416
Rockford, IL 61106

Nominee _____

Call Sign: _____

I nominate the above person for the RARA Ham of the Year-2007 award for the following reasons:



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email n9sh@hampubs.com

Web: www.w9axd.org

NETS

Monday 8 PM 2 Meter 146.610 - 114.8

Thursday 7 PM ARES 147.255 + 114.8

Thursday 8 PM SATERN 146.61 - 114.8

November 2007

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Single Adult: \$25.00 Adult w/Family: \$30.00

Single Senior: \$15.00 Senior w/Family: \$20.00

Student: \$15.00

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

Ham Rag Via USPS: \$12.00 extra

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

Renewal _____ New _____ Retired _____

Radio Interests _____

Other Interests _____