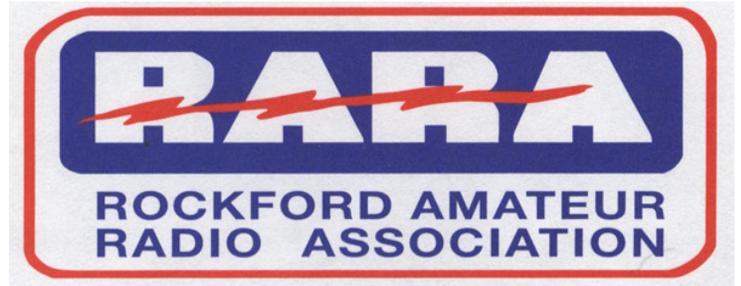


HAM RAG



RARA Mission Statement

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

January 2008

President's Corner

Happy New Year!

Here we go into 2008, a new year and a new chapter in the life of RARA. The officers and directors you have elected have already started to make this a good year for social events, technical presentations and fellowship.

Gene - WB9MMM, vice-president, is hard at work gathering ideas and options for meeting presentations. He has also secured the meeting room for our Friday general meetings, and the smaller room for the board meetings at OSF. Thanks Gene!

Gene - KA9BOD, secretary, has been called in a month early as Secretary for the club and has done an outstanding job on short notice. Thanks Gene!

Rich - K9PK, treasurer, is hard at work building the budget for 2008 and transferring the bank account paperwork. Don't you just love paper work, yikes! Thanks Rich! Budgets are fun, they really are.

As you can see, N9SH - Shari, HamRag Editor, has been hard at work putting together and distributing this HamRag. Like Gene - KA9BOD, she has been called in early as the HamRag Editor, this is her official second issue for this office term. Stepping in and fulfilling one of the most important member benefits is really appreciated.

Oh, and let's not forget the effort Shari has put forth in preparing for the next meeting, the 2007 Awards Banquet. The list of recipients, meeting location, menu, and certificates just don't appear out of the blue. It takes time, effort and dedication. Thanks Shari!

And as for me, Paul - K9RNR, president, I have been busy trying to figure out what I can do to bring RARA to the "next level". I think I have an answer and will be presenting my direction objectives to the Officers and Board at our first Board meeting at the end of January. I have also renewed the W9AXD.ORG name and hosting services for our website.

2008 will be an interesting year for RARA members. There will be opportunities for each of the members to participate be it at a General meeting, a social event, a contest or even some on the air activities. Watch our calendar on the W9AXD.ORG website. I will keep it updated throughout the year. Sign up, come out, and participate. If you see something you would be interested in doing as part of the club, let any of the Officers or Board members know. If they don't know your thoughts, they can't provide an answer.

The Awards Banquet is January 12, 2008, at Lino's. I hope you can make the meeting. It is our way of recognizing our fellow members for the effort they have put forth and their accomplishments in our hobby and our club.

I hope 2008 will be a great year for RARA, its members and families.
73, Paul - K9RNR

Inside this issue:

President's Corner	1
VP Stuff	2
ATV Minutes	2
ARRL Bulletin	3
AES Superfest	3
Secretary's Report	4
Surfin'ude	5
Coming events	5
VE notices	6
Show and tell	7

NEXT MEETING

January 12, 2008

LOCATION:

Lino's

5611 East State Street

Cocktails: 6 PM and
Dinner at 7PM

PROGRAM

Service awards and Ham of the Year award.

VP Stuff

From what I have heard, both from individuals and from the meeting that David, KA9GEU, and Susan, KC9JDT, had the "tell us what you want" meeting, is that you want a variety of programs throughout the year. This weekend some members of the Board of Directors and I are getting together to list ideas that we think will have the most appeal to the members. Even though we are going to attempt to plan way ahead, your input is welcome for content of future meetings and I hope you will tell us your thoughts. It should be a good year. Let's have fun with Ham Radio!

Gene - WB9MMM
atvq@hampubs.com
815-398-2683

Minutes of the 12-15-07 ATV meeting

Minutes of the 12-15-07 Amateur Television Network (ATN) of IL ATV meeting.

Those in attendance were: Tim Murphy, KC9MBZ; Steven Kirby, N9MCT; Jim Gutshall, N9KUY; Mikayla Auerswald, K9MEA; John Auerswald, KA9SOG; Dan Hunt, KC9ATR; Shari Harlan, N9SH; and me, Gene Harlan, WB9MMM.

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM.

Treasurer's report: We have \$293.98 on hand. There were not any expenditures since the last meeting. Two people have paid their 2008 dues and a \$100 deposit will be made soon. For those that would like to support the ATN-IL ATV repeater, the dues are \$50/year (make checks out to RARA-ATV) and may be sent to: Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, Treasurer, 5931 Alma Dr., Rockford, IL 61108.

Repeater Status: The DTMF for controlling the camera was fixed (broken wire) and is working. Dish Network for NASA feeds is working just fine since allowing it to upload it's firmware like it wanted to do. The 1.2 GHz antenna is now a dipole waiting for a slot antenna to be completed. Who would want to put it up in the winter anyway?

Field day we used ATV and made a couple of contacts.

As most of you know, we used ATV to broadcast the October RARA meeting. We knew it would not be perfect as we had never tried it before. It took awhile to get audio working, but finally got it going. Much to my surprise, we found out that we actually had a viewer! Othel Andrews, K9JMW, who lives on Adler Ave close to the Sweden House Lodge told us that he had good picture but the audio was hard to hear. So, it looks like we need to consider our experiment for future meetings.

State Street Mile was in August but without ATV as we did not have enough ATV'ers to do the job. Next year?

Elections for 2008 were held:
President is John Auerswald, KA9SOG
VP is Dan Hunt, KC9ATR
Secretary/Treasurer is Gene Harlan, WB9MMM

A question came up about adding a 900 MHz output to the ATV repeater. One of the reasons is so that those that used 434 MHz into the repeater (which is on 421 MHz out), would be able to see their own signal. To do that we would need to get permission from the hospital to make sure we did not interfere with anything of theirs. It was decided to hold this thought until we had more users.

A suggestion is that we use the pan/tilt camera for ID from the repeater. To do this we will need an overlay board for the ID. Motion was made and passed to do this. It was also suggested that it be made to switch from the camera, using it in the daytime, to our current ID'er at night since there may not be much of an image at night. We will have to make or buy a light detector that will be used as a switch when it gets dark. It was also suggested that we increase the length of time that the ID stays on from 10 seconds every 10 minutes to 30 seconds every 10 minutes. This request has also come from others that use the repeater as a beacon to know when the band is open.

We tested a couple of the 1.2 GHz boards for members and programmed new PIC chips so they can be adjusted to more frequencies. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Everyone have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Gene-WB9MMM, RARA-ATV Secretary/Treasurer

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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

SPECIAL BULLETIN FROM ARRL

New Prefix for Bosnia-Herzegovina Officially Announced

In response to a request from the Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina in August, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) withdrew the call sign prefix allocation T9A-T9Z for Bosnia and Herzegovina and made a new allocation, E7A-E7Z. The change was made initially on a provisional basis under authority of the ITU Secretary-General and was confirmed by the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference to be effective November 17, 2007.

According to International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Ministry of Communications and Transport (BiH) held a press conference in Sarajevo on December 18 to formally announce the change. Minister Dr Bozo Ljubic explained the desirability of changing a prefix that initially was allocated during wartime and how it was now being replaced with one that has no connection to that troubled time; similar steps have been taken with regard to passports, drivers' licenses and automobile registrations, he said. Ljubic also observed that the costs associated with the change were minimal compared to the benefits.

Amateur Radio station licenses bearing E7 prefixes will be issued beginning in January 2008, and the use of other prefixes will be phased out.

Sumner and IARU Region 1 President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, of Norway, were invited to speak at the press conference. Accompanying them was IARU Region 1 Executive Committee member Nikola Percin, 9A5W, of Croatia. They expressed congratulations and support for the change, eliminating an issue that has complicated relations among the radio amateurs of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Also invited to speak was Miroslav Nikse, President of the Union of Radioamateur Associations of Bosnia and Herzegovina (URAS), a recently formed umbrella organization of amateur radio associations based in different parts of the country. He thanked those involved in promoting the change. In his remarks, Dr Ljubic pledged support from the Ministry of Communications and Transport to the umbrella organization for the development of Amateur Radio repeater and digital networks that would cover the whole of the country, enhancing emergency communications capabilities.

AES SUPERFEST 2008 – Just 90 days away!

CALL FOR CLUBS PARTICIPATION

For clubs that have attended before, this is the Official 2008 Notice of Dates and Times. If its the first time – here's the deal.

DATES: Friday, March 28th (2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) & Saturday March 29th (8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

LOCATION:

AES MILWAUKEE

WE PROVIDE:

Covered 8 ft. tables with electrical hook-up in a large inside area where you can interact with clubs, promote and recruit new members. There is no admission, space or set-up charge; your organization is invited to attend without obligation. We are again expecting a large participation from major ham manufacturers. There will be VE testing, interesting forums, a fox hunt, prizes, the Gordon West show and a Very Special Guest to be announced.

SPACE REGISTRATION/INFORMATION:

Contact Ray Grenier, AES Milwaukee – e-mail: rayk9khw@aol.com; direct

office line: (414) 375-1162; cell (anytime) 414-881-3528

SET-UP:

Friday 3/28 Open at 9:00 a.m., show opens at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday 3/29: Open at 8:00 a.m., show opens at 8:30 p.m.

Contact me ASAP, thanks,

Ray Grenier, K9KHW

AES Milwaukee

An ARRL SANCTIONED Hamfest

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

RARA Club Meeting December 14, 2007

President, Don Russell, W9DRR called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM with 18 people in attendance.

All in attendance were asked to introduce themselves.

The president asked Gene, KA9BOD to read the minutes from the November meeting and to fill in for the current secretary who was not able to be there. The minutes were approved and seconded with a unanimous vote.

The treasurer's report was also read by Gene, KA9BOD for the period of November 1 to Nov. 30, 2007.

Expenses	\$34.83
Ending checkbook balance	\$1,538.49
Ending Savings balance	\$4,689.98
Cash on hand	\$6,228.47
Gail/loss from last year	\$ 772.27

The treasurer's report was approved and seconded with a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1. At the RARA board meeting on October 28, 2007, David, KA9GEU and Sue, KC9EWJ Peterson, resigned their elected positions as next year's President and Secretary, respectively. Shari, N9SH, stood in for nominating chairman, Gene, WB9MMM to hold a replacement election and solicit nominees from the floor. Nominees were Paul Franklin, K9RNR – President and Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD – Secretary who were unanimously approved by the membership for these positions.
2. Shari, N9SH mentioned that 2008 club dues are due.
3. Shari, N9SH made an announcement regarding the annual RARA Banquet at Lino's on Saturday, January 12, 2008. If you worked at On the Waterfront you are eligible for a discount off of the meal price.
4. Dan, KC9ATR asked that Ham of the Year nominations forms be turned in. The selection committee was going to make the selection after the meeting.
5. There will be an ATV club meeting on Saturday, December 8 at 4 PM at the home of Gene, WB9MMM. The agenda will be election of officers, taking dues and playing with toys.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Chuck, AB9KA announced the two upcoming tech and general classes at RVC on Mar. 15 & 22 and Apr 26 & May 3 respectively.
2. Don, W9DRR told of the antennas that he lost in the ice storms and was interested in having an antenna party to rebuild and install. If interested contact Don.
3. Dave Bond, W9MG did a short show and tell about an old "5-meter Oscillator" that was built by his uncle for a Polar expedition.
4. John Olson, W9JGO talked about a NASA email he got about a magnetic disturbance on the sun that may mark the start of a positive change in the propagation cycle. Others commented that there have been 80 meter pileups during the past week.
5. There was a general discussion around the room of how old were you when you got your license.
6. John Cotner, KC9IED brought up a question of why RARA is not more active with JOTA to help target more young people to get involved in ham radio. General discussion on the subject.

The meeting program was on setting up "Go-Packs" given by Gene Young, N9MXQ. Gene brought in his packs and explained all of its components and the reason for having it and in some cases where to purchase the various items. For more information go to <http://hometown.aol.com/ALONESTARYANK/manpack.html> and his favorite store is HARBOR FREIGHT located around Riverside and 251.

President Don, W9DRR closed the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Submitted by: Gene, KA9BOD
Acting Secretary

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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

JUST SURFIN'

Hey, have you checked out the website **ac6v.com**? This is one of the great amateur radio reference websites with over 700 topics to choose from, including DX, satellite, ATV, antennas, software, etc. It has all sorts of reference guides, and links to other websites as well. Choose a topic and a variety of links with a brief description are displayed. Do you want to know if there any modifications required on a radio you have? Click on the "radio mods" icon and a list of website links will appear. These websites cover about any modification known for just about any type of radio. Anyway, if you have a little time, go to **ac6v.com** and do a little surf-in'.

73 for now,
Surfin' Dude

COMING EVENTS

- January 5, Waukesha, WI 34 Annual Midwinter Swapfest, sponsored by the West Allis RAC, Waukesha County Expo Center Forum Waukesha, WI.
January 27, WCRA Midwinter Hamfest, DuPage Expo Center, 4050 East Main Street. St. Charles, IL Talk in: 145.39 (PL 103.5).
February 23, Western Lake Co. ARS WeCARS TechFest, Fox Lake Comm. Center, 23 South Street, Fox Lake, IL. Talk-in 145.755 Simplex and IRLP node 4239
March 16, Tri-County ARC Hamfest, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 305 Heyer Drive, Jefferson, WI.
March 9, Sterling-Rock Falls ARS Hamfest, Challand Middle School, 1700 16th Ave., Sterling, IL. Talk-in 146.85 (PL 114,8).
March 28-29, AES SUPERFEST 2008. AES Milwaukee, 5710 West Good Hope Road. Talk-in 145.130/144.530 N9LKH (PL 127.3)
April 19, Madison Area Repeater Association Swapfest, Stoughton, WI. Mandt Community Center, 400 Mandt

2008 RARA OFFICERS and BOARD

President--Paul Franklin, K9RNR, 815-298-2251

Vice President--
Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, 815-398-2683

Secretary--
Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, 815-2261806

Treasurer--Rich Ludwig, K9PK, 815-547-6435

Directors

Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875

Chuck Derwent, K9SAN, 815 239-2247

Mike Oberg, AB9AY, 815-399-0961

Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-623-3623

Repeater Chairman

Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ, 815-399-6822

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

Output 421.25 Mhz - Cable Channel 57

146.805 - ENC/DEC pl 114.8 K9AMJ

224.4400 - ENC/DEC pl 118.8 K9AMJ

147.255 + ENC/DEC pl 114.8 N9MCS

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

December 15th there were 4 applicants resulting in 2 new Technicians

New License

Ronald E. Langley Technician

Claudia S. McGonigle Technician

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, January 19, 2008.

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 til 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

Happy New Year !

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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

FOR SALE

I have the following items for sale. They are from two estates of silent keys. All proceeds from the sale of these items will be forwarded to the heirs of the estates.

I can be contacted via land line at 847-825-7621 or email at arttravels@comcast.net

Most items have manuals or copies of manuals

Kenwood PC1A phone patch in original box \$40.00 Never used
Kenwood 20 watt dummy load RD-20 in original box \$15.00
Kenwood TS-130S with matching 20 amp power supply, \$225.00, No filters
Drake UV3 144, 220,440 transceiver with new in the box remote mobile mount, two mics and external speaker \$200.00
SWAN 400 transceiver with power supply \$100.00
ICOM AT-55 auto antenna tuner with manual \$200.00
ICOM PS-15 20 amp power supply \$50.00
Icom filters pull outs, working. FL44a SSB, FL-45 CW narrow filter. All two \$50.00
Drake low pass filters, \$15.00
MFJ antenna tuner MFJ 969 \$100.00 current model
MFJ 12 volt distribution power strip MFJ 1112 \$15.00
MFJ Deluxe Versa Tuner II Model MFJ-949D \$35.00
MFJ Deluxe electronic keyer MFJ-4978 \$25.00
MFJ Mobile Antenna Tuner Model MFJ-945D \$40.00
2 meter beam like new \$30.00
440 beam like new \$25.00
Heathkit Q-multiplier \$10.00
Heathkit SWR meter \$10.00
Swan Watt meter model WM-1500 \$50.00
DIAWA watt/SWR meter Model CN-101 1.8—150MHZ \$50.00

Art Steinke WB9JKZ
Trustee Boy Scouts W9BSA

EDITOR'S QRM

I just want to thank Paul Franklin, K9RNR, and Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, for stepping up to the plate and running for the office of President and Secretary. They saw the need and did something about it. We should have a very good year as I know that Gene, WB9MMM, is looking for some really interesting programs.

The next Board of Director's meeting is Tuesday, January, 29, 7PM at St. Anthony Hospital.

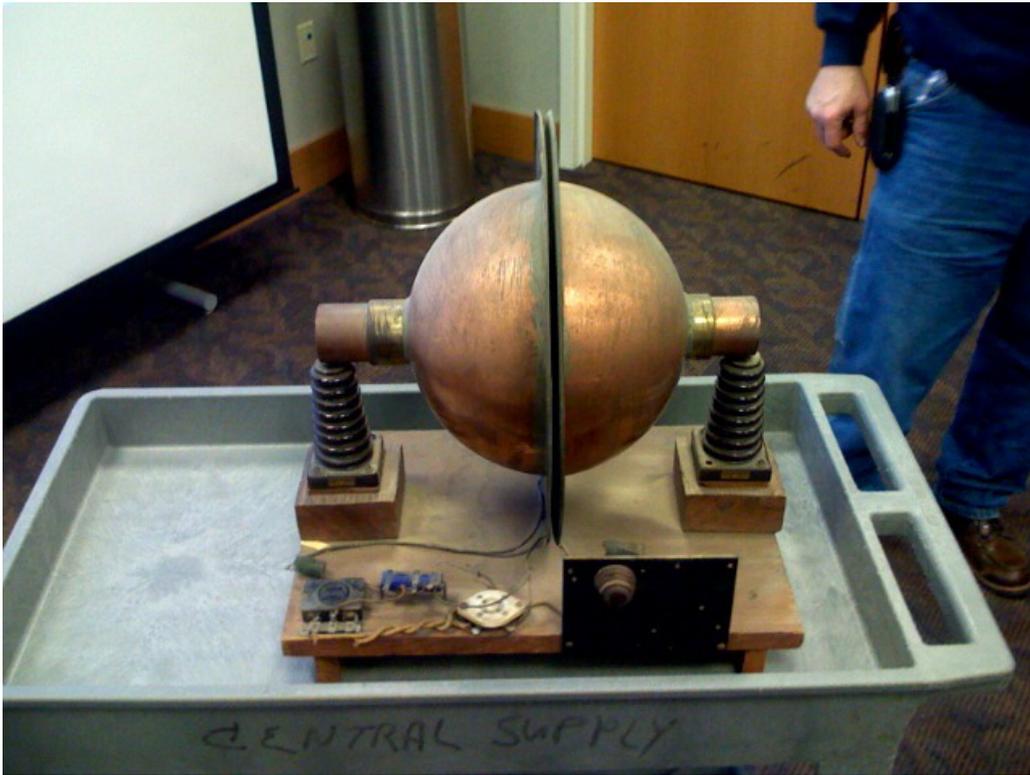
Contributions for the Ham Rag are due by January 25th. I am going to try to have the Ham Rag out one week before the regular club meeting. If you are not able to get the Ham Rag from the w9axd.org web site please let me know and I will send you one as an attachment. We want everyone to be able to get the newsletter in a timely fashion. For those of you who paid to receive the Ham Rag through the mail last year and did not receive it, you don't have to pay for that this year. We will send it to you at no extra charge. The newsletter is a very important part of the club and I will try my very best to make it something worthwhile. This is January, **club dues are now due.**

Please notice that my email address has changed to shari@hampubs.com.

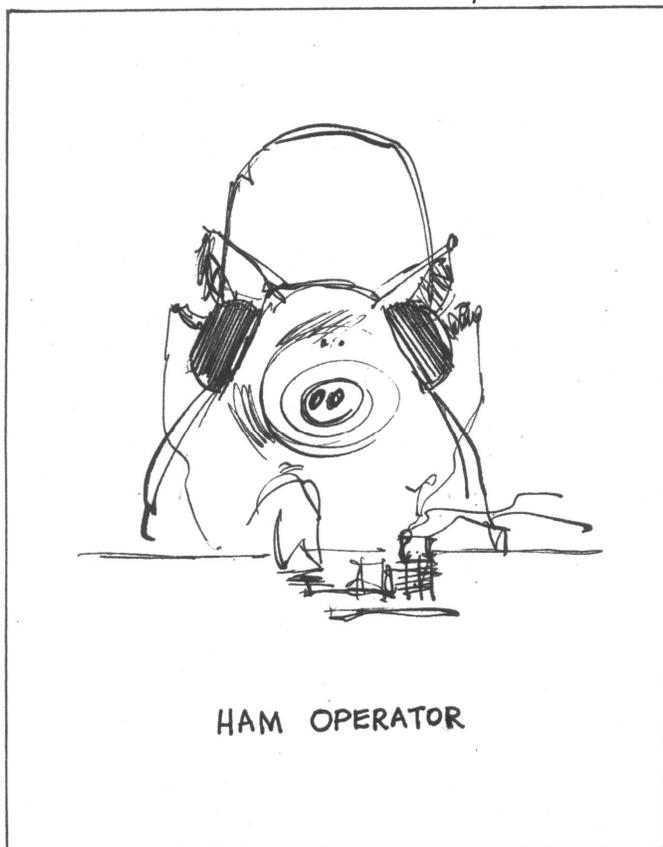
Happy New Year to everyone. 73, Shari, N9SH

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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



Picture of a 5 meter oscillator that Dave Bond brought to the December meeting for show and tell.
Picture by Gene Young, N9MXQ





P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email shari@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

January 2008

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 _____