

HAM RAG



RARA Mission Statement

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

President's Corner

Breakfast in the Park

This month's general meeting will be "Breakfast in the Park" Saturday morning, June 14th at Martin Park from 8:00 am – 11:00 AM. Chuck's (AB9KA) report at the board meeting was very positive, he is ready to go! This event has not been attended as much as it could have been in the past for various reasons. Chuck has addressed all of them this year, including an enclosed shelter in case of bad weather. And the menu is out of this world.

Field Day

Gene (KA9BOD) has been working with the City of Rockford to establish the week of June 22-28, 2008, as Amateur Radio Week in Rockford. The proclamation will be presented at the City Council meeting, June 16, 2008, to the RARA Field Day Chairman, Kurt -KE9N. Watch the presentation on Comcast if you can and come on out to the Field Day site and read the proclamation in person.

It's about time to start checking out the gear and supplies for field day. It will be here before you know it. I found a bad coax connector that would have driven us nuts at the site, so it does pay to check the equipment out before you get there.

On the Waterfront

It is time to start planning for the Waterfront. So here we go. I will have a sign-up sheet at the Breakfast on Saturday. If you have a preferred time to work the Waterfront, this will be the best time to get your name on the list.

Let's eat

Ok, enough said. **LET'S EAT!!** Saturday, June 14, 8:00 – 11:00 am, Martin Park (Just off Riverside on the east side of the river). See you there!

73 & Good DX,

Paul (K9RNR)

June 2008

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NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, June 14

8 - 11 AM

LOCATION:

Enclosed shelter at Martin Park

Loves Park, IL

PROGRAM:

Breakfast in the Park

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Since the June RARA meeting is the Breakfast In The Park, there will not be a program per se. However, I see eating as a program in itself! So we hope to see you and let's eat lots.

The program for July should be very interesting. Rich, K9PK, has been researching the radios on the Titanic. He put on a short program for the McHenry club but became so fascinated that he kept on researching and has more material to share. So make sure to attend the July meeting for "Radios on the Titanic."

Shari and I went to Dayton again this year, but it was quite different than usual as we did not have a booth. Instead we were able to see friends and visit forums that we never got to do when we had a booth. Also got to visit the flea market for a change.

We rented a scooter for me to get around on, and Friday night when we got back to the hotel we noticed that we had a flat tire. As I noticed, I was driving by the front desk of the Holiday Inn in Fairborn, Ohio. The girl at the desk saw that I had a problem and asked if she could try to help. After making a call, another young lady came and suggested that she might be able to help. Well, her idea was to blow up the tire with what they use to blow up air mattresses. I explained why that would not work, so she called Jeff, the person in maintenance. He had a regular air compressor and was able to blow it up. While that did not fix the problem as it was flat the next morning, the point is that these people at this particular Holiday Inn were the most helpful and courteous that I have ever seen at a hotel. It was not just this incident, but the attitude through the whole time we were there. And the food, although a little pricey, was some of the best food around, even the room service we had Friday night as we were tired and did not go out.

As to having a rented scooter at the Hamvention, doesn't ANYONE know that most of the people driving them have their learning permits. People did not look at all before walking in front of me, so I had to drive at about 1/4 MPH. As it was I only ran over one person - OK, I just hit one person's shoe. Also, the scooter I had was rented from a place in Freeport, and I found out that it would be cheaper to rent right there at the Hara Arena. If anyone is interested, the charge for the three days there is \$165. And, when I could not get my blown tire fixed on Saturday morning at an auto tire store (they refused to patch it - but I had them fill it to see how long it might last), the people that rent the scooters at Hara replaced the tube for us and it only cost \$15! Can't get much better than that. See you at the breakfast.

Gene - WB9MMM

COMING EVENTS

June 8, 2008, Six Meter Club of Chicago Hamfest, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL

June 14, 2008, RARA Breakfast in the Park; 8 A.M.-11 A.M.. Martin Park, Contact: Chuck AB9KA, to help

June 28-29, 2008 RARA Field Day, Aldeen Park, Contact: Kurt, KE9N

July 13, 2008, Fox River Radio League Hamfest, Aurora Catholic High School, Aurora, IL. Contact: Dean Holse, KC9EOQ. Email: hamfest@frrl.org

July 20, 2008, KARSFEST, Kankakee Area Radio Society, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL. Contact: Carl Schroeder, K9CS. Email kn2qzr@hotmail.com

August 3, 2008, Illinois State Convention, Bolingbrook Amateur Radio Society, Bolingbrook High School, Bolingbrook, IL. Contact: Tom Ballard, N9LJY. Email tb1301@comcast.net

August 10, 2008, Hamfesters Radio Club hamfest, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL. Contact Kerry Nelson, AA9SB.

Aug 10, 2008, RARA Family Picnic, 1 P.M. Alpine Park Shelter #1, Contact: Mike, AB9AY, to help

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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PARADE HELP NEEDED

THE 4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE is looking for eight hams to help out with communications for the parade.

If you would like to help PLEASE contact Moe N9CCE at 815.636.9554 , 815.509.3579 or moeham.com@comcast.net.

Thank You Moe N9CCE

Subject: The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 22 (Friday, June 6, 2008)

Date: Fri, 6 Jun 2008 14:13:31 -0400

Be Careful on 10 Meters: With recent band openings beginning on 10 meters, ARRL has received word that a number of US amateurs have been heard using SSB below 28.300. "We urge everyone to remember that 28.000 to 28.300 MHz is reserved for RTTY and data, including CW," said ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG. "Phone is permitted from 28.300 to 28.500 for Novice and Technician class licensees with a maximum power of 200 W. Phone and image are allowed from 28.300 up to 29.700 for General, Advanced and Extra class license holders." Skolaut, who manages the Official Observer and Intruder Watch programs, said that people have called and e-mailed ARRL HQ inquiring about hearing IDs repeated in code on various 10 meter frequencies.

"What they are hearing are beacons," Skolaut said; he suggests checking out some Web sites for more information on beacons you might hear on 10 meters and other bands

JUST SURFIN'

Hey, Surfin' Dude, I bought some reference books to use and they have really helped, but is there an easy way to do some calculations instead of remembering all of the formulas and having my books available if I need them? Any ideas?

Well, my friend, that's the great thing about these things we use everyday called computers. They can make our life much easier, because they can do the work for us. A few years ago a smart ham radio operator, George Murphy, VE3ERP, wrote some programs for ham radio and they're FREE. Just go to www.cq-amateur-radio.com/HamCalcem.html and there are complete instructions on downloading his Hamcalc program, and how to install it in your computer. There are so many programs to calculate just about anything related to ham radio, I think Einstein would be jealous. You can calculate pi-networks, L-networks, trap inductance and component values, timing circuits, amplifier values for common tubes, the list goes on and on. Take a look at www.cq-amateur-radio.com/HamCalcem.html and you'll wonder how you got by without it.

73 for now,
Surfin' Dude

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

RARA Club Meeting
May 9, 2008

Meeting was called to order by 7:17 PM by Secretary – Gene, KA9BOD with 20 people in attendance. President, Paul Franklin, K9RNR, was not in attendance.

All in attendanees were asked to introduce themselves and state what they have done with ham radio recently.

Secretary's Report was not read but Gordy, KC9NEX made a motion that the secretary's report that was published in the May 2008 Ham Rag be accepted as printed and seconded by Ed, K9LLL. All approved.

Treasurer's Report was read by Rich, K9PK for period of Mar .25 thru Apr. 28, 2008:

Income	\$70.00
Expenses	\$155.17
Ending Checkbook balance	\$1,111.99
Ending savings balance	\$5,595.70
Cash on hand	\$6,807.69
Gain/loss from last year	\$1.050.87

Motion to accept report made by Shari, N9SH and seconded by Dave, W9MG. All approved.

Old Business and Chair Reports

1. Breakfast in the Park – Chuck, AB9KA reported that it will be held at Martin Park on Saturday, June 14 between 8 AM and 11AM.
2. Web Page report - The new website is up. Please direct any comments or corrections to Paul, K9RNR.
3. Public information - Gene, KA9BOD had no report other than several news agencies were contacted to publish meeting info.
4. On the Air Contest – Bob, KC9ICH did not receive any forms for April contest. He displayed a sample of the award that would have been given out. The May contest will be “most HF CW contacts”.
5. Borders Books Amateur Meeting – No report from Joe, K9JPP.
6. Field Day - Kurt, KE9NJ reported that Field Day weekend, June 28-29 will be at Alden Park. Part of the meeting program will be a detailed discussion of the field day plans. Currently it appears that there will be only one station on either 40 or 80 meters. There was limited input from the membership.
7. Repeater report – No report.

New Business

1. ARES's Marathon announcement : per Paul, K9RNR, RARA president: The current ARRL Illinois Section News resented information about the Rockford Marathon that is incorrect. The Rockford Marathon is NOT a RARA sponsored event and RARA has not stated, written or verbal, that it is sponsoring the event. Gene, KA9BOD and John, KC9IED are representing Winnebago County ARES and have been working with the Rockford Marathon committee without representation as members of or an officer of RARA. I apologize to Winnebago County ARES for any misunderstanding the posting caused, even though inclusion of such information was not generated by a RARA individual. The information was gleaned from information contained in the Ham Rag by the author of he ARRL Illinois Section News. The comments were intended as RARA member information and solicitation for involvement in a community amateur radio activity and not as an endorsement or sponsorship of the event or Winnebago County ARES. Also, the event is May 18, 2008, not May 9, 2008 as reported in the ARRL Illinois Section News.
2. Rockford Marathon information – Gene, KA9BOD gave a detailed overview of the event and solicited assistance from the membership to assist.
3. Area Hamfests - A list of upcoming hamfests and radio events was announced.
4. E-mail addresses - Please inform Rich, K9PK, RARA treasurer of any changes to your email addresses as that is the current method of notifying members of Ham Rag announcements.

Gene, KA9BOD closed the meeting at 8:12 PM. Ed, K9LLL made a motion to close and seconded by Dan, KC9ATR.

Meeting program consisted of a Field Day discussion by Kurt, KE9NJ followed by a short video on Surface Mount Soldering and De-soldering.

Submitted by: Gene, KA9BOD, RARA Secretary

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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WNTA Mark Mayhew Show
1400 CDT, 23 Jun 08
Amateur Radio Week in Rockford

Mark's guests will be:

Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ
Coordinator of Amateur Radio Licensing Instruction, RARA

Kurt Eversole, KE9N
Amateur Radio Field-Day Coordinator, Aldeen Park operations, RARA

Ed Polnow, K9LLL
Youth in Amateur Radio

John Cotner, KC9IED
Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator, Winnebago County

Listener participation: call 815 874-TALK
Rockford's News/Talk 1330 WNTA

2008 RARA OFFICERS and BOARD

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

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

Secretary
Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, 815-226-1806

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

Directors:
Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875
Chuck Derwent, K9SAN, 815-519-0848
Mike Oberg, AB9AY, 815-399-0961
Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-623-3623

Repeater Chairman:
Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ, 815-399-6822
Ham Rag Editor:
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
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 WX9MCS

444.725 + pl 118.8 WX9MCS
Linked to FISHFAR

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

May 17th there were 2 applicants resulting in 1 new Technician and 1 upgrade

New Technician
Grant W. Hasting

Upgrades
Arnold L. Owens, KC9NEY, General

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

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, August 10

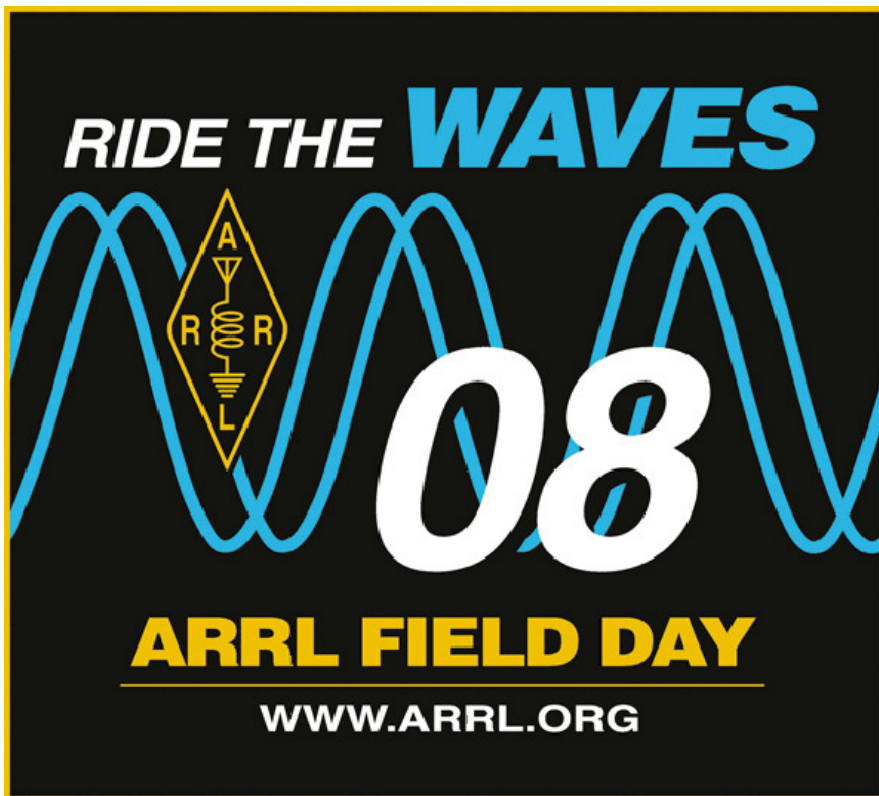
R.A.R.A Picnic

1:00 P.M.

Details will follow in future Ham Rags

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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**CQ
FIELD DAY**

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FIELD DAY**

Plans are being made for our 2008 Field Day. We will have a phone station for 40 and 75 meters, so if you want to operate contact Kurt Eversole (KE9N) at (815) 389-0392. Also, Dave Bond (W9MG) will have a station set up for 20 meters either phone or CW operation. Please contact Dave at (815) 877-3751 if you are interested in operating. If you have your own station setup, be sure to bring it out and join in the fun. Let either myself, or Dick Fleming (KC9BCB) know your plans. Dick's number is (815) 964-3423.

See the May edition of the Ham Rag for any other details. Hopefully, the weather will be good, so come out and say "hello".

Best regards,

Kurt Eversole – KE9N

MARCH OF DIMES WALK, MAY 4, 2008

On Sunday the annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica was held along the bike path in Rockford. Because of flooding in Martin Park the walk was shortened and the turnaround point was on Illinois Street. Six amateurs representing Winnebago ARES participated in this event. John, KC9IED served as NCS. Those amateurs along the route at checkpoints were Al KD9CA, Richard, KC9ISC, Eric, N9MCS, and Shari, N9SH. Alvin, KC9GIO was bicycle mobile riding the entire route. It was a beautiful day and the participants appreciated our efforts.

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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Rockford Marathon Results Overview.

Well, our Rockford Marathon event is complete. We had 26 ham operators from Winnebago, Boone, Dekalb and Ogle Counties participate in the event on Sunday, May 18, 2008, most were from Winnebago County and consisted of hams from ARES and RARA groups.

The persons participating were, in no special order: Joe Perry, K9JPP, Bob Neumann, W9TZU, Larry Alex, KB9KCK, Dan Hunt, KC9ATR, Al Fischer, KD9CA, Rick Jensen, KC9ISC, Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO, Eric Hultgren, N9MCS, Don Russell, W9DRR, John Cotner, KC9IED, Gerry Reed, WA9HLJ, Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, Paul Franklin, K9RNR, Tom Lower, K9KPC, Jimmy Curtis, KC9GOL, Gordy Seaman, KC9NEX, Bob Davidson, WA9NTT, Barry Leonard, W9JBL, Bill Peters, WB9MCZ, Sue Peters, KA9GNR, Chistie Russell, KC9HUE, Michael Sullivan, W9ADY, Robert Larson, KC9ICH, Dick Fleming, KC9BCB and Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD.

There were over 400 runners in the full marathon, about 800 in the half marathon and about 50 relay runners. The organizers expected about 1,000 runners. The race started at 7:00 and the last runners finished about 12:45. The fastest half marathon runner finished in 1:28:17 and the fastest full marathon completed in 2:36:30. The slowest full marathon runner completed in about 5:35 or so hours/minutes.

John, KC9IED was instrumental in getting some ARES members from other counties and also served as one of two net control operators for the event. I have not added up the number of man hours involved in the event, but the organizers were very appreciative of our assistance. Each ham was on station from 2 to 8 hours depending on where they were on the course.

73,
Gene KA9BOD
Email: ka9bod@arrl.net

RARA BREAKFAST IN THE PARK

CQ all breakfast skippers, and those who never do. Join RARA members on Saturday, Jun 14th, for our annual Breakfast in the Park. This year's site is the enclosed shelter at Martin Park. The rain-or shine event is from 8 to 11AM, so for the full menu, arrive early. Because Park Ridge Rd no longer connects with Riverside, take East Dr south to River Park Rd, then turn west to the park entrance. I could never stand the heat, so I'm taking my kitchen to the park. Hope we see you there.

Chuck – AB9KA, Chaiman

Scrambled eggs w/bacon
Homemade potatoes o'brien
The best sausage U-ever-8
Buttermilk pancakes
Applesauce
Grits, yes grits
Coffee, Milk, Juices



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

June 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 _____

_____ ARRL _____

Other Interests _____