

# HAM RAG



## RARA Mission Statement

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

# May

# 2008

## President's Corner

It was warmer, for a day or two, then..... There is snow in today's forecast – oh, we must have a board meeting scheduled, yep. Is there really a correlation between the two?

**Website:** W9AXD has a new look. It has been a fun challenge to create. It seems as if it is taking me longer to learn new tricks, what does that mean? You're right.

**Runs:** Community service through amateur radio:

The **OSF Heritage Run** was held Sunday, April 27, 2008. The ATV group did their thing and experienced great success again this year. From what I heard, all communication traffic went smoothly and was appreciated by the Heritage Run Committee.

The **March of Dimes Walk** will be held on March 4, 2008. John – KC9IED, is putting together the communications group for this event. Give him a call to volunteer.

The Literacy  $\frac{1}{2}$  **Marathon** will be held May 10, 2008. This will be a good training event for the full Marathon coming up on May 18, 2008, volunteer to help on this one by calling Gene - KA9BOD.

The **Rockford Marathon** is planned to be quite an event. The Chicago Marathon experience put all marathons under a microscope. Amateur radio has an opportunity to play a major role in showing the marathon world what amateur radio can do and why we play a vital role in emergency communications. We can be counted on, we do a professional job and we are ready. This is a big communications event. There is room for you to participate. Give Gene – KA9BOD a call.

**General Meeting:** Gene – WB9MMM, has put together a set of presentations for this month's general meeting. Field Day 2008, Kurt – KE9NJ will be presenting his plans for this year's field day. Then we will move into a video on soldering & de-soldering surface mount components.

**No Show:** Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the general meeting, Friday, May 9th. Our Daughter, Kary, will be going through her nurses pinning ceremony that night, which is a culmination of 4 years of very hard work on her part. Gene – KA9BOD will be running the meeting in my stead. Enjoy the meeting.

73 & Good DX,

Paul – K9RNR

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## NEXT MEETING:

7 P.M.

Friday, May 9, 2008

## LOCATION:

**St. Anthony Hospital  
Foundation Room  
5666 East State Street**

## PROGRAM:

Field Day plans with Kurt Eversole, KE9NJ and Dick Fleming, KC9BCB.

Video from Hakko

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

First, I would like to thank Jim Miller, W4JR, for offering the video's that we used last month from the 2007 Dayton Hamvention. I heard from a few of you that the part showing Riley Hollingsworth's 20 minute presentation at the FCC forum was fabulous. I know I was not there, but I viewed it all ahead of time and knew it was great. Did it convince anyone to go to Dayton this year?

For the May meeting, Kurt Eversole, KE9NJ, and Dick Fleming, KC9BCB, will discuss Field Day and find out who is interested in doing what. So be thinking about what band you are interested in working and who you might want to work with. Also, in conjunction with finding out how many people will be working, a determination about how much food needs to be planned for. Did I say food? That ought to get people out!

Also, have you ever tried to repair new circuitry that has surface mount components? The second half of our program is a video from Hakko, a manufacturer of soldering equipment, all about how to repair surface mounted components. In about 20 minutes (and maybe a little practice with proper tools) you will be an expert in surface mount soldering. In any case you will have an idea of how it is done. See you there!

Gene - WB9MMM

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## HERITAGE RUN A SUCCESS

On April 27th 10 Winnebago County ARES members provided communications for the OSF HeritageRun. The run started in downtown Rockford and followed a route along the bike path to Illinois Street in Loves Park which was the turn around point for the return leg of the run. Those amateurs providing communications from various points along the run were: KA9BOD, W9DRR, AB9KA, N9SH and KC9ISC. Four amateurs provided ATV coverage at the end of the run. Those involved were: KC9ATR, KA9SOG, K9MEA, and WB9MMM. KC9IED, Winnebago County EC acted as net control.

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## COMING EVENTS

May 4, 2008, Dekalb Hamfest, Sandwich Fairgrounds, Sandwich, IL.

May 4, 2008, March of Dimes WalkAmerica, Contact: KC9IED

May 9, 2008, Rockford Amateur Radio Association meeting, St. Anthony Hospital, 7 P.M.

May 10, 2008, Literacy Council ½ marathon--your help is needed. Contact: KA9BOD

May 18, 2008 Rockford Marathon--30 people needed for communications. Contact: KA9BOD

June 1, 2008, Starved Rock Radio Club Hamfest, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL

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: AB9KA

June 28-29, 2008 RARA Field Day, Aldeen Park, Contact: KE9NJ

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

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## HOWARD A. LUSE, N9FTY, SK

Howard Luse, N9FTY, of Belvidere became a silent key on Saturday, April 26, 2008 in OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center after a courageous battle with multiple myeloma and peritoneal dialysis. Howard, along with his wife Jeanne were active members of RARA before his illness. Along with ham radio he had an avid interest in tractor and automobile restoration and was a member of Northern Illinois Steam Power Club of Sycamore. For many years Howard was a support driver for RAGBRAI, the Iowa bicycle tour.

The funeral was April 29th in Fitzgerald Funeral Home on Mulford Road. Cremation rites will be accorded and burial will be at a later date in Jordan's Grove Cemetery, Central City, Iowa.

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## JACK WELSH, JR. W9MZW, SK

Jack Welsh became a silent key on Sunday, April 27, 2008 in OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center.

Jack graduated from Kingston High School and Northern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in education. He served in the U.S. Army as a sergeant during World War II with the special signal corps.

Jack was an avid bird watcher. For many years he played the organ at the Belvidere skating rink and enjoyed playing the accordion for family and friends.

The funeral was May 2, in Bethesda Evangelical Covenant Church.

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## JUST SURFIN'

Hey, Surfin' Dude, I want to understand more about antennas and maybe someday build my own. Is there a place that I can learn about the various antennas and how they behave? I am curious about them. Any ideas?

Boy, did you pick a good topic! Antennas are one of the most discussed and sometimes misunderstood subjects in Amateur Radio. But, help is on the way. L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, who has recently past away as of April 2008, had put together his vast years of research in many, many articles on antennas and their behavior at [www.cebik.com](http://www.cebik.com). After creating a user name and password to log in (it's free), you will be exposed to one of the biggest libraries of antenna ideas and how they radiate and where they will radiate. Just about any part of the spectrum and type of antenna is covered, HF, VHF, UHF, dipoles, loops, beams, verticals, and some not so common types. The best part is there are radiation plots in most of the articles, so you can actually see where they will radiate. Once you visit [www.cebik.com](http://www.cebik.com), you will have many days and nights to fill reading on all the topics covered. L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, a true pioneer in Amateur Radio.

73 for now,  
Surfin' Dude

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# SECRETARY'S REPORT

RARA Club Meeting  
April 11, 2008

President Paul Franklin, K9RNR called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM with 28 people in attendance.

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

Secretary Report was not read but Dave, W9MG made a motion that the secretary report that was published in the Ham Rag be accepted as printed and seconded by Jim, W4JR. All approved.

Treasurers report was read by Paul, K9RNR as Rich, K9PK was unable to be present.

Income	\$115.00
Expenses	\$192.36
Ending checkbook balance	\$1,197.16
Ending savings balance	\$5,693.00
Cash on hand	\$6,819.00
Gain/Loss from last year	\$1,226.08

Motion to accept report made by Kurt, KE9NJ and seconded by Chuck, AB9KA. All approved.

## Old Business and Chair Reports

1. Borders Books Radio Meeting: No report Joe Perry, K9JPP not present.
2. Public Information – Gene, KA9BOD reported on where notices for the meeting were posted.
3. May 18, 2008 Rockford Marathon status – Gene, KA9BOD reported that planning is still not complete for the event other than about 29 people will be required. This event is new this year. The north segment of the course will be both a ½ marathon and full marathon. The south segment will be for the full marathon only.
4. Breakfast in the Park June 14, 2008 - Chuck, AB9KA reported event will be at Martin Park from 8 – 11AM.
5. Field Day June 28-29, 2008 – Kurt, KE9NJ was given the insurance certificate with the update to 2 million dollars coverage required by the Park District. This event will be held at Aldeen Park on Alpine Rd. just north of State St. Kurt, KE9NJ handed out a questionnaire to help assess participation and planning for this event.
6. Website – Paul, K9RNR working with the new software to get the website updated so that Bob, KC9ICH can take over as webmaster. Currently it is a work in process.
7. 146.61 repeater – The repeater is sick after it took a lightning hit which burnt up the “isocouplers”. Herb, K9AMJ worked on problem and had it back on the air on Monday, April 10th at about 8PM.

## New Business

1. March RARA On the Air Contest – March contest was “Most repeaters worked 2 & 440 FM”. Bob, KC9ICH called for forms from members and none turned in. The contest for April will be “most simplex contacts on any band”. Bob, KC9ICH handed out the forms for the new contest.
2. The RARA board at their March 31 meeting voted to ask the membership whether we should keep the auto-patch on the 161.610 repeater. After some discussion, Art, WA9LXT made a motion to keep the auto-patch as its removal does not save any money but can be used in an emergency. Seconded by Dick, KC9BCB. The vote was unanimous by those present to KEEP the auto-patch on the repeater. If you need the codes, contact either Paul, K9RNR or Rich, K9PK and they will provide the instructions/codes.
3. A ground rod installation aid was demonstrated by Dave, W9MG. It is a 5/8” copper pipe shaped in the form of an “L”. One end connects to a garden hose and the other end goes into the ground. The L shape allows for swivel pressure to force the pipe into the ground.
4. RVC Classes – Chuck, AB9KA reported that only 3 have signed up so far for the general class and as a result, RVC may cancel the class as they normally require a minimum of 6 students. Chuck also asked if there was any interest in holding an extra class but any planning for this class would take place after July when the question pool is updated.

Paul, K9RNR closed the meeting at 8:03 PM.

Post meeting program was introduced by Jim Miller, W4JR who provided two DVD video's:

- \* FCC's Riley Hollingsworth talk at the Dayton Hamvention 2007. (22 minutes)
- \* Video tour of the Dayton Hamvention 2007. (33 minutes)

Submitted by Gene, KA9BOD  
RARA Secretary

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Above is a picture of my water tank. A short (3 m) tower will go on top of the tank, with a 20 m yagi. Indian construction sites are not neat! Notice the high tech bamboo (all tied, not nailed) and tin roof sheeting.

73s From Shillong, Meghalaya, India. See you in April 2008.

Jim N9VJ

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### 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

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# AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

April 19th there were 3 applicants resulting in 1 new Technician and 1 upgrades

New Technician

James W. Carrell Sr.  
Upgrades

Robert D. Jozsa, KB9MBM, Extra

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, May17, 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](mailto:W9HL@arrl.net)  
815-877-4328

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## SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, August 10**

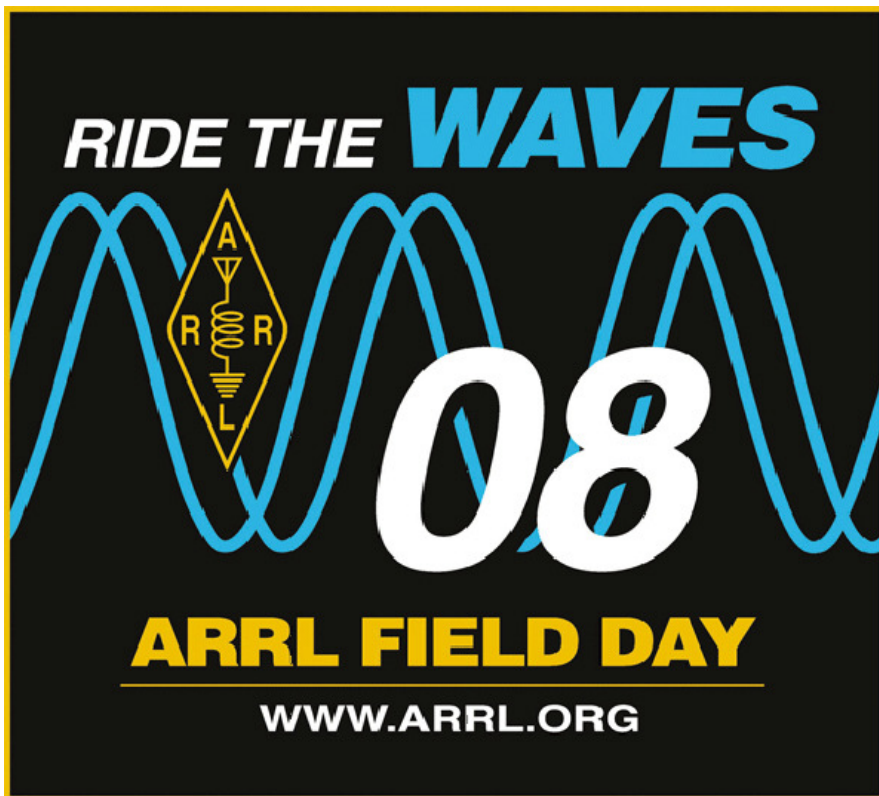
**R.A.R.A Picnic**

**1:00 P.M.**

**Details will follow in future Ham Rags**

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**CQ  
FIELD DAY**

**CQ  
FIELD DAY**

Do you like to eat food?

Do you like to operate your radio?

Well, those are just two reasons to join in the fun at RARA's Field Day 2008. You can help pitch in with setting up the stations, operating, cooking food and sampling the results, and cleaning up a little at the end. All this and no cover charge! If you would like to participate in any or all of the above, come to our next meeting in May to get the details of our field day planning. If you have any questions you may contact Dick Fleming at 815-964-3423 or Kurt Eversole at 815-389-2784. We're all going to have a great time!

When: June 28-29

Where: Aldeen Park (just off Alpine Road)

Time: setup begins around 8:00 am at the park June 28 (Saturday)

Ends: 3:00pm June 29 (Sunday) plus cleanup time

Friendships you will make: PRICELESS

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## **RARA BREAKFAST IN THE PARK, 2008**

June 14th, 8 A.M.--11 A.M

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

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## **To ALL area Amateur Radio Operators Urgent call for help**

To work the Rockford Marathon, Sunday, May 18. The race starts at 7 AM and will consist of both a half (13.1 miles) and full marathon (26.2 miles). There is a north and south portion to the course and we will need about 30 operators. We anticipate about 1,000 participants in the race. Our job is to communicate the location of the first 3 male and female runners, location of the last runners and health and welfare as required. (We expect the fastest ½ marathon runner to complete the course in about 1 hour and the slowest in about 3.5 hours. For the full marathon we expect the fastest runner to complete the course in about 2.5 hours and the slowest in about 6.5 hours.)

We are planning to use a 2 meter repeater frequency for the 17 water stops and possibly a 440 repeater frequency for some support functions like medical and water supply vehicles. You will need a mobile radio and/or a handheld with the appropriate antenna for good comm. We will also employ ATV near the finish line.

All the runners will run the north part of the course and we must be on location by 6 AM and be on station from between 2 to 4 hours.

For the south portion of the course we must be on location by 7 AM and be on station between 4 to 9 hours. Any time you can give to help with this event will be appreciated. We can arrange for a split shift on the south end of the course to accommodate your availability.

There will be an information/training meeting on Tuesday evening, May 13 to discuss the specifics of the event. The time and location will come later. Proceeds from the Rockford Marathon will benefit the Community Needs Fund at the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois.

If you can help us with this event please call Gene, KA9BOD at 815-226-1806 or email at [ka9bod@arrl.net](mailto:ka9bod@arrl.net)

73,  
Gene, KA9BOD

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### **Editor's QRM**

Spring is here according to the calendar, however, the cool days and colder nights still remind me of winter. It probably won't be too long though when we will be wishing for these cool days.

Did you remember to bring your goodies to sell at the club swap table last month. Remember that this will be a regular feature each month. It is always fun to see what someone else wants to sell and to make just the right deal. Take advantage of this feature at the next meeting.

With spring there is always a lot of activities that we can take part in. John, KC9IED, has a lot of different runs and walks scheduled for the spring and summer months. If you can only work on one them I know that he will appreciate it. These different activities help each of us be prepared if we are needed for an emergency.

Dayton is only a week and a half away. Gene and I are planning to attend and we will be meeting Darrell Crimmins, KG5E, (formerly KB9DJ and KG9E) and his wife Marty who are coming from Dallas. Gene Melton, AK9N, will also be attending coming from the Phoenix area. We always have a good reunion

73,  
Shari, N9SH

**Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.**

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P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email [shari@hampubs.com](mailto:shari@hampubs.com)

Web: [www.w9axd.org](http://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

# May 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 \_\_\_\_\_