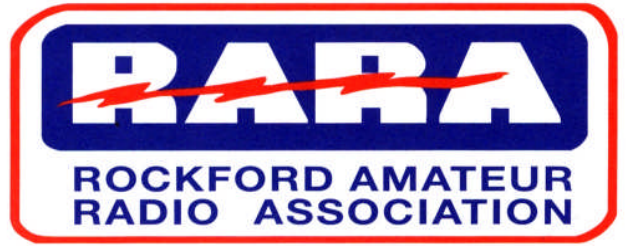


# HAM RAG



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

## February 2009

### RARA Mission Statement

A member association with common interest of public service to the community through the use of amateur radio.

## President's Column

Greetings,

As we enter into the beginning of 2009, I would like to thank our past officers and board directors for doing a great job with managing the club and its affairs. These people have helped guide the club to the position it is now and have always stepped up to perform any duties called upon them to do.

Here it is February already and the Board and I have been busy setting up some of the main events the club puts on during the course of the year. These are some of the events that we all look forward to: Breakfast in the Park, Field Day, and the RARA picnic. We are also working on some other items that we feel may help improve the club and provide more information to the membership, details on these new items will be forthcoming as we finalize them.

In addition, I would like to congratulate Rich Ludwig, K9PK and Chuck Ingle, AB9KA who both received the same number of votes for ham of the year for 2008. Both of these individuals volunteered for many events and helped the club and community with their time and dedication, and I would like to personally thank them for their efforts.

On a final note, I would like to remind the membership that all of the programs and events provided are only possible due to the dedication of our members. We need everyone's help to staff events and programs. Please consider taking the time to get involved, you might find it provides more enjoyment than you thought. Our club is only as good as our members!

73,

Gordon Seaman - KC9NEX



**Laura L. Smith Named to Amateur Radio Enforcement Role** (Jan 26, 2009) -- Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service. (Courtesy of ARRL)

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### NEXT MEETING

**Friday**

**February 13, 2009**

**7:00 PM**

**Program:**

**Amateur Radio VOIP**

by

**Don Russell - W9DRR**

**Including Echolink,  
IRLP, and Allstarlink,  
with live demonstrations!**

LOCATION

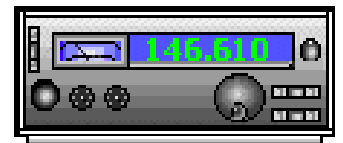
St. Anthony

Medical Center

Room #1041

5666 E. State Street

Rockford, IL



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

## Secretary's Report

January 10, 2009

RARA held its annual banquet at Lino's with a turnout of 34. There were 36 expected. Gordon KC9NEX, our new President and his wife were unable to attend due to his unexpected trip to the hospital.

Paul K9RNR and Shari N9SH welcomed all.

After dinner Paul began the awards presentations by thanking everyone for attending and thanked all the officers, board members and others who volunteered for chairing and participating in our various events.

The Awards certificates were presented as follows:

Vice President, Gene Harlan, WB9MMM SK. (Given to Shari)  
Ham Rag Editor, Shari, N9SH  
Secretary, Gene, KA9BOD.  
Treasurer, Rich, K9PK. Rich reminded everyone that it was time to renew their membership.  
Director Bob Larson, KC9ICH  
Director, Chuck Derwent, K9SAN  
Director, Chuck Ingle, AB9KA  
Director, Mike Oberg, AB9AY  
Chairperson of banquet, Shari N9SH  
Ham of the year chairman, Dan Hunt, KC9ATR  
Public Information officer and JOTA award Gene, KA9BOD  
Contest coordinator and Web Master Bob Larson, KC9ICH  
Breakfast in the Park Chuck Ingle, AB9KA  
Field Day Chairman, Kurt Eversole, KE9N  
Field Day Co-Chairman, Dick Fleming, KC9BCB  
On the Waterfront Chairman, Steve Thorne, K9LLI  
Family Picnic, Mike Oberg, AB9AY and Judy Oberg (not present)  
Repeater Chairman, Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ (not present)

Paul took time to complement each of the above award recipients and mentioned many of their exemplary club activities.

Paul, K9RNR also received an award certificate for his job as President. Well Done!

Gene Stankiewicz then took the floor and introduced two recipients of the Ham of the Year award.

Rich Ludwig, K9PK

Gene reported that Rich had "helped at several events, worked multiple shifts at On the Waterfront, is active in the ATV group, and is the RARA 146.61 repeater trustee." He also has put in much of his time to provide more accurate reports for the club.

Chuck Ingle, AB9AK

Gene said "you will find this RARA member at almost all events and meetings. He worked multiple shifts On the Waterfront and arranged for air time on WNTA Radio for proclamation of amateur radio week." "Chuck has shared his knowledge with other hams in the Rockford area and is part of the training team."

Gene also introduced The Lifetime Achievement Award which was given for the first time. The Committee for this award consisted of Gene, KA9BOD, Jim Miller, W4JR and Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ.

*continued on next page*

## Secretary's Report (continued)

**The award was given to Gene Harlan WB9MMM SK** "for all the time and effort Gene devoted to RARA and our hobby of Amateur Radio for more than 30 years."

"Gene had served RARA in almost all capacities from president to director and participated in most club activities."

"He was a quiet unassuming man who will be missed by more people than can be imagined."

### Treasurer Report

Rich reported for the period November 25<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 as follows:

Income	\$275.00
Expenses	\$432.92
Ending Check Book Balance	\$254.35
Ending Savings Balance	\$7008.87
Cash on hand	\$7263.22
Gain/ (Loss) from last year	\$283.15

Submitted by:

Al Fischer - KD9CA

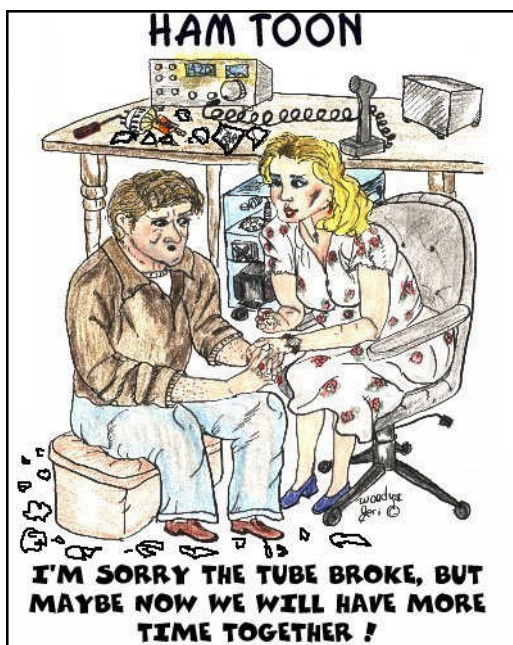
RARA Secretary

### **Looking around the net**

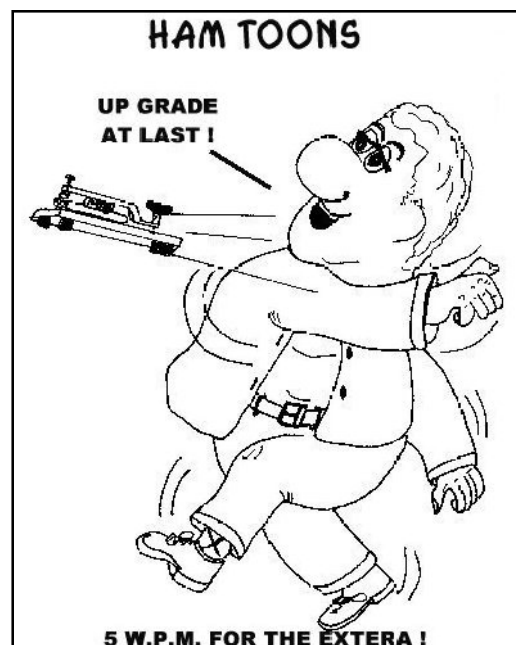
Did you know World Radio Magazine has stopped publication? All current subscriptions have been converted to CQ magazine for the remainder of their subscription period. While checking out the CQ magazine web site, I was surprised to find: *World Radio Online*. It's the same publication as a PDF download. You may miss the newsprint paper of the old magazine though. Most of the tried and true authors will be writing for the online issue. You will find the file on the CQ website, then click on the Front page of the current World Radio Online image. Oh, yeah, the online Magazine is FREE, no subscription fees.

As the complete magazine is a PDF, including advertising by the way, the file is a little on the large side. So the dial-up world will have an extended download time. It's even takes a while to download using broadband. So be patient and check out the new World Radio ONLINE!

73, Paul - K9RNR



HAMTOONS  
COURTESY  
OF  
WOODY  
W7EPP



# RARA BANQUET AWARDS

## Life Time Achievement Award

### **Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, SK**

This year, maybe for the first time, the Ham of the Year Committee has found it appropriate to present a Life Time Achievement Award; ..... to Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, SK.

The award is for all the time and effort Gene has devoted to RARA and our hobby of Amateur Radio for more than 30 years.

Gene had served RARA in almost all capacities from president to director and participated in most club activities. In addition to his amateur radio activities he was editor of the Amateur Television Quarterly Magazine, President and founder of Harlan Technologies as well as being very active in the Rockford area as a musician and volunteer at public events all while still holding down a job as Engineering Manager for a local company.

He was a quiet unassuming man who will be missed by more people than can be imagined. It was eye opening to see all of the people he had touched and the testimony they gave Gene at his memorial service.

There is an old axiom that "...behind every successful man there is a strong woman". That woman is Shari, N9SH. Gene and Shari were a team that worked together over the years to keep RARA together on multiple occasions.

To accept the award presented by Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, was Shari, N9SH. "Shari, it is with great honor that RARA is presenting this plaque to you in memory of Gene but knowing that you were a partner in Gene's success. I know that you will keep this plaque in your home as a tribute in Gene's memory."



### **Rich Ludwig, K9PK**

This Ham has been quietly working in the background helping at several events, multiple shifts at On the Waterfront, active in the ATV group, building QRP transceivers, fox hunting, developed direction finding equipment and as an officer of RARA as well as the RARA 146.61 repeater trustee. He was most helpful at the JOTA event by preparing a demonstration that the scouts all gravitated to. The saying goes: "It only takes an hour a week". This ham has put in more time than that resulting in providing more accurate reports for the club. This well deserving ham is Rich, K9PK, Ham of the Year for 2008.



### **Chuck Ingle, AB9KA**

You will find this RARA member at almost all events and meetings helping in any way he can as well as assisting other hams in many ways. He worked multiple shifts at On the Waterfront, arranged air time on WNTA Radio for proclamation of amateur radio week and served as a club director. He has put in a lot of time sharing his knowledge with other hams in the Rockford area as part of the training team. He also provided an excellent hands on demonstration of APRS at the JOTA event. Congratulations Chuck, AB9KA, Ham of the Year for 2008.



## The ham classes scheduled for this Spring 2009

Tech -- March 7 & 21, 2008

*(Register for March classes by mid-February)*

General -- April 4 & 18, 2008

*(Register for April classes by mid-March)*

(Registration for both classes via RVC.

Classes meet on Saturdays from 8:00 am

to 4:00 pm. Both will be held at RVC.

Carl W9TQ

VEC examiners will be available at last session of all classes

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

January 17th there were 1 applicants resulting in no new licenses or upgrade

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, February 21, 2009.

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

## **FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST**

Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 9:30 am. An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company. Everyone is welcome to attend.

*“The Undecided Restaurant” 915 S. Alpine Rd  
Across from Alpine Park*

# DX NEWS AND CONTESTS

## SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
VP8DLQ	FALKLAND IS	JAN 31 TO FEB 7	ON5NT
VP8DIF	SOUTH GEORGIA	FEB 1 TO FEB 28	DJ9ZB
5H1DF	TANZANIA	FEB 3 TO FEB 12	DL7DF
KP5	DESECHEO	FEB 12 TO FEB 26	N2OO
S79JF	SAYCHELLES	FEB 25 TO MAR 7	DL7JAN
YW0A	AVES ISLAND	FEB 26 TO MAR 5	LotW
FH	MAYOTTE	FEB 26 TO MAR 5	G3SWH
H4	TEMOTU	MAR 2 TO MAR 16	HA8FW
FP	ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON	MAR 4 TO MAR 9	LotW
ZL7T	CHATHAM ISLAND	MAR 6 TO MAR 11	ZL2AL
S2	BANGLADESH	MAR 7 TO MAR 12	HL5FUA
VK9LA	LORD HOWE IS.	MAR 24 TO APR 3	?
YJ0AAC	VANUATU	MAR 25 TO APR 1	VK4HAM
J6/W5JON	ST. LUCIA	MAR 25 TO APR 2	W5JON
GT4BRS	ISLE OF MAN	MAR 28 TO APRIL 4	GW0ANA

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

CQWW WPX Contest, RTTY, February 14-15, 2009  
ARRL International DX Contest, CW, February 21-22, 2009  
ARRL International DX Contest, SSB, March 7-8, 2009  
CQWW WPX Contest, SSB, March 28-29, 2009

**Note:** Source for this column include the NG3K website.  
Information submitted by Kurt - KE9N

## THE K7RA SOLAR UPDATE

A nice sunspot group -- number 1010 -- appeared for five days from January 9-13. Daily sunspot numbers ranged from 11 to 20, and this one was another Solar Cycle 24 appearance. The Cycle 23 sunspots seem to be gone, while the new Solar Cycle 24 isn't picking up very quickly. 1010 was here for five days, following a whole solar rotation -- 27 days of no sunspots since 1009 was visible for just three days, December 10-12. Prior to that, there were 23 spotless days since seeing sunspot 1008, visible for eight days from November 10-17. Sunspot numbers for January 8-14 were 0, 14, 17, 20, 12, 11 and 0 with a mean of 10.6. At least with our quiet Sun, the geomagnetic indices continue to stay quiet. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet days from January 16-22, except January 18 is predicted to be unsettled, and January 19 as quiet to unsettled. NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, along with the US Air Force, predict quiet conditions with a planetary A index of 5 for the rest of January, except 8 on January 19, 10 and 8 on January 27-28, and 8 again on January 30.

*Amateur solar observer Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, provides this weekly report on solar conditions and propagation.*

## ITEMS FOR SALE / WANTED

### FOR SALE

Heathkit SB-102 with power supply -- \$250.00  
Tektronix 454 Oscilloscope with cart -- \$100.00  
Linksys 2.4 Ghz wireless access point, new in the box -- \$30.00  
For more information call Shari Harlan, N9SH at 815-398-2683

Hy-Gain AV-640 8 Band Vertical Antenna, very good condition with manual. Currently disassembled into major subassemblies. \$200.00 firm. Might consider trades. For more information contact Greg, W9VOX, email - gik1406@verizon.net

*If you wish to post a ham radio item for sale on the RARA website, send the information in an email to: robert@kc9ich.com*

### RARA Information Net

The purpose of the net will be to disseminate RARA related information as well as other Amateur Radio related information. As a club sponsored activity, please check in with Net Control and help make this net a success. The Net Control will be rotated between the club members, with all amateur radio operators encouraged to check in. (RARA members as well as non-members)

The net is a new project for the club, your input as to what to include is needed and appreciated. Let any of the officers and board know your thoughts and ideas. If you wish to be a net control operator, let any of the officers know. All are encouraged and welcome to participate.

146.610 (pl 114.8) repeater at 8:00 pm, every Monday, except on holidays.

**RARA BOARD MEETING MEETS ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 PM**  
St. Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL

#### 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
<b>ATV</b> input	1250 Mhz/ 434 Mhz	W9ATN
	output 421.25 Mhz	
146.805 -	ENC/DEC pl 114.8	K9AMJ
224.440 -	ENC/DEC pl 118.8	K9AMJ
147.255 +	ENC/DEC pl 114.8	WX9MCS
444.725 +	ENC/DEC pl 107.2	WX9MCS
	Linked to FISHFAR	

#### 2009 RARA Officers and Board

President - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034  
Vice President - Steve Thorne, K9LLI, 815-399-9161  
Secretary - Al Fischer, KD9CA, 815-885-3926  
Treasurer - Rich Ludwig, K9PK, 815-547-6435  
Directors:  
Chuck Derwent, K9SAN, 815-519-0848  
Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, 815-332-2479  
Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875  
Mike Oberg, AB9AY, 815-399-0961  
Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH  
Ham Rag Editor - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784  
Repeater Chairman - Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ, 815-399-6822

#### Editors Note

If you would like to have something published, please call me or email me at ke9n@arrl.net.

**Cut-off for the March 2009 issue will be Saturday, February 28, 2009.**

Kurt - KE9N, Editor



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: ke9n@arrl.net

Nets

Monday 8PM	RARA Info.	146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM	ARES	147.195 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATURN	146.610 - 114.8

place address label here

**February 2009**

**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