

HAM RAG



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In the Rockford area at <http://www.w9axd.org>

January 2009

RARA Mission Statement

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

RARA BANQUET TO BE HELD JANUARY 10, 2009

The RARA Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2009 at Lino's, 5611 East State Street.

We plan on cocktails at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM.

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Thank You

I would like to thank RARA for the beautiful plant that was sent for Gene's memorial service and for the \$100.00 for his memorial fund. We have received quite a lot and it will be used for music or something else for the church choir.

I also want to thank those RARA members who came over on Friday afternoons so that I could get out for a couple of hours. This was a huge help for me. Gene enjoyed being a member of RARA ever since he got his license back in 1973. He enjoyed every aspect of ham radio and the members he worked with in the club. Thank you so much for the support you gave him during his illness.

73,

Shari Harlan, N9SH

NEXT MEETING

Friday
February 13, 2009
7:00 PM

Program: TBA
LOCATION
St. Anthony
Medical Center
Room #1041
5666 E. State Street
Rockford, IL

No regular meeting
For January.

RARA Banquet
January 10, 2009

LOCATION
Lino's
5611 East State St.
Rockford, IL

Membership Dues Due

It is time once again to renew your RARA dues.

Secretary's Report

RARA Club Meeting
December 12, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President, Paul Franklin, K9RNR with 22 hams and 3 guests in attendance. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves and state what their winter radio projects are.

Paul, K9RNR gave a short commentary on the passing of Gene, WB9MMM – SK.

Secretary Report:

The minutes for the November meeting were published in the December Ham Rag. John, N9OTC made a motion to accept the report as published and seconded by Tom, N9VJU. All approved.

Treasurer Report:

Rich, K9PK reported for the period of October 28 thru November 24, 2008 as follows:

Income	\$2,188.90	(\$1,809.00 from OTW)
Expenses	\$410.58	
Ending checkbook balance	\$412.27	(Transfer \$1,778.32 to savings)
Ending savings balance	\$7,008.87	
Cash on hand	\$7,421.14	
Gain/(loss) from last year	\$1,192.67	

Gene, KA9BOD made a motion to accept report and seconded by Gordie, KC9NEX. All approved.

Old Business:

RARA 2009 dues are due. See Rich, K9PK and provide an updated information sheet with dues.

Website – Robert, KC9ICH reported that the area repeater files are now loaded that will link to Google Earth. When looking at a repeater save the file as a (.KMZ) then load Google Earth.

On the Air Contest – Robert, KC9ICH presented an award to Paul, K9RNR for longest distance contest, (4,145 miles, Canary Islands). This month's contest is "Closest to the North Pole" by grid square.

Technical Committee – the 146.61 repeater output tone is dropping/over deviating and those using tone squelch loose audio. Herb, K9AMJ is looking into the problem.

Monday night net – Gene, KA9BOD reported that there were 20 & 23 check-ins on the first two nights of the RARA Information Net. We would like to have a revolving net control station but we need 4 more people to handle net control. The following additional people agreed to handle net control duties: Tom N9VJU, Gordon, KC9NEX, Kurt, KE9N and Steve, K9LLI in addition to Mike, AB9AY and Gene, KA9BOD.

Status of the unfulfilled 2009 Club Officers – 2009 President, Gordon, KC9NEX reported that Steve, K9LLI agreed to be VP, Al, KD9CA secretary and Kurt, KE9N will be Ham Rag Editor.

Ham Classes – Carl, W9TQ reported on the Tech and General classes scheduled at Rock Valley College on March 7 & 21 for Tech and April 4 & 18 for General. In addition there will be a Tech class scheduled through RVC Center for Learning in Retirement (CLR) on 8 Monday afternoons from 1 – 3:30 PM starting February 23 thru April 13, 2009.

Awards Banquet – Will be held Saturday, January 10, 2009. All prepaid reservations need to be in by December 31, 2008. Contact Shari, N9SH for reservations.

New Business:

ARES is looking for net control operators for the Thursday night net.

Announcements:

1. ARRL Triple Play WAS – announcement of this new award from ARRL.

Ham of the Year Nominations – Gene, KA9BOD announced that all nominations needed to be in this evening as the selection committee will be working on the selection after tonight's club meeting.

3. Change-over-to-Digital-TV – The ARRL is suggesting that hams help people with the conversion, to provide information to understand the change. The ARRL suggests getting the certificates even if you are not going to use them so that you can offer it to someone who needs one.

4. There will be a 10 meter contest this weekend from 0000 UTC Saturday through Sunday.

Up Coming hamfest - The Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs will be on January 25, 2009.

The meeting closed at 7:42 PM. A program followed entitled "Digital Modes and Ham Radio Deluxe" given by Robert Larson, KC9ICH.

Submitted by:

Gene, KA9BOD,
RARA Secretary

The ham classes scheduled for this Spring 2009

Tech -- March 7 & 21, 2008
General -- April 4 & 18, 2008
(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

Tech Class - through RVC Center for Learning in Retirement
Classes meet on Mondays, Feb. 23 to Apr. 13 1 PM to 3:30 PM
(Register through RVC Center for Learning in Retirement)
VEC examiners will be available at last session of all classes

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

December 20th there were 5 applicants resulting in 4 new licenses and 1 upgrade

New Licenses

Clifton Hill
David Kiefer
David Griffin
Paul Branning

Upgrade

Name withheld

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, January 17, 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 until 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
V73NS	MARSHALL IS.	JAN 5 to JAN 31	WD8CRT
TS7C	TUNISIA	JAN 9 TO JAN 14	F4EGD
C56KR	GAMBIA	JAN 9 TO JAN 14	OZ8KR
8Q7AK	MALDIVES	JAN 11 TO JAN 27	G7COD
CU8W	AZORES	JAN 19 TO JAN 23	CT1GFK
VP8DLQ	FALKLAND IS	JAN 31 TO FEB 7	ON5NT
5H1DF	TANZANIA	FEB 3 TO FEB 12	DL7DF
KP5	DESECHEO	FEB 12 TO FEB 26	N2OO
S79JF	SAYCHELLES	FEB 25 TO MAR 7	DL7JAN
FH	MAYOTTE	FEB 26 TO MAR 5	G3SWH
FP	ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON	MAR 4 TO MAR 9	LotW
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

UPCOMING CONTESTS

CQ 160 Meter Contest, CW, January 24-25, 2009
 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

2008 was a year of very low solar activity. More than 40 percent of this year's propagation bulletins reported zero sunspots for their respective weeks. The average daily sunspot number for the year was 4.7; in 2007, it was 12.8. The yearly averages of daily sunspot numbers for 1999-2008 were 136.3, 173, 170.3, 176.6, 109.2, 68.6, 48.9, 26.1, 12.8 and 4.7. Sunspot numbers for December 25-31 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.3, 69.2, 69.4, 69.8, 69.8, 68.5 and 69.3 with a mean of 69.3. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 1, 1, 2, 0, 1 and 10 with a mean of 2.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1 and 8 with a mean of 2.3.

Two years ago we wrote, "This is the first bulletin of 2007, the year we'll likely see the end of sunspot Cycle 23, the beginning of Cycle 24, and the minima between cycles." One year ago in the first bulletin of 2008 we noted the same quote from the previous year, and wrote, "Now a year later we might say the same about 2008." This is probably still true for past year, because since early 2008, we saw Solar Cycle 24 spots, and what looks like a slow increase in activity toward the end of the year, although a week of sunspots at the end of December would have helped to sustain the upturn.

Amateur solar observer Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, provides this weekly report on solar conditions and propagation. This report also is available via WIAW every Friday, and an abbreviated version appears in [The ARRL Letter](#)

ITEMS FOR SALE / WANTED

FOR SALE

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

RARA Information Net

The Rockford Monday Night Net has ended as of November 24, 2008.

At the Nov. 26th Board Meeting, the RARA Officers and Board of Directors discussed the issue at length. They decided that the history of the net in Rockford is something to preserve and should be continued. Therefore, RARA will be starting a RARA Information Net, on our 146.610 repeater at 8:00 pm, beginning Mon-day December 1, 2008.

The purpose of the net will be to disseminate RARA related information as well as other Amateur Radio re-lated information. As a club sponsored activity, please check in with Net Control and help make this net aSUCCESS.

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). This week's net control operator will be Gene - KA9BOD.

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 you thoughts and ideas. If you wish to be a net control operator, let any of the of-ficers know. All are encouraged and welcome to participate.

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
ATV 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 February 2009 issue will be Saturday, January 31, 2009.

Kurt - KE9N, Editor



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Web: www.w9axd.org

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

January 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