

HAM RAG



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

RARA Mission Statement

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

Presidents Column

Greetings,

Here it is almost November 1st, and if you may be anything like me, you finally got that antenna out of the garage where it sat all summer and finally got it mounted on that pole you put in the ground last week. I was thinking why did I wait so long to do this and everything was going fine until I went to get the roll of RG-213 I had for the antenna and found I had used it somewhere else. Luckily, I had another roll somewhere, it only took about 30 minutes to find it and then it needed connectors. No problem, I had purchased a few this summer at hamfests, so I was ready to go. I got out my soldering iron, cut the ends of the cable for the connectors, went to tin the center leads before I inserted them into the connectors but do you know I could not find my solder anywhere. The flux was where it should have been but no solder. This whole process of putting up the antenna all the way through not finding the solder had taken around four hours, and now I had to go and pick up my grandson from school.

Moving on with club issues, I would like to report that Don Russell, W9DRR, our repeater technician has been working on the 146.610 repeater and he has it back up and operating. There still seems to be an interment problem, so if you ever notice anything please report them to Chuck Ingle, AB9KA. He is our repeater chair and his contact number is listed, later in this issue. The issue with the repeater located at St. Anthony Hospital appears to have been lighting strikes, both the receiver and transmitter sustained damaged. Luckily, the controller seems to be working fine and we are in the process of contacting our insurance agent about equipment coverage. Finally yet importantly, I would like to thank those who attended the last meeting and decided to help support the club by volunteering for positions on the new board. Their leadership helps define the club, and brings in new ideas and ways to grow the club. As a final note, we still are in the process of finding a new vice president and treasure. If you are interested, please contact me or any other board member with your questions.

73,
Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX



NOVEMBER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Gary Hilker, K9LJN, one of the most experienced hams in the area, has graciously agreed to speak to the club on the subject of successful QSLing. K9LJN's call sign has been burning up the ether for over 50 years. Gary's reputation has been well earned in contesting, DXing, etc. This is a topic of interest no matter what aspect of ham radio is your hot button. QSLing covers CW, Phone, Digital, satellite, and on and on. See you at 7PM on Friday, Nov. 13.

November 2009

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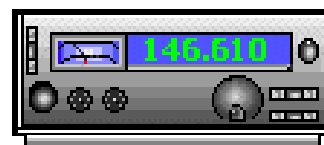
NEXT MEETING

**Friday
November 13, 2009
7:00 PM**

**PRESENTATION:
Proper QSLing
Tips & Techniques**

By
Gary Hilker, K9LJN

Location
St Anthony
Medical Center
Foundation Room
5666 E. State Street
Rockford, IL



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

Secretary's Report



RARA Club Meeting

October 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Gordon Seaman at 7:20 PM.
There were 22 hams in attendance.

Secretary's Report:

Al, KD9CA reported that the minutes were published in the October Ham Rag and stated that there were a few printed copies available for anyone who wanted one. Gene, KA9BOD made a motion to accept the minutes as published and Paul, K9RNR seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Al, KD9CA read the report for the period August 25th through September 28th since Rich, K9PK was unable to make the meeting.

Income:	\$68.36
Expenses:	\$74.73
Net Income/Loss:	\$(6.37)
Ending Checking Balance:	\$529.65
Ending Repeater	
Checking Balance:	\$300.00
Ending Savings Balance:	\$4912.42
Ending Total Cash on Hand:	\$5742.07
Gain/Loss compared to last year	: \$12.77

Dave, W9MG made a motion to accept the Report as read and Tom, N9VJU seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Old Business:

Chuck, AB9KA reported that the 146.61 repeater was taken out of service last Wednesday, October 7th. Don, W9DRR would make a bench evaluation and hopefully be able to accomplish the necessary repairs.

Chuck further reported the 147.000 repeater is also out of service with a repeater problem and not a controller problem as originally thought.

Dave, W9MG had suggested at our last meeting that all hams attending bring a copy of their log for the previous month to share with all in attendance. Gordy asked for each attending Ham to bring a copy of their last months log to the next meeting.

Steve, W9SWT reported that 13 Hams had checked into the simulated emergency test last Saturday, October 3rd. Steve also spoke of having bi-monthly meetings at the training center.

New Business:

The nominations of Officers and Board members then took place and the following hams were nominated and elected:

President:	Gordy KC9NEX
Vice President:	open
Secretary:	Al, KD9CA
Treasurer:	open
Board:	Steve, K9LLI, Tom, N9VJU, Shari, N9SH, John, N9OTC
Ham Rag Editor:	Kurt, KE9N

(see next page)

Secretary's Report *(continued)*

Gene, KA9BOD made a motion to accept the nominations/election and Joe, K9JPP seconded the motion. Tom, N9VJU made a motion to close the meeting at 7:53PM and Dave, W9MG seconded the motion. We had a new member, James Holich, AB9SX join RARA this evening and hope to see him at many future meetings and events.

We were introduced to Kermit Carlson, W9XA. He gave a short speech on why he is running for Vice Director of ARRL Central Division.

Afterwards Don, W9DRR gave an excellent presentation on WINLINK 2000.

Submitted by:

Al, KD9CA

RARA Secretary

AWARDS BANQUET TO BE HELD JANUARY 9, 2010

The RARA Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at Lino's, 5611 East State Street.

We plan on cocktails at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM. We need a minimum of 30 people for a private banquet room.

The seven course dinner includes: Soup, Garlic and Pizza Breads, Lino's Special Salad, a Variety of Pasta (Mostaccioli-Ravioli-Tortellini) Baked Potato, Coffee, Spumoni, plus the Entrée.

Choice of entrée:

Baked Lasagna	\$17.50
New York Strip Steak	\$25.50
Baked Cod	\$19.50
Baked Chicken ala Lino	\$17.50

All prices include tax and tip and have been rounded up. Coffee will come with the dinner; all other drinks will be from a cash bar.

Remember, if you worked at the On the Waterfront ticket booth, you will get \$5.00 off per shift worked. In other words if you worked 1 shift you will receive \$5.00 off, 2 shifts \$10.00 off and so forth. Supervisors will receive their dinner courtesy of the club. This offer is to say thank you for all of your hard work.

To make your reservation call Shari Harlan, N9SH, at 815-398-2683 by December 31st. All reservations must be prepaid. Send your check made payable to RARA to Shari Harlan, 5931 Alma Dr, Rockford., IL 61108

Editors Note

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

Cut-off for the December 2009 issue will be Saturday, November 28, 2009.

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

But Did You Measure VSWR?

I last spoke with you about an antenna with $Z = 42 + j31\Omega$ at its terminals. However, some of the readers may question if the VSWR given as 1.99 was really measured, or made up. Neither! It was calculated by a computer program that keeps many decimal places, and uses the real $R + jX$ values of the coax.

Here is how an engineer would approximate the result with a hand calculator.

First, find the magnitude of the reflection coefficient, P . The math is:

$$P = (Z_1 - Z_c)/(Z_1 + Z_c), \text{ which can be restated as } (R - Z_c + jX)/(R + Z_c + jX)$$

where Z_1 = the load impedance of $42 + j31\Omega$, and Z_c = the transmission line impedance of 52Ω . (For ease of calculation, any reactance of the coax is ignored.)

In our example this becomes $P = (42 - 52 + j31)/(42 + 52 + j31)$. Remember, to divide complex numbers, both top and bottom of the fraction are first multiplied by the conjugate, $42 - j31\Omega$, to get rid of all the j terms in the denominator, and then solved as a binomial expression (or, you can be lazy and use your HP32SII calculator which does the math for you - I did).

Then $P = 0.329$, and $VSWR = (1 + P)/(1 - P)$, or $1.329/0.671$, giving a calculated VSWR of 1.98 (values rounded).

Now VSWR has been properly honored and respected, approximately.



A Ham giving proper honor and respect to the great VSWR.

Short Circuit
September 2009

Plan to attend...



Milwaukee Repeater Club / 25th Annual Swapfest
AMATEUR RADIO Fest2009
HAM RADIO, COMPUTERS & ELECTRONICS

Saturday, November 14th, 2009
8:00 A.M to 2:00 P.M.

at the ELKS Lodge

5555 W Good Hope Road • Milwaukee, WI 53223
(across the street from AES)

Admission: \$6.00 • Extra Raffle tickets: \$2.00; (3) for \$5.00
Table: \$10.00 per 8 ft. table • Electricity: \$5.00

	5710 W. GOOD HOPE ROAD.	
Good Hope Rd.	MRC Swapfest 5555 W. GOOD HOPE ROAD 4.5 Miles	

AMATEUR RADIO & ELECTRONICS • RAFFLE/DOOR PRIZES

New and Used Ham radios, CB radios, batteries, antennas, scanners, test equipment, parts, connectors, electronic components, tubes, wire, coax cable, switches, computers, software, and more.

MORE INFORMATION:

MRC Website: <http://www.mrc91.org>
Call: Ken, KC9MXZ • 414-491-0686

For advance tickets, extra raffle tickets, tables and electricity, send your order and SASE to:

Milwaukee Repeater Club
P.O. Box 2123 • Milwaukee, WI 53201-2123

... then, come across the street to



for a Special **D-STAR Seminar** ...

D-STAR
DEMYSTIFIED

A Live Demonstration of using
D-STAR showing *Simplified Usage!*

- **8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.** – Meet the AES Gang and see the Latest Equipment on Display.

D-STAR SEMINAR

- **11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.** – Attend our **D-STAR Seminar** (*De-mystifying D-Star*). Conducted by: Dave Schank, KA9WXN, Dan Workenaour, N9ASA and Tom Pachner, W9TJP

Topics: Using the System; How Reflectors Work; Repeater Linking; *D-Star* Compatible Radios; The DV Dongle; MORE! • **Live Demonstrations**

Prizes: ICOM IC-80AD *D-Star* Ready HT, **RT Systems** *D-Star* Programming Software, **Nifty D-Star** & Programming Guides (Drawings at 12:00 Noon).

After the seminar we will have volunteers on hand to check your radio settings for D-Star operation.

D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio)

A Digital Voice and Data protocol specification developed for use in amateur radio. D-Star compatible radios are available on VHF and UHF amateur radio bands. In addition to the over-the-air protocol, D-Star also provides specifications for network connectivity, enabling D-Star radios to be connected to the Internet or other networks. D-STAR is the result of research by the Japan Amateur Radio League to investigate digital technologies for amateur radio. x

AMATEUR ELECTRONIC SUPPLY (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Road, Milwaukee, WI 53223
414-358-0333 • 1-800-558-0411 • www.aesham.com

The K7RA Solar Update (Oct 30, 2009) -- Well, what a week it has been. The solar flux hit 82.3 on Tuesday, the highest recording yet since the first-observed "new cycle sunspot" in January 2008, the "official" visual start of Solar Cycle 24. Even as I write this, the flux is still at 80, thanks to sunspot region 1029, so let's hope that it is a sign of better things to come. Sunspot numbers for October 22-28 were 0, 30, 21, 28, 29, 29 and 26 with a mean of 23.3. The 10.7 cm flux was 71.6, 72.9, 75.6, 75.5, 81.3, 81.5 and 79.9 with a mean of 76.9. The estimated planetary A indices were 14, 8, 8, 5, 3, 3 and 2 with a mean of 6.1. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 12, 7, 5, 3, 3, 2 and 3 with a mean of 5. The region (1029) produced several B-class solar flare events and a single C2.2 class flare on the 28th, but luckily CQWW SSB was unaffected for the most part.



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)

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 officers know. All are encouraged and welcome to participate.

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

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

October 17th there were 4 applicants resulting in 3 new licenses and 1 upgrade

New Licenses

Raymond Knapp III

Richard List

Paul Spencer

Upgrades

David Knight, KD0IZB

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

DX NEWS AND CONTESTS

SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
XV4D	VIETMAN	NOV. 4 TO NOV. 17	DL7DF
TX3A	CHESTERFIELD ISLAND	NOV. 2 TO NOV. 27	LotW
VP9KF	BERMUDA	NOV. 4 TO NOV. 18	VP9KF
P29VCX	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	NOV. 11 TO NOV. 13	SM6CVX
D68F	COMOROS	NOV. 13 TO NOV. 23	F6AML
9G5TT	GHANA	NOV. 13 TO NOV. 27	I2YSB
FT5WO	CROZET ISLAND	NOV. 15 TO NOV. 23	F4DYW
5R8IC	MADAGASCAR	NOV. 17 TO DEC. 15	F6ICX
A31A	TONGA	NOV. 19 TO DEC. 1	TBA
VK9XX	CHRISTMAS ISLAND	NOV. 21 TO DEC. 5	LotW
9J3A	ZAMBIA	NOV. 25 TO NOV. 30	S57S
XU7UFT	CAMBODIA	DEC. 3 TO DEC. 8	F6AXX

UPCOMING CONTESTS

Ukrainian DX Contest, Nov. 7, 2100Z to Nov. 8, 1200Z
 ARRL EME Contest, Nov. 7, 0000Z to Nov. 8, 1200Z
 ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW, Nov. 7, 2100Z to Nov. 9, 0300Z
 ARRL November Sweepstakes, SSB, Nov. 21, 2100Z to Nov. 23, 0300Z
 CQWW DX Contest, CW, November 28-29, 2009

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

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 - Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-979-1049

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



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: ke9n@arrl.net

Nets

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

place address label here

November 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