

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.

Happy Birthday, Hiram! (Sep 2, 2009) -- Today, the League celebrates



the 140th anniversary of the birth of ARRL's co-founder and first President, Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW! Maxim -- born September 2, 1869 -- decided a national organization for Amateur Radio was in order after he needed a "relay" station in Agawam, Massachusetts to pass a message he was sending from Hartford to Springfield, Massachusetts. In honor of The Old Man's (TOM) birthday, the ARRL is holding a week-long Special Event, where eligible amateurs may add /140 to their call signs. A complete list of who may add /140 can be found on page 20 of the September 2009 issue of QST. Hams who work at least 25 /140 stations can earn an attractive certificate; this certificate can be endorsed in increments of 25 QSOs, up to 100.

FCC to Utilities: Don't Look to Hams to Pay for Your Testing (Aug 27, 2009) --



In a case that goes back more than 10 years, the FCC has told a Pennsylvania utility that the utility is responsible for paying for "efforts to locate and correct instances of [power line] noise." At least one amateur has been complaining to the FCC since 2000 regarding harmful radio interference possibly caused by power line equipment that is maintained by Pittsburgh's Duquesne

Light Company (DLC). See the ARRL website for more information.

New Location

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 Stockholm Inn"

2420 Charles Street
Rockford, IL 61108



September 2009

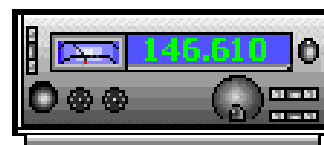
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NEXT MEETING

**Friday
September 11, 2009
7:00 PM**

**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

There is no Secretary's Report for September due to no regular RARA meeting and having the Family Picnic.

Mutterings from the Vice President

It seems to me that there is a new mode of transmission for ham radio every few weeks. My head begins spinning when I even try to recall some of the modes. There's CW, Sideband, PACTOR, RTTY, AMTOR, and on and on. I've never been known as one who operates on the leading edge of technology so it should come as no surprise that I have sampled very few of these different techniques.

Beyond requiring more gray matter than presently residing in my cranium, I'd have to dip into some of that stimulus money so generously offered by President Obama to be able to afford the hardware to enter into this new world.

One chilly August evening I sequestered myself in my radio shack to be warmed by those things that glow in the dark – tubes. Out of boredom I tuned across 20 meters - not expecting to really hear anything. It was past 10 PM CT.

Low and behold, there was station calling CQ – over and over again. That seemed somewhat reminiscent of years ago when people called CQ for 10 minutes or more and then listened for 30 seconds for a response. If nothing heard then the 10 minute drill would commence once again.

The call I heard was K9ACT. Now that's a call older than mine. The signal was not very strong but quite steady. Must be somebody nearby running low power. But the call was foreign to me. How could I not know this local person unless the call was a re-issue.

We made contact. However, I was wrong on almost all my assumptions.

QTH Marengo.

Running 200+watts.

Call issued in 1955 to Jack, the operator at the mic.

In my defense he is relatively new to McHenry County and has held other calls plus being inactive much of the past 50+ years. We had a nice little QSO for several minutes and then POW! I suddenly learned he was running that rarely heard mode, AM.

(Apologies to KA9BQR – rare to some of us).

I didn't realize he was on AM until he mentioned the rig. My receiver must be as wide as a barn door 'cuz I heard absolutely no heterodyne when I originally tuned him in. Jack assured me he was not suppressing any carrier. Said it was just good, old fashioned, plain vanilla, American AM. I loved it.

Now that's a mode I can deal with. You can wrap your arms around AM. No new fangled expensive computer with add-on sound cards is required to handle AM.

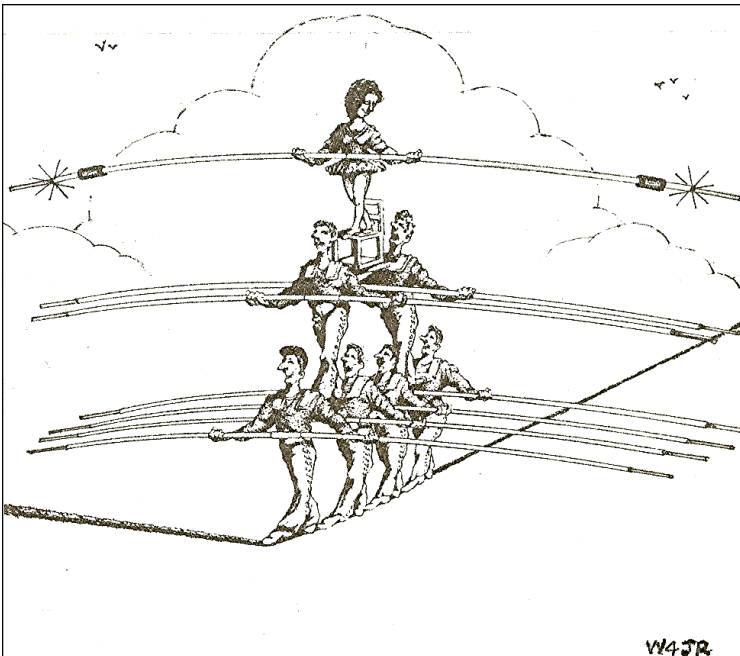
Voices on the other end can be readily recognized. Nobody sounds like Donald Duck.

There is a bit irony in his station composition I feel compelled to admit. K9ACT's receiver is a Soft Rock SDR (Software Defined Receiver). Darn computers are everywhere.

73,

Steve Thorne - K9LLI

PS. For further information regarding this rare mode called AM, please see KA9BQR, Larry. He uses it daily and appears to have suffered no ill effects.



The antenna here is a rather unique stacked array, using 4-elements on 10 meters, 2-elements on 20 and a shortened dipole on 40.



"And bring back the Sunspots"

YOU MIGHT BE A HAM IF.....

1. YOUR WIFE SAID "LETS GO SEE AUNT ANNA AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID ANTENNA!
2. YOUR WIFE SAID "COULD YOU CUT THE GRASS?" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID POUND THE BRASS!
3. YOUR WIFE SAID "WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO BREAKFAST AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID HAM FEST!
4. YOUR WIFE SAID "SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE CHECK BOOK AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID LOG BOOK!
5. YOUR WIFE SAID "IS MY SEAM STRAIGHT? AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID, " IS MY BEAM STRAIGHT?"

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.

Editors Note

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

Cut-off for the October 2009 issue will be Sunday, September 27, 2009.

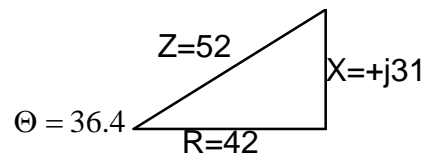
Kurt - KE9N, Editor

What Does Z Mean?

If an antenna analyzer reports the impedance (Z) of your antenna terminals at 7.1 MHz as $42 + j31$ (Cartesian Coordinates), or $52/36.4^\circ$ (Vector Coordinates), what does it mean?

At that frequency the antenna is too long, and looks like a series network with a resistor (R) of 42Ω , and inductive reactance (X) of 31Ω . 42Ω is the real part, and is one factor in the equation of power (P) radiated (I^2R). The imaginary part ($X = +j31\Omega$) represents power that is reflected within the network, but not radiated.

52Ω (Z) is the hypotenuse of a triangle with a real side (R) of 42Ω , and an imaginary side (X) of $j31\Omega$. ($Z^2 = R^2 + [jX]^2$) The phase angle (the angle between the hypotenuse and the real side) is 36.4° .



This antenna Z of 52Ω , with a transmission line of 52Ω , is not a perfect match. (VSWR is not 1:1 because of $52/52$). That X of $+j31\Omega$ spoils the matching and means you have a VSWR of 1.992:1, with a Return Loss of -9.7 dB. A VSWR of 1.2:1, or a Return Loss of -15 dB, is the usual minimum standard for good engineering practice. This situation needs work to match a 52Ω transmission line!

A trip to the 2 Element Ladder Matching Solutions of HamCalc gives 4 solutions. Two of the solutions (all capacitor) have a delta (network loss) = 0, and allow an L-Network solution which efficiently provides a VSWR of 1:1. The solutions are sufficiently broadband for ham use.

Short Circuit - August 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

W9DXCC CONVENTION - September 18-19, Elk Grove Village, Illinois

The W9DXCC Convention, sponsored by the Northern Illinois DX Association, will be held at the Holiday Inn, 1000 Busse Road (Rte 83). Doors are open Friday evening for Welcome Reception at 7:30 pm, Saturday registration at 8:00 am, convention begins at 9:00 am. Features include forums and presentations with world-renowned speakers; ARRL News and Views; DXCC; WAS; and VUCC card checking; CW Copying Contest; Hospitality Suites (Friday and Saturday evenings at 10:00 pm), banquet (Saturday, 6:30 pm; special guest speaker ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN).

Admission is \$60.00 in advance, \$65.00 at the door (convention and banquet); \$35.00 in advance, \$40.00 at the door (convention only).

Talk-in on 147.36. Contact Bill Smith, W9VA, 2635 Crestwood Lane, Riverwoods, IL 60015;



The Chicago FM Club presents

RADIO EXPO 2009



**September 12th & 13th
BOONE COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS
US Rts 20 & IL 76
Belvidere IL**

Grounds Open from
Friday at noon
Flea Market open - 6 AM
Exhibit Buildings open
8 AM to 4 PM Sat
8 AM to 3 PM Sun

Radios | Computers | Electronics for everyone!

**Newest amateur equipment from major manufacturers
Computer hardware and software by leading distributors**

**2 large buildings (over 17,600 sq ft) available for indoor flea market tables
Large areas for outdoor flea marketing conveniently located around the fair-
grounds**

**Advanced tickets \$8 - At the Gate \$10- Good both days - Kids under 12 free
FREE PARKING - Outdoor elect hookups available - VEC testing both days**

On grounds Breakfast, lunch and dinner (Sat) available

Campground Camping - Water-Electric \$30.00 each day - No Waste Service

**Talk-in on the CFMC repeater 146.76 - (107.2 Hz PL) / WX9MCS 147.255 + (114.8
Hz**

PL) / 444.725 + (107.2 Hz PL) echolinked to 146.76

Questions ??? Call Radio Expo 708.457.0966

or visit our web site at <http://www.chicagofmclub.org>

Name _____

Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Table Reservations for both buildings-\$20.00 per table (8ft long) - good both days _____ x \$20.00
=

Building assignment at discretion of CFMC / Do not mail table/ticket requests after Sep 1, 2009

Advanced sale tickets - \$8.00 - REQUIRED with tables - good both days x \$8.00 =
Electric - inside - \$10.00 both days =

Outside electric - \$10.00 good for entire event _____ =

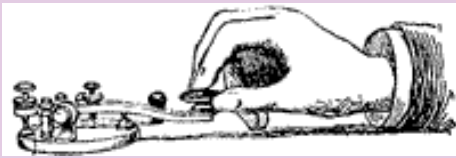
Total =

Make check out to: CHICAGO FM CLUB & send to: 5127 N. Monterey Dr. Norridge IL 60706 -3245 Re-
member to send a #10 (4 in by 9.5 in) self-addressed stamped envelope with your request.

The ham classes scheduled for this Fall 2009

The Technician class radio class will be offered at Rock Valley College on October 17 and October 31, 2009. Class times are from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on both dates. This two session class is being taught by RARA instructors registered with the Amateur Radio Relay League. Encourage your friends or anyone you know interested in becoming a ham radio operator to attend these classes. Registration is through Rock Valley College. Tuition is \$49.00 which includes the Technician Class study book. Signup for classes by October 10, 2009. Testing will be on October 31, 2009.

For more information contact Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, at 815-332-2479



AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

August 15th there were 2 applicants resulting in 1 new license and 1 upgrade

New Licenses

Timothy Oswald

Upgrades

Brian Buzard KC9FQZ Extra

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, September 19, 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
AH0BT	MARIANA ISLAND	SEPT. 4 TO SEPT. 7	7L1FPU
9H9PA	MALTA	SEPT. 6 TO SEPT. 27	PB9ZR
T2G	TUVALU	SEPT. 8 TO SEPT. 14	PG5M
CT8	AZORES	SEPT. 10 TO SEPT. 22	DK5FT
HL9QST	SOUTH KOREA	SEPT. 10 TO NOV. 13	LotW
FT5GA	GLORIOSO ISLAND	SEPT. 12 TO OCT. 8	F5OGL
T30G	WESTERN KIRIBATI	SEPT. 17 TO SEPT. 23	PG5M
3D20CR	CONWAY REEF	OCT. 1 TO OCT. 10	DJ8NK
ZK2DL	NUIE	OCT. 8 TO NOV. 17	DL2FAG
K4M	MIDWAY ISLAND	OCT. 9 TO OCT. 19	TBA
8Q7AK	MALDIVES	OCT. 12 TO OCT. 25	G7COD
TX5SPM	MARQUESAS ISLAND	OCT. 16 TO OCT. 22	SP9PT
P29VCX	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	OCT. 22 TO OCT. 26	SM6CVX
XR0YA	EASTER ISLAND	OCT. 31 TO NOV. 15	LotW

UPCOMING CONTESTS

ARRL VHF QSO Party Sept. 12, 1800Z to Sept. 14, 0300Z

CQWW DX Contest, RTTY, Sept. 26-27, 2009

Illinois QSO Party, 1700Z Oct. 18 to 0100Z Oct. 19

CQWW DX Contest, SSB, October 24-25, 2009

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, 815-623-3623

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

September 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