

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.

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

DECEMBER 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.

December 2009

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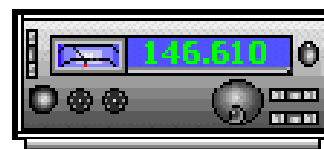
NEXT MEETING

**Friday
December 11, 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 November 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, at 7:10 PM. There were 22 Hams in attendance.

Secretary's Report:

Al, KD9CA, reported that the minutes were published in the November 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 John, N9OTC, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Rich, K9PK, read the report for the period September 29th through October 26th 2009.

Income:	\$0.00
Expenses:	\$86.21
Net Income/Loss	\$(86.21)
Ending Checking Balance:	\$445.70
Repeater Ending Checking Balance	\$297.74
Ending Savings Balance:	\$4913.01
Ending Total Cash on Hand:	\$5656.45
Gain/Loss over last year:	\$13.63

Shari, N9SH, made a motion to accept the minutes as read and Chuck, K9SAN, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Old Business:

Shari reminded everyone the *Awards Banquet* will be held at *Lino's* on Saturday January 9, 2010. Cocktails begin at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM. Menu details are in the Ham Rag. Prices include the tip. To make your reservation call Shari at 815-398-2683. You can send your check to Shari Harlan, 5931 Alma Dr. Rockford, IL 61108. Friends of RARA are also welcome.

Carl, W9TQ, said the ham class for this fall has been cancelled due to lack of participation. One person did sign up and Carl is giving him the lessons outside of RVC.

Gordy announced we are still waiting for our check from *On the Waterfront*.

New Business:

Rich reminded all that it is time to renew your membership.

Gordy said that Gene, KA9BOD, will be next year's Vice President and Paul, K9RNR, will be the Treasurer.

Jimmy, KC9GOL, will have bypass surgery next Monday November 16th.

Gordy said Mike, AB9AY, had a kidney removed and is recuperating.

Gene asked for everyone to think about programs for next year and bring them to his attention.

Tom, N9VJU, made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chuck seconded the motion.

Following the meeting Gene, KA9BOD, gave an excellent and informative presentation on our Astronauts in space.

Submitted by:

Al, KD9CA

RARA Secretary

NEW 146.610 REPEATER INSTALLED

After evaluation of the old 146.610 repeater by Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, and Don Russell, W9DRR, it was determined that a new repeater was the best solution to resolve the ongoing problems with the current repeater in place, which has been in service for over 20 years. Presenting the RARA Board with the costs involved on November 13th, it was voted and approved to purchase a Vertex Standard VXR-9000 Repeater. Installed by Don Russell, W9DRR, and Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX on Monday, November 23rd, the repeater has solved the problems plagued by the old repeater and has provided increased range and sensitivity, as well as many new features not found on the old repeater. Many thanks to all RARA members, who through their support, have allowed this new upgrade!

Submitted by Kurt - KE9N

The 20 yr.+ old repeater below.



The new VXR-9000 repeater below.



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***



Editors Note

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

Cut-off for the January 2010 issue will be Monday, December 28, 2009.

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

HAM OF THE YEAR -- 2009 NOMINATIONS

The Ham of the Year is an honor that is presented to the RARA member(s) who has contributed the most to the club and to amateur radio in general during the year. This year the selection will be made by a committee established to evaluate the nominations of deserving candidates from those submitted by club members.

Your nominee should be chosen using two basic criteria: The nominee must be a RARA member, and should have preformed exemplary service for amateur radio during the year 2009.

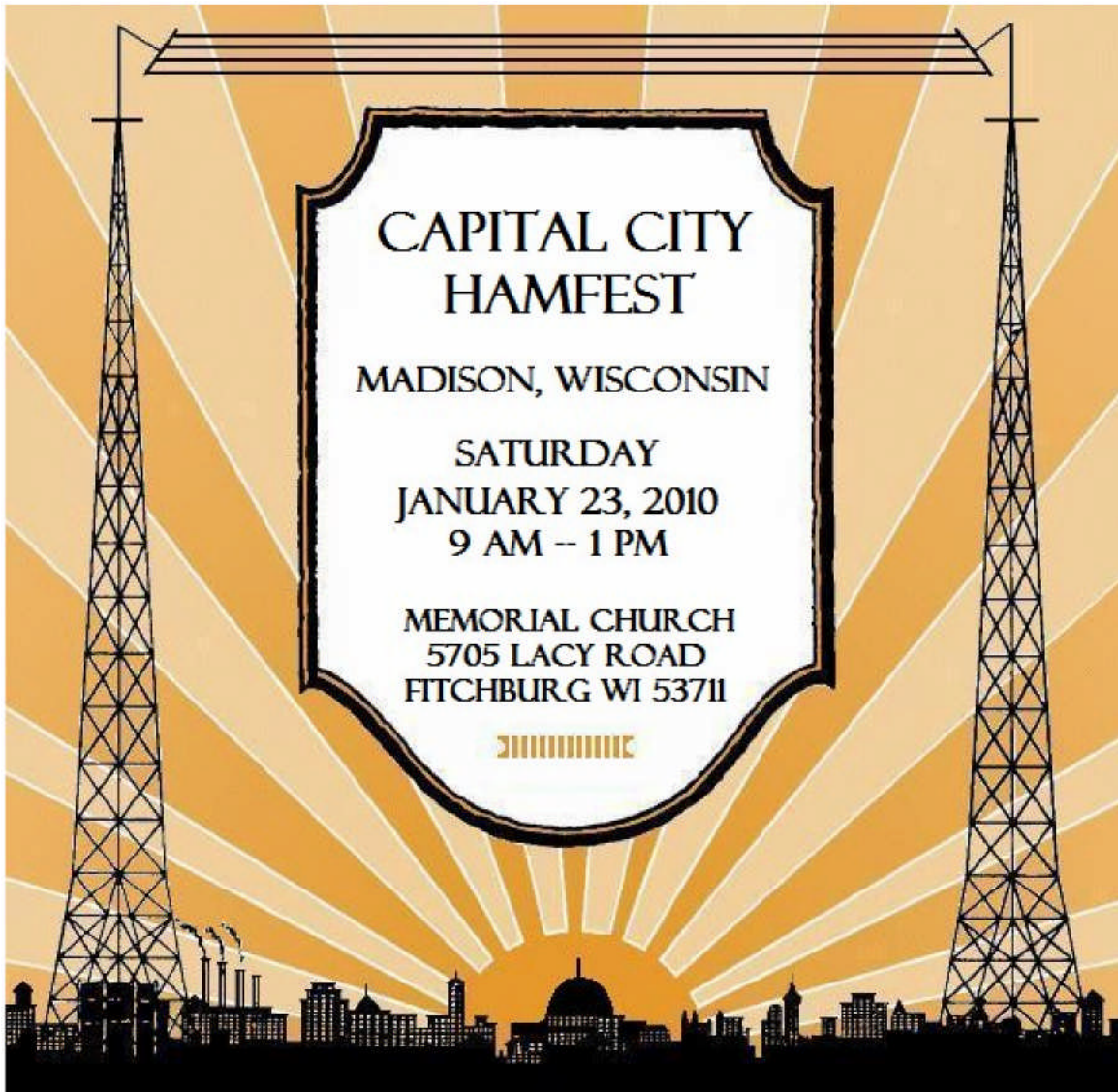
We encourage you to take a few minutes to fill out the form below, or a facsimile, completing all of the requested information. Nominations may be mailed to Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, at the address below, e-mailed to him, or handed to him at the next club meeting. All nominations must be received by December 12, 2009. They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Mail nominations to:
Chuck Ingle - AB9KA
5561 Hodges Run
Roscoe, IL 61073
ab9ka@arrl.net

Nominee _____

Call _____

I nominate the above person for the RARA Ham of the Year -- 2009 award for the following reasons:



A **FUN** event for amateur radio and electronics hobbyists...
Get together, sell excess equipment, see friends, buy gear and parts you need,
meet folks you've met on the air, and beat the winter blues.
The equipment found at a hamfest can range from the newest high -tech gear
to used, refurbished, or even antique equipment.

Admission - \$5. Under age 13 - Free. Vendor Tables - \$10.
Advance tickets and tables can be ordered by mail before January 5, 2010.
Be sure to order your tables in advance, as space is limited.
Vendors may set up beginning 8 AM.

For more information or to order tickets, contact:
Hamfest Chairman, Steve Johnston, WD8DAS
Address: 2309 Tulare St., Fitchburg WI 53711
Website: <http://www.wd8das.net/hamfest> email: wd8das@arrl.net

Revisiting the Power of the dB

Engineers use the dB to describe ratios of power: accordingly, we should from time to time refresh ourselves on the meanings and uses of dB. $\text{Log}_B N = P$ is the same information written rewritten as $B^P = N$. For example, $\text{Log}_5 12 = 1.544$, and $5^{1.544} = 12$.

dBs in power (I^2Z) means $\text{dB} = 10 \log_{10} (P^2/P_1)$. For antennas, the dB should indicate if the standard is the base power of an isotropic radiator (radiates as if it was at the center of, and was illuminating the inside of, a sphere), or a dipole. If we use an isotropic radiator, measurements are from 0 (dB_i), with the dipole standard having 2.14 dB more of concentrated power (dB_d). A dB_i of the same power ratio will be a number +2.14 higher than a dB_d .

dBs are convenient as we can add or subtract dBs directly. dBs are logarithmic and adding or subtracting achieves the same result as multiplying or dividing powers. A half-power point on an antenna far field elevation plot is at -3dB . ($\text{dB} = \log_{10} 1/2$).

dBs are used to determine how much power is required for communication between two places on Earth. For example, if a Ham in Rockford wants to work a Ham in Spain, and his propagation program shows 35dB_d of path energy is required for a QSO at a given date and time, the sum of the transmitter and antenna gain expressed in dBs, plus the receiving antenna gain expressed in dBs, must exceed 35 dBs. How much excess is required depends upon the noise conditions (signal to noise ratios).

For voltage and current the dB is calculated with $\text{dB} = 20 \text{Log}_{10} (V_2/V_1)$. A typical table of amplification and the approximate magnitude of response follows:

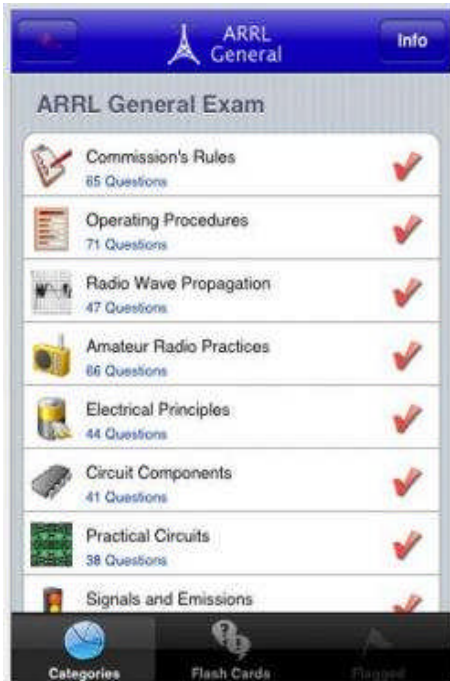
Typical Values	
Amplification	Magnitude of Response
1	0 dB
$\sqrt{2}$	$\approx +3 \text{dB}$
$1/\sqrt{2}$	$\approx -3\text{dB}$
2	$\approx + 6\text{dB}$
4	$\approx + 12 \text{dB}$
10	+ 20 dB
0.1	- 20 dB

So, the next time you hear dBs mentioned you will know exactly what is being discussed.

Short Circuit
October 2009

ARRL, McSnyder Software Team Up to Provide iTunes Apps

ARRL is pleased to announce the availability of a new suite of Amateur Radio mobile software -- designed specifically for use with the Apple's iPhone and iPod Touch. The applications -- or "apps" -- are named [ARRL Technician](#), [ARRL General](#) and [ARRL Extra](#) and function as an electronic version of practice exam flash cards.



This screen shot shows the ARRL General Exam prep software, published by McSnyder. All three versions -- Technician, General and Extra -- are available for the Apple iPhone and iPod Touch and can be purchased on iTunes.

Amateur Radio exam candidates can use the applications as a study companion to the [ARRL license manuals](#) and classroom instruction. The apps include all the possible questions and answers that will be on each of the license tests. Users can flag questions that need more review, segment questions for study by sub-element, or even study the questions in a random order.

The ARRL apps are produced and sold by McSnyder Software who has partnered with ARRL to provide the iPhone app series. McSnyder has also produced study applications for other organizations -- including exam preparation software for standardized educational testing in Texas, as well as US Citizenship immigration testing. "We are excited to introduce Amateur Radio and ARRL into the rapidly expanding mobile and portable technology arena," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "Not only do these applications demonstrate ARRL's commitment to users of these popular devices, the software helps promote Amateur Radio outside of our traditional publication channels." The ARRL apps are available for \$1.99 each on Apple's iTunes "App Store."

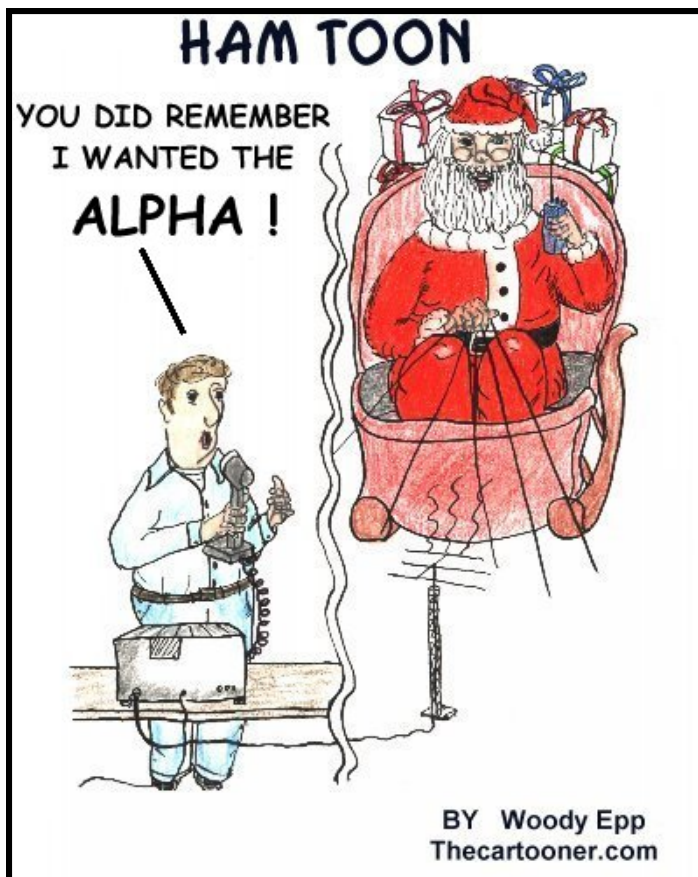
FREE HAM RADIO WEBINARS

Depiction, Inc., makers of the Depiction mapping software that was featured in the November QST, is offering free webinars for Amateur Radio Operators every Thursday. The webinars are hosted by David Friedman, KE7GOY, and Depiction's Kim Buike, a retired U.S. Navy Captain and active Red Cross volunteer. David and Kim will show how to employ Depiction before and during emergencies to enhance planning and response capabilities, and demonstrate David's use of the software in response to disasters around the country. For more information, visit www.depiction.com/webinars/amateur-radio.

Also, we are looking to do a limited number of custom regional webinars for ARRL clubs, using local maps and data to show how the software can be used in your community to prepare for—and respond to—specific disaster risks. If you are interested, please just respond to this email and let me know.

Finally, if your club is hosting a Hamfest, exercise or other event, and is looking for a corporate sponsor, please contact me. We are always looking for ways we can support the Amateur Radio community.

Thanks for your time,
Timothy Goddard
Marketing Manager
Depiction, Inc.
Depiction.com



AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

November 21st there were 3 applicants resulting in 1 new license and 2 upgrades

New License
David Bailey

Upgrades
Richard List, KC9QPK
Mark Miller, N9MKI

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, December 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
XU7UFT	CAMBODIA	DEC. 3 TO DEC. 8	F6AXX
E51PMR	SOUTH COOK ISLAND	DEC. 6 TO DEC. 13	TBA
KH6	HAWAII	DEC. 17 TO JAN. 6	N1CE
JD1	OGASAWARA	DEC. 27 TO JAN. 3	BURO
XR9JA	SOUTH SHETLAND IS.	JAN. 10 TO JAN. 14	CE5JA
5X1NH	UGANDA	JAN. 21 TO MAR. 21	G3RWF
ST26AST	SUDAN	JAN. 22 TO JAN. 28	ST2M
6W	SENEGAL	JAN. 26 TO FEB. 9	LotW

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

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.

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

December 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