

# 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.

**June 2011**

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## Presidents Log

We need to get our member ship to increase. We really need to get younger people to join RARA.  
There are many place's in our hobby where we can spark an interest.  
Young people are willing to listen.  
All you have to do is start a conversation with them. See you at the club meeting.

Tom, N9VJU

# Opportunities

**The Monday night RARA Information Net needs a larger roster of Net Control Stations**

**If you are interested in becoming a Net Control Operator, please contact either one of the Officers or Board members. It's an easy thing to do, and you work from a script. No need to worry what to say. Let's get you on the schedule.**

**We also need a Vice President, Field Day Chairman, Picnic Chairman, and Breakfast in the Park Chairman**

**Please step forward. These activities are critical to the life of RARA.**

## NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY  
June 10 2011  
7:00P.M.**

**Location:  
Foundation Room  
Saint Anthony OSF  
5666 East State Street  
Rockford, Illinois**

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



## From the Treasurer

**Treasurer's Report:** For the period 24 APR 2011 to 28 MAY 2011 submitted to the Ham Rag by John G. Olson 2011 RARA treasurer.

Income :	None Reported
Expenses:	\$56.00
Ending Checkbook Balance:	\$3985.25 (per check register 28 MAY 2011)
Ending Repeater checking balance:	\$ 300.00 (per 23 APR 2011 statement)
Ending Savings Balance	\$3218.03 (per 31 MAR 2011 statement)***
Ending total cash on hand:	\$7503.28 (net decline of \$56.00)

\*\*\* Savings account statements are issued by Alpine Bank quarterly

We depend on your timely dues payment. Please pay your 2011 dues now.

### **Items for sale:**

Dennis, K9VMY has the following items for sale: You can see him at the Friday breakfast or e-mail at [k9vmy@earthlink.net](mailto:k9vmy@earthlink.net)

- (1)Qty 1 LDG AT-1000 (1KW Automatic Antenna Tuner) \$300.00
- (2)Qty 1 Ameritron AL811H Amplifier \$ 700.00

Both items are in perfect shape and arrangements to view can be made with Dennis.

# Secretary's Report



## RARA Meeting Minutes May 2011

The May 13, 2011 meeting of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Tom Shouler N9VJU with 13 members and guests present.

Dave Bond W9MG moved we accept the minutes from the April 2011 meeting as printed in the Ham Rag, Chuck Derwent K9SAN seconded.

Gordy Seaman KC9NEX moved we accept the Treasurers report as printed in the Hamrag; Jim Miller W4JR seconded.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Dave Bond W9MG spoke about a civil war round table group he participates in and a book "Mr Lincoln's T Mails" by Tom Wheeler which explains how important telegraphy was to the north winning the civil war.

A get well card for Dave Larsen N9ZXL who fractured his ankle was passed around for all to sign.

Tom read a letter from the "On the Waterfront" committee asking if we were going to participate this year, we need to answer by May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Alvin Alexander KC9GIO spoke on a veterans program that records the history of veterans and ham radio through a local VFW post.

The business portion of the meeting ended at 7:32 PM followed by a break to set up for the evenings program on DXing by Tom.

Respectfully submitted  
John Lawrence N9OTC  
Secretary; RARA

## The K7RA Solar Update

ARLP022 Propagation de K7RA

Sunspot activity is up sharply this week, with the average daily sunspot number increasing over 55 points to 89.9. Average solar flux rose nearly 20 points to 103.1.

The latest forecast shows solar flux at 115 on June 3, 110 on June 4-6, 105 on June 7-8, 100 on June 9-14, rising to 105 on June 15 and 110 on June 16-26. Planetary A index is predicted to be 12, 20, 15 and 10 on June 3-6, 5 on June 7-10, 8 on June 11-13 and 5 on June 14-21. The next period of high geomagnetic activity is projected for Jun 22-27, at 12, 22, 18, 18, 15 and 8. Note that ARRL Field Day for 2011 is June 25-26, which should be just after the predicted peak in geomagnetic activity, currently predicted for June 23.

Geophysical Institute Prague sees unsettled to active conditions June 3-4, unsettled June 5, quiet conditions June 6-7, and quiet to unsettled June 8-9.

With the passing of May, we can look at some moving averages of sunspot numbers.

74.4 was the average daily sunspot number for the latest 3-month period, March through May, centered on April. The three month moving averages centered on May 2010 through April 2011 were 16.4, 20.4, 23.2, 28.9, 33, 35.6, 31, 30.1, 35.3, 55.7, 72.3 and 74.4.

The average sunspot number for May was 61.5, down somewhat from March and April. The monthly averages of daily sunspot numbers for January through May 2011 were 32.3, 53.5, 81.1, 80.8 and 61.5.

Currently there are eight sunspot groups visible. You can see a daily sunspot update at, <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/forecasts/SRS.html>.

Check <http://www.space.com/11858-dark-sunspots-origins-explained.html> for an article titled "Mysterious Origins of Dark Sunspots Explained." The journal Science has an abstract for the article mentioned in the Dark Sunspots piece at <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2011/06/01/science.1206429>. Often with an account at your local library you can log in and read the full text of the article.

Another article similar to the "Dark Sunspots" article is on the <http://www.cosmosmagazine.com/news/4378/century-old-sunspot-problem-solved> site.

Don Tucker, W7WLL who lives in Yachats (pronounced YAH-HOTS) on the Oregon coast, writes "The bands, particularly 20, have been so hot that I worked WAC and probably could'a worked DXCC in one 24 hour period if I'd tried!! Antennas, antennas, antennas. Can't hear 'em, can't work 'em."

Check out Don's station and antennas at <http://www.qrz.com/db/w7wll>.

### 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***



## The K7RA Solar Update

Bob Elek, W3HKK of Johnstown, Ohio reminds us of the upcoming ARRL June VHF QSO Party, which runs from 1800 UTC June 11 through 0259 UTC June 13. See <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf-qso-party> for details. Bob writes - concerning 6 meters - "My own observation over 2010 and 2011 is that during last year's Es season there were many more broad strong openings 1000 miles out, and therefore more double/triple hop openings than I've heard this year. In 2011, I often hear a handful of signals, often up and down into the noise, and that's it. How much of this is based on antenna height, and very low angle of radiation I have no idea. But it just seems like 6 meters has been a far tougher Es band this year."

Jon Jones, N0JK of Lawrence, Kansas writes: "On Sunday May 22, 6 meters opened via multi-hop Es to the Caribbean most of the day. I worked FG5FR at 1928 UTC on 50.105 MHz. Franz was a solid 559 on my dipole. Heard numerous KP4s, 9Y4D and P43A. FJ/OS1T was on earlier and gave many a new country on 6M."

Later Jon wrote: "I heard K0ZN EM28 working K0SBV DM42 on May 29. K0ZN is in DeSoto, about 15 miles from Lawrence."

Kent Doucy, N0IRM of Galena, Missouri had a nice 15 meter opening. He writes, "At 0454 UTC on May 31, 2011 I found 5W1SA from Samoa calling CQ on 21.020 with a great 579 signal. A little later at 0528 UTC I was also able to work Brad FO/N6JA on Marquesas Island on 21.018, he was a little harder copy with a 519 signal. Nothing else was heard after that but it was a nice short lived late 15 meter opening to the Midwest." See Kent's antennas at <http://www.qrz.com/db/n0irm>.

Rudy Hanau, K2EVY of Rye, New York had some interesting comments regarding backscatter: "Most of us have run into HF backscatter at one time or another. In my experience the other station and I find ourselves pointing our beams at some common point out of line with the direct path between us.

"However, this incident was a bit different. On May 29 the SFI was 101 and the A index was 36. Not your most common set of conditions and, I suspect the geomagnetic activity associated with the high A is involved. Twenty meters was very sparsely populated and K6ZA's S9 signal stood out. My QTH is Rye Brook, NY (FN31) and Barry is in Walnut Grove, CA (CM87). His bearing should have been 280 degrees, just a bit north of West for me, and indeed it was. He was just finishing another QSO and I called him. He told me he had been working KL7 and was looking North! I swung North and lost him. He looked East and lost me. We were both S9 or better when our antennas were about 90 degrees to one another. We scratched our heads and looked every which way for another path but there was none.

"I signed after about 30 minutes and Barry went on to work another station (more about that later). When working backscatter we usually think of some far off reflecting area such as aurora over Alaska or the pole. In mulling this contact over the only explanation I can offer is that the reflecting area was very near Walnut Grove and was omnidirectional, like a vertical. If it was 50 or 100 miles north of Barry it would be indistinguishable from Barry's QTH for me whereas Barry would have to point north to see it.

"Barry described his next contact as follows: 'After our QSO I was called by a Laughlin, Nevada station SE of me, also same scenario. He was seeing me at normal NW direction. He was strongest to the North. Then, during the 30 min contact, I found I could move the beam toward the east with no change in strength and then he began to peak more toward him and less to the North. By the end, he was 40 over at SE, and no propagation to the north at all.'"

There is a slightly revised solar cycle prediction from NASA at <http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>. This month it says "Three consecutive months with average daily sunspot numbers above 40 has raised the predicted maximum above the 64.2 for the Cycle 14 maximum in 1907." Last month it said "Two consecutive months with average daily sunspot numbers in the 50s has raised the predicted maximum above the 64.2 for the Cycle 14 maximum in 1907."

# AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

\*\*\*\*\*

May 21st there were 4 applicants resulting in 1 new license and 2 upgrades.

New

Michael E Barry - General

Upgraded

Charles A Anderson, N9QDJ - General  
Robert S Giesecke, N9KUX - General  
Benjamin G Rocke, KC9MBC - General

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, June 18, 2011 (always the 3rd Saturday of the month).

Location:

St Anthony Hospital  
5666 E State St  
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)

Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV

## 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	

## 2010 RARA Officers and Board

### **Officers:**

President - Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-877-9129  
Vice President - OPEN  
Secretary - John Lawrence, N9OTC, 815-397-4624  
Treasurer - John Olson W9JGO

### **Directors:**

Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034  
Steve Thorne, K9LLI, 815-399-9161  
Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875  
Ham Rag Editor - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-522-8796  
Repeater Chairman - Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-979-1049

**Starved Rock Radio Club**

**June 5th, 2011**

**Bureau County Fairgrounds**

**Princeton, Illinois 61356**

**I-80 to Exit 56 (IL Rte 26) then South 2 miles to IL Rte 6 , then West 1/2 mile**

**South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club**

**Swapfest 11**

**Saturday July 9th, 2011**

**6:30 a.m.**

**American Legion Post 434**

**9327 South Shepard Avenue**

**Oak Creek Wisconsin**

**Tickets \$5.00**

**Talk in Freq. 146.52**

**Chicago FM Club**

**Saturday and Sunday September 10th and 11th, 2011**

**Boone County Fairgrounds**

**8791 Route 76**

**Belvidere, Illinois**

**6 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days**

**Complete listing at <http://www.chicagofmclub.org/radioexpo2011.html>**

**59th Annual W9DXCC Convention & Banquet**

**Saturday September 17th 2011**

**Holiday Inn—Elk Grove Village**

**630-844-8301**

**Southeast Iowa Hamfest**

**Sunday, October 2, 2011**

**Muscatine County Fairgrounds**

**101 Clay Street**

**West Liberty, Iowa**

**7 a.m. Tickets \$5.00**

**Repeater 146.31/91, CTSS 192.8 Hz**

**Tom Brehmer [n0loh@arrl.org](mailto:n0loh@arrl.org)**





# ARRL Midwest Division Convention

## & Summerfest 2011

### August 5-7, 2011

### Cedar Rapids, Iowa

### Sponsored by Cedar Valley ARC

<http://convention2011.cvarc.rf.org>



### Friday & Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>:

### Clarion Hotel & Convention Center - Cedar Rapids, Iowa (IA)

525 33rd Avenue S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

- **Friday August 5<sup>th</sup> (3 – 6 PM), "OMAP/BeagleBoard-xm" embedded computer tutorial**— focusing on amateur radio and SDR uses of the technology

- **Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> evening Banquet** – *Limited Seating*, please register early!

**Banquet Speaker: ARRL President, Kay C. Craigie, N3KN**

- **Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> Forums and Presentations** from 8 AM to 4 PM

ARRL Presentation and Informal Meeting Area	DX Forum
Numerous Technical Presentations	Classic Radios by Joe Veras K9OCO
Operating topics	Kit Building (AAØZZ CW keyer, NMØS "HamCan" QRP)
Youth in Amateur Radio Forum	Free Admission for kids 12 & under

- **ARRL-sponsored VEC session** 9 AM Saturday (convention registration not required)
- **ARRL Award Field checking** of QSL cards
- **Wouff-Hong Ceremony**

Registration deadline for banquet is August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 Kit building order cutoff is July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011  
 Banquet seating and kit building event numbers are limited; first come, first serve, so register early!  
 CHECK the <http://convention2011.cvarc.rf.org> website for updates and additional details as they become available or contact Barry Buelow, WØIY, at [convention2011@rf.org](mailto:convention2011@rf.org)



## Summerfest 2011

### Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM - 1 PM — \$5 at door

### Eastern Iowa's premier Hamfest

#### Location:

Teamster's Hall  
5000 J Street SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

#### Talk-In:

146.745 MHz -600 KHz no PL  
or  
146.520 Simplex

- **LARGE outdoor free** flea market, plenty of FREE parking.
- Well known vendors including **Radio City** and **WBØW**.
- Indoor Tables, in air conditioned comfort, are **\$10** each.
- Vendor Setup August 6<sup>th</sup> evening and 6 AM August 7<sup>th</sup> see <http://cvarc.rf.org> for details.
- **ARRL VEC testing** available starting at 9:30 AM.





# ARRL Midwest Division Convention



**Friday & Saturday, August 5-7**

**Clarion Hotel & Convention Center - Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

Friday, August 5, 2011 events:	Quantity	Price ea.	Subtotal
<b>BeagleBoard-XM/OMAP</b> Embedded processor uses in Amateur radio demo and tutorial ( <b>INCLUDES</b> Saturday Convention) Advance registration required. Limited seating! Bring your board and laptop! See our website for more details		\$20	

Saturday, August 6, 2011 events:	Quantity	Price Ea.	Subtotal
Convention Registration		\$10	
Banquet Ticket Featuring ARRL President Kay Craigie N3KN AUGUST 1 <sup>st</sup> Deadline or until sold out—register early!		\$35	

Saturday, August 6, 2011 extras:	Quantity	Price Ea.	Subtotal
Kit Building: AAØZZ PIC Keyer Kit JULY 22 <sup>nd</sup> deadline or until sold out—register early!		\$20	
Kit Building: NMØS "HamCan" 40m QRP transceiver JULY 22 <sup>nd</sup> deadline or until sold out—register early!		\$30	
VEC Testing (Pay VEC fee at the test session)		Reg NOT Required	
Wouff Hong (Convention Registration Required)		No Charge	
Please make checks out to: Cedar Valley ARC	<b>Total</b>	\$	

Sunday, August 7, 2011	Quantity	Price Ea.	Subtotal
Summerfest (Hamfest at Teamsters Hall approx 1 mile from hotel)		\$5 Please pay at the hamfest	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to: **Convention**  
**Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club**  
**P.O. Box 2352**  
**Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2352**

Please contact the Clarion Hotel directly for rooms. Request the "ARRL Midwest Convention" rate of \$90/night by July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. Reservations: 877-949-2992 Fax: 319-362-1420 Hotel Direct: 319-366-8671. For more information see <http://www.clarioncr.com>

### RARA Member Generosity

After several episodes with our previous supply, an Astron RM-20A-BB, it has become the consensus of the Repeater committee in collaboration with Astron's Tech Support, that this supply is unsuitable for our repeater. It was recommended that we up-size the unit. Without even asking for it, this committee received approval from the RARA Board for its replacement. Meanwhile, in the early process of searching for vendor and price, a RARA member stepped to the plate.

**Kurt Eversole KE9N** has purchased and donated to RARA a new Astron RS-35M. THANK YOU KURT !

I know I can easily speak for RARA, its Board of Directors and Repeater Committee in expressing our highest gratitude for this unselfish gesture.

We also thank Eric Hultgren N9MCS once again, for the loan of his 50A supply.

Remarks and photos by:  
Chuck Ingle AB9KA  
RARA Repeater Committee Chairman



A few weeks ago at the Friday Morning Ham Breakfast, I found myself seated across the table from two amateur radio operators who had served in World War II. One of the men spoke of how the military had recruited him into the Signal Corp and made direct use of his amateur radio experience and the other gentleman spoke of his experience on a mortar team. In the midst of our conversation, I realized I had nothing with me to record their experiences. Granted, I committed their stories to memory but this is a poor substitute to document the wealth represented by their experiences and the history they made. The Library of Congress established a program to record the stories of those who served in America's military and I want you to be aware this. The following is a direct quote from the 'Veterans History Project':

"The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

**The Project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from the following wars:**

- World War I (1914-1920)
- World War II (1939-1946)
- Korean War (1950-1955)
- Vietnam War (1961-1975)
- Persian Gulf War (1990-1995)
- Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present)

In addition, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories."

The men and women who served in America's military deserve our utmost to honor and remember the sacrifice they made for this country. If you know of a veteran who would like to participate in this program, please contact:

Scott Lewandowski – Manager

Veterans Memorial Hall

(815) 969-1999



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: [www.w9axd.org](http://www.w9axd.org)

E-mail: [jholich@comcast.net](mailto:jholich@comcast.net)

**Nets**

Monday 8 PM	RARA Info.	146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM	ARES	147.255 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATERN	146.610 - 114.8

place address label here

# June 2011

## 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