

# 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 Log

October is club elections. Come and nominate your fellow club members who you want to lead the club this coming year. New club officers term start on January 1st 2012. This should be a fun experience, with only three months till the first of the year there are still things to plan for. The January dinner banquet is just one of the items to discuss.

We still new to attract new members. We should target young people and mentor them so that they understand that being a ham is a life long learning experince that can help them in their daily lives as well as their community and work lives.

Tom N9VJU



Carol AK7N and Gene AK9N were present at the Friday September 23 Friday morning breakfast. We sure are glad that you came to say hello to old friends. Come again when you can. We're always glad to see you

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

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## NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY**  
**October 14, 2011**  
**7:00P.M.**

**Location:**  
**Foundation Room**

**Saint Anthony OSF**  
**5666 East State Street**  
**Rockford, Illinois**

**Program:**  
**Nomination & Election**  
**of 2012 Officers**



## From the Treasurer

**Treasurer's Report:** For the period 28 August 2011 to 25 September 2011  
submitted to the Ham Rag by John G. Olson 2011 RARA treasurer.

Income :	\$ 30.00 (Dues)
Expenses:	\$ 0.00
Ending Checkbook Balance:	\$3405.25 (per check register 28 AUG 2011)
Ending Repeater checking balance:	\$ 300.00 (per 31 AUG 2011 statement)
Ending Savings Balance	\$3218.83 (per 30 JUN 2011 statement)***
Ending total cash on hand:	\$6924.08 (net gain of \$30.00)

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

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

September 17th there were no applicants.

Amateur Radio exams are held in Rockford IL on the 3rd Saturday of every month. The next session is October 15, 2011 at 9:00 AM. Walk-ins welcome.

Location:  
OSF St Anthony Hospital  
5666 E State St  
Rockford IL

Exams will be held in the Hickey Board Room near the coffee shop (This month only).

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 Radio license AND A COPY.
2. Any valid CSCE that you are using for exam credit AND A COPY.
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 payable to W5YI-VEC.

Rusty Cordell WB9QYV  
wb9qyv@aol.com

## Submission from John Olson W9JGO

### Respect...

At our club meetings I am finding it harder and harder to hear and understand the persons at the front trying to deal with club business or presenting a program. I know I am not alone in this. Sad to say the problem is private conversations during the time when all attention should be on the speaker at the front of the room. Sadder still, the problem seems to be prevalent among the more senior members of the group, of which I am one. I know "we" (older folks) were taught to be respectful when others have the floor. Our mothers and teachers saw to that.

Perhaps the answer is a longer time in which to socialize, which seems to be the main thrust for many of our members, including me.

Please lets try to allow all to hear what our leaders and presenters have to say. Plenty of time for socializing and commenting after the program....

Thanks for your consideration,

John Olson, W9JGO

## Submission from Dennis Johanson K9VMY

The Deep Sea Quest for Amelia Earhart  
David W, Jourdan

The disappearance of Amelia Earhart is possibly the greatest aviation mystery of the 20th century. Amelia and her navigator, Fred Noonan vanished without a trace in the vast Pacific near tiny Howland Island during their attempt to circle the globe on July 2nd 1937. No wreckage, oil slick, or floating debris of any sort was ever found. Other than a few fleeting radio messages, there is no primary source to narrow speculation on their fate.

This book recounts the efforts of David Jourdan, founder of the deep sea exploration company Nauticos, during 2002 and 2006 to find the wreckage by the use of side scanning sonar.

ISBN 978-90-8790-003-8

### 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:**

Steve Thorne, K9LLI, 815-399-9161  
Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875  
Ham Rag Editor - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796  
Repeater Chairman - Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-979-1049

## The K7RA Solar Update

ARLP039 Propagation de K7RA

From Tad Cook, K7RA  
Seattle, WA September 30, 2011  
To all radio amateurs

Our Sun was very active over the past week, with average solar flux rising nearly 12 points to 155.5. Average daily sunspot numbers however dropped nearly 41 points to 96.1. This implies fewer but more intense sunspots.

A huge sunspot group numbered 1302 emerged on September 22, and this was the source of a coronal mass ejection which triggered an immense geomagnetic storm. The planetary A index peaked at 67 on September 26, followed by 30 the next day and 24 on September 28. The planetary K index reached 8 for two of the three-hour reporting periods on September 26, indicating an intense geomagnetic storm, and with aurora observed in many places, including Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Dakota and South Dakota.

On September 22 there was a major X1.4 class solar flare at 1100 UTC, with a large CME, but this was when sunspot 1302 was just coming over the horizon, so it wasn't Earth directed.

On September 24 sunspot group 1302 produced a larger X1.9 flare, and today the group is just past the point where it is directly facing Earth, but still in the middle of the visible solar disc. It could still produce more flares.

Sunspot group area is measured in millionths of a solar hemisphere, and for sunspot group 1302 the measure for September 22-28 was 480, 840, 1300, 980, 950, 980 and 1070. The combined area for all visible sunspot groups peaked at 1930 on September 24. This is the largest measure of sunspot area since January 15-16, 2005 in Cycle 23, when the numbers were 1980 and 1960. The time period between those big numbers is six years, 8 months and 9 days.

Other big numbers over the past decade for total sunspot area were 2420 on July 21, 2004, 5690 on October 30, 2003 (sunspot number was 293 that day), and 3940 and 3160 on March 29 and September 24, 2001. The sunspot number on both those days in 2001 was 315.

Another big number this week emerged on September 24 when the solar flux was 190.4. The number hasn't been this high since November 2, 2003 when it was also 190.4. The days prior to that beginning on October 25, 2003 had solar flux values of 221.5, 298.3, 257.2, 274.4, 291.7, 271.4, 248.9, and 210.4. This was probably the last big blast of solar activity for Cycle 23, as nothing since then comes anywhere near that level.

Currently the latest forecast - which is actually from Thursday, September 29 - from NOAA/USAF has solar flux at 140 for September 30 through October 3, then 135, 130, 135 and 140 on October 4-7, then 145 on October 8-10 and 140 on October 11-17.

Predicted planetary A index is 12 and 10 on September 30 through October 1, then 5 on October 2-7, then 8, 15, 12 and 8 on October 8-11, and 5 on October 12-21.

Geophysical Institute Prague expects unsettled conditions on September 30, quiet to unsettled October 1-3, and quiet October 4-6.

A note from Tom Jerardi, K3CXW corrects our reference to the Autumnal Equinox in the northern hemisphere, as it means equal day and night, which is independent of hemisphere.

Fred Honnold, KH7Y is in Ocean View, Hawaii, on the southwest part of the Big Island. Fred reported that on Thursday night, September 23 he worked three new countries on 6 meters, and that "Six is cooking." He has worked 56 countries on 6 meters since 2006. He worked "BV2DQ at 0324z, PP5XX at 0404z, DU7/PA0HIP at 0455z who most of the evening was 569, and LU5FF for an 11,000 KM QSO at 0512z, plus FK8CP (loud) two hours and three VK4s, FP and CX. It all ended at 0804z."

After Fred worked PP5XX (in grid square GG55QW, 12541 KM from Fred), PP5XX worked BV2DQ long path. BV2DQ was running 100 watts into a small antenna.

## The K7RA Solar Update

Julio, NP3CW in San Juan, Puerto Rico reports that on September 23, 10 and 12 meters were open for many hours to Europe. In four hours he worked 75 stations from Europe on 10 meters, and 4X4K in Azerbaijan. He had 60 contacts with Europe and some North America on 12 meters, and he worked 40 JA stations in one hour on 12 meter CW. On 6 meters he worked a number of stations across South America.

Don Keith, N4KC writes, "I've been licensed for 50 years this year...since I was 13...but somehow always managed to be inactive during sunspot maxima. I've really been anticipating this cycle, and not so patiently, I admit.

"However, tonight between 0015 and 0110 GMT (September 23 CDST) made the wait worthwhile. In about an hour, I worked 4W6A in East Timor, JT1RF in Mongolia, and JH7PKU in Japan, all with good signals on 12 meters. I only run 100 watts and use a hexbeam on 12. SFI was reported as 173. 12 is a totally new experience for me since it wasn't even a ham band when I was active before and has been spotty since 2005 when my interest was rekindled." Don has a web site at <http://n4kc.com/>.

Scott Avery, WA6LIE of Salinas, California is also excited. On September 25 he wrote, "WOW! The SFI up to 190 and solar activity is on the rise! 10 meters today was like Field Day! Band was open to Europe, Africa, VK/ZL etc! Could randomly spin the dial in the SSB portion and find a signal. Reminds me of the late 80s when 10 was open most of the time. Look forward to the MUF getting up to 50 MHz.

"Saw a DX spot, F2 from a station in San Diego to New Caledonia on 6 meters. Looks promising! Time for the Technicians to get in there and work some DX!"

On September 25, a note from Nagoya: "This is JQ2UOZ (Name: 'Aki') of Nagoya, Japan. The band conditions on 12 meters have been excellent recently. "Using an output power of only 500 mw QRPp and a dipole antenna, I was able to work FG5FR of Guadeloupe (Sep. 21) and YV1DIG of Venezuela (Sep. 23) on 12 meter band CW. The area around the Caribbean Sea is the most difficult area to work from Japan.

"In addition, using the same equipment, I was able to work K2ZJ of the State of New York on 12 meter band CW (Sep. 23). Surprisingly, according to an e-mail from him, he was using a very simple antenna, that is, a double extended Zepp for 17 meter band!!" The double extended Zepp is a dipole 1.28 wavelengths long, or about 66 feet on 17 meters, but apparently K2ZJ used his on 12 meters.

Peter Laws, N5UWY is net control on a local 10 meter net in Norman, Oklahoma, and was surprised to hear Randy, KH6RC of Hawaii (actually in the same Big Island village that KH7Y is in) check into his net on September 22 at 0130z with a great signal, and everyone could hear and work him. Peter was surprised, but with recent solar activity, that report is not surprising. A check with W6ELprop shows that path would probably be open until at least 0300z. But run the same numbers again for July or August, and the results are much different: no likely propagation over that path.

Sunspot numbers for September 22 through 28 were 86, 90, 88, 108, 103, 82, and 116, with a mean of 96.1. 10.7 cm flux was 150.8, 158.2, 190.4, 168.8, 148.2, 139, and 133.4, with a mean of 155.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 3, 4, 4, 67, 30, and 24, with a mean of 19.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 2, 3, 4, 20, 22, and 13 with a mean of 9.4. NNNN/EX

### 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***



## Hamfest Information

### Lake County ARC Hamfest 10/08/2011

Lake County Fairgrounds, Industrial Arts Bldg.  
889 South Court Street  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
Talk-In: 147.00 (PL 131.8) & 146.52 Simplex  
Public Contact: Rich Gilles , KA9SVS  
156 South Ridge Street Crown Point, IN 46307  
Phone: 219-662-0594 219-662-0594

### Milwaukee Repeater Club Hamfest 11/05/2011

Elks Lodge #46  
5555 West Good Hope Road  
Milwaukee WI  
Talk-in 146.910 (PL127.3)  
Public Contact; Ken Jaeger KC9MXZ  
Phone 414-491-0686

### Indiana State Convention (Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo) 11/19/2011—11/20/2011

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum  
4000 Parnell Avenue  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801  
Talk-In: 146.880-  
Public Contact: James Boyer , KB9IH  
PO Box 10342 Fort Wayne, IN 46851  
Phone: 260-579-2196  
260-579-2196

### 40th Annual Midwinter Swapfest West Allis Radio Amateur Club 01/07/2012

Waukesha County Expo Center Forum  
1000 Northview Road  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
Public Contact: Phil Gural , W9NAW  
S67W12944 Larkspur Road  
Muskego, WI 53150  
Phone: 414-425-3649  
414-425-3649

## Items for Sale

Alinco DR-1200T 2-meter, 25 watt FM and Data Radio	\$45.00
AEA PK-12 Packet TNC (Terminal Net Controller)	\$45.00
<u>Power Supplies:</u>	
117 VAC; 13.8 VDC; 2.5 amp regulated	\$20.00
120 VAC: 13.8 VDC 14 amp regulated	\$20.00
<u>Power Transformer:</u>	
Primary 117 VAC; Secondary 750 Volt Center Tap @ 120 ma.	\$20.00
5 Volt @ 3 amp	
6.3 Volt @ 3.5 amp	
<u>Filament Transformer:</u>	
Primary 117VAC; Secondary 12.6 volt Center Tap @ 4 amp	\$10.00
Eimac 304TL Triode RF/AF Power Amplifier Tubes	\$35.00 ea
	Or 4 for \$100.00

**Contact Jim Miller W4JR  
815-397-4602**



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

# October 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