

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.

The Care and Feeding of your Pet Ham

Pet hams are so intelligent they often seem human, but they can be difficult to raise. Only someone with great patience should attempt it. In case you do, here is a guide to the basics.

Living Area: A pet ham needs a private nest area, an entire room where it will not be disturbed. Your pet ham will spend many happy hours alone there with its treasures – boxes, wires, bits of metal and glass, paper, etc. that it will bring home whenever it ventures out. You will want to encourage your pet ham to confine its activity to this room to prevent the entire house from being subjected to noise, clutter and the boring of holes in the walls.

Expenses: Keeping a pet ham is expensive, but, unlike most common pets, a pet ham can be trained to work outside the home for a few hours each day limited to week ays. It may even bring in enough money to offset its expenses.

Feeding: A well behaved pet ham will eat with the family occasionally, but it will feed more comfortable and secure taking its meals in the nest room. You must be sure your pet ham is well supplied with food and drink during the long periods it spends alone in there, even if it does not beg or whine.

Obedience Training: A pet ham can be trained to perform simple tricks, the easiest and most common being “sit” and “speak”. Your pet ham can be taught rhythm and will peck away at a lever trying to attract other pet hams. Do not be alarmed if your pet ham practices these activities for hours at a time in the nest room.

Exercise: You need to provide apparatus for your pet ham to climb, though this activity is usually practiced by the younger of the species. Sometimes trees or rooftops will be sufficient, but most pets prefer steel or aluminum apparatus. Some also display a need to play outdoors, sometimes even in the family auto during storms. They are most active in this at the beginning of summer, mostly towards the end of June.

Health Problems: The pet ham typically suffers lower back pain, minor throat irritations, and carpal tunnel syndrome from “pecking” at the lever in the nest. These are usually minor irritations , caused by too much practice “sitting”, “speaking”, and “pecking” at the lever. Health costs appear to be minimal.

Travel: Your pet ham will gladly travel with your family by car, and even by air, if allowed to bring along certain items from the nest room. Most pet hams enjoy trips to places where they can meet pet hams from other families. Like lemmings, they attempt to migrate “en masse” to a place called Dayton in the springtime.

Breeding: If you plan to breed your pet ham, you should do so as soon as possible after you get it. As a pet ham matures, it becomes increasingly reluctant to engage in activities not associated with its nest room collection.

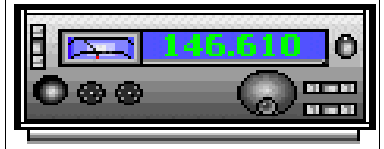
Contributed by an anonymous XYL

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

April 2012

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NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
April 13, 2012

Location:
St. Anthony / St. Joseph
Rooms

Saint Anthony OSF
5666 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois

Program: TBD

From the Treasurer

Treasurer's Report:

For the period 27 February 2012 to 31 March 2012
Submitted to the Ham Rag by John G. Olson 2012 RARA treasurer.

Income :	\$ 60.00 (Dues)
Expenses:	\$ 24.00 (*)
Ending Checkbook Balance:	\$4691.25 (per check register 31 MAR 2012)
Ending Repeater checking balance:	\$ 100.00 (per 30 DEC 2011 Statement)
Ending Savings Balance	\$3220.46 (per 30 DEC 2011 Statement)***
Ending total cash on hand:	<hr/> \$8011.71 (net gain of 36.00)

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

Dues for 2012 are overdue.

Make checks payable to RARA or Rockford Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Please send to:

RARA

P.O. Box 8465

Rockford, IL 61126-8465

Remember to include the application form published monthly in the Ham Rag.

*In a motion to the board of directors, John Olson requested the Ham Rag postage refund to Fred Miner. It seems several get the Ham Rag mailed to them, but Fred was the only one paying the \$12 per year fee. The club had not been paying the postage, the money Fred paid in went into the general fund. The Ham Rag editor has been paying the postage from his own pocket. The board agreed, and as of now we will not be charging postage to those members who do not have the means to download the newsletter from the W9AXD website. This could change at a later date should the cost prove too hi

From the Secretary

Secretary's notes from RARA general club meeting of March 9, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by President Tom Shouler, N9VJU, followed by the reading of the Secretary's report from the previous month's meeting by John Olson, W9JGO. A motion to accept the Secretary's report as read was made by Jim Holich, AB9SX and seconded by Bob Davidson, WA9NTT. A unanimous voice vote approved same. The Treasurer's report was read by John Olson and a motion to accept as read was made by Denny Johanson, K9VMY, seconded by Fred Miner, W9WOQ. A unanimous voice vote approved same.

A flyer for the Galva IL hamfest was read. This was received at the RARA P.O. Box.

It was noted that an incorrect date was published in the Ham Rag for the Sandwich, IL hamfest. The correct date is May 6, 2012.

New Business:

Bob Ditzler, KC9LLS asked for advice on how to contact the Tennessee tornado area for a welfare check. He was told that the Red Cross may provide the most efficient contact.

Emil Borys, W9NM, spoke about the IL State Police being able to confiscate guns of expired FOID card holders.

An interesting video about spark gap transmitters followed.

The meeting ended with a time for socializing.

For Sale

All items are new in original boxes

Power Supply:	Hy-Gain #436; 117 vac primary	Secondary: 13.8 vdc, 2.5 amp, regulated	
	\$20.00		
Power Transformer:	117vac primary	Secondary: 750 vct@120 ma	\$20.00
		5 v @ 3 amp	
		6.3 v @ 3.5 amp	
Filament Transformer:	117 vac Primary	Secondary: 12.6 v @ 4 amp	
	\$10.00		
Filament Transformer:	117 vac primary	Secondary: 7.5 vct@ 21 amp	
	\$25.00		
Eimac 304 TL Triode RF/AF Power Amplifier Tubes			
	\$35.00 ea.		
			(4 tubes) \$100.00

Contact Jim Miller, W4JR 815-397-4602

2 Meter HT Wanted

2 Meter HT with large keys, INTUITIVE programming, minimal "bells and whistles" but must have PL, Scanner, Rechargeable battery, and possibly reversible input.

Contact Fred Miner W9WOQ 815-968-2117

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

March 17th there were 6 applicants resulting in 6 new licensees.

New:

Greg L Geiger, Technician
Marianne Geiger, Technician
Dominic A O'Rorke, Technician
William E Studer, Technician
Gregory L Watkins, Technician
Sue M Zwierzycki, Technician

Thanks to Shari Harlan N9SH, Jim Holich AB9SX and Ken Olson N9KMO for volunteering their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9AM April 21, 2012. Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10:30AM. We require two signature ID's (one must be a photo ID). If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator bring your original current license and a copy. If you are using a CSCE for an element credit, bring the original and a copy (We need to see the originals & keep a photocopy of each document used for element credit). No copier on site. The test fee is \$14.00. Bring a non-programmable calculator.

Location:

OSF St Anthony Medical Center
5666 E State St
Rockford IL

Exams will be held in the St Francis Room (Main Entrance then turn right).

Rusty Cordell WB9QYV
wb9qyv@aol.com

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	

2010 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-877-9129
Vice President - Open
Secretary - Open
Treasurer - John Olson W9JGO 815-399-4368

Directors:

Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO 815-979-0329
Kurt Eversole, KE9N 815-389-2784
Dave Larsen, N9ZXL 815-399-8205
Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX 815-234-5034
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 Report

Eight new sunspot groups appeared this week, but the average daily sunspot number declined four points to 71.1. Average daily solar flux rose by less than two points to 103.7.

On Thursday, March 22 three new sunspot groups appeared, numbered 1441, 1442 and 1443. Two more groups appeared on Friday - 1444 and 1445 - and 1442 vanished from view. On March 24 group 1441 disappeared, and on March 25 new group 1446 emerged. On March 26, groups 1440, 1443 and 1446 faded away, but 1442 - not seen since four days earlier - re-emerged. On March 27 group 1444 disappeared and 1447 appeared, and on March 28 new group 1448 arrived.

For the short term, planetary A index is predicted to be 5 on March 30 through April 9, then 12 on April 10, and back to 5 on April 11-12, then 15 and 10 on April 13-14, followed by 5 on April 15-23. A similar pattern appears way out in May, when planetary A index is predicted at 12 on May 7, then 15 again on May 10. It's a good guess that this is probably based on the rotation of the Sun relative to Earth, predicting that an active magnetic area could appear again 27-28 days later.

The solar flux prediction shows flux values of 120, 130 and 135 on March 30 through April 1, then 140 on April 2-6. On April 7-11 the predicted solar flux is 130, 125, 120, 110 and 105. On April 12-15 the predicted solar flux is 100. It then goes to 105 and 110 on April 16-17, and back to 100 on April 18-21, then 105 on April 22-23, 110 on April 24-25, 120, 125, and 130 on April 26-28, and 135 on April 29-30. Another peak at 140 is predicted for May 1-3.

"Q-up Now" has a fascinating new set of real-time propagation tools at <http://www.q-upnow.com/>, developed by a team associated with the Utah State University Space Weather Center (<http://spaceweather.usu.edu/>) in Logan, Utah.

They use a real-time model of the ionosphere called GAIM (Global Assimilation of Ionospheric Measurements) which is updated every 15 minutes with 10,000 global TEC (Total Electron Content) measurements to simulate the F layers. Then they use the ABBYNormal Model (see <http://gcmd.nasa.gov/records/abbyNormal.html>) to model the D and E layers, and the two models are combined to give a complete representation of the global ionosphere.

On the first page you will see NVIS maps for Near Vertical Incidence Skywave propagation. These are not quite ready yet, and currently the maps shown are several days old.

Most interesting is the HF Availability (<http://www.q-upnow.com/hf-availability>) area in which you can model real-time propagation for the frequency of your choice between any two points and beyond out to the antipodes. You can use latitude/longitude coordinates, but I found it easiest to just copy grid square data from callsign servers such as <http://www.qrz.com>.

This tool also works on 160 meters, which the propagation prediction programs that many of us use do not. Of course the major difference with this tool is that it tells you what the propagation should be over any path right now, but they are planning on offering a predictive tool. Have fun!

The K7RA Solar Report

Torsten Schwarz, XE2/K5TOR wrote:

"On Sunday 03/25/2012 at 9:00 local time (1500 UTC) I was surprised that I was hearing a US FM Radio station on my radio (103.1 MHz) as clean as if it were a local station. At that time I was driving from my home QTH (Saltillo, MX grid DL95ml) to work and all that time the signal was very strong. I also managed to transmit an APRS Packet with no problem (Saltillo has no IGate or digi) you can look it up on <http://www.aprs.fi> (Call: K5TOR-9). I have no idea what propagation that was as it was at least 30min and there was hardly any fading."

Using the <http://radio-locator.com/> site I searched for stations on 103.1 MHz in Texas. A likely candidate was KPAS FM, and the distance to Torsten's grid square from the transmitter site was 530 miles. Perhaps some solid E layer skip was helping it along that day.

Pete Heins, N6ZE of Thousand Oaks, California wrote: "After various parts of the US experienced long haul 6 meter DX to South America and the Pacific on Wednesday and Thursday, 28/29 March 2012, I worked FK8CP at 0342 UTC, on 29 March on CW: 51N/41N. I did not ID any other DX stations, but heard a few other SoCal stations make a few contacts. My rig is 100 watts with a 5 element Yagi up only 14 feet."

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, k7ra@arrl.net.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. Find more good information and tutorials on propagation at <http://myplace.frontier.com/~k9la/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrl.org/bulletins>.

Sunspot numbers for March 22 through 28 were 86, 74, 65, 84, 56, 63, and 70, with a mean of 71.1. 10.7 cm flux was 102.4, 104.8, 102.7, 101.3, 102.4, 105.6, and 107, with a mean of 103.7. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 6, 10, 4, 4, 12, and 12, with a mean of 7.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 5, 9, 4, 4, 15, and 10, with a mean of 7.6.

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

Sunday May 6, 2012

KARC DeKalb Hamfest

Sandwich Fairgrounds
U.S. Route 34, Sandwich IL 60548
Bob Yurs W9ICU
815-895-7584
w9icu@arrl.net

May 18-20, 2012

Dayton Hamvention

Hara Arena
1001 Shiloh Springs Rd.
Dayton, OH 45415
www.hamvention.org

Sunday June 3, 2012

Starved Rock Radio Club (W9MKS) Hamfest

Bureau County Fairgrounds 811 West Peru Street
Matthew Weaver, KB9VZH
319 DeSoto Street Ottawa IL 61356
815- 313-5924
kb9vzh@mchsi.com

Sunday June 17, 2012

Six Meter Club of Chicago 55th Annual Hamfest

DuPage County Fairgrounds
2015 Manchester Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
Mike Huedepohl, WD9GJK
3532 Raymond Avenue Brookfield, IL 60513
708-485-5481
wd9gjk@arrl.net

Sunday July 15, 2012

Fox River Radio League Hamfest and Electronics Market

Aurora Central Catholic High School
1225 North Edgelawn Drive
Aurora, IL 60504
Dawn Williams, KC9LQS
1203 Brandywine Circle Batavia, IL 60510
630-531-1670
kc9lqs@yahoo.com



Presents
RADIO EXPO 2012
Saturday September 15th One Day Only

BOONE CO FAIRGROUNDS - US Rt 20 & IL 76 BELVEDERE, IL

42° 16' 54" N / 88° 51' 7" W



Radios - Antennas - Computers - Electronics for everyone!
Grounds Open For Set Up Friday At Noon - Flea Market Opens - 6 AM
Exhibit Buildings Open - 8 AM To 4 PM

* Newest Amateur Equipment From Major Manufacturers And Surplus Electronics *

Advanced Tickets \$ 8 with 4 stubs - At The Gate Tickets \$ 10 with 2 stubs (Kids Under 12 Free)
FREE PARKING - Outdoor Electrical Hookups Available - VEC Testing 9 - 12 Noon

On Grounds Breakfast And Lunch Available RVs / Motor Homes - Water - Electric \$25.00 - No Waste Service

Talk-in On The CFMC Repeater 146.76 (107.2 Hz PL) Linked To WX9MCS 147.255 (114.8PL) & 444.725 (107.2 Hz PL)
(Grounds / Local Area Talk In 146.550)

Got Expo Questions ??? Email Us Today cfmc.radioexpo@yahoo.com Or Call us 630-847-5317

Name _____ Call _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Table Reservations for both buildings-\$20.00 per table (8ft long) _____ x \$20.00 = _____
4 or more tables - \$15.00 each _____ x \$15.00 = _____
Advanced sale tickets 4 Stubs - \$ 8.00 - REQUIRED with tables _____ x \$ 8.00 = _____
Inside _____ / Outside electric _____ - Flea market - \$ 10.00 = _____
Total _____

** Building assignment at discretion of CFMC / Do not mail table or ticket requests after Aug 27, 2012 **
Make check out to: CHICAGO FM CLUB 6348 N Milwaukee Ave #103 Chicago, IL 60646
Remember to send a #10 (4 in by 9.5 in) self-addressed stamped envelope with your request.



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: jholich@comcast.net

Nets

Monday 8 PM	RARA Info.	146.610 - 114.8
Monday 9 PM	10M SSB Net	28.375 +/- USB
Thursday 7 PM	ARES	147.255 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATERN	146.610 - 114.8

place address label here

April 2012

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