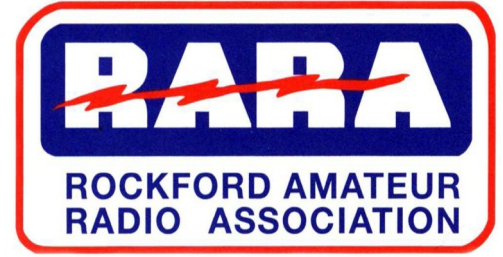


HAM RAG



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

This month the program will be a continuation of Telegraphy. I will have some interesting keys to show and tell about. Also the membership will have a chance to actually sit at a key and see how good you can be. See you at the February meeting.

Tom N9VJU

This year's focus is on rebuilding the activities missing from last year's program. We are always looking towards fulfilling the needs of the membership. Please do not wait for a questionnaire to express your needs. Contact an officer or a director to make your ideas known. These can be topics for discussion at the board meetings.

We are talking about some changes to the constitution, and would welcome input.

We obviously need to fill positions. The officers will be reviewed and appointed by the President, Tom Shouler, N9VJU. The positions open are Vice President, and Secretary.

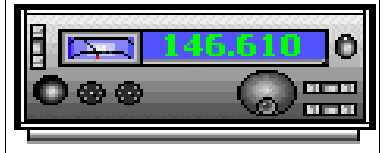
We are also in need of a scheduler for the Monday night Net Control Operators. This is currently done by agreement between existing Net Control Operators, so there will be no interruption to the Net. A more formal schedule is needed. We could also use a few more Net Control Operators.

A membership drive is another priority. We welcome ideas.

February 2012

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NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
February 10

Location:
Foundation Room

Saint Anthony OSF
5666 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois

Program: Telegraphy
Presented by
Tom Shouler N9VJU

From the Treasurer

Treasurer's Report:

For the period 01 January 2012 to 31 January 2012
Submitted to the Ham Rag by John G. Olson 2012 RARA treasurer.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Income : | \$ 256.80 |
| Expenses: | \$ 0.00 |
| Ending Checkbook Balance: | \$4639.85 (per check register 31 JAN 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: | <u>\$7960.31</u> (net gain of 256.80) |

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

Dues for 2012 are payable now.

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

Please send to:

RARA
P.O. Box 8465
Rockford, IL 61126-8465

Monday Night 10 Meter SSB Net - 28.375 MHz USB

The Rockford, IL 10 Meter SSB Net is growing.

Check-in report: Dec. 26, 2011....2

Jan. 2, 2012....3

Jan. 9, 2012....12

Again the net is open to all hams. The net
is conducted in a roundtable format directed by net control.

We meet at 9:00 p.m.

Central time, Mondays on 28.375 MHz +/- USB.

Submitted by Jeff Anderson N9ZUT

From the Secretary

The Rockford Amateur Radio Association, Inc. regular meeting of January 13, 2012 was brought to order at 7:12 PM by President Tom Shouler, N9VJU. The usual round of introductions was completed, noting guest Bill Marquis, WC9P of Garden Prairie, IL.

The secretary's minutes from the December regular meeting were read by John Olson, W9JGO, Treasurer. Chuck Ingle, AB9KA moved to accept the report as read, Jim Holich, AB9SX seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote.

The December 2011 treasurer's report and 2011 annual treasurer's report were read by John Olson. Gordy Seaman, KC9NEX, moved to accept the reports as read, Fred Miner, W9WOQ seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

President Tom Shouler led a discussion about club membership after a November 2011 QST article and follow up letter from the February 2012 issue of QST were brought to the group's attention by Jim Miller, W4JR. Jim Holich suggested that members of the club help with a Fall 2012 Emergency Preparedness event to help get the word about RARA out to a different segment of the public. Rich Range, WB9SFG agreed to chair a membership committee and Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO agreed to take part in the effort to attract new members. The suggestion of emailed meeting notices being sent to Rockford area hams was made by Dave Bond, W9MG. It was mentioned that the problem is obtaining the necessary email addresses. Alvin Alexander then suggested the "LinkedIn" community website to announce our efforts. Apparently the ARRL has a LinkedIn presence that most of us were unaware of. Maker's clubs and Robotics groups may be another source for potential new RARA members as suggested by Herb Case, WR9H.

The question of member attitude and appropriate meeting conduct was brought up by Jim Holich who spoke of an acronym "Attitude" Belief" and "Character". Some one, (please excuse me missing just who it was...), brought up Chicago FM Club's policy of bringing the name of a membership applicant before the general meeting two months in a row to seek comments before approving the applicant for membership.

The positions of Secretary and Vice President remain unfilled, though President Tom Shouler asked the members assembled for volunteers.

Field Day plans were discussed. Kurt Eversole, KE9N has secured Rockford Park District's Aldeen Park, 623 N. Alpine Rd. for our event. Discussion and probable agreement concerning "Breakfast in the Park" being held in conjunction with Field Day, taking place on the Saturday morning of Field Day weekend before set up of the Field Day stations. The annual Family Picnic event would be held on Field Day Sunday, after take down of the Field Day stations. The lack of shelters in the Field Day area and the rental of Porta-Potties was mentioned. John Olson suggested that a large canopy shelter be rented to allow the whole group to meet and eat under one roof. Possible sources of smaller canopies were discussed. We will need an adequate number of tables and chairs or picnic tables, as well.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

January 21st there was 1 applicant resulting in 1 new licensee despite the snow.

New:

Jesus L Calvillo, Technician

Thanks to Alvin Alexander KC9GIO, Jim Holich AB9SX and Steve Twigg W9SWT for volunteering their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9AM February 18, 2012. Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9:00AM-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

Directors:

Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO
Kurt Eversole, KE9N
Dave Larsen, N9ZXL
Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX
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

The K7RA Solar Update

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 5 ARLP005
From Tad Cook, K7RA
ARLP005 Propagation de K7RA

Here are some yearly averages this bulletin neglected at the beginning of the year. These are the average daily sunspot numbers for whole calendar years, from 1994-2011: 48.1, 28.7, 13.2, 30.7, 88.7, 136.3, 173, 170.3, 176.7, 109.2, 68.6, 48.9, 26.1, 12.8, 4.7, 5.1, 25.5, and 29.9. You can see from these numbers that the minimum between Cycles 22-23 centered around 1996 was over quickly. But the next minimum before Cycle 24 centered around 2008-2009 was much longer. In 2011 we were back near the levels we saw in 2006, 1997 and 1995.

Also note that from 2009-2010 the average daily sunspot number increased by 400% (multiplied five times), but from 2010-2011 it moved up only 17.3%.

The 3-month moving averages of daily sunspot numbers, centered on January through December 2011 are: 35.3, 55.7, 72.3, 74.4, 65.9, 61.5, 63, 79.6, 98.6, 118.8, 118.6 and 110. The value centered on December 2011 is the average of the daily sunspot numbers from November 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012, and the value centered on November 2011 includes all daily sunspot numbers from October 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

Over the past reporting week - January 26 through February 1 – the average daily sunspot number declined nearly 37 points to 62. Average daily solar flux was off nearly 21 points to 120.4. On February 2 the sunspot number and total area of sunspot regions was the same as February 1. The noon flux measurement moved from 117.5 to 118 from February 1-2.

Predicted solar flux for the near term is 120 on February 2-5, 110 on February 6-9, 150 on February 10, 155 on February 11-13, 150 on February 14-19, and 145 on February 20-23. The forecast in mid-January for flux levels at 165 on February 17-21 are but a distant memory.

Unfortunately, for some reason predictions updated for Thursday were not yet available early Friday, February 3, so the numbers in the previous paragraph were not updated since Wednesday, February 1. But you can still get the latest prediction from <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/forecasts/45DF.html>.

The 20 point difference in predicted solar flux should be a noticeable difference. Although this is not an accurate prediction method, for comparative purposes I ran a W6ELprop forecast for February 19 from the center of the USA to Hungary with a solar flux of 145, and then again at 165. On the higher frequencies in particular, paths would not be as reliable nor openings as long as with the higher value.

There is a new updated NASA prediction for the peak of the current cycle issued early this morning. The previous update was on January 3. There is no archive of past predictions online, but I can tell you that the prediction for the peak of Cycle 24 is still for a smoothed international sunspot number of 96, but it has moved from February 2013 to late 2013.

NASA gives a detailed explanation of the models they use for predicting the peak of the cycle, and you can read it all at <http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>. Also see the graph at http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/images/f107_predict.pdf for a revised solar flux prediction.

Shortly after the last bulletin was released last Friday, January 27, at 1837 UTC a powerful X-class solar flare was released, but not Earth-directed.

The K7RA Solar Update

In case you missed it last week, Science Friday on NPR ran a fascinating story on space weather, and they spoke with astronomer David Hathaway of NASA and astrophysicist Doug Biesecker of NOAA.

You can hear the broadcast from an archive at <http://www.npr.org/2012/01/27/145990089/how-space-weather-affects-planes-and-power-grids>.

They mention ham radio and effects on shortwave radio propagation, and Biesecker gives a fascinating account of Carrington's observation of a solar flare and how it caused the great magnetic storm of September 2, 1859, in which aurora was observed worldwide. An Alaska news site ran a story on photography of aurora. Read it at <http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/how-photograph-northern-lights>.

There were two similar articles on the formation of sunspots this week. One was at <http://www.universetoday.com/93188/cool-gas-may-be-at-the-root-of-sunspots/>, the other: <http://www.space.com/14423-sunspots-sun-mystery-magnetic-theory.html>.

We received a nice note from Ed Richmond, W4YO of Harbor Island, South Carolina (EM92): "The evening of Friday, January 27 into the 28th was extraordinary here. At about 0145z I came into the shack to take a last check on band activity before hitting the big switch, checked the DX cluster for activity on 6 meters and saw a whole lot of TEP activity. I turned on my rig and immediately heard ZP6CW calling CQ, weakly. I called him with no luck. Tuning around, I heard a bunch of PYs and LUs. Wow! My first experience with transequatorial propagation after four years of being on the band! I heard PY1ZV calling CQ, called him, and he came back to me! Next it was LU1FAM, followed by LU5FF, PY2XB, ZP5SNA, and CX9AU. Others heard, but not worked. The amazing thing about it is my station; a barefoot FT920 with an indoor dipole beneath the roof at about 35 feet. I was so juiced for the rest of the evening, I couldn't fall asleep until after midnight!"

A week ago (January 27) Julio Medina, NP3CW of San Juan, Puerto Rico sent a message about some 6 meter excitement: "Today, January 27, 2012 at 1913 UTC I worked HK0NA (Malpelo Island) on 50.110 MHz. The signal was 5x9 +30 dB in FK68, and had good propagation with him for about 2 hours. Also propagation to USA, HP1AC (Panama), 9Y (Trinidad and Tobago), BM (China), and CO (Cuba). We had tropo and sporadic-E, also saw television from Cuba. Other locals that worked HK0NA were KP4EIT, WP4U, KP4ED, WP4LUU, WP4JCF, and WP4NIX among others. This is a new country for me on 6 meters."

HK0NA is a DXpedition to Malpelo, which is an 86 acre island lying 235 miles off Columbia's Pacific coast, and about 225 miles from Panama. The DXpedition web site is <http://hk0na.com/> and you can read about and see photos from a 1969 expedition at http://hamgallery.com/qs/country/Malpelo_Island/hk0tu3.htm.

The outlook for the week is low solar activity. When looking at the STEREO site at <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/> on Friday morning I see little activity save for a bright, complex geomagnetic signature at 180 degrees longitude, on the far side of our sun from Earth.

Sunspot numbers for January 26 through February 1 were 55, 39, 34, 74, 76, 71, and 85, with a mean of 62. 10.7 cm flux was 128.2, 141.7, 114.5, 109.8, 114.4, 116.5, and 117.5, with a mean of 120.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 7, 5, 5, 6, 3, and 5, with a mean of 5.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 6, 6, 5, 5, 2, and 5, with a mean of 4.9. 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

The Capital City Hamfest
Saturday, February 11, 2012
0900 - 1300 (Vendor set-up 0800)

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.

Memorial U.C.C. Fellowship Hall
 5705 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg, Wisconsin

Admission - \$5.
 Under age 13 - Free.
 Vendor Tables - \$10.

Advance tickets and tables can be ordered by mail before January 31, 2012. Be sure to order your tables in advance, as space is limited.

Sunday March 4, 2012
Sterling- Rock Falls Amateur Radio Society

Challand Middle School
 1700 6th Avenue
 Sterling IL 61081

Paula Portner KC9FQK
 1302 West 2nd Street
 Dixon IL, 61021
 815-884-5650
 pportner@comcast.net
 www.w9mep.org



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

February 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