

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's program will be on early telegraphy. This will cover the Civil War Years as seen through the Eyes of the telegraph operator.

Our guest speaker is our own David Bond, W9MG. Dave is a first rate CW operator with years of experience. He is also interested in Civil War History and has lots to tell us. I'm looking forward to this program.

This is where Morse code really proved itself.

See you at the January 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 thee 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 Schouler, N9VJU. The positions open are Vice President, and Secretary, There are also Director positions open,

We are in need of chairmen to plan and carry out the various activities such as Breakfast in the park, Field Day and others.

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

January 2012

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NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
January 13

Location:
Foundation Room

Saint Anthony OSF
5666 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois

Program:
Civil War Telegraphy
Presented by Dave Bond
W9MG

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



From the Treasurer

Amended Report Issued 28 December 2011
Covers the period from 24 November 2011 to 24 December 2011

	BEGINNING BALANCES	ENDING BALANCES	
General Checking Acct:	\$3403.25	\$4238.85	(per check register 24 DEC 2011)
Repeater Checking Acct:	\$300.00	\$100.00	(per check register 24 DEC 2011)
Savings Acct:	<u>\$3,219.66</u>	<u>\$3219.66</u>	(per 30 SEP 2011 Statement)***
Total of account balances	\$ 6922.91	\$7558.51	(Net gain of \$635.60)

***Savings Account Statements are provided quarterly by Alpine Bank

Our Income for the period 24 November 2011 to 24 December 2011:

\$ 135.00	Dues
\$1608.00	On The Waterfront ticket sales – 2011
<u>\$1743.00</u>	

Our Expenses for the period 24 November 2011 to 24 December 2011:

\$800.00	Pine Tree Pistol Club for their share of the OTW income
\$107.40	Annual web hosting cost – SiteGround – Luxemborg (Robert Larson, KC9ICH, webmaster)
\$200.00	Antenna installation at Latham Rd. Tower – Unified Tower Solutions, Gibson City, IL, paid from the repeater checking account. (Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, Repeater Committee Chairman)
<u>\$1107.40</u>	Total expenses for the report period.

Respectfully submitted by:
John G. Olson W9JGO
RARA Treasurer 2011

From the Secretary

RARA Meeting Minutes December 2011

The December 9, 2011 meeting of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 7:20 PM by President Tom Shouler N9VJU with 11 members and guests present.

Motion to accept the minutes from the October 2011 meeting as read by Secretary John Lawrence made by John Olson W9JGO, passed by voice vote.

John Olson read the Treasurers report as well as minutes from the November meeting. Dave Bond W9MG moved to accept the Treasurers report as read, Jimmy Curtis KC9GOL moved to second. Passed. Chuck Derwent moved to accept the minutes as read, Dennis Johansen K9VMY seconded, passed.

Old Business: None

New Business: Bob Ditzler KC9LLS said he has a tower he will need to move next spring.

A video tape on antennas was shown as a program.

The program for January 2012 will be presented by Dave Bond W9MG and will be on the subject on how important the telegraph was during the American Civil War.

Respectfully submitted
John Lawrence N9OTC
Secretary, RARA

Submission from Rusty Cordell WB9QYV

Ham Radio in Hollywood

Tim Allen -- star of *Home Improvement*, *Toy Story*, *The Santa Clause* and *Galaxy Quest*, just to name a few -- stars in *Last Man Standing*, an ABC comedy airing at 8 PM (EST) on Tuesday nights. Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, a married father of three and the director of marketing at an outdoor sporting goods store in Colorado whose life is dominated by women. While Amateur Radio has not been prominently featured in the first episodes, according to John Amodeo, NN6JA -- the producer of *Last Man Standing* -- it is a part of the show and an important part of Mike's character. At press time, the episode that will establish Mike as a radio amateur is scheduled to air mid-January.

"Tim's character Mike is involved in creating the sales strategy for the store, including their catalog and Internet identity," Amodeo told the ARRL. "The store is like Bass Pro Shops or Cabelas. There is a strong self-sufficiency overtone to Mike's approach to life. Ham radio fits in the story as a means of emergency communication. It's not directly featured in the foreground story, but at the moment, it's a background element on the home set. Once I allow something to be put on the set, there's a chance the writers will feature it. Now that we have actually established Mike Baxter as KA0XTT, we can do more things featuring Amateur Radio."

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

December 17th there were 2 applicants resulting in 2 new licensees.

New:

Alan G Fennell, Technician

Sather M Ranum, Technician

Thanks to Shari Harlan N9SH, Jim Holich AB9SX and Alvin Alexander KC9GIO for volunteering their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9AM January 21, 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:

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

The K7RA Solar Update

ARLP001 Propagation de K7RA

QST de W1AW Propagation Forecast Bulletin 1 ARLP001 From Tad Cook, K7RA Seattle, WA January 6, 2012 To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP001 ARLP001 Propagation de K7RA

Reports of good conditions continue, although sunspot activity declined a bit. Average daily sunspot numbers for December 29 through January 4 declined nearly 20 points (when compared to the previous seven days) to 88.1. Average daily solar flux was off 6.4 points to 143.1.

88.1 is the lowest reported weekly sunspot number average since Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP035 from 18 weeks ago.

As expected, last week's report of 80.1 as the average daily sunspot number for all of 2011 was correct. The additional sunspot numbers from December 30-31 did not change it, but we just had to verify.

In a preview for this bulletin in Thursday's ARRL Letter, I indicated a problem with the planetary A index numbers we are getting from NOAA. I made an inquiry, and heard from Mike Husler of NOAA/SWPC. NOAA is no longer getting planetary A and K index data from the USAF, but is now doing their own estimates. But their estimates seemed to be too low, so they have changed their method for calculating planetary A and K indices.

Mike Husler wrote, "A comparison of our new real-time Kp estimate with the official values for October-December showed that we were tending to estimate too low. In order to improve the situation we reran the fits between stations' Ks (as they would be derived using our real-time algorithm) and official Kp to get an updated table of conversion coefficients. The new values have been deployed as of 4 January 2012 at 1500Z.

"For 10/19/2011-12/15/2011 we found the following improvement in performance of the estimate compared to the official values: Kp Mean absolute error decreases from 0.44 to 0.24. Average bias improves from -0.41 to 0.00

"Ap Mean absolute error decreases from 1.93 to 0.98. Average bias improves from -1.69 to -0.34.

"You should generally see somewhat higher Kp and Ap values than you have been seeing previously. The values from 10/1/2011 forward are NOAA Kp values with the correction stated above and the values prior to that are from the USAF Kp."

They are currently going back and correcting data for the last few months of 2011. I do not know what he meant by "official values," but I suspect that since the Ap and Kp values are called estimates, that there is some other longer term method for determining "official values."

Mike also wrote, "Here is a web page for general information about the Kp and Ap indices from the official source: "http://www-app3.gfz-potsdam.de/kp_index/index.html

"Here is a link to the data files that are updated twice per month. I recommend people use these data if they need something that is for previous months: "<ftp://ftp.gfz-potsdam.de/pub/home/obs/kp-ap/>"

A new solar cycle prediction was released on January 3, revised slightly lower from the prediction released less than three weeks before, on December 16.

The key phrase from the December 16 prediction: "We find a starting time of October 2008 with minimum occurring in December 2008 and maximum of about 99 in February of 2013." This was changed in the January 3 prediction to: "We find a starting time of October 2008 with minimum occurring in November 2008 and maximum of about 96 in February of 2013."

The latest version is at: <http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>.

The Washington Post recently ran a blog post on space weather events of 2011. Read it at [washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/post/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/post/look-for-the-top-space-weather-and-astronomy-events-of-2011/2012/01/05/gIQAMMzqcP_blog.html). Look for the top-space-weather-and-astronomy-events-of-2011/2012/01/05/gIQAMMzqcP_blog.html link.

We received 6 meter reports from Jon Jones, N0JK. On December 30 he wrote: "Great Es on 6M yesterday 12/29. Open most of the afternoon and evening for many parts of the USA. And Es links from W4, W5 and W8 to E51 and ZL. K5N was a Grid DXpedition active yesterday from the line from two rare grids, DM90/DL99. The Es allowed them to give many ops two really rare new grids. I logged them at 0403 UTC 12/30 on my indoor dipole. They were in to my location only about 7 minutes."

On January 5, Jon wrote: "The 6 Meter band really came alive last week. Major long lasting Es openings on Dec. 30, 31 and Jan. 1. New Years Eve worked NP4A FK68 on double hop Es. Jan. 1 strong short Es to ND, MN, WY, etc. Noted spots by stations in W4, W5 to VK, ZL on Es links New Years Eve." Thanks, Jon.

Sunspot numbers for December 29 through January 4 were 105, 104, 68, 61, 83, 95, and 101, with a mean of 88.1. 10.7 cm flux was 147.1, 141.1, 132.9, 130, 134.7, 134.6, and 136.2, with a mean of 136.7.

Estimated planetary A indices were 7, 6, 4, 4, 5, 7, and 3, with a mean of 5.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 7, 5, 5, 4, 4, 9, and 3, with a mean of 5.3. NNNN /EX

Edward Yomantas KD9FF SK

KD9FF (SK)

EDWARD 'ED' JOHN YOMANTAS, 82 loving husband, father and grandfather ROCKFORD - Edward "Ed" John Yomantas, 82, of Rockford passed away Friday, Dec. 16, 2011, surrounded by his loving family.

Born Oct. 15, 1929, in Rockford, son of Bruno and Martha (Kucinsky) Yomantas and brother of Charles.

He graduated from St. Thomas High School in 1947 and DeVry Technical Institute in 1954.

Edward served in the Army as a PFC from 1951 to 1953 during the Korean War.

He married Helen I. Stevens on Oct. 21, 1950; they recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Edward worked for J.L. Clark for 16 years and later for Broadway Radio & TV, from which he retired in 1993.

In 1995, Edward and Helen moved from Rockford to Hot Springs Village, Ark., where they enjoyed retirement and he became an avid golfer.

*Member of RARA, the Rockford Amateur Radio Association,
Big Thunder Belvidere Amateur Radio Association (serving a term as president),
Hot Springs Village Amateur Radio Association,*

Survived by beloved wife, Helen; daughter, Cynthia L. (Steven Bauman) Yomantas;

sons, Timothy E. (Christina) Yomantas and John A. Yomantas; grandchildren,

Sam and Ben Bauman, and Drew, Lauren, Tyler and Helena Yomantas.

Edward is predeceased by parents; and brother, Charles.

Funeral mass at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, at Holy Family Catholic Church, preceded by visitation from 9 a.m. to service time.

Burial in Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

Arrangements were completed by Fitzgerald Funeral Home, Mulford Chapel, 1860 S. Mulford Road. Share condolences at fitzgeraldfh.com.

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.

For more information, contact:
Hamfest Chairman Steve Johnston, WD8DAS
email wd8das_at_arrl.net

**Sunday January 22, 2012
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs**

Kane County Fairgrounds
525 South Randall Road
St. Charles, IL

John Faber WT9Y
1586 Scottdale circle,
Wheaton IL 60189
630-605-8027
wt9y@arrl.net
<http://www.w9ccu.org>

**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



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
Thursday 7 PM	ARES	147.255 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATERN	146.610 - 114.8

place address label here

January 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