

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 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.

Tom Shouler, N9VJU is the Monday night Net Scheduler.
Kurt Eversole, KE9N is the Field Day Chairman
Tom Shouler, N9VJU is the Breakfast in the Park Chairman

A membership drive is another priority, We welcome ideas

March 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Presidents Log	-	page 1
Treasurer's Rpt.	-	page 2
Hamfest Info	-	page 2
Secretary's Rpt.	-	page 3
VEC	-	page 4
KR7RA Solar Rpt	-	page 5
KR7RA Solar Rpt	-	page 6
Hamfest Info	-	page 7



NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
March 13

Location:
Foundation Room

Saint Anthony OSF
5666 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois

Program:
TBD

From the Treasurer

Treasurer's Report:

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

Income :	\$ 15.00 (Dues)
Expenses:	\$ 0.00
Ending Checkbook Balance:	\$4655,25 (per check register 27 FEB 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>\$7975.71</u> (net gain of 15.00)

*** 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

Hamfest Information

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

Saturday March 5, 2012
DeKalb Hamfest
Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Sandwich Fairgrounds
U.S. Rte 34
Sandwich, IL 60548

Bob Yurs, W9ICU
KARC Box 371
DeKalb, IL 6011541
815-895-7584
w9icu@arrl.net

From the Secretary

Secretary's notes from RARA general club meeting of February 10, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Shouler, N9VJU at 7:08 PM.

A motion was made by Dave Bond, W9MG to accept the January 2012 secretary's report as published in the Ham Rag. The motion was seconded by Kurt Eversole, KE9N and a voice vote unanimously approved same.

A motion was made by Chuck Ingle, AB9KA to accept the January treasurer's report as published in the Ham Rag. The motion was seconded by Denny Johanson, K9VMY and a voice vote unanimously approved same.

Field Day committee chairman Kurt Eversole reported that the western area of Aldeen Park was reserved for our Field Day, Breakfast in the Park and Family Picnic events on the weekend of June 23 – 24, 2012.

Repeater committee chairman Chuck Ingle reported that the new 147.000 repeater has arrived at the dealer and is to be programmed. Also he reported that the new 146.610 antenna had been ordered “today” and would be installed by a Juda. WI climber at a later date yet to be determined.

No old business was reported

New business: Tom brought to the group's attention the Illinois house bills 3970 and 3972 concerning among many other things the outlawing of the use of amateur radios in a mobile situation. John Olson reported that web forums concerning amateur radio in Illinois have reported that amendments have been made to the bills exempting Amateur Radio (and CB) from the list of prohibited electronic devices for mobile use in Illinois vehicles. Denny Johanson asks that members be sent a copy of the final bill via email.

Chuck Ingle reported that there was a case of interference to the repeater. It was determined that the fault was with a WNIU satellite transmitter on 105.7 at the Faust Hotel building in Rockford. The WNIU staff has cleared up the problem, at least temporarily.

At 7:45 Tom Shouler presented a program allowing everyone to try Vibroplex “bug” keys and others.

At the end of the meeting a time of socializing was provided.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Olson, W9JGO, 2012 Treasurer and temporary acting secretary

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

February 18th there was 1 applicant resulting in 1 new licensee.

New:

Nicholas J Coats

Thanks to Alvin Alexander KC9GIO, Steve Twigg W9SWT and Shari Harlan N9SH for volunteering their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9AM March 17, 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	

2012 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, 779-522-8796
Repeater Chairman - Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-979-1049

The K7RA Solar Update

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 9 ARLP009
From Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, WA March 2, 2012
To all radio amateurs

Average daily sunspot number this week was down 12 points from the previous week. Solar flux was about the same.

With February over, we can look at some of our averages and statistics for the current sunspot cycle. The average daily sunspot number for February 2012 was 50.1, the lowest monthly value since January 2011. The monthly averages for sunspot numbers since January 2011 are 32.2, 53.5, 81.1, 80.8, 61.5, 55.5, 67.2, 66, 106.4, 123.6, 133.1, 106.4, 91.4 and 50.1.

We also keep track of a three-month moving average, and the latest, ending in February and centered on January, 2012 is 83.3. This is the numeric average of all the daily sunspot numbers from December 1, 2011 through February 29, 2012, a period of 91 days. 83.3, centered on January, is the lowest since August 2011, when the average was 79.6. The 3 month moving averages of daily sunspot numbers centered on August 2011 through January 2012 are 79.6, 98.6, 118.8, 118.6, 110 and 83.3.

The latest prediction has planetary A index for March 2-6 at 8, 8, 5, 10 and 10, then 5 on March 7-10, 8 on March 11, 5 again on March 12-16, then 12, 15, 10, 8 and 5 on March 17-21.

Predicted solar flux is 105 on March 2-5, 100 on March 6-8, 105 on March 9-11, 110 on March 12-13, and 115 on March 14-18. 110 is the predicted value on March 19-20 and 105 on March 21-25, and that covers the spring equinox.

The ARRL International SSB DX Contest this weekend should have fairly good conditions. It looks like somewhat unsettled conditions for Friday and Saturday, March 2-3, and quiet geomagnetic conditions on Sunday, March 4.

A new service that forecasts geomagnetic storms for satellite operators is at <http://www.fp7-spacecast.eu/>. You can find more details at http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2012-03/bas-nst030112.php.

From time to time we mention silly popular press reports of large solar flares and other big space weather, but this article from Northern Scotland places the famous Carrington event at the peak of Sunspot Cycle 19, instead of the nineteenth century: <http://www.johnogroat-journal.co.uk/Features/Solar-superstorm-could-be-on-the-way-7642279.htm>.

Robert Miles, K9IL of Martin, Tennessee wrote about 6 meters: "This is the low time for most USA 6 meter operators, unless you are very far south. I have been listening for the Oceania stations that others are spotting, and on Wednesday February 23 (0200z Thursday) I worked Remi, FK8CP (New Caledonia) on 6 meter CW, a pretty good thrill for me in EM56, NW Tennessee." That is quite a long haul, about 7,900 miles from Robert's place on Green Acres Drive to Noumea.

Mel Frost, KD7DCR at 6,200 feet near Whitehall, Montana writes about 6 meter plans for this year: "Just thought I'd mention that more and more, plans to activate some rare grids here in the USA area this season (May-August) are becoming known. Some of these are personal travel plans and some are dedicated trips with only radio in mind.

"There is one big-circle route from Arizona to North Dakota, around eastern North Dakota for about a month, and then back around the Western side to Arizona. This one is kind of early in the year, but may work well if our Sun cooperates, eh? Some Canadians are planning to activate the other CY0, St Paul Island.

The K7RA Solar Update

"The far northern Michigan grids (mostly water) are going to get a go, and the biggy is a special trip down into DL88, and DL79/89 is laid on with some large antennas and power. And not much said currently, but there is also a 'floating' operation for DM02 planned as well (very rare!). These are all concentrated on 6 meters, with some higher bands being available if open."

Lance Collister, W7GJ of Frenchtown, Montana writes about moonbounce: "I noticed your comments in the last propagation bulletin about the low band guys enjoying the low solar activity. Actually, at the other end of the spectrum, the unusually low Kp index also makes for ideal 6 meters EME conditions! And with the greatly increasing number of newer transceivers (and amplifiers) that include 6 meters, and with more stations QRV on digital modes, many folks have 6 meter EME capability and don't even realize it! I have been activating a rare DXCC on 6 meter EME for each of the last 4 years, and will be going to ZK2 (Niue) at the beginning of September (during the optimum time of the month for 6 meter EME). Any halfway decent 6 meter station with good ground gain should be able to put that rare DXCC in the log during their moonset. The smallest antenna I have worked so far with my portable 6 meter EME setup was N3CXV and his M2 6M5X Yagi during his moonset. "More information about 6m EME and using JT65A mode for EME is on my web page <http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/>."

"It is REAL MAGIC on the Magic Band when you can make contacts halfway around the world during a poor solar cycle!"

Howard Lester, N7SO of Schuylerville, New York wrote, "I haven't been on HF for nearly 2 months, but got on this morning (February 24) at 1600z. Even with the flux at 'only' 103, I had a nice, but short chat on 10 meter SSB with 9A9DX, Ljubo (in Croatia), with S7-S8 signals both ways. Then, on 12 meter CW I heard an F6 station with a booming signal from France. If this is what 10 and 12 can be like at this time of year with this level of solar flux, I have no complaints."

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

Sunspot numbers for February 23 through 29 were 52, 47, 47, 58, 45, 35, and 22, with a mean of 43.7. 10.7 cm flux was 103.3, 108.9, 108, 107, 105.5, 103.3, and 102, with a mean of 105.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 6, 6, 6, 16, 10, and 6, with a mean of 7.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 6, 3, 7, 12, 11, and 6, with a mean of 6.9.

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, June 3, 2012
Starved Rock Radio Club Hamfest

Bureau County Fairgrounds
 811 West Peru Street
 Princeton, IL 61356

Matthew Weaver KB9VZH
 319 DeSoto Street
 Ottawa IL, 61350
 815-313-5924
 kb9vzh@mchsi.com

<http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.hym>

Sunday, June 17, 2012
Six Meter Club of Chicago 55th Annual Hamfest
Antique Radio Club of Illinois & Midwest Classic Radio Net

DuPage County Fairgrounds
 2105 Manchester Road
 Wheaton, IL 60187

Mike Huedepohl, WD9GJK
 3532 Raymond Avenue
 Brookfield, IL
 708-485-5481
 wd9gkj@arrl.net

Sunday, July 15, 2012
Fox River RadioLeague Hamfest & Radio Electronics Market

Aurora Central Catholic High School
 1225 North Edgelawn Drive
 Aurora, IL 60504

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS
 1203 Brandywine Circle
 Batavis 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

place address label here

March 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