

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.

President's Message

Have you checked out our Monday Night RARA Information Net lately? We have a new lineup of Net Control Operators and the last two nets have run for almost an hour with 22-24 hams checking in. It's been great hearing from everyone and meeting the new hams in the area.

The Monday Night RARA Information Net provides us with an opportunity to check-in locally and let everyone in the club know what ham related projects we are working on. It also gives us a chance to meet new hams in our area and provide a resource to them.

Here is our current Net Operator Schedule:

Feb 18 - Scott Francis, Feb 25 - Kurt Eversole, Mar 04 - Steve Twigg, Mar 11 - Jim Holich, Mar 18 - Doug Abrahamson, Mar 25 - Tom Shouler

Our program this month will be QRP Operation, presented by Dave Larsen, N9ZXL and Rich Range, WB9SFG. With both Dave and Rich's knowledge of QRP, we should learn quite a lot about this challenging mode of operation. I know there are many club members that are interested in QRP, so this will be our opportunity to learn and ask questions.

Your comments and/or suggestions are always welcome, your officers and Board members are here to serve you.

See you at the next meeting!

73,

Doug Abrahamson – KC9SDO

2013 Dues

Dues are payable now to the RARA Treasurer.

Just a reminder that membership is reviewed annually according to the RARA constitution.

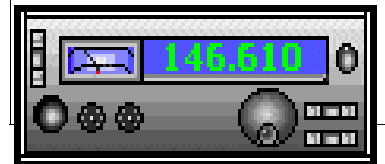
You must be a paid member to vote

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

March 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	page 1
Humor	page 2
Rkfd Club Summary	page 3
Rkfd Club Summary	page 4
KR7RA Solar Rpt	page 5
KR7RA Solar Rpt	page 6
Hamfest Info	page 7



NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY

February 8, 2013

Location:

Foundation Room

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

Program:

**QRP Operation
Dave Larsen , N9ZXL
Rich Range , WB9SFG**

Humor

OF GENIES AND THINGS

A ham operator is operating Field Day alone at a deserted beach. He is taking a little break from the action, walking around on the beach and notices an antique brass bottle mostly buried in the sand. He digs it out and discovers it's a genie bottle! He manages to get it open and a genie appears. "Thank you for freeing me, O Master!" said the grateful genie. "I will grant you any one wish you want." The ham thinks about it and says, "OK, I got it. I live right now in a restrictive neighborhood. I would like to have a 500 foot tower with all sorts of antennas, despite the homeowners association." The genie looks worried. "O Master! That's a big order. The power of these HOAs and their CC&Rs is most powerful! In fact, they are more powerful than even I, O Master! I would beg you to please choose something else for your wish." The ham says, "OK, let's do this." He goes over to his ham station and pulls out his log books. "See this entry? This is a contact I once made with AB9SX. I would sure like to get his QSL card after all this time." The genie looks at the logbook. Then he says, **"Now regarding that 500 foot antenna tower, do you want it galvanized or aluminum?"**

EINSTEIN ON RADIO

"I am often asked how radio works. Well, you see, wire telegraphy is like a very long cat. You yank his tail in New York and he meows in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? Now, radio is exactly the same, except that there is no cat." __Attributed to Albert Einstein

ANTENNA ROMANCE ... From The Internet

**Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married.
The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.
Since they were a perfect match, soon they generated harmonics.
Wrapped the harmonics in dipoles.
But later the harmonics turned out to be parasitic elements.**

The true story -- she was a tri-bander and he felt trapped, so they went on separate beam headings

AREA Repeaters

146.610 -	ENC/DEC pl 114.8	W9AXD
147.000 +	ENC/DEC pl 114.8	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	

2013 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO, 815-979-0329
Vice President - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309
Secretary - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796
Treasurer - Shannon Larson, KC9QBC, 815-540-0309

Directors:

Kurt Eversole, KE9N 815-389-2784
Richard H. Range WB9SFG— 630-697-1344
Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX 815-234-5034
Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-978-6476

Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309
Ham Rag Editor - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796
Repeater Chairman - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX 815-234-5034

A Brief Summary of Rockford Amateur Radio Clubs

Submitted by Jim Miller W4JR (Rockford-Winnebago County Ham Directory—Spring 1962)

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ROCKFORD AREA HAM CLUBS, AREC, AND RACES

EXPERIMENTAL AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

The Experimental Amateur Radio Society was formed in 1960 for the activity and promotion of such things as RTTY, VHF-UHF-microwave FM and SSB on VHF frequencies, ham TV, etc. in the Rockford area. Anything which might be termed new or experimental, whether or not in the VHF range or anything which is out of the ordinary in the way of communications, will usually fall into the interests of the club.

E.A.R.S. publishes a monthly bulletin called "The EARS EXPERIMENTER" which is sent to members. At present, meetings are held at irregular intervals. The club holds the club station call of W9BKT.

E.A.R.S. was ARRL-affiliated in the Spring of 1961, and as such is the oldest continuously ARRL-affiliated club in the County. Although the club is not by itself involved in emergency work it does however support amateur radio emergency communications through the use of its members facilities and general knowledge. A significant example of this in the past has been Radio teletype (RTTY) message links in local AREC simulated emergency tests conducted under the club call W9BKT/9.

EARS also endeavors to cooperate with other area clubs in offering its services in the form of RTTY information and demonstrations, and also communications (RTTY:'VHF') for handling message traffic at display booth arrangements, etc. If you are interested in any of the following areas, contact, the club Secretary, K9RUK, for further information on club membership. The club presently does not have any dues or other charges. For information locally about RTTY, contact W9BQC.

FOREST CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Forest City Amateur Radio Club is the oldest amateur radio club in the city of Rockford. It was formed in early 1955 as a club for the younger hams under the age of 21. The club still maintains the tradition of limiting membership to persons who are under 21 or hams who have remained active in the club after reaching the age of 21.

In December, 1961, club members voted to change the club name from the original, KLIX, CHIRP, AND SPLATTER SOCIETY OF ROCKFORD, to the present name for public relations reasons. The club currently meets the second and fourth Saturday of each month. The club's main project at this time is this ham directory. Another event in which the club will participate is the annual ARRL Field Day in June. The Forest City Amateur Radio Club is affiliated with the ARRL and also holds the club station call W9FGY. Membership was slightly over 30 active members in March 1962. Anyone under 21 is eligible to apply for membership. Interested prospective members can receive information on meetings from the Secretary, K9VJB.

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

The Rockford Amateur Radio Association was founded in 1956 and their first meetings were held at the Red Cross building on North Church St! Some of the charter members included W9NJG, W9KDK, K9DJG; W9ERU, W9PM, W9BQ.C, W9BQV, W9GKI, W9EDA, W9GXQ, W9USR, W9CZB, W9MAP, and W9HOA. The association was formed to bring together anyone who had an interest in amateur radio, and strives today to include most all phases of hamming such as CW, mobiles, VHF-UHF, SSB, the do-it-yourself builder, DX, and others.

Like many new organizations on a limited budget, RARA tried to find the ideal spot for a permanent home where equipment could be set up and station licensed as well as having enough space for a meeting hall. The Air Force Reserve Center and then the Naval Armory served as club rooms after the Red Cross, but none of these were the perfect answer. In 1961 quarters were found in Winnebago where space was adequate and which the club could afford without an increase in dues.

A Brief Summary of Rockford Amateur Radio Clubs (Cont.)

Submitted by Jim Miller W4JR (Rockford-Winnebago County Ham Directory—Spring 1962)

A station with the call W9AXD has been established, a library of past issues of QST and other electronics magazines has been set up, some kitchen and bathroom facilities were installed, and some redecorating was done by the members. Although there were some misgivings about the distance to Winnebago, the membership has grown since the move made and now stands at over 60 people.

The Rockford Emergency Net (10 Meters) is one of the continuing activities of RARA and meets every Monday night on 28.7 Mc. at 2100 local time. Although the net is usually used for passing formal and informal traffic, making announcements, passing ARRL bulletins, and a general meeting place, and it has been used for emergencies.

Another project of the RARA is the "HAM RAG", a monthly bulletin. One of RARA's major undertakings is their Novice School that is held in the fall every year. RARA has been consistently active in Field Day. Although not an official club function, transmitter hunts are held every other week from Spring through Autumn by members.

The Rockford Amateur Radio Association meets on the second Friday of the month. Programs are varied and include guest speakers from the electronics or allied industry, tours, and social gatherings like the summer picnic, etc.

In December, 1961, The RARA was granted affiliation by the ARRL.

WISILL VHF RADIO CLUB

The purpose of the WISILL VHF Radio Club is to facilitate the exchange of information and to advance the interest in 50 Mc. and above. All persons interested in 50 Mc. and above are eligible for membership.

Membership may be obtained through applications which can be obtained from club members. The club meets the last Thursday of every month.

A. R. E. C.

The initials AREC stand for Amateur Radio Emergency Corps. The AREC is a volunteer organization of amateurs, controlled by amateurs, for service to the public through amateur radio. The AREC is under American Radio Relay League sanction. However individual amateurs may join without being ARRL members; the only requirement being the lawful possession of an amateur license.

AREC officers must be ARRL members since they are League Officials. The National Emergency Coordinator is aided, by a Section E.C. in each section. Locally, K9QYY is the Emergency Coordinator (E.C.) for Winnebago and Boone counties. You may obtain more information or join by calling K9QYY at 968-9604 or 399-1842.

Please do not confuse AREC with RACES, or MARS. It is not subject to control of any government agency except the normal control the FCC exercises over any amateur. AREC sponsors a 2 meter phone net on 145.4 Mc. each Thursday evening at 2000 local time. W9BQC, assistant. E.C., is net manager and NCS. Local AREC members take part in the annual National Simulated Emergency Test in the fall and are ready to serve the public in any real emergency. A program of tests and drills is being prepared for the balance of 1962 and 1963 in which it is hoped all amateurs, regardless of affiliation, will participate.

RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is an organization of amateur radio operators who help provide radio communications in time of emergency. It may be called upon to serve during any man-made or natural emergency; RACES stations will be the only amateur radio stations allowed to operate in the event, of enemy attack.

From the Secretary

Minutes of January 11,2 013 Meeting

President Doug Abrahamson opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Secretary's Report was read by Jim Holich, AB9SX. A motion to accept the report as read was made by John Olson W9JGO and seconded by Gordon Seaman KC9NEX. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The Treasurers report was then read by Jim Holich, AB9SX. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Kurt Eversole KE9N, and seconded by Steve Miles KC9WBH. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

There was no discussion of Old Business.

New Business.

The need for a net control roster was discussed. Repeater committee Gordon Seaman KC9NEX discussed the 146.610 and 147.00 repeater controllers. The old ones would be re-programmed, and then the purchase of new controllers would be discussed after all bugs were resolved. A new battery for the 146.610 repeater might be needed.

Discussion of a special event call sign to celebrate the 60th anniversary of RARA was made.

Field Day reservations were made for Aldeen Park by Kurt Eversole KE9N.

There was a short period of socialization and fellowship before the presentation.

The presentation was made by Kurt Eversole KE9N on Station Layout.

50/50 drawing was held and won by Dave Larsen N9ZXL. He donated the proceeds to the club treasury. Thank you Dave!!

We then had a motion to adjourn by Jim Holich AB9SX and seconded by Gordon Seaman KC9NEX The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting stood adjourned.

Submitted by Jim Holich—AB9SX
Secretary

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

February 16th there were 3 new licensees and 3 upgrades. Congratulations to:

New:
Wayne A Bricco Jr, Technician
Christian R Harr, Technician
Mark E Hendel, Technician

Upgrades:
Archie A Eastabrooks KC9YDZ, General
Kevin A Farris KC9YAP, General
Matthew L Hood KC9WMN, General

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

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9AM March 16, 2013. Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10:30AM. We require two signature ID's and one photo. If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator bring your 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 (Bus US20)
Rockford IL

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

Rusty Cordell WB9QYV
wb9qyv@aol.com

The K7RA Solar Report

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 9 ARLP009
From Tad Cook, K7RA

Solar and geomagnetic activity over the past week (Thursday through Wednesday, February 21-27) declined, with the average daily sunspot number dropping nearly 21 points to 57.7. Average daily solar flux softened by 4.7 points to 100.9, and average daily planetary A index declined 6.4 points to 5.1. This isn't much of a change, but geomagnetic activity was low already, and this is even lower.

Predicted solar flux for the near term is 110 on March 1-3, 105 on March 4-7, 100 on March 8, 95 on March 9-14, 100 on March 15-16, 105 on March 17, and 110 on March 18-20. Solar flux then reaches a peak of 120 on March 25-27, and on March 28 through April 6 maintains an average around 113.

The predicted planetary A index is 12 and 8 March 1-2, 5 on March 3-4, 8 on March 5, 7 on March 6-7, 5 on March 8-10, 7 on March 11-12, and 5 on March 13-20.

OK1HH predicts quiet to active geomagnetic conditions on March 1, mostly quiet March 2, quiet to unsettled March 3, quiet on March 4, mostly quiet March 5, quiet to unsettled March 6, quiet to active March 7, quiet on March 8, mostly quiet March 9-10, quiet to active March 11-12, quiet to unsettled March 13-16, mostly quiet March 17-18, quiet to unsettled March 19-21, active to disturbed March 22 and quiet on March 23-24.

It is interesting to note that OK1HH predicts active to disturbed conditions on March 22, but NOAA and USAF predict a benign planetary A index of only 5 on that date.

This weekend is the ARRL International Phone DX Contest, from March 2, 0000z to March 3, 2400z. If you are on the West Coast, and use Pacific Standard Time, that would begin at 4:00 PM on Friday, ending at 4:00 PM on Sunday. For more info, check <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>.

With February ended, let's look at some updated averages. Our most recent 3-month moving average does not impress. The three months centered on January 2013 had an average daily sunspot number of 73.6. This is below every three-month moving average for last year, except the three months centered on March 2012, which was 71.2. The 3-month moving averages of daily sunspot numbers centered on January 2012 through January 2013 were 83.3, 73.7, 71.2, 87.3, 91.5, 96.5, 91.9, 89.9, 81.2, 82.3, 74.4, 82.8 and 73.6.

Jim Henderson, KF7E sent a link to an impressive NASA clip of solar activity from last July. Note that you can set this video to HD resolution, and it looks great on full screen. See it at <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap130226.html>.

Also check out the photo gallery of solar events at http://news.cnet.com/2300-11386_3-10015988.html and note the dramatic composite image number 4.

Walt Knodle, W7VS sent an article about artificial ionosphere produced by the HAARP facility in Alaska with a 3.6 megawatt signal on 69 meters. Note that they are only able to produce the effect for 45 seconds. Read about it at <http://phys.org/news/2013-02-scientists-densest-artificial-ionospheric-plasma.html>.

Also the September 1996 issue of QST has a nice article by K3NS titled, "The High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program." ARRL members can find and download it from the ARRL website with a search at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-periodicals-archive-search>.

The K7RA Solar Report

Jim Smith, K3RTU operated on HF CW from Ridley Creek State Park in Southeast Pennsylvania (FM29) on February 25. He wrote, "I hooked up with EA8BVP in the Canary Islands. 'Bal' EA8BVP was using a FT-817 and a vertical, and I was using my FT-817 and my trusty Bud-distick vertical. This CW QSO took place early in the afternoon on 18.086 MHz. I had been trying to make a contact on 20 meters and was having no luck so I QSYed to 17 meters and almost within minutes heard EA8BVP calling CQ. Both of our signal levels were S4 to S5. I frequently operate on 17 meter CW while out backpacking and more often than not it provides me with good long distance contacts."

It looks like the path from the park to the Canary Islands would be good in the early afternoon, with the best 17 meter signals that day from 1200-2200 UTC. 17 meters does look like a better bet, with 20 meters not catching up until after 2000 UTC.

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/wlaw-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>.

Sunspot numbers for February 21 through 27 were 75, 79, 56, 25, 59, 49, and 61, with a mean of 57.7. 10.7 cm flux was 108.5, 107, 99.6, 94.9, 95.4, 98.7, and 102, with a mean of 100.9. Estimated planetary

A indices were 6, 9, 6, 3, 3, 5, and 4, with a mean of 5.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 9, 6, 2, 3, 4, and 4, with a mean of 4.7.

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



For Sale or Trade

Code Practice Oscillator MiniKits

For sale. \$10 each, includes schematic. All boards are assembled and tested.

Circuit will easily drive headphones or a small speaker.

Each board measures approximately 1.25" square and is great for mounting in a small project box or on a wooden board.

See Dennis K9VMY at the next club meeting, or contact via e-mail k9vmy@arrl.net. Note: shipping is not included.

HamFest Information

Madison Hamfest

Madison Area Repeater Association

Sunday, April 14

Mandt Community Center

400 Mandt Parkway

Stoughton, WI 53589

Paul Toussaint, N9VWH

3835 County Road A

Stoughton, WI 53589

608-205-1994

w9hsy@execpc.com

Talk-in 144.150 +600 PL 123.0

DeKalb Hamfest

Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Sunday, May 5

Sandwich Fairgrounds

1401 Suydam Road

Sandwich, IL 60548

Bob Yurs, W9ICU

1107 Commercial Street

Sycamore IL, 60548

608-205-1994

w9icu@arrl.net

Talk-in 146.730 minus (PL 100)

Starved Rock Radio Club Hamfest

Starved Rock Amateur Radio Club

Sunday, June 2

Bureau County Fairgrounds

811 West Peru Street

Princeton, IL 61356

Matthew Weaver, KB9VZH

319 DeSoto Street

Ottawa, IL 61350

815-313-5924

mweaver@vactor.com

Talk-in 146.955 minus (PL 103.5)

Six Meter Club of Chicago Hamfest

Sunday, June 16

Wheaton Fairgrounds

2015 Manchester Road

Wheaton, IL 60187

Mike Huedepohl, WD9GJK

3532 Raymond Avenue

Brookfield, IL 60513

708-485-5481 (after 1800)

wd9jjk@attl.net

Talk-in 146.52;146.37/97 (PL 107.2)

Treasurers' Report



ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INC.

JANUARY 29, 2013

PRIMARY CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 12/1/12	1,242.63
Memorial Check	(25.00)
Balance 12/31/12	1,217.63
Deposit 1/17/13	398.00 *
Ending Balance 1/27/13	1,615.63

ORGANIZATION SAVINGS:

Beginning Balance 12/1/12	3,222.57
Quarterly Interest	0.41
Balance 12/31/12	3,222.98
Ending Balance 1/27/13	3,222.98

REPEATER COMMITTEE CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 12/1/12	300.00
Balance 12/31/12	300.00
Ending Balance 1/27/13	300.00

* Deposit: Donation 7.00
Jan. 17 50/50 Raffle Donation..... 21.00
Membership Dues..... 370.00
Total 398.00



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: jholich@comcast.net

<u>Nets</u>		
Monday 8 PM	RARA Info.	146.610 - 114.8 PL
	RARA	147.000 - 114.8 PL
Monday 9 PM	10M SSB Net	28.375 +/- USB
Daily 6 PM	Illinois Traffic Net	3.905 LSB

place address label here

March 2013

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.

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