

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.

Ham Radio and the Boston Marathon Bombing

As has happened many times in years past, over 200 Amateur Radio operators participated in communications for the Boston Marathon on Monday, April 15, 2013. Unlike prior challenging situations such as very warm weather for the runners or other weather-related challenges, this year's marathon will be remembered for the bombings that took place at the finish line. Despite this heinous act, professional first responders, medical volunteers from the American Red Cross that staffed the route, and Amateur Radio operators performed magnificently in the face of adversity. "Within minutes, cell phone systems became overloaded and making phone calls and text messages was difficult. Amateur Radio operators performed communication duties under duress and performed admirably. No Amateur Radio volunteers were injured on the course in this terrible act," said Steve Schwarm, W3EVE, who is the Amateur Radio Course Communication Coordinator and associated with a consortium of clubs and groups known as Marathon Amateur Radio Communications ([MARC](#)).

"At the finish line net control, which was only 400 feet from the initial blast, we heard the explosion. I poked my head outside to confirm what I thought it was and saw the white smoke. We immediately knew what had happened and commenced a roll call of all ham operators and medical tents. State Police authorities initially ordered us to lock down and post a ham for security watch outside the net control trailer. Thankfully none of our people were hurt," said Paul Topolski, W1SEX, Amateur Radio Finish Line Coordinator.

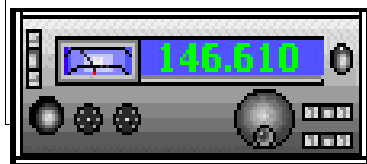
Following the explosion and roll call, Topolski stated that they began pulling together updates and sent the information via the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Web-EOC software tool and provided updates via Amateur Radio. Shortly after sending a few updates both Boston Police and Massachusetts State Police gave the order for the tent area to be evacuated. "In my mind, the course end of things is where a lot of work needed to happen as runners eventually needed to be stopped, congregated and transported to safety and staging areas," Topolski said. "At the finish line, our job was to check on the safety of our people, provide those initial updates and evacuate per police instructions. Three of our Amateur Radio operators redeployed to the Boston Marathon Course Net Control Center."

Across the course outside of the finish line after the bombings occurred, first aid stations were consolidated to larger first aid stations to pool runners for pickup and to keep runners warm as there were enhanced tents along the route where runners could be kept warm and hydrated. At the Heartbreak Hill first aid station, amateur operators had a complete base station setup, including a computer, and were prepared to handle health and welfare traffic as required. Several shelters were set up along the route at churches and schools, and Amateur Radio operators from secured first aid stations went to those shelters, providing communications in those areas until runners were moved out of their locations.

May 2013

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NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
May 10, 2013

Location:
Foundation Room

Saint Anthony OSF
5666 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois

Program:
RARA contact with the
International Space
Station
Robert Larson
KC9ICH

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

Ham Radio and the Boston Marathon Bombing

“My role at the request of Steve, W3EVE, as event organizer before the race was to shadow the course medical tent coordinator for the Red Cross, Kandi Finch,” said Rob Macedo, KD1CY, who is also the Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator. “It was a challenging position but all organizers on both the Amateur Radio side and Red Cross side said things went well in coordinating during normal race conditions and particularly after the bombings.”

At course net control, which was away from the bombings, ham operators controlled their nets calmly and professionally while also expressing an appropriate level of urgency. Over a dozen amateurs at the net control center pooled together to announce messages and keep status of changes along the course route as required.

Net Control Center Coordinator, Karen Brothers, K1KEB, kept in constant contact with MEMA, where Terry Stader, KA8SCP, was stationed. Stader became the MEMA ‘Ops’ point person at the State Emergency Operations Center as runners were transported from the shelters to other staging locations. From his location at the EOC, Stader was able to sort out the sheltering plan and reception centers for the runners, subsequent transport of runners from shelter locations and give out information on MBTA bus and train operations.

Jim Palmer, KB1KQW -- who served as a net control at the Net Control Center -- stated that nets were doubled up on operators, to allow one person to operate the radio while the other listened and logged priority calls and ambulance requests, creating a more efficient operation. “Several ambulance requests for dehydration and exhaustion were handled due to the runners needing to be stopped,” Palmer said. The specific net that Palmer ran also provided a link between the marathon course and the American Red Cross in its Cambridge facility. Lou Harris, N1UEC; Frank O’Laughlin, WQ1O, and Dan Howard, K1DYO, staffed the Red Cross in Cambridge.

Many amateur operators who volunteered along the marathon route praised Net Control’s support after the bombing. “Net Control did an awesome job,” said course volunteer David Wihl, KB1VEG. “The workload was busiest after seven hours on the radio, and it didn’t let up for another couple hours.”

Several young radio amateurs from the Clay Center Amateur Radio Club also supported Net Control Operations, both as direct net control operators and runners for the operation as they have done in the past. This provided a tremendous learning opportunity for these young operators, from both an Amateur Radio perspective and an overall learning perspective.

“Despite the total lack of warning in this situation, amateurs followed a creed I’ve long since preached since the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the mutual aid response to those attacks: ‘blessed are the flexible for they will not get bent out of shape,’” said Steve Schwarm, W3EVE. “Amateurs on the course did what they had to do to assure their own safety and runner safety working with the Red Cross medical people. They did an outstanding job and I was told so by Red Cross organizers as well.”

From an ARES perspective, a heightened state of awareness on the Boston Marathon event is typical, but within 15 minutes of the bombings, Eastern Massachusetts ARES Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator, Carl Aveni, N1FY, issued an ARES Stand-By and requested that amateurs give availability for the next 24 hours. Within minutes, 20 amateurs offered their availability.

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:

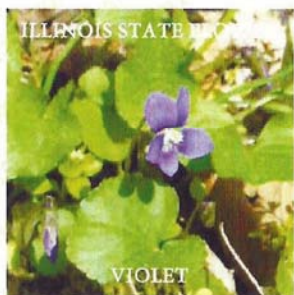
Kurt Eversole, KE9N 815-389-2784
Richard H. Range WB9SFG— 630-697-1344
Steve Miles— KC9WBH
Open Position

Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309
Ham Rag Editor - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796
Repeater Chairman - Open Position

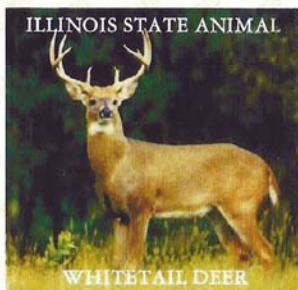
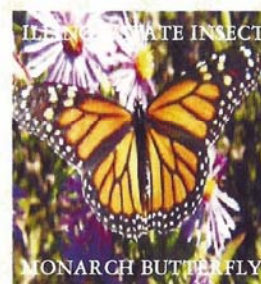


ILLINOIS QSO PARTY

OPERATING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



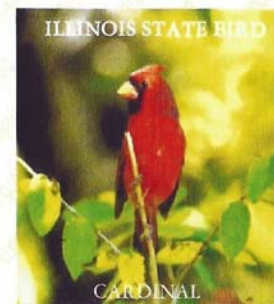
THIRD PLACE ILLINOIS FOUR COUNTY CORNER



W9I

HAS SUBMITTED A LOG FOR 138,128 POINTS

SPONSORED BY THE
WESTERN ILLINOIS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



On October 21st, 2012, club members Kurt Eversole—KE9N, Dave Lewis—K9YM, Doug Abrahamson—KC9SDO, Gordon Seaman—KC9NEX, Steve Miles—KC9WBH, Tom Shouler -N9VJU and Al Fisher—KD9CA set up portable with Kurt's (KE9N) motor home in a cornfield which was the common border of four counties, Winnebago, Boone, Ogle and DeKalb. We worked the Illinois QSO Party. We made some 402 contacts and scored 138,128 points. This was enough for third place in the contest. A good time was had by all.

Fox Hunt

The Big Thunder ARC will be engaging in a fox hunt, May 11th at 09:00 in Belvidere. Participants are to meet at the Baltic Mill in Belvidere Park and be ready to hunt at 09:00. The fox will be on the two meter band with an exact frequency being announced at the start of the hunt. Anticipate the majority of the hunt to be on foot for this event as the hunting ground is within the bounds of the Boone County Conservation District's Spencer Park.

Talk in will be on the Belvidere repeater, 147.375 +600 100hz PL.

The current club champion is Michelle, KC9ML ... will she keep her title or surrender it to someone new? All are welcome to compete for bragging rights as you test your skills.

See you there,

Joseph Moore - KA9LMK

From the Secretary

Minutes of March 8, 2 013 Meeting

President Doug Abrahamson opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Secretary's Report was read by Jim Holich, AB9SX.

The Treasurers report was then read by Jim Holich, AB9SX. A motion to accept both reports as read was made by Mike Oberg AB9AY, and seconded by T J . The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Under Old Business :

Dave Lewis K9YM announced the special call field day (K9K). Rich Range Talked about Rockford Airfest.

New Business.

Gene Stankiewicz informed us of the passing of Dale Mather KT9P. It was proposed that a plant be sent from the club. Motion was made by Gene Stankiewicz , KA9BOD and seconded by Bob Ditzler , KC9LLS. The vote carried.

Kurt Eversole - KE9N presented a box for auction with the proceeds to go to the club treasury. Shannon Larson—KC9QBC was the winner.

50/50 drawing was held and won Steve Miles KC9WBH. He donated the proceeds to the club treasury. Thank you Steve!!

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

A pause for socialization was made, and the presentation of Hints and source for Radio restoration and repair was made by Jim Holich AB9SX and Kurt Eversole. KE9N.

The meeting stood adjourned.

Submitted by Jim Holich—AB9SX
Secretary

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

April 20th there were 2 new licensees and 2 upgrades. Congratulations to:

New:
Mickie L Good, General
Randy E Kitchen, Technician

Upgrade:
Archie A Eastabrooks KC9YDZ, Extra
Jason A Peeler N9OPP, Extra

Thanks to Shari Harlan N9SH, Alvin Alexander KC9GIO, Joseph Moore KA9LMK, Scott Fry N9FRY and Larry Fry K9FRY for volunteering their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9AM May 18, 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

SB PROP ARL ARLP018
ARLP018 Propagation de K7RA

Solar activity made a healthy jump over the past week, with average daily sunspot numbers up over 30 points to 120.9, and average daily solar flux increasing over 27 points to 136.5.

The most active day for geomagnetic indices was May 1, when the planetary A index reached 21 and the high-latitude college A index (measured near Fairbanks, Alaska) was a whopping 57. That number has been higher, but only twice in the past six months, when it was 64 on March 1 and 79 on March 17.

The latest forecast has solar flux at 155 on May 3-4, 150 on May 5-6, 145 on May 7-9, then 140, 125 and 120 on May 10-12, 125 on May 13-15, 120 on May 16-17, then 125, 120, and 130 on May 18-20, 135 on May 21-22 and 130 on May 23-24.

Predicted planetary A index is 8 on May 3-4, 12 on May 5, 8 on May 6, 5 on May 7-20, then 15, 10 and 15 on May 21-23, and then 5 forever after that. This is from a 45 day forecast, so we won't really see quiet conditions forever, but the forecast ends on June 16 with planetary A index of 5 until then.

F.K. Janda, OK1HH has another short forecast for geomagnetic conditions, like last week. He sees the geomagnetic field quiet to unsettled May 3-10, quiet to active May 11-12, and quiet to unsettled May 13-19. That's it!

NASA released a new solar cycle prediction on May 1, but it wasn't really new. These arrive at the start of every month, and remain the same since March 1. On March 1, 2013 the prediction for the smoothed International Sunspot Number at the cycle peak shifted from 69 to 66 for Fall 2013. The 2013 Autumnal Equinox begins in about four months and three weeks. This week the May 2013 issue of CQ Magazine arrived, and across the top of the cover was this headline: "Another Double-Peak Sunspot Cycle?" We certainly hope so.

Time to review our 3-month moving average of sunspot numbers, which has increased. The average daily sunspot number for February, March and April was 85.2. The average daily sunspot number for the three month periods centered on September 2012 through March 2013 were 81.2, 82.3, 74.4, 82.8, 73.6, 80.7 and 85.2. This is a moving average, so 81.2 was the average for August through October 2012, 82.3 was September through November 2012 and so on. But this involves a bit of cherry picking of the data, as the three previous period's averages were 96.5, 91.9 and 89.9.

The average sunspot number for the month of April was 112.8, for March it was 81.1 and February was 60.1.

Eric Ferguson, VE3CR of Burlington, Ontario sent his father-in-law Bruce Jones an article about solar flares, and they both wondered why there are no solar flares at the Sun's poles.

I passed this question on to Robert Steenburgh, KA8JBY who is a Senior Space Weather Forecaster at the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

Robert wrote, "Flares are thought to originate from the deformation of magnetic field lines which break and reconnect. There is a latitudinal band in which this magnetic flux emergence (and hence sunspot formation) and deformation occurs.

"Sunspots typically form at mid-latitudes (equatorward of around 40 degrees) at the beginning of the solar cycle, and the breeding grounds drift towards the equator over the course of the cycle. This behavior is attributed to the solar dynamo. See <http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/dynamo.shtml>.

"A cartoon depiction of the dynamo process is here:

http://www.nasa.gov/images/content/144061main_CycleDiagramLG.jpg

The K7RA Solar Report

"You can find a paper on flare distribution for Solar Cycle 23 here: <http://www.ias.ac.in/jaa/junsep2006/JAA10.pdf>

"There were 4 flares identified poleward of 50 degrees latitude in that paper, out of a total of 20,186.

"The poles are usually dominated by coronal holes and 'open' magnetic field lines that extend out into the heliosphere. So the mechanisms for flare formation are generally absent."

David Moore sent a link to a NASA video showing ten coronal mass ejections over five days in April:

http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/videogallery/index.html?media_id=162261751

Mike Snyder, KN8J who lives a few miles south of Harrisville, West Virginia in EM99If wrote this morning, May 3: "My wife and I are early risers. I mean real early. We're up about 3AM. Generally speaking, 3 to 5AM produces some fair DX for me.

"Lately it's been getting a bit better on the 20 and 30 meter bands. The South Pacific is usually open at these hours. I've managed a couple QRP contacts with Hawaii. I've noticed parts of Europe open as well. I had a solid QSO with OK1HB from the Czech Republic on 14.062MHz. I was running 100 watts barefoot for this one.

"This morning I finally worked a new one: A35JP in Tonga on 14.003 MHz running up two at 0736 UTC.

"Well, gotta go...someone just spotted FO/KH0PR!" Mike runs a Cushcraft A4 antenna on a 40 foot tower with the two rear elements askew due to high winds last month. On 160 and 30meters he uses a fan inverted vee dipole at 35 feet.

He sent this final note: "Just worked A35UD on 10.108 MHz at 1010 UTC. Too bad I gotta go to work now!"

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>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

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 April 25 through May 1 were 93, 104, 100, 97, 136, 165, and 151, with a mean of 120.9. 10.7 cm flux was 119.2, 121.9, 127, 131.7, 142.4, 154.4, and 159.2, with a mean of 136.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 8, 17, 6, 5, 5, 7, and 21, with a mean of 9.9. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 14, 18, 6, 4, 5, 6, and 16, with a mean of 9.9.

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.

"Morning Glory Restaurant"

***9155 Alpine 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

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)

South Milwaukee ARC

Hamfest

Saturday 07/06/2013

American Legion Post #434
9327 South Shepard Avenue
Oak Creek, WI 53154
<http://www.qsl.net/wa9txe>

Talk-In: 146.52 + local repeaters
Contact: Robert Kastelic , WB9TIK
PO Box 222 South Milwaukee, WI 53172-0222
Phone: 414-764-3871
Email: wb9tik@arrl.net

Fox River Radio League

Hamfest

Sunday 07/14/2013

Aurora Central Catholic High School
1255 North Edgelawn Drive
Aurora, IL 60504
<http://fril.org>

Talk-In: 147.210 +600 (PL 103.5)
Contact: Dawn Williams , KC9LQS
PO Box 673 Batavia, IL 60510
Phone: 630-531-1670
Email: hamfest@fril.org

Dale Mather—KT9P (SK)

We regret to inform you of the passing of a RARA Club Member. His edited (Jim Holich AB9SX) obituary follows:

August 18,1936—April 10, 2013

Dale F. Mather, (KT9P) 76 of Caledonia passed away on Wednesday, April 10,2013 from congestive heart failure. He was born in Racine Wisconsin on August 18,1936; the son of Homer and Veronica (Rade) Mather. Dale was a proud veteran serving as a sergeant in the United States marine Corps. He married Nancy Clark (KG9OQ) on February 4th 1998. Dale owned and operated Creditors Protection Service for forty years. He was a long time member of Friends of Bill W. He was a motorcyclist for many years and enjoyed many road trips on his Harley., traveling to 48 of the 50 states. He was an Extra Class ham radio operator and a member of RARA and ARRL. Dale was a member of Saint James Catholic Church in Belvidere.

Dale is survived by his wife, Nancy (KG9OQ) ; sister Cheri (Jim) Wyrick; children Vickie (Jack) Hoffman, Lori (Brad) Streeter and Michael (Michelle) Mather; step-children Brian Clark and Benjamin (Colleen) Clark; grandchildren Jacob and Courtney Hoffman, Nicholas and Patrick Streeter, Michael Alex and Payton Mather, Christopher, Brian and Veronica Mather; seven great-grandchildren; mother-in-law Lois Ritterskamp; former wife and mother of his children, Mary Mather. Pre-deceased by his parents and his Son Steven Mather.

The officers and members of the RARA extend their deepest condolences.

Treasurers Report



ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INC.

APRIL 30, 2013

PRIMARY CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 3/25/13	_____	1,804.63
Deposits	_____	89.00 *
Withdrawals	_____	0
Ending Balance 4/30/13	_____	1,893.63

ORGANIZATION SAVINGS:

Beginning Balance 3/25/13	_____	3,222.98
Interest Earned 3/31/13	_____	0.40
Ending Balance 4/30/13	_____	3,223.38

REPEATER COMMITTEE CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 3/25/13	_____	300.00
Ending Balance 4/30/13	_____	300.00

* Deposit: 50/50 Raffle Donation 34.00
 Apr. 30 Membership Dues..... 55.00
 Total 89.00

Shannon K. Larson, KC9QBC
 Treasurer, RARA



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

May, 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