

# 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 Comments

I'm glad to announce that we again have two fully functioning repeaters. Many thanks to all who worked many hours toward this goal. In 2009 we installed a new Vertex 9000 repeater at the 146.610 MHz site. At that time the Board of Directors and the repeater committee made it a goal to have identical repeaters and controllers at both sites. This would be done for redundancy and ease of maintenance.

Our thanks go out to Doug Abrahamson KC9SDO, Rich Range WB9SFG, Gordon Seaman KC9NEX, Scott Francis KG9SF, Kurt Eversole KE9N, and Ron Callahan N9SZV for all their contributions and efforts.



To the left is the 146.610 repeater.



To the right is the 147.000 repeater.

## ELECTIONS

The main focus this month is the election of officers and board members for 2014. Hopefully we will have a full slate of people willing to lead us next year.

See you at the meeting.

73,  
Robert Larson KC9ICH



## November 2014

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### NEXT MEETING

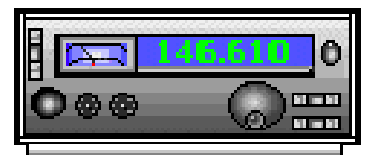
**FRIDAY**  
**November 14, 2014**  
**7:00 pm**

**Presentation:**

**“Cross Band Operation”**

**Location:**

**St. Anthony**  
**OSF Medical Center**  
**Foundation Room**  
**5666 E. State Street**  
**Rockford, IL**



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

## What's in a Repeater System?

"This isn't your Dad's repeater" so the saying goes now days. Repeaters and their associated components are becoming more and more software driven than ever before.

Looking to the left photo, we first have an Astron rack mount 13.8 volt DC power supply to power the repeater and other equipment.

Nest down in the rack is the repeater itself, a Vertex 9000. This is totally programmable with a computer and software. Programming with DTMF tones are a thing of the past, as well as mechanical relays for switching.

Voice announcements, repeater ID's, operating parameters are controlled by the next item down, an Arcom RC-210 repeater controller. This controller is the brains behind the repeater and also is controlled via a computer program and computer. Setting the parameters is as easy as running the software on a computer, making any changes or adding additional functions and downloading the software changes to the controller.

Remote repeater and controller operations are controlled by a control radio which is the next item down in the rack. Per FCC rules, a repeater must be under the control of a control operator, and must have the ability to be shut down if needed.

In the right photo, the bottom cylinders are cavity filters, which separate the incoming frequency and the outgoing frequency, and directs them to the proper receive and transmit ports on the repeater. These are very sharp filters and are tuned to our specific frequencies.



- Power Supply

- Repeater

- Controller

- Control Radio

Cavity Filters -



Programming to the repeater and controller is done by using a computer and associated software for each.

After assembling all the components, the programming is being done by Ron Callahan, N9SZV, Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, and Kurt Eversole, KE9N, while the repeater license trustee, Scott Francis, KG9SF, listens and offers information to us from his QTH.



## Some DX Information

DX-petitions have been busy in the past month, with spectacular pile ups developing on all of the HF bands.

The crew at **FT4TA** (Tromelin Island) had at least three transmitters on the air at all times, with good signals coming from this remote island.

**TR8CA** has been active from Gabon, Africa.

**9N7BM** is making contacts from Khatmandu, Nepal in the Himalayan Mountains. His operation was predominately on the low bands, 80 and 160 meters.

**S79VR** has shown up on 20 through 10 meters, mainly on CW and SSB from the Seychelles Islands.

The CQ Worldwide DX Competition is history for another year. A lot of hams worked a LOT of new countries in this one. Propagation was good-to-excellent during the contest, with 10 meters literally wide open.

In summary: HF DXing is alive and well!

*Above information contributed by Scott Francis, KG9SF*

### UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

**November 14** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**November 25** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**December 12** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF  
“Logbook and QSL Card Night”

**December 30** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

### 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 Morning Glory”***

***408 7th Street***

***Rockford, IL 61104***



## November is Sweepstakes Month

### ARRL November Sweepstakes

**Objective:** For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.

**Reminder:** the Canadian province of Ontario now consists four RAC sections: Ontario North (ONN), Ontario South (ONS), Ontario East (ONE) and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Make sure your contest logging software and "country" (CTY) files have been updated so that those abbreviations are recognized and credited properly.

**Dates- CW:** First full weekend in November (**November 1-3 2014**). Phone: Third full weekend in November (**November 15-17, 2014**). Contest Period: Begins 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday.

**Bands** -160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. No contest QSOs may be made on 12, 17, 30 or 60 meters.

**Log Submission Deadline** -All Sweepstakes logs must be submitted within FIFTEEN (15) days of the contest ending.

CW: 0300 UTC Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Phone:0300 UTC Tuesday, December 2, 2014

**For More Information** -For contest information contact:  
contests@arrl.org or (860) 594-0232



### No Large Antennas Required

December 13-14 is the **10 meter Contest**. If you have a modest station and a simple vertical antenna, this is the operating event for you.

**Object:** For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 meter band only.

**Date and Contest Period:** Second full weekend of December. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; ends 2359 UTC Sunday (**December 13-14, 2014**)

All stations operate no more than 36 hours out of the 48-hour period.

All off-times must be a minimum of 30 consecutive minutes

Listening time counts as operating time.

For more information Contact the ARRL, or see the website: <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, November 15, 2014.

Location:

St. Anthony Hospital  
5666 E. State Street  
Rockford, IL

Exams will be held in the St Francis Room (just right of the front entrance after you enter).

Check-in is from 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM.

What You Need To Bring To A W5YI-VEC Session

1. Your original Amateur License (unexpired or within the 2 year grace period) and a copy to attach to the paperwork.
2. Any valid CSCE that you are using for credit. Again the VE's have to see the original and have a copy to attach to the paperwork.
3. Two forms of Identification with your signature on them. One must be a picture ID (drivers license, passport, school ID, library card, credit card, etc.)
4. Test Fee \$14.00 cash or check. (please make checks payable to W5YI-VEC)

Contact Information:

Rusty Cordell WB9QYV  
wb9qyv@aol.com

## UPCOMING NEW PRODUCT

### FT-991 ALL-BAND, MULTIMODE PORTABLE TRANSCEIVER

The FT-991 is the next generation in all mode, all band MF/HF/VHF/UHF transceiver with C4FM (System Fusion) Digital capability. The FT-991 includes multi-mode operation on CW, AM, FM, SSB, and Digital Modes (Packet, PSK31, RTTY and C4FM), with 100 Watts of HF Capability (50 Watts VHF/UHF). The New FT-991 now includes a high-resolution full color 3.5" TFT Touch panel for superior operability and visibility, incorporating a High Speed Spectrum scope with ASC (Automatic Spectrum-scope control) built right in.



**This product has an expected release date of late 2014** (Just in time for Christmas!!)

### Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please call me or email me at [ke9n@arrl.net](mailto:ke9n@arrl.net).

**Cut-off for the December 2014 Hamrag will be Friday, November 28, 2014**

Kurt - KE9N, Editor



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: [www.w9axd.org](http://www.w9axd.org)

E-mail: [ke9n@arrl.net](mailto:ke9n@arrl.net)

**Area Nets**

Monday 8 PM RARA Info. 146.610 - 114.8  
Friday Night Fun Net 8 PM 147.255 + 114.8  
Illinois Traffic Net (daily) 6 PM 3.905 LSB

place address label here

# December 2014

## 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