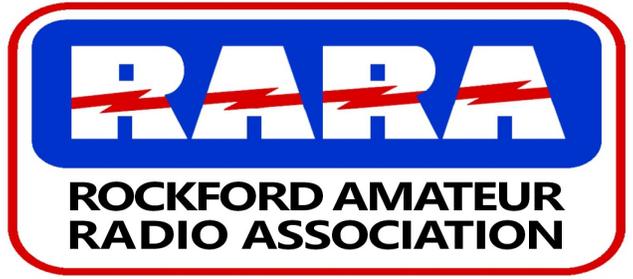


HAMRAG

Visit our website for more club and area ham information at <http://w9axd.org>, or join us on Facebook at this [LINK](#)



RARA Mission Statement

A member association with common interest of public service to the community through the use of amateur radio.

December 2017

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Presidents Message

Greetings all,

Here it's December already and I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving. One of the first things I need to cover is the December meetings nominations for the Ham of the Year. By the time you read this I hope to have sent out nomination forms for Ham of the Year which you can fill out and send to John Goodwin, N9JHG, the committee chair for selection. There will also be ballots available at the December meeting for those who may have not yet voted. Please think about who you think made a positive contribution in the club this year and you would like to nominate for this award.

Many new things have happened behind the scenes this year. One of those things is that we now have a YouTube account. If anyone has any content, ham radio related of course, they would like to see uploaded please send an email to Randy Long, AC9OF, and the board will review it for upload. More information on this feature will be forthcoming.

Also upcoming is the awards banquet coming up on January 12, 2018 in place of the January meeting. The banquet will again be held at Gerry's Pizza at 7403 Argus Drive. This year we will be in their new banquet room, when you enter the restaurant turn right instead of left and you will enter the new area. More information about this event will be in the January Ham Rag.

Sincerely,
Gordon Seaman
KC9NEX
2017 RARA President



NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
December 8, 2017
7:00 pm

“Understanding Propagation Reports”

By: Kurt Eversole
KE9N

Location:
OSF St. Anthony
Medical Center
5666 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108
Foundation Room

Some people go to great lengths to get to Field Day!



Secretary's Report



RARA Club Meeting Minutes for Nov. 10, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. with 15 attendees.

Treasurer's report: Not available

The minutes from the October 2017 meeting were read. A motion to accept was made by Ron Callahan, N2RON, Seconded by John Goodwin, N9JHG. The motion passed.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Randy Long, AC9OF, discussed our ability now to upload YouTube videos and we're looking for content.

Jim Miller, W4JR, has some ham radio equipment for sale. Contact Paul Johnston, W9PJ, for more information.

Banquet update: Gerry's has a separate room that may work very well for our January banquet.

Elections: ballots were distributed. Results showed that all running were elected.

Kurt Eversole, KE9N, presented a check for \$100 from RARA to the Roscoe VFW for use at Field Day.

50/50 Raffle: \$26 was collected and \$13 won by John Goodwin, N9JHG.

Presentation: Carl Walthal, N8CDW, talked about DMR and Wires-X installations.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kurt Eversole, KE9N, seconded by John Goodwin, N9JHG. The motion passed.

Adjournment time: 8:25 pm

Prepared by Bruce Carlson, N9OHT, Secretary

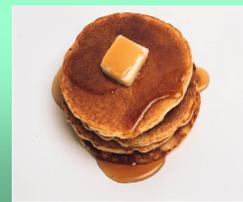
FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 10:00 am. An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

"The Spring Garden Family Restaurant"

***4820 N. 2nd Street
Loves Park, IL 61111***



"You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat."

Local Events and Information

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 8, 2017- General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

December 19, 2017 - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

January 12, 2018 - RARA Banquet at Gerry's Pizza

January 16, 2018 - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

RARA Repeater Information

Both repeaters (146.610 and 147.000 (both have a pl 114.8)) will function with both digital and analog radio signals, but the repeaters require time to determine whether the signal is digital or analog. To operate the repeater properly you must first be sure the frequency is clear, then key and hold the microphone button down for **1-2 seconds**. Then begin speaking. If you fail to do this, the first part of your message will be lost.

Area Nets

Monday Night RARA Information Net - The purpose of the net is to disseminate RARA related information as well as other Amateur Radio related information. As a club sponsored activity, please check in with Jimmy, KC9GCR, (net control). **146.610 - offset (pl 114.8)** RARA repeater at 8:00 pm, every Monday, except on holidays.

Tuesday Night Tech Net - at 8:00 pm, **145.110 (pl 123.0)**. Tony, N9ARB, is net control.

Wednesday Night Stephenson County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) **Net** - at 7:00 pm on **147.390 + offset (pl 114.8)**. N9ARB, Tony, is net control.

Thursday Night Northern Illinois ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) **Net** - at 7:00 pm on the **147.195 + offset (pl 114.8)** repeater with either Marianne, KT9KS; Sean, W9STR; or Ricky, WX9RLT, as net control.

Friday Night Fun Net - Every Friday night at 8:00 pm on the **146.610 - offset (pl 114.8)** RARA repeater with Jimmy, KC9GCR, as net control.

2018 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, kc9nex@gmail.com

Vice President - Randy Long, AC9OF, 815-978-6673, randy@rdlgraphics.com

Secretary - Jim Hall, WA9EEE, wa9eee@gmail.com

Treasurer - Jennifer Van Zieleghe, KD9FMJ, 815-222-4221, jenleek@usa.com

Directors:

Repeater Chairman - Ron Callahan, N2RON, 608-289-0198, ron.n2ron@gmail.com

Greg Kuczek, W9VOX, 815-713-5461, gjk1406@comcast.net

Jacek Gadjia, KD9ELI, 773-505-5604, hyacinth27109@yahoo.com

John Goodwin, N9JHG, 815-520-3842, goodwin49@gmail.com

Larry Schubert, AC9GO, 815-624-7772, larry.schubert@gmail.com

Hamrag Editor - open position

Webmaster - Randy Long, AC9OF, 815-978-6673, randy@rdlgraphics.com

Repeater License Trustee - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309, rlarson4@sbcglobal.net

Announced DX Operations

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by	Info
December						
2017 Dec03	2017 Dec08	Laos	XW4ZW	LotW	TDDX 20171006	By K4ZW; focus on low bands; QSL also OK via K1SE
2017 Dec05	2017 Dec07	Tonga	A31NM	JM6EBU	TDDX 20171101	By JM6EBU fm Nuku'Alofa; spare time operation; QSL OK via JARL Buro or direct
2017 Dec05	2017 Dec12	Cyprus SBA	ZC4MK	LotW	TDDX 20170911	By G0KOM; 40-10m; vertical; QSL OK via G0KOM (RSGB Buro or direct) and Club Log
2017 Dec15	2017 Dec17	Senegal	6V1A	6W7JX	DXNews 20171102	By 6W7JX 6W1PZ 6W1K1 6W1QL fm Goree I (IOTA AF-045); HF; CW SSB
2017 Dec16	2017 Dec24	Corsica	TK <small>NEW</small>	DD5ZZ	NZ1C 20171122	By NZ1C as TK/NZ1C; 40-10m; CW FT8, some SSB RTTY PSK; ground plane; holiday style operation
2017 Dec25	2018 Jan12	Senegal	6W	WA3DX Direct	DXNews 20171102	By WA3DX as 6W1/WA3DX fm Dakar, also 6W7/WA3DX fm Mbao and 6W6/WA3DX fm Kaolack and Saloum Is; 40-10m; SSB SSTV PSK
2018						
January						
2018 Jan01	2018 Jan31	So Shetland Is	RI50ANO	LotW	DXWNet 20161013	By UA1OJL fm Belligshausen Station; HF; QSL also OK via RN1ON and Club Log; operation to continue until Mar 31
2018 Jan10	2018 Jan23	Jamaica	6Y6J	LotW	DXNews 20170922	By JA3HJI JA3UJR JH3LSS JI3DNN JA3AVO; 160-6m; CW SSB + digital; QSL also OK via JA3AVO (JARL Buro or direct), Club Log
2018 Jan10	2018 Jan24	Panama	HP	AA4NC	AA4NC 20171103	By AA4NC as HP/AA4NC fm several different HP call areas
2018 Jan13	2018 Jan21	Cayman Is	ZF2PG <small>NEW</small>	LotW	DXNews 20171121	By K8PGJ fm Grand Cayman I (IOTA NA-016); 160-10m; SSB; QSL also OK via K8PGJ direct
2018 Jan21	2018 Jan27	St Vincent	J88PI	GW4DVB	DXWNet 20160820	By GW4DVB fm Palm I (IOTA NA-025, FK92ho); 40-6m; mainly SSB
2018 Jan24	2018 Jan30	Aruba	P4		DL4MM 20170919	By DL4MM as P4/DL4MM; focus on 160 80m for JA and Asia; QRV using P40AA during CQ 160m CW as SO assisted
2018 Jan24	2018 Feb19	Guatemala	TG9	VE7BV	VE7BV 20160616	By VE7BV as TG9/VE7BV; 40 20 17 15 12m; holiday style operation; perhaps some HR5 activity fm Copan Ruinas
2018 Jan25	2018 Mar14	Bouvet I	3Y0Z	N200	DXWNet 20160608	By EY8MM HA5AO JR4OZR K0IR K4UEE K9CT LA6VM N4GRN N6HC N9TK NM1Y PA5M SM5AQD VA7DX VE7CT W0GJ W8IZT W8HC WB9Z; 160-10m; tentative dates

December 10 Meter Contest

If your looking for something to do in the cold winter month of December, the 10 meter contest is coming up December 9-10, 2017. Don't be fooled that there are no signals there. Every year in the contest, 10 meters is alive and well with plenty of contacts. See what you can do , and you don't need anything fancy for a radio or antenna to operate on 10 meters.

Contest Details

- 1. Object:** For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 meter band.
- 2. Date and Contest Period:** Second full weekend of December. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; ends 2359 UTC Sunday (**December 9-10, 2017**)
 - 2.1.** All stations operate no more than 36 hours out of the 48-hour period.
 - 2.2.** All off-times must be a minimum of 30 consecutive minutes.
 - 2.3.** Listening time counts as operating time.

For more information go to : <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

News From Around The Globe

Dog Park Software is pleased to announce that version 6.15 of MacLoggerDX has been released.

What's New in this version:

- * macOS 10.13 (High Sierra) compatible.
- * Added Icom IC-7610 driver.
- * Added support for new IOTA list.
- * Added Confirm QSOs with IOTA file.
- * Added Skip Duplicate Alarms option.
- * Added UTC/Local radio time set option.
- * Added eQSL AG status in Spots QSL VIA column.
- * Added EME PROP_MODE to ADIF output.
- * Added filter VUCC by DXCC ID.
- * Added check for QSO My Call before uploading to QRZ Logbook.
- * Fixed demo timeout hang.



MacLoggerDX

MacLoggerDX is The Mac Ham Radio Logbook choice in 112 countries...

Organizing and filtering the spots from your favourite DX Cluster for DXing, casual Contesting or rag-chewing.

It supports close to a hundred radios, automatically tuning to the spots you are interested in and optionally swinging your beam around.

Alerting you to rare contacts or Band Openings and looking up, displaying on 2D, 3D and Satellite Maps and logging your contacts to a super fast sql database.

MacLoggerDX can also text or email you when the Bands are open or that rare DX is spotted.

Awards Tracking, Band Activity, Schedules, Memories, QSL Generation, ADIF import, export, Real time logbook uploads, confirmations and much more.

This is a free update for all Version 6 customers and can be downloaded from:

<http://dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html>

The ARRL International Grid Chase

You may not know this, but your station is in a *Maidenhead grid square*. The entire world is divided into thousands of these 1° latitude × 2° longitude squares, each one with a unique designation. They're all part of a geographic location system adopted in the 1980s at a meeting of the VHF Working Group in Maidenhead, England.

Unless you are a VHF enthusiast, this nugget of information may not mean much. But at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2018, the global Amateur Radio community will be very interested in grid squares.

For more information on grid squares see <http://www.arrl.org/grid-squares>

Get in the Chase

The objective of the ARRL International Grid Chase is simple: Work stations in as many grid squares as possible and upload your log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World. If you are not currently registered with Logbook of The World, this is a good reason to get started. Go to <https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-help/getting-started/>. Registration and uploading are *free*.



Anyone Remember This?

Below is the first Hamrag ever published. Volume 1, Number 1, from September 1956.



HAM RAG

Vol. 1

September, 1956

Number 1

As you all probably know by now, Rockford has a fine radio club. It is called the Rockford Amateur Radio Association, "RA PA".

Dave Walker, W9NJE is President, W9SKI is V.P., W9DQV is Secretary and W9LRZ is Treasurer. The membership is 35. New members are invited to forthcoming meetings. Membership is open to all persons interested in becoming radio operators. A training period will be held this fall.

Paul Seider, W9GZ, Rockford, and Jack O'Brien, W9TJ, Chicago, conducted a transmitter hunt and demonstration at the last club meeting. It was a very interesting and helpful event. At this time we would like to thank them very much. Oh yes! He found the transmitter in a clump of trees off No. Main Rd. in 45 minutes !!

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Whether you realize it or not, we've got a going club on our hands. It's up to us to keep it going. Maybe you are wondering just why the thing got started. It was this way:

A bunch of the local 10 meter gang was whooping it up (as usual) and talk got around to why Rockford didn't have a rib roaring club. No one seemed to come up with a logical reason for not having one so a group got together and began to yak about what it took to have a club that would interest the average ham. Ideas began to float around, and it seemed to boil down to several basic requirements.

First, in order to keep up one's interest in attending meetings, there must be a real meaty program. Secondly, there must be activities of a type that promote club loyalty. Third, we can be a great help to those who want to get started in this stimulating hobby. We must not overlook the fact that we, as operating amateurs, can provide the community with vital communications in the event of a local or national disaster. All of these are excellent reasons for forming a club and in a nutshell, that is the Brief History of the beginning of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association. Can we keep it going and growing??? -- If we can, it will be because everyone pushes; if we can't, it will be because too many of us are riding. Which will it be????

For the first time in 18 years, Chicago will be the scene of an ARRL National Convention. The 1957 Convention will be held during the Labor Day Weekend, 1957 at the Palmer House.

W6IAF drove through town the other day and worked several fellows on 6 meters. His K1L belongs to a YL Club with a membership of 200.--Come on you YLs.

The Harvard, Ill. Club has weekly xmitter hunts with a lot of interest.

HAM RAG

W9WQ, W9DQ, W9DIF, W9TRF and some others are on 6 meters. W9CHN has a new DK 35. W9GIC is getting a new S-85 rcvr. W9YH is going mobile again. W9GRU had an operation - also a new harmonic. W9AJJ is now on 10. W9NWB won the grand prize for the club name. W9RNU won a 1000 multiplier kit at the Hamfesters' Ham Fest.

HELPING HANDS

Late report from W9BQO is that the Chirp Kik and S. letter Society is going to fix Frank Donagh, retired Postmaster of Compton, Ill. with a rcvr. ant., practice oscillator and key, ARRL Handbook and Call Book. Frank is confined to his home with arthritis and hopes to be able to get back on the air. He held the call W9ACA back in 1928. Don also said that if anyone would care to loan a rcvr. of any kind, he would see that Frank got it. Let's see what our club can come up with !!

WANTED

W9SKU is looking for a 6-foot relay rack and also table size rack. Will swap.

Our next regular club meeting will be Thursday, September 13, 7:30 at the Red Cross. George Ashton, W9PNY of Riverside, Ill. will give a demonstration on Beam Antennas - a program sure to interest all. SEE YOU THEN !!

EDITOR-----J9GHI "Smokie"

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

Congratulations to the following:

Taryon L. Cornwell	Upgrade to General	KD9ILI
Steven A. Csiki	Upgrade to General	KD9JJE
Jeremy M. Nordbeck	Technician	
Jason A. Pryor	Technician / General	
Jeffery Schimetz	Upgrade to General	KD9JNO

Many thanks to Randy Long, AC9OF, Mike Proctor, AC9JZ, Steve Hammerslag, AC9KA, and John Goodwin, N9JHG.

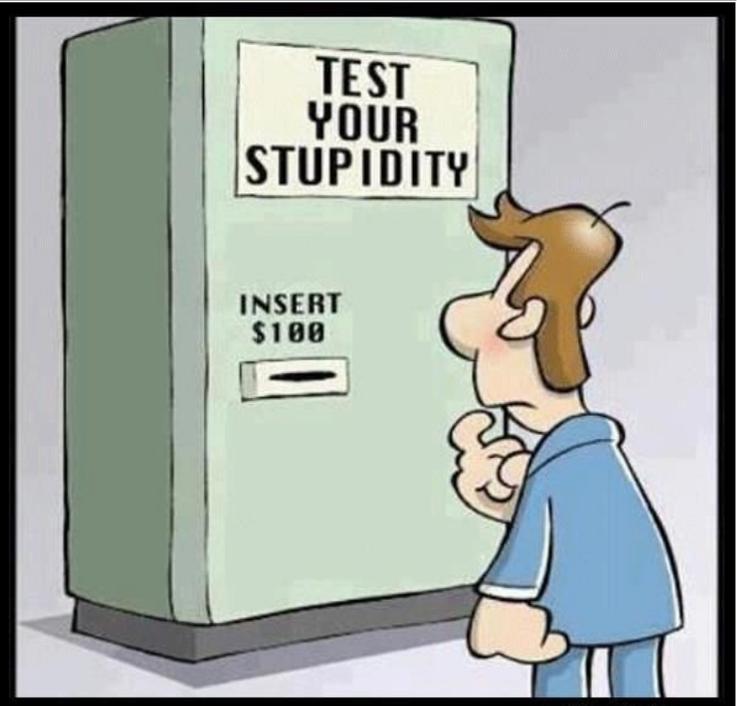
Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9:00 am December 16, 2017. Walk-ins are welcome. Check-ins are from 9:00 am-10:00 am, no exams are started after 10:30. We require two signature ID's and one photo. If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator bring your current license and a copy. If you are using a CSCE for exam credit, bring the original and a copy (We need to see the originals & keep a photocopy of each). No copier is 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 are held in the St Francis Room (Main Entrance then turn right).

Jim Holich AB9SX
jholich@comcast.net



“All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names.”

More pics on www.LeFunny.net

RARA MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you would like to join the Rockford Amateur Radio Association, please fill out the form below and mail it (with the membership fee payment) to the address shown at the bottom of the form. If you would like to join at our next meeting (see 1st page for meeting details), fill out the form and bring the form with your payment to the meeting and see our treasurer, Jennifer Van Zieleghe, KD9FMJ. **Thank you for your support!**

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

website: w9axd.org

Membership Type : New Renewal

Annual Fees: \$20 - Student (up to age 24)

\$35 - Adult \$25 - Senior (age 62+)

Above rate includes the RARA monthly newsletter, Ham Rag, via email

Ham Rag via USPS: \$12 extra

Name _____

Call Sign : _____

Email Address : _____

Address : _____

Town : _____ State : _____ Zip : _____

Home Phone # _____ Work # _____

Cell # _____ Ext : _____

Radio Interests _____

May we make your phone and e-mail available for other RARA members only?

Yes

No

Comments _____

RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO:
ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 8465
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126