



# HAMRAG

August  
2018

Aug. 10th

# Portable Radio Systems

Jennifer Van Zielegheh KD9FMJ

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Next Meeting: Portable Radio Systems • Friday August 10th • 7:00 PM  
Location: St. Anthony Medical Center • Foundation Room • 5666 E. State Street Rockford, IL

# President's Message

Greetings all,

Can you believe its August already, the year has been flying by and there are so many things that I haven't accomplished yet. I'm beginning to wonder if they will get done this year at all. Unfortunately I was unable to attend last months membership meeting due to family obligations out of town. I have been told that the presentation put on by Mark Thompson about the Fusion repeaters and the Wires X system was very well received and brought up a couple of options the board has decided to look into for possible improvements to our own systems.

This month there is going to be a great presentation put on by Jennifer Van Zielegheh KD9FMJ about her exploits in portable operating and her involvement in POTA (Parks on the Air) events. For those of you who follow our Facebook page you probably have seen many of her posts about her activation's with POTA and have possibly even contacted her. I for one am looking forward to seeing her portable setup and hearing how she does these events.

On a more somber note, I would like to express my heart felt condolences to our Vice President Randy Long, AC9OF and his wife Lynn, KD9IFP on the sudden passing of his father after a brief illness, you will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers as you deal with your loss.

I hope to see you all at our next meeting on August 10th, 2018 at 7:00 pm at OSF Hospital in the Foundation Room.

73, Gordon Seaman KC9NEX  
2018 RARA President  
kc9nex@gmail.com



## 2018 RARA Officers & Board

### Officers:

President

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

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Randy Long, AC9OF  
815-978-6673  
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Open

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rlarson4@sbcglobal.net



## Editor's Note

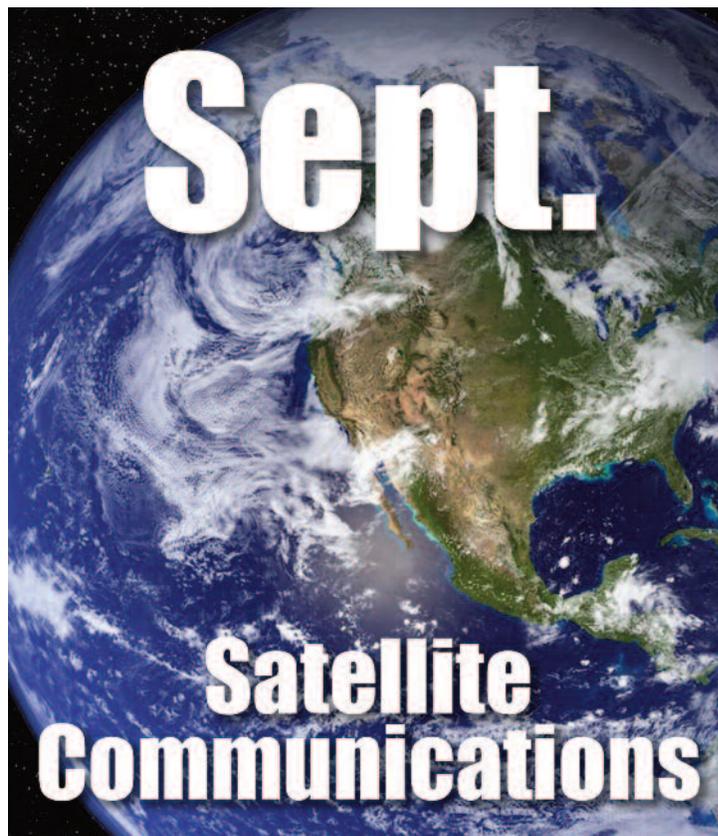
We have included everything received this month for the Hamrag.....

Thanks

Lynn Long KD9IFP

Hamrag Editor

randy@rdlgraphics.com.



**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**

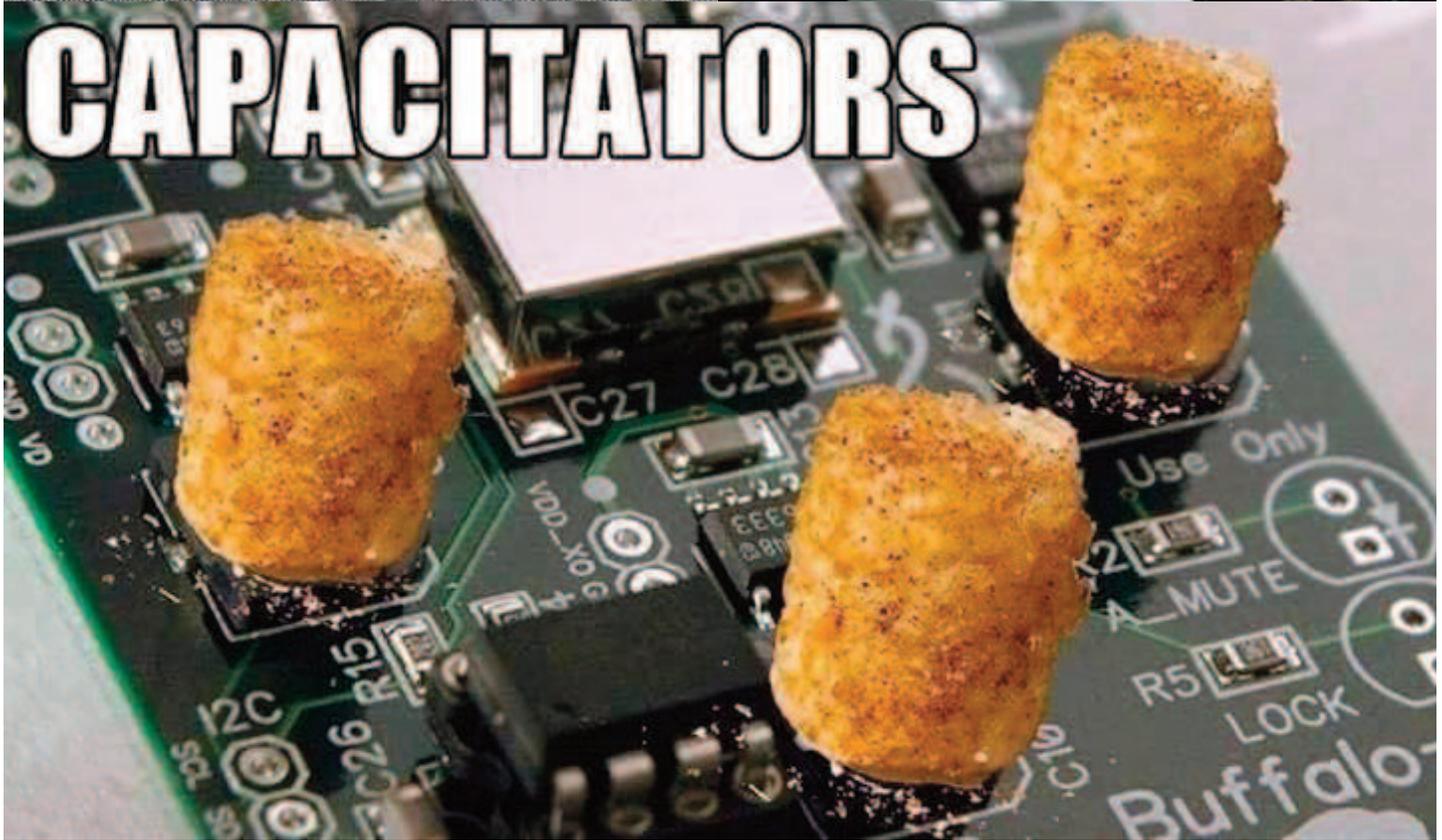
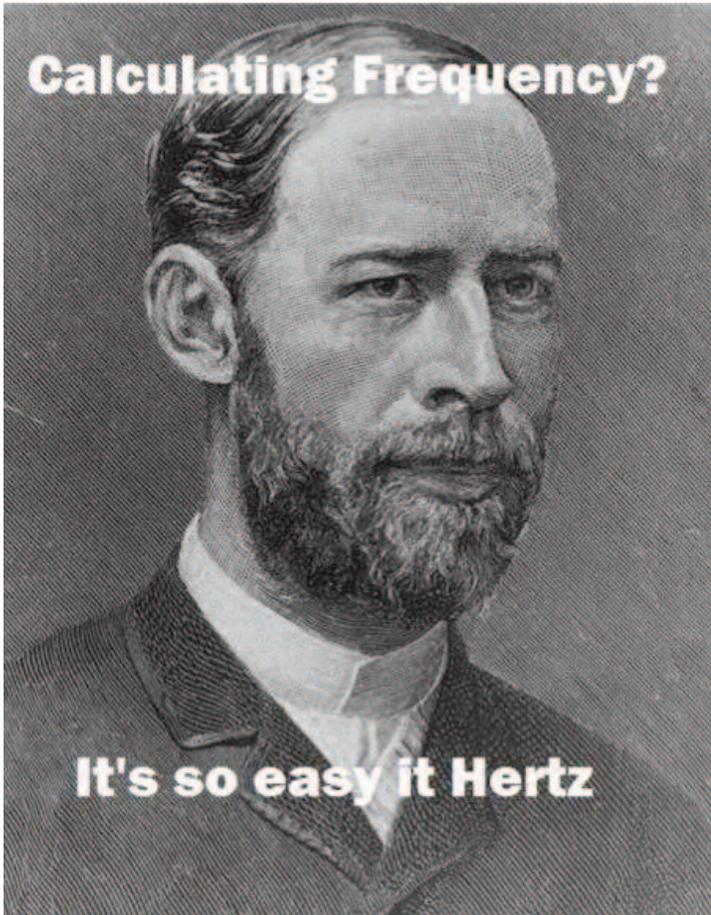
## RARA Repeaters

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.

## RARA Mission Statement

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

# Ham Funny





### Programs 2018

August - Portable Radio Systems

Jennifer Van Zieleghe KD9FMJ

September - Satellite Communications

October - Exothermic/Cadwelding

November - Contesting

December - Power Pole & Cable Assembly

### Meetings

August 10, 2018

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

August 21, 2018

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

September 14, 2018

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

September 18, 2018

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF



## Ham Testing

No tests given in July.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM August 18, 2018.

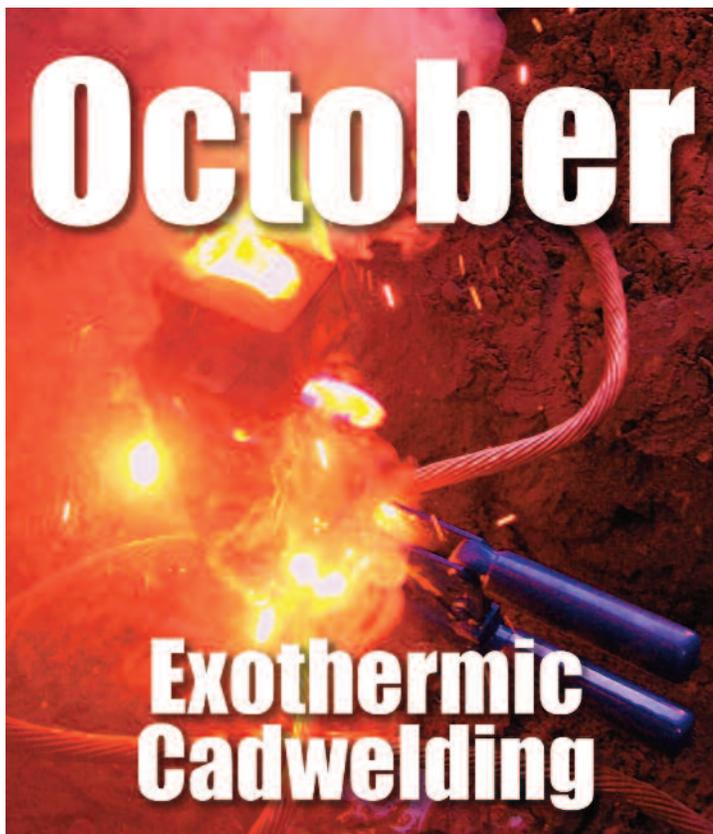
Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10AM, no exams started after 10:30.

We require two signature ID's and one photo. If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator bring a copy of your FCC ULS page with your call sign. 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 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





# Meeting Minutes

**July 13, 2018**

The meeting started at 7:05 pm with Kurt Eversole, KE9N, conducting the meeting. Number of people attending: 14

## **Introductions of all in attendance were made.**

### **June Meeting Minutes**

The June 8, 2018 meeting minutes were read by Kurt Eversole, KE9N. There were no additions or corrections. A motion to approve was made by Tom Shouler, N9VJU. The motion had a second by Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD. The motion passed.

### **Treasurers Report**

The Treasurers report was read by Kurt, KE9N. There were no bills that were paid and no additional income. The current balance is \$6431.41. A motion to approve was made by Tom Shouler, N9VJU, and seconded by Jim Curtis, KC9GOL. The motion passed.

### **Old Business**

#### **Subject: Field Day Results**

Discussion: We did not submit a score for Field Day because we had mutually agreed that we would operate Field Day as a social event, and not as a competitive event, however, there were 288 SSB contacts and approximately 65 CW contacts made.

### **New Business**

#### **Subject: Club Name Badges**

Discussion: Paul Johnston, W9PJ, suggested that we have RARA name badges and have the RARA Board consider supplying these to members and new members.

### **Program Information**

Program Subject: Yaesu System Fusion Digital Voice

Presenter: Mark Thompson, WB9QZB

Comments: Mark offered a good presentation on the benefits of Yaesu System Fusion, and how it compared to other types of digital voice formats such as D-Star, DMR, and others.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Jimmy Curtis, KC9GOL. A second was offered by Tom Shouler, N9VJU. The motion passed.

The meeting concluded at 9:15 pm.

**The meeting minutes were taken by Jim Hall, WA9EEE.**

**Submitted by Kurt Eversole, KE9N.**

# Ham Stuff For Sale

### **Timewave Navigator**

Mint in Box with Yaesu FT1000 Mk V cable.  
Paid \$449. Asking \$175 or trade.  
With receipt and paperwork.

Jim Holich AB9SX  
260-433-0219

# 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.

## Thursday Night Northern Illinois Skywarn net

at 8:00 PM on the 147.195.

**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.

**HF Net Information** - Head on over to the RARA website and take a look at the "Nets" page. We now have listings and links to great HF nets.

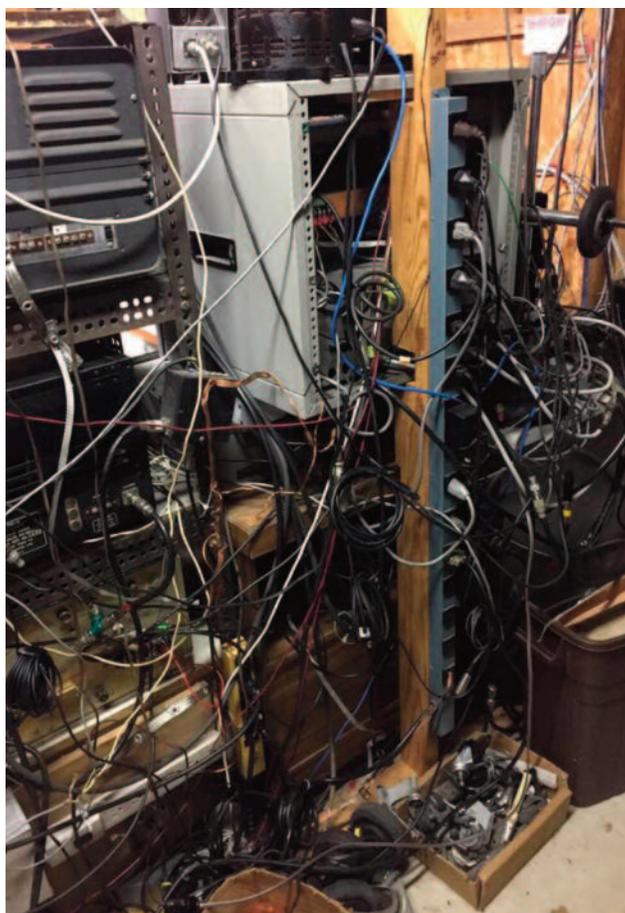
# Member Profile & Ham Shack

It has been suggested that we bring back an old Hamrag feature - "Member profiles and ham shack photos".

If you are interested in being featured in a future Hamrag we will need the following:

1. A good head and shoulders photo (of yourself).
2. A few photos of your shack and antenna system.
3. A nice profile story about yourself, how and why you are in the hobby, what modes you like working and what projects you're working on (see page 4 for a great example).

Send your photos and profile to:  
Lynn Long KD9IFP  
randy@rdlgraphics.com.



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# Just A Thought

## WHY THE BLANK PAGE IN THIS ISSUE?

In the age of smart devices, Facebook and the world wide web, has the Hamrag outlived its usefulness?

Over the past few months Lynn and I have noticed that lack of content support or the lack of interest in providing content for the RARA Hamrag.

We keep asking ourselves “are club members doing anything new, are they working on anything, are they not going to events? Or is all of the radio gear in the greater Rockford are sitting idle collecting dust?”

I don't think it's any of the above. With today's technology we are all just communicating using new and different methods than we did 20 years ago. The speed in which we transfer information has out paced the monthly Hamrag. It's not that we as a club don't talk between meetings. Its a fact that today RARA members are just accomplishing the same goals of the Hamrag with different tools.

What we used to wait each month for in the mail we now get that same day via Facebook or a text. Photos of that new project or Ham event are posted that same day. We ask questions or post solutions via Twitter and text messages. Youtube and Ebay have replace some of the need for Elmers and the local listings of equipment for sale. Times have changes and we have changed our communication methods. Good, bad or ugly, it's the truth of the times.

I think it's time as a club we need to consider retiring the Hamrag and embraced the new technology to its fullest. RARA has a great digital footprint started - Facebook, the website code is up-to-date and we have a YouTube channel ready to go..... Do we really need the Hamrag?

What if anything does the Hamrag provide that is not or could not be duplicated within our digital footprint? **NOTHING!**

My suggestion is that as a club, we embrace Facebook, the website and YouTube as our best methods of outreach today. Build excitement with fresh and continuous posts to possibly draw in new members. Continue to show what you are doing within the field of ham radio. Post photos of club events or personal experiences using your gear. Ask for help - give advice - provide solutions. Show the world what its like to be a RARA member and how we support and help our members.

It will take the effort of **ALL OF THE RARA MEMBERS** (not the same 4 or 5) to make our digital footprint the positive face of RARA just as the old printed Hamrag did years ago. Engage, promote and demonstrate the best of RARA and ham radio.

Remember, and this should go without saying.... keep your posts positive. If someone posts a question (there is never a stupid question) - that person is trying to grasp a concept or technique and needs help. However, there can always be a Jackass out there with a smug or belittling answer that should never be posted. Always be helpful, you were a newbie at one time and didn't know everything and had to ask a question, or ruined a piece of hardware to learn. Step-up and be an Elmer when you can. Answer the question, provide positive support and follow up if needed.

Just my thought.....

Randy Long AC9OF

# 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!**



## 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