



# HAMRAG

February 2018

## Feb 9th Contesting

Jennifer Van Zieleghe - KD9FMJ



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**Next Meeting: Contesting • Friday February 9th 7:00 PM  
Location: St. Anthony Medical Center • Foundation Room • 5666 E. State Street Rockford, IL**

# Presidents Message

Greetings all,

First, I would like to thank all those who attended our January awards banquet; I felt everyone had a great time and a great meal. There were also numerous ham conversations going on around the room with everyone sharing stories about contacts and new modes they were operating. For those who were unable to attend, we had a private room to ourselves and it worked out very well for our purposes, again thanks again to all who attended!

Well, here it is February already and all those outside antenna projects are still on hold, hopefully everyone has some inside "ham" projects to keep them busy for the upcoming warmer weather.

The board and I have been planning great presentations for the upcoming year, if you would like to see anything in particular, or have presentation ideas; please let anyone on the board know.

That is all I have for now, I hope to see you at the February meeting on the 9th, at 7:00pm.

Respectfully,  
Gordon Seaman  
2018 RARA President  
Kc9nex@gmail.com



Most of the 2017 RARA Board Members  
See page 8 for more information.



Ham Of The Year Kurt Eversole



## 2018 RARA Officers & Board

### Officers:

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

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

Secretary  
Open

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

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hyacinth27109@yahoo.com

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Larry Schubert, AC9GO  
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larry.schubert@gmail.com

### Special Projects:

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randy@rdlgraphics.com

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815-978-6673  
randy@rdlgraphics.com

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

# Winter Field Days





## Editor's Note

You may have noticed the new Hamrag design. I thought it might be nice for some of our readers that we increased the overall font size and simplify the design. Let me know what you think and any ideas you might have.

I'm also looking for information, articles and photos for the next issue. Please email your items by the first of each month to [randy@rdlgraphics.com](mailto:randy@rdlgraphics.com).

Thanks  
Lynn Long KD9IFP  
Hamrag Editor



**Congratulations!**  
*James  
Dorsey*  
**KC9GCR**

**Our great Net Control Operator has successfully passed his test to become a Ham Radio General License holder. Give Jim a shout out on the net.**

## 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

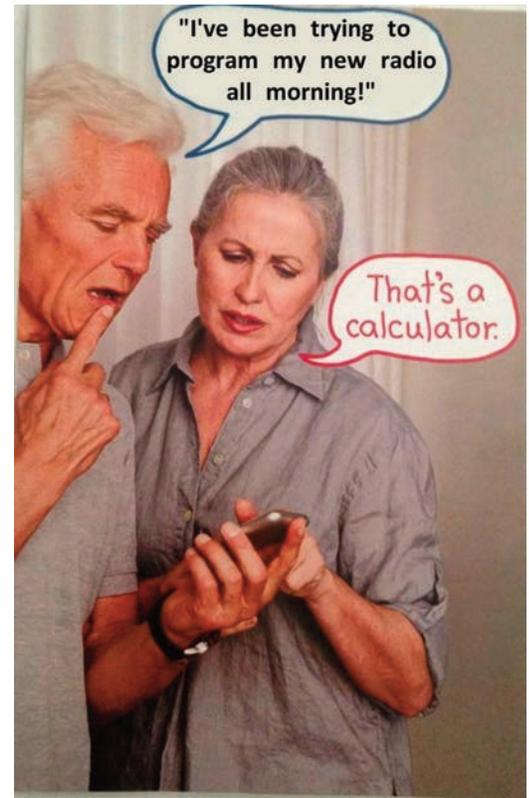
Job interview:

"What are your likes, dislikes, and hobbies?"

Me:

"I like radios. I dislike being without radios. My hobbies include radios, shopping for radios, installing radios, repairing radios, building and installing antennas for my radios, and talking on radios."

He said he would call me. I forgot to ask what band he would be on.



## An amplifier is like underwear...



...it's good to have, but you can get by without it!



# ARRL Contests Calendar



## January

Straight Key Night.....1  
 Kid's Day (Jan and Jun).....6  
 RTTY Roundup .....6-7  
 January VHF Contest .....20-22

## February

School Club Roundup  
 (Winter/Spring Term).....12-16  
 DX Contest – CW .....17-18

## March

DX Contest – SSB.....3-4

## April

Rookie Roundup (SSB) .....15

## June

June VHF Contest .....9-11  
 Kid's Day (Jan and Jun) .....16  
 Field Day .....23-24

## July

IARU HF  
 World Championship .....14-15

## August

222 MHz and Up  
 Distance Contest .....4-5  
 10 GHz and Up  
 Weekend #1 .....18-19  
 Rookie Roundup (RTTY) .....19

## September

September VHF Contest .....8-10  
 10 GHz and Up  
 Weekend #2 .....15-16  
 EME Weekend # 1  
 2.3G and Up.....29-30

## October

School Club Roundup  
 (Fall Term) .....15-19  
 EME Weekend # 2  
 50-1296 MHz .....27-28

## November

CW Sweepstakes .....3-5  
 Phone Sweepstakes.....17-19  
 EME Weekend # 3  
 50-1296 MHz .....24-25

## December

160-Meter Contest ....11/30-12/2  
 10-Meter Contest .....8-9  
 Rookie Roundup (CW) .....16

# Webmaster Code

The RARA website redesign is getting closer to being on-line. I have just a few more pages to rework and test. Very soon smart device ready...

I need your help in planning club meetings for the last half of 2018. RARA is looking for meeting ideas and volunteers to share thier knowledge. We as a club should not depend on the same four or five members to do all of the work. I've stepped up and taken a few for this year, you can too.

Randy AC90F  
 VP/Webmaster

w9axd.org



# 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.

## THE NEW KENWOOD TS99900 CONTESTING TRANSCEIVER



**1500 WATTS (MICROWAVE)  
2.3 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR  
10 CUP COFFEE POT  
200 WATT PEP SSB\***

\*ACTUAL OUTPUT MAY VARY DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF APPLIANCES CONCURRENTLY RUNNING



### Programs

- February - Contesting
- March - Soldering Skills For Beginners
- April - Fox Hunting
- May - Digital Communications
- June - Field Day Preparation and Planning
- July - Field Day In Review
- August - Connectors
- Power Poles & Cable Assembly

### Meetings

- February 9, 2018  
General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF
- February 20, 2018  
RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF
- March 9, 2018  
General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF
- March 20, 2018  
RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF



## Ham Testing

Adams, Fred M  
Upgrade to Extra K9Y00

Madely, William K  
Technician

Ramsteat, Vivian J  
Upgrade to General KD9JWG

Wrate, Christopher A  
Upgrade to General KB9UJC

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM Feb. 17, 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

January 12, 2018

Regular meeting rules were set aside due to the annual banquet held at Gerry's Pizza.

The gathering started at 5:00 pm with a social hour with ordering starting around 6:00 pm. There were 26 people present and all had a good time.

Following dinner, Gordon Seaman asked all 2017 officers, directors, and chairs to come to the front of the room. He then presented them with certificates of appreciation for their work in making the club a great success in 2017. The following are those who received certificates.

**Gordon Seaman** - President

**Kurt Eversole** - Vice President,  
Ham Rag Editor, and Field Day Chairman

**Bruce Carlson** - Secretary

**Jennifer Van Zieleghe** - Treasurer and  
Face Book Administrator

**John Goodwin** - Director

**Larry Schubert** - Director

**Jacek Gadja** - Director

**Randy Long** - Webmaster

**Ronald Callahan Jr.** - Repeater Chairman

**Robert Larson** - Repeater Trustee

Following the presentation of certificates, Gordon Seaman asked Kurt Eversole to stay in front, he then presented him with the Ham of the Year award.

Following the awards ceremony, Gordon Seaman thanked everyone for coming out and said he was optimistic for the 2018 year.

Respectfully Submitted  
Gordon Seaman



**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 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