

HAMRAG

April
2019

April 12th **The Pros & Cons
of Buying
or Selling
Old Equipment**

By: Kurt Eversole - KE9N

Inside This Issue:

Page 2 President's Message	Page 6 Upcoming Events Ham Mentor
Page 3 Editor's Note RARA Repeaters Friday Breakfast	Page 7 Ham Funny
Page 4 Shout Out Ham Testing	Page 8 Area Nets
Pages 5 Ham Radio Podcasts	Page 9 Meeting Notes
	Page 10-11 April In Durand
	Page 12 Membership Form



Next Meeting: Buying & Selling Old Equipment • Friday April 12th • 7:00 PM
Location: St. Anthony Medical Center • Foundation Room • 5666 E. State Street Rockford, IL

President's Message



Greetings all,

What did you do this last month to be **"RADIO ACTIVE"**?

Boy, that was a harsh way to start my message this month....

I'm getting a little concerned about the hobby of ham radio in general and some of the bad attitudes I see on-line. Yes, I know it's just a small group of people who post things on FaceBook or other social media. But at the same time we all need to take a step back and ask ourselves "am I part of the reason people ask what is Ham Radio?" or "I used to belong to a club but was put off by its members".

Part of being **RADIO ACTIVE** is being **RADIO PROACTIVE**.

1. Step out and help another ham who has a question or a shack problem. We are not all electronic engineers or have a mechanical background. Something that is very simple and basic to you is like quantum physics to another ham. Just don't say Google it or YouTube it... That one-on-one teaching is, and will always be the best way to transfer skills. Remember at one time you may have not known the difference between AC/DC (not the band). See page 6 about our new HAM Mentoring program.

2. To get someone interested in the hobby they need to know what it is we do and some basic information on how we do it. Reaching out to the general public is a very important step in the right direction. Our first venture will be the April in Durand event on the 27th of this month. Please see me at the meeting and sign up to help or provide something we can display. See pages 10 & 11.

3. Watch ourselves from becoming negative about the state of the hobby. As a whole RARA is a great group of friendly, sharing and fun hams. We need to work hard to keep it that way and use our club to welcome new people/members to the world of ham radio.

Randy Long, AC9OF
2019 RARA President

RARA still needs one more board member - **yes I'm pointing right at YOU.**



2019 RARA Officers & Board

Officers:

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

Vice President
Jennifer Van Zieleghe
KD9FMJ
815-222-4221
jenleek@usa.com

Secretary
Greg Kuczek, W9VOX
815-713-5461
w9vox@comcast.net

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

Directors:

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

Kurt Eversole, KE9N
815-389-2784
kurt.eversole@gmail.com

John Mori, N8TA
(815) 484-3657
johnlmori@icloud.com

1 Open Director
Please Volunteer

Special Projects:

Repeater Chairman
Kurt Eversole, KE9N
815-389-2784
kurt.eversole@gmail.com

Hamrag Editor
Lynn Long, KD9IFP
815-978-6673
randy@rdlgraphics.com

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



Editor's Note

Some GREAT stuff in this months HamRag. RARA Members are starting to step up and help... A BIG THANK YOU for helping to improve the HamRag!

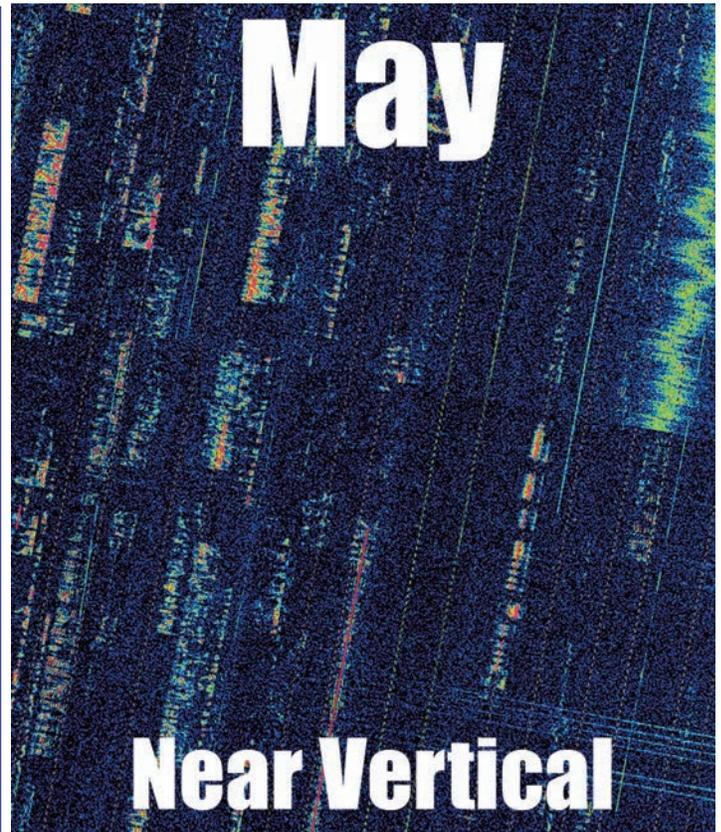
Thanks!
Lynn Long KD9IFP
Hamrag Editor
randy@rdlgraphics.com.



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.

SHOUT OUT

The term "shout out" seems to be used often in today's world. A shout out is a public expression of thanks. I would hope other members would send their shout outs to the newsletter when someone helps them with a radio project or problem. When fellow members read these stories it shows that fellow club members are there to help them.

My shout out goes to Jim, WA9EEE and Carl WW9P. Jim started talking to me about the DMR digital mode and I became interested. I did not realize how complex DMR is and that it is changing so fast. Jim's knowledge of DMR runs deep and he is constantly keeping up with the mode's rapid changes.

Well, I am finally on the mode thanks to Jim's efforts. During this time Jim and I exchanged over 110 emails and several phone calls. Jim also created the data set, known as a codeplug, and assisted me in sending it to the radio.

I also want to thank Carl, WW9P, for his assistance. I went to Carl's shack and he took the time to tailor my data set to his DMR repeater. I made my first DMR contact by using his repeater.

I am sure that many members of our club have been helped by another RARA member. Send them a note of thanks by writing your thanks and submit it to Randy and Lynn so it can be published in the HamRag. This is important because it demonstrates that RARA members care for the success of fellow hams.

John - N8TA



Ham Testing

In February we had 3 successful applicants:

Cleaver, Jon K.
Technician & General

Keaggy, Dave H.
Technician

McDonough, Jason R.
Upgrade to Extra KC9UNC

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM April 20, 2019.

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

Ham Radio Podcasts

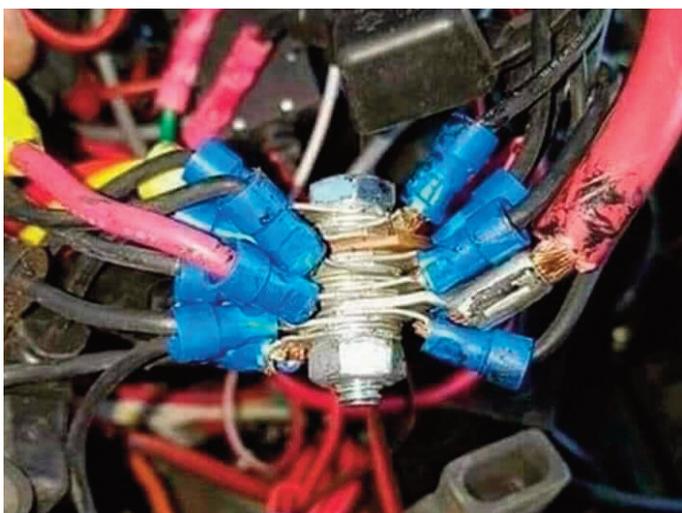
For one reason or another I hadn't been active for several years when I discovered podcasts on my computer. I listened to several podcasts from around the globe talking about everything that I was interested in including computers, Linux and a whole host of things. Then Leo Laport, one of the guys I listened to, started the TWIT network and then a podcast for ham radio called Ham Nation. I got hooked. From that I found Amateur Logic and when I decided to go for my Extra I found several websites that provided practice tests for all of the licenses.

Though I found apps for my phone that had and gave you a practice test for the different licenses, the one I found that I liked the best was Hamstudy.org. The site is free, and it is supported by Icom. I liked it for two reasons. First, if you missed a question, you could click on it and get an explanation, and though I was using the Extra Exam book from the ARRL, it was much easier and faster to go to the answer provided by the test. Also the way the questions were handled by the test worked the best for me, because the questions I would miss would be repeated in later practice tests until you knew them. This did a couple of things. It actually would make me study harder because I seemed to be stuck for a while right at the point where I might or might not pass the exam.

Though I seemed to be stuck just above the passing point when I went for the test, I passed with more points than I needed. The ARRL and QRZ among others provide practice tests as well. I've been an Extra for 7 years now so they may all work in about the same way.

Ham Nation and Amateur Logic podcasts are both well produced podcasts with good video as well as voice available. I rarely see the live cast of Ham Nation, and I've never seen the live presentation of Amateur Logic though I've watched both now for several years. I like to get them on ROKU. It just makes it easier then on the computer. By the way, if you want to see video from a computer on the web, I recommend the ROKU. To find out how to repair almost anything just use it to go to YouTube, and if you hunt a little you can find movies or what ever you want. On Facebook you can find the group "One Hundred Watts and a Wire" Reddit has another that my wife just told me about that is popular. I just listened to SolderSmoke.com the other day for the first time. The podcast seemed to start off slow but seemed to have a lot of meat to it after it got going. I'm sure there are several others that I don't know about. If you have a favorite, let me know and I'll pass it along.

73 Larry AC9GO larry.schubert@gmail.com





Programs 2019

April - The Pros and Cons of Buying or Selling Old Equipment

May - Near Vertical?

June - Field Day Planning and Preview

July - Parks On The Air (POTA)

August - Radio Estate Planning - Helping Your Family Understand What's in the Ham Shack

September - Radio Fox Hunt Training

Meetings

April 12, 2019

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

April 16, 2019

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

May 10, 2019

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

May 21, 2019

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

RARA HAMMentor

RARA officers are interested in creating a pool of Elmers and/or mentors who are willing to help new and even experienced amateurs with a problem or to provide needed information.

The club may be losing future members because there is no follow-up after these new hams pass their examination. Even current members may feel that they are "on their own" to solve a problem. If no help seems to be available our existing members may eventually lose interest in the club.

The club needs to work with the VE testing group to let these new amateurs or prospective amateurs know that help is available.

By sharing the load among several amateurs it means that any one volunteer would be asked for help only one or two times a year. The Mentor Coordinator would call the volunteer to determine if she/he is available.

We will begin this program by asking the members for their ideas as to the best way to develop this service.

John - N8TA

HAM RADIO FLASH BULBS

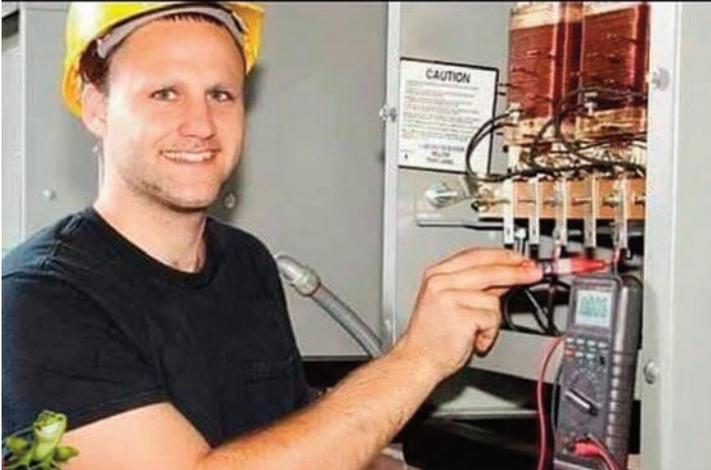


A ham without an Elmer is like:



Ham Funny

NEVER TRUST AN ELECTRICIAN WITH NO EYEBROWS



WHEN YOU'RE NOT SURE IF YOU'RE HEARING THE BEEPS OR JUST IMAGINING THEM:



Reason #37,482 for buying another radio:



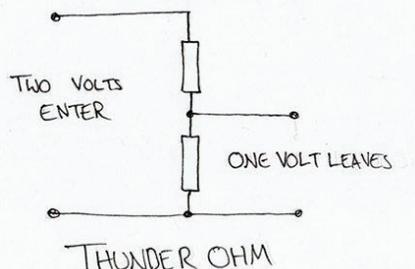
Every cat deserves a warm radio!



"Okay, we've text, tweeted and emailed the old man. Does anyone know Morse code?"



I HOPE THE HOA DOESN'T NOTICE



No one knows you are a dog when you are on the radio.



Area Nets

MONDAY

8:00 PM - 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 every Monday, except on holidays.

8:00 PM - VARA (Valley Amateur Repeater Association) Net 176.790 (-, 107.2)

8:00 PM - WX9MCS Repeater Ham Radio Traders Net (Echolink) 444.725

8:00 PM - McHenry County ARES/RACES Net 146.835 (-,91.5)(This net is also conducted on the 1st and 3rd Saturday's of each month @ 8:00pm)

8:30 PM - Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club Net 146.730 (-, 100.0)

9:00 PM - 10 Meter Net 28.375 Rockford, IL

TUESDAY

7:00 PM - Rock County ARES / RACES 145.450 - PL 123.0 Janesville, WI

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

9:00 PM - Wisconsin ARES / RACES Statewide - Digital 145.610 - KB9UNX-10 Winlink 2000

WEDNESDAY

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

7:00 PM - WX9MCS Repeater National Weather Service in Chicago/Romeoville Weekly Weather Net 444.725 (Echolink)

8:00 PM - Freeport Swap Net 147.390 Freeport, IL

8:00 PM - N9SZV Six Meter Net 51.540 FM Simplex

9:00 PM - Madison Amateur Radio Association 147.150 - PL 123.0 Madison, WI

THURSDAY

7:00 PM - Thursday Night Northern Illinois ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Net and Thursday Night Northern Illinois Skywarn net, on the 147.195 + offset (pl 114.8) repeater.

9:00 PM - ATV Net Video 439.250 (cable channel 57) Voice 144.340 Rockford, IL

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

8:00 PM - McHenry County ARES/RACES Net 146.835 (-,91.5) This net is conducted on the 1st and 3rd Saturday's of each month (also ever Monday @ 8:00pm)

SUNDAY

4:30 PM - Illinois ARES Net 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month 145.350 - PL 107.2 (Chicago) 46.925 - PL 100.0 (Kane County)

7:30 PM - Arrow Net 144.410 Woodstock / Mc Henry

8:00 PM - Big Thunder ARES Net 147.375 - PL 100.0 Belvidere, IL

8:00 PM - Southern Wisconsin Listeners (SWL) Net 147.150 - PL 123.0 Madison, WI

OTHER NETS

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.



Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Randy AC90F with 18 present at the meeting.

Last Meeting Minutes

No minutes read because February membership meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Treasurer's Report

Report presented by Gordy KC9NEX.

Motion to accept by Jim KC9GOL and seconded by Jim AB9SX. Passed by membership vote.

Old Business

No old business discussed.

New Business

Gordy KC9NEX advised that Kurt KE9N was going to be in WI and participating in the WI QSO party.

Looking for volunteers to work the Army Johnson Race scheduled for April 6th. Contact Bill KC9OJP for more details.

Greg W9VOX inquired on how to go about submitting Hamrag classifieds. Randy AC90F advised that he would need the information two weeks in advance of Hamrag publishing.

There were discussions on how to go about uploading RARA presentations onto Youtube.

Jen KD9FMJ shared her positive experiences learning CW with CW Academy.

Presentation

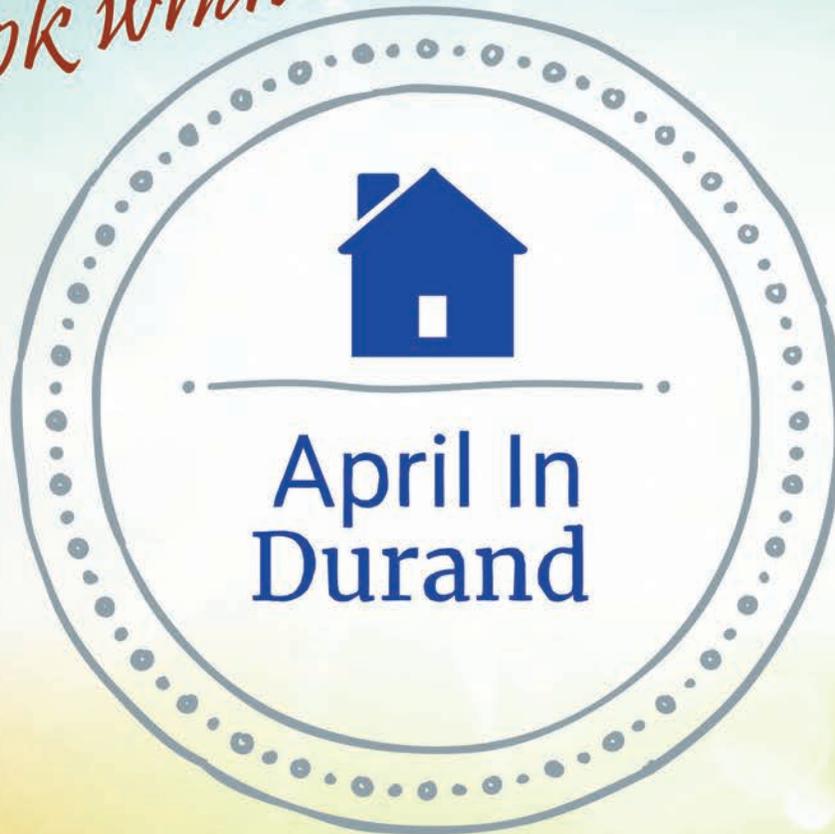
Randy AC90F delivered a presentation focused on how RARA can get more involved in community outreach with the idea of getting others interested in the hobby.

Randy advised that RARA will be participating in 'April in Durand' and is looking for banner ideas, volunteers and equipment to put on display.

Motion to adjourn by Gordy KC9NEX and seconded by Jen KD9FMJ. Passed by membership vote.



Look what's coming back..



April 27, 2019
9:00 - 3:00
Durand School

- LOCAL BUSINESSES** **LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**
- DURAND CHARM PLANT SALE** **DIRECT SALES**
- APPRAISAL SERVICES BY HACK'S AUCTION**
- BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS BY DURAND FIRE DEPT.**

For more information or to register as a vendor email aprilindurand@gmail.com
 or call Lisatte at 630-677-4699
 \$40 Vendor fee, \$10 discount for DARTS Members



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 cover for meeting details), fill out the form and bring the form with your payment to the meeting and see our treasurer. **Thank you for your support!**



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

website: w9axd.org

Membership Type: New (New memberships after July 1st are 1/2 price) Renewal

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

\$35 - Adult (25-61 years old) \$25 - Senior (Starts the year you will turn 62)

Above rate includes the
RARA monthly newsletter, HamRag (website download)
HamRag 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

All membership applications to become either a new member or to be reinstated as a member of RARA must be approved by the RARA board.

Approved: _____ Membership Year ____/____/____ to ____/____/____