



# HAMRAG

February  
2019

# Feb. 8th A Ham Radio Mystery

By: TBA

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Next Meeting: A Ham Radio Mystery • Friday February 8th • 7:00 PM  
Location: St. Anthony Medical Center • Foundation Room • 5666 E. State Street Rockford, IL

# President's Message



Greetings all,

A new month, a new opportunity to become **"RADIO ACTIVE"**!

What a fun Awards Banquet this year. I was very happy to see Jen KD9FMJ be awarded the "Ham of The Year", for her great energy and excitement about all things ham radio. Jen is a dynamic asset to our local club and now is stepping out and giving her great presentations to other clubs. Way to go Jen! Talk about being **RADIO ACTIVE!**

We still need members to step up and help this year. RARA still has one Director position open. Two RARA members have volunteered to help by becoming Directors for 2019. Special thanks to Kurt Eversol KE9N and John Mori N8TA. We need just one more...

Jen has had a couple of members take on a program each this year but we need more. I would really like to see a new face up front each month. We should not depend on the same handful of members to take on three or four programs in a year. Help spread the work load.... Everyone has something that they can share about for 15 to 30 minutes. Step out of your comfort zone, pick a subject and put a program together. You don't need videos or a slide show to have a good program. You just need to share what you are doing in ham radio. Give us your tips on how to do something - you might be surprised others have not thought about approaching that topic from the same direction.

The board has started to toss around ideas to improve Field Day this year. We would really like to hear your ideas on how to reach out to the general public and grow RARA with new hams.

There is also a very important membership survey on page five. The question has been placed before the RARA board about changing the day of our meeting. Please, we need to hear from you on this.

Remember to be **"Radio Active"** in 2019 and help grow RARA! See the volunteer sheet on page four. **GET RADIO ACTIVE TODAY!**

Sincerely;

Randy Long, AC9OF  
2019 RARA President



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

### Directors:

Jacek Gadjka, KD9ELI  
773-505-5604  
hyacynth27109@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  
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815-978-6673  
randy@rdlgraphics.com

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



# Editor's Note

## What Do You Have That I Need?

Thanks to Larry AC9GO for another great article this month. Anyone else have an article or photos for the next issue? **BECOME RADIO ACTIVE** help fill 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**

**March**  
**We need YOU!**



**TBA**



**Meeting Program**

# 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.



# 2019 RARA Radio Active Volunteer Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in volunteering as a RARA Board member:

I Would like to volunteer to help Jen with a program or two in 2019:

Program Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Month: \_\_\_\_\_

I have an idea for Field Day and will volunteer to help make it work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I have other ideas for the club and will volunteer to help make them work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# RARA Member Survey

During the RARA board meeting in December we had a lengthy discussion. Are we limiting the potential of club growth and limiting the availability of outside speakers because our club meetings are held on Friday nights and not mid-week like many clubs in the region?

Good points were made both pro and con and it boiled down to the following basic points.

- For potential younger members Friday can be any of the following: date night, school and family events or the kickoff to the weekend after a long work week.
- Are we limiting potential outside speakers for the same reasons?
- It is a fact that some of our members work in the retail and service industries, and Friday nights are difficult if not impossible to get off

on a consistent basis and thus limits their opportunities to learn or share.

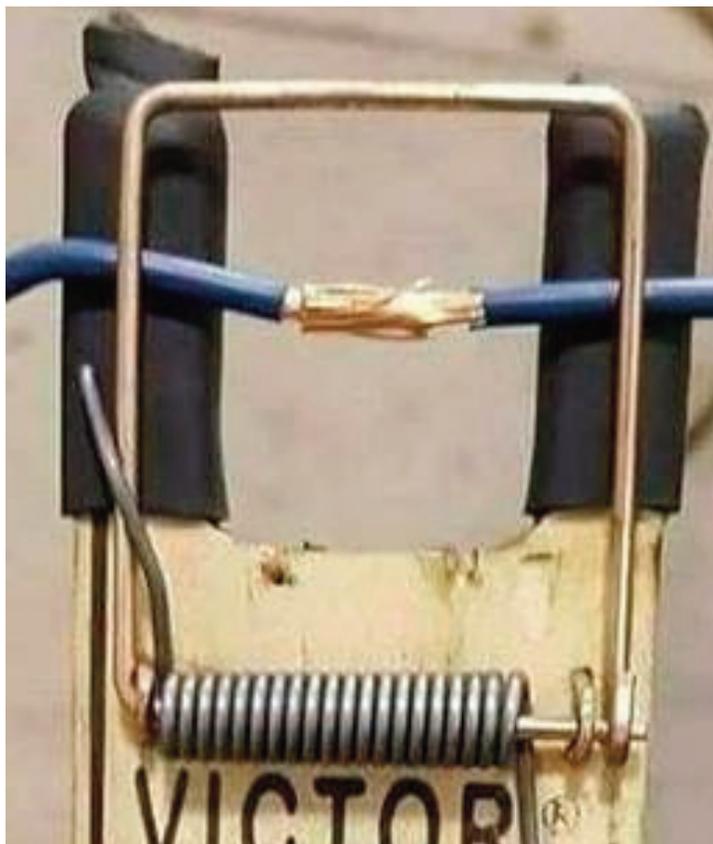
The conclusion was to consider moving our club meeting night to the second Tuesday of each month with the same start time.

The board would like to hear your thoughts and comments concerning the day move. How will it work or not work for you? Please let a board member know or drop me an email and I will pass them along at the next board meeting.

Remember our goal is to grow RARA in 2019.

Sincerely;

Randy Long, AC90F  
2019 RARA President  
randy@rdlgraphics.com



**April**

**We need YOU!**

**TBA**

**Meeting Program**




# Equipment for the New Ham

Many of the Hams on the air today started out in the older system of licensing that included the Morse Code. Many of us started out at five words a minute and made contacts for a year or two tapping on a key. It was a good way to get started in the world of ham radio, but it is the old fashioned way, and with so many ways available to communicate today it was inevitable that things would change. It was a different time, and it takes different equipment to do what we do today.

Now if you want to communicate by CW (Morse Code), those old receivers, transmitters, and transceivers will still do the job, and in a lot of cases it will do it very well. The thing you have to know is that you may never be able to make a digital contact with what we affectionately call a boat anchor. Why? Some did a real good job of receiving or transmitting at the time, but that was for that time. Many were good for AM and CW (Morse Code), but for some, that is all they did. A lot of us "old farts" that have been in the hobby remember the days when you had to buy or make add-on equipment to make a rig useful for side band. Then there were the rigs that had to heat up for an hour or more to be stable enough to put on the air. Drift? You bet! The old tube rigs not only had to get hot, but many a Ham used them to heat up a small room in the garage or basement that made up his or her shack. For the bigger rooms, you didn't buy a heater, you found a linear amplifier and heat was no longer a problem. Those were the good old days, NOT. Oh we had a fun, don't get me wrong, and many of us like to collect those antiques, but face it compared to an Icom 7300 or a Yaesu FTDX 1200, that old stuff just can't compare.

The first setup I had was as cheap as they come. I had a Lafayette kit short wave receiver that I had paid \$15 for and the transmitter cost me \$10. I think it may have been a Heath kit HW 1. I'm not sure because I have one, it puts out 60

watts, and I've had it so long, I can't remember when I got it. I only worked 80 Meters with it because the receiver I had was so bad the only band I could hear was 80. I worked CW only, and managed talking around the country including Alaska and Hawaii. I had a good antenna, a vertical that was not mounted properly (no ground wires), but I still had less than \$150 in the whole outfit.

Why am I telling you all of this? Frankly, a lot of us don't have a lot of money when we get started, and it takes some studying to figure out what to get, so you can try out some of the latest methods of communication. There are very few tube rigs that could even approach today's digital communication. There are a ton of places where you can buy a transceiver at a reasonable price that would make a great first rig, and with a little wire and a couple of insulators thrown up between a couple of trees you are in business. For a few dollars more you could make an interface with your computer and go digital. We have guys in the club that can tell you how to do these things, and show you how to avoid being ripped off when you buy something. Yes, it is possible to spend hundreds of dollars on what looks like a great rig only to find out that it was hit by lightning, or it just will not do what you expected, or that you have been scammed.

What ever you want to do with ham radio, we have people in the club that can show you how to do it. I don't care if it is slow scan or fast scan tv, the latest digital modes, making an antenna, finding hidden transmitters, cw, rtty, talking to the space station, ssb, programming a handy talky, contesting, or buying your first rig. We have people in the club that can help you because they have done it.

Right now, the officers are asking what programs you want to see this year. Let them know what you are interested in hearing about, or send me

**Continued Next Page**

## Equipment Continued...

an email, and I'll tell them. Why did I call this article Equipment? Well soon, Kurt (KE9N) will devote a presentation on buying a rig. Like me, when he started in Ham radio money was scarce. I know you will find his presentation very informative. See you at the next meeting. By the way, we have a new member that is an expert with making things on a 3d printer. I think I can talk him into bringing a printer to a meeting and doing a presentation for us.

Let me know what you want to see either here as an article or as a presentation.

73 , AC9GO larry.schubert@gmail.com



## Ham Testing

No testing in January due to snow.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM February 16, 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



### Programs 2019

Feb 2019 - A Ham Radio Mystery

### Meetings

February 8, 2019

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

February 19, 2019

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

March 8, 2019

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

March 19, 2019

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

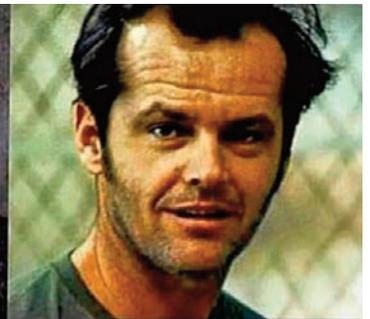


# Ham Funny

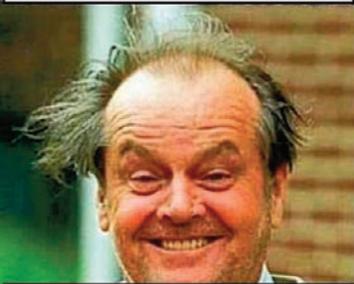
OLD HAMS DESCRIBING THE TEST THEY HAD TO TAKE:



NOVICE



TECHNICIAN



GENERAL

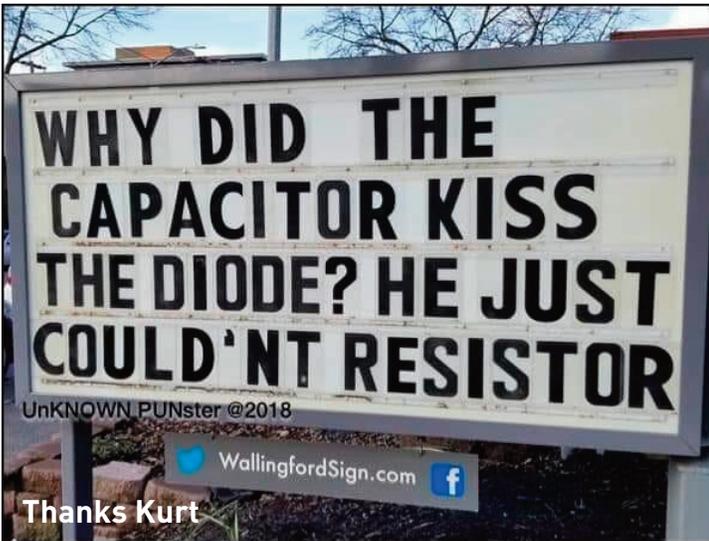


EXTRA

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS



DRINK AND ANTENNA.

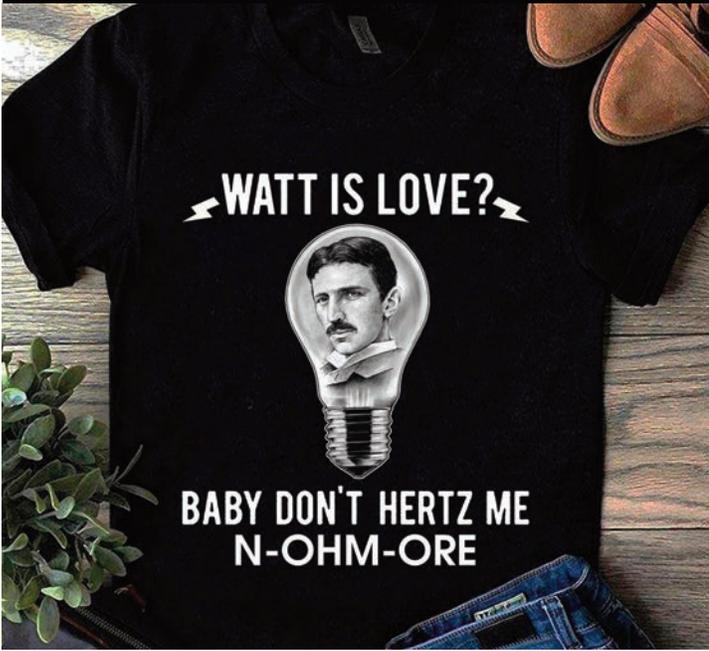


Thanks Kurt

ARE THESE THE CORRECT FERRETS



FOR MY NEW US BEE CABLE?





# Meeting Minutes

Jan. 11, 2019

No real meeting notes....

As it was the awards dinner and members started to show up at Gerry's Pizza around 5pm.

Dinner orders were placed around 6pm.

Awards were handed out around 7pm.

Gordon KC9NEX presented certificates to the 2018 board members and special project volunteers.

Gordon also presented Jennifer Van Zielegheh KD9FMJ with the "Ham Of The Year" award.

Jen was also recognized by Randy AC9OF for her outstanding help with the meeting programs in 2018 with the "Royal Order Of The Ham - Special Quality Level 72-3/4" merit badge.



Our new President for 2019 Randy AC9OF made a short closing statement just prior to the close of the night.

A good time was had by all.

Randy AC9OF

## 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 and Thursday Night Northern Illinois Skywarn net**  
at 7:00 pm on the 147.195 + offset (pl 114.8) repeater.

**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.

# 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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_