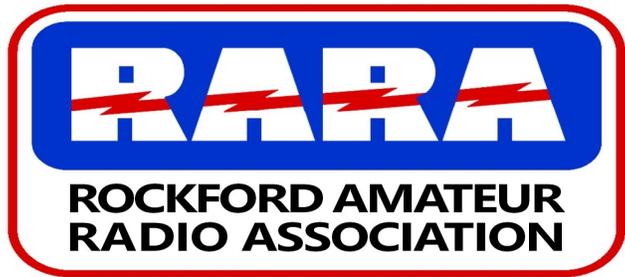


# HAMRAG

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.

**October 2020**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

## Presidents Message

October letter 2020

Hi and welcome to October. Here we are still looking for a get out of jail card. None of us could have thought that the year of 2020 could have turned out like this, and the problem is that 2021 isn't looking much better at this point. I've been racking my brain to find a way that we might do more as a club, but most ideas I come up with include getting together, and the problem with that of course is someone not knowing that they have the virus could pass of a death sentence to many of the rest of us, and I'm not willing to take the chance of that happening.

Before we started having our meetings of the air, I asked the club if we should have our meetings on the air or if we should use zoom on the computers, and the answer I got was that we are a Ham radio club and that we should be on the air. As this has gone on now for several months, I think it is time to revisit it. We might try something a little different. Maybe have a presentation on *You Tube* and then discuss it on the air, or have a presentation on *Zoom* and discuss it on *Zoom*. Maybe you have a better idea. I'd like to hear from you. I discussed this with several board members, and they really didn't have much to add either. We will talk about it Friday night as we meet as a club on the 146.610. As always if we have problems with the 610, we'll go to the 147.195.

Say, if you haven't joined us on any of the nets that we have going, you have been loosing out. Just to give you a quick run down. We have nets at 7 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday on either 146.610 or 147.195 and 8 pm on Friday night. Also a new net has just started on 10 meters at 28,425 and it's getting a lot of action. Yes, it's in the Tech band on USB. The nets have given us a lot of new friends, and I feel that we are becoming a closer group. One thing for sure, two meters hasn't seen this kind of action in years.

See you on the air Friday night at 7pm for the club meeting, and before if you join us on one of the nets.

Have fun, but be careful out there.  
Larry AC9GO  
larry.schubert@gmail.com

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## NEXT MEETING

**Friday  
October 9  
7:00 PM**

**Live**

**On AIR**

**146.610  
Repeater  
Or  
147.195**



## Extra + Technician License Prep Class Schedules On Line

**\*\*Please forward to all those friends or Club members who might be interested. ALL are welcome! \*\***

Gary Wise and Dave Ivey. Classes are delivered free to all those who are interested.

Zoom participation in both classes is now full but anyone can watch the Live streams or the Recorded versions on YouTube at Gary Wise's channel ([youtube.com/c/w4eey](https://www.youtube.com/c/w4eey)).

If someone is planning to participate via YouTube they can email Gary ([w4eey@arrl.net](mailto:w4eey@arrl.net)) and he will add them to a mailing list to receive weekly updates and links to the Handout material.

The adventure begins!

**William Whelan** [bwln82@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bwln82@sbcglobal.net)  
KD9JYS



Are these our future Hams?

Antenna thoughts  
by  
Larry Schubert

In recent years I've had a number of antennas. For a while I had a G5RV that I used on 80 threw 10 meters, and a 2 meter ground plane which was mostly home brew. Both were up about 25 feet on a TV mast from Farm and Fleet that was made of steel tubing pieces about 5 feet long that fit into one another to make up the total footage. The ground plane was mounted at the top and the G5RV was a short ways below it. When it was up it worked fine with a tuner on the HF bands most 2 M transceivers don't really seem to care as long you are close. Notice I said when it was up, because the wind would take it down about three or four times a year. The other thing is we had beautiful sun spots at the time, and I was getting out all over the world so I was happy. Then the sun spots went out and I wasn't happy, not to mention the fact that my 2 M was trashed by this time because it had hit the ground so many times. I also got a 1k after burner, that just didn't like the G5RV even after I got a tuner that would handle it.

What to do? What to do? I decided to take down the G5RV and the broken ground plane, and bought a 20/40 M dipole, and a new ground plane. Over the years I've built a lot of antennas. I thought I'd try the commercial ones for a change. I really hoped that there was going to be a difference, but it didn't happen. Then the thought came to me that I should check to see what the QRP guys were doing to make contacts. I knew it had to be a better system then the one I was using, because they are making contacts with the power to run an old fashion night lite, and less, so what is their secret. I decided to check out these guys on *You Tube* to find out what they are doing.

What I have found so far is a number of things. First, choose an antenna that will put a signal to the area you have chosen to make contacts with, and get it up as high as you can unless you are putting up a NVIS antenna to cover an area up to a few hundred miles. The NVIS is designed 80 M or lower. The object is to shoot the signal straight up to bounce it straight down. It will generally cover an area of 300 miles or so. Since many of our antennas are designed for DX with a much lower angle of radiation, much of the power we use goes over the local area, and is simply wasted if you are trying to talk to someone in the area that an NVIS antenna would cover. If you have a transceiver that covers 80 threw 6 Meters, it probably will put out 100 watts ssb. If you are going to compete with the big guns, the guys with 1500 watts on two or three beams up to 150 feet, you have to be in the right place and have an efficient antenna that can point your 100 watts in the right direction. It helps also if your voice is set for the sound that best modulates your signal. I have a low voice, and over the years even when I was in commercial broadcasting I had to cut the lows taken in by the microphone. Most commercial grade Microphones have a switch or variable pot to roll off lows.

So what is the secret of the QRP guys? What is it that they do or use to enable contacts? First, they look for locations that have a good elevation, and a means of getting their wire up in the air. I doubt that you would ever find a QRP setup in a low spot surrounded by a forest. Look instead for an open field with a few tall trees. The antenna may vary, but it will be resonate or have a good SWR. Two antennas seem to stand out in the videos that I reviewed were long wire antennas. The random length long wire with a 9 to 1 unun, and the end fed half wave antenna with a RF transformer match. The end half wave on 80 M will be resonate on most bands down to and maybe even 6 M. The QRP experts use a lot of cw and even some of the digital modes for communication. They can get more horse power out of 5 Watts then my scotch grandmother could get uses out of a bar of soap, and I've been told that was a lot.

73 & be careful out there AC9GO Larry

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

Contact Brandon for more information as to the Freeport IL testing times and location.

Brandon J McGrew [bmacmagoo@hotmail.com](mailto:bmacmagoo@hotmail.com) There is also testing available in Janesville.

Contact [wi9fry@gmail.com](mailto:wi9fry@gmail.com) For mote info.

## 2020 RARA Officers and Board

### **Officers:**

President - Larry Schubert, AC9GO, 815-624-7772, [larry.schubert@gmail.com](mailto:larry.schubert@gmail.com)  
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Repeater License Trustee - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, [kc9nex@gmail.com](mailto:kc9nex@gmail.com)

## Local Events and Information

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 9, 2020** - On Live Radio 7pm - 146.610

Weekly Monday Night Net 7 pm

Weekly—Tuesday Night Net - Thursday Night Net (see info below)

### 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.

**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.

**Tuesday Night Health Net**—**146.610** hosted by Bill KC9OJP, 7 pm

**Thursday Night Health Net**— **147.195** hosted by Larry AC9GO, 7 pm

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