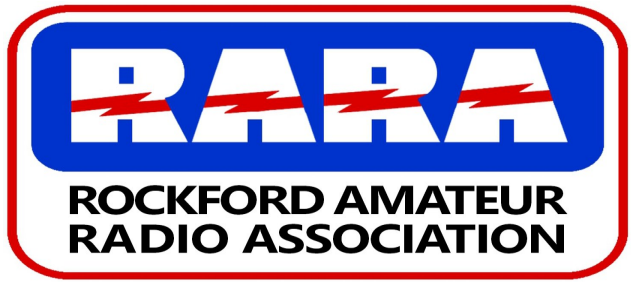


HAMRAG

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.

November 2023

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Presidents Message

Hello Everybody,

Wow, we sure had a great time helping the scouts at the JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) event last month at Camp Winnebago. Many thanks to everyone who came out and helped to make it a success. More information is inside the Hamrag.

Our meeting on Friday will be about RARA in 2024. We will be having our elections for officers and directors for the RARA Board in 2024. The Board consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Directors. Please help us fill these positions and come to the meeting and vote or volunteer for one of these positions. See page 6 for more details.

Our dues for 2024 will remain the same at \$25.00, and you can renew your membership, or join now, and your payment and membership will be good thru December 2024. See the membership form on the last page.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with all the RARA activities, nets, and meetings this past year! Our membership is invaluable.

73,
Kurt Eversole—KE9N

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
November 10, 2023
7:00pm

“Elections for 2024”

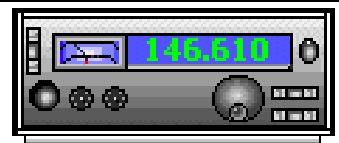
Located in the Foundation Room

Location:
OSF St. Anthony
Medical Center
5666 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108

SATERN is coming back to Rockford

Yes, I am happy to say that there are plans being worked out right now to have a SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) group in Rockford again. There is new leadership and there is a desire to utilize our abilities for the Salvation Army. We are currently in the early phases of things, so it is getting exciting. It doesn't matter what class license you hold or the amount of knowledge, but if you have an interest in SATERN please let me know. I hope to do a presentation soon at a RARA meeting in addition to an informational meeting at the EDS Headquarters in Rockford.

Scott DeSantis, KB9VRW
SATERN Coordinator for North and Central Illinois
Email: Kb9vrw@gmail.com
Cell: 815-790-9690



Local Events and Information

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 10, 2023 RARA Membership Meeting 7:00pm
November 22, 2023 RARA Board Meeting 7:00pm on Google Meet
December 8, 2023 RARA Membership Meeting 7:00pm
December 20, 2023 RARA Board Meeting 7:00pm on Google Meet

January 27th & 28th, 2024 WINTER FIELD DAY

2023 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784, kurt.eversole@gmail.com
Vice President - Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-633-0089, n9vju@comcast.net
Secretary - Larry McFall, KD9HKX, 815-900-1820, lpmcfall@charter.net
Treasurer - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, kc9nex@gmail.com

Directors:

Kevin Puckett, N9EGF, 815-218-1551, krpuckett@gmail.com
Ron Callahan, N2RON, 608-289-0198, ron.n2ron@gmail.com
Larry Lisle, K9KZT, 815-397-9595, l.lisle@usa.net
Repeater License Trustee - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, kc9nex@gmail.com
Hamrag Editor/Repeater Chairman - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784, kurt.eversole@gmail.com
Webmaster - Position Open

Local Net Information

Mon - 7:00pm - RARA Info. Net & CW Lesson, 146.610 (-) offset, pl 114.8
8:00pm - McHenry Cnty. RACES Net, 146.835 (-) offset, pl 91.5

Tues - 7:00pm - Health & Tech Net & CW Lesson , 146.610 (-) offset, pl 114.8
7:00pm - Rock County Public Service Net, 145.450 (-) offset, pl 123.0

Wed - 7:00pm - Stephenson Cnty. ARES Net, 147.390(+) offset, pl 114.8
7:30pm - Greater Beloit Radio Net, 147.120 (+) offset, pl 123.0

Thurs - 7:00pm - Northern Illinois Skywarn Training Net, 147.195 (+) offset,
pl 114.8, with the Health & Tech Net & CW Lesson following.

Fri - 8:00pm - Friday Night Fun Net, KC9GCR, 146.610 (-) offset, pl 114.8

Sat - 8:00pm - Saturday Ragchew Net, 146.610 (-) offset, pl 114.8
9:00pm - Saturday Night Fun Net Milw., 146.910 (-) offset, pl 127.3

Mon. thru Friday - 8:00am to 9:00am - Senile Net, 14.287 (HF USB)

JOTA 2023

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is a National Scouts BSA event held annually on the third weekend of October. This year the scouts of Blackhawk Area Council, with the assistance of Jon Lipscomb (AC9YE), Scoutmaster of Troop 126G, set out to learn more about radio and make connections! There were over 75 Scouts and Scouters in attendance October 20-22, 2023. RARA was invited out to operate the JOTA radio stations and help provide assistance to these Scouts as they learn, most for the first time, about ham radio.



Approximately 50 Scouts visited the JOTA station with a large number of them interacting with other scouts across at least 10 different states, 2 Canadian Provinces, and some had a contact with Germany! It was a thrilling weekend to watch these young people truly find the magic in radio.

The adult scouting volunteers had just as much fun as the youth. They got to watch these scouts overcome fears and learn how to talk into a microphone. It was truly a special event to be a part of. The scouts and scouters want to send a huge thank you to the RARA volunteers (and one BTARC volunteer) that came out and helped facilitate this event for our scouts. We couldn't have done this without you. We hope you had just as much fun as we did!"
Thanks very much, Jon Lipscomb, AC9YE



RARA Volunteer Comments:

It was really neat to watch the kid's faces light up when they heard their name coming back over the air from the other station.

A lot of them had mic-fright, but overcame it once they made a transmission or two.

*Kevin Puckett
N9EGF*

Great event! I think the different rigs from HF to PSK & 2 meters gave the kids a flavor of different aspects of the hobby. I got a lot of questions about the space station, police & fire radios and I explained through the band chart radio waves & how they are different.

*Matt Marshall
W3MBX*

Here are me thoughts:

- 1. I think the location was ideal. Utilities, restrooms, electricity, water, etc. were all available.*
- 2. We had 5 stations set up which was well planned and presented.*
- 3. I was stationed on the 40 meter station, and everything ran well until the New York QSO party started, and then they kind of took over the band, and made it almost impossible to maintain contact long enough to get the kids on the air. I made a couple of contacts but was over powered by stations that moved over top of me. At least one of those contacts said he was having the same problem, but he was willing to try. We turned it over to the scouts, and that was the last I was able to hear him.*
- 4. While I took a break, I had a chance to watch Matt and Kevin and they did an excellent job working with the scouts. They seemed to take a moment to explain how the radio worked and then turned the mike over to the kids. I feel I could have done a better job if I had watched them earlier.*
- 5. It might have been a little more exciting to the kids if we could have demonstrated some of the other things we do such as slow or fast scan TV, some more of the digital communication, weather watching, RTTY, and satellite communications.*
- 6. The Fox hunt put on by the Belvidere club seemed to be a hit.*

*Larry Schubert
AC9GO*

JOTA 2023



Thank you Jon Lipscomb, AC9YE, Scoutmaster of Troop 126G for contacting RARA, and making this a fun event for all of us!

Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please call me, or email me at kurt.eversole@gmail.com

Cut-off for the December 2023 Hamrag will be Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

RARA 2024 Elections

RARA elections for 2024 Officers and Directors will be finalized at our November meeting on November 10th.

You can nominate someone, or volunteer for any of the positions below, provided they (or you) are willing to accept the nomination and run for the office position. We have had some people volunteer for some of the positions, **but we need your help** to fill all of the positions.

Below are general descriptions of the responsibilities for each position.

- **President** – presides at all meetings according to the Rockford Amateur Radio Association’s constitution, by-laws and rules of order. Appoint all committees, sign official documents and carry out the recommendations of the Board of Directors. The President is also Chairman of the Board.
- **Vice President** – will preside over meetings if President is absent and coordinate meeting presentations.
- **Secretary** – will keep meeting minutes, roll of members, provide applications for membership, and oversee amendments, changes & additions to the constitution and by-laws.
- **Treasurer** – is the custodian of monies received and expended, keeping records and issuing the Treasurer’s Report to the Board of Directors monthly.
- **Directors (4+)** - The Board of Directors shall include these Officers, a minimum of four Directors, and current editor of the monthly bulletin (Hamrag).

The President appoints the Hamrag editor, webmaster, and repeater committee chairperson. Thank you.

73,
Kurt Eversole – KE9N
kurt.eversole@gmail.com

FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Meets every Friday morning from 8:00 am until about 9:30 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***



MRC 91 Friendly Fest

Saturday November 4, 2023 8am to 1pm

Elks Lodge

5555 W Good Hope Rd

Milwaukee WI 53223

(across from HRO)

Admission Price: \$5.00

Tables: \$10.00 per 8 ft table (add \$5.00 for electric)

Vendor Load in: Saturday 6am

Talk in frequency on the MRC91 Repeater/146.910 minus offset 127.3 pl

Coffee, doughnuts, dogs n brats and Lots of great Amateur Radio Gear for sale!!!! Mark your calendar!!!

For Further Information:

Call Karen KC9WQJ 414-578-0492/kc9wqj@gmail.com www.mrc91.org

VENDOR RESERVATION (please print)

#of tickets _____ x \$5.00 _____ = _____

of tables _____ x \$10.00 _____ = _____

Electric add _____ \$5.00 _____ = _____

Name _____ Call sign _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Address city/state zip _____

****We will notify you by phone or email to confirm your reservation****

Send check to : Milwaukee Repeater Club PO Box 511566 Milw 53203

(This is an editable PDF Form. Fill in the information with your keyboard, then save the PDF, and then attach it to an email to: n9vju@comcast.net)

HAM OF THE YEAR - 2023 NOMINATIONS

The Ham of the Year award is an honor that is presented to the RARA member(s) who has contributed the most above and beyond what was required to the club and to amateur radio in general during the past year. This year the selection will be made by a committee of three RARA members established to evaluate the nominations of deserving candidates from those submitted by club members.

Your nominee should be chosen using two basic criteria: The nominee must be a RARA member, and should have performed exemplary service for RARA and amateur radio during the year 2023. We encourage you to take a few minutes to fill out the form below, or a facsimile, completing all of the requested information.

Nominations may be e-mailed or mailed to Tom Shouler, N9VJU at the address below, or handed to him at the December club meeting. All nominations must be received by December 15, 2023. They will remain confidential.

Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Email or mail nominations to:

Tom Shouler – N9VJU
5236 East Drive
Loves Park, IL 61111
email: n9vju@comcast.net

Nominee(s): _____ Call(s): _____

I nominate the above person(s) for the RARA Ham of the Year 2023 award for the following reasons:

Signed: _____ Call: _____

POTA WRAP-UP FOR 2023

POTA(Parks On The Air) Is alive and well here in RARA land

Starting May 11th and extending through Sept. 28th a group of us have invaded Rock Cut State Park and operated QRP transceivers on CW, using various antennas. I might add, we've had a great time and have experienced highly varying results, proving once again that success on such a venture is quite dependent on propagation.

Two Dave's were the primary operators, Dave Larsen N9ZXL and Dave Gauger W9CJS, but we had great support from John Mori, and Jim Curtiss and others too.

Each week we operated from about 3:00 until 4:30 on Thursday afternoons. We used battery powered ELECRAFT K2 or ICOM IC-703, and three different antenna types, an EFHW (End Fed Half Wave), a 17 ft. Alpha vertical, and a home brew magnetic loop antenna. All three gave great results...(sometimes). Example: EFHW produced 31 contacts one week and 0 contacts the following week.

In summary:

We had 11 outings at the park

We activated the park(10 or more QSOs) on 4 occasions

Our record-high one-day contact total was 31 stations in 28 states

DX worked included Spain once and France twice and Canada many times

About a dozen visitors came, mostly from RARA, but a surprising number of whom were passers-by.

We averaged 11.2 QSO's per outing.

All of this is to say, that it is a great activity, fun and challenging. We're through for this year, but come on out starting next Memorial Day or thereabouts. Try it, you'll like it.

73,

Dave Gauger, W9CJS

A POTA Book for Park Activators and Hunters!

ARRL has a new book to help radio amateurs enjoy one of the fastest growing communities within the hobby.

[The Parks on the Air Book](#) gives you a look at the setups and processes of 14 operators from a variety of skill levels and backgrounds and offers advice and motivation for taking your radio out to a park. Each chapter includes a detailed gear list so you can see exactly what your fellow operators are using, whether they're leaders of the pack like Kerri Wright, KB3WAV, and Clint Sprott, W9AV, or folks just getting started with Parks on the Air. Setups cover satellite operating, QRP, urban backpack portable, activating tailgate-style, wire antennas for POTA, and more.

Whether you want to plan a multistate rove, toss a wire into a tree at a nearby park, or hunt activators from the comfort of your home station, *The Parks on the Air Book* provides insight and expertise in a beautiful, full-color format, brimming with photos that celebrate ham radio and the wonderful, shared resource of our state and national parks.

[The Parks on the Air Book](#), ARRL Item No. 1748, ISBN: 878-1-62595-174-8, \$22.95 retail; special ARRL Member price \$19.95.



New Information

Physicists create new form of antenna for radio waves

University of Otago physicists have used a small glass bulb containing an atomic vapor to demonstrate a new form of antenna for radio waves. The bulb was "wired up" with laser beams and could therefore be placed far from any receiver electronics. Dr. Susi Otto, from the Dodd-Walls Center for Photonic and Quantum Technologies, led the field testing of the portable atomic radio frequency sensor. A paper on the creation was published in *Applied Physics Letters*.

Such sensors, that are enabled by atoms in a so-called Rydberg state, can provide superior performance over current antenna technologies as they are highly sensitive, have broad tunability, and small physical size, making them attractive for use in defense and communications.

For example, they could simplify communications for soldiers on the battlefield as they cover the full spectrum of radio frequencies, rather than needing multiple antennas to cover different frequency bands, and are super sensitive and accurate to detect a wide range of critical signals. The ability to eliminate the need for multiple sensors also makes them useful in satellite technology.

Importantly, compared to more traditional sensors, Rydberg sensors can function without any metal parts, which can scatter the radio frequency field of interest and the atomic sensor is accessed via laser light, replacing the need for electric cables.

The Otago group's new design is portable and can be taken outside the laboratory. In a first out-of-lab demonstration, the sensor was able to efficiently measure fields in a distance of 30m using a free-space laser link. This adds important flexibility to Rydberg-atom based sensing technologies. They envision these developments will make quantum sensors more robust and cost-effective, enabling them to move out of labs and into the real world.



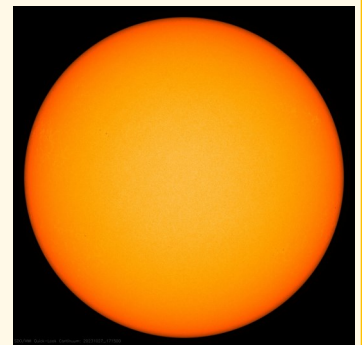
The K7RA Solar Update

The recent solar activity decline continues. Weekly average daily sunspot numbers starting with Propagation Forecast bulletin ARLP039 on September 21 were 170.6, 128.6, 144.1, 89.4, and 41.9 for this week.

Weekly average daily solar flux for the same period was 168.8, 155.6, 159.1, 145.1 and 123.5.

On October 25 [Spaceweather.com](https://www.spaceweather.com) noted "Solar Cycle 25 roared to life in 2021-23, dashing predictions of a weak solar cycle. Forecasters have since been expecting a robust Solar Max in 2024 or 2025. Suddenly, however, sunspot counts are dropping."

But they note that in strong sunspot cycles temporary lulls are common, and strong activity should resume soon, with a cycle peak within the next two years.



Active DX Operations

7O8AD 7O8AE Yemen

LA7GIA and HA5DDX will be active as 7O8AD and 7O8AE from Yemen, starting early November for 14 Days.

They will operate on HF Bands, CW, SSB, FT8.

QSL via M0OXO, LOTW, ClubLog



TX7L Hiva Oa Island Marquesas Islands

TX7L Team will be active from Atuona, Hiva Oa Island, Marquesas Islands, IOTA OC - 027, French Polynesia, 4 - 19 November 2023. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, RTTY. QSL via F6EXV, ClubLog OQRS.



5H3FM Zanzibar Island

Ferdy De Martin, HB9DSP will be active as 5H3FM from Zanzibar Island, IOTA AF - 032, Tanzania, 24 November - 5 December 2023.

He will operate on 20, 15, 10m, SSB, FT8. QSL via LOTW preferred or via home call.



A25R Botswana

A25R Team will be active from Botswana, 26 October - 13 November 2023. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, FT8, QO-100 CW.

QSL via ClubLog OQRS, LOTW.



ARISS to Celebrate 40th Anniversary of Amateur Radio and Human Spaceflight

Astronaut Owen Garriott, amateur radio callsign W5LFL, pioneered amateur radio communication from space on his STS-9 Space Shuttle Columbia flight, conducted November 28 to December 8, 1983. In his free time, during the STS-9 mission, Garriott became the **first ever** person from space to communicate with amateur radio operators on the ground. He was also the first to be heard directly from space by the public using simple FM receivers and scanners.

Dr. Garriott's mission, 40 years ago, transformed astronaut communications from space forever, allowing amateur radio operators (hams) and the public to communicate with people in space. Prior to this, only a few mission controllers and heads of state could talk to an astronaut in space. Garriott represents the first of many spacefarers that employed amateur radio on the Space Shuttle, Mir space station and the International Space Station for public engagement, family connections and educational outreach. To date, well **over a million** people on Earth have participated directly in these astronaut radio contact engagements. The educational youth contacts, coupled with pre-contact education initiatives, have inspired, engaged and educated youth around the world and encouraged them to study and pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).



FCC Wants to Bolster Amateur Radio

FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel says the FCC plans to “incentivize innovation and experimentation in the amateur radio bands” by getting rid of outdated restrictions and providing licensees with the flexibility to use modern digital emissions.

The commission at its November meeting is expected to take action on a Report and Order that would eliminate the baud rate limitation and establish a bandwidth limitation in the amateur radio bands below 29.7 MHz.

The order being circulated for tentative consideration by the commission would remove the baud rate limitation – the rate at which the carrier waveform amplitude, frequency and/or phase is varied to transmit information – for data emissions in the amateur radio bands, the FCC says. The current baud rate limits were adopted in 1980.

The order would implement a 2.8 kilohertz bandwidth limitation in place of the baud rate in amateur radio bands. The 2.8 kHz limitation is consistent with the commission's treatment of other wireless radio services, the FCC says. The current rules limit the baud rate for high-frequency amateur radioteletype/data transmissions to 300 baud for frequencies below 28 MHz (except in the 60-meter band), and 1200 baud in the 10 meter (28-29.7 MHz) band.

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau says the change in technical standards would allow the amateur radio service to operate more efficiently, including during times of emergency to support public safety.

Amateur Radio Supports 2023 Chicago Marathon

On October 8, 2023, more than 140 amateur radio operators from five Midwest states assisted 2,000 volunteer medical personnel at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. This is the 15th consecutive year that amateur radio operators have helped coordinate medical responses and arrange for medical resupplies. About 49,000 runners entered this year's event.

The city-wide marathon uses six main repeater channels and deploys four temporary repeaters. New this year was official use of the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) after organizers trialed the system at their other events, including the Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle and the Chicago 13.1. APRS radios were deployed to amateur communication teams in Chicago's Grant Park after the race was finished.

A total of 30 radio operators worked in various capacities before and after the race. Also, there were 100 ham radio operators stationed at each of the 20 course medical tents and the medical hub. In Forward Command, 10 amateur radio operators served as net controls, traffic handlers, logging specialists, and expeditors.





website: w9axd.org
email: w9axdrara@gmail.com

2024 RARA Membership* Form

Dues are \$25.00

(This is an editable PDF Form. Fill in the information with your keyboard, then save the PDF, and then attach it to an email to: w9axdrara@gmail.com. See below for mail in information and/or PayPal information)

Date: _____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

Name: _____ Callsign: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone - Home: _____ Cell: _____

Can we release your e-mail and phone number to members only? Yes _____ NO _____

Are you a member of the ARRL (American Radio Relay League)? Yes _____ NO _____

What things do you like to do with ham radio?

What things do you want to do, but need more information to do so?

Would you be available to make a presentation on some part of our hobby and what?

Do you have any questions that we can help you with presently? If so, explain below.

Mail In: Please fill out all the information on the form and mail it with \$25.00 to the following address:

Rockford Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 8465
Rockford, IL 61126

Make your check payable to: Rockford Amateur Radio Association.

For Internet application and payment:

To use PayPal, click on the link below. After clicking "Send" and then logging in, enter \$25.00 in the "Dollar Amount", and click "Send", to complete your payment to RARA. Also, **DON'T** forget to email your completed form to: w9axdrara@gmail.com for your membership application. *Thank you for your support!*

PayPal Link:



*Membership is based on approval of the RARA Board. The membership fee will be returned if you are not approved. New memberships are good from 10-1-2023 thru 12-31-2024.