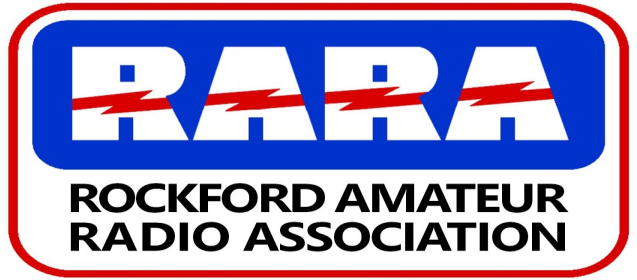


HAMIRAG

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.

September 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message -	page 1
Local Events & Info. -	page 2
Your First Time -	page 3
Hamfest Info. -	page 4 & 5
Local Fox Hunt -	page 6
DX Operations -	page 7
Membership Form -	page 8

Presidents Message

Hello Everyone,

At our September meeting we will be having a presentation on fox hunting by Kevin Puckett, N9EGF. Kevin has been on many fox hunts, and can provide many helpful tips and advice and explain what fox hunting is and why it is important in ham radio. Also, there will be a fox hunt on this Saturday, Sept. 9th, in the Beloit area. See page 6 for more details.

Sunday, September 24th brings us the yearly CFMC Hamfest at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Belvidere. This hamfest usually draws a large group, and the fall is a perfect time to see everyone before the snow flies, and maybe buy some coveted ham radio item(s) before winter. See inside the Hamrag for more details.

Please join us at our meeting on Friday at 7:00pm. I hope to see everyone there.

73,
Kurt Eversole—KE9N



NEXT MEETING

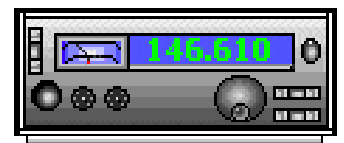
FRIDAY
September 8, 2023
7:00pm

“Foxhunting”

by
Kevin Puckett,
N9EGF

Located in the
Foundation Room

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



Local Events and Information

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 8, 2023 RARA Membership Meeting 7:00pm at OSF
September 20, 2023 RARA Board Meeting 7:00pm on Google Meet
October 13, 2023 RARA Membership Meeting 7:00pm at OSF
October 25, 2023 RARA Board Meeting 7:00pm on Google Meet

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)

Your First Time

Do you remember your first time?

By Larry Schubert

Did I hear someone say “First time for what?”, and you would be right. The first time for many things is sometimes very scary, exciting, frightening, and often brings forward a host of emotions. It is a rush that you really can’t duplicate until you have another first. Think about it. Here are some firsts that may have given you that excitement. You probably don’t remember the first time you walked, and you may not remember the first day you went to school, but I’ll bet you remember the first time you gave a speech, or perhaps the first time you kissed a date. The day that you got married, which probably give you several other firsts that were exciting, but by now some of you are wondering what this has to do with ham radio.

My wife got on the air with her brand new license for the first time Saturday. I have to tell you I am as proud as anything at what she was able to accomplish. Two weeks studying, and I might add that it wasn’t my help. She did it mostly on her own. Once in a great while she would ask me a simple question, and apparently I have a knack for giving more of an answer than is needed, because she would generally go off on her own again, find the answer, give it to me, and say “Why didn’t you just say that?”, and she would be off again studying. She was hoping to make her first contact in North Carolina while we were visiting my son, his wife, and the grand kids, but she didn’t get her call until the morning we were leaving. It was worth the wait “KD9YUM” perfect for the lady that loves to cook. OK, back to the task at hand.

We sat down at the Schubert ham shack. She wanted to talk several states away, so I gave her a brief instructions on the IC-7300, and set it up to transmit in the middle of the tech part of the band. I told her how to call CQ and then add her call. She first asked if the frequency was clear a couple of times and then called CQ three times followed by her call. We maybe give it a half a dozen times, and nothing. The band was dead. She wanted to make a contact out of state, so I said OK let’s try the Beloit or Janesville repeater, and turned on the IC-229. I said we’ll either make a Wisconsin or Illinois contact, but it will be through a repeater in Wisconsin. I explained the difference of how to use a repeater as to the way we used the HF radio. We decided on the Beloit repeater. I told her to give her call say listening or monitoring and maybe add that you are looking for your first contact, which she did. Her second or third go around and she got Kurt, KE9N. That was when I realized that I should have told her more about what she could say, because this was her first, and the things you and I might take for granted in a conversation on the air because we have been doing this for so long that it is second nature to us. I should have told her more about the art of conversation on the ham bands, but she did very well for her first time on the air, and I might add that Kurt was a great first contact for her.

That reminds me of a gentleman that I met maybe five or so years ago on Field Day. He had stopped by the setup when we were in a park in Rockford. He had his General class license, and had been licensed for I think it was about 15 years, but he had never been on the air. I would like tell you that we got him on the air that day, but it didn’t happen. We couldn’t convince him to give it a try.

I should tell you that my wife did not use the license manual for her study. She purchased a book on Amazon called “The Fast Track to Your Technician Class Ham Radio License”. It covers the latest exam questions through June 30, 2026. She did have another “first” and that was with a ham radio Field Day site that she and her sister stopped at out in California. It was their GOTA station that got her hooked. I had been trying for years and failed. We have been married over 30 years, and I’ve asked her several times if she wanted to give it a try, but nothing. You never know!

Have fun!

73, Larry, AC9GO

2023 Radio Expo

Northern Illinois' Largest Hamfest

Sunday

September 24th, 2023

Dealers!
Radios!
Computers!
Electronics!
Raffles!

Boone County Fairgrounds
8791 IL-76, Belvidere, IL 61008

Indoor Market 8am-3pm
Flea Market 6am-3pm
Breakfast - Lunch
Bring The Family
Hourly Drawings

Talk-In Repeaters

146.760 - 107.2 CFMC



VEC Testing 9am-Noon



RV's or Motor Homes
Camping
Water-Electric \$45

MAKING HAM RADIO FUN

Advance Tickets - \$8.00 - At the Gate - \$10.00 - Kids under 12 Free Tickets required with Tables

Name & Call _____ # of Tickets _____ x \$8 = _____

Address _____ # All tables _____ x \$18 = _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____ \$10.00 - Inside Electric _____ Outside Electric _____

For event questions: Call 773-614-4733
Email wa9orc@gmail.com

Make Check payable to:
Chicago FM Club
3619 S. 54TH CT.
CICERO, IL. 60804
Total _____

Flyer on website <http://www.chicagofmclub.org>

CFMC reserves the right to make any necessary changes required

Vendor setup is Saturday, September 23RD from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM with security overnight.

Hamfest Information

HRO Superfest, ARRL Wisconsin State Convention

Start Date: 09/22/2023 **End Date:** 09/23/2023

Location: Ham Radio Outlet Milwaukee
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Sponsor: Ham Radio Outlet

Type: ARRL Convention

Talk-In: 145.130 127.3 pl

Public Contact: Tom Pachner , W9TJP
5710 W. Good Hope Rd. Milwaukee, WI
53223

Phone: 414-358-0333

Email: milwaukee@hamradio.com



Welcome to the W9DXCC Convention



The W9DXCC convention is held annually in the Chicagoland area. Sponsored by the Northern Illinois DX Association, this convention is one of the premier DX conventions in the country. Enjoy the day filled with quality programs, equipment vendors, QSL card checking, prizes, and socializing. Be sure to end the day by staying for the convention banquet.

2023 Convention Dates & Location

Friday, September 15th, 2023 (DX & Contest Universities)

Saturday, September 16th, 2023 (W9DXCC Convention & Banquet)

[Chicago Marriott Naperville](#)

1801 North Naper Boulevard

Naperville, Illinois 60563

Latest News: Follow the hyperlinks for more Information

[Advance registration is now open](#)

[Convention Program Updates](#)

[Convention program updated](#)

Programs for the 2023 convention have been confirmed and published.

The Fox Hunt

The GBARC, (Greater Beloit Amateur Radio Club) is hosting a foxhunt, Saturday, September 9, 2023 starting around 10AM. The Fox hunt will begin following the monthly ham breakfast which is held at Denny's Restaurant / Flying J truck stop (IL75 & I90/39) that begins around 8am. All are invited to breakfast, but not required to participate in the fox hunt. There is no official starting point, however, many will be starting from the Denny's parking lot following breakfast.

All GBARC and RARA members, other fellow hams, and those interested in amateur radio are all invited.

The fox will be hidden somewhere in Rock County Wisconsin. The official start along with the simplex frequency will be announced on the Janesville Repeater, 145.450 minus offset 123.0 CTCSS. The fox will be monitoring the 450 repeater during the hunt to answer any questions you may have other than "where are you?"

A fox hunt is an exercise in **Radio Direction Finding** – RDF, where amateur operators will use a variety of radio signal receiving equipment (typically 2 meter hand held radio) to find a hidden transmitter that will automatically transmit a re-peated beacon signal. As the receiver's antenna is pointed toward the hidden transmitter, the signal strength will rise and as it is moved away, it will drop. As a result, you can determine which direction the transmitter is located.

You will continue receiving the signal from various locations and using mapping/triangulation, you will narrow down the proximity of the hidden transmitter. As you get very close to the transmitter, you will attempt to reduce the signal strength using a variety of methods, either attenuating the signal or just reducing the antenna effectiveness to continue to hone in on the location of the transmitter.

This is a great time to try fox hunting or improve your hunting skills.

Contact brett@k9by.us with any questions.

73, Brett Johnson, K9BY

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 October 2023 Hamrag will be Thursday, September 28, 2023

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

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***



V73AH Majuro Atoll Marshall Islands

Ulli, DL2AH will be active as V73AH from Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands, IOTA OC - 029, 4 - 30 October 2023. He will operate on HF Bands. QSL via home call direct. DXCC Country - Marshall Islands, V7



V47T Saint Kitts and Nevis Islands

Andy, N2NT will be active as V47T from Saint Kitts and Nevis Islands in CQ WW DX SSB Contest, 28 - 29 October 2023. He will operate in Single Operator All Band High Power Category. Before and after the contest he will be active as V47NT. QSL via W2RQ, LOTW. Ads for direct QSL: WILLIAM S KELLER, III, W2RQ, 269 ANDOVER SPARTA RD, NEWTON, NJ 07860, USA.



DU3/W6QT Luzon Island

DU3/W6QT. Mike, W6QT will be active as DU3/W6QT from Luzon Island, IOTA OC-042, 1 September 2023 - 31 January 2024. He is active on 80 - 10m various modes. QSL via home call Ads for direct QSL: Michael Koffler, 2037 E. Division St. National City, CA, 91950, USA.





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

2023 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.