

HAM RAG

Rockford Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Visit our website for more club and area ham information
in the Rockford area at <http://rara.tripod.com>

June 2003

Meteor Scatter

Ready for something new and exciting? Try Meteor Scatter; Scott Migaldi, N9PO, a Technical Specialist for ARRL IL section, gave a presentation about this at the May meeting of RARA. To get started in it all you need is a computer with a sound card, any cables that may be needed, a 6m or 2m radio, and of course the software.



Scott Migaldi, N9PO, a Technical Specialist for ARRL, IL section gives presentation on Meteor Scatter. Photo by WA9NTT

The website www.pingjockey.net is where you can find the procedures; the software, which the most commonly used program is WSJT, and a forum to do scheduling with other hams.

The main mode of operation is FSK 441, which
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New Meeting Location

Due to construction, the regular monthly meeting till further notice has been moved to:

*Saint Anthony Medical Center
5666 E. State Street Rockford, IL.*

The June meeting is still at
7:00 pm June 13, 2003

The program for the June meeting will be

John Birly, AA9SK

Field Day 2003

To get to the meeting room go to the main entrance - turn right at desk - go to the end of hall to the meeting rooms.

Its Field Day time again and **John Birly, AA9SK**, has taken the duties of Field Day 2003 Chairman. Please give John any assistance you can to make this year one of the best.

Do to financial constraints the Breakfast in the Park that was going to coincide with Field Day has been canceled.

VOLUNTEERISM: embodies the principles and strengths of free choice, desire to learn, commitment to share and personal fulfillment.

Dr. Justin Davis Smith, Director of the Institute for Volunteering Research in London

Presidents Log – June 2003

This months log starts with a Thank You to Scott Migaldi, N9PO, for his very interesting presentation on Meteor Scatter.

I would like to thank the following hams for helping with the Boy Scouts PPP Event on Saturday May 31st, KA9GNR, WB9MCZ, KC9AVP, KB9ZBX, KC9BKV, KC9KBU and KC9DHX. It was a long cold day and thank you to everyone for staying with us and helping out and invite any others to help out when available, this is a great way for RARA to give back to the community.

Our presentation this month will be John Birly, AA9SK, talking about the upcoming Field Day. Also, if there are any presentations you would like to see at the meetings, please let one of your officers or board members know and we will make sure the program is presented.

HELP!!! We are looking for your help with some up coming projects, John Birly, AA9SK, is the Field Day Chairman and I know he will be looking for some help, please let John know if you can help out. Also Herb, K9AMJ, is the chairman of the truck committee and is looking for help in working on the truck, if you are interested in working with Herb on this project please let him know. Also the truck has been painted and the club would like to thank Herb for the great job on the painting and all of his efforts. Also the logos are on the final stages and the truck should be lettered very shortly.

I would like everyone to keep in mind the new Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Winnebago County, Sue Peters, KA9GNR, is a member of RARA and would invite all members to work with her and help with any and all events emergency or community service.

If you know of any hams that are not members

of RARA or some of the members that have not been to a meeting in a while, please invite them to our next meeting.

Door prizes at the next meeting will include two tickets to the KARS (Kankakee Amateur Radio Society) Hamfest in July.

As always, your comments and/or suggestions are always welcome, your officers and board members are here to serve you.

73, and see you at the meeting.
Scott, KB9YRW

Editors Note:

The truck is getting the decals on as of the printing of this HamRag, come out to Field Day to see your newly painted communications vehicle. There are preliminary plans for doing the interior of the truck. When interior construction begins volunteers will be needed. Donations of time, parts, and equipment would be appreciated as this chapter in club history continues.

The monthly Board of Directors Meeting are held at Saint Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

RARA Officers for 2003

President: Scott Allshouse KB9YRW
Vice President: John Auerswald KA9SOG
Secretary: Wendy Owano KC9BCF
Treasurer: Rich Ludwig K9PK
Director: Shari Harlan N9SH
Director: Joe Roling N9HEZ
Director: John Birly AA9SK
Director: Larry Snyder K0HNM
Newsletter and Web Site:
John Auerswald KA9SOG

RARA-ATV Update

Want to get on ATV? We are getting closer to getting the repeater on air the we have our new call as KC9EFU which will be changed to W9ATN. We now also have most of the key components needed to start testing. The repeater will have an input of 1253 Mhz and an output of 421.25 Mhz (channel 57 on a cable ready tv). In the future we are planning to put in 1.2 Ghz to 2.4 Ghz links to widen the receive range beyond the Rockford area to better serve surrounding community's. This may help in keep the costs down and allowing more amateurs wanting to get into ATV to do so.

To achieve the initial money for the start up costs, dues have been set at \$50.

The dues go totally to the ATV fund and you will become a member of ATN-Illinois. The money DOES NOT count towards any regular RARA membership dues. Money will be kept separate from any other RARA fund by the RARA-ATV account. We hope that regular members will continue to support RARA in their normal fashion. It may well be that after a couple of years at \$50, that we will be in a maintenance mode and will be able to reduce the ATN dues. That will be up to you, the membership of ATN.

So, if you would like to join the RARA-ATV/ATN-Illinois please make the check out to RARA-ATV and send to:

Gene Harlan
5931 Alma Dr.
Rockford, IL 61108

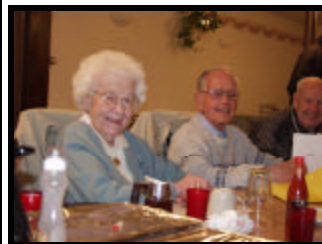
Thanks for your support of ATN-Illinois and RARA-ATV.

Contact John at ka9sog@arrl.net or Gene at atvq@hampubs.com for any questions about RARA-ATV.

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was developed using a series of audio tones, which represent the letters that are used in the precanned messages needed for the microsecond communications. Since meteors are always passing or hitting the earth there are two types of meteor shower density's: Over Dense – meteor bursts and storms and Under Dense – very scattered, hence the importance on scheduling done though the website. The typical QSO can happen from 600 to 1000 miles with 1400 miles being the geometric limit from your QTH. Power requirements are 25w on 2 meters and 50w on 6 meters there is also experimenting on 220 and 440 MHz and is best done with horizontal polarization. For more on QSO procedure's go to www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/HSCW-SOP.html.

Surprise Birthday Party



Milt, W9FFQ, (in middle) and Marge Carlson (on the left) celebrates Milts 92nd birthday.

The Group meets for Breakfast Friday mornings at Morning Glory Restaurant on 7th St. This was Milt's 92nd birthday; he may not be a RARA



member, but is certainly a fixture in the Rockford Ham Radio community. In attendance were Lois Rossi, N9FBC, Shirley DeWitt, N9JRT, Howard Estes, N9GHM, Don Sjoberg, W9KIA, Wayne Hansen KA9IMX, John Wacker, KE9MH, Art Naud, N9NQD, Jim Miller, W4JR, Lee Groop, KC9CL, Larry Sibella, KA9BQR, Dan Hunt, KC9ATR, and Dave Bond, W9MG. Photo's by W9MG

**Rockford Amateur Radio Association
Monthly meeting of the membership**

May 9, 2003

St. Anthony Hospital

RARA President Scott Allshouse, KB9YRW, called the meeting to order at 7:14 pm.

Minutes: The minutes from the April meeting were read by Secretary Wendy Owano, KC9BCF. The motion to accept the minutes as read was made by John Birly, AA9SK, second by Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW, and the motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Rich Ludwig, K9PK, reported a balance of \$4554.75 as of April 29, 2003, a net increase of \$45.43. Shari Harlan, N9SH, moved to accept the report as presented, second by Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ, and the motion was carried by voice vote.

Old Business: Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, presented more details about the RARA-ATV group. They are now affiliated with the Amateur Television Network based in California. The group's repeater will be located on Herb Eckstein's tower.

Truck Committee: Herb Eckstein reported that the truck has been painted through a donation of time and materials. An identifying decal will be designed and placed on both sides.

Herb also reported that the 146.610 repeater needs to be shut down, possibly for a couple of nights, for needed repairs due to a lightening strike.

Field Day: John Birly is the chairman of the event and is need of any help that you can offer in order to make this a successful event. This will be held the last weekend in June.

New Business: Jeff Schroeder, a new ham, KC9DTT, introduced himself to the group.

Sue Peters, KA9GNR, mentioned that a weather spotting class will be on Saturday, May 24, at the Red Cross presented by Wayne Hanson at 1 pm. Also, ARES applications are available from her.

The next RARA Board meeting is Tuesday, May 27, 2003, 7 pm, at St. Anthony's Hospital.

Shari Harlan introduced a visitor from Geneva, Switzerland, Alistair Buttar, HB9TLV. He has been a ham for about 1 year.

A presentation on Meteor Scatter followed the club business. This was given by Scott Migaldi, K9PO, a Technical Specialist for ARRL, IL section.

Fred Miner, W9WOQ, moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Larry Carlstrom, K9LC, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Owano
RARA Secretary



KID'S DAY II IS JUNE 21

The second Kid's Day of 2003 will be June 21, from 1800-2400 UTC. There's no limit on operating time. The twice-annual event, held in January and June, offers a chance for amateurs to invest in the future of Amateur Radio by participating in a simple, but rewarding, on-the-air event. Now in its ninth year, each running of Kid's Day typically attracts more than 1000 participants.

Kid's Day is intended as an opportunity to share Amateur Radio with young people--licensed or not--in the hope that they'll enjoy the experience and possibly pursue their own license in the future.

Kid's Day is not a contest, and patience is a must. The role of the licensee and control operator is to help with the basics, keep an eye on the technical aspects of the operation, observe third-party traffic agreements and be sure to ID at the proper intervals. In this event, it's quality of the contacts that counts, not quantity.

The suggested exchange for Kid's Day is first name, age, location and favorite color. It's okay to work the same station again if the operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day."

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. Visit the ARRL Kid's Day Survey page www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html. You will then have access to download the certificate page or send a 9x12 SASE to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009

Field Day June 28-29, 2003 Aldeen Park



Members of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association (RARA) will put their emergency communication skills to the test when they participate in "Field Day" June 28 and 29. The annual preparedness exercise brings together Amateur Radio operators from throughout North and South America who are committed to assisting their communities in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. Field Day is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio.

"Amateur Radio is a lot of fun, but the serious side can't be stressed enough," says John Birly, AA9SK. "We can play a vital communications role during emergencies, and events such as Field Day ensure that we're ready to handle any type of disaster." Field Day is designed to test operators' abilities to set up and operate stations in the field under emergency conditions, such as the loss of commercial electricity. During the weekend, radio operators try to contact as many other Field Day stations as possible, simulating the fast on-air skills needed to assist town officials and served agencies during an emergency. Approximately 35,000 Amateur Radio operators across the country participated in last year's event. The first Field Day was held in 1933.

Ham radio operators typically help with communication during weather-related emergencies such as the devastating tornadoes in the Midwest earlier this spring. But, the need for their services doesn't stop there. A federal grant awarded for emergency communications training in 2002 emphasizes support for ham radio's role in homeland defense.

The Rockford Amateur Radio Association will set up its Field Day stations at Aldeen Park and will be operating from 12:00 pm on June 28 and end on 12:00 pm on June 29 with setup starting mid morning. "We hope that the public will come out and see firsthand what this event--and Amateur Radio--is all about," says Birly.

Today there are nearly 700,000 Amateur Radio operators in the United States and more than 2.5 million worldwide. Information on how to become involved in Amateur Radio is available from ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 or by calling 1-800-32-NEW HAM. Visit ARRL on the Web at www.arrl.org.

All members of RARA should try to join us at Aldeen Park not only to participate in, but to meet old friends and make new ones. If you think radio is only SSB and CW think again. ATV, Satellite, Meteor Scatter and various other digital modes will be present again this year.



NEW 60-METER BAND TO BECOME AVAILABLE JULY 3!

The new five-channel 60-meter amateur allocation becomes available to US Amateur Radio operators at midnight (12:00 AM) local time on July 3. The local time designation means that amateurs in the US territory of Guam likely will be the first to get a crack at the new band.

The new band will be a secondary allocation--federal government users are primary--and the first on which the only permitted mode will be upper-sideband (USB) phone (emission type 2K8J3E). The FCC last month announced it would grant hams access to five discrete 2.8-kHz-wide channels instead of the 150 kHz-wide band ARRL had requested and the FCC initially proposed. The League remains optimistic, however, that Amateur Radio eventually may be able to enjoy a band segment with multiple mode privileges at 60 meters. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, has said that in the meantime hams will have to be on their best behavior when taking advantage of the limited channelized allocation, open to General and higher class licensees.

The FCC has granted amateurs center-channel frequencies of 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz--the last channel common to the amateur experimental operation under way in the United Kingdom <<http://www.rsgb-hfc.org.uk/5mhz.htm>>. To be "on channel," users of 60 meters should set their transmitted carrier frequency 1.5 kHz lower than the channel-center frequency. In terms of day-to-day operation, the new band is expected to resemble the sort of channel sharing typical on local repeaters.

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, says hams need to be very careful if they're considering modifying their current transceiver or transmitter for 5 MHz. The ARRL advises that members check with the appropriate equipment manufacturers regarding specific modification information. Some modifications not only may void the warranty but could affect or alter a

transmitter's operation in unpredictable ways.

"Hams need to be sure that any modifications put them right on the desired channel," Hare said. "Most hams are used to just having to think about band edges, so on other bands, if a mod were a bit 'off,' all operators would need to ensure is that they are not transmitting outside the band."

Hare recommended that on 5 MHz amateurs remain within "a few tens of Hertz" of suppressed-carrier accuracy. He also pointed out that hams have a mandate not to have any of their signal occupy spectrum outside the assigned 2.8 kHz channels.

Noting that high-frequency audio response can vary considerably from radio to radio, Hare has suggested restricting occupied channel audio bandwidth to 2600 Hz, rolling off below 200 Hz on the low end and above 2800 Hz on the high end.

Last-minute opposition to the granting of a band segment at 5 MHz came last year from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which cited the ongoing spectrum requirements of federal government licensees having homeland security responsibilities. The NTIA administers spectrum allocated to the federal government. A compromise between the FCC and the NTIA resulted in the limited, channelized allocation.

The NTIA selected the channels the FCC authorized to minimize the possibility of interference to federal government users, and it dictated the use of USB so that federal government users--who also use only USB--could readily identify amateur stations if necessary.

The FCC has set maximum power at 50 W ERP and said it would consider a typical half-wave dipole to exhibit no gain. (ARRL)

Been nice if we had these frequencies for Field Day 2003.

THE NEXT AMATEUR RADIO EXAM SESSION IS

**9 AM SATURDAY
JUNE 21, 2003.**

**North Suburban
District Library
6340 N 2nd St.
Loves Park, IL**

Check-in is from 9AM till 11AM. We require two signature ID's (one must be a photo ID).

If you are a licensed amateur radio operator bring your original current license and a copy.

If you are using a CSCE for an element credit bring the original and a copy.

Copiers available at site. (We need to see the originals & keep a photocopy of each document used for element credit.)

The test fee for 2003 is \$12.00.
Walk-ins welcome.

There were 4 applicants at the test session on Saturday May 17, resulting in 1 new license and 2 upgrade .

Thanks to Mike Oberg, AB9AY, Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV, Richard Tidberg, WF9J, Ray Quimby, AA9YC & Wayne Hansen, KA9IMX for making this session possible.

New Technician

Michael Stahl KC9EDX

Upgraded to General

Kevin Puckett N9EGF
Spencer Stich KC9BCI

Florida DXPedition

The Florida DXPedition Group has traveled to a different DX country location since 1996 as WP2AHW. In 1997 we were C6AJT, 1998 as WP2Z, 1999 asJ6J, 2000 as FG5BG, 2001 as J75J, and 2002 HI9X. In addition to the CQWW contests, members have operated from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Antigua, Montserrat, Haiti, Crete, Wake Island, Spratly Island, Chatham Island, East Malaysia, New Zealand, South Georgia, Chili, Navassa, Hawaii, Falklands, Ascension Island, Chagos Island, and Alaska.

This year eight members will be operating from San Andres Island during the period of 20-28 October. We will run four to five stations before and after the contest.. We have been assigned 5J0J as our contest call. In the past we have never asked for any assistance. This year we are asking for donations to help offset the cost.

If you are interested in donating please send to:

Bill Gallier, FDXPG
2694 North Camel Ave.
Middleburg, FL 32068

Visit our two web pages at:

www.geocities.com/hk02003
and
www.geocities.com/w4wx1/upcoming

**Have anything or would like to
submit an article to be put in the
Ham Rag or the website?
Contact me by e-mail at
ka9sog@arrl.net and visit [http://
rara.tripod.com](http://rara.tripod.com) for any late
breaking news and information.**

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ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
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SUGGESTIONS _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:
ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 8465
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126

