

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>

May 2003

Mark Strehl Speaks

Mark Strehl from Channel 23, WIFR gave the program at the April meeting of RARA. He gave a presentation on storms, storm forecasting, storm safety, and had a video with some rarely seen images of tornados and with some of the classical scenes that are shown in training films today. The slide presentation



Mark Strehl shown here with an instrumentation package from a weather balloon used in weather forecasting and research. Photo by WA9NTT

showed some of his broadcasting history which gave some insight to how a weather segment is produced. The slides did a good job showing how technology has changed weather casting in the last 10 to 15 years from using 100's of charts and print-outs to the modern day computer software that uses real-time satellite and Doppler radar images. The slides indicated how hardware has changed from cameras weighing hundreds of pounds to the high-resolution mini-cams used in news casting today.



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 May meeting is still at
7:00 pm May 9, 2003

The program for the May meeting will be

Meteor Scatter
by
Scott Migaldi, N9PO

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.

This year RARA is combining both the Breakfast in the Park and Field Day as a 2 for 1 special. Come and eat, then stay, help setup and operate Field Day 2003.

**Know somebody that is not a member of RARA or
Someone who is not an Amateur Radio Operator yet?
Invite them to a RARA meeting for a hamming good time.**

Presidents Log – May 2003

This months log start with a Thank You to everyone members and visitors alike that were at last months meeting to see Mark Strehl from Channel 23, WIFR. I heard great comments about his presentation.

On a sad note, RARA lost a former member recently, Gertrude Kindel, KB9PC. our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.

I would like to thank the following hams for helping with the Heritage Run on Sunday April 27th, N9SH, N9NCS, KA9GNR, WB9MCZ, N9OTC, KC9DHX, KB9SKW, KC9ATR AND WB9MMM on ATV. I want to also thank the hams that helped out with the March of Dimes Walk America on Sunday May 4th, N9SH, KA9GNR, WB9MCZ, N9MCS, KA9BXA, N9JBA, KB9SKW. Thank you to all that helped out on these events and invite any others to help out when available, this is a great way for RARA to give back to the community. Our next event will be Saturday May 31st, the Boy Scouts PPP event in Northern Winnebago County, please contact Sue Peters, KA9GNR, EC for Winnebago County, if your available to help out.

Our presentation this month will be Scott Migaldi, N9PO, he will talk with us about Meteor Scatter. 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.

RARA is looking for volunteers with some upcoming projects. First John Birly, AA9SK is the Field Day Chairman, please let John know if you can help out. Secondly, 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. Thirdly 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. 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.

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

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

FCC ACCEPTING COMMENTS IN "BROADBAND OVER POWER LINE" INQUIRY

The FCC released its Notice of Inquiry (NOI) on the deployment of "Broadband over Power Line" (BPL) technology April 28 and now is accepting electronically filed comments in the proceeding, ET Docket 03-104. The technology has raised concerns of substantial interference to the Amateur Radio HF bands. BPL would couple high-frequency RF to parts of the power grid and use existing power lines as the transmission medium to deliver broadband and Internet services.

The FCC has expressed unabashed enthusiasm for BPL. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says Commission members have been acting more like cheerleaders than regulators. "We were disappointed in the tenor of some commissioners' statements, but we were encouraged by the fact that in the NOI itself the FCC did point out that licensed services--including Amateur Radio--'must be protected from harmful interference' from BPL," he said.

In the NOI, the FCC acknowledges the interference risk from BPL. "The multiple-carrier transmission nature of the new high-speed BPL technology could pose increased risk of harmful interference, and thus new BPL devices may need a higher degree of oversight to ensure that authorized users are not subject to interference," the FCC said.

The major interference threat to amateurs comes from so-called "access BPL," because its signals can radiate from outside power lines--possibly for great distances. The FCC also concedes that close proximity of access BPL equipment on utility poles might affect--and be affected by--cable TV and DSL service.

Current FCC Part 15 rules limit the amount of RF energy that can be injected into the power lines, but, as the FCC concedes, "the new generation of high-speed BPL devices that use wide spectrum was not contemplated" when those rules were formulated. The FCC has invited comments on possible changes to those rules.

The FCC also seeks information on a possible access BPL standards, spectrum and bandwidth, modulation techniques and data transmission speeds. Additionally, the Commission seeks the status of BPL development and anticipated deployment in the marketplace.

ARRL Laboratory Manager and RFI guru Ed Hare, W1RFI, has cautioned that BPL deployment could

mean "a significant increase in noise levels" on HF. "Right now with BPL/PLC, there are more questions than answers, and until those questions are answered, these systems should not be widely deployed," Hare said. "The time to raise and answer these questions is now. I truly hope that the NOI will provide a means for the FCC to do just that."

The ARRL Lab has prepared a comprehensive information page, "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio," on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>. ARRL Lab staff members also plan to visit sites where BPL is undergoing field testing.

The complete NOI is available on the FCC Web site http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-100A1.doc. The FCC now is accepting electronically filed comments via its Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Under ECFS Main Links, click on "Submit a Filing." In the "Proceeding" field, enter "03-104" and complete the required fields. Comments may be typed into a form, you may attach a file containing your comments or submit them via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page. The comment deadline will be 45 days after publication of the NOI in the Federal Register. (From ARRL)

Amateur Radio Newsline Needs your Help

Amateur Radio Newsline is still on the air. It's still on the air because staff members paid the bills out-of-pocket. This obviously, cannot continue. These people are not Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, or even Michael Jackson. These are your everyday working people who believe so strongly in the mission of Newsline, that they will support it with hard-earned dollars.

We at Newsline need for you, our listening audience, to believe in that mission, too. To believe enough to help keep these newscasts on the air. To show your thanks to the volunteers that keep the latest in Amateur Radio news coming your way.

The address for the Newsline support fund is:

Newsline
PO Box 660937
Arcadia, CA 91066.

Again, as always, thank you for your belief, and for your support.

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

April 11, 2003
St. Anthony Hospital

RARA President Scott Allshouse, KB9YRW, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Minutes: The minutes from the March meeting were read by Wendy Owano, KC9BCF. Fred Miner, W9WOQ, asked that a change be made to the minutes to exclude the part that mentioned the article concerning FEMA. The article was about 50 years old and no longer would be a possibility according to Dick Isely, W9GIG. Larry Snyder, K0HNM, motioned to accept the minutes as corrected, second by Chuck Liljegren, WB9UMC, and the motion was carried by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Rich Ludwig, K9PK, reported a balance of \$4506.07 as of March 25, 2003, a net increase of \$93.31. Larry Snyder motioned to accept the report as presented, second by John Birly, AA9SK, and the motion was carried by voice vote.

The remaining business of the meeting was suspended for the presentation by Mark Strehl, WIFR channel 23 weatherman, about weather and tornado forecasting. Thank you, Mark, for the very informative session.

Old Business: President Scott Allshouse announced that the truck committee consisted of himself, Bob Davidson, WA9NTT, and committee chairman Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ. If anyone else is interested in working on this committee, let Scott know.

The Field Day chairman is John Birly. Please contact John if you are able to help with the planning of this year's event.

New Business: President Allshouse announced that the new repeater chairman is Herb Eckstein. Dwight Zeka, AB9FS, resigned for personal reasons.

The new repeater trustee is Rich Ludwig.

Mark Broman, N9CNW, reported that the Boy Scouts will have a **Triple "P" Event** again this year. This event will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2003, starting in Hononegah Forest Preserve.

There is a need for ham operators at the event; if you can help out with this, please see Scott.

Shari Harlan, N9SH, introduced Eric Radmacher, KC9AVP, as the Affiliated Club Coordinator for ARRL.

Bob Davidson asked that the club consider donating something to St. Anthony's Hospital in appreciation of their allowing the use of the room for the meetings. Forward any ideas to Scott and he will also confer with Joe Roling, N9HEZ.

Eric Hultgren, N9MCS, mentioned that Tom Skilling, WGN weatherman, will have a seminar at Fermi Lab on 4/12 at 1pm and 7pm.

Sue Peters, KA9GNR, mentioned that ARES applications are available from her. RACES applications can be obtained from Dennis Lolli, chief of the Winnebago County ESDA.

John Lawrence, N9OTC, asked that the board meeting minutes be published, possibly on the website not in the Ham Rag as it would probably increase the cost of the mailing. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Brad Smith, WW9WWW, asked to address the meeting attendees. As Brad is a non-member of RARA, President Allshouse needed the approval of the club members in order for Brad to speak. Bill Peters, WB9MCZ, moved to approve the action that the board had taken in regard to Brad, second by Chuck Gooden, N9QBT, and the motion was carried by voice vote. Eric Hultgren made a motion to allow Brad and President Allshouse to speak in a reasonable and fair manner. This motion was seconded by Chuck Derwent, K9SAN. Bill Peters moved to amend the motion to include a 10 minute time limit, 5 minutes per speaker; second by Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW, and the amendment was carried. The motion by Eric, as amended, was passed by a show of raised hands, Yes-12 No-10. Brad then addressed the meeting and President Allshouse spoke to the issues that were brought forward by Brad.

Bill Peters moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Chuck Gooden, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy Owano, RARA Secretary



RARA-ATV has now Officially Formed

The RARA-ATV group now has an official checking account to keep our funds for the ATV repeater in. Money will be kept separate from any other RARA fund by the RARA-ATV account.

The initial projected cost to get the ATV repeater up and running will be anywhere from \$1700-\$2000. This will vary pending any equipment donations and discounts that RARA-ATV may receive.

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.

Also RARA-ATV is also now affiliated with ATN - Amateur Television Network, which is a network of ATV repeaters and linked repeaters that span California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Indiana and now the only chapter representing Illinois. You can visit their site at <http://www.atn-tv.org> for more information.

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. 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.



What you might need to get started in ATV

- 1.2 Ghz Transmitter
- 1.2 Ghz Beam
- 421.25 Mhz Receiver
- 430 Mhz Beam
- Video Camera
- TV Set or Monitor
- Low loss coax
- Video ID or overlay device
- 2 meter radio for talk around

There are many different ways to accomplish this list, but this is a basic guide to get on the air.

FREQUENCIES FOR USING DIGITAL MODES

SOME POPULAR FREQUENCIES FOR DIGITAL & SSTV MODES

These frequencies are to be used as a guide to find the related signals. They have come from several sources, and are, in no way, guaranteed to be complete, accurate, or inclusive.

160 Meters

1.838.150 PSK31, Stream, Etc.
1.890 SSTV

80 Meters

3.580.150 to 3.620 Data (RTTY, PSK31, Hellschreiber, Stream)
3.620 to 3.635 Packet
3.845 SSTV

40 Meters

7.035.150 PSK31
7.037 Stream, Hellschreiber
7.080 RTTY
7.171 SSTV

30 Meters

10.130 PSK31
10.130 to 10.140 RTTY
10.137 Hellschreiber
10.140 to 10.150 Packet

20 Meters

14.063.5 Hellschreiber
14.070.150 PSK31
14.070 to 14.095 RTTY
14.080 Stream
14.100.5 to 14.112 Packet
14.230 SSTV
14.233 SSTV

17 Meters

18.100 to 18.105 RTTY
18.103 Hellschreiber
18.105 Stream
18.105 to 18.110 Packet

15 Meters

21.063 Hellschreiber
21.070 to 21.100 RTTY
21.080.150 PSK31, Stream
21.100 to 21.110 Packet
21.340 SSTV

12 Meters

24.920 to 24.925 RTTY
24.925 to 24.930 Packet
24.929 Stream

10 Meters

28.070 to 28.150 RTTY
28.080 Stream
28.120.150 PSK31, Hellschreiber
28.680 SSTV
28.690 SSTV (some SSTV repeaters on this Freq.)
28.700 SSTV

6 Meters

50.680 SSTV

2 Meters

145.500 SSTV (National SSTV Simplex Freq. for FM)
145.550 PSK31, Hellschreiber, Stream
145.600 Alternate SSTV
145.650 Alternate Digital

1.4 Meters (222 Mhz)

223.38 PSK31, Hellschreiber, Stream
223.85 (National SSTV Simplex Freq. for FM)

70-cm 420-450 Mhz

432.10 to 433.00 PSK31, Hellschreiber, Stream

33-cm (902-928 Mhz)

902.0- 902.8 SSTV
904-906, 916-918 PSK31, Hellschreiber, Stream and other Digital modes

23-cm (1240-1300 Mhz)

1248-1252 PSK31, Hellschreiber, Stream and other Digital modes
1295.0-1295.8 SSTV
1297-1300 PSK31, Hellschreiber, Stream and other Digital modes

THE NEXT AMATEUR RADIO EXAM SESSION IS

**9 AM SATURDAY
MAY 17, 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 5 applicants at the test session on Saturday April 19 resulting in 3 new license and 2 upgrades.

Thanks to Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV, Richard Tidberg, WF9J & Ray Quimby, AA9YC for making this session possible.

New Technician's

**John Meyers, KC9DTR
Bryon Rockwell, KC9DTS
Jeffrey Schroeder, KC9KTT**

Upgraded to Extra

**David Lewis, W9FDA
Jack Stout, N9SRL**

For Sale

From the estate of Paul Klein - K9VJJ

Kenwood TH-215A VHF transceiver, manual, external BC7 rapid battery charger, 5 Watts, appears that it has the tone capability but did not have enough charge to verify this when I was there. Shirley will charge it up so it can be tested. \$60.00

Kenwood VB-2530 144 MHz FM Power Meter - \$20.00

Kris SWR & Field Strength Meter model 823-126 - \$15

Headphones - 3 different - \$3.00 - \$5.00 each - make offer

E.F. Johnson Speed-X Semi Automatic Keyer - looks in good shape - \$35.00

Call Shirley Klein - 226-4696 - 5027 Potomac, Rockford

All of the above items look in nice shape, but we did not test. Gene, WB9MMM & Shari, N9SH

One time offer:

Metric QSL Card Nesting Envelope Sets

A set includes both the send and receive envelopes and will fit metric QSL cards.

30 sets \$10
60 sets \$18
100 sets \$100

Call Gary Hilker, K9LJN 624-7441

**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 for any late
breaking news and information.**

**Rockford Amateur
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E-Mail: w9axd@arrl.net
Web Site - <http://rara.tripod.com>



The
Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION

New Student Fee \$10

DUES REGULAR/INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY \$25
SENIOR 62 OR ON DISABILITY INCOME \$10
HAM RAG ONLY \$5

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

RENEWAL _____ NEW _____ RETIRED _____

RADIO INTEREST _____

OTHER INTERESTS _____

SUGGESTIONS _____

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

