

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>

October 2003

RARA CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

President:

Gene Harlan, WB9MMM
Tom Shouler, N9VJU

Vice-President:

John Auerswald, KA9SOG

Treasurer:

Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ

Secretary:

Wendy Owano, KC9BCF

Board of Directors:

Mike Oberg, AB9AY
Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW
Bill Peters, WB9MCZ
Gary Hilker, K9LJN
Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ
Larry Snyder, K0HNM
Eric Hultgren, N9MCS
Dan Hunt, KC9ATR

Anybody wishing to run for office can do so by letting Wendy Owano, KC9BCF, and Shari Harlan, N9SH, before Friday the 10th or be nominated at the time before the elections are held.

**The October meeting is at
7:00 pm October 10, 2003**

The program for this month's meeting will be:

**Election of Officers
For 2004**

**Results and implantation of the re-
sults of the 2003 RARA Survey**

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

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

Dennis Lolli Speaks



Dennis Lolli spoke at the September meeting about ESDA and other county emergency services. He also stressed that they needed the involvement of hams in county emergency situations.

Photo by Bob Davidson, WA9NTT

**Please Welcome Gary Hilker, K9LJN,
as a Board of Director and is finishing the term of
Joe Rolling, N9HEZ who we lost two months ago.**

President's Log October 2003

This month's log starts with a Thank You to Larry Snyder K0HNM, for the great job he did on the club survey and also a Thank You to all the club members that filled out the survey and returned it to Larry.

October is a very important month for RARA, it is election month for your club officers, this is your opportunity to run for an office to help the club go forward into 2004. The election committee would like the candidates to address the club for 2 minutes each telling us about yourself and in what direction you would like to see the club head in 2004. I would also like to thank Shari Harlan, N9SH, and Wendy Owano, KC9BCF, for co-chairing the election committee. Please mark this every important meeting date on your calendar and come and vote.

The Board of Directors has been asked to publish the monthly BOD minutes in the Ham Rag. Due to space restrictions on the Ham Rag the minutes will not be printed but will be added to the website each month. We are working on the logistics of setting this up for you and will have the BOD minutes on the site by the end of October.

We currently have a Technician class going on at Rock Valley College and the General Class will be the 1st two Saturday's in November. If you know of folks looking to upgrade, please let them know of our upcoming classes.

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 the September meeting.

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

PLEASE COME TO THE OCTOBER MEETING AND VOTE FOR YOUR OFFICERS.

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

For Sale

(formal RARA equipment van)

1991 P30 Delivery Van
Asking \$2300 or best offer



The van will be listed in the Car and Truck Marketing Magazine the week of October 6th. Equipment that the club doesn't want, will be offered to anybody who wants it at the next club meeting on the 10th. Anything left will be disposed of.

For club members who are not aware, at the September regular meeting, the members in attendance voted to dispose of the van due to the financial constraints it was putting on the club. The van is costing the club about \$800 a year for insurance, license, and basic maintenance. It was also noted that if the truck was outfitted with gear; a different location would be needed for secured storage and easy access during emergency situations.

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.

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

September 12, 2003
St. Anthony Hospital

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

Minutes: The minutes from the August meeting were read by Secretary Wendy Owano, KC9BCF. Bill Peters, WB9MCZ, moved to accept the minutes as read, second by Larry Snyder, K0HNM, the motion carried. The minutes from the July meeting were read by Secretary Wendy Owano. The motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Chuck Liljegren, WB9UMC, second by Larry Snyder, the motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Rich Ludwig, K9PK, reported a balance of \$2,583.09 as of August 25, 2003, a **net loss of \$374.77**. Bill Peters moved to accept the report as presented, second by Larry Snyder, the motion was carried.

Old Business: Larry Snyder distributed the club survey. In order to keep costs down with the Ham Rag members volunteered to access the Ham Rag on the website. An email reminder will be sent to the members who want to be directed to the website when the new Ham Rag is available on-line. A sign-up sheet was circulated for those interested in receiving this email reminder.

Truck Committee: Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ, reported that the minimum yearly cost for the truck will be about \$800 for license, insurance, and maintenance. The truck could be used in parades, at events, to promote the club, increase interest in the hobby, and for mobile communication. Eric Hultgren, N9MCS, moved to sell the truck, second by Larry Snyder. The vote was in favor of the motion 11 to 8. Twenty-three members were present to vote.

RARA Banquet: The date has been set and the October Ham Rag will have the information for the event. Please submit your reservations to committee chairman Mary Auerswald, KC9AKC.

New Business: Larry Snyder reported on one unanimous item from the surveys that he has received. It would be helpful if everyone would wear a name tag at the club meetings.

Up Coming and Ongoing Project's

Election Committee - Shari Harlan, N9SH, and
Wendy Owano, KC9BCF
ARES - Sue Peters, KA9GNR

Please offer to volunteer your services where you can. For they always need or going to need help for Events and Projects.

Ham Fests will be held in South Bend, Indiana on 10/5/03 from 8am-2pm, and Gray's Lake and Peoria on 9/20/03-9/21/03.

Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, presented information on BPL, Broadband Power Lines. During recent testing of this mode of internet transmission, interference was encountered from 3-80 MHz.

Guest speaker was Denny Lolli, Chief of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Emergency Response Team and ESDA Director.

Tom Shouler, N9VJU, moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Larry Snyder, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Owano,
RARA Secretary



RARA Officers for 2003

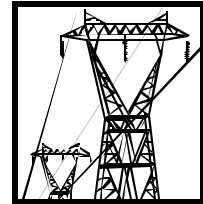
President: Scott Allshouse KB9YRW
Vice President: John Auerswald KA9SOG
Secretary: Wendy Owano KC9BCF
Treasurer: Rich Ludwig K9PK
Director: Shari Harlan N9SH
Director: Gary Hilker K9LJN
Director: John Birly AA9SK
Director: Larry Snyder K0HNM
Newsletter and Web Site:
John Auerswald KA9SOG

FCC gives Ambient nationwide license to initiate BPL field trials anywhere.

Newton, MA, September 23, 2003 – Ambient Corporation (OTCBB: ABTG), a leader in Power Line Communications (PLC) technology, today announced that the company has been approved for a nationwide license by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The nationwide license allows Ambient to initiate field trials with partners anywhere in the United States without having to apply for individual licenses for each trial. "This unique license represents a significant strategic accomplishment for us in that it enables the establishment of additional trials and pilots with our strategic partners nationwide" stated John J. Joyce, CEO of Ambient. "The license will allow us to further test our PLC technology and network architecture in several pilots in various geographical regions of the country in the near future." Ambient recently announced a partnership with IDACOMM, Inc., a subsidiary of IDACORP, Inc. (IDA), to initiate pilot tests of Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology in Idaho. Ambient is currently conducting field trials with Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., (Con Edison) a subsidiary of Consolidated Edison, Inc. (NYSE: ED), and Southern Telecom Inc. (STI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Southern Company (NYSE:SO). CAM, a subsidiary of Enersis S.A., is also testing Ambient's technology in their trial underway in Santiago, Chile. About Ambient Corporation: Ambient Corporation (OTC BB: ABTG) is a development stage company engaged in the architecture, design, development, and implementation of a proposed comprehensive high-speed communication infrastructure designed to utilize existing electrical power distribution lines as a communication medium – Power Line Communication - PLC. -more- This press release may contain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. These statements may differ materially from actual future events or results. Readers are referred to the

documents filed by Ambient Corporation with the SEC, including the company's most recent reports on Form 10-KSB and Form 10-QSB, which identify important risk factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements. Ambient is a trademark of Ambient Corporation registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. # # # Media Contacts: Rob Duda/Cecilia Coakley Keating Public Relations 973-966-1100
<http://www.ambientcorp.com>

There are two types of power line equipment, carrier current systems and power line carrier systems.



A carrier current system is defined as a system, or part of a system, that transmits radio frequency energy by conduction over the electric power line to a receiver also connected to the same power line. A carrier current system can be designed such that the signals are received by conduction directly from connection to the electric power line (unintentional radiator), or the signals are received over-the-air, due to radiation of the radio frequency signals from the power line (intentional radiator).

Power line carrier systems, which operate between 10 kHz and 490 kHz, are carrier current systems used by an electric public utility entity for protective relaying, telemetry, etc., for general supervision of the power system. Power line carrier systems are not subject to specific emission limits as are carrier current systems.

Note: This is part of the reason Amateur Radio didn't receive a 136 KHz allocation.

Where Can I find More Information?

There are several different interpretations, depending on the viewpoint of the interpreter. The ARRL web site has extensive, constantly updated, information on BPL proposal and many links to other sites where you can obtain even more information.

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>

CERT, the Community Emergency Response Team Training Class being offered

Dear Fellow Amateurs,

Director of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge is encouraging all Amateur Radio Operators who have an interest in Emergency Services to seriously consider joining CERT, the Community Emergency Response Team.

Amateur Radio Operators will play a valuable role in the event of a disaster. But, what happens if the disaster hits you and your family? Do you know what to do? Does your family? The training provided by the CERT program is priceless! I've taken the class and I highly recommend it to you, your family and your friends and neighbors.

These classes are offered free of charge and meet for a total of 20 hours over a period of several weeks. During the July 5th storm, our home was hit. I experienced first hand, what is described below. People were shocked and unsure of just how to go about taking care of things. This class will not only help you if you are hit, but will also allow you to help those in the disaster area because you will know what to do and you can tell others what they can do.

As Amateur Radio Operators, we might be the ONLY contact with the outside world people in the disaster area have. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to know what needs to be done to help?

Below is the introduction from FEMA's homepage on the Community Emergency Response Team.

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

One also expects that under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow employees, and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training.

If we can predict that emergency services will not meet immediate needs following a major disaster, especially if there is no warning as in an earthquake, and people will spontaneously volunteer, what can government do to prepare citizens for this eventuality?

First, present citizens the facts about what to expect following a major disaster in terms of immediate services. Second, give the message about their responsibility for mitigation and preparedness. Third, train them in needed life saving skills with emphasis on decision making skills, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. Fourth, organize teams so that they are an extension of first responder services offering immediate help to victims until professional services arrive.

I STRONGLY urge you to sign up for this very important FREE class being offered through the City of Rockford. If we can get enough people, we can have a class the is made up of all Amateur Radio Operators.. Please go to the City of Rockford's website at <http://www.ci.rockford.il.us>, then go to the lower right-hand side and find the link to Citizen Corp Volunteer. Fill out the application and mark the 2nd section.

You can mail the application to City Hall, or, I believe you can email the contact person and let them know via email.

Please, sign up today! Then, let me know and I will work to get all of us in the same class if possible.

Thank-you, and I hope to see you in the CERT class!

73, Wayne - KA9IMX
ka9imx@arrl.net

**THE NEXT AMATEUR
RADIO EXAM SESSION IS**

**9 AM SATURDAY
OCTOBER 18, 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.

**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.
Please submit any articles before
the 1st of each month.**

**This Ham Rag is the first issue to be sent
via postal mail and for those who elected
to receive it electronically. Please let the
club treasurer know your correct email
address if you wish to elect to receive this
electronically.**

**Currently it costs the club an average of
\$850 a year to publish this newsletter at
the current rate of publication.**

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF FCC
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**

*Re: Inquiry Regarding Carrier Current Systems,
including Broadband over Power Line Sys-
tems; ET Docket No. 03-XXX*

Broadband over Power Line has the potential to provide consumers with a ubiquitous third broadband pipe to the home. The development of multiple broadband-capable platforms – be it power lines, Wi-Fi, satellite, laser or licensed wireless – will transform the competitive broadband landscape and reap dramatic windfalls for American consumers and the economy. Broadband over power lines is at the cutting edge of this dramatic digital migration that will continue to free applications (e.g., voice, data, and video) from the regulatory and technological shackles that have tied them to specific platforms (e.g., voice to copper and video to coaxial cable). While this migration is well under way, our policies must be dynamic and flexible to further – rather than frustrate – the transition.

Facilitating the development of new facilities-based platforms must be among our core goals. The current wireless industry illustrates the tremendous power of multiple facilities-based providers to foster innovation, promote ubiquity, increase competition and drive down prices. Wireless achieved these successes because the FCC employed a relatively light regulatory hand and licensed multiple providers in each market who built their own facilities to deliver value to consumers. Power lines and other new platforms can deliver the same value in the broadband market.

As I recently witnessed first hand at a local site visit, the potential of this new technology is immense. Broadband over power lines can offer consumers freedom to access broadband services from any room in their home without need to pay for additional wiring, by simply plugging an adaptor into an existing electrical outlet. For our nation's power utilities, Broadband over power lines can improve the utilities' ability to manage their electric grids through applications like remote power outage notification, load management to reduce peak power usage, load balancing, and remote meter reading. Power line technology also provides for useful redundancy and diversity in communications networks that are key aspects of secure homeland communications.

Power line networks are being tested today in a dozen states around the country and are a testament to the incredible innovations taking place in broadband network technologies. Today's notice explores ways to update our rules to ensure that regulatory uncertainty does not in any way hinder the deployment of these new services. Ultimately it will be for the marketplace to decide how broadband over power lines fits into tomorrow's competitive telecommunications landscape, but we welcome them to the frontier of the digital migration.

**This was the statement that led to the
FCC's doctrine of "Broadband Nirvana."**

2004 RARA Awards Dinner
January 9, 2004

Forest Room
Thunderbay Bar and Grill
7652 Potawatomi Tr.
Rockford, IL

The Menu:

Grilled Vegetarian Platter	\$13.90
Garlic Chicken (1/2 chicken)	\$15.60
Mahi Mahi (fish)	\$18.00
Top Sirloin	\$18.00

All dinners include:

Baked Potato
House Vegetable
Salad your choice of dressing includes:
Ranch, French, and Thousand Island
Non alcoholic drink (coffee, milk, soda)

Cash Bar will be available.

All prices include taxes and gratuities.

Reservations are do by December 31, 2003

Checks can be made payable to RARA

Mail your Reservations to:

Mary & John Auerswald
2229 10th St.
Rockford, Il 61104

<u>Item</u>	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Sub Total</u>
Grilled Vegetarian Platter	_____ x	_____
Garlic Chicken (1/2 chicken)	_____ x	_____
Mahi Mahi (fish)	_____ x	_____
Top Sirloin	_____ x	_____
	Total	_____

Name: _____

Total of Guests (including you) _____

**Rockford Amateur
Radio Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126
Phone: 815- 248-3102
E-Mail: w9axd@arrl.net
Web Site - <http://rara.tripod.com>

**Please try to attend this
months meeting.
It is important that you
exercise your right to vote in
this election.**

Mailing
Address
Goes Here

October 2003

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

