

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>

November 2004

Election of RARA 2005 Officers and Directors:

The following RARA members were elected by the membership present at the October RARA monthly meeting to the Board of Directors for the year 2005.

President – Bill Peters, WB9MCZ
Vice President – Tim Peterson, KC9DNN
Secretary – Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW
Treasurer – Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ

Director's : Dan Hunt, KC9ATR
Gene Harlan, WB9MMM
Scott Allshouse, W9SBA
Wendy Owano, KC9BCF

The position of President and Treasurer were unopposed.

The position of Vice President had two nominations, Tim Peterson, KC9DNN, and Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW. Tim Peterson won the position by popular vote.

At President Gene Harlan's request, Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW, agreed to serve as the Secretary for the year 2005.

The position of Director had two nominations, Kurt Eversole, KE9NJ, and Dan Hunt, KC9ATR. Dan Hunt won the position by popular vote.

Year 2004 President Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, Vice President Scott Allshouse, W9SBA, and Secretary Wendy Owano, KC9BCF, will all become Directors for the year 2005.

The next meeting is at 7:00 PM November 12, 2004

The program for this month's meeting will be:

Video from ARRL

"Everything You Always Wanted
To Know About Antennas,
but were afraid to ask."

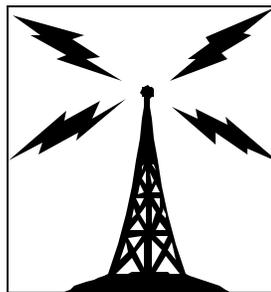
*Saint Anthony Medical Center
5666 E. State Street Rockford, IL.*

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.

November Program

Everything You Always Wanted To Know
About Antennas...but were afraid to ask.

Informative look at how various antenna designs perform.



Presentation made at
Johns Hopkins University, Applied
Physics Laboratory.
1981.

Presenter, Frank
Rutter, K3AW
(Silent Key).

[1 hr 8 min 30 sec]

**In this Issue of the Ham Rag. Please note:
The Motion For a Change in the Constitution, (Page 6),
Awards dinner menu and where to send your money. (Page 8)
And the Ham of the Year 2004 Nominations (Page 9)**

SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS By K9LJN & W9GD			
CALL-SIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
9G5JH	GHANA	NOW TO NOV 13	PA0CJH
FR/F6BUM	REUNION IS.	NOW TO NOV 15	F6CXJ
3B8MM	MAURITIUS	NOW TO NOV 16	DL6UAA
FT1ZL	AMSTERDAM IS.	NOW TO DEC 1	F2YT
SU8BHI	EGYPT	NOW TO DEC 12	HA3JB
JD1/JR6TYH	MINAMI TORISHIMA	NOW TO DEC 20	"JA" BURO
VK0DX	ANTARCTICA	NOW TO DEC 31	VK4LL
EL2PM	LIBERIA	NOW TO JAN, 2005	EI5IF
9U6PM	BURUNDI	NOW TO FEB, 2005	HB9DTM
TJ3SL	CAMEROON	NOW TO FEB, 2006	F5PSA
3B8/F6BUM	MAURITIUS	NOV 16-20	F6CXJ
3DA0NN	SWAZILAND	NOV 17-22	AA4NN

Recently Heard/Worked DX From the Rockford Area By K9LJN & W9GD		
CALLSIGN	QTH	QSL VIA
3B9FR	RODRIGUEZ IS.	DIRECT
3D2PX	FIJI	A15GK
4J9RI	AZERBAIJAN	DL7EDH
4S7EA	SRI LANKA	DIRECT
5V7BR	TOGO	F5RUQ
7W0AD	ALGERIA	EA4URE
9M2/G4ZFE	WEST MALAYSIA	G4ZFE
C93Q	MOZAMBIQUE	VK4VB
J5UAD	GUINEA-BISSAU	I2SB
LX/PA6Z	LUXEMBOURG	PA1K
OD5UE	LEBANON	IZ8CCW
P29SX	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	G3SXW
S79RJ	SEYCHELLES	DJ7RJ
ST2ZA	SUDAN	SM7WZA
TJ3FR	CAMEROON	DL7DF
TX9	CHESTERFIELD IS.	CW - DL4XS SSB - DL5NAM
TY5M	BENIN	PA7FM
V5/DL9GFB	NAMIBIA	DL9GFB
VK9LA	LORD HOWE IS.	VK4FW
YB0ECT	INDONESIA	K3AIR
ZD8I	ASCENSION IS.	G4LTI
ZY0K	FERNANDO DE NORONHA	KQ0B

Operating Tips

When I first got started in Ham Radio in 1958, my Dad (K9LJM) and I filled out our logbook entering the local time for each QSO. If a station from California (listing PST as the QSO time) sent one of us a QSL card, it was easy enough to convert Pacific Standard Time to Central Standard Time in order to find the QSO in our logbook. But the time conversion for DX contacts was extremely confusing, until we finally realized that we should use 24-hour Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) rather than our local time for all QSO's.

We decided to keep an old alarm clock in the shack set to UTC, so that we would never have to manually convert the time before entering a QSO in our logbook. **The conversion to UTC requires adding six hours to Central Standard Time (add five hours to CDST).** Also remember to change the calendar date after 6 PM CST (7 PM CDST). *Example: A QSO at 7:04 PM CST (19:04) on November 15, 2004 would convert to 01:04 UTC on November 16, 2004 for your logbook.*

I prefer an LED rather than a LCD clock for readability in sunlight or a darkened room. In the past, I have purchased Radio Shack 24-hour digital clocks because there is usually more than one variety available in the store and they are cheap (economically priced) especially when there is a closeout sale on a particular model. My most recent clock was purchased from MFJ who also makes a very good quality 24-hour digital clock.

I'm sure that some of my old QSL cards that listed CST (for the QSO time) were probably pitched in the "circular file" by the DX station because he didn't want to convert CST to UTC before manually checking his logbook for the QSO.

The main points to remember: use a 24-hour clock in your shack; keep the clock set to UTC; use UTC for your logbook and all QSL cards. I hope these ideas are helpful and that I hear you in the pile-ups.

73 & DX, Gary - K9LJN

Presidents Log November 2004

This year sure has gone fast, not to say that it is over yet, but it is winding down.

Thanks to those that have agreed to run for office and congratulations to those that won! I am sure that each of you will support and assist them as they need throughout 2005.

The November meeting will be interesting for new hams and old alike as it is a videotape from the ARRL about antennas. I understand that it is about 60 minutes long. One of the most often asked questions I get is about antennas. And it is easy to build your own. Come join us and enjoy each others company and the video.

We have our check from the Waterfront ticket booth. It was a little over \$1300 this year, down about \$250 from last year. For some reason we were off by about 2% on one of the days which lowered our dollars per hour that we get. It is still a good deal. Get ready to help us next year (YES, start thinking about it now!!!) and enjoy the good music as we earn \$\$\$ for our club. Everyone loved the music we had this year and I am still humming "YMCA".

We have some other concepts for fund raising that we will talk about at the meeting. A couple of other ideas have surfaced that we may, or may not want to pursue. We would need a commitment from most of the members to do these other ideas.

Can you believe that two hams could live together for 40 years? Shari & I share our 40th Wedding anniversary on November 21st. It does not seem like 40 years. I don't know how Shari has put up with me for so long, but am lucky that she has. As many of you know, we have two great kids (34 & 39 years old) and four wonderful grandchildren. I sure do love them all!

Had a great time with the Jamboree On The Air this year and must have had 45-55 people at our house showing low band communications, slow scan TV, VHF communications, and fast scan TV. Everyone had a ball with lots of questions coming from the adults as well. Thanks to KB9SKW, W9TQ, KC9ATR, N9SH, and N9CNW for assisting with so many little ones around. Ages started at around 6 years old to about 12. We will tell you all about what happened at the meeting.

Also, Tim, KC9DNN, and Colleen, KC9EWJ, did the JOTA thing the next day. They also had a lot of fun letting the enthusiastic scouts make contacts. I am sure they will tell us their exploits also at the meeting.

The ATV repeater has had its' ups and downs. The up side is that great reports have been coming from Racine, around O'Hare, Malta, and Plano. The reception is better than we thought it would be towards the Chicago suburbs. The down side is that the antenna blew down last Saturday. I am hoping we have what we need to get it back up this Saturday since the weather is supposed to be in the 60's.

See you at the meeting.

Gene – WB9MMM



**Rockford Amateur Radio Association
Monthly Meeting - Friday October 8th, 2004
OSF St. Anthony's Medical Center, Rockford IL.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Gene Harlan, WB9MMM.

September Minutes: Secretary Wendy Owano, KC9BCF, was exc used from the October meeting. Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW, read the minutes from the September 10th meeting. Chuck Liljegren, WB9UMC, moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ; motion carried.

September Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, reported total cash on hand balance of \$4,784.26 as of September 31st 2004. Shari Harlan, N9SH, moved to accepted the report, seconded by Bill Peters, WB9MCZ; motion carried.

Old Business...

On The Waterfront: 2004 Committee chairman Scott Allshouse, W9SBA, reported final numbers from this years On The Waterfront fundraising effort. RARA collected \$66,514 this year, not including loose change. Ticket sales totaled at 133,000; which is down from the 2003 total of 175,000 tickets. Reason for the decrease is most likely the change in venue this year.

Rock Cut Hobo Run: Sue Peters, KA9GNR, reported that seven amateurs volunteered their time on Saturday September 26th for the Rockford Road Runners Rock Cut Hobo Run. More volunteers were needed to provide the desired level of communications.

R.V.C. Technician Class: The RVC tech class had two students, with both students passing their Technician exam. Please welcome Joel Akre, KC9GPO, and Dennis Murray, KC9GPP, to the ranks of the amateur radio community.

R.V.C. General Class: Two students are signed up for the R.V.C. General class which will take place October 23rd and October 30th; between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

New Business...

Jamboree on the Air: The 2004 JOTA will be the weekend of October 16-17th. Scott Allshouse, W9BSA, reports the Boy Scouts are requesting amateurs to volunteer at the Camp Lowden Scout Camp in Oregon on October 16th between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. RARA will also be hosting a JOTA station at Gene and Shari Harlan's residence during the same time period. A variety of modes will be attempted, including ATV, SSTV, HF, digital and satellite.

2004 Awards Banquet: President Harlan asked for a volunteer to chair the 2004 RARA Award Banquet. Sue Peterson, KA9GNR, agreed to be this year's chairman.

Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO, reported he had been in contact with an engineer that had a variety of components. Please contact Alvin for details.

Shari Harlan, N9SH, made a motion to amend the Rockford Amateur Radio Associations constitution to eliminate the Secretary position and merge the Secretary and Treasurer positions into one officer position. This change would not occur until the 2005 RARA election of officers.

Discussion followed between present RARA members.

Motion was seconded by Scott Allshouse, W9SBA, and passed by a vote of the membership. Eleven members voted yay and five members voted nay. The motion will again be voted on at the November 12th 2004 monthly membership meeting.

Election of RARA 2005 Officers and Directors:

The following RARA members were elected by the membership present at the October RARA monthly meeting to the Board of Directors for the year 2005.

President – Bill Peters, WB9MCZ

(Continued from page 4)

Vice President – Tim Peterson, KC9DNN
Secretary – Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW
Treasurer – Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ

Director – Dan Hunt, KC9ATR

The position of President and Treasurer were unopposed. Motion by Gary Hilker, K9LJN, to instate the nominees to position; seconded by Chuck Liljegen, WB9UMC; motion carried.

The position of Vice President had two nominations, Tim Peterson, KC9DNN, and Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW. Tim Peterson won the position by popular vote.

At President Gene Harlan's request, Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW, agreed to serve as the Secretary for the year 2005. Motion to approve to instate the nominee to position by Scott Allshouse, W9SBA; seconded by Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ; motion carried.

The position of Director had two nominations, Kurt Eversole, KE9NJ, and Dan Hunt, KC9ATR. Dan Hunt won the position by popular vote.

Year 2004 President Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, Vice President Scott Allshouse, W9SBA, and Secretary Wendy Owano, KC9BCF, will all become Directors for the year 2005.

Special Interest Groups:

ATV: The W9ATN amateur television repeater is scheduled to be installed at St. Anthony's on October 9th.

Fox Hunting: Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW, is attending a competition Lincoln Trail State Park near Marshall, IL. on October 10th.

ARES: The "Head of the Rock" Regatta is on October 10th.

DX: Enhanced band conditions due to the change of season. Expect 10-17 meters to be open.

Motion to close the meeting my Shari Harlan, N9SH; seconded by Jim Miller, W4JR; motion carried.



At the October board meeting it was voted on to decrease dues with the addition of the new WA9AXD.com website and using email to send the newsletter.

New Rates as follows:

Single \$25	Family \$30
Senior \$15	Senior Family \$20
Student \$15	

Dues include receipt of Ham Rag via the club internet website, W9AXD

OR

If you still want to receive the HamRag by mail and an membership you have to add \$12 dollars for the following:

Single \$37	Family \$42
Senior \$27	Senior Family \$32
Student \$27	

This will get you membership and the Ham-Rag mail to you as it is now.

It is imperative that you get the proper email address you use correct to the club treasure.

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. *Except for December.*

RARA Officers for 2004

President: Gene Harlan WB9MMM
Vice President: Scott Allshouse W9SBA
Secretary: Wendy Owano KC9BCF
Treasurer: Carl Cacciatore W9TQ
Director: Dan Hunt KC9ATR
Director: Gary Hilker K9LJN
Director: Nicolas Lager KB9SKW
Director: Larry Snyder K0HNM
Newsletter and Web Site:
John Auerswald KA9SOG

Motion to change the RARA Constitution in 2006

Here is the proposed change for the RARA constitution. The way it reads now is the first section, the proposed change is the second. This will take affect in 2006 with the Election of Officers in October 2005.

Article IV - Officers (*Now*)

1. The officers of the club shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The change: (in 2006)

1. The officers of the club shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer.

Article V - Duties of Officers (*Now*)

3. The Secretary shall keep the constitution and by-laws of the club and have the document at every meeting. The Secretary shall cause all amendments, changes and additions to be noted thereon, and shall permit the same to be consulted by members by request. The secretary shall keep a record of proceedings of all meetings, keep a roll of members, and provide applications for membership, carry on all correspondence, read communications at each meeting, and be the custodian of club equipment. At the expiration of the term the Secretary shall turn over all records of office to a successor.

4. The treasurer shall receive and give a receipt for all monies paid to the club, and shall keep accurate account of all monies received and expended. The Treasurer shall make no

expenditures without proper authorization. At each regular meeting the Treasurer shall submit an itemized statement of disbursements and receipts. The treasurer shall submit all records for a yearly audit to the audit committee by December 15. At the expiration of the term the Treasurer shall turn all records of this office to a successor.

The change: (in 2006)

3. The secretary/Treasurer shall keep the constitution and by laws of the club and have the document at every meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer shall cause all amendments, changes and additions to be noted thereon, and shall permit the same to be consulted by request. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep a record of proceedings of all meetings, receive and give a receipt for all monies paid to the club, keep a roll of members and provide applications for the membership, and be the custodian of club equipment. The Secretary/Treasurer shall carry on all correspondence, read communications submit an itemized statement of disbursements and receipts. The Secretary/Treasurer shall make no expenditures without proper authorization. The Secretary/Treasurer shall submit all records for a yearly audit to the audit committee by December 15. At the end of the term the Secretary/Treasurer shall turn all records of this office to a successor.

Shari Harlan - N9SH
ARRL Illinois Section Manager
N9SH@arrl.org

At the October club meeting a motion was made to change the R.A.R.A. Constitution. The rules to change the constitution state that each member be notified by mail of the intent to amend the constitution and/or by-laws. This can be by a simple majority vote at the next meeting.

The reason for this motion was that there was not enough people volunteering to run for office.

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL

**on
Saturday, November 20, 2004.**

**Location:
St. Anthony Hospital
5666 E. State Street
Rockford, IL**

Exams will be held in the St Francis Room (just right of the front entrance after you enter).

Check-in is from 9:00 AM till 10:30 AM. We require two ID's with your signature on them (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.

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

The test fee for 2004 is \$12.00. Walk-ins welcome.

Contact Information
Randy Scott, W9HL
W9HL@arrr.net
815-877-4328

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@arrr.net and visit <http://rara.tripod.com> for any late breaking news and information.

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

This issue of the HAMRAG was made possible by their article or photo submissions:

Gary Hilker, K9LJN, Gene Duncan, W9GD, Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, Randy Scott, W9HL, NJDXA, 425DXN, ARRL, Wendy Owano, KC9BCF, Shari Harlan, N9SH, Sue Peters, KC9GNR, Dave Ewaldz, N9HKM

Moving Sale

Heavy duty gear from the N9HKM/KB9PPE packet radio digipeater system.

1. 40' Rohn 25G tower, make offer.
2. CDE HamII rotor, controller, mounting plate \$25
3. 20' Aluminum mast \$10
4. Diamond X500 2m/440 colinear vertical. \$40 8.3 and 11.7 dB gain for 2M and 70cm respectfully.
5. Diamond 2m/440 Duplexer Like New \$30
6. 2m Ringo Ranger \$10
7. IIX Heavy duty tower side mount for verticals \$25
8. 70cm Cushcraft end mount beam \$25
9. 2m 11ele. Cushcraft beam \$10
10. Approx 100' Andrew 1/2" hardline WITH connectors Good condition. \$50
11. Alpha-Delta DXCC 10-80m dipole. \$15
12. UHF micor repeater, no duplexer. Currently tuned to 444.975/449.975mhz Make offer.
13. Bird model 43 Wattmeter w/ 200-500mhz & 50-125mhz elements Like new \$250
14. Other gear-
(1) Johnson Fleetcom II 145.07mhz
(1) Johnson Fleetcom II 145.63mhz
(1) UHF Motorola Maxar, setup for 9600baud packet.
(1) Motorola Micor 444.975/449.975
Misc. MFJ TNC's.

Moving, must sell.

Make offers.

Contact Dave Ewaldz N9HKM
ph: 633-7031
email: dewaldz@insightbb.com

**2005 RARA Awards Dinner
January 14, 2005**

6:00 pm - Happy Hour 7:00 pm - Dinner
Hoffman House
Holiday Inn
East State Street & Bell School Road.
Rockford, IL

The Menu:

Pesto Primavera (Vegetarian)	\$19.00
* Boneless Chicken Breast	\$19.00
* Stuffed Orange Roughy (fish)	\$21.50
* Roast Prime Rib of Beef	\$24.00

* Include:

Baked Potato
House Vegetable
Salad
Non alcoholic drink (coffee, tea, milk)

Cash Bar will be available.

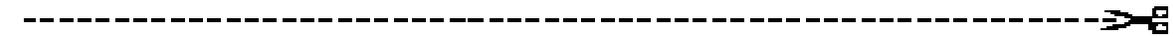
All prices include taxes and gratuities.

Reservations are due by December 31, 2004

Checks should be made payable to RARA

Mail your Reservations to:

Sue Peters
8312 Tetterhall LN.
Machesney Park, IL. 61115-7929



<u>Item</u>		<u>Qty.</u>		<u>Sub Total</u>
Pesto Primavera Vegetarian Platter	\$19.00	_____	x	_____
Boneless Chicken Breast	\$19.00	_____	x	_____
Stuffed Orange Roughy (fish)	\$21.50	_____	x	_____
Roast Prime Rib of Beef	\$24.00	_____	x	_____
			Total	_____

Name: _____

Total of Guests (including you) _____

HAM OF THE YEAR 2004 NOMINATIONS

The Ham of the Year award is an honor that is presented to the R.A.R.A member who has contributed the most to the club and to amateur radio in general during the year. This year the selection will be made by a committee 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 R.A.R.A. member and should have performed exemplary service for amateur radio during the year 2004.

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 mailed to Larry at the address below or handed to him at the next club meeting. All nominations must be received by December 10, 2004. They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Mail nominations to:

Larry Snyder K0HNM
107 Abbey Drive
Poplar Grove, IL 61065
lsnyder@execpc.com



NOMINATION FOR HAM OF THE YEAR

Nominee _____

Call _____

I nominate the above person for the RARA Ham of the Year 2004 award for the following reasons:

Signed _____

Call _____

**Rockford Amateur
Radio Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126
Phone: (815) 398-2683
E-Mail: w9axd@arrl.net
Web Site - <http://rara.tripod.com>

Mailing
Address
Goes Here

Must See info Inside.

November 2004

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION

Single \$30.00 Family \$35.00
Senior \$15.00 Senior Family \$20.00
Student \$15.00 HamRag Only \$10.00

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

