

HAM RAG

Visit our website for more club and area ham information
In the Rockford area at <http://w9axd.com>

Rockford Amateur Radio Association, inc

MAY 2005

Presidents Corner - May 2005

Well, we're getting into the storm and racing seasons. Last three weeks we've had four race events. These events are meant to give us practice and iron out problems with our equipment and procedures. Thank you to all who have helped.

Don't forget Dick Fleming and Field Day.. He has a big job and will need the assistance of each of us.

Thank Tim Peterson – KC9DNN when you see him. He has put a lot of effort to bring interesting programs to us. It takes many phone calls and many NO's before someone agrees to give a program. This month promises to be another such evening.

The control board for the 147.000 repeater has been removed and sent in for repairs. The tone decoder has been failing.

If you get called to help on a project, please say yes.

Breakfast in the park Sat. June 11 in Alpine Park.
Field Day June 25-26 Alpine Park.

73's Bill WB9MCZ

2005 MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Those of you who have not already picked up your 2005 Membership Cards at the April meeting, they are ready for you to be picked up at the May RARA meeting. I urge you to pick them up for it will cost the club approximately .50 cents, to mail them to you. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Carl W9TQ, Treasurer

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NEXT MEETING

Friday, May 13, 2005

The program for this month's meeting will be:
JIM CONRAD

"8 years with amateur radio on the high seas"

LOCATION

St. Anthony Medical Center
5666 E. State Street
Rockford, IL

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

**Rockford Amateur Radio Association
April 8, 2005 General Meeting Minutes
St. Anthony Medical Center, Rockford IL.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by President Bill Peters.

Minutes:

Minutes from the March 2005 general meeting were read by Nicholas Lager; moved for acceptance as read by Shari Harlan, seconded by Charles Liljegren Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurers Report:

Total cash on hand for the month is \$5,843.³⁴; moved for acceptance as read by Shari Harlan, seconded by Gene Stankiewicz. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Gene Harlan mentioned that the W9ATN ATV repeater was back at the repeater site and operating.

New Business:

Any RARA 2005 member can pick up their membership card from Carl Cacciatore tonight.

Shari Harlan thanked Gene Stankiewicz for the great job he did on the new Ham Rag and how good it looks.

Shari Harlan also brought up several upcoming hamfests, they are as follows:

April 16th, North Shore Radio Club in Grayslake, IL
April 24th, Area Amateur Radio Operators in Galva IL
May 1st, Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club in Sandwich, IL
Additional hamfests are listed on the club webpage.

Sue Peters mentioned that twenty people attended the Red Cross class on March 14th about Introduction to Disaster Services. She now needs a list of people who are interested in a disaster assessment class.

Gene Harlan stated that he gave Bill Peters a letter from Rock Valley College concerning fall amateur radio classes. Discussion will take place about this subject in an upcoming Board of Directors meeting.

Bill Peters introduced Larry Swanson from the Rockford Road Runners to the club. Larry talked about the benefits that amateur radio communication lends to events and mentioned several upcoming events that communications would be needed for.

Dick Fleming has started planning for this year's Field Day. He has requested several volunteers to handle different tasks on Field Day weekend. Dick says the red generator has been fixed and overhauled by his son-in-law and that a property officer is needed to store and keep track of all the hardware

owned by the club.

Gene Stankiewicz will be providing all of the 20 meter gear for Field Day.

A suggestion was introduced to have a sound baffle around the generators.

A potluck type dinner was suggested for Saturday's dinner at Field Day.

Colleen Peterson said she would take care of Breakfast Sunday morning at Field Day.

Please call Dick Fleming if you can assist him with anything regarding Field Day.

Tim Peterson has a new column in the Ham Rag called Ham Radio Freestyle. This month it was about a light bulb antenna, which he passed an example around.

Dick Fleming mentioned that we should have a club historian.

Paul Franklin is the new RARA webmaster. Please contact him for any additions and corrections to the webpage.

Motion to adjourn at 7:57 P.M. by Charles Liljegren, seconded by Dave Bond. Motion carried unanimously.

Nicholas KB9SKW, Secretary



Break time at April 8, 2005 meeting.



FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST— Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 9:30 am at the **Morning Glory Restaurant**, 408 7th St, Rockford (An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company. Everyone is welcome to attend.)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MILT CARLSON, W9FFQ, APRIL 18, 2005

THE MOST SENIOR HAM OPERATOR IN WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Well-known Rockford radio amateur , Milt Carlson, W9FFQ, celebrated his 94th birthday on April 18, 2005 at his new residence in the Wesley Willows Retirement Home in Rockford. It is believed that he is the most senior ham operator in the Rockford area.

Milt was born in Rockford in 1911 and was educated in the local school system. He was a member of the RHS Wireless Club in high school and received his first ham license in 1928 with the call of 9FFQ. Approximately one year later the prefix "W" was assigned to all U.S. amateurs and his call became W9FFQ. He has been continuously licensed for 77 years.

One of his earlier jobs was that of a high speed CW radio operator for the Rockford Police Department. At that time Rockford was a member of an intercity police radio network in which all message traffic was communicated by CW throughout the state. He was later employed at the Stewart Warner Co. in Chicago on the production line manufacturing home and auto AM broadcast receivers. During WW2 he was a member of Harvard University's Underwater Sound Laboratory at the time they were engaged in the development of submarine detection devices.

After the war he joined Bell & Howell Optical Laboratory near Chicago, participating in the design and development of the earliest projection TV receivers. He was then employed by the Barber Colman Co. in Rockford, retiring after a 30-year career in the engineering department.

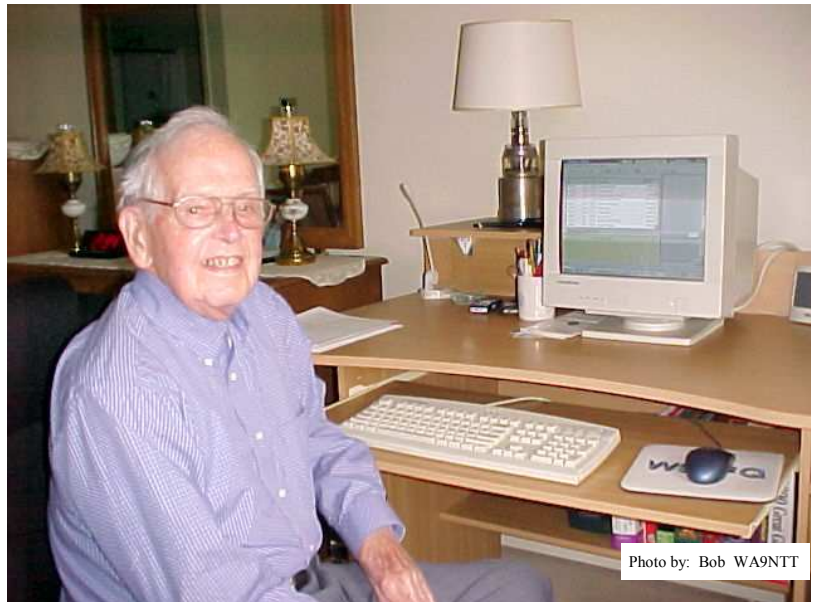
Milt is an extra class licensee. He has been active in Amateur Radio through these many years, primarily on CW and PSK-31 operating modes. He has enjoyed using his computer in conjunction with ham radio operation and has been fascinated by the effectiveness of very low power (QRP) operation by those using PSK-31.

On this occasion we wish Milt the very best and a Happy 94th.

By: Jim Miller W4JR



Milt W9FFQ at informal gathering in December 1940



Milt W9FFQ today using his computer to work amateur radio via ECHO LINK

Editors note: I have personally watched Milt operate CW and have never seen anyone faster. Milt can send and copy 60 WPM and still hold a conversation with you at the same time. Milt does not have a station at his new residence so he has been using ECHO LINK via his computer to get onto the air.

From the desk of the Vice President...

Looking at all this great spring weather, gets me to thinking about Field Day, and all the preparations that need to be done. Consider this... do I want to set-up a station?, or Which mode?, Do I have all the Equipment I need? Yes, This is the time to do all that planning, and making sure you are ready. I'm borrowing the "Old Family Tent" that is over twenty years old and making sure it is up to snuff. Of course there are two poles to replace and, it needed some cleaning, and re-water-proofing. This year I am hoping to set-up for PSK31 on 20/40 meters. I have most of the equipment I need, but I am still working on an antenna. Maybe a portable MFJ or home-brew dipole.

The best advise I can make for any new hams for Field Day, (whether with us or some where else), is to do a "trial set-up" at home. And try to make a few contacts that way. You usually will find your problems at this time and correct them. Better now than in the Field. Also, bring "Extras," such as fuses, etc. If you have a Ham Radio Junk box, bring that too. You never know what might get you out of a jam. So let us all "Field Prep" them radios, batteries, and bugs, and show the world what we can do with little to nothing. Wear the title of "Ham" as a feather proudly in our hats, in true Yankee Doodle Style.

More than radio's, there is the camping, BBQ, Insects, Sun, Rain, moon, and the stars. So please be prepared for all these things, as how they apply to your area. Bring the supplies, you know you will need, and a few "extras" for emergencies, that you hope you won't need. Also make sure you have back-up plans appropriate for where you are going. We DON'T need you to be found by search dog's two weeks later. Make sure someone else knows where you will be, and when they should expect you back at the latest. I know this is just good common sense. So let's all go out there and have some old fashioned Whole-some fun. See ya, at Field Day.

Tim Peterson KC9DNN

Field Day Planning update

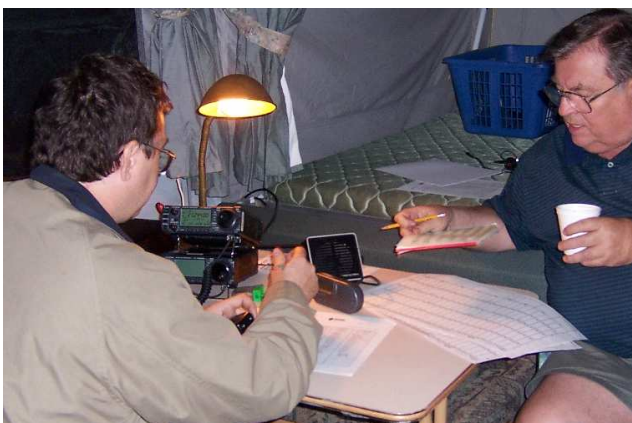
As you know I put a call out for help at the April RARA meeting for people to assist at the Field Days on June 25th and 26th 2005.

As a result Shari, N9SH, is going to handle publicity. She already has obtained the park permit. Chuck, AB9KA, offered to help Shari by arranging air time on WNTA the week before the event. Gene, WB9MMM has offered a generator and help with enlarging of the copies of the log sheets. Chuck, WB9VMC has offered a saturday in May to help me change oil on the generators and get them ready to go. Colleen, KC9EWJ has offered to help with food on Sunday morning the 26th.

I still need help with food-menus, purchasing, cooking, and serving on Saturday and Sunday. Strong bodies are needed to help set up and tear down.

Please call me to volunteer!! Any ideas or suggestions are also welcome.

Dick Fleming KC9BCB Phone 964-3423



Field Day activities for 2004, some times you operate and other times you catch up on the local happenings. Photo by: Gene KA9BOD

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

April 16 there were 3 applicants resulting in 3 new Technicians.

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, May 21, 2005.

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 until 10:30 AM.

What You Need To Bring To A W5YI-VEC Session

1. Your original Amateur License (unexpired or within the 2 year grace period) and a copy to attach to the paperwork.
2. Any valid CSCE that you are using for credit. Again the VE's have to see the original and have a copy to attach to the paperwork.
3. Two forms of Identification with your signature on them. One must be a picture ID (drivers license, passport, school ID, library card, credit card, etc.)
4. Test Fee \$14.00 cash or check. (please make checks payable to W5YI-VEC)

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

ON THE WATERFRONT FUNDRAISER

September 2, 3 & 4

The club mans a ticket booth on all three days. Typically in 4 hour shifts. **Mark your calendars and plan to volunteer some time.** WE NEED YOU. More information in next months Ham Rag.

NEWS FROM OTHER CLUBS

(WIARC = Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club)

The WIARC is sponsoring what sounds like a fun event from May 1 to May 31. The first annual "LUNATIC" operating event is to encourage renewed activity on the WIARC VHF and UHF repeater systems. "LUNATIC" is short for "Let's Undertake New Activity To Instigate Communications." The contest is open to all WIARC members that are licensed to operate the UHF and VHF bands, and operation may be from any location or combination of locations, fixed, portable or mobile.

More info can be found at <http://www.w9awe.org>

REPEATER AUTOPATCH CODES

Any RARA members wishing autopatch codes for the 146.610 repeater please email Carl W9TQ and he will give them to you.

Carl's email address is: w9tq@arrl.net

Dates to look forward to

Breakfast in the Park, June 11 at Alpine Park in Shelter #1
Field Day, June 25th & 26th at Alpine Park Areas 6 & 7
Family Picnic, August 14th at Alpine Park shelter #2
On the Waterfront, Sept 2, 3, & 4 Club Fundraiser

Free Technical advice for hams.
WB9LHU Earth Works 965-9841



ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE)

Where does a ham go to learn more about his or her hobby? Many clubs offer licensing classes, but courses in other areas of ham radio are virtually unheard of. Once in a while seminars or conferences are held for topics of special interest, but structured courses with certification in various topics beyond licensing generally are not offered.

The ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program, approved by the ARRL Board in January 2000, is designed to fill that gap. During the first half of 2000, extensive discussions took place through the Members-only On-line forum. As discussions progressed, participants overwhelmingly supported emergency communications as the first course topic.

Volunteers from all over the country assisted in pulling together information for the course. Because the topic of emergency communications is so diversified and so much information is available, the material is broken into three levels: Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced Emergency Communications (Levels I, II and III).

In February 2002, the first ARRL technical course debuted -- Antenna Modeling (EC-004). Several additional courses were also developed in 2002 and are offered on a monthly basis: HF Digital Communications (EC-005) for example. In January 2003 a course on Radio Frequency Interference was offered for the first time. ARRL has plans to keep these programs fresh and to add courses that reflect the interests and needs of our members.

All ARRL C-CE courses are available on-line, thanks to ARRL's partnership with the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC), a nonprofit organization that specializes in developing on-line courses for Connecticut colleges and universities. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for all ARRL Certification and Continuing Education courses. The courses typically take about 25 hours to complete over an 8 week period. The course fee varies for ARRL members and non-members.

Each on-line course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities, and quizzes. Courses are interactive and include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor and other students. Mentors assist students by guiding them through the course. Students for each C-CE course are required to pass a Final Assessment (exam) of 25-multiple choice questions each with a score of 80% or better. All students who successfully complete the course requirements and pass the assessments earn an attractive certificate. (Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course Certification also includes an ID card.)

*Thanks to our grant sponsors--the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Technologies Corporation--the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. Act now! This is the final year of the grant-subsidized classes! **You must be registered by June 30, 2005 to guarantee reimbursement.***

The courses currently available are:

- Sample Course
- Level 2 AREC (EC-002)
- Antenna Modeling (EC-004)
- RFI (EC-006)
- Antenna Design & Construction (EC-009)
- Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011)
- Digital Electronics (EC-013)
- Level 1 AREC (EC-001)
- Level 3 AREC (EC-003)
- HF Digital Comm (EC-005)
- Beyond Repeaters (EC-008)
- Technician License Course (EC-010)
- Analog Electronics (EC-012)

For more information visit the ARRL website at www.arrl.org/cce

SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

By K9LJN

For those of you that are interested in DXPEDITIONS, these are the current ones going on.

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
ZK2???	NIUE	NOW TO MAY 8	JA1KAJ
3B8MM	MAURITIUS	NOW TO MAY 10	DL6UAA
ST2T	SUDAN	NOW TO JUNE 30	S57DX
3A0CE	MONACO	MAY 4 - 8	F5LGF
JD1BLW	OGASAWARA IS.	MAY 5 - 8	JH1WCD
JD1BLZ	OGASAWARA IS.	MAY 5 - 8	JR1AGC
HB0/HA5MM	LIECHTENSTEIN	MAY 14 - 18	HA5MM
HB0/HA5OJ	LIECHTENSTEIN	MAY 14 - 18	HA5OJ
TO4G	GLORIOSO IS.	MAY 15 TO JUNE 1	F5OGL

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Over the years, local hams have helped other organizations in the Rockford community by providing communications to help with the management and control of the events. It is an opportunity to put our communication skills and equipment to good use and also helps promote amateur radio. The typical event usually takes a couple of hours of our time and gives us an opportunity to observe the event up close. Usually the only equipment needed is a 2M handheld or 2M mobile radio.

The Special Events where we provide communications, rough date of the event and the contact or coordinator are:

- Special Olympics - May 7 - N9OCW
- March of Dimes - May 15
- One half Marathon - May 21—KA9IMX
- Boy Scout Triple P - late May - was KA9GNR
- WKMO Rock-the-Run - late May - KA9GNR
- 4th of July Run - N9CCE/KA9IMX
- 4th of July Parade - N9CCE
- Roscoe Rail Road run - July 23 - N9OCW
- YMCA Triathalon - August - N9CCE
- Girl Scout Mint Cookie Run-Sept 17-ka9bod
- CROP Hunger Walk - Columbus Day wknd
- Head of the Rock Regatta - Columbus Day wknd

All amateur operators are welcome to help out. You do not have to be a member of RARA or ARES to participate. No special training is required. All it takes is a willingness to participate.

Gene KA9BOD

RARA Repeaters

146.610 -	pl 114.8	W9AXD
147.000 +	pl 114.8	W9AXD
223.8800 -	pl none	W9AXD
ATV input 1250 Mhz/ 434 Mhz		W9ATN
output 421.25 Mhz		

RARA Officers and Directors - 2005

President – Bill Peters, WB9MCZ
Vice President – Tim Peterson, KC9DNN
Secretary – Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW
Treasurer – Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ
Directors: Dan Hunt, KC9ATR
Gene Harlan, WB9MMM
Scott Allshouse, W9SBA
Wendy Owano, KC9BCF

ITEMS FOR SALE

RF Concepts Model RFC 4-110 (Alpha/Crosslink)
430-450 MHz FM-SSB RF Power Amplifier
10 watts in/100 watts out
13.8 VDC @ 20 amps
Condition: NEW
Asking \$250.00

4-1000A Eimac Transmitting tubes
2 NEW in Box
Asking \$250 each

Jim, W4JR 815-397-4602

Vibroplex SQ Brass Racer
Asking \$100.00

High Gain 14 AVQ Vertical Antenna 40 - 10 M
Asking \$55.00

Autek Memory Keyer
Asking \$35.00

Autek QF1 Audio Filter
Asking \$30.00

Autek QF1A Audio Filter
Asking \$40.00

MFJ 9420 20 M Transceiver
Asking \$195.00

Heil HMM Mobile Microphone
Asking \$75.00

MFJ 207 Antenna Analyzer
Asking \$65

Mirage B34G 2 M Amplifier
Asking \$60

Steve K9LLI 815-494-4827

To place an add please email the Ham Rag editor at:
KA9BOD@ARRL.NET

*** HELP ***

We are working to correct email addresses and home addresses for those who are getting the Ham Rag mailed. Please let us know if there is a problem.

If you would like to have something published, please call me or email me at ka9bod@arrl.net. **Cut-off for the June 2005 issue will be Friday May 27, 2005.**

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

**Rockford Amateur
Radio Association, Inc**

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Email: ka9bod@arrl.net

Web: www.w9axd.com

Nets

Monday 8PM	2 Meter	146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM	ARES	147.195 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATURN	146.610 - 114.8

place address label here

MAY 2005

**ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Single Adult: \$25.00 Adult w/Family: \$30.00
Single Senior: \$15.00 Senior w/Family: \$20
Student: \$15.00

Above rate includes the RARA monthly newsletter, Ham Rag, via email.

Ham Rag Via U.S. Postal Service: \$12.00 extra

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email _____

Renewal _____ New _____ Retired _____

Radio Interests _____

Other Interests _____

Suggestions: _____

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