

HAM RAG



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In the Rockford area at <http://w9axd.com>

— It is membership renewal time. —

FEBRUARY 2006

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Presidents Corner

I would like to thank Sue Peters, KA9GNR, for planning the awards banquet. We tried a new place this year. It is good to try new places from time to time to see how they are. I think that everyone there had a good time visiting with friends and making new ones.

Congratulations to Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, for being selected as RARA's Ham of the Year, 2005. Gene has worked very hard for the club and amateur radio in general during the last year.

As I announced at the banquet, RARA's radio contact with the International Space Station is coming up. Christian Life School has been contacted two times within the last month to confirm their interest and school calendar. We are hopeful that this contact will be within six to eight months. I will be putting together a team to work on this project. We will be needing two complete stations--one for the contact and one for a back-up should the first one fail. I will need a PR person to keep this in the news. When we have a team put together we would like to do a "dry run" at the school so that we can actually see what we have to do with antennas, coax, etc.

Gene, WB9MMM, has also been emailing the same science teacher at Christian Life about a balloon launch and she is really excited about this also. A group from Wisconsin is also interested in helping with this. We just need the OK from the school. With both of these events on the horizon we could have a very exciting year.

Our next meeting will be February 10th. Our speaker will be John Lawrence, N9OTC, who was deployed two times with the Salvation Army to New Orleans. Both of the deployments were two weeks in length. Come and see pictures of the disaster site as well as hear John speak about his experiences in the Salvation Army canteen. This should be a great program and I am looking forward to it.

See you at the meeting.

73,

Shari Harlan - N9SH

NEXT MEETING

Friday
February 10, 2006

Meeting Program:
Deployment with Salvation
Army to New Orleans

John Lawrence, N9OTC

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.

Secretary's Report

Dinner Meeting Minutes

Approximately 33 people attended the Awards Banquet at the Mayflower restaurant on January 14, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Shari N9SH at 8:45 pm.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The secretary's report was read by Colleen KC9EWJ. Motion to approve was made by Chuck WB9UMC and second by Dan KC9ATR. All approved.

TREASURERS REPORT

Carl W9TQ read the Treasurers report and the total cash on hand \$6,034.96. Motion to approve was made by Dave W9MG and second by Gene KB9BOD. All approved.

OLD BUSINESS

(None)

NEW BUSINESS

Shari N9SH made an announcement that in one month the Friday morning breakfast will be moving to the Red Flame restaurant on South Alpine road. This will take place on the first Friday on February.

ISS Contact at Christian Life School should happen sometime in September. Looking to borrow a Yaesu FT-847 as a secondary radio for the contact. Also looking for a public relations manager for this event.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Dave W9MG and second by Jim W4JR all approved. The meeting ended at 8:58 pm.

Gene KB9BOD won Ham of the year.

Submitted by Colleen KC9EWJ, secretary

From the Desk of the Vice President....

WOW, is it spring already? No, it isn't but the mild weather we have had certainly conjures up ideas about maybe some antenna work or at least making some improvements to our station. Now is a good time to at least do some inspecting of the exterior parts of our station such as coax, connectors, proper grounding, and lightning protection. Other parts of the antenna system should NOT be inspected until warmer weather such as the tower itself, rotor, and antenna. Too many times we can fall into a false sense of security and attempt things at the wrong time. This is one of them. A little safety can go a long way. Anyway, at least we can get a list of maybe a few items that we want, (read "need" to the wife or husband), and plan to attend a few hamfests. The annual hamfest on May 19-21 at Dayton, Ohio will be coming up shortly, and now is a good time to starting to plan if you are going to attend. See page 82 of the February edition of QST for more information. Don't forget your ideas for RARA this year. Let us know at the meetings what we can do and have FUN!

Best regards,
Kurt Eversole – KE9NJ

2005 HAM OF THE YEAR

Editors Note: As editor, this was a little embarrassing for me to have won the Ham of the Year award and then report it in the newsletter. As a result, I decided to recognize the others that were nominated along with their nomination letters. Their contributions to the club were noteworthy and they also deserve congratulations.
Gene KA9BOD, Editor

I herewith nominate **Gene Stankiewicz – KA9BOD** as the RARA 2005 Ham of the Year.

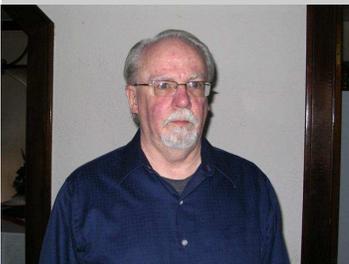
- Gene, seeing a need, stepped in and assumed the duties as the RARA Ham Rag editor. He has provided the club with an outstanding publication that both he and RARA can be proud. The content is relevant to the club and amateur radio and the publication is available to the membership on time.
- Gene, also stepped in as the unofficial interim-secretary, taking the minutes for the RARA board meetings and the general meetings.
- Gene has managed or participated in most, if not all, community events that requested amateur radio communications, providing first rate communications for the sponsoring agency.
- Gene has purchased or built specific communications equipment to provide reliable professional quality communications for the runs, parades, and marathons that he participates.
- Gene has participated in most, if not all, of the club social events throughout the year.
- Gene was available to show young scouts what ham radio is all about via JOTA
- Gene is an active participant of Skywarn/ARES, providing weather conditions from remote, unsecured locations in Winnebago County.



Shari, N9SH presenting RARA Ham of the Year award to Gene, KA9BOD
Photo by Bob, WA9NTT

In summary, Gene Stankiewicz -KA9BOD, is one of the clubs most active members, working hard to make RARA the best club it can be, while also providing Rockford and Winnebago County with reliable Amateur Radio communications throughout 2005.

2005 Other Ham of the Year Nominees



Paul Franklin, K9RNR

Paul took on the massive task of webmaster for the RARA website. Since taking over, he has spent countless hours redesigning and updating the website with links and information for all aspects of amateur radio. This task requires constant attention and is never ending. In addition Paul has helped with communications at numerous events throughout the year as well as attend the majority of the club meetings.

Tim Peterson, KC9DNN

Tim served as club Vice-President. He helped out with various ham radio events such as Breakfast in the Park, RARA Picnic, On the Waterfront, JOTA, Head of the Rock regatta, he also helped with the disaster drill. When he answered and helped interested people in ham radio and gave them info to join RARA. He came up with speakers for club meetings and helped many new members with ham radio and did his best to bring awareness to ham radio and ran his own Field Day when RARA did not have one.



Chuck Ingle AB9KA

Chuck has helped with the RARA Picnic and teaching the Technician classes. He has also spent time helping other amateurs, such as Gene Duncan, W9GD, with various problems they have with their equipment.



Awards banquet, RARA members who received awards for participation during 2005. From left Carl W9TQ, Gene WB9MMM, Chuck AB9KA, Tim KC9DNN, Colleen, KC9EWJ, Gene KA9BOD, Shari N9SH, Sue KA9GNR, Bill WB9MCZ, Dan KC9ATR and Paul K9RNR. Picture courtesy of Chuck WB9UMC

(Editor note: More pictures of the banquet are on the W9AXD.COM website)

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

January 21st there was 1 applicant resulting in a new technician license

Richard Jenson

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, February 18, 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 till 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

SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

By Gary K9LJN

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
6W/G4WFQ	SENEGAL	NOW TO FEB 17	G4SWH
FO???	MARQUESAS	NOW TO FEB 18	HA8IB
TT8PK	CHAD	NOW TO FEB 28	F4ES
XU7ADI	CAMBODIA	NOW TO MAR 6	SM5GMZ
FT5XP	KERGUELEN	NOW TO MAR 31	TU5KG
SU9HP	EGYPT	NOW TO MAR 31	SM0CFO
TR8FC	GABON	NOW TO APR 30	F4BO
TL8QC	CENTRAL AFRICA	NOW TO 2007	F5NRY
3YOX	PETER 1 ISLAND	(EST) FEB 7 - 19	N2OO
JD1BLX	OGASAWARA	FEB 19 - 28	J15USJ
8R1ZUM	GYANA	MAR 4 - 5	K7ZUM
TA0U	TURKEY	MAR 4 - 5	TA2KK
TY1MR	BENIN	MAR 15 - 20	IK1PMR

Note: Sources for this column include the 425DXN, ARRL, NG3K and NJDXA websites

DX OPERATING TIPS

When the band you are trying to operate is wide open (with S9 plus signals) and the stations are jammed together like sardines, it can be very difficult if not impossible to separate one from another because of all the interference (QRM) and receiver overload. **Don't give up**, here are some of the techniques I use to help this situation:

1. Turn off the receiver **preamp** and **noise blanker**.
2. Select (or adjust to) **fast AGC**.
3. Turn down the **RF gain**.
4. Select one or more of the receiver **attenuations**.
5. Adjust the **IF shift** or **Pass Band Tuning (PBT)** controls.
6. On SSB, select and adjust the **notch filter** to eliminate a carrier on frequency.
7. On CW, select the **first and/or second 250 Hz filter** (you may have to turn on the **preamp** to get a readable signal with the second 250 Hz – 455 KHz IF filter activated).
8. On CW, select and adjust the **Audio Peak Function (APF)** to enhance the signal of the station you are trying to contact.

Any one (or a combination) of these receiver features should give you a better chance to manage the QRM, reduce receiver overload and help you hear the station that you are trying to contact.

73 & DX, Gary - K9LJN

Its time to renew your membership
Please ensure that we have your current email address

ITEMS FOR SALE

Icom IC-V8 two meter HT, mint condition in original box with manual. Rugged mil-spec construction. Comes with desk charger and two batteries, one NiCd (650 maH) and one NiMH (1450 maH). Extended Rx to 178 MHz. 5 day money back guarantee. \$75.00

Scott KG9SF 874-7170 afternoons and evenings

MFJ-557 Code practice key New and never used. Free
Call Mike at 815-543-1022 (Genoa, IL)

Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please call me or email me at ka9bod@arrl.net.

Cut-off for the March 2006 issue will be Friday February 24, 2006.

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

Technician & General Classes Scheduled for Spring 2006

RVC has approved the dates for the spring 2006 ham classes. The classed will be held at the following dates:

Technician Class 3/18/06 and 3/25/06 from 8 AM to 4 PM.

General Class 4/22/ 06 and 4/29/06 from 8 AM to 4 PM.

Carl W9TQ

RARA BOARD MEETING MEETS ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 PM
St. Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL

Do you have a question about radio?
Call Scott, WB9LHU Earth Works
965-9841

RARA Repeaters

146.610 - ENC/DEC pl 114.8 W9AXD
147.000 + ENC/DEC pl 114.8 W9AXD
223.880 - ENC/DEC pl **118.8**** W9AXD
ATV input 1250 Mhz/ 434 Mhz W9ATN
output 421.25 Mhz ****New change**

2006 RARA Officers and Board

President—Shari Harlan, N9SH
Vice President — Kurt Eversol, KE9NJ
Secretary — Colleen Peterson, KC9EWJ
Treasurer — Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ
Directors:
Bill Peters, WB9MCZ
Tim Peterson, KC9DNN
Wendy Owano, KC9BCF
Dan Hunt, KC9ATR
Newsletter — Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD
Web Master — Paul Franklin, K9RNR

FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 9:30 am. An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company. Everyone is welcome to attend.

*New location for February is "Red Flame Family Restaurant" 915 S. Alpine Rd
Across from Alpine Park*



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email: ka9bod@arrl.net

Web: www.w9axd.com

<u>Nets</u>	
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

FEBRUARY 2006

It is membership renewal time

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