

HAM RAG



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

October 2006

President's Corner

There are three more months to 2006, where has the time gone? At the next meeting there will be the election of officers for 2007. Chuck Ingle, AB9KA has been calling to get candidates for the officer positions. It is my understanding, at this time, that all four officers are stepping down to the board so we need the four officer positions filled. Like I have said in the past these offices are not a hard job and quite frankly not very time consuming. Please consider taking a position for next year. At the October meeting the club voted to suspend the 6 month membership requirement for this election only so that we can give some of the newer members an opportunity to run for office if they chose to. This gave Chuck several more people to contact.

I would like to thank Bill Peters, WB9MCZ, for his work with the On the Waterfront ticket booth. Bill had every position filled, and spent a good deal of time in the booth during the festival. Thanks also to all of you who worked in the booth. Each of you will receive \$5.00 off of your banquet dinner for each shift you worked. If you worked one 4 hour shift you will get \$5.00 off; if you worked 2 4 hour shifts you will receive \$10.00 off. Supervisors will get their banquet meal at no cost. This is just to say thank you again for your time. It will be sometime in November when we actually get the check to see how well we did.

Condolences to Wayne Hansen, KA9IMX and his wife Fay, N9WZD, on the death of Wayne's father Don. Wayne and Don were in one of my Novice classes way back when. Wayne and Don got consecutive callsigns--Don got KA9IMW and Wayne got KA9IMX. I know that Don will be greatly missed by his friends and family. Funeral services were September 22 in Rochelle.

A big thank you to Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, who has served as Hamrag editor for the last two years. During 2005, he also served as acting Secretary. Gene is stepping down with this issue of the Hamrag and Christie Russell, KC9HUE, will pick it up with the November issue. Gene has done a very good job as editor and I know that Christie will continue to keep the Hamrag as the quality newsletter it has become. Thanks again Gene for your service to RARA and thanks to Christie for being willing to step up and keep the newsletter coming out.

There is not a lot more news to give so I'll just say see you at the October meeting.
73,
Shari, N9SH

In Memory of Don Hansen, KA9IMW
(Father of Wayne Hansen, KA9IMX)
May he rest in peace.

Don became ill in the middle of August, spent a considerable amount of time in the hospital in Madison. Don passed away on Monday, September 18, 2006 at his home with his family by his side. He is survived by his wife, 3 sons, 2 daughters, 11 grandchildren, 1 step grandchild and 3 step great grandchildren. Our sincere condolences to Wayne and the rest of the family.

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NEXT MEETING

Friday
October 13, 2006
Election of Officers

Meeting Program:

Bring an item for Show and Tell

LOCATION

*St. Anthony Medical Center
St. Anthony Room #1041
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.

From the Desk of the Vice President....

ARE YOU READY?

Ready for what you may ask? Well, the fall is almost upon us and it seems as though we forget some things until we can't do anything about them. Since we aren't in the tropics, now is a good time to get our stations ready for winter. There is no time like the present to check things such as coax and coax connections, rotors (you know they will fail when it's -20 and windy!), antennas, switches, and other outside radio hardware. It's pretty easy to assume they will be OK, but we must keep our equipment ready if we want to react to emergency situations. Some people have used a checklist to ensure that everything has been inspected. (This saves a lot of aggravation, mainly from your friends when you tell them of a problem and they show you their list with that item on it) Anyway, I'm sure you get the picture that being prepared takes a little effort and the right time to do things will keep us ready. See you at the next meeting!

Best regards,
Kurt Eversole – KE9NJ

Secretary's Report

RARA Club Meeting 9/8/2006 Minutes

Sheri N9SH called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the July 14, 2006 club meeting were read by Colleen KC9EWJ. Motion to approve made by Chuck AB9KA and second by Gary K9LJN. All approved.

Treasure's Report: Carl W9TQ and the cash on hand was \$5,203.62. Motion to approve made by Chuck WB9UMC and second by Gene KA9BOD. All approved.

The Board wanted to bring up for a vote the subject of suspending article seven of the club constitution. The motion was to suspend the part that included "a member had to be a paid up club member for at least six months in order to hold office in the club". It would only be done for the 2007 year and would have to have Board approval in the future. Motion was made by Gene WB9MMM and second by Rich K9PK. All approved.

Chuck AB9KA is this years nominating committee for the October 13, 2006 election of club officers for the 2007 year. So far he has one person wanting to run for president. A few people for vice president. None for secretary. One for treasure.

The 147 and 220 repeaters should be able to go back on the air soon.

Bill WB9MCZ gave a report about on the waterfront. This year there were 420 man hours worked for then club.

Gene WB9MMM and Rich K9PK helped with the balloon launch at the Adler Planetarium on August 19, 2006. A video of the launch and the balloon was shown.

Gene KA9BOD was wanting one or two volunteers to help with the Thin Mint Sprint.

Motion to end the meeting made by Gary K9LJN and second by Jim W4JR. All approved.
The meeting ended at 7:58 pm.

Submitted by Colleen K. Peterson, KC9EWJ, secretary.

RARA Mission Statement

A member association with common interest of public service to the community through the use of amateur radio.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

September 16th there were 2 applicants. Resulting in 2 new licenses.

Gordon E. Morse Technician
Steven C. Spoull Technician

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, October 21, 2006.

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

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.

*“Red Flame Family Restaurant” 915 S. Alpine Rd
Across from Alpine Park*

The ham classes scheduled for this fall 2006

Tech -- Oct 14 and 21, 2006

(As of 9-26, only 1 registered for this class and will be cancelled in the next week if no new applicants come forward.)

General -- Nov 4 and Nov 11, 2006

Classes meet on Saturdays from 8:00 Am to 4:00 PM
Both will be at RVC. Cost per class including Text is \$48.00
Carl W9TQ

A BIT OF TONGUE AND CHEEK

Dateline, Washington, DC
July 24, 2006

The FCC today took what they described as an important new step to reduce QRM on amateur frequencies by setting standards for voice speeds. The docket #200-4U will become official in the Part 97 amateur regulations effective April 1, 2007.

Citing frequent complaints about, “long, boring conversations” on the ham bands, especially 75 meters, the Commission moved to impose a new standard on voice operations requiring all conversations to be at a speed of “at least 200 spoken words-per-minute”.

The Commission in its ruling was especially critical of what they called “long winded, often endless conversations by old men talking about their *prostrate* problems and *other* needs to get up *and go to the bathroom* several times during the night”.

FCC staffers say they have personally heard conversations about nothing that went for hours and tied up frequencies that could be used by faster talkers. Official Observer stations have received instructions to listen to suspect conversations and count the number of words-per-minute spoken. Those QSO’s which fail to meet the minimum speed requirements will be noted and the operators involved will receive Official Observer Advisory Notices encouraging them to follow the rules or risk receiving notice of apparent violation citations from the FCC.

Some hams in southern states complained the new regulation will impose a burden on them because they naturally talk more slowly than those up north. They are suggesting that frequencies be set aside for slow speed discussions concerning favorite country music artists (particularly Don Williams), NASCAR, huntin’ and feeshin’ (particularly bass and brim). FCC says it may consider that in future rulemaking.

In a separate press release, the American Radio Relay League said they are also concerned about two-meter operation where little is discussed except “full quieting and items to be picked up on the way home”. The League said that sort of thing is boring and is usually spoken very slowly as well, far below the 200 words-per-minute minimum. The League suggested conversations on how to help raise more money for League activities would be especially welcomed and will be encouraged. Future issues of QST will contain special pull-out sections containing recommended topics for on-air discussion to brighten up QSOs.

Editors note: Unknown source of origin. Comply at your own risk.

OCTOBER MEETING - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

So you don’t like the way things are going in the club?

Consider running for one of the officer or board positions.

It is a perfect opportunity to make things better.

Nominations will be accepted at the meeting.

SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

By Gary - K9LJN

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
JW8DW	SVALBARD	NOW TO OCT 4	LA8DW
SV5/GM3YO4	DODENCANESE	NOW TO OCT 4	GM3YOR
7Q7CE	MALAWI	NOW TO OCT 6	IN3VZE
JT800OK	MONGOLIA	NOW TO OCT 8	OK1XC
V5/G3RWF	NAMIBIA	NOW TO OCT 8	G3RWF
TT8PK	CHAD	NOW TO NOV 20	F4EGS
VQ9JC	CHAGOS IS.	NOW TO DEC 1	ND9M
TU2/F5LDY	COTE d'IVOIRE	NOW TO SEPT, 2007	F1CGN
J28JA	DJIBOUTI	NOW TO SEPT, 2008	F5JFU
5R8??	MADAGASCAR	OCT 1 – 27	DJ7RJ
P2???	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	OCT 2 – 10	G3KHZ
C91BWW	MOZAMBIQUE	OCT 3 – 7	CT1BWW
TX6A	MAYOTTE	OCT 5 – 17	F6AML
T80W	PALAU	OCT 6 – 10	JM1LJS
CN2R	MOROCCO	OCT 18 – 31	W7EJ
VK9C?	COCOS KEELING	OCT 30 TO NOV 20	W0YG
FT5XP	KEGUELEN IS.	NOV 1 – 7	F4EFI

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

October Meeting Program guest was Dick Isely, W8GIG, ARRL Central Division Director, gave a power point presentation on the “Four Pillars of the ARRL”, which are:

- Public Service
- Advocacy
- Education
- Membership

During and at the end of his presentation, Dick addressed multiple questions from the floor. Dick also addressed the role of ham radio during the Katrina flooding, what we learned from the event and some of the changes being made as a result.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Well, this is my final Ham Rag as editor. It has been a bit of work but it has also been fun. Part of what made it fun is all of the cooperation and input that I had from many club members with pictures (Bob, WA9NTT), articles or topics for articles (Gary K9LJN, Randy W9HL, Jim W4JR, Chuck AB9KA, Tim KC9DNN, Wendy KC9BCF, Wayne KA9IMX, Carl, W9TQ, Gene WB9MMM, Shari N9SH, Bill WB9MCZ, Rich K9PK, Dick KC9BCB, Colleen KC9EWJ and if I forgot you please forgive me. I especially want to thank Paul K9RNR for all of the help, wisdom, cooperation and constructive observations when publishing the Ham Rag by email via the website. You have been an angel at my side—THANK YOU.

Best regards to all, Gene KA9BOD

Editors note: *If you get the ARRL newsletters this will be old news for you. We have all experienced malicious interference on occasion. It is nice to know that Part 97 can have teeth. Personally, I think Gerritsen was given too much rope but it should be fair warning to those who might interfere that there can be a severe penalty, which hopefully will deter such malicious activity.*

ZCZC AG17

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 17 ARLB017

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT September 19, 2006

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB017

ARLB017 Radio jammer Jack Gerritsen gets seven years, fines

It was a day a lot of radio amateurs in Southern California had been anticipating for a long time. On September 18, US District Court Judge R. Gary Klausner sentenced convicted radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, now 70, to seven years imprisonment and imposed \$15,225 in fines on six counts -- one a felony -- that included transmitting without a license and willful and malicious interference with radio transmissions. Before sentencing, Gerritsen apologized to the federal government, the FCC and the local Amateur Radio community, which had endured the brunt of Gerritsen's on-air tirades and outright jamming. "I'm sorry, and I apologize to everyone here," Gerritsen told those in the courtroom.

Gerritsen's contrition did nothing to convince Klausner toward leniency. The judge berated Gerritsen as a repeat offender and said he believed Gerritsen would continue to commit similar offenses. The sentence even exceeded US District Attorney Lamar Baker's recommended 46 months incarceration.

In addition to the prison time, Klausner fined Gerritsen \$225, payable immediately, and an additional \$15,000 to be paid through the Probation Department. Klausner tacked on two years' supervised probation and recommended Gerritsen remain in custody in Southern California during that period.

Klausner further ordered Gerritsen to participate in a substance abuse program at his own expense. He told Gerritsen he could not use any identification, including his previous Amateur Radio call sign KG6IRO, other than his real name when identifying himself, and he told Gerritsen he could not own, possess or use any radio transmitting equipment.

The FCC had been investigating complaints of illegal radio transmissions linked to Gerritsen for four years. According to court documents, the FCC investigation revealed that Gerritsen transmitted both prerecorded messages and real-time harassment and profanity for hours at a time, often targeting local Amateur Radio repeater systems and precluding their use by licensed operators.

Following trial last December, Gerritsen was found guilty of causing malicious interference with a communications system operated by the United States -- a felony. The court also found him guilty of two misdemeanor counts of willful or malicious interference with radio communications and three misdemeanor counts of transmitting radio signals without a license. Gerritsen has been in custody since his conviction.

The FCC has already levied \$52,000 in fines on Gerritsen for violating its rules and the Communications Act.

NNNN /EX

ELECTION OF OFFICERS Change Notification

Article VII—Election, Section 3 of the RARA constitution reads as follows:

3. The officers of the club shall be elected from full paid-up membership for a minimum of 6 months prior to the October regular meeting and shall consist of a majority vote of those present. The newly elected officers shall assume their duties on January 1 of the following year.

At the August 29, 2006 RARA board meeting, in an effort to allow newer members to run for office, the RARA board of directors voted to **temporarily suspend the minimum 6 month membership** time requirement for eligibility to run for office for the 2007 positions only.

Nominees for RARA Officer & Board Positions For 2007

The current 2006 officers have decided not to re-run and will automatically become board members for the 2007 year with the exception of Secretary, Colleen Peterson, KC9EWJ who is moving out of the area. Consequently, all of the officer positions and one board position will be needed for the 2007 RARA Officers and Board.

Chuck AB9KA, the nominating committee chairman for the election of officers and board members, has canvassed the membership and provided the following people who have agreed to run for office for the 2007 year.

The following are running for Officer positions

President

Chuck Derwent, K9SAN
Don Russell, KB9AYF

Vice President

Bob Newmann, W9TZU

Secretary

(Nominations from the floor)

Treasurer

Gene Harlan, WB9MMM

Board Position

Dan Hunt, KC9ATR

**Nominations will be accepted at the October meeting
for all positions prior to voting.**

ITEMS FOR SALE / WANTED

RARA Generators: At the 7-14-06 club meeting, the membership voted to sell both generators. Bids will be taken for each generator. **If you are interested, contact Shari N9SH at 398-2683.**

Orange generator—3 KW, Pincor brand. (Problem—Has leaking gas tank.) (Have manual)

Gray generator — 2.5 KW, Onan brand, late 50's/60's. (Problem—Does not regulate real well.)

(Parts are still available for this unit and can be gotten at Rockford Precision Diesel.)

Do you need metal for a project? Carbon, alloy, aluminum, stainless, plastics, brass, bronze, angle, tubing all shapes & sizes large & small. \$10 minimum order, will sawcut to any length. Hobbyists and public welcome. (Http://www.metalexpress.net) Metal Express, 2108 Harlem Rd, Loves Park, IL 61111 Jeff Ziemer (815) 282-6544.

60 Ft, tower for sale: The Winnebago Public Library recently acquired a property that has a 3 legged tower, shaped like a windmill (wide at bottom & narrow at top). It has some rust but appears sound. The successful bidder will have to disassemble and remove without damaging local structures or landscape. The library board was hoping to get \$300 for it but for a fast sale, they are willing to hear an offer. Contact Gary Winters, KA4IHK (815) 335-7050 cell phone: (815)975-1410. 201 N. Elida St Winnebago, IL 61088.



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

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

(** = Temporarily off the air—being relocated)

Editors note: *The new repeater location will be at St. Anthony Hospital. Installation should be within the next couple of months subject to all details being worked out.*

2006 RARA Officers and Board

President—Shari Harlan, N9SH

Vice President — Kurt Eversole, KE9NJ

Secretary — Colleen Peterson, KC9EWJ

Treasurer — Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ

Directors:

Bill Peters, WB9MCZ

Tim Peterson, KC9DNN

Wendy Owano, KC9BCF

Dan Hunt, KC9ATR

Newsletter — Christy Russell KC9HUE

Web Master — Paul Franklin, K9RNR

Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please email KC9HUE at chilly73@gmail.com

Cut-off for the November 2006 issue will be Friday October 27, 2006.

New editor as of 9-26-06 — Christy Russell KC9HUE

HAM OF THE YEAR---2006 NOMINATION

The Ham of the Year 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 2006.

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 KA9BOD at the address below or handed to her at the next club meeting. All nominations must be received by December 8, 2006. They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Mail nominations to:
Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD
3531 Cross St.
Rockford, IL 61108
ka9bod@arrl.net

Nominee _____

Call _____

I nominate the above person for the RARA Ham of the Year-2006 award for the following reasons:

Signed _____

Call _____

**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



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email: chilly73@gmail.com

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

October 2006

place address label here