

HAM RAG



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

March 2007

President's Corner

This month has been interesting. I actually got on HF for a while. Hopefully the sunspot cycle will keep throwing us the curveballs. That is one of the things about ham radio I love so much: The unpredictable behavior of HF. Just when you think you have it figured out, stuff that shouldn't happen does. Signals from across the street won't come in, yet you can work Siberia. I got a real kick listening to 55.250 Mhz.. Tune for 0 beat.. You will hear echo pings from meteors. That is the video center freq of Channel 2 TV. Since there is no local Channel 2 transmitter, you hear the bounce off the meteor plus or minus Doppler shift.. Pretty neat, eh?

Word on winter storms, I have been trying to monitor 146.52 and the repeaters when the weather is nasty for any hams that may be traveling through the area and don't know our repeaters or PL's. It's a good idea to keep in mind the Wilderness protocol. Listen at the top of the hour on 146.52 simplex or 446.000 simplex for a few minutes for emergency traffic, especially when it gets nasty out.

See you all at the next meeting.

Don KB9AYF

Just a note...

If your dues have not been paid, this will be your last issue of the Ham Rag. If you need to pay, contact Gene Harlan, WB9MM today.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| President log | 1 |
| VP Log Please Note | 2 |
| Secretary Log 2007 Club Board | 3 |
| Amateur Radio Exam Notice | 4 |
| AB9KA Ham IQ Refresher | 5 |
| For Sale | 6 |
| Repeater Notes | 7 |
| IQ Answers | 8 |
| Membership App. | 9 |

• NEXT MEETING

• Friday

- March 9, 2007
- 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.....

RARA members,

I deeply apologize for missing the meeting Friday night.

I have a bad back that I have had surgery on several times and am facing another, but be it as it may, the new medication dropped me like a rock when I took it at 4:30 pm, expecting to nap till about 6:00 pm. I woke up at 6:00 ok 6:00 am Saturday morning .My wife said she checked several times to make sure I was still among the living.

As your VP, I realize my responsibilities to the club and you, it's members, and I want you to know that I will not make that mistake again. I'll just take it earlier.

Thanks for your understanding.

73's

Bob Neumann

Please Note.....

Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, is currently in the hospital. Please give your prayers and thoughts. He is doing better, but is still in the critical care unit of St. Anthony.

Secretary's Report

February 10, 2007

Meeting called at 7:10 pm

Old Business

No minutes from the Dec-Jan Meeting. Treasurer's report for Dec 2006 was read by Gene Harlan, WB9MM, and approved by all.. Shari Harlan, N9SH, discussed the upcoming ISS event at Christian Life School. WB9MMM also mentioned he may not be there and asked for dedicated volunteers. It's tentatively scheduled for April, but may change.

Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, discussed a class on ham radio he and Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, are teaching at the Center for Learning Retirement. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let them know.

Gene, WB9MMM, read a letter of thanks to the club for the donation to the hospital. Also discussed was Dan, KC9ATR, who was in the ATV Quarterly, along with a picture of the camera installed atop the hospital building.

New Business

N9SH, Shari, discussed the upcoming paperwork only upgrade to be held at the march club meeting. If anyone is interested, bring your current license, 2 valid ID's, and \$14.

Motion to adjourn was made by Shari, N9SH, and 2nd by Chuck, AB9KA. All approved.

Submitted by Christi Russell-KC9HUE

RARA Officers and Board Positions 2007

Officers

Don Russell-KB9AYF-President

Bob Neumann-W9TZU-Vice President

Chuck Derwent-K9SAN-Secretary

Gene Harlan-WB9MMM-Treasurer

Board Members

Carl Cacciatore-W9TQ

Kurt Eversole-KE9NJ

Shari Harlan-N9SH

Dan Hunt-KC9ATR

Christi Russell-KC9HUE-Editor

RARA Mission Statement

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

February 17th there were 4 applicants resulting in 2 new licenses.

Barry Morris, Technician

Brooke Williamson, Technician

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, March 17, 2007.

Because of the changes to the CW requirements and the possibility of a large number of Amateurs wanting to upgrade

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER by calling 815-877-4328

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 til 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

randscott@insightbb.com

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***

AB9KA HAM I-Q Refresher

Answers on Page 8

Technician

What should you do first if someone tells you that your transmissions are interfering with their TV reception?

- A. Make sure that your station is operating properly and that it does not cause interference to your own television
- B. Immediately turn off your transmitter and contact the nearest FCC office for assistance
- C. Tell them that your license gives you the right to transmit and nothing can be done to reduce the interference
- D. Continue operating normally because your equipment cannot possibly cause any interference

General

What would be the capacitance and voltage rating of a series circuit consisting of two equal value capacitors with equal voltage ratings?

- A. Total capacitance would be half that of each capacitor and maximum voltage would be twice that of each capacitor
- B. Total capacitance would be half that of each capacitor and maximum voltage would be the same as each capacitor
- C. Total capacitance and maximum voltage would be the same as each capacitor
- D. Total capacitance and maximum voltage would be half that of each capacitor

Extra

What is the effective radiated power of a station with 75 watts transmitter power output, 4-dB feed line loss and 10-dB antenna gain?

- A. 600 watts
- B. 75 watts
- C. 150 watts
- D. 299 watts

The following items are being offered for sale:

2.4 Ghz Parabolic BBQ Grill antenna. Wireless Internet? Originally purchased from Bob Myers and was never mounted. Price \$50.00

Radio Shack Digitraveler GPS (part #20-1601). This is a hockey puck GPS unit that will provide NMEA 0183 output. Includes a suction cup windshield mount. Perfect for use in a mobile APRS tracker. Requires 3 AAA batteries, or an external 5 volt power source. Price \$35.00

Diamond X-50 2m/70cm fiberglass vertical antenna. Originally purchased in an estate sale and never used. Some minor paint is flaking off at the very end of the antenna, but otherwise appears to be in good condition. Price \$60.00

Anttron 17 meter short whip mobile antennas (qty 2). Including a tower mounting bracket. All in new condition. This will make a 17 meter dipole antenna. Price \$45.00

2 Meter, 4 element beam antenna, 48 inch boom. Appears similar to KLM 2M4. Small enough for fox hunting, Like new. Price \$70.00

Kantronics KAM Plus TNC for 1200 baud VHF and HF digital modes, Firmware V8.0P Price \$100.00

Kenwood Phone Patch controller, PC-1A, Price \$20.00

If interested in any of these items contact Chuck Gooden, N9QBT at chuckg@insightbb.com or 815-332-3203

ISS Planning Meeting on 2-24-07



Left to Right:
Dan KC9ATR
Paul K9RNR
Kurt KE9NJ
Don KB9AYF
Gene WB9MMM

Photo by Chuck Ingle AB9KA

We worked on planning out job assignments, wire routing, projector screen video. We had a good turnout. We watched a video of another contact to get some idea on flow of the contact. We worked out some of the logistics and got a good handle on the setup procedure.

There is a lot that goes into one of the ISS school contacts. It's really hard to fathom all the man hours that goes into a 10 minute contact. Thanks goes out to all those working on making this contact happen. Be sure to tune in when/if it ever happens. The date is loosely scheduled for late April now, but with the latest shuttle delays, it may get bumped again.... Lets see how it goes.

Don KB9AYF

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 | |

Editors Note

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

Russian Arctic Expedition, Rare DX Possibilities!

Feb. 28 2007 Russian Arctic Expedition will start from Moscow.

Some details (in English) here: <http://www.ec-arctic.ru/>

The most difficult and challenging part of the "Polar Ring" expedition program (2002-2009) – crossing of Arctic Ocean over the North Pole will hold in February-June, 2007. Several unique cross-country vehicles on extra-low pressure tires will pass more than two thousand kilometers of drifting and hummocked ice floes as well as wide open stretches of water. In case of success, the expedition will become the first trans-arctic crossing and first round-the-world Arctic journey, accomplished by overland cross-country vehicles. An extensive scientific program has been carrying out during the expedition, including physiological, meteorological, glaciological, hydrological and environmental explorations. The trekking team will operate in HF HAM radio bands under R3CA/0, R3CA/0/m, and VY0/R3CA call-signs from the route. Aims and goals of that expedition program, as well as its detail description can be found in www.ec-arctic.ru/PolarRingAnn.pdf

HF/VHF radio (both commercial and amateur) remains one of the most important mean of communication used in the "Polar Ring". Currently we are supplied by this equipment only partly: IC-7000 (reserve HF/VHF gear), handhelds IC-V82, and mobiles IC-V8000.

In the same time, the "Polar Ring" project includes the North Pole HAM radio DXpedition in April 15-30, 2007. It will operate from the drifting ice base "Borneo" near the Pole point. Not only a common HF activity but also a unique, first in the history Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) VHF/UHF operation from drifting ice is planned.

Continued on page 9

Answers to I-Q Refresher

Technician

What should you do first if someone tells you that your transmissions are interfering with their TV reception?

- A. Make sure that your station is operating properly and that it does not cause interference to your own television

General

What would be the capacitance and voltage rating of a series circuit consisting of two equal value capacitors with equal voltage ratings?

- A. Total capacitance would be half that of each capacitor and maximum voltage would be twice that of each capacitor

Extra

What is the effective radiated power of a station with 75 watts transmitter power output,

4-dB feed line loss and 10-dB antenna gain?

- D. 299 watts

RARA BOARD MEETING MEETS ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 PM

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

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

Russian DXpedition to pole: Continued from page 8

APRS freq. and protocol:

APRS call signs:

UA3ATS-9

APRS network 14.107.500 (FSK , or 14.105.500

USB, 2000 KHz)

backup freq. 10.149.500

timing for APRS

—

beacon mobile :R3CA-15

on trail each 3,15,27,39,51 minute of hour (12 minutes interval)

during short stop 1 minute interval

during long stop 20 minutes interval

WX R3CA-8

will be active only on stops

short stop interval 5 minutes

long stop interval 10 minutes

Beacon information !

quantity of operational vehicles

needs in provision 1...5 scale

needs in fuel 1...5 scale

needs in helicopter 1...5 scale

needs in medical assistance 1...5 scale

weather situation 1...5 scale

SOS

Un proto

mobile group: WIDE6-6

WX : WIDE6-6

Thanks to QRZ.com for the info!.. Should be fun to try and contact them.

Don KB9AYF



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email: chilly73@gmail.com

Web: www.w9axd.org

Webmaster : Paul K9RNR

| Nets | | |
|---------------|---------|-----------------|
| Thursday 8PM | Saturn | 146.610 - 114.8 |
| Monday 8PM | 2 Meter | 146.610 - 114.8 |
| Thursday 7 PM | ARES | 147.195 + 114.8 |

March 2007

place address label here

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 _____