

HAM RAG



RARA Mission Statement

A member association with common interest of public service to the community through Amateur Radio

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

September General Meeting

The meeting was two meetings in one. Dick Isely - W9GIG, Central Division Director, gave us a run down on the ARRL's activities and expectations. Thanks Dick for an entertaining and informative presentation!

Then, Chad Ingle did a great job on presenting the new CORS GPS Network Wisconsin is installing. Being able to determine your location within 2 centimeters is amazing. The applications using this new technology within the next few years are unlimited. And you heard about it at the RARA meeting first. Thanks again Chad for a great presentation.

JOTA

Gene Stankiewicz – KA9BOD, is putting the final touches on Jamboree on the Air 2008, JOTA. The Scouts are invited to Alpine Park, Shelter #1 to talk to other Scouts throughout the country via Amateur Radio, October 18, 2008. RARA members will provide a low band station, PSK-31, and 2 & 440, ARES will have a presentation there too. Information will be available for the Radio Merit Badge as well as information on becoming a Ham. If you would like to be involved with this October event, contact Gene, he sure could use your help. We are all aware it is the youth that will sustain the hobby, this is one way we can showcase what it means to be a Ham. Come on out and encourage the Scouts to learn about our hobby.

RARA Meeting

The ARRL is distributing a DVD on Digital Voice communications for Amateur Radio. The DVD has two separate sections, HF and VHF/UHF. It will be interesting to see the differences and similarities between HF and VHF/UHF digital voice communications. Jim Miller – W4JR, is providing the DVD for this month's meeting presentation. Thanks Jim!

The RARA meeting room at OSF will be in our usual first floor meeting space. Hope to see you all at the meeting, Friday night, October 10, 2008, at 7:00 pm!

73 & Good DX,

Paul - K9RNR

October 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Corner	1
Amateur Radio and the Internet	2
Ham of the Year	3
Secretary's Report	4
Call for Volunteers	5
For Sale	5
VE Testing	6
JOTA Flyer	7

NEXT MEETING

Friday
7:00 PM

October 10, 2008

LOCATION

St. Anthony Hospital
5666 E. State Street
Rockford, IL

PROGRAM

Election of Officers

ARRL Video on Digital Voice
Communications for Amateur Radio

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

Latest news and events on our web page: <http://www.w9axd.org>

Amateur Radio and the Internet

Today the World Wide Web offers extended range for much of the population but before the Internet radio amateurs ventured beyond the local neighborhood through the magic of radio. For decades, long before the Internet, hams would use radio as a means to maintain friendships, stay in touch with loved ones and help others contact family in remote places of the globe.

Long distance chess was once a popular on air activity. Amateur Radio operators would set up chess boards and moves were exchanged over the air. Each radio operator maintained their chess board according to the moves transmitted by each other. Often these games would be played out over the course of days or weeks during scheduled contacts. The activity was not about finishing the game quickly as it was about meeting on the air often.

A lot of naysayers have claimed the Internet to be the death of Amateur Radio. In fact, some non-radio people, when asked about ham radio, will respond with "hasn't the Internet made that obsolete?" On the contrary. If anything the Internet has enhanced Amateur Radio. Think about the many ways hams use the Internet.

Radio Clubs

Club members can stay informed all the time through the use of e-mail reflectors. Various users groups allow information about their favorite piece of equipment or operating mode. If you think about it these user's groups are like virtual speciality clubs for people with a shared interest. Many clubs use the Internet to distribute electronic newsletters and maintain websites to keep members informed and attract new members.

The DX Game

Some of you may remember two ringers when your buddy would call your house and let the phone ring two times then hang up. This code was to let you know about some hot DX that was on the air. Of course you would not dare to answer the telephone before the second ring for fear of someone incurring a long distance charge. Today, through the use of the Internet we can utilize real-time DX spotting networks to find out which stations are on the air. If you have your rig interfaced with your PC using the appropriate software, the network will automatically switch your transceiver to the DX's operating frequency.

The Internet has enhanced the DX game in other ways by providing Dxpediton log information on line while the Dxpediton is still in operation. This helps eliminate the "insurance" QSO's and allows the Dxpediton work as many stations as possible while limiting the number of duplicate contacts.

There are software programs available that monitor the DX cluster and if a needed DX station is spotted, you will receive an e-mail alert on your Blackberry or other personal e-mail device. How cool is that? Just look at it as the digital version of the "two ring" DX alert.

Contesting and Awards

ARRL's Logbook of the World would not be possible without Internet technology. LoTW's use of public and private keys lets users all over the world to upload electronically signed logs and when QSO's are matched the users receive credit for their contacts to be used toward awards. More information about Logbook of the World can be found on the ARRL website <<http://www.arrl.org/loth/>>

Contest scores are now published on the Internet allowing participants to quickly analyze the data.

Adaptability

Traditionally the Amateur Radio service has always made use of whatever was available. Whether salvaging parts from discarded television sets in the 1950's, repurposing surplus military equipment in the 1960's or integrating electronic hardware today, hams have always utilized technology in creative ways to suit their needs. An Internet connection in the ham shack is as common as the J-38 straight key once was. The fact that you are reading this e-letter demonstrates the positive influence the Internet and computers have had on Amateur Radio.

Taken in part from the ARRL Club News.

HAM OF THE YEAR---2008 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 RARA member and should have performed exemplary service for amateur radio during the year 2008.

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 or emailed to KA9BOD at the address below or handed to me at the next club meeting. All nominations must be received by December 12, 2008. They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Mail or email nominations to: _____nd
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 2008 - award for the following reasons:

Signed _____

Call _____

RARA Club Meeting

September 12, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Paul Franklin with 20 people in attendance.

Secretary's Report – The last club meeting was July 11 and the minutes were published in the August Ham Rag. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published and all approved.

Treasurer's Report – was read by Rich, K9PK for the period of July 30 thru August 25, 2008:

Income	\$0.00
Expenses	\$470.22
Ending checkbook balance	\$438.40
Ending savings balance	\$5,197.82
Cash on hand	\$5,636.22
Gain/loss from last year	\$1,352.91

Dave, W9MG made a motion to accept report and 2nd by Jim, W4JR. All approved.

Old Business

1. Family picnic – Thanks to Mike Oberg, AB9AY and Dick Fleming, KC9BCB for a great job, good food and great time. Also thanks to Rich Ludwig, K9PK who managed a fox hunt which was well accepted.
2. On the Waterfront – 13 of 56 club members and 11 non members worked this club fund raiser event. More details are in the September 2008 Ham Rag page 4.
3. JOTA announcement - Gene, KA9BOD provided a brief summary of the event plans for Saturday, October 18, 2008.

New Business

None to report.

The meeting closed at 7:10 PM. A short meeting to allow time for the two programs. A 30 minute talk by Dick Isley, W9GIG, ARRL Central Division Director and a presentation by Chad Ingle (Son of Chuck Ingle, AB9KA) about the upcoming changes to the GPS network CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Station) network which is being implemented by the Wisconsin DOT as well as all across the country.

Submitted by:
GENE, KA9BOD
RARA SECRETARY

ELECTION OF OFFICERS ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10TH.

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

Latest news and events on our web page: <http://www.w9axd.org>

CALL FOR VOLUNTERS

The *Head of The Rock Regratta* will take place on Sunday October 12th, from 8:00 am to approx. 4:00 pm. Those of us who have worked this event in the past know how fun and exciting this event can be.

Given that this is an all day event, we have organized our schedule into half-day shifts. This way you may volunteer for a half day or for the whole day as your personal time permits.

The operating positions for this event are as follows: Net Control 1 , Net Control 2, Start Line Judge (Land), Start Line (Boat), First Aid - Medical, Dock A (Receiving), Dock B (Launch), Dock C (Launch), Dock B (Up-flow) Tracker, Dock C (Up-flow) Tracker. A few of these positions have already been requested but we need approx. 10 more volunteers to insure we have full coverage of all positions both morning, (8:30-12:30), and afternoon, (11:30- 4:00). Contact John Cotner, KC9IED to help out.

FOR SALE

VK3YNG Fox Hunt Sniffer and tape measure beam--\$150.00
Contact WB9MMM or N9SH at 815-398-2683

Hungry for breakfast? On Friday mornings a group of hams meet at the Red Flame on South Alpine Road at 8 AM for breakfast and conversation. Why not try and join in the fun and meet some old friends and make new ones?

HAM RADIO CLASSES TO BE HELD AT ROCK VALLEY

RARA will be holding a Tech class on October 25th and November 1st. The General class will be November 15th and 22nd. Registration will be through Rock Valley College Adult Continuing Education.

2008 RARA OFFICERS and BOARD

President--Paul Franklin, K9RNR, 815-298-2251

Vice President--
Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, 815-398-2683

Secretary
Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, 815-226-1806

Treasurer--Rich Ludwig, K9PK, 815-547-6435

Directors:
Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875
Chuck Derwent, K9SAN, 815-519-0848
Mike Oberg, AB9AY, 815-399-0961
Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-623-3623

Repeater Chairman:
Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ, 815-399-6822
Ham Rag Editor:
Shari Harlan, N9SH, 815-398-2683

AREA 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-Cable Channel 57

146.805 - ENC/DEC pl 114.8 K9AMJ

224.4400 - ENC/DEC pl 118.8 K9AMJ

147.255 + ENC/DEC pl 114.8 WX9MCS

444.725 + pl 118.8 WX9MCS
Linked to FISHFAR

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

September 20 there was 1 applicant resulting in upgrade

Upgrade

Melinda Belken, KC9NZT, General

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, October 18, 2008.

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

W9HL@arrl.net

815-877-4328

LOGO CLUB SHIRTS AND JACKETS

We have made arrangements to make RARA club members shirts and or jackets if you are interested. They will have the club LOGO and your CALL above the left pocket.

The shirts will be white or egg shell white with the RARA logo and call letters. There will be two styles of shirts and one jacket.

A. Long sleeve Denim cloth button down the front with a cost of \$25 .

B. Short Sleeve Polo Shirt with a cost of \$21.

C. A Zip up Windbreaker with a cost of \$30.

There is an up charge for extra large sizes. A \$2 extra for 2X and \$4 extra for 3X and larger sizes.

Those interested can place their order at the meeting or call me by 10/30/08

Carl, W9TQ

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

Latest news and events on our web page: <http://www.w9axd.org>

JOTA—Jamboree on the Air 2008

Saturday, October 18, 2008

Alpine Park Shelter #1

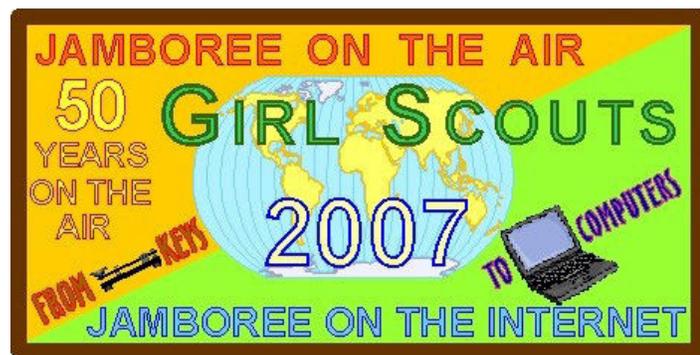
10 AM to 4 PM

JOTA is an annual event in which Scouts and Guides all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur Radio contacts, (Ham Radio). Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, via the radio waves.

The Rockford Amateur Radio Association will have equipment available to make contact with other scouts around the country and will have information and demonstrate several aspects of our hobby.

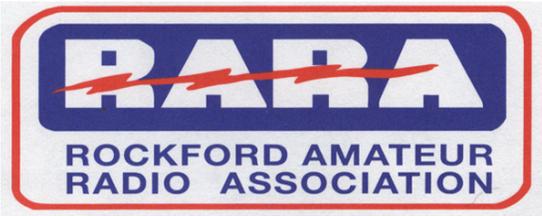
All Scouts, their leaders and parents are welcome to this event.

- 40 meter station (Voice)
- PSK31 station on 20 meters (Computer)
- 2 Meter / 70 Centimeter station (Voice)
- ARES information table
(Amateur Radio Emergency Service)
- Training and Information table
- Display of assorted equipment
- ??? Fox hunting demonstration ???
- ??? APRS demonstration (Computer)???
- (Automatic Position Reporting System)
- ??? Amateur TV (Voice & Video)???



Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

Latest news and events on our web page: <http://www.w9axd.org>



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email shari@hampubs.com

Web: www.w9axd.org

NETS

Monday 8 PM 2 Meter 146.610 - 114.8

Thursday 7 PM ARES 147.255 + 114.8

Thursday 8 PM SATERN 146.61 - 114.8

October 2008

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Single Adult: \$25.00 Adult w/Family: \$30.00

Single Senior: \$15.00 Senior w/Family: \$20.00

Student: \$15.00

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

Ham Rag Via USPS: \$12.00 extra

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

Renewal _____ New _____ Retired _____

Radio Interests _____

_____ ARRL _____

Other Interests _____