

# HAM RAG



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

## August 2009

### RARA Mission Statement

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

## President's Column

Greetings all,

Our new repeater committee has been working on the 146.610 repeater and they have found the problem and corrected it. Many thanks to Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, who is our new repeater chairman, and his crew for their hard work!

We will be calling everyone to work "On The Waterfront", so please make the time to help the club out. Without your support, we will lose this event and it is our only fundraiser for the club.

Lastly, but the most important, is the August Family Picnic, which will be on Sunday, August 16th at Alpine Park shelter #1. The picnic will start at 1 PM and the club will provide chicken and soft drinks along with water. Each person needs to bring a dish to pass, along with their own table service, plates, napkins and glasses if they do not want to drink from cans. We will have a few items left from Field Day but bring your own just to be sure. That is all for now, and I look forward to seeing you at the picnic.

73,

Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX



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### NEXT MEETING

**NO REGULAR CLUB MEETING**

## FAMILY PICNIC

**Sunday  
August 16, 2009  
1:00 pm**

**Location  
Alpine Park  
Shelter #1  
Rockford, IL**

### 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.*

***"The Stockholm Inn"***

**2420 Charles Street  
Rockford, IL 61108**



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

## Secretary's Report



### RARA Club Meeting July 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Steve Thorne, K9LLI at 7:03 PM. There were 20 hams in attendance.

#### Secretary's Report:

Al, KD9CA reported that the minutes were published in the June Ham Rag and handed out copies of the minutes. John, N9OTC made a motion to accept the minutes as published. Chuck, AB9KA seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Treasurer' Report:

Rich, K9PK read the report for the period May 26<sup>th</sup> through June 29<sup>th</sup> 2009.

Income:	\$0.00
Expenses:	\$682.73
Net Income/Loss:	\$(682.73)
Ending Checking Balance:	\$373.64
Ending Savings Balance:	\$6011.06
Ending Total Cash on Hand:	\$6384.70
Gain/Loss compared to last Year:	\$179.33

Shari, N9SH made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. John, W9JGO seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Old Business:

Steve, K9LLI asked if anyone had any old business.

John, N9OTC reported on the Antenna ordinance. He said the old ordinance is still on the books and applies to Ham Radio; he went on to say that the new ordinance applies only to cell towers.

Shari asked if we had heard from On the Waterfront. Steve thought we had tentative approval but no contract.

Steve stated that a Chairman is still needed for On the Waterfront. He asked for a show of hands of those present who would take a 4 hour shift to assist at the event. 10 Members raised their hands.

Picnic in the Park is scheduled for Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup>; a Chairman is still needed. Steve reported that the picnic will be subject to cancellation if we do not get a volunteer to chair the event. Dick, KC9BCB, John, W9JGO, and Chuck, AB9KA volunteered to help.

Chuck, AB9KA reported there was 11 pounds of frozen sausage left over from Field Day.

Steve, W9SWT made his first HF contact on Field Day.

Shari, N9SH reported that the date for the Awards Banquet has been confirmed at Lino's for Saturday, January 9, 2010.

Steve, K9LLI began a discussion on our repeaters, 146.61 and 147.00. He said that the long time Chairman of our repeaters, Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ has resigned citing health reasons. He reported, the 147.00 repeater appears to be down and the 146.61 has been having problems over an extended period. He asked, "What do we do? Do we get out of the repeater business? Do we hire an outside firm to repair our repeaters? Do we marshal our forces within the Club?"

In the discussion that followed it was concluded that the club needed to keep the repeaters and an outside repair firm did not appear to be an acceptable answer.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Secretary's Report *(continued)*

Tom, N9VJU volunteered to be chairman of the repeater committee and also volunteered to look at both repeaters. He has been assisting Herb and is familiar with both repeaters. He thought that Monday July 13<sup>th</sup> was the earliest he could review the problems. John, W9JGO volunteered to assist Tom. Tom will call Steve, K9LLI after he has evaluated the problem.

Steve, K9LLI asked if the 147.255 could be used in the event the 146.61 repeater was down for the Monday Night Information Net. It was felt that Eric the owner of the 147.255 would not have a problem with RARA using his repeater, however for courtesy, he should be formally asked. It was also suggested that Herb Eckstein's repeater, the 146.805 might be used.

Chuck, AB9KA suggested that Gordy call for an emergency meeting of the Board to review the Repeater problems.

Steve, K9LLI asked for a show of hands of members who use the 147.00 regularly. 3 Hams raised their hands.

### **New Business:**

Congratulation to Shannon Larson for earning her first license, KC9QBC and making her first contact thru satellite FO-29.

Congratulations to Steve Twig, W9SWT for being appointed the new EC of Winnebago County.

Steve, K9LLI asked everyone to share their latest endeavors with Ham Radio. All present participated.

Jim Miller, W4JR reported that there were some good openings on 10 meters during the past week. Jim brought in 2 items from his Ham Radio collection and raffle tickets were distributed to all present. Rich, K9PK won the drawing for the Technical manual and Al, KD9CA won the original RARA embroidered patch.

Steve asked, "Why do we get more attendance at the weekly breakfast than at club meetings? What will it take to get more members, and more members to attend the meetings? What do members want to get out of the club?"

Jim, W4JR said we must have good programs. He did not think they necessarily had to be on Ham Radio.

Paul, K9RNR said, the club must satisfy a want. "What can the club do for me that I can't do as an individual?"

Chuck, AB9KA thought we should have a membership drive since we learned that QRZ.COM lists hundreds of Hams in Winnebago County. He suggested that we put fliers in gas stations, grocery stores and restaurants. He also suggested that we advertise our meetings in the GO section of the Rockford Register Star.

Thanks to Fred, W9WOQ, we had refreshments during our break time. Fred suggested that refreshments become tradition for our meetings. He asked for a sign up list to be made. No one signed up for the September meeting. Al, KD9CA will provide refreshments for the September meeting.

Bill, KC9OJP invited his neighbor Jerry to attend our meeting. Jerry expressed a desire to become a Ham. Everyone welcomed him.

Jimmy, KC9GOL made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dave, W9MG seconded the motion.

Submitted by,

Al, KD9CA

RARA Secretary

## Mutterings from the Vice President-

It seems to me that I take a lot of words, you know, nouns, verbs, etc., take your pick, for granted. Maybe some of you out there do too. Particularly when it comes to our hobby, Ham Radio. Last week I had a QSO with one of the station operators at W1AW. In the course of our chat he mentioned a contact from the previous day with a relatively new ham, assumed new anyway. One that was licensed to operate on 20 meters. The new ham asked the operator. "what is W1AW and what is ARRL?". At first I was astounded. But after mulling it over for a day or so, (I don't mull very fast, you know) I thought, "How does one learn stuff like that? Maybe the new op lived in a place like Podunk, Arkansas, (no offense to you RazorBack hog callers) where news arrives very slowly, if at all. Subjects arise frequently that are so common place to many that we often take an understanding of them for granted." The "HOW" answer: a club; a ham radio club; a club like RARA. Are we, as a club, as members of a club, doing a good job of informing and/or educating or just communicating with people whom we come in contact? Not everyone subscribes to QST or CQ – if they even are aware of such pubs. When a conversation comes to antennas how many know about a double bazooka or an end fed Zepp? I've always contended that antennas were black magic anyway and had very little in the way of factual data that could be relied on. QST once had a policy, maybe they still do, that prohibited antenna ads from citing performance figures – like gain. If that doesn't support my contention, I don't know what would. Antennas are a work of art - more an art than a science. Speaking of antenna art – take a drive out to N9EN's antenna farm and take a look at his new 40 meter beam. Now that's an artistic master piece. Look at that 46 foot boom with a bunch of 65 foot long elements. Takes ones breath away. Now back to the topic at hand. I propose we all slow down a bit and see if we need to elaborate on some of our "Ham Speak". You QST readers probably recognize that phrase as being a recent addition to the magazine. Guess somebody out in Newington, CT has the same concern. Great idea somebody had. Maybe we're using words that are not readily understood. You can't very well just out and out ask somebody if they understand what you're talking about. That's like asking the person, "how dumb are you?" Few of us like to admit we don't know about whatever a speaker is discussing. Time for a little subtlety. Pick your poison. However you do it. Communication is what we are about. Be sure to communicate.

73,

Steve Thorne - K9LLI

### RARA Information Net

The purpose of the net will be to disseminate RARA related information as well as other Amateur Radio related information. As a club sponsored activity, please check in with Net Control and help make this net a success. The Net Control will be rotated between the club members, with all amateur radio operators encouraged to check in. (RARA members as well as non-members)

Let any of the officers and board know you thoughts and ideas. If you wish to be a net control operator, let any of the officers know. All are encouraged and welcome to participate.

146.610 (pl 114.8) repeater at 8:00 pm, every Monday, except on holidays.

#### Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please call me or email me at ke9n@arrl.net.

**Cut-off for the September 2009 issue will be Friday, August 28, 2009.** Kurt - KE9N, Editor



# FIELD DAY 2009



Thanks to all who attended, our W9AXD Field Day was a great success and a lot of fun! The following information was submitted to the ARRL and we will see how we ranked when the scores are published. We had 465 CW contacts, and 480 SSB contacts, for a total of 945 QSO's. This translates to 2820 points as a claimed score. In addition, we are claiming 850 additional bonus points for a total of 3670 total points. Thanks again to everyone who participated.

Kurt - KE9N

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

July 18th there were 6 applicants resulting in 3 new licenses and 3 upgrades

### New Licenses

Robert Ustruck - General

Jeffrey Lightfoot - Technician

Name not released - Technician

### Upgrades

Robert Rose KC9OQG General

Brian Buzard KC9FQZ General

Ronald Langley KC9MQZ General

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, August 15, 2009.

### 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

# DX NEWS AND CONTESTS

## SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
<b>OJ0</b>	MARKET REEF	AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 2	CT1BWW
<b>SU8LH</b>	EGYPT	AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 9	SU1SK
<b>3B7FQ</b>	AGALEGA & ST. BRANDON	AUGUST 10 TO AUGUST 30	K5XK
<b>C21TI</b>	NAURU	AUGUST 17 TO AUGUST 23	????
<b>SV9</b>	CRETE	AUGUST 21 TO OCTOBER 5	BURO
<b>FT5GA</b>	GLORIOSO ISLAND	AUGUST 31 TO SEPT. 21	F5OGL
<b>3D2G</b>	FIJI	SEPT. 6 TO SEPT. 7	PG5M
<b>T2G</b>	TUVALU	SEPT. 8 TO SEPT. 14	PG5M
<b>ZK2BJ</b>	NIUE	SEPT. 18 TO SEPT. 25	????
<b>3D2/C</b>	CONWAY REEF	OCT. 3 TO OCT. 13	TBA
<b>K4M</b>	MIDWAY ISLAND	OCT. 9 TO OCT. 19	TBA
<b>TX5SPM</b>	MARQUESAS ISLAND	OCT 16 TO OCT. 22	SP9PT
<b>CY0</b>	SABLE ISLAND	OCT. 19 TO OCT. 26	N0TG
<b>P29VCX</b>	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	OCT. 22 TO OCT. 26	SM6CVX

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

Worked All Europe HF, CW, Aug. 8th, 2009  
 North American QSO Party SSB, Aug. 15-16, 2009  
 CQWW DX Contest, RTTY, Sept. 26-27, 2009  
 CQWW DX Contest, SSB, October 24-25, 2009  
 CQWW DX Contest, CW, November 28-29, 2009

**Note:** Source for this column include the NG3K website.  
 Information submitted by Kurt - KE9N

### 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

146.805 - ENC/DEC pl 114.8 K9AMJ  
 224.440 - ENC/DEC pl 118.8 K9AMJ  
 147.255 + ENC/DEC pl 114.8 WX9MCS

444.725 + ENC/DEC pl 107.2 WX9MCS  
 Linked to FISHFAR

### 2009 RARA Officers and Board

President - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034  
 Vice President - Steve Thorne, K9LLI, 815-399-9161  
 Secretary - Al Fischer, KD9CA, 815-885-3926  
 Treasurer - Rich Ludwig, K9PK, 815-547-6435

Directors:  
 Chuck Derwent, K9SAN, 815-519-0848  
 Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, 815-332-2479  
 Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875  
 Mike Oberg, AB9AY, 815-399-0961  
 Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH  
 Ham Rag Editor - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784  
 Repeater Chairman - Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-623-3623

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

## ITEMS FOR SALE / WANTED

### FOR SALE

Yaesu FT-1000 HF all-mode transceiver, 200 watts output, dual receivers, automatic antenna tuner.

Following optional accessories included:

BPF-1 Dual bandpass filter (installed)

XF-D 2 Khz SSB filter (installed)

XF-E 500 Hz CW filter (installed)

SP-5 Desktop speaker with Timewave DSP-59Y DSP unit mounted in speaker cabinet

MD-1C8 Desktop microphone

MH-1B8 Hand Microphone

Technical supplement service manual, FT-1000 operating manual, factory shipping cartons.

Very good condition, no scratches or marks. Original owner.

Price \$1550.00

For more information contact Jim Miller, W4JR, at 815-397-4602

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Ten Tec Omni 5 Transciever with speaker and power supply --- \$500.00

Ten Tec Titan 425 HF Linear Amplifier, 1500+ watt out --- \$750.00

For more information contact Don Sjoberg, W9KIA, at 815-964-5411

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Yaesu FT-1000D with Kenwood desk mic w/stand, Kenwood speaker and phone patch. Like new condition.  
\$2000.00 firm. Contact Louis Rossi, N9FBC, at 815-966-7974

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MFJ-259B antenna analyzer (like new) ----- \$200.00 Contact Dennis - K9VMY

### WANTED

SMA H/T antenna for 2 mtrs. and 440, such as Comet SMA 24 / SMA 503 or Diamond RH77CA / SRH-519

For more information contact Steve Thorne, K9LLI at 815-399-9161 or email: [steve.thorne@att.biz](mailto:steve.thorne@att.biz)

*If you wish to post a ham radio item for sale on the RARA website, send the information in an email to:  
[robert@kc9ich.com](mailto:robert@kc9ich.com)*



**The K7RA Solar Update** (Jul 31, 2009) -- No sunspot activity this week, and if no sunspot appears today, July 31, the average sunspot number for July will be 5.1; this is down from June's average of 6.6. The monthly average of the daily sunspot number, January-July 2009, is 2.8, 2.5, 0.8, 1.3, 4, 6.6 and 5.1. The three-month averages for October 2008-June 2009 were 4.5, 4.4, 3.6, 2.2, 2, 1.5, 2, 4.2 and 5.2. This takes into account all the daily sunspot numbers for September 2008-July 2009, and those numbers are for the center months of each of those three month moving average periods.

*Information supplied by the ARRL*



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: ke9n@arrl.net

Nets

Monday 8 PM	RARA Info.	146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM	ARES	147.195 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATERN	146.610 - 114.8

place address label here

**August 2009**

**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