

# HAM RAG



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

## RARA Mission Statement

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

## Presidents Column

Greetings,

To begin with, "Happy New Year" to everyone as we embark into this year of 2010. The first thing I want to do is thank everyone who volunteered last year. You and your actions made the club functions a success. Without these peoples commitment, many of the things the club provides, such as Breakfast in the Park, Field Day, On the Waterfront, the annual picnic, and the regular monthly meetings would not be possible. Again, I want to thank those involved, for their dedication, and hard work in helping make this club a great organization.

This new year already has us busy with ideas for the club. Also stay tuned and watch the website for new features as they come online.

I hope to see you all at the banquet at Linos, January 9<sup>th</sup>. To make your reservation call Shari Harlan, N9SH, at 815-398-2683 by December 31st. All reservations must be prepaid. Send your check (made payable to RARA) to Shari Harlan, 5931 Alma Dr, Rockford., IL 61108.

73,  
Gordon Seaman KC9NEX

### Amateur Radio Bill Passes Senate, Moves to the House (Dec 15, 2009) --On



Monday, December 14, S 1755 -- *The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009* -- passed the Senate by unanimous consent; the bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration. Sponsored by Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT), and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), S 1755, if passed, would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study on emergency communications. S 1755 points out that "There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur

Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations."

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

## January 2010

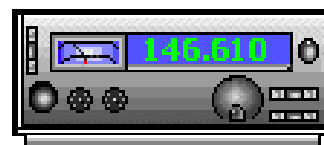
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**NO REGULAR  
MEETING IN  
JANUARY**

**AWARDS  
BANQUET  
TO BE HELD  
JANUARY 9, 2010**

**SEE PAGE 5 FOR  
MORE DETAILS**



## Secretary's Report



### RARA Club Meeting December 11, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, at 7:10 P.M. There were 24 hams in attendance.

#### Secretary's Report:

Al, KD9CA, reported that the minutes were published in the December *Ham Rag* and stated that there were printed copies available for anyone that wanted one. John, N9OTC, made a motion to accept the minutes as published and Gene, KA9BOD, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Rich, K9PK, read the report for the period October 27<sup>th</sup> through November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009.

Income:	\$155.00
Expenses:	\$143.95
Net Income/Loss:	\$11.05
Ending Checking Balance:	\$456.75
Ending Repeater Checking Balance:	\$1997.94
Ending Savings Balance:	\$3213.01
Ending Total Cash on Hand:	\$5667.50
Gain/Loss compared to last year:	\$(1753.64)

Shari, N9SH, made a motion to accept the report as read and Kurt, KE9N, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### Old Business:

Gordy reminded all present that the *Awards Banquet* is January 9<sup>th</sup> and those wishing to attend need to contact Shari, N9SH, and have their money in by December 31. Shari said we cannot get a private room with fewer than 30 guests.

Gordy reminded everyone that dues should also be paid as soon as possible.

He also said that tonight was the last night to nominate anyone for the *Ham of the Year* award.

#### New Business:

Gene, KA9BOD, took the floor and said as next year's Vice President he is responsible for the presentations. He said that so far he has the following programs lined up:

February, Jack Hudson, W9MU, will present Antennas, tuners and transmission lines.

March, Duane Ingram PhD, N9ZKR, will give a presentation on *The Quiet Sun* and how the sun relates to ham radio.

April, Kermit Carlson, W9XA, the new Vice Director for the Central Division 2010 of the *ARRL* will speak.

(continued on next page)

## Secretary's Report *(continued)*

May, a presentation on geocaching is scheduled. Geocaching is a sport/hobby that many GPS owners are interested in and should give us some insight into Global Position Satellite tracking.

June is reserved for Field Day and will be organized by Kurt, KE9N.

July, Bob Larson, KC9ICH, will present another method of sending and receiving QSL's, known as *eQSL* by using the internet.

August, September, October, November and December are open however, the following possibilities are being investigated by Gene.

A. A presentation on antenna analyzing programs by Jim Elkins, N9VJ.

B. A program on *M.A.R.S* by Tom, N9VJU.

C. Other program subjects, repeater etiquette and operation, radio features, batteries and DX peditions are other presentations being considered.

Gene asked for other suggestions and welcomes anyone who has a subject they would like to share with their fellow Hams.

Shari said there would be VE testing next Saturday.

At 9:05 PM Kurt made a motion to close the meeting and Gene seconded the motion.

Gary, K9LJN, and Kurt, KE9N, then gave a very informative presentation on sending QSL cards. Some items covered: The DO'S and DON'T'S of sending QSL cards, what your card should include as well as numerous other items to increase your success in receiving those wanted confirming QSL cards.

Submitted by:

Al, KD9CA RARA Secretary

## RARA Information Net

The purpose of the net is 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 is 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 February 2010 issue will be Saturday, January 30, 2010**

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

## Vice President Comments

One of the VP jobs is the responsibility for setting up the club meeting programs. I pondered the things that I would like to know more about as well as solicit ideas of what others thought would be good programs and went to work at setting up what hopefully will be some good programs for 2010. The schedule is listed on page 8 in the Ham Rag.

There are many facets to Amateur Radio, some that I want to partake in and others that I just want to know about, but have no interest in actually doing. If you don't know what is out there you don't know if you are interested in doing whatever. As an example, I will never be a big time DXER or go on a DXpedition, but I am fascinated hearing the stories.

We all have different specific interests and that is okay. As individuals we need to keep learning about new things. It keeps our minds active. Some years ago I had a contact with a ham in Northern California who made a comment about retirement. He said "people retire and say they are just going to go fishing and nothing else." Then he said, "They will be dead in a year. Not that fishing is bad, but you need a hobby, volunteer or something to keep yourself active and mentally stimulated". So my intent with the programs is to help expose us to several aspects of our diverse hobby. There is something for everyone to spark our interests.

One of the problems that I have seen in our club as well as other organizations is that FEW volunteer and that can be for many reasons. I can no longer do what I used to BUT WE ALL can do something. My challenge to everyone in our club is to take a hard look at yourself to determine what you can do to help with some aspect within the club. It can be big or small, but we ALL can do something. No excuses about being too busy. We all are too busy. To paraphrase a saying by John Kennedy...."What can I do for RARA and not what can RARA do for me". Please give it some honest thought, you can help make our club stronger. Let one of the club officers or board members know and we will try to use your skills for the club.

73,  
Gene, KA9BOD  
RARA VP  
ka9bod@arrl.net

### **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***



## AWARDS BANQUET TO BE HELD JANUARY 9, 2010

The RARA Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at Lino's, 5611 East State Street. We plan on cocktails at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM.

The seven course dinner includes: Soup, Garlic and Pizza Breads, Lino's Special Salad, a Variety of Pasta (Mostaccioli-Ravioli-Tortellini) Baked Potato, Coffee, Spumoni, plus the Entrée.

Choice of entrée:

Baked Lasagna	\$17.50
New York Strip Steak	\$25.50
Baked Cod	\$19.50
Baked Chicken ala Lino	\$17.50

All prices include tax and tip and have been rounded up. Coffee will come with the dinner; all other drinks will be from a cash bar.

Remember, if you worked at the On the Waterfront ticket booth, you will get \$5.00 off per shift worked. In other words if you worked 1 shift you will receive \$5.00 off, 2 shifts \$10.00 off and so forth. Supervisors will receive their dinner courtesy of the club. This offer is to say thank you for all of your hard work.

**To make your reservation call Shari Harlan, N9SH, at 815-398-2683 by December 31st.** All reservations must be prepaid. Send your check made payable to RARA to Shari Harlan, 5931 Alma Dr, Rockford., IL 61108

### Voltage and Current Values for a Sine Wave

References to the values of current and voltage in a sine wave are frequent. The definitions of Peak, Average, and RMS (root mean square) as they relate to a sine wave (with a Peak of 1) will follow.

**Peak.** – This is the maximum value of voltage or current for a specific sine wave.

**Average.** – This is the average value of voltage or current for a specific sine wave, and is an average of all the values in a sine wave for  $180^{\circ}$  (one-half cycle). An average over  $360^{\circ}$  would be 0. For example, an average taken for sine values at each  $15^{\circ}$  is  $7.62/12$ , for a result of 0.635 (the actual result at  $15^{\circ}$  intervals is 0.635, but the more accurate limit result is 0.637 and is typically used). This is the value of the sine curve at  $39.56^{\circ}$ .

**Root Mean Square, or Effective Value.** - RMS is the most common way of specifying the voltage or current in a sine wave. It is the value of the sine function at  $45^{\circ}$  and equals 0.707. An RMS of 120V-AC has the same heating power as 120V-DC. A calculation of the sums of

$(\sin \theta)^2$  for sine values at each  $15^{\circ}$  over  $180^{\circ}$  (add all the squares, divide by the number of squares to obtain the average square, and take the square root of this mean value) is  $\sqrt{6/12}$ , for a result of 0.707. This is the value most meters read.

So,

$$\text{RMS} = \text{Peak} \times 0.707$$

$$\text{Peak} = \text{RMS} \times 1/0.707, \text{ or } \text{RMS} \times 1.414,$$

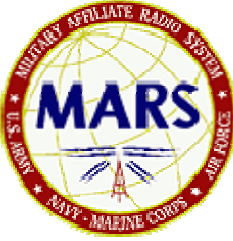
$$\text{Average value} = \text{Peak} \times 0.637, \text{ and}$$

$$\text{Peak to Peak} = 2.828 \times \text{RMS values for maximum and minimum.}$$

*Short Circuit 2009*

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

**MARS Gets New Name As It Fine Tunes Mission** (Dec 24, 2009) -- On Wednesday, December 23, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued an *Instruction* concerning MARS, effective immediately. This *Instruction* gives the three MARS services -- Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps -- a new focus on homeland security and a new name: Military *Auxiliary* Radio System. The *Instruction* is the first major revision to MARS since January 26, 1988 -- as such, the first revision since the 9/11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina, two major events that changed the way Amateur Radio dealt with emergency communications.



**White House Names Ham as New Cybersecurity Coordinator** (Dec 23, 2009) -- On Tuesday, December 22, President Barack Obama named Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS, as the new White House Cybersecurity Coordinator. According to the White House, Schmidt -- an ARRL member -- is one of the world's leading authorities on computer security, with some 40 years of experience in government, business and law enforcement and "will have regular access to the President and serve as a key member of his National Security Staff. He will also work closely with his economic team to ensure that our cybersecurity efforts keep the Nation secure and prosperous."



## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

December 19th there were 3 applicants resulting in 2 upgrades

Upgrades

David Bailey KC9QYY General

Patrick Ryan KC9RBQ Extra

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, January 16, 2010.

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.

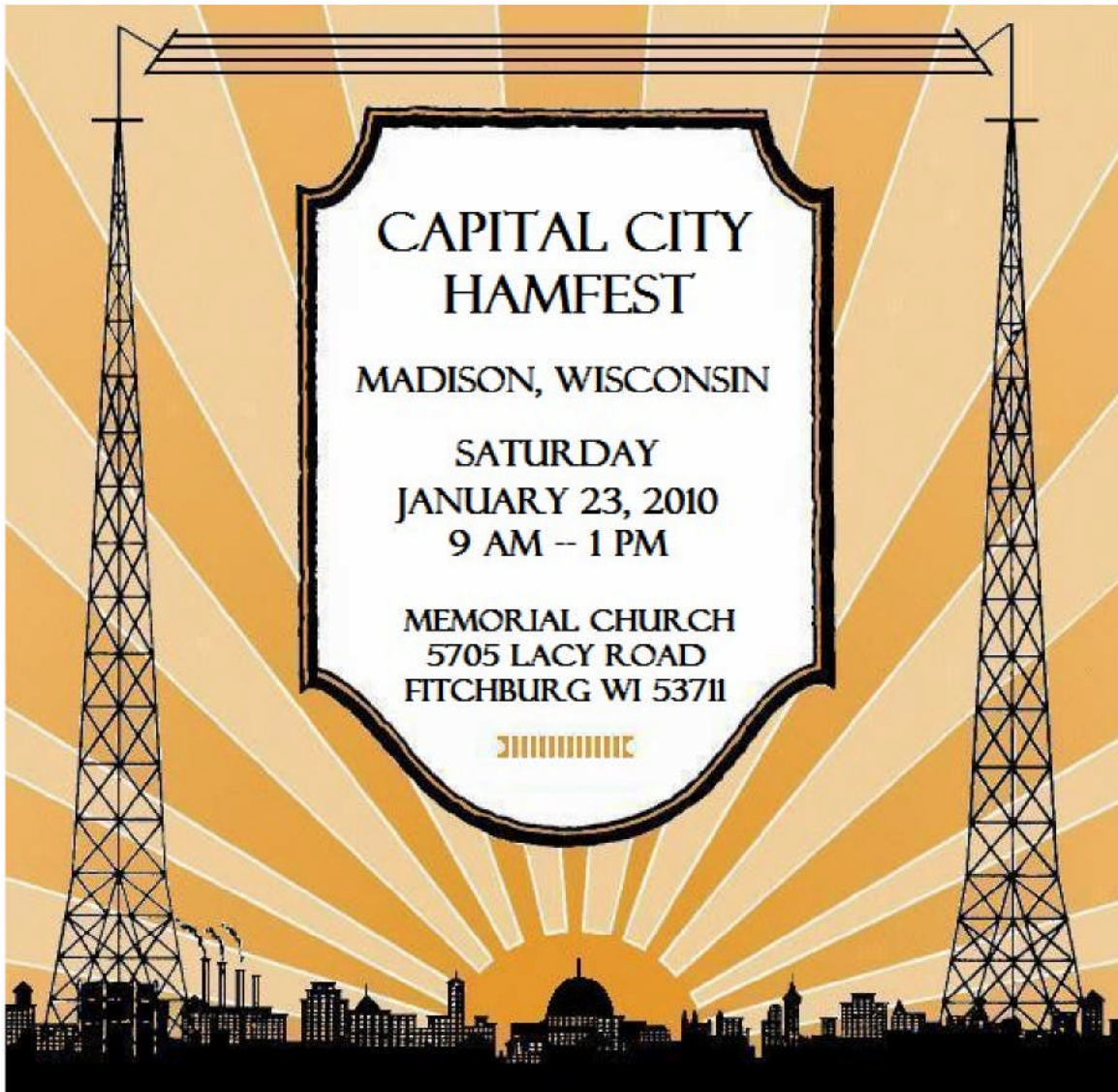
What You Need To Bring To A W5YI-VEC Session

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



A **FUN** event for amateur radio and electronics hobbyists...  
Get together, sell excess equipment, see friends, buy gear and parts you need,  
meet folks you've met on the air, and beat the winter blues.  
The equipment found at a hamfest can range from the newest high -tech gear  
to used, refurbished, or even antique equipment.

Admission - \$5. Under age 13 - Free. Vendor Tables - \$10.  
Advance tickets and tables can be ordered by mail before January 5, 2010.  
Be sure to order your tables in advance, as space is limited.  
Vendors may set up beginning 8 AM.

For more information or to order tickets, contact:  
Hamfest Chairman, Steve Johnston, WD8DAS  
Address: 2309 Tulare St., Fitchburg WI 53711  
Website: <http://www.wd8das.net/hamfest>      email: [wd8das@arrl.net](mailto:wd8das@arrl.net)

## RARA Club 2010 Meeting Programs

- January** Banquet – no program.
- February** Antennas, tuners & transmission lines – Jack Hudson, W9MU
- March** “The quiet sun” - Duane Ingram, N9ZKR  
(He is a retired Professor and has been affiliated with the University of Iowa as a scientist with the Heavy Ion High Energy Physics Group. He has worked on projects at Fermi National Accelerator and Argonne National Laboratory. He has also been to the new Large Hadron Accelerator (CERN) on the French/ Swiss border many times.)
- April** An update on ARRL things – Kermit Carlson, W9XA  
(Kermit is the current Vice Director for the Central Division of the ARRL. He is an Engineering Physicist at Fermilab and has been involved with many aspects of ham radio over the years.)
- May** Geocaching – Dave Yanke, N9SSG from sycamore  
(Dave is involved with an area club on Geocaching.)
- June** Field Day – Kurt Eversole, KE9N  
(2010 RARA field day chairman)
- July** EZNEC program analysis of a vertical – Jim Elkins, N9VJ –or-  
ESQL – Robert Larson, KC9ICH (To be determined)
- August** Local ARES – Steve Twigg, W9SWT  
(Acting EC Winnebago County)
- September** HF radios....survey of features..no sale pitches. Jack Hudson, W9MU
- October** Repeaters, how they work & repeater etiquette. Chuck, AB9KA
- November** Update on the MARS program. Tom, N9VJU
- December** To be determined.

*SUBMITTED BY* : Gene, KA9BOD, RARA 2010 VP

**The K7RA Solar Update** (Dec 24, 2009) -- Many of us are nearly giddy with joy over the recent steady increase in sunspot activity that seems long overdue. Average daily sunspot numbers rose more than 10 points this week compared to last -- from 21.1 to 31.4! The monthly average daily sunspot numbers for September, October and November were 6.6, 7 and 7.7, so this is quite a large jump. Sunspot numbers for December 17-23 were 24, 20, 43, 42, 42, 26 and 23, with a mean of 31.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 86.9, 84.2, 81.7, 83.7, 82.7, 82.2 and 78.4, with a mean of 82.8. The estimated planetary A indices were 1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 2 and 2, with a mean of 1.4. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 2, 0, 2, 1, 2 and 3, with a mean of 1.7.





# DX NEWS AND CONTESTS

## SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
<b>XR9JA</b>	SOUTH SHETLAND IS.	JAN. 10 TO JAN. 14	CE5JA
<b>HS0ZJF</b>	THAILAND	JAN. 12 TO MARCH 8	ON4AFU
<b>CE0Z</b>	JUAN FERNANDEZ	JAN. 19 TO FEB. 2	JA8BMK
<b>YJ0MM</b>	VANUATU	JAN. 21 TO JAN. 28	9A8MM
<b>VP8DMN</b>	FALKLAND IS.	JAN. 21 TO JAN. 29	LotW
<b>5X1NH</b>	UGANDA	JAN. 21 TO MARCH 21	G3RWF
<b>ST26ASC</b>	SUDAN	JAN. 22 TO JAN. 28	ST2M
<b>PY0F</b>	FERNANDO de NORONHA	JAN. 23 TO FEB. 3	PT7WA
<b>XU7AFU</b>	CAMBODIA	FEB. 2 TO FEB. 15	ON4AFU
<b>5Z0H</b>	KENYA	FEB. 10 TO FEB. 21	LotW
<b>ZK3</b>	TOKELAU	FEB. 17 TO MARCH 10	N7OU
<b>VK9X</b>	CHRISTMAS IS.	FEB. 20 TO FEB. 27	G3SWH
<b>V88</b>	BRUNEI	FEB. 22 TO MARCH 3	DL7JAN

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

Original QRP Contest, CW, Jan. 2, 1500Z to Jan. 3, 1500Z  
 ARRL RTTY Roundup, Digital, Jan. 2, 1800Z to Jan. 3, 2400Z  
 Kid's Day, Phone, Jan.3, 1800Z to Jan. 3, 2400Z  
 CQ World Wide 160 Meter Contest, CW, Jan. 29, 2200Z to Jan 31, 2200Z  
 CQ World Wide 160 Meter Contest, SSB, Feb. 26, 2200Z to Feb. 28, 2200Z

### 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

### 2010 RARA Officers and Board

#### **Officers:**

President - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034  
 Vice President - Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, 815-226-1806  
 Secretary - Al Fischer, KD9CA, 815-885-3926  
 Treasurer - Paul Franklin, K9RNR, 815-298-2251

#### **Directors:**

Shari Harlan, N9SH, 815-398-2683  
 John Lawrence, N9OTC, 815-397-4624  
 Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-877-9129  
 Steve Thorne, K9LLI, 815-399-9161  
 Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875  
 Ham Rag Editor - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784  
 Repeater Chairman - Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-979-1049

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



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

# January 2010

## 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