

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.

February 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Presidents Log -	page 1
Treasurer's Rpt. -	page 2
Awards Dinner -	page 3
Awards Dinner -	page 4
Awards Dinner -	page 5
Ham of the Year -	page 6
Secretary's Rpt -	page 7
KR7A Solar Rpt-	page 8
VEC -	page 9
Bits and Pieces -	page 10
Bits and Pieces -	page 11
Hamfest Info -	page 12



Presidents Log

I hope everyone survived the big snow storm of 2011.

Have you been working on any winter projects this winter such as a new kit, antenna, tuner, or even doing any contesting? Lots of contests are listed every month. If so, we would like to hear about them.

I will put on a mini program on key collecting from the novice point of view.

Stay safe everyone.

Tom N9VJU

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY

February 11, 2011

7:00P.M.

Location:



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

From the Treasurer

Treasurer's Report: For the period Dec 28,2010 to 23 JAN 2011
Submitted to the Ham Rag by John G. Olson 2011 RARA treasurer.

Income:	\$ 577.04
Expenses:	\$ 546.86
Ending Checkbook Balance:	\$3957.63
Ending Repeater checking balance:	\$ 300.00 (per last statement)
Ending Savings Balance	\$3214.02
Ending total cash on hand:	\$7471.65 (net gain \$30.18)

REMINDER! 2011 dues are payable now.
Please be kind and fill out the form so I can verify that your information is current....

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.

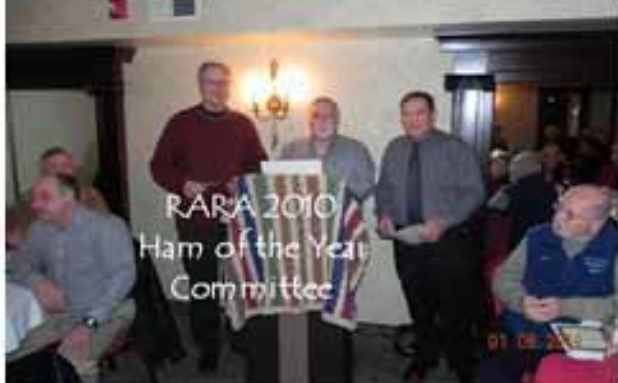
Ham Rag Via U.S. Postal Service: \$12.00 extra

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

2011 RARA Awards Dinner



2011 RARA Awards Dinner



2011 RARA Awards Dinner



**2010 Ham Of The Year
Gordon Seaman K9NEX**

Congratulations

Ham of the Year List

1980	Jim Milhone		KI9F	
1981	Shari Harlan *		WB9SFT	
1982	Gene Melton		AK9N	
1983	Frank Hirsch		KS9X	
1984	Carol Melton		KI9G	
	Gene Stankiewicz *		KA9BOD	
1985	Chuck Henley		N9CCH	
1985	Ziggy Podgorny	W9MOS		
1986	Gene Duncan		K9IKP	
1987	Jim Miller		W4JR	
1988	Steve Makulec		KB9IW	
1989	- None			
1990	Dale Landis		WD9DBD	
	JoAnn Landis		KA9DNQ	
1991	- None			
1992	- None			
1993	- None			
1994	Wayne Hanson	KA9IMX		
1995	Diane White		WB9VLK	(Club member of the year)
1996	Marsha Plasters	KB9NGN		(Club member of the year)
1997	- ??			
1998	Jeff Anderson		N9ZUT	
1999	Tom Shouler		N9VJU	
2000	Shari Harlan *		N9SH	
2001	Carl Cacciatori	W9TQ		
2002	Mike Oberg		AB9AY	
2003	Larry Snyder		K0HKM	
2004	Gary Hilker		K9LJN	
	Dan Hunt		KC9ATR	
2005	Gene Stankiewicz *		KA9BOD	
2006	Paul Franklin		K9RNR	
	Chuck Ingle *		AB9KA	
2007	John Cotner		KC9IED	
2008	Rich Ludwig		K9PK	
	Chuck Ingle *		AB9KA	
2009	Kurt Eversole		KE9N	
2010	Gordon Seaman	KC9NEX		

Secretary's Report



Rockford Amateur Radio Association

Meeting Minutes January ,2011

After a great dinner at Lino's on Saturday January 8 2011, President Gordon Seaman KC9NEX called the membership meeting to order at 8:23PM.

Presentations of certificates to 2010 club officers, board members, committee chairs and others as listed below were given;

Club president Gordon Seaman KC9NEX
Vice President Gene Stankiewicz KA9BOD
Secretary Al Fischer KD9CA
Treasurer Paul Franklin K9RNR

Board Member Steve Thorne K9LLI
Tom Shouler N9VJU
John Lawrence N9OTC
Shari Harlan N9SH

Ham Rag Editor Kurt Eversole KE9N

Committee Chairs

Webmaster Robert Larson KC9ICH
Repeater Chuck Ingle AB9KA
Breakfast in the Park Tom Shouler N9VJU
Field Day Kurt Eversole KE9N
OTW Gordon Seaman KC9NEX
Annual Picnic Al Fischer KD9CA
Ham of the Year Gene Stankiewicz KA9BOD

Others

Served on Ham of the Year committee Chuck Ingle AB9KA
Field Day "Chef" Chuck Ingle AB9KA
License Trustee Don Russell W9DRR
License Trustee Scott Francis KG9SF

After the presentations of the above certificates, Gordy KC9NEX turned the gavel and office of president over to Tom Shouler N9VJU.

Gene KA9BOD then presented the 2010 Ham of the Year award to Gordy KC9NEX.

Respectfully submitted
John Lawrence N9OTC Secretary

The K7RA Solar Update

From Tad Cook, K7RA
Seattle, WA January 28, 2011
To all radio amateurs

Average daily sunspot numbers rose over the past week (ending January 26) by 11.3 points to 32.6, compared to the previous week. Average daily solar flux rose 3.1 points to 83.5. Planetary A index average was down two points to 2.9, and mid-latitude A index was down 1.5 points to 2.4.

On Thursday, January 27 the sunspot number was 0, but a new spot is emerging near the horizon in the southeast quadrant.

The latest prediction from NOAA/USAF shows lower solar activity, with solar flux for January 28 at 79, then 80 for January 29 through February 6, and 82 for February 7-22, and 88 on February 23. This forecast is from Thursday, January 27 and is much more optimistic than the Wednesday forecast, which was reported in the ARRL Letter.

NOAA/USAF shows a planetary A index of 5 on January 28 through February 2, then 8 on February 3, 12 on February 4, and 8 on February 5.

Geophysical Institute Prague sees quiet conditions January 28 through February 1, quiet to unsettled February 2 and unsettled February 3.

Ron McCollum, W7GTF sent an image of the cover of the March, 1956 issue of CQ Magazine, which has a picture of a solar disc with sunspots, and the headline, "Sunspot Report: ONCE IN A LIFETIME CONDITIONS - CQ EXCLUSIVE." Of course, as we know, after this magazine appeared on newsstands 55 years ago, conditions got even better over the next couple of years.

Ron wrote, "While cleaning out our family home (of 41 years) in Seattle in preparation to sell, and to finally get rid of nearly 50 years of radio magazines, I kept this CQ." What makes me nervous though is his statement "to finally get rid of."

Seattle has a very convenient and efficient recycling system that includes curbside pickup, which may make disposal a little too convenient. I certainly hope he found a good home for these journals. After all, they aren't making any more of them. Most of the great old issues of QST from the 1920s and 1930s disappeared in World War II paper drives.

While not related to amateur radio or propagation, Dick Bingham, W7WKR, who lives far off the grid at Stehekin, Washington (his station location listed in the FCC database is "1.2 miles up Company Creek Road!") sent in a useful, interesting and educational URL (see <http://snipurl.com/1xa141>) linking to a 15-part series on mathematics by Dr. Steven Strogatz that appeared last year in the New York Times. This series focuses on a practical understanding of a wide range of mathematics for lay people, such as myself.

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.



AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

January 15th there was 1 applicant resulting in 1 upgrade.

Upgrades

Eric B Hultgren, N9MCS

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, February 19, 2011.

Location:

St Anthony Hospital

5666 E State St

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)

Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV

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:

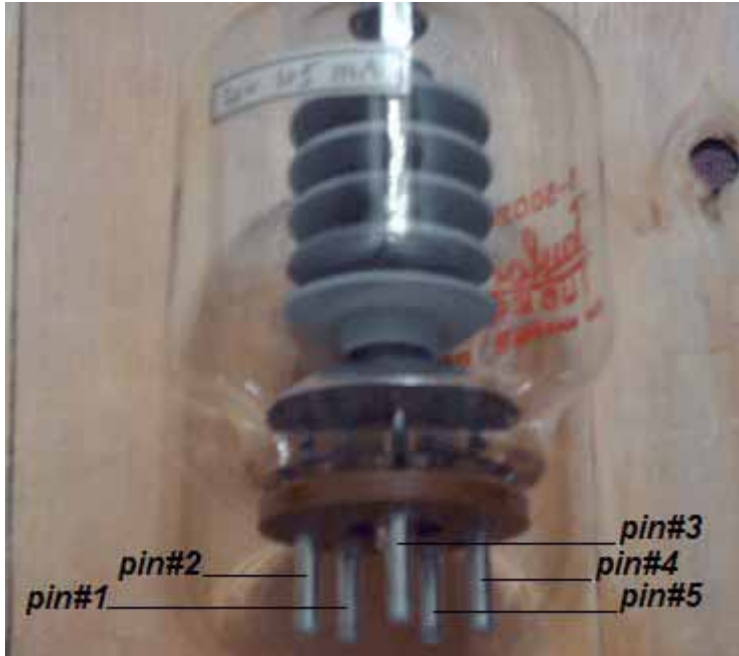
President - Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-877-9129
Vice President - OPEN
Secretary - John Lawrence, N9OTC, 815-397-4624
Treasurer - John Olson W9JGO

Directors:

Al Fischer, KD9CA, 815-885-3926
Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034
Steve Thorne, K9LLI, 815-399-9161
Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875
Ham Rag Editor - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-522-8796
Repeater Chairman - Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-979-1049

This was a fun article. I hope that it will be useful as well as entertaining.
Jim Holich—AB9SX

Testing the 3-500Z pins



3-500Z tubes are the tubes we usually use in our own Ham Radio Amplifiers. We have always liked them for their power and longevity. Knowing the pin numbers of these tubes are sometimes important especially when your testing the tubes or working on an amplifier that they are installed in.

What pin is which? what is the pin arrangement?... seems to be an on-going question and since we could not find any real information with pictures on the internet we decided to do it ourselves in hopes to help others gain knowledge.

Lay your 500 Z tube down on its side, **make sure it does not roll away and hit the ground and break!!** (as two of these tubes are about half the price of an apartment's monthly rent) you will notice that one of the pins has lots of distance between it and all the other pins, this is pin#3.

If you orientate your 3-500Z tube laying down with pin #3 on the top you will see how the pins are numbered, just like in the picture.... now, you know the pin arrangement and numbering of the 500Z tube, ah, not so hard when you see the picture is it?

Important Safety Information, anything that uses a 3-500Z tube or any tube of this nature uses ultra high voltage and amperage. Just touching the wrong place on this tube while it is still in an amplifier, even if the amplifier is un-plugged with out properly discharging the stored electrical energy will kill you dead!!. This is no joke!, if you have no high voltage electrical training and electrical theory training on tube amplifiers, do not ever attempt to remove a tube from an amplifier.

So you just blew up your ham amplifier and are now wondering if your 3-500Z tubes are still good?

Good question, as I am yet to see a tube tester that you can just plug one of these monsters into and have it test **good 800 watts** or **bad 300 watts**, even those old time tube testers tested nothing of this size. This would actually, be simple to design but I don't think you could make much money testing tubes... but who knows, I am the last person that would try and stop ones entrepreneurial spirit.



Usually a buddies amplifier will work for testing (oops Hi-Hi) but if your tube has a filament grid short, you can also seriously damage your buddies amplifier. So here is my suggestion, before you stick those tubes anywhere!, be sure you at least test them, so you still have a buddy. With the tube out of the amplifier, first visually inspect the tube for any internal melting, wear or signs of damage.

Get your handy ohm meter and check pin #1 and #5 for continuity it should have some sort of stable resistance reading. Heathkit amplifier manuals state that if you find a infinite resistance reading on pins #1 and #5 using an ohm meter, this indicates a faulty tube filament.

Check the other pins as there should be no other continuity reading on the other pins. ***If continuity reading is found on the other pins... it's a shorted tube.*** Also important to note ***There shouldn't be any continuity reading from any pin to the top of the tube, known as the plate cap.***



Also, it should be noted, that there have been many writings about some tubes failing under load, yet test correctly using the above methodbut I have not seen that myself. "I guess when in doubt throw them out or give them to me"....or something like that. There is no way to test the tube for output at this stage. The above test is to see if your 3 500Z tube either caused the amplifier to crash or if it survived the amplifier crash and is in still good condition, or has a good chance of still being in good condition.

We have used American, Chinese and French ...just about every manufacturers brand of the 3-500Z tube. We liked them all and they all work fine. Now-a-days everything is made in China and its most likely any new 3-500 Z you purchase regardless of the silk screened logo will be made in China. For the past several years we buy the RF Parts Taylor brand of the 3-500ZG as its a very good tube.

Sam Moriarity KI6DTC

Storm Spotter Classes

According to http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lot/?n=spotter_talks there will be a spotter class in Belvidere on Feb 11 at 7PM in the Belvidere Township Building, 8200 Fairgrounds Road. A Rockford spotter class will be presented on the 10th of March, 7 PM in the Public Safety Building at the Chicago-Rockford Int'l Airport.

Freeport's spotter classes are also on March 10 at 1:00 PM and 6:30 PM at Highland Comm. College, Building H, Room 201. The street address is 2998 West Pearl City Road in Freeport, IL according to the Quad Cities NWS website <https://apps.weather.gov/outreach/IL.php>

Hamfest Information

The Capital City Hamfest Madison, Wisconsin

Saturday, February 12, 2011—0900 - 1300 (Vendor set-up 0800)

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. Memorial U.C.C. Fellowship Hall 5705 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg.

AES Superfest

Our 17th Annual ARRL Sanctioned Show!

DATES: Friday, April 1st (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) and Saturday April 2nd (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

WHERE: AES Milwaukee, 5710 W. Good Hope Road

WE PROVIDE: A FREE table with electrical in an area where you can interact with other clubs, promote and recruit new members. There is NO Admission; your organization is invited to attend without obligation.

We are again expecting a large participation from major Ham Manufacturers and area clubs/organizations. There will be VE testing, interesting forums, a fox hunt, prizes, the Gordon West show and more!

SET-UP:

Friday (4/1): Access 9:00 a.m., show opens at 2:00 p.m.
Saturday (4/2): Access 8:00 a.m., show opens at 8:30 p.m.

INFORMATION & TABLE RESERVATION:

Have a Club Representative contact Ray Grenier, K9KHW at: 414-881-3528 (cell) or e-mail:

Starved Rock Radio Club

June 5th, 2011

Bureau County Fairgrounds

Princeton, Illinois 61356

I-80 to Exit 56 (IL Rte 26) then South 2 miles to IL Rte 6, then West 1/2 mile



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: jholich@comcast.net

Nets

Monday 8 PM	RARA Info.	146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM	ARES	147.255 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATERN	146.610 - 114.8

place address label here

February 2011

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