

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.

May 2011

Presidents Log

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This month we will have a program on DXing and what it takes to get started in DXing.

We also need to get our member ship to increase. We really need to get younger people to join RARA.

There are many place's in our hobby where we can spark an interest. Young people are willing to listen.

All you have to do is start a conversation with them. See you at the club meeting.

Tom, N9VJU

Opportunities

The Monday night RARA Information Net needs a larger roster of Net Control Stations

If you are interested in becoming a Net Control Operator, please contact either one of the Officers or Board members. It's an easy thing to do, and you work from a script. No need to worry what to say. Let's get you on the schedule.

We also need a Vice President, Field Day Chairman, Picnic Chairman, and Breakfast in the Park Chairman

Please step forward. These activities are critical to the life of RARA.

NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY
May 13, 2011
7:00P.M.**

**Location:
Foundation Room
Saint Anthony OSF
5666 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois**

Program:

DX Video



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

From the Treasurer

Treasurer's Report: For the period 28 MAR 2011 to 24 APR 2011
submitted to the Ham Rag by John G. Olson 2011 RARA treasurer.

Income :	\$107.00
Expenses:	None
Ending Checkbook Balance:	\$4041.25 (per check register 24 APR 2011)
Ending Repeater checking balance:	\$ 300.00 (per 31 MAR2011 statement)
Ending Savings Balance	\$3218.03 (per 31 MAR 2011 statement)
Ending total cash on hand:	\$7559.28 (net gain \$111.01)

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

Items for sale:

Dennis, K9VMY has the following items for sale: You can see him at the Friday breakfast
or e-mail at k9vmy@earthlink.net

- (1)Qty 1 LDG AT-1000 (1KW Automatic Antenna Tuner) \$300.00
- (2)Qty 1 Ameritron AL811H Amplifier \$ 700.00

Both items are in perfect shape and arrangements to view can be made with Dennis.

Secretary's Report



RARA Meeting Minutes April 2011

The April 8, 2011 meeting of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Tom Shouler N9VJU with 15 members and guests present.

Jim Holich AB9SX moved we accept the minutes from the March 2011 meeting as printed in the Ham Rag, Dan Hunt KC9ATR seconded.

John Olson W9JGO gave the financial report for the month. Motion to accept by Chuck Ingle AB9KA, second by Dave Bond W9MG.

Old Business: None

New Business: Tom N9VKU said we need people to chair Field Day, Breakfast in the Park and the Picnic. Chuck AB9KA said he would cook at Field day but nobody volunteered to chair any of the events. We also need people to take turns running the Monday night net.

Jeff N9ZUT talked about the 10Meter SSB net on 28.375 MHz at 9:00 PM (Local time) Monday nights.
Tom N9VJU read a list of upcoming hamfests.

Program: A video on contesting was played.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by John Olson W9JGO, second Jim Holich AB9SX. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
John Lawrence N9OTC
Secretary; RARA

The K7RA Solar Update

04/29/2011

Geomagnetic conditions are quiet this week, but they may become slightly unsettled over this weekend. The average daily sunspot numbers were down more than 18 points to 74.9, while the average daily solar flux was off less than 4 points to 113.4. Sunspot numbers for April 21-27 were 100, 103, 80, 78, 67, 57 and 39, with a mean of 74.9. The 10.7 cm flux was 113, 114.8, 119.1, 117.2, 112.1, 109.4 and 107.9, with a mean of 113.4. The estimated planetary A indices were 5, 6, 6, 6, 6, 3, and 3 with a mean of 5. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 3, 4, 6, 2, 1 and 0, with a mean of 2.9.

The predicted solar flux value for today and tomorrow -- April 29-30 -- is 110. Look for 105 on May 1-8, 110 on May 9 and 115 on May 10. The next peak in solar flux is May 11-13, where we are looking for a value of 120. This is actually higher than the flux values over the last month, except for one day -- April 15 -- at 129. Over the last three days, five new sunspot groups emerged. Daily sunspot numbers fell over April 22-27, then rose to 71 on April 28.

The predicted planetary A index for April 29-May 3 is 5, 10, 12, 10 and 8, then 5 on May 4-7, then 8, 15, 15, 7 and 5 on May 8-12. So the two periods in the short term with unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions are May 1 and May 9-10. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions on April 29, unsettled to active on April 30, unsettled May 1-2, quiet to unsettled May 3 and quiet May 4-5.

Angel Santana, WP3GW, of Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, writes that the good old days are back for 20 meters: "On World Amateur Radio Day (April 18) at 0304-0630 UTC on 20 meters, I worked 22 stations from Europe and the Pacific, including VK, ZL, FO and NH7 -- all on SSB (and so to get my WARD Award). When working Europe, it looked like it was 3-4 PM local time, something I have not experienced for a long time! Then on this past holiday weekend, I deliberately lost sleep to see how the band was, and it worked the same way: I worked a P29, SV1 and a few more Europeans. I am seeing the same activity on PSK 31, something not seen two months ago. Propagation is really turning on, making 20 meters the 24 hour band again. Plus on Easter Day at 0845, I worked T31A in 40 meters, a new DXCC country for me! Right now at 0850 on April 26 and I am hearing ON4UN working lots of VKs."

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



The K7RA Solar Update

Rol Anders, K3RA, of Elkridge, Maryland (southwest of Baltimore), also likes 20 meters: “On Easter Sunday morning (April 24), there was an excellent long path opening on 12 meters to VR2 and BV from 1200-1230. I worked VR2XMT on phone with my antenna on the long path, then tuned down to CW and heard BU2AQ working Asiatic Russians and Eastern Europeans. He was moderately strong and very solid. I could not hear the stations he was working, but they were all given 599 reports by BU2AQ. I heard no other USA stations calling him for the first 10 minutes or so. A PY was trying, unsuccessfully, but neither he nor I could break the Asia/Europe ‘wall.’ Eventually, several other stations in the US heard him, but we all failed to break through. He started to fade at 1225 in Maryland; however, around 1230, some W8s and W4s got through and he worked a number of them, but by that time, he was very weak in Maryland. Also, I am hearing a return of the longpath on 20 to Southeast Africa around 1200. I haven’t heard that opening for years. Isn’t it great to have 20 meters being an all-day DX band again?”

Rich Dowty, W7EET, of St Paul, Oregon sent info on an interesting tool called PSK Reporter and its map utility. The map displays stations using digital modes on HF who are tied into the reporting network. The user can click on any of the balloons to display a call sign for a monitor at that location, and then enter that call in a query above the map to display all the stations that it could hear over a specified period of time. You can also click in the balloon on ‘Show all seen by’ link. With the ability to check links on different bands and over different time periods, this is an interesting and useful tool for observing HF propagation. There are some interesting videos showing use of this tool .

All times listed are UTC, unless otherwise noted.

Amateur solar observer Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, provides this weekly report on solar conditions and propagation. This report also is available via WIAW every Friday, and an abbreviated version appears each Thursday in The ARRL Letter. You can find a guide to articles and programs concerning propagation.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

April 16th there was 1 applicant resulting in 1 new license.

New

David S Dunn - Technician

Upgraded - None

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio license exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday May 21, 2011.

Location:

St Anthony Hospital
5666 E State St
Rockford, IL

May 21 only: Exams will be held in the Hickey Board Room near the coffee shop. Check-in is 9:00AM-10:30AM.

What You Need To Bring To A W5YI-VEC Session:

1. Your original Amateur Radio 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 is \$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:

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

Hamfest Information

Ozaukee Radio Club
33rd Annual Indoor Amateur Radio, Electronics & Computer Swapfest in Cedarburg, Wisconsin
Saturday May 7th, 2011
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club
Swapfest 11
Saturday July 9th, 2011
6:30 a.m.
American Legion Post 434
9327 South Shepard Avenue
Oak Creek Wisconsin
Tickets \$5.00
Talk in Freq. 146.52

Chicago FM Club
Saturday and Sunday September 10th and 11th, 2011
Boone County Fairgrounds
8791 Route 76
Belvidere, Illinois
6 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days
Complete listing at <http://www.chicagofmclub.org/radioexpo2011.html>

59th Annual W9DXCC Convention & Banquet
Saturday September 17th 2011
Holiday Inn—Elk Grove Village
630-844-8301

Southeast Iowa Hamfest
Sunday, October 2, 2011
Muscatine County Fairgrounds
101 Clay Street
West Liberty, Iowa
7 a.m. Tickets \$5.00
Repeater 146.31/91, CTSS 192.8 Hz
Tom Brehmer n0loh@arrl.org



ARRL Midwest Division Convention

& Summerfest 2011

August 5-7, 2011

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Sponsored by Cedar Valley ARC

<http://convention2011.cvarc.rf.org>



Friday & Saturday, August 5th & 6th:

Clarion Hotel & Convention Center - Cedar Rapids, Iowa (IA)

525 33rd Avenue S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

- **Friday August 5th (3 – 6 PM), "OMAP/BeagleBoard-xm" embedded computer tutorial**— focusing on amateur radio and SDR uses of the technology

- **Saturday August 6th evening Banquet** – *Limited Seating*, please register early!

Banquet Speaker: ARRL President, Kay C. Craigie, N3KN

- **Saturday August 6th Forums and Presentations** from 8 AM to 4 PM

ARRL Presentation and Informal Meeting Area	DX Forum
Numerous Technical Presentations	Classic Radios by Joe Veras K9OCO
Operating topics	Kit Building (AAØZZ CW keyer, NMØS "HamCan" QRP)
Youth in Amateur Radio Forum	Free Admission for kids 12 & under

- **ARRL-sponsored VEC session** 9 AM Saturday (convention registration not required)
- **ARRL Award Field checking** of QSL cards
- **Wouff-Hong Ceremony**

Registration deadline for banquet is August 1st, 2011 Kit building order cutoff is July 22nd, 2011
 Banquet seating and kit building event numbers are limited; first come, first serve, so register early!
 CHECK the <http://convention2011.cvarc.rf.org> website for updates and additional details as they become available or contact Barry Buelow, WØIY, at convention2011@rf.org



Summerfest 2011

Sunday, August 7th 8:00 AM - 1 PM — \$5 at door

Eastern Iowa's premier Hamfest

Location:

Teamster's Hall
 5000 J Street SW
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Talk-In:

146.745 MHz -600 KHz no PL
 or
 146.520 Simplex

- **LARGE outdoor free flea market**, plenty of FREE parking.
- Well known vendors including **Radio City** and **WBØW**.
- Indoor Tables, in air conditioned comfort, are **\$10** each.
- Vendor Setup August 6th evening and 6 AM August 7th see <http://cvarc.rf.org> for details.
- **ARRL VEC testing** available starting at 9:30 AM.



ARRL Midwest Division Convention



Friday & Saturday, August 5-7

Clarion Hotel & Convention Center - Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Friday, August 5, 2011 events:	Quantity	Price ea.	Subtotal
BeagleBoard-XM/OMAP Embedded processor uses in Amateur radio demo and tutorial (INCLUDES Saturday Convention) Advance registration required. Limited seating! Bring your board and laptop! See our website for more details		\$20	

Saturday, August 6, 2011 events:	Quantity	Price Ea.	Subtotal
Convention Registration		\$10	
Banquet Ticket Featuring ARRL President Kay Craigie N3KN AUGUST 1 st Deadline or until sold out—register early!		\$35	

Saturday, August 6, 2011 extras:	Quantity	Price Ea.	Subtotal
Kit Building: AAØZZ PIC Keyer Kit JULY 22 nd deadline or until sold out—register early!		\$20	
Kit Building: NMØS "HamCan" 40m QRP transceiver JULY 22 nd deadline or until sold out—register early!		\$30	
VEC Testing (Pay VEC fee at the test session)		Reg NOT Required	
Wouff Hong (Convention Registration Required)		No Charge	
Please make checks out to: Cedar Valley ARC	Total	\$	

Sunday, August 7, 2011	Quantity	Price Ea.	Subtotal
Summerfest (Hamfest at Teamsters Hall approx 1 mile from hotel)		\$5 Please pay at the hamfest	

Name: _____ Call: _____
 Address: _____
 _____ email address: _____
 _____ Telephone Number: _____

Mail this form to: **Convention**
Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2352
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2352

Please contact the Clarion Hotel directly for rooms. Request the "ARRL Midwest Convention" rate of \$90/night by July 22nd, 2011. Reservations: 877-949-2992 Fax: 319-362-1420 Hotel Direct: 319-366-8671. For more information see <http://www.clarioncr.com>



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

May 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