

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.

President's Message

October activity is nomination and election of officers. This year all offices are open for election. RARA needs your support and your input. Consider running for office. Every member of this club has a lot of fun. This coming year we will again plan on field day which does take some advanced planning. Also we have Breakfast in the Park. Last year we combined Breakfast in the Park with field day and had a lot of fun. Field day was hot but not all that bad. A good time was had by all. After clean up we had Picnic in the Park and another good turnout. Hopefully we can do better this year by getting more people involved and more new members.

As clubs go, ours is a little small, however we all have a good time and enjoy each other's company. We need to keep moving forward and expand our membership and bring the joy of Ham Radio to new people young and old. There is something for everyone in this hobby. Remember, this is our club. We need to support it. See you at the meeting

Tom N9VJU

RARA at the Belvidere HamFest

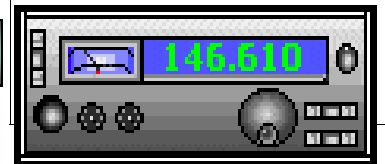


Latest news and events on our web page: <http://www.w9axd.org>

October 2012

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NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
October 12 14, 2012

Location:
Foundation Room

Saint Anthony OSF
5666 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois

Program:

Nomination and
Election of Officers
for 2013

From the Treasurer

Covers the period 28 AUG 2012 to 24 SEP 2012

	BEGINNING BALANCES	ENDING BALANCES	
General Checking Acct:	\$1233.13	\$1233.13	(per check register 24 SEP 2012)
Repeater Checking Acct:	\$300.00	\$300.00	(per 31 AUG 2012 Statement)
Savings Acct:	<u>\$3,222.07</u>	<u>\$3222.07</u>	(per 31 JUL 2012 Statement)***
Total of account balances \$	4755.20	\$4755.20	(No change)

***Savings Account Statements are provided quarterly by Alpine Bank

Our Income for the period:

NONE

Our Expenses for the period :

NONE

A separate, less detailed report will no longer be provided for the Ham Rag. This report format will serve for all purposes.

I have not received a statement for the ATV account for several months. Without checking with the bank, I can only assume that the ATV group has closed the account.

John Olson—W9JGO
Treasurer

Midway Museum Club Service Project Update

Dennis Johanson K9VMY has donated several sounders, a period sounder box, several keys and modern code oscillators. Thank you Dennis.

As a way of practically being able to copy the Morse Code, we will use a pair of code oscillators in parallel with the sounders. That way we can actually communicate by using an ear piece to interpret the code without having to struggle with understanding the sounder.

We have tested all the equipment to assure that it works. All the pieces so far are authentic. Most are stamped with the Western Union identification. We have enough for two stations and more for display.

We contacted Ed Larsen at Midway village to inform him of our progress. He seemed very pleased that we were this far along.

We need several hundred feet of copper wire and a power supply. We will also need to fabricate another sounder box. In the Spring, we will need labor to assemble all of this.

This is an opportunity to make a permanent mark on the local history in Rockford with permanent recognition for the club.

This is a totally fun project.

From the Secretary

Minutes of September 14th Meeting

John Olson W9JGO, Treasurer, opened the meeting at 7:15 p.m. President Tom Shouler, N9VJU was detained Because of personal business. He arrived shortly after, and headed the meeting.

Secretary's Report was read by Jim Holich, AB9SX. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Kurt Eversole, KE9N and seconded by Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The Treasurers report was then read by John Olson, W9JGO. Some discussion on the financial viability of the club and options to improve it was made. We need to improve income to deter future financial problems. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO and seconded by Chuck Derwent, K9SAN. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Under "old business", Kurt Eversole KE9N, delivered a report on the "On the Waterfront" ticket sales. He reported No significant issues. There was a continuation of discussion on the fixed costs of financially running the club.

Under "new business" the floor was opened for a discussion of the proposed amendment to the constitution. The pro's and cons were discussed. A count of voting members was made with a total of 14 present. The ballots were distributed and collected. The results were 12 for the amendment, and 2 opposed. A motion was made by Fred Miner, W9WOQ to accept the results, and was seconded by Bob Davidson, WA9NTT. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

There was a short period of socialization and fellowship before the presentation.

The presentation was a video entitled " A History of Ham Radio in the 20th Century" by Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO.

We then had a motion to adjourn by Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO and seconded by John Olson, W9JGO. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Submitted by Jim Holich—AB9SX
Acting Secretary

Submission by Jim Miller W4JR

Sean Smith KG4WSS (SK) was killed in the Libyan Consulate attack on 09/11/2012.

Sean P. Smith KG4WSS, of Falls Church, Virginia was killed when the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya was attacked on September 11th. He was 34. Smith was one of 4 Americans including Chris Stevens—the U.S. Ambassador to Libya—were killed in the attack.

Smith, a native of San Diego, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1995 at the age of 17. He served six years as a ground radio maintenance specialist, including a deployment to Oman, before leaving the service in 2002 as a staff sergeant. He was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal. Smith, who had worked at the State Department for 10 years was in Libya on a temporary assignment when he was killed. Before his temporary assignment to Benghazi, Smith served for the State Department in Brussels, Baghdad, Pretoria, Montreal, and The Hague.

"Sean was a friend of mine, and while he was not a very active operator, he was an extremely skilled electronic technician" James Kirkham, W4HFK, told the ARRL. "He was instrumental in getting me back into the hobby after a ten year hiatus."

ARRL news release.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

September 15th there was 1 upgrade and 2 new licensees. Congratulations to:

Upgrade:

JOHNSTON, ROBERT W K9AIM, Extra

New:

POSPIECH, HENRY W, General

ZEREBNY, MARILYN A, Technician

Thanks to Alvin Alexander KC9GIO, Steve Twigg W9SWT and Jim Holich AB9SX for volunteering their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9AM October 20, 2012. Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10:30AM. We require two signature ID's (one with a photo). If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator bring your current license and a copy. If you are using a CSCE for an element credit, bring the original and a copy (We need to see the originals & keep a photocopy of each document used for element credit). No copier on site. The test fee is \$14.00. Bring a non-programmable calculator.

Location:

OSF St Anthony Medical Center

5666 E State St

Rockford IL

Exams will be held in the St Francis Room (Main Entrance then turn right).

Rusty Cordell WB9QYV

wb9qyv@aol.com

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 - Jim Holich AB9SX 779-552-8796

Treasurer - John Olson W9JGO 815-399-4368

Directors:

Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO 815-979-0329

Kurt Eversole, KE9N 815-222-8017

Dave Larsen, N9ZXL 815-399-8205

Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX 815-234-5034

Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875

Ham Rag Editor - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796

Repeater Chairman - Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-979-1049

The K7RA Solar Report

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 40 ARLP040
From Tad Cook, K7RA
Seattle, WA October 5, 2012
To all radio amateurs

A coronal mass ejection (CME) hit Earth on September 30, triggering a jump in geomagnetic indices. The planetary A index on October 1 was 31, and the K index went as high as 7, making aurora visible across the northern tier of the United States. Strange, but the northern latitude college A index was 23 (near Fairbanks, Alaska), about the same as the mid-latitude index, which was 21, in Fredericksburg, Virginia. During a geomagnetic disturbance it is common to see indices go much higher in the far-northern latitudes.

Average daily sunspot numbers declined 8.3 points to 73, and average daily solar flux was off exactly one point, to 128.7.

The latest prediction from NOAA/USAF has solar flux on October 5-6 at 110, 105 on October 7, 100 on October 8-11, 115 on October 12-13, 120 on October 14-15, 130 on October 16, 140 on October 17-18, and then 145 and 150 on October 19-20. The same forecast has solar flux rebounding to 150 on November 16, after reaching a minimum of 110 on November 4-5. The predicted planetary A index is 5 on October 5-8, 10 and 8 on October 9-10, 5 on October 11-14, then 8, 12 and 10 on October 15-17, 5 on October 18-25, 10 on October 26, 5 on October 27-28, and reaching a peak of 15 on October 29.

Now from F.K. Janda, OK1HH comes his geomagnetic forecast. October 5 expect quiet to active conditions, quiet October 6-8, mostly quiet October 9, quiet October 10, mostly quiet October 11, quiet to unsettled October 12-14, mostly quiet October 15, active to disturbed October 16, mostly quiet October 17, quiet to unsettled October 18, quiet October 19-20, mostly quiet October 21, quiet October 22-23, quiet to unsettled October 24, and back to quiet again on October 25-27. In September we saw a slight decline in sunspot averages. Monthly averages of daily sunspot numbers for April through September 2012 were 84.5, 99.4, 90.1, 99.6, 85.8 and 84.

Three-month moving averages of daily sunspot numbers, for 3-month periods ending February through September 2012 were 83.3, 73.7, 71.2, 87.3, 91.5, 96.5, 91.9 and 89.9. So the last number, 89.9, was an average of daily sunspot numbers for all of July, August and September, and the number prior to that, 91.9, was for the months of June, July and August.

In 6 meter news, Floyd Chowning, K5LA of El Paso, Texas wrote, "I have been seeing many spots on the DX cluster where stations are working from Africa to Europe earlier in the day our time. So decided to start listening and finally heard a DX station." He copied the beacon CE3AA/B in Santiago at 2122z on October 4 on 50.0293 MHz. That distance is nearly 5,100 miles.

Jon Jones, N0JK says there was "a fairly impressive aurora" on October 1, and KF6A in Alma, Michigan copied the N0LL 6-meter beacon in Smith Center, Kansas at 0442z on that day on 50.0776 MHz. The distance was 770 miles, and the direction from the beacon toward the receiving station was 66.6 degrees, or roughly east-northeast. Jon also wrote, "The next day (or later the same day, UTC) conditions were good on 24 MHz to 3D2C Conway Reef. They were very loud to Kansas around 2030 UTC on October 1. I was able to work them with my mobile set up. With the good but not high solar flux, 24 MHz has often been a good band for DXing, better than 10 or 15 meters. Signals from 3D2C were not nearly as loud on 10 meters when I listened."

The NASA solar cycle prediction was revised slightly since last month. You may recall that the predicted peak was moved recently from Spring to Fall 2013, and now the predicted peak has gone down one point, from a smoothed sunspot number of 76 to 75. Read it at <http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>.

Larry Godek, W00GH in Gilbert, Arizona reported October 1: "Saturday and Sunday both the RTTY portions were overloaded with activity. Couldn't believe the number and signal strength of stations. Even 40 Saturday night was something I've not heard in many years. On SSB, 10 meters in particular, it sounded like the days of AM when stations were overlapping. Amazingly there were very few, maybe half dozen that I heard ragchewing between 28.6 and 29.0 MHz. Almost everything else was below 28.6. Even had good AM activity above 29.0 as some of the locals were talking about the QSOs they had in that segment of the band.

The K7RA Solar Report

"10 FM through the KQ2H repeater had European stations till after lunch time here in the west. Only heard one or two other stations from the US, all of it was foreign. Even 29.640 had lots of traffic although nothing like 29.620.

"I didn't check anything on the WSPR modes but it would have been interesting to see how the high SFI and A index affected them as well. You could tell by late Sunday afternoon that things had changed as the noise level came way up almost like the Summer afternoons. Previous to this past 3 days the band noise has been almost nil. Had to turn the gain on the K3 way up on 10 as I thought no noise, weak signals but that wasn't the case at all.

"I'd suspect the stations who were active this past weekend will be talking about this opening as it truly brought back memories of the good times when the bands were full of activity with great signals."

The day before, September 30, Larry wrote, "WOW! The RTTY guys must have thought they died and went to heaven! RTTY sigs on 15 meters alone occupied 70 KHz of the band and a lot of excellent quality DX signals as well. 10 was really nice also but didn't spend much time there as I was busy down on the low part of the band. Worked 5 new countries on 10 FM and more on the CW and SSB modes. Lets hope this is an indication of what's left of this cycle. I could certainly use some extra oxygen on days like this when my heart gets a cardiac workout from the excitement of hot bands! Whoever is responsible, keep up the good work. Makes being retired a lot more fun as I may only get one more of these cycles to play in."

Herb Lacey, W3HL of Cary, North Carolina noted that there seem to be more sunspots south of the Sun's equator than north. I responded that this seems to be true lately, but when I looked in the <http://www.spaceweather.com> archives over the past year, there didn't seem to be more sunspots in the southern hemisphere. K9LA was consulted, and said that asymmetry in the north-south distribution of sunspots is common. He referred to butterfly diagrams of solar cycles, and you can see them at, http://www.nasa.gov/images/content/144051main_ButterflyDiagramLG.jpg.

As each solar cycle progresses, sunspots emerge closer to the equator. K9LA drew our attention to Cycle 20, around 1970. You can see a weighting toward the northern hemisphere. The previous cycle, around 1960, Cycle 19, also seems to favor northern spots, and Cycle 22 around 1990 seems to favor southern sunspots.

K9LA doesn't know of any explanation for the asymmetry, and notes it is probably tied to plasma flow in the Sun.

Sunspot numbers for September 27 through October 3 were 97, 77, 70, 95, 59, 55, and 58, with a mean of 73. 10.7 cm flux was 133.2, 137.8, 136, 135.6, 128.1, 118.2, and 111.7, with a mean of 128.7. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 2, 4, 10, 31, 5, and 5, with a mean of 8.9. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 2, 4, 9, 21, 5, and 5, with a mean of 7. NNNN /EX

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



For Sale or Trade

Code Practice Oscillator MiniKits

For sale. \$10 each, includes schematic. All boards are assembled and tested.

Circuit will easily drive headphones or a small speaker.

Each board measures approx 1.25" square and is great for mounting in a small project box or on a wooden board.

See Dennis K9VMY at the next club meeting. or contact via e-mail k9vmy@arrl.net. Note: shipping is not included.

MFJ—962D Roller Inductor Tuner 1500Watts PEP

Current model List \$299.95 I would like \$125.00

MFJ 1500Watt Legal Limit Intellituner

Current model List \$699.95, I would like \$200 upgradable firmware with ICOM interface cable. I didn't like the performance. The price is low enough to send for calibration/repair.

Alpha Delta 160/80 trapped Dipole (100' long)

It needs to be "in the clear". My QTH won't handle it. The only power through it was from an antenna analyzer. Asking \$75.00

See or call Jim Holich AB9SX- 260-433-0219 or jholich@comcast.net

HamFest Information

Milwaukee Repeater Club Hamfest

Saturday November 3, 2012

Elk Lodge # 46
5555 West Good Hope Road
Milwaukee, WI 53201
Ken Jaeger KC9MXZ
414-491-0686
kc9mxz@hotmail.com

WCRA Mid-Winter Hamfest Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Sunday January 20, 2013

Kane County Fairgrounds
525 South Randall Road
St. Charles, Illinois.
Kurt Rubin KB9RTO
585 Gundersen Drive
Carol Stream, Illinois 60188
630-604-0157
kb9rto@yahoo.com



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: jholich@comcast.net

<u>Nets</u>		
Monday 8 PM	RARA Info.	146.610 - 114.8
Monday 9 PM	10M SSB Net	28.375 +/- USB
Daily 6 PM	Illinois Traffic Net	3.905 LSB

place address label here

October 2012

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.

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