

# 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

I would like to congratulate John Olson, W9JGO, for being nominated to our most prestigious position of "Ham of the Year". John's commitment to RARA, serving multiple terms as Treasurer, filling in as Secretary, when we needed one, has earned him our appreciation. Now that John's term is complete, we expect he will have more time for Amateur Radio, so we look forward to hearing about his projects and interests.

Our presentation this month will be "Station Layout" by Kurt Eversole, KE9N. This promises to be an informative presentation for all hams, from beginner to experienced. Hopefully we can get Kurt to share some of his experiences while putting together his "Award Winning" mobile station that he used during our 2012 Field Day and 2012 Illinois QSO party.

This month's presentation is a good opportunity for us to invite new hams and members that have not been to a meeting for a while, so if you know someone, bring them to our February meeting. They won't be disappointed!

As a reminder, dues for 2013 RARA membership are now being accepted, so please contact a club officer to renew your membership or to apply for new membership. The RARA board voted and approved all submitted renewals during the January Board meeting. Our Treasurer, Shannon Larson, KC9QBC, will be printing 2013 membership cards and we will hand them out at the next meeting.

Your comments and/or suggestions are always welcome, your officers and Board members are here to serve you.  
See you at the next meeting!

73,

Doug Abrahamson – KC9SDO

**2013 Dues** 815-337-4001

Dues are payable now to the RARA Treasurer.

Just a reminder that membership is reviewed annually according to the RARA constitution.  
You must be a paid member to vote

## February 2013

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### NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY**

**February 8, 2013**

**Location:**

**Foundation Room**

**Saint Anthony OSF  
5666 East State Street  
Rockford, Illinois**

**Program:**

**Station Layout  
Kurt Eversole KE9N**

Latest news and events on our web page: <http://>

# From the Treasurer



**ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INC.**

JANUARY 29, 2013

**PRIMARY CHECKING:**

Beginning Balance 12/1/12	1,242.63
Memorial Check	(25.00)
Balance 12/31/12	1,217.63
Deposit 1/17/13	398.00 *
<b>Ending Balance 1/27/13</b>	<b>1,615.63</b>

**ORGANIZATION SAVINGS:**

Beginning Balance 12/1/12	3,222.57
Quarterly Interest	0.41
Balance 12/31/12	3,222.98
<b>Ending Balance 1/27/13</b>	<b>3,222.98</b>

**REPEATER COMMITTEE CHECKING:**

Beginning Balance 12/1/12	300.00
Balance 12/31/12	300.00
<b>Ending Balance 1/27/13</b>	<b>300.00</b>

\* Deposit: Donation..... 7.00  
 Jan. 17 50/50 Raffle Donation..... 21.00  
 Membership Dues ..... 370.00  
 Total..... 398.00

Submitted by Shannon Larson KC9QBC, RARA Treasurer

**AREA Repeaters**

146.610 -	ENC/DEC pl 114.8	W9AXD
147.000 +	ENC/DEC pl 114.8	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	

**2013 RARA Officers and Board**

**Officers:**

President - Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO, 815-979-0329  
 Vice President - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309  
 Secretary - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796  
 Treasurer - Shannon Larson, KC9QBC, 815-540-0309

**Directors:**

Kurt Eversole, KE9N 815-389-2784  
 Richard H. Range WB9SFG— 630-697-1344  
 Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX 815-234-5034  
 Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-978-6476

Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309  
 Ham Rag Editor - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796  
 Repeater Chairman - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX 815-234-5034

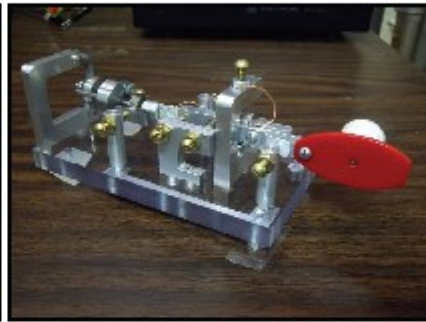
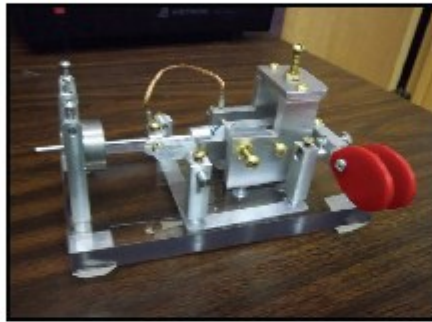
Most of us have had the pleasure of inspecting these (and more) at the Stockholm Inn Friday morning breakfast. Dave has received recognition from the Straight Key Century Club in their Monthly newsletter "Rag Chew" Congratulations, Dave. It's nice to see others appreciate your sculptures as we do. 73!!!

...The Rag Chew

**"Amateur" Key Builders? Ha! I Don't Think So!**

As you know there are many builders of keys in our club, from "Erector Set" and junk parts to very sophisticated machined jewels. I received a note and photos from Dave N9ZXL, who was describing his work to AC2C Ron, during an on the air QSO.

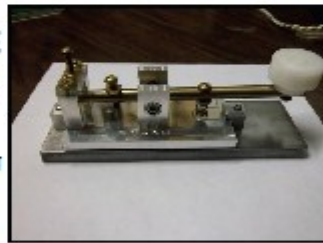
Dave claims this to be just a hobby and something he does for fun when the bands are "bad". He has three lathes, two mills and one CNC machine (*and this is just a hobby?...ed*). He does claim to make a lot of chips but from the wonderful pictures shown here of his work, his finished projects are great! He has made four bugs so far and one of them is a vertical bug which according to Dave, "needs some 'good lookingness' to it". He has also made two mini paddles; one single lever and one two lever.



Dave says, "I get the idea in my head and go from there...design as I go. They always seem to work...ha!" Dave also makes parts:



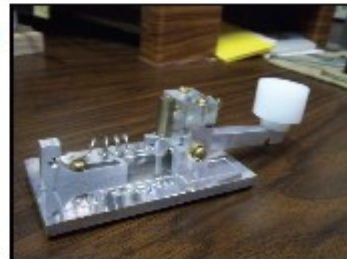
"FOR MY BUGS AND MY VIBROPLEX BUG, I MADE SLIDING WEIGHTS THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE TO LOCK IN PLACE WITH A SCREW. IT STAYS WHERE YOU PUT IT ON THE SHAFT AND YOU CAN SLIDE IT QUICKLY BACK AND FORTH TO WHAT EVER SPEED YOU WANT TO USE... I MADE ONE FOR



MY FRIEND W5NCN IN OKLA AND HE LOVES IT AND WANTS ONE FOR HIS VIBROPLEX. "



Dave is just one of the many craftsmen we have in SKCCC, well done Dave!



## From the Secretary

### Minutes of January 11, 2013 Meeting

President Doug Abrahamson opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Secretary's Report was read by Jim Holich, AB9SX. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Gordon Seaman KC9NEX and seconded by Fred Miner W9WOQ. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The Treasurers report was then read by John Olson K9SGO. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Gordon Seaman KC9NEX, and seconded by Tom Shouler N9VJU. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

There was no discussion of Old Business.

There was no discussion of New Business.

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

The presentation was made by Robert Larson KC9ICH of a video called "The Story of the Queen Mary and W6RO".

50/50 drawing was held and won by Dave Lewis, K9YM. He donated the proceeds to the club treasury. Thank you Dave!!

We then had a motion to adjourn by Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, and seconded by John Olson W9SGO. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting stood adjourned.

Submitted by Jim Holich—AB9SX  
Secretary

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

January 19th there were 2 new licensees. Congratulations to:

New:

Archie A Eastabrooks, Technician

April A Hood, Technician

Thanks to Shari Harlan N9SH, Steve Twigg W9SWT and Alvin Alexander KC9GIO for volunteering their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9AM February 16, 2013. Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10:30AM. We require two signature ID's and one 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 (Bus US20)

Rockford IL

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

Rusty Cordell WB9QYV  
[wb9qyv@aol.com](mailto:wb9qyv@aol.com)



## The K7RA Solar Report

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 5 ARLP005  
From Tad Cook, K7RA  
Seattle, WA February 1, 2013  
To all radio amateurs

Sunspot numbers and solar flux barely changed in the past week. Average daily sunspot numbers were 55.7, down slightly from 56.4 the previous week, and average daily solar flux was 98.7, down from 110.7. Geomagnetic conditions continued their quiet spell.

The most active day was Saturday, January 26, when both the mid-latitude and planetary A index was 18, and Alaska's college A index was 46.

The predicted solar flux is 100 for February 1, 105 on February 2-5, 110 on February 6-7, 120 and 125 on February 8-9, 120 on February 10-11, then 115, 110 and 105 on February 12-14, 110 on February 15-18, 105 on February 19-23, 95 on February 24-25, 110 on February 26, and 125 on February 27 through March 1. Flux values peak again at 140 on March 3-4.

The predicted planetary A index is 5 on February 1, then 12, 18, 15 and 8 on February 2-5, 5 on February 6-8, 8 on February 9-10, 5 on February 11-18, 8 on February 19, 5 on February 20-21, then 15, 10 and 8 on February 22-24, 5 on February 25 through March 7, and 8 on March 8-9.

OK1HH believes we will see quiet conditions on February 1-3, quiet to unsettled February 4, mostly quiet February 5, quiet to active February 6, mostly quiet February 7, quiet to unsettled February 8, quiet to active February 9-10, quiet to unsettled February 11, mostly quiet February 12, quiet to active February 13-14, active to disturbed February 15, quiet to unsettled February 16, quiet on February 17-21, active to disturbed February 22, quiet to unsettled February 23 and quiet February 24.

Regular readers know we've been tracking a three-month moving average of sunspot numbers for several years now. The average daily sunspot number for the three calendar months ending January 31 was 82.8, better than last month, but nothing like the numbers we saw over a year ago in fall 2011.

The three-month averages for the past year, the months ending in February 2012 through January 2013 were 83.3, 73.7, 71.2, 87.3, 91.5, 96.5, 91.9, 89.9, 81.2, 82.3, 74.4 and 82.8.

The one month average sunspot number for January was 98.9, the highest monthly average since May and July of last year.

Not much news in reports from readers this week, but N8II of West Virginia reported last Friday, January 25, "Today was pretty decent considering the now double digit SFI and K of 2. I worked RC4HAA on 15 meter CW who was S6-9, and 12 meters opened well to Europe from 1400-1440Z. I got in on the tail end of it with QSOs with SV3, HB9, OM0 and G4.

"Last night at 0200Z I caught T6LG in Afghanistan on 80 CW for a new band/country. He was about S3-S6 and not hearing the USA stations calling him that well (about 10 callers when I was there)."

Glenn Axelrod, N6INM/9 in Mundelein, Illinois wrote: "Are SFI and conditions going to improve by the Spring/Summer? Are we ever going to see numbers again like in '58 in my lifetime? I am 48 years old."

By SFI, Glenn means solar flux index. We have no way of knowing when this cycle will peak, or even if it may have already peaked, but peaks of solar cycles become easier to predict later in the first part (the upswing) of any cycle.

Until recently experts predicted this cycle would probably peak in Spring of 2013, which begins in less than seven weeks. But later predictions moved it out to Fall of 2013, with slightly lower numbers. We had a period of higher solar activity in November and December of 2011, which led some to believe that perhaps the cycle had peaked early. Others believe we may see a double-peak in this cycle, as we have in some earlier solar cycles.

But we should see seasonal improvements in HF conditions in the Spring and again in the Fall. By seasonal, I mean that even if we saw no change in solar activity, just due to the season and position of the Sun relative to us, we see better conditions on the higher frequencies in spring and fall than we tend to see in summer and winter.

## The K7RA Solar Report

In September through December 2011 the monthly averages of daily sunspot numbers were 106.4, 123.6, 133.1 and 106.4. The previous four months (May through August) saw averages of 61.5, 55.5, 67.2 and 66, so the final third of 2011 showed a dramatic jump in activity. But the next year the numbers dropped back again. The average daily sunspot number for all of 2012 was 82.3. The average for all of 2011 was only 29.9, so that jump at the end of the year was exciting, and convinced many of us that the cycle was starting to really ramp up. The January 2013 average was a little less than 100.

There is a hypothesis which posits that we may see a grand minimum, decades of depressed sunspot numbers, but of course that cannot be proven by observation in the next decade or two. I hope it isn't true. I hope we see future activity which is strong and surprises everyone, but I wouldn't count on it. I was licensed during the low point between Cycle 19 (the biggest in history) and Cycle 20, and along with many others have been wishing for decades to see another like Cycle 19. But Cycle 19 turned out to be a rarity. But just like Cycle 19 surprised many people, I hope we can be surprised again.

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net).

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. Find more good information and tutorials on propagation at <http://myplace.frontier.com/~k9la/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>. Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrl.org/bulletins>.

Sunspot numbers for January 24 through 30 were 60, 44, 55, 60, 52, 63, and 56, with a mean of 55.7. 10.7 cm flux was 103.4, 100.5, 99.4, 97.7, 97.6, 95.4, and 96.6, with a mean of 98.7. Estimated planetary A indices were 1, 6, 18, 6, 4, 2, and 2, with a mean of 5.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 1, 7, 18, 5, 3, 2, and 2, with a mean of 5.4.

### **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 approximately 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](mailto:k9vmy@arrl.net). Note: shipping is not included.

## HamFest Information

### **Capital City Hamfest Saturday February 9th, 2013 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Memorial U.C.C. Fellowship Hall  
5705 Lacy Road  
Fitchburg, WI

Steve Johnson, WD8DAS  
[wd8das@arrl.net](mailto:wd8das@arrl.net)

[www.w8das.net/hamfest.html](http://www.w8das.net/hamfest.html)

### **Mid-Winter Interclub SwapFest Saturday February 16th 2013 Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club and Milwaukee Area Amateur Radio Society**

12560 Townsend Street  
Brookfield Wisconsin 53005  
David Shank, KA9WXN  
5943 Edgerton Ave.  
Greenfield Wisconsin 53200  
414-944-1036  
Talk-in 145.390—PL 127.3  
[ka9wxn@gmail.com](mailto:ka9wxn@gmail.com) 815-337-4001

### **SFARS Hamfest Sterling/Rock Falls ARS Sunday, March 3rd**

Challand Middle School  
1700 6th Avenue  
Sterling, IL 61081

Paula Portner, KC9FQK  
1302 West 2nd Street  
Dixon, IL 61021  
815-284-5650  
[pportner@comcast.net](mailto:pportner@comcast.net)  
Talk-in 146.625/146.850 PL 114.8

### **Madison Hamfest Madison Area Repeater Association Sunday, April 14**

Mandt Community Center  
400 Mandt Parkway  
Stoughton, WI 53589

Paul Toussaint, N9VWH  
3835 County Road A  
Stoughton, WI 53589  
608-205-1994  
[w9hsy@execpc.com](mailto:w9hsy@execpc.com)  
Talk-in 144.150 +600 PL 123.0



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: [www.w9axd.org](http://www.w9axd.org)

E-mail: [jholich@comcast.net](mailto:jholich@comcast.net)

<u>Nets</u>		
Monday 8 PM	RARA Info.	146.610 - 114.8 PL
	RARA	147.000—114.8 PL
Monday 9 PM	10M SSB Net	28.375 +/- USB
Daily 6 PM	Illinois Traffic Net	3.905 LSB

place address label here

# February2013

## 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