

# 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.

April, 2014

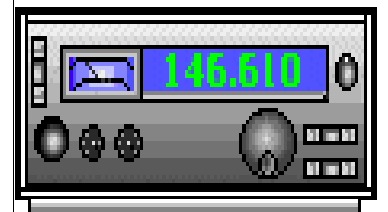
## President's Message

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Last months meeting was great lots of information shared and learned. Thanks to those members who interjected and posed questions.

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This month's program is a picture show of members ham shacks and antenna installations.



The program will be informal and open for discussion.

Please bring pictures or videos of your equipment to share with the rest of the members.

## NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY**  
**April 11, 2014**

**Location:**  
**Foundation Room**

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

This will be fun!!!!

**Program:**

**Station Photos**  
**Presenter:**

**Everyone**

Robert A. Larson

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

## Top 100 Most Wanted DX Entities—DX Magazine

2013	PREFIX	COUNTRY	2012	2013	PREFIX	COUNTRY	2012
1	P5	NORTH KOREA	1	51	VP6/D	DUCIE ISLAND	67
2	KP1	NAVASSA	2	52	PY0/S	ST PETER & ST PAUL	11
3	3Y/B	BOUVET	3	53	3B6, 7	AGALEGA / ST BRANDON	77
4	FT/W	CROZET	6	54	YA, T6	AFGHANISTAN	48
5	FT/Z	AMSTERDAM	4	55	FW	WALLIS & FUTUNA	88
6	VK0/H	HEARD ISLAND	5	56	XX9	MACAU	70
7	BS7	SCARBOROUGH	7	57	1S	SPRATLY	60
8	ZS8M	MARION ISLAND	9	58	AP	PAKISTAN	73
9	VP8/S	SOUTH SANDWICH	8	59	4W	TIMOR LESTE	71
10	FT/T, TO	TROMELIN	10	60	C2	NAURU	98
11	KH5	PALMYRA	14	61	KP5	DESECHEO	59
12	KH5K	KINGMAN REEF	12	62	5A	LIBYA	58
13	FT/J, E, TO	JUAN DE NOVA	18	63	3C	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	64
14	BV9P	PRATAS	17	64	XA4 - XI4	REVILLAGIGEDO	91
15	E3	ERITREA	16	65	KH8	AMERICAN SAMOA	93
16	KH9	WAKE	21	66	9N	NEPAL	84
17	VP8/G	SOUTH GEORGIA	19	67	A5	BHUTAN	78
18	KH3	JOHNSTON	20	68	XW	LAOS	74
19	CE0/X	SAN FELIX	22	69	S0	WESTERN SAHARA	54
20	KH7K	KURE	23	70	VK9C	COCOS KEELING	68
21	FT/X	KERGUELEN	25	71	3A	MONACO	87
22	VK0/M	MACQUARIE	27	72	4U/UN	UN NEW YORK	69
23	XY, XZ	MYANMAR	26	73	YJ	VANUATU	*
24	SV/A	MT ATHOS	15	74	T5, 6O	SOMALIA	99
25	KH1	BAKER & HOWLAND	24	75	ZL9	AUCKLAND & CAMPBELL	13
26	3Y/P	PETER 1	29	76	XU	CAMBODIA	*
27	FT/G, TO	GLORIOSO	30	77	V6	MICRONESIA	*
28	T33	BANABA	33	78	4S	SRI LANKA	92
29	VK9M	MELLISH REEF	32	79	E4	PALESTINE	81
30	EP, EQ	IRAN	28	80	HV	VATICAN	66
31	VU7	LAKSHADWEEP	34	81	Z8	SOUTH SUDAN	49
32	JD1/M	MINAMI TORISHIMA	42	82	FH, TO	MAYOTTE	*
33	VU4	ANDAMAN	40	83	3W, XV	VIETNAM	*
34	FK, TK-CH	CHESTERFIELD	38	84	FO, TX-M	MARQUESAS	96
35	YK	SYRIA	36	85	JD1/O	OGASAWARA	*
36	EZ	TURKMENISTAN	37	86	3D2C	CONWAY REEF	51
37	S2	BANGLADESH	52	87	YI	IRAQ	*
38	VK9X	CHRISTMAS ISLAND	45	88	KH8/S	SWAINS ISLAND	41
39	T31	CENTRAL KIRIBATI	57	89	VK9L	LORD HOWE	*
40	VK9W	WILLIS ISLAND	62	90	T30	WESTERN KIRIBATI	*
41	KH4	MIDWAY	55	91	VP8/SS	SOUTH SHETLAND	95
42	YV0	AVES ISLAND	35	92	TL	CENTRAL AFRICA	*
43	PY0/T	TRINDADE	39	93	T2	TUVALU	82
44	3C0	ANNOBON	50	94	V7	MARSHALL ISLANDS	*
45	CE0/Z	JUAN FERNANDEZ	43	95	ZL8	KERMADEC ISLAND	72
46	TI9	COCOS ISLAND	56	96	UJ, UM	UZBEKISTAN	*
47	VP8/O	SOUTH ORKNEY	61	97	1A0	SOV.MIL. ORDER MALTA	76
48	FO, TO-A	AUSTRAL	47	98	S7	SEYCHELLES	*
49	H40	TEMOTU	46	99	T8	PALAU	*
50	ZD9	TRISTAN DE CUNHA	53	100	V8	BRUNEI	*

## Programs for 2014

Month	Presenter	Subject
April	Board Members	Picture Night – members bring in pictures of their ham shack and antennas
May	Rich/James/Doug	Fox Hunting – Tape Measure Yagi, Offset Attenuator
July	Doug/Ron	Echo Link
June	Jim	HF Basic Operation
August		Solar Flux, Sun Spot, DX Cluster
September	Jim	DX Elementary
October	Kurt	Propagation, Contesting
November	Jeff/Rich/James	Cross Band Operation (Jeff), CW/Midway Village Rich/Jim
December	Board Members	Logbook & QSL Card Night – members bring in their log books and QSL cards to show everyone

### AREA Repeaters

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

### 2014 RARA Officers and Board

#### **Officers:**

President - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309  
 Vice President - Doug Abrahamson, KC9SDO, 815-979-0329  
 Secretary - John Olson, W9JGO, 815-399-4368  
 Treasurer - Shannon Larson, KC9QBC, 815-540-0309

#### **Board Members:**

Jeff Andrews, KC9ZMR  
 Ron Callahan, N9SZV, 608-289-0198  
 Richard H. Range WB9SFG, 630-697-1344

Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309  
 Ham Rag Editor - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796  
 Repeater Chairman - Richard Range, WB9SFG 630-697-1344  
 Repeater Trustee—Scott Francis KG9SF, 815-874-7170

## Midway Village Installation Day

After two years of planning and work, we are scheduled to install the telegraph exhibit at Midway Village Museum.

The equipment is ready to install. We still need about 500 feet of #14 copper wire. We need to string the wire from one building to another with a utility pole in the rear of the buildings. We also need to set up the stations inside the buildings. All the wiring except for the entry will be surface mount. The routing is tentative so we need to bring imagination as well as tools.

We will also need to have a pole climber to climb about 20 feet to install the wire and insulators.

The work is scheduled for Saturday May 24, 2014. This is a great opportunity for our club to perform a community service. We will accept any amount of workers or even observers at the site. It will give the club a lot of valuable exposure.

Looking forward, we will need CW operators to man the exhibit after installation. Speed is not a requirement. It doesn't matter how fast or slow you are. Costume details will be handled by the museum.

It should be a lot of fun.

Please contact Rich Range; WB9SFG, Jim Holich; AB9SX or any officer if you wish to participate.

## Wanted to Buy

WTB - I am interested in purchasing a Yaesu FT-1000D, FT1000MP-Mark V, or FT-1000MP preferably with a full compliment of filters. Doesn't have to be a museum piece, but fully operational. Manual, hand mike and original boxes a plus.

John Olson, W9JGO (815-399-4368) ([w9jgo@arrl.net](mailto:w9jgo@arrl.net))

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

March 15 there were 2 new licensees and 2 upgrades. Congratulations to:

Dana A Brinkmeier WN6OHG, General  
Randy C Trank, Technician  
John J Wachter, Technician  
Lowell L Wheeler K9HDB, General

Thanks to Steve Twigg W9SWT, Jim Holich AB9SX 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 April 19, 2014. Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10AM, no exams started after 10:30. 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 exam credit, bring the original and a copy (We need to see the originals & keep a photocopy of each). 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 are held in the St Francis Room (Main Entrance then turn right).

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

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## The K7RA Solar Report

SB PROP ARRL ARLP010

SB PROP ARL ARLP014

ARLP014 Propagation de K7RA

Average daily sunspot numbers declined over the past reporting week (March 27 to April 2) from 135.6 to 130.4, compared to the previous seven days. Likewise, average daily solar flux drifted lower, from 153.2 to 149.

The current prediction (from USAF/NOAA on April 3) has solar flux at 155 on April 4, 160 on April 5-8, 150 on April 9-10, 140 on April 11, 135 on April 12-13, then 140 and 145 on April 14-15, 150 on April 16-18, 155 on April 19-22, 145 on April 23-28, 140 on April 29 through May 2, 135 on May 3, and 140 on May 4-8.

Predicted planetary A index is 14, 20 and 8 on April 4-6, 5 on April 7-16, 8 on April 17-19, 5 on April 20-22, 8 on April 23-26, 5 on April 27 through May 2, then 8 on May 3-4, 5 on May 5, and 8 on May 6.

OK1HH gives us his weekly prediction for geomagnetic conditions, as well as observations about this solar cycle peak.

Geomagnetic conditions are expected to be quiet to active April 4, active to disturbed April 5, quiet to unsettled April 6, quiet on April 7, mostly quiet April 8-9, quiet to unsettled April 10-11, quiet on April 12, quiet to unsettled April 13, mostly quiet April 14-15, quiet on April 16, quiet to active April 17, mostly quiet April 18-19, quiet to active April 20-21, and back to quiet on April 22.

He expects an increase in solar wind on April 4-5, again on April 8 and 11, although less certain, then again on April 13-14, and April 20-21. He says the reliability of predictions is temporarily reduced because of significant changes in the configuration of active regions, which is not unusual at the cycle peak.

OK1HH believes we are experiencing the solar cycle's second maximum at present, probably a bit higher than the primary one, and I agree with him, based on tracking a 3-month moving average of daily sunspot numbers.

The Australian government's IPS Radio and Space Services issued a geomagnetic disturbance warning at 0445 UTC on April 3: "Active region 12027 produced a M6.5 X-ray flare with associated CME on 02 April. Possible Active to Minor Storm conditions at higher latitudes on 05 April due to CME arrival. INCREASED GEOMAGNETIC ACTIVITY EXPECTED DUE TO CORONAL MASS EJECTION FOR 05 APRIL 2014."

Randy Crews, W7TJ wrote: "Solar Flux Average for March was approximately 150, down from February's high of 170. Solar flux averaged 155 for the past 5 Months. The bands have not been this good since 2002 - what a difference! 12 meters has been the real surprise, open world wide most days and well into the evening. The original forecast of a peak in late 2013 was correct, however it has now extended into 2014, the second peak being higher than the first peak in November of 2011. We'll take it!"

Looking at our 3-month moving average of daily sunspot numbers, I am seeing several peaks, and a recent steady increase. First of all, the average sunspot number for January, February and March 2014 was 146.4, the highest since the three months centered on December 2002, which was 151.5.



## The K7RA Solar Report

I see a 3-month moving average peak of daily sunspot numbers at 118.8 and 118.6 centered on October/November 2011, average daily sunspot number for all of 2012 was only 82.3, then we have another 3-month moving average peak centered on April/May 2013 at 106.4 for both periods, and since then it has been 97.5, 85.6, 77.4, 91.2, 102.9, 123.7, 123.3, 138.5 and 146.4.

On Saturday, March 29, Spaceweather.com reported that "Sunspot AR2017 in the Sun's northern hemisphere is crackling with M-class solar flares, and it has a delta-class magnetic field that harbors energy for even stronger eruptions. Earth-directed flares are possible this weekend." Then they reported, "AR2017 has just unleashed an X1-class solar flare. NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory captured the extreme ultraviolet flash on March 29th at 1752 UTC."

We heard from Angel Santana, WP3GW of Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico about this event: "I took a break from CQ WPX and was speaking to my mom, when I noticed that the station calling CQ on 10 meters before 1800 UTC shut up abruptly and the S-meter went half meter. I looked in awe and when changed bands, heard the same noise, and said to my mom, 'Oh my, the signals fell! Maybe a solar explosion of some sort!' In less than 5 minutes the bands were alive again."

Interesting, because there wasn't any huge geomagnetic disturbance on March 29, according to <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/latest/DGD.txt> but apparently this flash of energy from our Sun caused a short lived shortwave blackout. Anyone else notice this?

Sure enough, the blackout was reported in Africa. Check the site <http://newstonight.co.za/content/scientists-witness-powerful-x1-class-flare-sunspot-ar2017-march-29>

CBS News noted it also:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/major-solar-flare-erupts-from-the-sun/> .

Sunspot numbers for March 27 through April 2 were 145, 135, 132, 122, 129, 124, and 126, with a mean of 130.4. 10.7 cm flux was 144.8, 146.4, 142.7, 148.4, 152.4, 153.3, and 154.7, with a mean of 149. Estimated planetary A indices were 7, 8, 8, 5, 7, 6, and 5, with a mean of 6.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 7, 9, 9, 5, 8, 5, and 6, with a mean of 7.

### **FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST**

Meets every Friday morning from 8:30 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.*

***"Morning Glory Restaurant"***  
***915 South Alpine Road***  
***Rockford, IL 61108***



## HamFest Information

**Saturday 04/12/2014**  
**Madison, Wisconsin**

**Location:** Mandt Community Center  
400 Mandt Parkway  
Stoughton, WI 53589

**Website:** <http://www.qsl.net/mara>

**Sponsor:** Madison Area Repeater Association

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Talk-In:** 147.150 (PL 123.0)

**Public Contact:** Paul Toussaint , N9VWH  
3835 County Road A Stoughton, WI 53589

Phone: 608-205-1994

**Email:** [w9hsy@execpc.com](mailto:w9hsy@execpc.com)

**Sunday 05/04/2014**  
**DeKalb, Illinois**

**Location:** Sandwich Fairgrounds  
1401 Suydam Road  
Sandwich, IL 60548

**Website:** <http://www.karc-club.org>

**Sponsor:** Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Talk-In:** 146.73- (PL 100); 146.52 Simplex

**Public Contact:** Robert Bob Yurs , W9ICU  
1107 Commercial Street Sycamore, IL 60178

Phone: 815-895-7584

**Email:** [w9icu@arrl.net](mailto:w9icu@arrl.net)

**Saturday 04/05/2014**  
**Noble Illinois**

**Location: Lions Club**  
110 West South Avenue  
Noble, IL 62868

**Website:** <http://www.whereradio.webs.com>

**Sponsor:** WHERE Amateur Radio Club

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Talk-In:** 146.760- (PL 94.8)

**Public Contact:** Steven Hamilton , KC9GMX  
207 South Washington Street Geff, IL 62842

Phone: 618-919-0536

**Email:** [stevlton17@hotmail.com](mailto:stevlton17@hotmail.com)

**Sunday 06/01/2014**  
**Princeton, Illinois**

**Location:** Bureau County Fairgrounds  
811 West Peru Street  
Princeton, IL 61356

**Website:** <http://www.w9mks.org>

**Sponsor:** Starved Rock Radio Club

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Talk-In:** 146.955- (PL 103.5)

**Public Contact:** Matthew Weaver , KB9VZH  
319 Desoto Street Ottawa, IL 61350

Phone: 815-313-5924

**Email:** [kb9vzh@mchsi.com](mailto:kb9vzh@mchsi.com)

**Sunday: 06/15/2014**  
**Six Meter Club of Chicago**

**Location:** Du Page County Fairgrounds  
2015 Manchester Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187

**Website:** <http://k9ona.com>

**Sponsor:** Six Meter Club of Chicago

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Talk-In:** 146.97 (PL 107.2); 146.52 Simplex

**Public Contact:** Mike Huedepohl , WD9GJK  
3532 Raymond Avenue Brookfield, IL 60513

Phone: 708-485-5481 (after 6 PM)

**Email:** [wd9gjk@arrl.net](mailto:wd9gjk@arrl.net)

**Sunday 01/13/2014**  
**Fox River Radio League**

**Location:** Aurora Central Catholic High School  
1255 North Edgelawn Drive  
Aurora, IL 60504

**Website:** <http://frrl.org>

**Sponsor:** Fox River Radio League

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Talk-In:** 147.210 +600 (PL 103.5)

**Public Contact:** Dawn Williams , KC9LQS  
PO Box 673 Batavia, IL 60510

Phone: 630-531-1670

**Email:** [hamfest@frrl.org](mailto:hamfest@frrl.org)



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
Monday 9 PM	10M SSB Net	28.375 +/- USB
Daily 6 PM	Illinois Traffic Net	3.905 LSB

place address label here

# April, 2014

## 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