

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 Meeting Information

CELEBRATION MEETING TO BE HELD



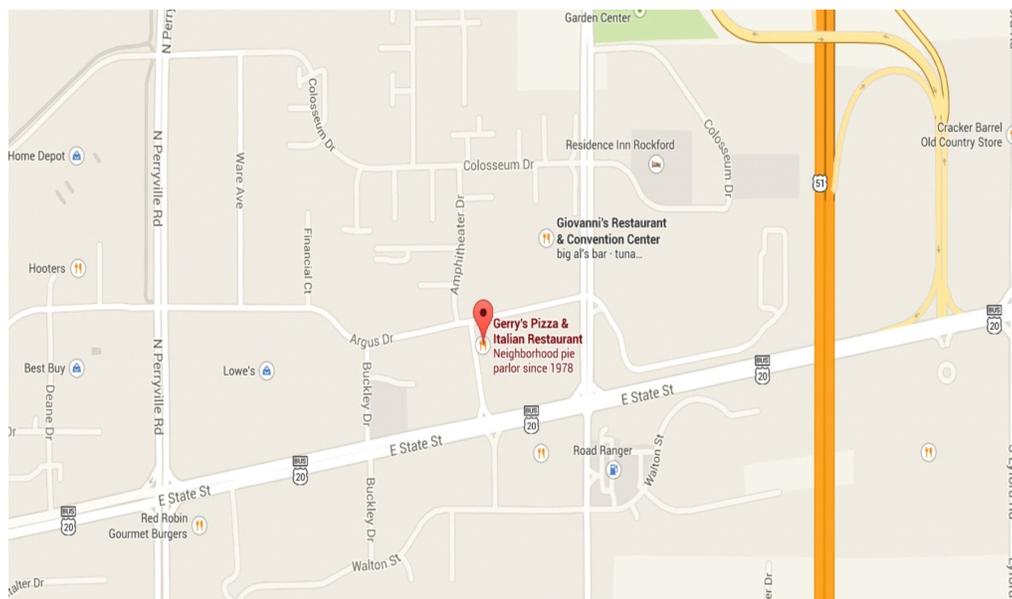
FEBRUARY 13, 2015



We will be holding our February meeting at **Gerry's Pizza** to celebrate the new year. Bring your spouse, and get to know other members of the RARA family. The starting time is 6:00 pm, and you may order anything you would like, as you will be responsible for your own expenses to be paid by you. RARA will not be offsetting any expenses from funds in the treasury. Come and enjoy the fun! The "Ham of the Year" award will be presented as well.

Gerry's Pizza
(815) 399-2031

7403 Argus Drive
Rockford, IL



February 2015

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NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY

February 13, 2015
6:00 pm

Holiday Party and
Awards Presentation

Location:

Gerry's Pizza
7403 Argus Drive
Rockford, IL 61107

<http://gerryspizza.net/>



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

Secretary's Report



Club Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm. Robert Larson welcomed everyone and read a letter the club received asking for guidance on an interference issue. On the back screen - Repeater install slide show from w9axd.org (club website).

The December 12, 2014 minutes were read and approved (Gordon Seaman made motion, seconded by Len Soderblom). Approved.

The December 30, 2014 Treasurer's report was read (Len Soderblom made motion, seconded by Gordon Seaman). Approved.

Old Business:

Gordon Seaman – Gerry's Pizza is reserved for February 13th (Friday) 6:00 p.m. for club banquet, "Holiday Celebration". Families are invited.

Robert Larson – The website is now on a flash drive.

New Business:

Alvin Alexander – presented an update on Field Day: We are waiting for confirmation from the Park District for our Field Day reservation. There will be two additional events happening: Radio & Disaster Preparedness for Boy Scout merit badge and honoring VETS who served in a communications mode (2 people from our club will be telling their story).

Steve Twigg – recommendation that Rock Valley College open field on the north side would be a good spot for future Field Days.

Open discussion regarding what equipment members have for our club. Eric Hultgren has a 10 meter antenna which is owned by RARA, Steve Twigg volunteered to pick it up.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Shannon Larson and donated (\$15.00 total).

Program: "ARRL at 100, a Century of Ham Radio" an ARRL production, showing the history of radio and the Amateur Radio Relay League.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Gordon Seaman made the motion, and it was seconded by Larry Schubert.

Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please call me or email me at ke9n@arrl.net.

Cut-off for the March 2015 issue will be Saturday, February 28, 2015

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

Local Events and Information

UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

February 13, 2015 - **Celebration Meeting at Gerry's Pizza 6:00 pm at OSF**

February 24, 2015 - RARA board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

March 13, 2015 - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

March 31, 2015 - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

April 10, 2015 - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

January 17, 2015 there was 1 Technician Class Examination passed .

Congratulations to:
Terry King of Belvidere

Thanks to Joseph Moore KA9LMK, Steve Twigg W9SWT, and Rusty Cordell WB9QVV for volunteering their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9AM February 21, 2015 . 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).

Jim Holich AB9SX
jholich@comcast.net

RARA Information Net

The purpose of the net is to disseminate RARA related information as well as other Amateur Radio related information. As a club sponsored activity, please check in with Net Control and help make this net a success. The Net Control is rotated between the club members, with all amateur radio operators encouraged to check in. (RARA members as well as non-members)

Let any of the officers and board know you thoughts and ideas. If you wish to be a net control operator, let any of the officers know. All are encouraged and welcome to participate.

146.610 (pl 114.8) repeater at 8:00 pm, every Monday, except on holidays.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

You are invited to Amateur Radio Round Table, a new series of W5KUB.com weekly webcasts. The webcast will be **Tuesday nights at 8:00 PM Central Time** (0200 UTC Wednesdays) at W5KUB.COM

Amateur Radio Round Table will be an informal discussion of all aspects of ham radio with the intent of allowing viewers to watch this live webcast or be a guest via Skype or Google Hangout.

- To watch Amateur Radio Round Table: Go to w5kub.com, click on Live Events and sign in. If you have a W5KUB account, use your User Name and Password. If you don't have a W5KUB account, sign in with a call or name without a password.
- To be a guest on Amateur Radio Round Table: Send an email message to tom@w5kub.com. Prior to the show, you will be provided with information needed to join the show.

Join us for fun and interesting ham radio programming. See you on the webcast,

Tom Medlin, W5KUB

To follow our webcasts and to discuss ham radio, please join our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/w5kub/>

New Webcast - Amateur Radio Round Table

Field Day 2015 Announcement

During this year's Field Day activities, a special event will be held to honor America's Military Servicemen. There is an urgent need for veterans of any era and active duty servicemen, who ARE OR have served in military communications e.g. Army Signal Corp, Navy Signalman, etc. You will be asked to tell your story: why you entered the military, your experiences during your service, and what you did after you were discharged. You may even want to relate what compelled you to get into amateur radio. The event will be in the setting of a round table discussion, moderated by a local broadcaster / interviewer. If you can commit an hour or so on June 27, for this event, then please contact me via e-mail and express your interest. Finally, if you can't participate in the round table, then please consider attending the event anyway. All military servicemen will be honored.

Alvin – KC9GIO
KC9GIO@ARRL.NET

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 Morning Glory"
408 7th Street
Rockford, IL 61104



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ARRL Field Day is June 27-28, 2015

Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – and ALL about FUN!

To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2.



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

2015 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309
kc9ich@arrl.net
Vice President - Open
Secretary - Bruce Carlson, N9OHT, 815-218-1764
bruce.n9oht@gmail.com
Treasurer - Shannon Larson, KC9QBC, 815-298-7549
shannon1234@sbcglobal.net

Directors:

Ham Rag Editor and Repeater Chairman - Kurt Eversole, KE9N
815-389-2784 kurt.eversole@gmail.com
W9AXD License Trustee - Scott Francis, KG9SF,
815-874-7170 kg9sf@arrl.net
Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-552-8796 jholich@comcast.net
Dennis Johanson, K9VMY, 815-255-4603 k9vmy@arrl.net
Dave Larsen, N9ZXL, 815-914-6078 n9zxl@att.net
Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034 gleasman@outlook.com

RARA BOARD MEETING MEETS ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 PM
St. Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL

Quick Tips for Newbie HF DXers:

DX has different meanings for almost everyone. For some it means working California. For others it's France, Italy, or Sweden. To those fortunate enough to be on the DXCC Honor Roll it may be only Scarborough Reef or North Korea. There is room for everyone. These few tips are second nature to the seasoned DXer, but worthwhile for anyone just getting into the world of DX.

Listen...listen...listen. This can't be overemphasized. Don't just call a DX station because you hear others calling him. YOU have to hear him or you'll just be QRM.

If he's working simplex (sending and receiving on the same frequency)' get on his frequency. Not just close, but right on.

Most "everyday" DX is on simplex. But DX-Peditions and really rare DX stations almost always work "split". This allows the "pileup" to always hear him in the clear. Stations working "split" will announce the fact by saying, for example, "EP5T listening up 5". That means he'll be listening 5 kHz above his own frequency.

Listen to how he's operating. Is he going back to callers very quickly? Or is he letting several seconds go by before he goes back. Timing your call can easily make the difference between working a "new one" and going away empty handed.

Use standard phonetics. Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, etc. Don't get too cute with your phonetics. Call him ONCE and listen for a comeback. Don't just send your callsign over and over. If several seconds pass and the DX station hasn't gone back to anybody, then call him again.

Resist the temptation to shout into the microphone. It won't make your signal go any farther. All it will do is distort your audio.

Speak in an assertive way. Not belligerent or overbearing, just assertive. Don't act like you're nervous or afraid. He won't bite.

From time to time I'll add more tips.

What to watch for in February:

Station K1N will operate during the first two weeks of February from Navassa Island in the Caribbean, not far from Puerto Rico. This is a really rare entity, so go for it!

Good DXing!

Items For Sale

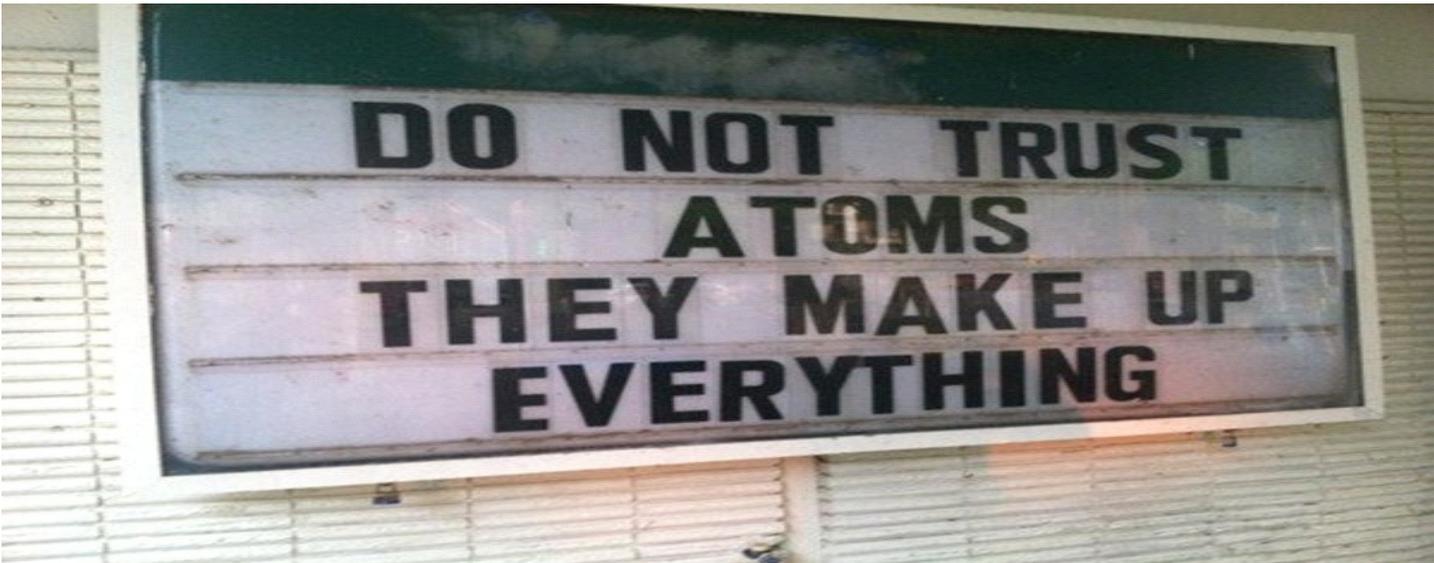
As I approach my 80th birthday this spring, it is time for me to sell my entire collection of ARRL annual Handbooks that I have collected over a period of 60+ years!

I am selling my complete collection of ALL 1926-2015 ARRL annual Amateur Radio Handbooks. All in excellent condition, some brand new. To make me an offer or for more details, email me at w9ss@hotmail.com

73, Dennis W9SS

Tel. 815 877-6768 or 815 633-1226

email: w9ss@hotmail.com



"It's no use the signal's too weak."





P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: ke9n@arrl.net

Local Area Nets

Monday 8 PM RARA Info. 146.610 - 114.8
Friday Night Fun Net 8:00 PM 147.255 + 114.8
Illinois Traffic Net (daily) 6:00 PM 3.905 LSB

place address label here

February 2015

**ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

website: w9axd.org

Membership Type : New Renewal
Annual Fees: \$10 - Student (up to age 24)
 \$25 - Adult \$15 - Senior (age 62+)

Above rate includes the RARA monthly newsletter, Ham Rag, via email
Ham Rag via USPS: \$12 extra

Name _____
Call Sign : _____
Email Address : _____
Address : _____
Town : _____ State : _____ Zip : _____
Home Phone # _____ Work # _____
Cell # _____ Ext : _____
Radio Interests _____

May we make your phone and e-mail available for other RARA members only?
Yes No

Comments _____

RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO:
ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 8465
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126