

# 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.

Hello Everyone,

Thanks to all who came out to Gerry's Pizza for the Holiday and Awards Banquet.

A great time was had by all who attended. Please see the pictures of the event at our website.

Click on Special Events button to navigate to see them.

Many thanks to the Ham of the Year Award winners Ron Callahan, N9SZV, and Kurt Eversole, KE9N. Their many efforts during 2014 are appreciated.

This months meeting program will be a video entitled "Cray Research at Chippewa Falls, the Story of the Supercomputer"

I hope to see a good turnout this month as it is starting to warm up.

See you at the meeting,

Bob Larson, KC9ICH



## March 2015

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### NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY**

**March 13, 2015**

**7:00 pm**

**Presentation:**

**Cray Research**  
**"The Story of the Supercomputer"**

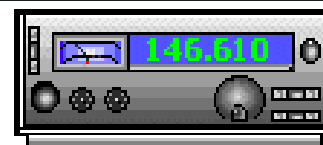
**Location:**

**St. Anthony  
Medical Center**

**Foundation Room**  
**5666 E. State Street**  
**Rockford, IL**

## \$\$\$ Membership Dues Are Due \$\$\$

It's time once again to renew your membership.  
See Shannon Larson, KC9QBC, to pay for your dues.  
Starting in April, the Hamrag notice will only be sent to those who have renewed their membership for 2015.



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

# RARA EVENTS

## 2015 ARRL FIELD DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

There is an immediate need for Amateur Radio Operators willing to participate in the 2015 ARRL Field Day.

Are you a FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operator – Any Level?

Do you have the capability of operating on HF or VHF/UHF (*transceiver, antenna, generator, computer*)?

Enjoy the Out-of-doors?



## RARA NEEDS YOU

The goal of this year's Field Day for RARA, is to operate 24 hours on all of the designated bands, per ARRL Field Day rules, using phone/CW/digital.

This year's Field Day will not happen unless you step up and volunteer.

Positions!!!

Single Operator station - HF or VHF/UHF

Multiple Operator station - HF or VHF/UHF

GOTA Coach

Band Captains

Interested? Please contact - Alvin Alexander KC9GIO

[KC9GIO@arrl.net](mailto:KC9GIO@arrl.net)

815-505-5013 – Good thru June 2015

## UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

**March 31th** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**April 10th** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**April 28th** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**May 8th** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 at OSF

# DX MUTTERINGS



## Global Gabster

Now that the great Navassa DX-pedition is history, it's time for a look back. Prior to February first Navassa was the most sought after entity in the world, right above North Korea. Between the second and fourteenth of February the group on Navassa made 125,000 contacts. The pile ups were unspeakable.

Daytime temperatures ranged from 115F to about 120F. All fresh water had to be brought in, except for what was caught in rain. Showers (think bathtubs) were few and short. Uggghhh.

The crew dined on MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) until midway into the event when one of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Officers shot a goat. The Navassa Goat Stew was enjoyed by one and all.

For interesting photos, Google "K1N" and go to the various sites there.

Next month we'll get back to real time and list some of the exotic callsigns being heard.

73,  
Scott, KG9FS

## 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.**

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

# HAMFEST INFORMATION

**AES Milwaukee Superfest 2015**  
**Saturday, March 21st**  
**9am to 3pm**

**Grand Prize: Kenwood TS-590SG**



## **Confirmed Exhibitors:**

ARRL - Perfect time to join or renew your membership!

Cable X-Perts

Icom

Kenwood

Larsen Antenna

Polyphaser

Radiowavz (Tentative)

Timewave

Unified Microsystems

West Mountain Radio

Yaesu

## **Forums:**

Public Service Communications - Matt Welch, W8DEC (Visiting from our Cleveland store and VERY active in Ohio public service communications)

Using smartphones and tablets with amateur radio equipment - West Mountain Radio

Wisconsin Association of Repeaters - Dave Schank, KA9WXN

Yaesu System Fusion - Chris Wilson, N0CSW

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

“The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015” — H.R.1301 — has been introduced in the US House of Representatives. The measure would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions. US Rep **Adam Kinzinger** (R-IL) introduced the bill March 4 with 12 original co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle — seven Republicans and five Democrats. Kinzinger also sponsored “The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, which died at the end of the 113th Congress. H.R. 1301 is an essentially identical piece of legislation.

“The introduction of H.R. 1301 with so many original co-sponsors, so early in this session of Congress, is very encouraging,” said ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. “Several additional members of Congress already have agreed to be co-sponsors. This bill has momentum, but introduction is only the first step. Many of the next steps will be taken as ARRL members contact their US Representatives urging co-sponsorship and thanking them as they sign on to the bill.”

If Congress approves the legislation, and it is signed by the president, H.R. 1301 would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the **PRB-1** federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners’ association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as “covenants, conditions, and restrictions” (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include such private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

### **Fox-1A Ready for Launch, Fox-1D to Carry Radiation-Mapping Experiment**

Following successful vibration and thermal/vacuum testing, **AMSAT-NA**'s Fox-1A CubeSat now sits in a clean environment awaiting launch. AMSAT Vice-President-Engineering Jerry Buxton, N0JY, said that NASA, the launch provider, now is reviewing several required reports. Fox-1A completed its Mission Readiness Review at **Cal Poly** in San Luis Obispo, California, on February 24 before a review board of Cal Poly and NASA representatives, he said, adding that Fox-1A delivery and integration has been set for March 25.

“From there, we won’t see her again, but certainly look forward to hearing from her again,” he said.

Fox-1A will include a Mode B (U/V) FM transponder and capabilities similar to the **AO-51** satellite, which went dark in late 2011. The first phase of the Fox series 1-Unit CubeSats will allow simple ground stations using hand-held transceivers and simple dual-band antennas to make contacts. The **Fox-1** CubeSats also will be able to transmit continuous telemetry during normal transponder operation.

Fox-1A is scheduled to launch in late August from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, as part of the NASA Educational Launch of Nanosatellites (**ELaNa**) program, which offers free launches to educational entities and encourages science missions. Fox-1A will host a Penn State student experiment with micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS)

#### **Editors Note**

If you would like to have something published , please call me or email me at [kurt.eversole@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.eversole@gmail.com)

**Cut-off for the April 2015 Hamrag will be Sunday, March 29, 2015**

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

## WHICH WAY DO I POINT MY ANTENNA?

An easy way to determine the direction to point your antenna is to download a beam heading chart that can be generated specifically for your location. The North Jersey DX Association, NJDXA, has such an item on their website, [www.njdx.org](http://www.njdx.org). Highlighting the left side “DX Tools” icon will then display a additional icon listing “Beam Headings”. Click on the “Beam Headings” icon and then you will see the entry information page for your location. You may enter either your latitude and longitude, or your zip code, (along with other options) and then click on the “Generate Beam Headings” at the bottom. A printable chart will be produced listing the short and long path beam heading for all countries, as well as miles from your location, and other associated information.

*Contributed by Dave Bond, W9MG*



## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

### Amateur Radio Exams

On February 21, 2015 there were (6) successful candidates. (4) Technician Class and (2) General Class Upgrades. Congratulations to:

Charles S. Davidson - Technician Class  
Maxwell S. Gersh - Technician Class  
April A. Hood - General Class KC9YEA Upgrade  
Jeffery J. Makeover - Technician Class  
Timothy L. Overocker - Technician Class  
Jack A. Riverdahl - General Class KA9JAR Upgrade

Thanks to John Olson W9JGO, Joseph Moore KA9LMK, Steve Twigg W9SWT and Rusty Cordell WB9QVV 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 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](mailto:jholich@comcast.net)



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

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

E-mail: [kurt.eversole@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.eversole@gmail.com)

**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

# March 2015

**ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

website: [w9axd.org](http://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