

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 Log

Members,

A big thanks goes out to Dennis Johanson K9VMY, Gordon Seaman KC9NEX and the repeater committee for all the hard work that has been done at both repeater sites. We now have two fully functioning Yaesu System Fusion Digital / Analog repeaters. The 147.000 site at OSF also has a functioning weather alert receiver, on which the repeater transmits weather alerts. The 146.610 is sounding better than ever. Reminder when checking into the Monday night net... if you are using a handheld transceiver from your home, to be sure to stand near a window or go outside so you can get a solid signal into the repeater. Later this summer I will present a program on aftermarket HT antennas and simple antennas you can make and connect to your HT for greatly increased range. This month's program is "Understanding HF Propagation". This is the best I have seen explaining the propagation numbers. You won't want to miss this.

I am pleased to announce that our membership has reached a record number in the last several years. The webmaster email account is also getting many messages showing interest in R.A.R.A. and amateur radio in Rockford.

See you on the 13th at the meeting.

Robert Larson – KC9ICH

May 2016

- 1-Presidents Log
Events
Next Meeting
- 2-Friday Breakfast
- 3-Silent Key
Items for sale
- 4-VHF Contest
Hamfest
- 5-Name/Call Sign
- 6-New Hams
- 7-New Technology
- 8-Minutes
Area Repeaters
Officers and Board

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY

May 13, 2016

7:00 pm

**Presentation:
"Understanding HF
Propagation"**

Location:

**St. Anthony
Medical Center**

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

UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

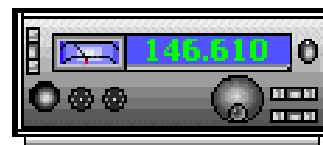
May 13th - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

May 31st - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

June 10th - General RARA Meeting 7:00 at OSF

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

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



HAM RADIO BREAKFAST

The ham radio breakfast has moved to Spring Garden Restaurant, 4820 N. 2nd St., Loves Park, IL. Any ham, or prospective ham is welcome, Fridays at 8:30 AM. Pricing is very reasonable, and a senior menu of \$3.00 meals is available.



SILENT KEY

Dick Wood (W9JJT) of Leaf River, Illinois became a silent key on the 26th of April, 2016. He was active on Ham Radio until a few weeks before his passing. Dick taught math and Science at a high school level for over 30 years and after retiring was always active in School related activities. He was the chairman of a retired school teachers association for 2 counties in North Central Illinois and published the newsletter as well as mailed it to all the members.

In his first years in Ham Radio (1950's), Dick started out with a Homebrew Heathkit transmitter and Hammarlund HQ-170 receiver. He put up a 3 element triband beam and ran barefoot for several years. He then bought a Drake R4A/T4XA pair and used that for 1 year before building a Heathkit SB-200 amplifier. The amp was beautifully built, and looked like it came from the factory. Dick liked to build small projects from QST and Popular Electronics. All were done with what looked like "factory results".

Dick liked to ragchew but also had an impressive collection of DX QSL cards. While stationed in the Navy in the Aleutian Islands, I would speak with Dick several times a month and we would talk from the propagation opening until signals faded into the noise. It was also a way to speak to family members who would go to his house.

Over the years, Dick improved and modernized his station. We went from the Drake gear to a Yaesu Ft-487 and put up a Froce 12 C3S hf antenna and a long boom 18 element 2 meter beam for SSB above the C3s. He added a 7 element M2 yagi for 2 meters FM and an 18 element M2 yagi for 70cm FM. His last antenna was a 7 element M2 6 meter beam.

Art W9GU

ITEMS FOR SALE

- * Astron RS-35M 13.8Volt 35A linear Power supply. Asking \$175.
- * 1200VA UPS needs batteries, otherwise working, \$25.
- * ICOM IC-718 HF Rig, including switching power supply, Asking \$500.
- * LDG IT-100 Autotuner (for ICOM HF Radios) Asking \$125. Yaesu VX5 HT (6Meters, 2Meters & 70cm) with CD-15 charger stand and extra battery. Asking \$130
- * Yaesu SP-8 External speaker for HF rigs. Has Audio filtering and switchable inputs. Asking \$110

Contact: Dennis: K9VMY@earthlink.net Cell: 815-255-4603

- * Gap Titan DX Antenna (10-80 M) on 35' steel telescopic mast, antenna & mast, \$250.
- * Belden Ethernet Coax #89880, (50 ohm 10 Base 5), 50 feet +, asking \$15.
- * Miscellaneous ground wire, Free.

Contact: Gene, KA9BOD, ka9bod@arrl.net Phone: 815-226-1806

June VHF Contest

When? The second full weekend in June. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, runs through 0259 UTC, Monday (June 11-13, 2016).

For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2-degrees' x 1-degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada.

Stations in KH0-9, KL7 & KP1-KP5, CY9 and CY0 count as W/VE stations and can be worked by DX stations for contest credit.

For more information, visit www.arrl.org/june-vhf.

Starved Rock Radio Club/Princeton Illinois Hamfest

**Sunday, 06/05/2016 at the Bureau County Fairgrounds
811 West Peru Street, Princeton, IL 61356
Website: <http://www.w9mks.org>**

**Sponsor: Starved Rock Radio Club (W9MKS)
Type: ARRL Hamfest**

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 your 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.

Compliments of Bruce Carlson, N9OHT

name (sorted)	call	name	call (sorted)
Albert F. Abanes	KD9AHZ	Charles Ingle	AB9KA
Alfred O. Fischer	KD9CA	James J. Holich	AB9SX
Alvin O. Alexander	KC9GIO	Larry C. Schubert	AC9GO
Bruce A. Carlson	N9OHT	Michael F. Proctor	AC9JZ
Charles Ingle	AB9KA	Steve Hammerslag	AC9KA
David J. Larsen	N9ZXL	Jeffrey J. Makeever	AC9KX
Dennis G. Eksten	W9SS	Justin Perkins	K9CSW
Dennis R. Johanson	K9VMY	Lowell L. Wheeler	K9HDB
Eugene P. Stankiewicz	KA9BOD	Stephen P. Thorne	K9LLI
Fred Miner	W9WOQ	Dennis R. Johanson	K9VMY
Gordon L. Seaman	KC9NEX	Eugene P. Stankiewicz	KA9BOD
Jacek Gadja	KD9ELT	Sherman H. Buetsch	KC9FOB
James H. Curtis	KC9GOL	Alvin O. Alexander	KC9GIO
James J. Holich	AB9SX	James H. Curtis	KC9GOL
James Miller	W4JR	Robert A. Larson	KC9ICH
Jeffrey J. Makeever	AC9KX	Robert D. Ditzler	KC9LLS
Jennifer Van Zieleghe	KD9FMJ	Gordon L. Seaman	KC9NEX
John G. Olson	W9JGO	Shannon K. Larson	KC9QBC
John Goodwin	KD9ESJ	Paul R Spencer	KC9QPL
Justin Perkins	K9CSW	Kurt C. Keith	KC9ZTJ
Kevin L. Grant	WW9KLG	Albert F. Abanes	KD9AHZ
Kurt C. Eversole	KE9N	Alfred O. Fischer	KD9CA
Kurt C. Keith	KC9ZTJ	Len Soderblom	KD9CDC
Larry C. Schubert	AC9GO	Max Gersh	KD9DBF
Len Soderblom	KD9CDC	Jacek Gadja	KD9ELT
Lowell L. Wheeler	K9HDB	John Goodwin	KD9ESJ
Mark Broman	N9CNW	Jennifer Van Zieleghe	KD9FMJ
Max Gersh	KD9DBF	Kurt C. Eversole	KE9N
Michael F. Proctor	AC9JZ	Robert C. Parro	KEOBAC
Paul Johnston	W9PJ	Scott J. Francis	KG9SF
Paul R Spencer	KC9QPL	Ronald G. Callahan Jr.	N2RON
Rickie Traeger	WX9RLT	Mark Broman	N9CNW
Robert A. Larson	KC9ICH	Bruce A. Carlson	N9OHT
Robert C. Parro	KEOBAC	Thomas E. Shouler	N9VJU
Robert D. Ditzler	KC9LLS	David J. Larsen	N9ZXL
Ronald G. Callahan Jr.	N2RON	James Miller	W4JR
Scott J. Francis	KG9SF	John G. Olson	W9JGO
Shannon K. Larson	KC9QBC	Paul Johnston	W9PJ
Sherman H. Buetsch	KC9FOB	Dennis G. Eksten	W9SS
Stephen P. Thorne	K9LLI	Steve Twigg	W9SWT
Steve Hammerslag	AC9KA	Fred Miner	W9WOQ
Steve Twigg	W9SWT	Kevin L. Grant	WW9KLG
Thomas E. Shouler	N9VJU	Rickie Traeger	WX9RLT

!!!Congratulations to our new Hams!!!

On April 16, 2016 there were (2) successful applicants;

Clayton, Michael K Technician

Long, Randy D Extra KD9FPK

Many thanks go out to John Olson K9JGO; Robert Mitchell W9IFB; Joseph Moore KA9LMK; Kevin Grant W9KLG; John Goodwin N9JHG; and Jim Holich AB9SX, for volunteering their time.

On April 23, 2016 in Rockford IL there were (5) successful applicants.

Barthel, Jason E Technician

Mattingly, Ethan M Technician

McDonough, Rick M Technician

Peary, James E Technician

VanZielegheem, Jennifer L General Upgrade KD9FMJ

Many thanks go out to John Olson K9JGO; Robert Mitchell W9IFB; Mike Proctor AC9JZ; Kevin Grant W9KLG; Shari Harlan N9SH; and Jim Holich AB9SX for volunteering their time.

Special thanks to Chuck Ingle KB9KA, Scott Allshouse K9SBA, Marianne Geiger KT9KS, and Mike Proctor AC9JZ for providing the ARRL training course

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM May 21, 2016. Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10AM, no exams started after 10:00 We require two signature ID's and one photo. If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator bring a copy of your FCC license. 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

Editors note

There is no age limit, or Morse Code requirement, to obtain your Ham Radio License. If you're interested in becoming a ham, feel free to attend the Friday morning breakfast or the general meeting, held the second Friday of the month. Field Day is in June, and if you are interested, please feel welcome to attend.

Mike Proctor AC9JZ ac9jz@outlook.com



Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please call me (815) 414-2329 or email me at

ac9jz@outlook.com

Cut-off for the June 2016 Hamrag will be Wednesday, June 1, 2016

Mike - AC9JZ, Editor

April Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m. with 25 attendees.

Treasurer's report for April 8, 2016 was read. Motion to accept by Gordy Seaman, Second by Chuck Ingle. Motion Passed.

Minutes from March 2016 meeting were read. Motion to accept by Len Soderblom, Second by Larry Schubert. Motion passed.

Introductions

Old Business

Correction to March meeting minutes. Dates for technician classes were April 9, 16, and 23rd.
Gordy said the 147.000 repeater now has a weather radio/alert system. Alerts last at least 2 minutes.

New Business

Sign-up sheet for 2016 field day is at the back table. We are at shelter 1 at Alpine Park
ARRL offers a field day t-shirt
Chuck Ingle asked if the club was coordinating a breakfast in conjunction with field day.
It was mentioned that a breakfast took place in 2015.

50/50 Raffle: Won by Larry Schubert (total collected was \$36)

Presentation: Kurt Eversole, KE9N, J Pole design and construction.
Dennis Johanson, K9VMY, Coax cables, selection and purposes.

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

2016 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309
kc9ich@arrrl.net
Vice President - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034
glseaman@outlook.com
Secretary - Bruce Carlson, N9OHT, 815-218-1764
bruce.n9oht@gmail.com
Treasurer - Shannon Larson, KC9QBC, 815-298-7549
shannon1234@sbcglobal.net

Directors:

Repeater Chairman - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034
glseaman@outlook.com
Kurt Eversole, KE9N 815-389-2784 kurt.eversole@gmail.com
W9AXD License Trustee - Dennis Johanson, K9VMY,
815-255-4603 ##k9vmy@arrrl.net
Dave Larsen, N9ZXL, 815-914-6078 n9zxl@att.net
Larry Schubert, AC9GO, 815-624-7772 schubert1@charter.net
Hamrag Editor - Mike Proctor, AC9JZ, 815-414-2329
ac9jz@outlook.com

RARA BOARD MEETING MEETS ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM
St. Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: kurt.eversole@gmail.com

Local Area Nets

Monday 8 PM RARA Info. 146.610 – 114.8
Thursday 7 PM ARES Net 146.610 – 114.8
Thursday 8 PM Skywarn Training 147.255 + 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

May 2016

Robert Larson - KC9ICH