

HAMRAG

July
2018

July 13th

System Fusion Digital Voice

Mark Thompson WB9QZB
See Page 4

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Next Meeting: System Fusion Digital Voice • Friday July 13th • 7:00 PM
Location: St. Anthony Medical Center • Foundation Room • 5666 E. State Street Rockford, IL

President's Message

Greetings all,

Here it is July already and the year is half over, where has the time gone?

One of the first things I want to do is thank everyone who helped out at the field day event this year. Special thanks go out to Kurt Eversole, for the use of his motor home, radio equipment, and antenna system which was the base of our operations. Also to Greg Kuczek for his organizing skills in setting up the event and lining up the help and operators who made the event a success.

I would like to make a special mention about David Larsen and David Gauger who manned a cw station outside the motor home for visitors to see when they came up, way to go guys you both did great.

Vice President Randy Long brought out his satellite antenna and fox hunting gear but I don't know if he made any contacts or had any fox hunting going on as I was unable to stay because of my allergies acting up.

All I heard was everyone had a great time, and again, I want to thank every one who either visited and or helped out with our field day event.

Our meeting's presentation this month will be on our fusion repeaters, if you have any questions about their operation please bring your questions.

That's all for now and I hope to see you at the meeting on Friday

Sincerely,
Gordon Seaman KC9NEX
2018 RARA President
kc9nex@gmail.com



2018 RARA Officers & Board

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Editor's Note

Well by the looks of my e-mail in box (1 email), only one club member is doing anything news worthy. Please pass along information and photos for the next issue.

Thanks
Lynn Long KD9IFP
Hamrag Editor
randy@rdlgraphics.com.



Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 10:00 am. An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

**“The Spring Garden Family Restaurant”
4820 N. 2nd Street
Loves Park, IL 61111**



RARA Repeaters

Both repeaters (146.610 and 147.000 (both have a pl 114.8)) will function with both digital and analog radio signals, but the repeaters require time to determine whether the signal is digital or analog. To operate the repeater properly you must first be sure the frequency is clear, then key and hold the microphone button down for 1-2 seconds. Then begin speaking. If you fail to do this, the first part of your message will be lost.

RARA Mission Statement

A member association with common interest of public service to the community through the use of amateur radio.

Mark Thompson

WB9QZB

From QRZ.com

I was first licensed in Baraboo, WI as WN9QZB. K9ZZ (SK) administered both my Novice exam in 1975 & my Technician exam in 1976. I passed the 13 WPM code test for General class at the FCC in Chicago in the fall of 1977.

I am a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

I lived in Colorado Spring, CO before I moved to the Chicago area in 1981.

I have worked in the computer industry, management consulting and financial services. I have also owned my own businesses.

I am a member of the North Shore Radio Club (NSRC), Fox River Radio League (FRRL), CFMC (Chicago FM Club) and Suburban UHF Amateur Radio Society (SUHFARS).

I am a Life Member of both the ARRL & the QCWA. I am member of TAPR and am a member of the TAPR Board of Directors. I have also been a member of the Central States VHF Society.

I have traveled extensively domestically & internationally for both business & pleasure and have visited many countries in Europe.

I attend the Dayton Hamvention every year and have previously attended the HAM RADIO/HAMtronic hamfest in Friedrichshafen in southern Germany on the Bodensee (Lake Constance).

I have periodically written & recorded editorials for the Radio Amateur Information Network at www.rainreport.com produced by Hap Holly, KC9RP, former Dayton Hamvention Ham of the Year and I have previously written a digital column for CQ VHF.

I was active in packet radio in the 1980s & 1990s with CAPRA, the Chicago Area Packet Radio Association and I founded the NIPRFC, Northern Illinois Packet Radio Frequency Council.

TAPR is the premiere digital communications group. You can follow TAPR's digital activities at the Dayton Hamvention forums & joint AMSAT/TAPR banquet, PSR Journal and the DCC (Digital Communications Conference) on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/taprdigital> More information about TAPR is available at: www.tapr.org

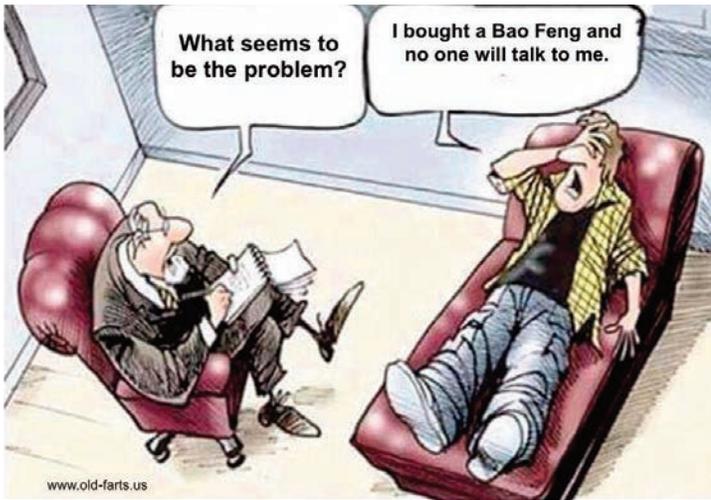
I was responsible for bringing the ARRL/TAPR DCC (Digital Communications Conference) to Chicago in 1998, 2008, 2009 & 2015. I co-hosted the DCC in 1998 with K9VWW and in 2008, 2009 & 2015 with W9XA at the Elk Grove Village Holiday near O'Hare airport.

In early 2006 I became interested in D-STAR Digital Voice & Data technology. Since the spring of 2006 I have given several dozen D-STAR presentations at ham club meetings & hamfests in Northern & Central Illinois, Southern Wisconsin and Northern Indiana as well as the AES Superfest. I have worked with other amateurs to get D-STAR voice & data technology & infrastructure on the air.

In the fall of 2013 I also became interested in Yaesu's System Fusion Digital Voice & Data technology and have subsequently conducted several System Fusion and VHF/UHF Digital Voice Overview forums.



Ham Funny



Icom IC-7200



Icom IC-7200 Assault Radio



"There is no donor list for an antenna transplant!"



DX Ops 2018

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by	Info
July						
Jul01	Jul10	Azerbaijan	4K	AD0PY Direct	US5WE 20180601	By DL7ZM 4K4K as 4K6/DL7ZM fm the Nasir al-Din al-Tusi Shemakhi Astrophysical Observatory (1500m asl, LN40hs); 6m; CW SSB FT8; 100w; 7 and 3 ele yagis; noise cancellation system
Jul01	Jul11	Turks & Caicos	VQ5Z	VE3IKV Direct	VE3IKV 20180326	By VE3IKV VE3MMQ; fm IOTA NA-002 (FL31vs); HF + 6m (50.107 CW beacon); CW SSB FT8 MSK144 JT65a; 100w; 8-el yagi 12.1dBd gain
Jul01	Jul14	Greenland	OX3LX	LotW	TDDX 20180601	By OZ1DJJ fm IOTA NA-018; spare time operation, more activity on weekends; QSL also OK via OZ0J
Jul01	Jul26	Papua New Guinea	P29RR	LotW	TDDX 20180619	By ZL1BQD; focus on 160 80m; mainly FT8; 20w; dipoles; spare time operation; QSL also OK via ZL1BQD direct (w/ 2USD) and eQSL
Jul02	Jul09	Iceland	TF	LotW	TDDX 20180430	By G0POT as TF/G0POT; QRP; SOTA activations; QSL also OK via G0POT (Buro or direct) and eQSL
Jul03	Jul17	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP	LotW	KV1J 20180227	By KV1J as FP/KV1J fm Miquelon I (IOTA NA-032); 160-6m; mainly SSB RTTY, some CW and FT8; QSL also OK via KV1J direct and Club Log
Jul05	Jul10	Alaska	KH7 NEW (Jul07)	VE1FA	VE1FA 20180707	By VE1FA as VE1FA/KH7 and VA1YL as VA1YL/KH7 fm Round I (IOTA NA-121, A074oe); 7.150 and 14.260 MHz +/- QRM; SSB; 100w
Jul07	Jul14	Br Virgin Is	VP2V	N9DK	N9DK 20180326	By N9DK as VP2V/N9DK; 80-2m; all modes; offshore contacts not valid for DXCC
Jul13	Jul17	Fiji	3D2	LotW	WJ20 20180422	By WJ20 as TBD; 40-15m; CW; QSL also OK via N2ZN direct; dates approximate
Jul13	Jul20	Botswana	A25A	LotW	TDDX 20180414	By NJ0F; 80-10m; SSB CW RTTY FT8; hexbeam, vertical; QSL also OK via NJ0F and Club Log
Jul14	Jul21	Isle of Man	M0XAL NEW (Jun22)	M0XAL	TDDX 20180622	By M0XAL fm Port Erin; 80 40 20 10m; holiday style operation
Jul18	Jul25	Vanuatu	YJ0GA	LotW	DXNews 20180227	By ZL3GA fm Efate I (IOTA OC-035); 80-6m; QSL also OK via ZL3GA (Buro or direct) and Club Log
Jul19	Jul24	Curacao	PJ2	LotW	DXW.Net 20180323	By KM4SII as PJ2/KM4SII; all bands; all modes; focus on digital for AS VK ZL; fm PJ2T station
Jul19	Jul31	Micronesia	V6J	JP3AYQ	JJ3PRT 20180504	By JA team fm Ta I (IOTA OC-253); 40-6m; SSB CW FT8 RTTY; focus on EU and NA; QSL also OK via eQSL RSGB IOTA Contest (Jul 28-29, 2018) Check here for pericontest activity too.

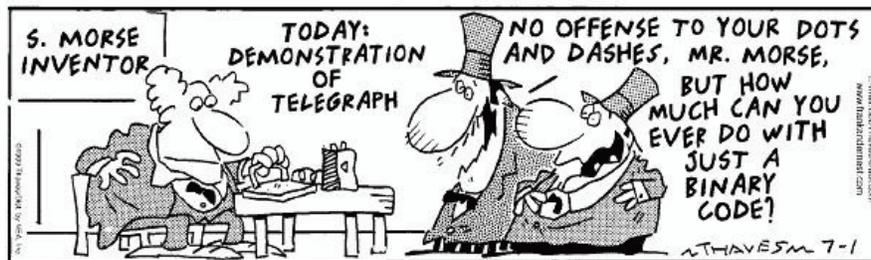
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Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by	Info
August						
Aug05	Aug12	Albania	ZA	LotW	TDDX 20180509	By SP7IDX as ZA/SP7IDX fm Vlore (JN90rk); 40-10m; SSB + digital; QSL also OK via SP7IDX
Aug12	Aug19	Antigua	V26NF NEW (Jun25)	EA4NF	DXW.Net 20180625	By EA4NF; 40-10m; QSL OK via Buro or direct
Aug15	Aug25	American Samoa	KH8	M0URX	TDDX 20180525	By W5RF W5MJ VE7KW K5PI W5SJ as KH8/W5MJ; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY
Aug20	Aug26	Kosovo	Z6	LotW	DXW.Net 20180518	By IZ5YHD as Z6/IZ5YHD; 80-10m; SSB; 100w; inverted vee; QSL also OK via IZ5YHD (Buro or direct w/ 2 Euros) and Club Log
September						
Sep01	Sep10	Kyrgyzstan	EX0PL	SP9KAT	DXW.Net 20180516	By SP9ONC SP9OUV SP9ETE SQ9IWS SP9AMF SQ9OUK SP9NLT SQ9MCI P9SCZ SP9IVD SP9MZH SP9DEM fm MN92ci; HF; QSL OK via Buro or direct, also Club Log
Sep02	Sep15	Iceland	TF	LotW	VE2DX 20180613	By VE2DX as TF/VE2DX; 40 20m, perhaps 80 15 10m; SSB FT8; QSL also OK via VE2DX Buro and eQSL
Sep04	Sep24	Mauritius	3B8	PA3HGT	DXW.Net 20180516	By PA3HGT as 3B8/PA3HGT; 40 20 10m; mainly SSB, some CW + digital; QSL OK via PA Buro or direct; holiday style operation
Sep12	Oct01	East Kiribati	T32AH	DL2AH	DL2AH 20180107	By DL2AH fm Christmas I (IOTA OC-024); 80-10m; SSB FT8 RTTY; 100w; Windom; holiday style operation
Sep15	Sep20	eSwatini	3DA0A0	OQRS	K5GS 20180502	By HA5A0; 80-10m; CW RTTY FT8, some SSB; vertical; formerly Swaziland
Sep17	Sep26	Malawi	7Q7ELA NEW (Jun25)	Buro Auto	TDDX 20180625	By IW5ELA; mainly CW; 100w; vertical; holiday style operation
Sep20	Sep25	Svalbard	JW	DJ2AX	DXNews 20180218	By DJ2AX fm IOTA EU-026; HF; CW SSB + digital
Sep26	Oct10	Rwanda	9X0T	LotW	IK7JWY 20180515	By I1HJT I2YSB IK2CIO IK2CKR IK2DIA IK2HKT IK2RZP JA3USA; 160-10m; CW SSB, RTTY on 20m only; 3 stations; QSL also OK via online OQRS and I2YSB direct (see Web)
Sep28	Oct14	Samoa	5W0GC	LZ1GC	DXNews 20180416	By LZ1GC in Apia (OC-097); 160-6m, focus on 160 80m; CW SSB RTTY; @5W1SA; QSL also OK via Club Log
Sep29	Oct06	Christmas I	VK9XT	LotW	DXNews 20180528	By A65DC A65DR SM0CXU VE7HDW fm IOTA OC-002; 160-10m; CW SSB + digital (perhaps FT8); QSL also OK via qrz.com logbook and eQSL
Sep30	Oct12	Nauru	C21GJ	W7GJ	425DXN 20180602	By W7GJ fm IOTA OC-031; 6m; mainly EME but some CW SSB, FT8 (50.313 MHz)
October						
Oct02	Oct29	American Samoa	KH8	DL2AH	DL2AH 20180107	By DL2AH as WH8/DL2AH fm Ofu I (IOTA OC-077); 80-10m; SSB FT8 RTTY; QRV for CQWW DX SSB; holiday style operation
Oct06	Oct16	Niue	E6Y	ZL3PAH	ZL4TT 20180413	By ZL3PAH ZL3GA ZL3AB ZL4TT fm IOTA OC-040 (AH50bx); HF, incl 60m; Oceania DX contest SSB and CW

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by	Info
October						
Oct10	Oct15	Svalbard	JW	LotW	LA7XK 20180327	By LA7XK LA9DL LA6VM as JW7XK JW9DL JW6VM (JW5X during SAC Phone) fm IOTA EU-026; CW SSB + digital; QSL also OK via LA7XK
Oct15	Nov04	Vanuatu	YJ0GC	LZ1GC	DXNews 20180416	By LZ1GC and OM5ZW fm Efate I (OC-035); 160-6m, focus on 160 80m; CW SSB RTTY; QSL also OK via Club Log
Oct16	Oct30	Christmas I	VK9XG	LotW	G3TXF 20180414	By G3SVL G3TXF G3WGN G3WPH G2NF
Oct19	Oct29	Haiti	4V7R	EB7DX	DXW.Net 20180304	By EA7FTR EA1DVY EA1ACP HH2MK HH2JR EB7DX; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY FT8
Oct20	Nov03	Ducie I	VP6D	LotW	K5GS 20171201	By K3EL HA5AO W2LK DJ9RR WA6O ZL3CW N6HC W1SRD N6WM HA0NAR PY2PT N6XG K5GS UT6UD NG2H fm IOTA OC-182; 160-10m; CW SSB + digital (incl FT8); 7 stns; QSL requests via Web OQRS (your card not needed)
Oct26	Nov06	Zimbabwe	Z23MD	LotW	MDXC 20180515	By IZ8CCW I2VGV IZ2GNQ F5EOT ON4LO YO8WW YO50ED ON7RB; HF; CW SSB RTTY; QSL also OK via IK2VUC (see Web page for details)
Oct29	Nov08	Belize	V31FT	LotW	DXW.Net 20180305	By EC5AC fm Maya Hill, Blackman Eddy Village; focus on FT8; QSL also OK via EC5AC
November						
Nov03	Nov06	Christmas I	VK9XQ	DF8AN	DXW.Net 20180327	By DF8AN; 160-6m; CW + digital (incl FT8); QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct + eQSL (late)
Nov06	Nov10	Cocos Keeling	VK9CH	DF8AN	DXW.Net 20180327	By DF8AN; 160-6m; CW + digital (incl FT8); QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct + eQSL (late)
Nov10	Nov17	Christmas I	VK9XQ	DF8AN	DXW.Net 20180327	By DF8AN; 160-6m; CW + digital (incl FT8); QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct + eQSL (late)
Nov17	Dec08	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	LotW	TDDX 20170818	By AA9A; 80-10m, incl 60; CW SSB + digital; Buddipole; QSL also OK via AA9A
Nov26	Dec06	Nicaragua	YN		DXNews 20180415	By RM0F as H7/RM0F, R4WAA RZ3FW RC5A likewise, also YN4RRC fm Big Corn I (IOTA NA-013); 160-10m; CW SSB
Nov28	Dec07	St Martin	FS		TDDX 20180420	By K9NU W9ILY W9MK FS4WBS K9EL as TBD; 160 80m focus; will try to include FT8 in fox/hound mode; high power
December						
Dec18	Jan19	Vanuatu	YJ0AFU	LotW	TDDX 20180604	By VK4AFU fm IOTA OC-035; 160-6m; mainly FT8, some CW SSB; 100w; G5RV, inverted L

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Programs 2018

July - System Fusion Digital Voice
Mark Thompson WB9QZB

August - Portable Radio Systems

September - Satellite Communications

October - Exothermic/Cadwelding

November - Contesting

December - Power Pole & Cable Assembly

Meetings

July 13, 2018

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

July 16, 2018

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

August 10, 2018

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

August 21, 2018

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF



Ham Testing

Ferguson, Donald A. - KD9KVN
Upgrade to Extra

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM July 21, 2018.

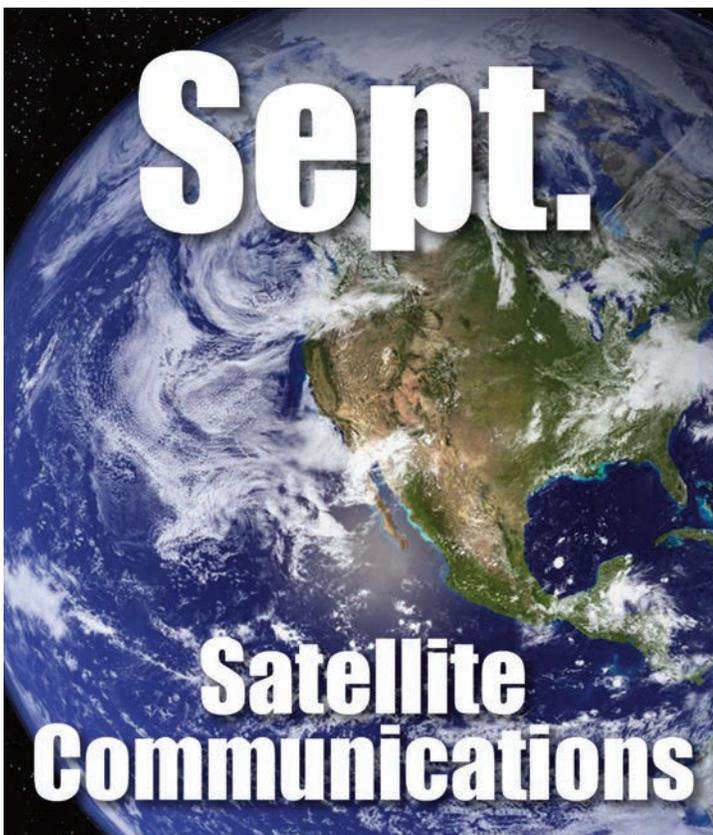
Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10AM, no exams started after 10:30.

We require two signature ID's and one photo. If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator bring a copy of your FCC ULS page with your call sign. 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 Field Day 2018

Thanks to Greg and Kurt for organizing a great Field Day

If you have any photos please pass them along - we would like to post them on the website and share a few in the Hamrag.



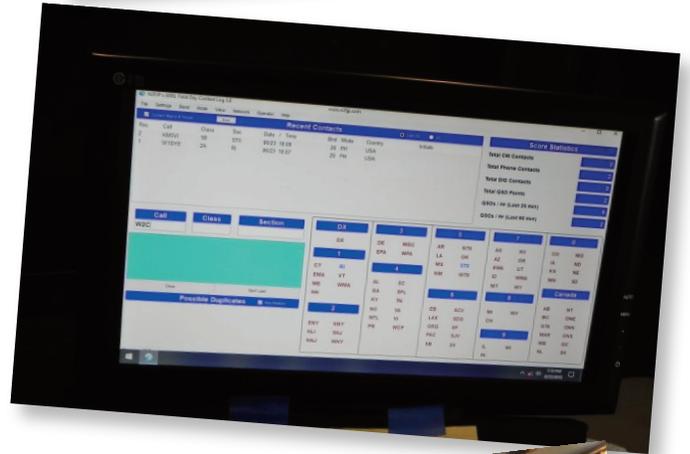
The CW crew hard at work (Photo By Lynn)



The new and improved
2019 Field Day Ops Vehicle

Thanks to Gene Stankiewicz - KA9BOD for the Field Day photos







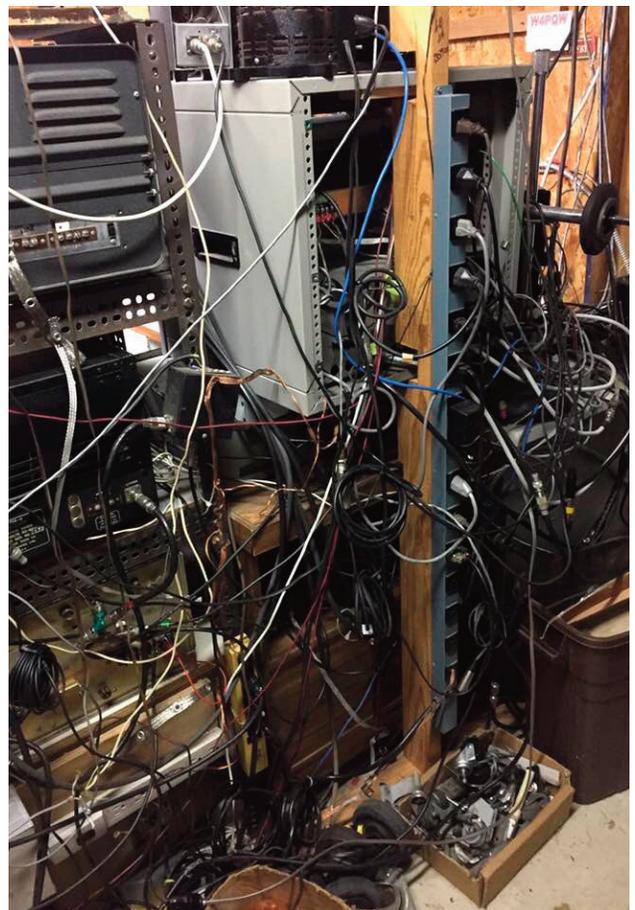
Member Profile & Ham Shack

It has been suggested that we bring back an old Hamrag feature - "Member profiles and ham shack photos".

If you are interested in being featured in a future Hamrag we will need the following:

1. A good head and shoulders photo (of yourself).
2. A few photos of your shack and antenna system.
3. A nice profile story about yourself, how and why you are in the hobby, what modes you like working and what projects you're working on (see page 4 for a great example).

Send your photos and profile to:
Lynn Long KD9IFP
randy@rdlgraphics.com.





Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm by President Gordon Seaman and there were 12 people present.

A motion was made by Randy Long and seconded by Larry Schubert to approve the minutes as printed in the Ham Rag, the motion passed.

The treasures report was presented by Jennifer VanZielegem and a motion to accept was made by Larry Schubert and seconded by Greg Kuczek, the motion passed.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business:

Kurt Eversole made a motion for the club to

authorize up to \$200.00 for food for field day 2018, it was seconded by Larry Schubert and the motion passed.

Jennifer reported that Larry Saballa's wife passed away.

Greg Kuczek did the presentation on Field Day 2018 and what was planned for the event. There were many questions and answers and it was a good presentation.

There was a motion by Randy Long and a second by John Goodwin to have the 50/50 drawing and adjourn, the motion passed and Gordon Seaman won \$10.00

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Seaman

Area Nets

Monday Night 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 Jimmy, KC9GCR, (net control). 146.610 - offset (pl 114.8) RARA repeater at 8:00 pm, every Monday, except on holidays.

Tuesday Night Tech Net

at 8:00 pm, 145.110 (pl 123.0). Tony, N9ARB, is net control.

Wednesday Night Stephenson County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Net

at 7:00 pm on 147.390 + offset (pl 114.8). N9ARB, Tony, is net control.

Thursday Night Northern Illinois ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Net

at 7:00 pm on the 147.195 + offset (pl 114.8) repeater with either Marianne, KT9KS; Sean, W9STR; or Ricky, WX9RLT, as net control.

Thursday Night Northern Illinois Skywarn net

at 8:00 PM on the 147.195.

Friday Night Fun Net - Every Friday night at 8:00 pm on the 146.610 - offset (pl 114.8) RARA repeater with Jimmy, KC9GCR, as net control.

HF Net Information - Head on over to the RARA website and take a look at the "Nets" page. We now have listings and links to great HF nets.

RARA Membership Form

If you would like to join the Rockford Amateur Radio Association, please fill out the form below and mail it (with the membership fee payment) to the address shown at the bottom of the form. If you would like to join at our next meeting (see 1st page for meeting details), fill out the form and bring the form with your payment to the meeting and see our treasurer, Jennifer Van Zieleghe, KD9FMJ.

Thank you for your support!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

website: w9axd.org

Membership Type: New Renewal

Annual Fees: \$20 - Student (up to age 24)

\$35 - Adult \$25 - 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