



# HAMRAG

January  
2019

Jan. 11th

# RARA Awards Banquet

Will You Become  
RADIO ACTIVE  
In 2019?



### Inside This Issue:

<b>Page 2</b> President's Message	<b>Page 6</b> Upcoming Events
<b>Page 3</b> Editor's Note RARA Repeaters Friday Breakfast	Ham Testing
<b>Page 4</b> 2019 Radio Active Volunteer Form	<b>Pages 7</b> Ham Funny
<b>Pages 5</b> Membership Survey	<b>Pages 8</b> First Contact
	<b>Pages 9</b> Meeting Notes Area Nets
	<b>Pages 10</b> Membership Form



Next Meeting: Awards Banquet • Friday January 11th • Starts At 5:00 PM - Dinner Around 6:00 PM  
PM Location: Gerry's Pizza • 7402 Argus Dr. • Rockford, IL 61107 • North Dining Room

# President's Message

Greetings all,

It's a start of a new RARA year. I would like to thank the RARA members for providing this opportunity to be President in 2019. I look forward to working with the members and the board to make this an exciting year for RARA.

I would like to see our goal as a club in 2019 to be **"Radio Active"**. RARA as a group needs to continue to reach out in the greater Rockford area and introduce others to the hobby of ham radio. Once we help them acquire a Tech license its up to the RARA membership as a group to make new members feel at home, answer questions, educate and encourage. Without the participation of our members this hobby will die a slow death.

By this time you're probably asking how can I help or, oh no, he's going to ask me to do something outside of my comfort zone.

**First** - we still have three openings for directors on the RARA board. All you have to do is commit to one Tuesday a month to help guide the club through the next year. It's not that hard and we try to keep the meetings to a reasonable length.

**Second** - Volunteer and help Jen plan our meeting programs for 2019. During the entire time I have been with the club I have only seen a handful of members take on a program. I know we have a very deep knowledge base within our club that could and should be shared with new members. Make it your goal to step out of your comfort zone and share what you know with the new members. You don't need to be fancy and we all can't be good looking, but you do have something that could be shared with the group. We all come at this hobby from different backgrounds and directions - share what you know or what part of this hobby you enjoy.

**Third** - I would like to get a jump start on Field Day this year and see if we can turn it into a bigger outreach to the general public. I'm looking for ideas and your thoughts.

Remember to be **"Radio Active"** in 2019 and help grow RARA! See the volunteer sheet on page four. **GET RADIO ACTIVE TODAY!**

Sincerely;

Randy Long, AC9OF  
2019 RARA President

PS: There is also an important membership survey on page five.



## 2019 RARA Officers & Board

### Officers:

President

Randy Long, AC9OF  
815-978-6673  
randy@rdlgraphics.com

Vice President

Jennifer Van Zieleghe  
KD9FMJ  
815-222-4221  
jenleek@usa.com

Secretary

Greg Kuczek, W9VOX  
815-713-5461  
w9vox@comcast.net

Treasurer

Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX  
815-262-0294,  
kc9nex@gmail.com

### Directors:

Jacek Gadj, KD9ELI  
773-505-5604  
hyacinth27109@yahoo.com

3 Open Directors  
Please Volunteer

### Special Projects:

Repeater Chairman  
Kurt Eversole, KE9N  
815-389-2784  
kurt.eversole@gmail.com

Hamrag Editor

Lynn Long, KD9IFP  
815-978-6673  
randy@rdlgraphics.com

Webmaster

Randy Long, AC9OF  
815-978-6673  
randy@rdlgraphics.com

Repeater License Trustee

Robert Larson, KC9ICH  
815-540-0309  
rlarson4@sbcglobal.net



## Editor's Note

### A thin issue this month.

I understand with the holidays and family events time was short to send things in for the Hamrag. Let's see what we can do for the next issue.... **BECOME RADIO ACTIVE!**

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**

**February**  
**We need YOU!**



**TBA**

**Meeting Program**



## 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.



# 2019 RARA Radio Active Volunteer Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in volunteering as a RARA Board member:

I Would like to volunteer to help Jen with a program or two in 2019:

Program Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Month: \_\_\_\_\_

I have an idea for Field Day and will voluteer to help make it work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have other ideas for the club and will voluteer to help make them work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# RARA Member Survey

During the RARA board meeting in December we had a lengthy discussion. Are we limiting the potential of club growth and limiting the availability of outside speakers because our club meetings are held on Friday nights and not mid-week like many clubs in the region?

Good points were made both pro and con and it boiled down to the following basic points.

- For potential younger members Friday can be any of the following: date night, school and family events or the kickoff to the weekend after a long work week.
- Are we limiting potential outside speakers for the same reasons?
- It is a fact that some of our members work in the retail and service industries, and Friday nights are difficult if not impossible to get off

on a consistant basis and thus limits their opportunities to learn or share.

The conclusion was to consider moving our club meeting night to the second Tuesday of each month with the same start time.

The board would like to hear your thoughts and comments concerning the day move. How will it work or not work for you? Please let a board member know or drop me an email and I will pass them along at the next board meeting.

Remember our goal is to grow RARA in 2019.

Sincerely;

Randy Long, AC90F  
2019 RARA President  
randy@rdlgraphics.com

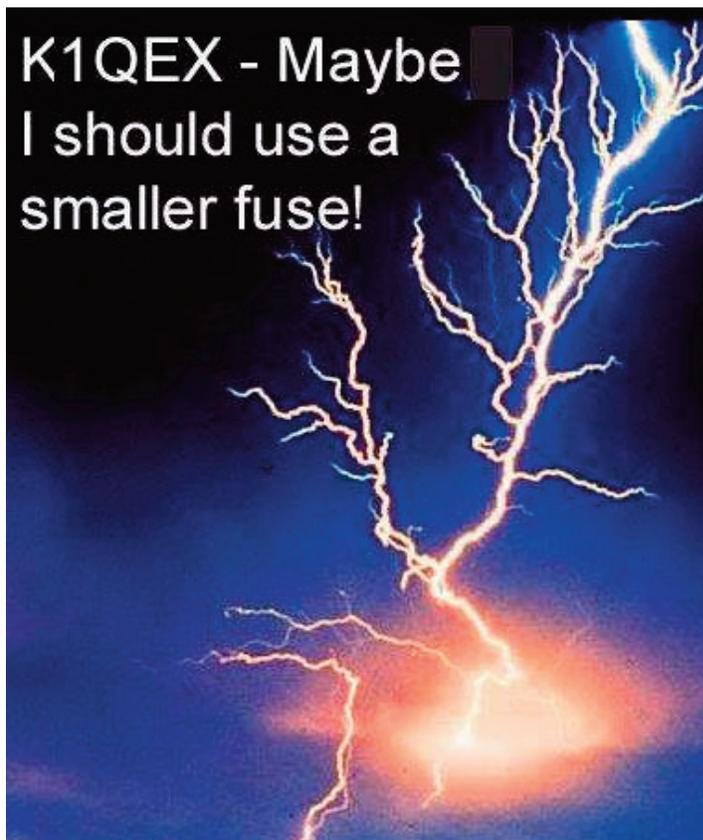
**March**  
**We need**  
**YOU!**



**TBA**



**Meeting Program**





## Programs 2019

January - Awards Banquet

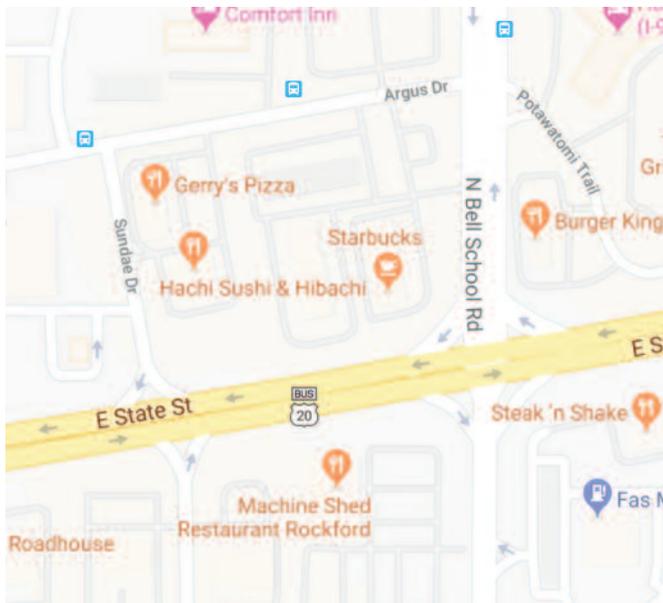
We are working on the program list for 2019  
Please contact Jen Van Zieleghe - KD9FMJ  
at 815-222-4221 to volunteer.

## Meetings

FRIDAY Jan. 11, 2018  
Pre-Dinner Cocktail 5:00 pm  
Order Dinner 6:00 pm  
Program 7:00 pm

“2018 RARA Awards Dinner”

Location:  
Gerry's Pizza  
7402 Argus Dr.  
Rockford, IL 61107  
North Dining Room



January 15, 2019  
RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

February 8, 2019  
General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

February 19, 2019  
RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF



# Ham Testing

The following applicants were successful:

Harweger, Jack S. KD9GVA  
Upgrade to General

LeDoux, Arthur J.  
Technician

Metters, Jeffery L.  
Technician

Sharp, Michael F.  
Technician and General

Tatlow, Kerry K. KD9MAP  
Upgrade to General

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd  
Saturday of every month in Rockford IL.  
The next session is 9 AM January 19, 2019.

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.

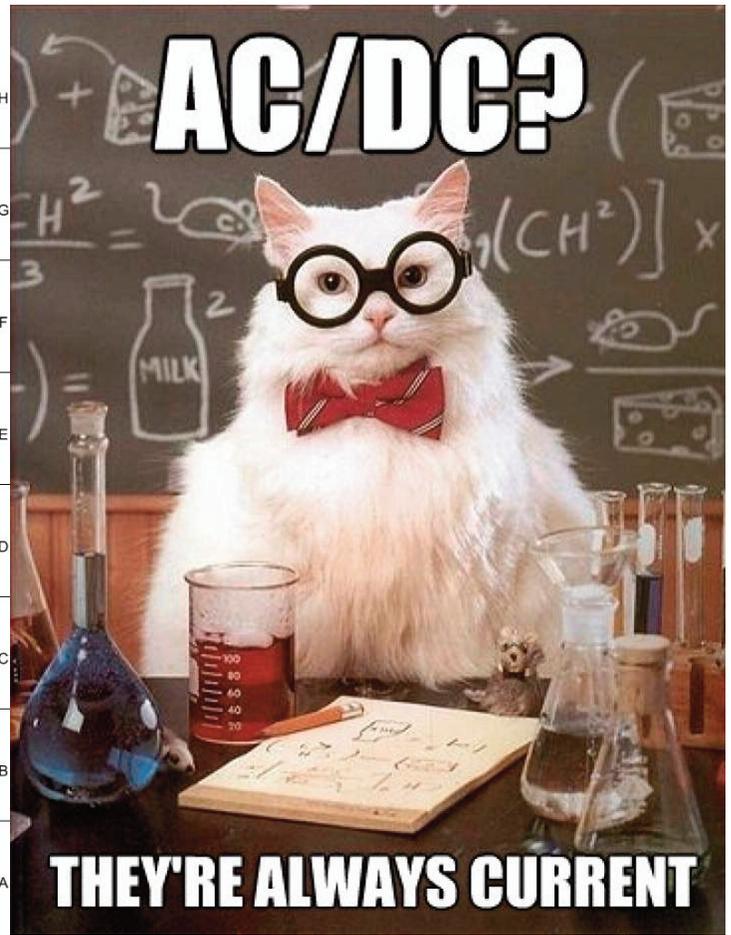
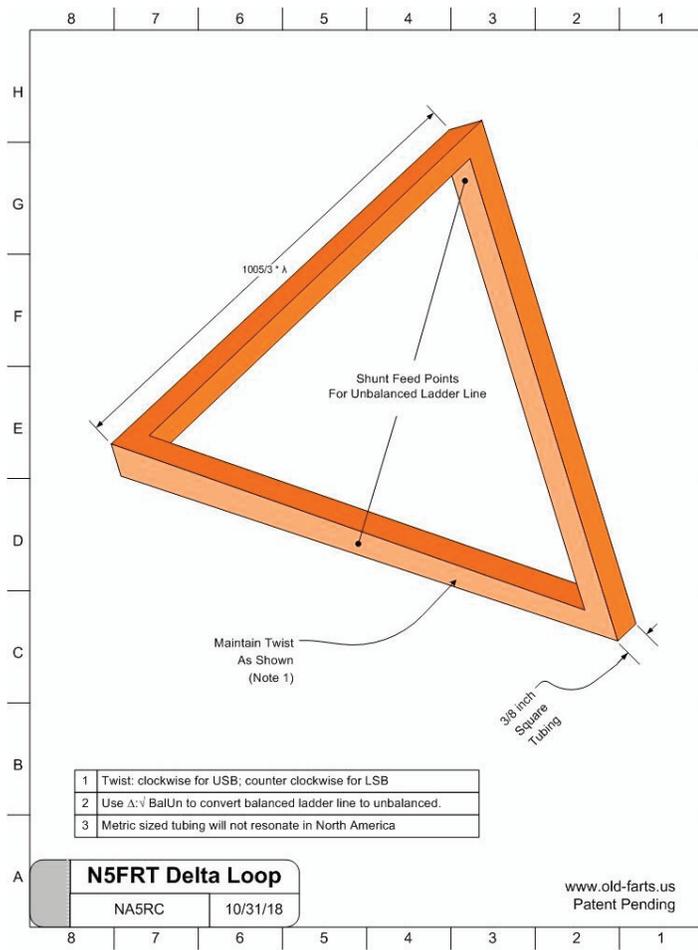
Bring a non-programmable calculator.

### 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

# Ham Funny





I was watching a podcast the other day, and the host suggested that most first contacts are generally on a local repeater, and that he suggested that the contact be made by calling "CQ", though that is what I did my first time on a repeater. He is right that the first contacts these days are probably on a local repeater, but I'm not so sure about calling "CQ". I suggested to a friend of mine who just got his Tech call that he simply get on the repeater (146.610) and announce that he was a new Ham and that he wanted to make his first contact, and to then give his call out. I also suggested that he might be surprised at the response. If there is a contact that Hams like to make more than a rare DX contact, it would have to be the first contact for a new Ham. I have heard a small pile-up just for a chance to give best wishes to a new member of our fraternity.

Now, I should say there really is no right way to make your first contact on the air. That first contact is a little scary, but so much can be missed in our hobby if that contact is not made. A few years ago I met a guy that had a license for well over a dozen years, and had never been on the air. Yes, you heard me right. He had been a licensed amateur for well over a dozen years, and had never been on the air. He had spent all of the time studying for the test, or maybe even tests, but he had never pushed the button to even say "Hi, this is XXXXX". We as Hams have a duty to help get everyone with a call sign on the air. Let me know if you make a contact with a new amateur, or tell us your story about your first contact. Happy New Year!

73 , AC9GO larry.schubert@gmail.com

### Resistor Color Coding

Color	1st Band	2nd Band	3rd Band	Multiplier	Tolerance	Temp. Coeff. (ppm/K)
Black	0	0	0	x10 <sup>0</sup>	0	250
Brown	1	1	1	x10 <sup>1</sup>	±1%	100
Red	2	2	2	x10 <sup>2</sup>	±2%	50
Orange	3	3	3	x10 <sup>3</sup>		15
Yellow	4	4	4	x10 <sup>4</sup>		25
Green	5	5	5	x10 <sup>5</sup>	±.50%	20
Blue	6	6	6	x10 <sup>6</sup>	±.25%	10
Violet	7	7	7	x10 <sup>7</sup>	±.10%	5
Grey	8	8	8		±.05%	1
White	9	9	9			
Gold				x10 <sup>-1</sup>	±5%	
Silver				x10 <sup>-2</sup>	±10%	



**Dec. 14, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by Gordon KC9NEX with 20 present at the meeting.

### Last Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes read and there were no requested corrections.
- Jen KD9FMJ advised that she was working with Randy AC9OF to put her Contesting presentation on YouTube.
- Motion to accept by Randy AC9OF and seconded by Kurt KE9N. Passed by membership vote.

### Treasurer's Report

- Report presented by Jen KD9FMJ.
- Motion to accept by Kurt KE9N and seconded by Ron N2RON. Passed by membership vote.

### Old Business

- Discussion of potentially procuring HAM name badges was mentioned. This will be brought up at 12/17 Board meeting.

### New Business

- Kurt KE9N advised of a Santa Net on 3.916 MHZ that runs nightly from 7:30 PM Central thru Christmas Eve.
- Tony N9ARB advised that a Santa Net was planned for this Friday during the 12/21 Friday Night Fun Net. There was discussion of a Santa Net during the RARA net.
- Kurt KE9N advised that past RARA president Bob Szuch W9AOR is in poor health. His address is good in QRZ.com for those who would like to send cards.
- Bill KC9OJP asked when winter field day was scheduled (Jan. 26/27).

### Presentation

- Scheduled presenter JoAnne Maenpaa K9JKM was unable to attend due to the foggy weather conditions.
- Jen KD9FMJ stepped up to the plate and presented "Hamvention 2018". Jen's energetic delivery and humorous experiences were well received.

Motion to adjourn by Ron N2RON and seconded by Kurt KE9N. Passed by membership vote.

**The meeting minutes were taken by and submitted by Greg Kuczek - W9VOX.**

# 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 and Thursday Night Northern Illinois Skywarn net

at 7:00 pm on the 147.195 + offset (pl 114.8) repeater.

**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 cover 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

All membership applications to become either a new member or to be reinstated as a member of RARA must be approved by the RARA board.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Year \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_