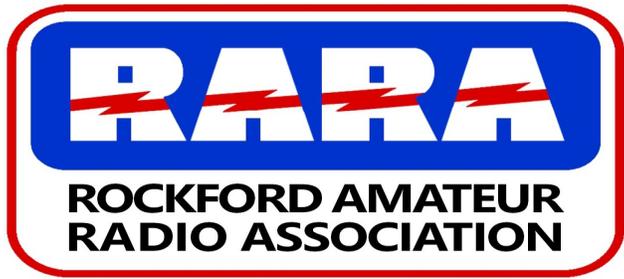


# HAMRAG

Visit our website for more club and area ham information at <http://w9axd.org>, or join us on Facebook at this [LINK](#)



## RARA Mission Statement

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

**April 2020**

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## Presidents Message

### April Letter From the President

Hi RARA,

Needless to say this is not what I had envisioned for the club this year, but here I am canceling another meeting for RARA. I do hope that this finds you in great health, and that all of your family and friends are healthy and safe from this virus as well as any other health problem.

Since last month we have set up two Health and Welfare nets to benefit area Hams. These nets were set up by Bill KC9OJP, head of ARES and a Director for RARA. Our hats off to Bill for setting these up. He will be running a Health and Wellness net on Thursday nights at 7 PM in place of the normal ARES net on the 147.195, and I will be running the other on Tuesday nights at 7 PM on the 146.610 machine. I hope to see you all on both nights. Bill will be providing us with information from area officials including some information that you will not get on local news media.

Don't forget that we also have our regular nets on Monday and Friday nights on 146.610. Friday nights Jimmy has been asking some technical questions from the exams which adds to his fun night activities, and I may pop in from time to time with information for all.

I've been hearing a lot of DX lately on 20 M, and with some of the contests lately a lot of activity. The sun seems to be at least trying to come alive. Not much activity yet but numbers of 70 – 72 providing a little more activity compared to the 68 – 69 that we had been seeing. Any of you that have a Tech license might consider studying for your General and beyond while you are stuck at home with the sun showing signs of waking up. At the very least make sure you can get on HF. I haven't heard much on 10 M yet, but it shouldn't be long.

Don't take any chances with this virus! Stay safe and healthy, and warm up the radios in your shack, and make some contacts.

73,  
Larry  
AC9GO  
larry.schubert@gmail.com

## NEXT MEETING

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?????????

On AIR



## Antennas, for small places

By  
Larry AC9GO

I've been thinking a lot recently about the problems many of you have living in an HOA or apartment. The other thing is a small lot. There are a number of antennas that you can use in these situations, and there are a host of ideas that can be found on the internet particularly on YouTube. Europe has provided a number of good ideas as well as hams here in the US. I found a couple of podcasts from England where they talk about the "small garden" which is apparently what they call a small yard in England.

Here are some of the ideas that I've read about that you might consider. For a small yard you might consider an NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) antenna. NVIS is an antenna used by the military because it is low to the ground, and the idea is it shoots a signal almost straight up so that the signal comes back to earth within about 300 miles or so. The podcast I watched showed an end fed antenna that was set up between 6 and 10 feet above the ground which gives a signal almost straight up. This was one of the "small garden" recordings that showed the antenna following the fence around the yard. The pod caster showed what to use for a ballun and demonstrated how well he was able to get a signal out.

Another antenna to consider for a small yard is a vertical. There are a variety of different vertical antennas to consider from the home made to the commercial variety. I used a Hustler 5BTV vertical back in the late '60s early '70s. At that time it covered 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, but now it covers some of the newer bands as well. The only counterpoise I used was the coax that ran into the shack some 50 or so feet away. I was only running about 60 Watts on cw at the time with a terrible receiver, but I still managed to get most of the country plus Canada, Mexico, Alaska, and Hawaii all on 80 M which was the only band I could hear on that receiver. Vertical antennas are good for DX if you have good radials on them.

One of the antennas I found was the Moxon beam. This beam is shorter than most, and can be made of wire. The interesting thing about the Moxon is that it can actually beat out a two element beam in some ways because it has almost no signal going to the back. If you look around you will find a free program on the web to figure out the dimensions for beam. Basically, you just put in the size wire or tubing that you are going to use, and the frequency that you want to build it for, and the program will give you the dimensions.

I remember when I first moved here, and set up the radio in the garage. I ran a short lead to the antenna tuner and two wires with clips on the end to the gutters that ran along the front and the back of the house. I still have a QSL card from a guy in Georgia that said he couldn't believe what I was using for an antenna. I don't think he stopped laughing the whole time I talked to him on 80 Meters. If you're like me, you have plenty of time to get on the air.

Enjoy yourself, and have fun!

73

Larry  
AC9GO



### FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

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.*      **CANCELLED UNTIL ???**

*"The Spring Garden Family Restaurant"*

## 2020 RARA Officers and Board

### **Officers:**

President - Larry Schubert, AC9GO, 815-624-7772, [larry.schubert@gmail.com](mailto:larry.schubert@gmail.com)  
Vice President - Dan Hallstrom, 815-229-7526, [hallstrom@gmx.com](mailto:hallstrom@gmx.com)  
Secretary - Jennifer Van Zieleghe, KD9FMJ, 815-222-4221, [jenleek@usa.com](mailto:jenleek@usa.com)  
Treasurer - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, [kc9nex@gmail.com](mailto:kc9nex@gmail.com)  
Repeater Chairman - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784, [kurt.eversole@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.eversole@gmail.com)

**Directors:** Bill Callow, 815-298-1923, [bill5002@comcast.net](mailto:bill5002@comcast.net)

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Jeffrey Metters, KD9MEC, 815-670-5506, [jeffmetters@gmail.com](mailto:jeffmetters@gmail.com)

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Hamrag Editor - Jeffrey Metters, KD9MEC, 815-670-5506, [jeffmetters@gmail.com](mailto:jeffmetters@gmail.com)

Webmaster - open

Repeater License Trustee - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, [kc9nex@gmail.com](mailto:kc9nex@gmail.com)

## Local Events and Information

### UPCOMING EVENTS

April, 2020— Cancelled—

MAY, 2020 - ??????

### RARA Repeater Information

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.

### 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.

**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.

**Tuesday Night Health Net**—**146.610** hosted by Larry AC9GO, 7 pm

**Thursday Night Health Net**— **147.195** hosted by Bill KC9OJP, 7 pm

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## **RARA is looking for a new Web Master:**

If you have some skills at managing a Web site and would like the opportunity to create one from the ground up, talk to one of the Officers or Directors at the next meeting.

This is a wonderful chance to use your creative ..... Stuff.

## **AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE**

There will no longer be testing available in Rockford.

Contact Brandon for more information as to the Freeport IL testing times and location.

Brandon J McGrew [bmacmagoo@hotmail.com](mailto:bmacmagoo@hotmail.com) There is also testing available in Janesville.

Contact [wi9fry@gmail.com](mailto:wi9fry@gmail.com) For mote info.

# 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. **Thank you for your support!**



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

website: w9axd.org

Membership Type:  New (New memberships after July 1st are 1/2 price)  Renewal

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

\$35 - Adult (25-61 years old)  \$25 - Senior (Starts the year you will turn 62)

Above rate includes the  
RARA monthly newsletter, HamRag (website download)  
HamRag 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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_