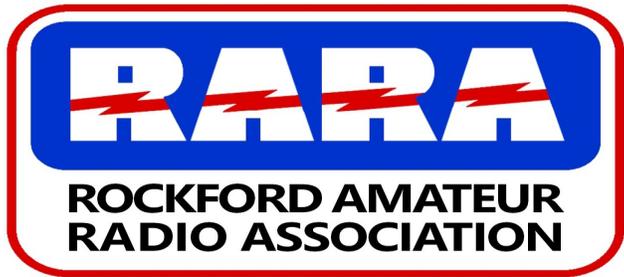


# HAMRAG

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.

**February 2020**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

## Presidents Message

February Letter from the President

Greetings,

First, if you haven't heard, I canceled the February 14 meeting. I don't know about you, but I do enough to aggravate my xyl without telling her that I have a meeting to go to on Valentines' Day. We could have changed the date, but with February as short as it is and with the weather as bad as it is at times during the month, it just seemed best to cancel it. That means our February program will go to March, and it is a good one.

In case you didn't know, we now have an expert in the world of 3D printing. That's right our Ham Rag editor is also an expert in 3D printing at Eigerlab. I have seen the presentation and it is impressive. He showed parts that he had made that could not be made by conventional machine methods. Jeff Metters – KD9MEC is our presenter. He is a RARA board member as well as the Ham Rag editor. Jeff is also an accomplished speaker. I think you will enjoy his presentation as well as learn a great deal about 3D printing. By the way he is planning on bringing a small printer with him.

Speaking of board members, we have a very impressive group of officers and board members. The first task that we have taken on is to work on the mundane business processes to speed them up so that the time we spend is minor compared to the time we spend improving the club by working on projects.

Good news. The sun spots are slowly coming back. The number for propagation is now generally in the low 70's (70-72) compared to the upper 60's (68) that is the low that we saw most of last year. This is still marginal, but it is improving.

When I make a mistake, it is generally a big one. Last year I wrote an article talking about two of our Hams that had passed away. I was in a hurry and screwed up. I reported that Jim Hall had passed away, when it was actually Jim Miller. I felt really stupid when Jim Hall sent me an email telling me that he was alive and well. He was very gracious about it, and, has consented to give us a presentation later this year on a rig he put together for \$200 that he can talk around the world on. Again, I'm sorry for the mistake Jim. I also reported on the death of John Goodwin, but, called him Goodman. I'm sorry for that mistake as well. Like I said, I don't make small mistakes. I will try to do better in the future.

73  
Larry AC9GO

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**NEXT  
MEETING**

**NO  
Meeting in  
February**

**Valentine's Day**  
Take your Sweet Heart  
Somewhere Special.  
Over the Rainbow maybe?

**Look Ahead to  
MARCH 13  
At OSF**



You tube Update  
By Larry Schubert

I've been watching You tube recently and thought I might send along some of the interesting things that I've found. There is a wealth of information out there on almost any topic that you can think of. Really? You bet. As an example, if you are interested in getting a Ham license you can find a couple of places where Hams have made videos that will teach you how. A lot of the pod casters that I follow are in one video as they talk about what they do at Quartz fest, a spot in the desert in Arizona. The podcast was moderated by Kevin KB9RLW, and features a half dozen other pod casters. I watched about half of it and will try to catch the rest later. One of the group David Casler KE9OG has been at this for a long time. He has videos out there for each of the licenses Technician, General, and Extra Class.

Callum McCormick of the DX Commander antenna company in England is an interesting guy, and very knowledgeable about antennas. He has designed a multiple band vertical, in fact a couple of them that sport a very low angle of radiation. He is a funny guy, and, has backed up his talk about the antenna with an antenna program you can download for free for the basic version. The program allows you to design an antenna on a graph on screen, and, look at it Horizontally and Vertically as to where the RF is going and what kind of gain you would expect to have at different heights above ground. The program is MMANA, it is easy to find the program on the web, but you have to hunt a little to find the basic download. In the last podcast of his that I watched he introduced a program called Mobileradio I believe, but I haven't found it yet. The program shows what you could expect as a pattern from a VHF or UHF from any location. It uses Google earth maps to figure the RF maps. I may just have to go back to that podcast to get a little more information.

Well I tried to get into the Winter Field Day, but with very little luck. I have a setup that includes an FTDX1200), a Heath kit 1500w antenna tuner, and good low loss PN:25400F RG8/U type(400 UF) 50 ohm Low loss high flex II-A. Into a 1:1 balun and a commercial made 20/40 dipole up about 15-20feet. The ends go down to 8-10 feet in kind of inverted V fashion. It took me forever to make a contact, and I couldn't get the swr down where it should go. My question is why? The antenna seems to be cut for a higher band, but that doesn't make any sense. I'll figure it out sometime, or maybe I'll bring it out at a meeting. We've got so many smart guys in the club, someone probably knows the answer. Get on the air! Have some fun!

73  
[Larry.schubert@gmail.com](mailto:Larry.schubert@gmail.com)  
AC9GO

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

As of 01-01-2020 the Rockford testing will cease.

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.



### 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.*

*“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 -

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

James Curtis , 779-537-2233, [jimhcurtis7818@yahoo.com](mailto:jimhcurtis7818@yahoo.com)

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

Mark Broman, 815-218-5514, [markbromab@hotmail.com](mailto:markbromab@hotmail.com)

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

Webmaster - open

Repeater License Trustee - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309, [rlarson4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rlarson4@sbcglobal.net)

## Local Events and Information

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 13, 2020**— Regular RARA Business Meeting 7:00pm OSF Basement Room

**March 20, 2020** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF—Larry Will Verify

### 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,

# 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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_