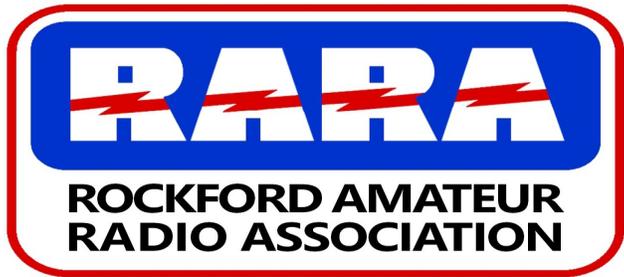


# HAMRAG

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.

**March 2020**

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## Presidents Message

Hello Fellow Hams,

Here we are at the end of February of 2020, and I can remember as a kid thinking that I would never live this long. Funny, but I really don't feel that old. I'm not into running a race either, that is unless someone really big is chasing me. Then I meet someone like David Gauger W9CJS who has been licensed since 1948, which makes my 1957 license look young, ok younger, by comparison. Not only that but the man thinks younger than I do. Before I started this job as president of RARA I had asked for ideas of what I could do to make this club better, and Dave stepped up with more things than anyone. We had talked about it at the banquet, but he followed up not only with a great letter, but suggested I might find an article of interest that he had written for QST back in 2013 called "The Un-Club". I found both his letter and the article fascinating. While his ideas of an Un-Club may not entirely work for a club like ours that is structured, if we can break down those structures somewhat, I think we can shed the BS and get down to the basics.

As an example, as we approach Field Day I plan to stand up at a meeting and ask for those things that we need for the event, and for volunteers for the different hours, and we can agree on where we want to have it, who will bring the radios, the antenna or antennas, the generators, the tent or camper and etc. Boom! the event is planned, and we know who is doing what, and I will send out reminders a few days or a week ahead of time. No chairman needed, and everybody knows what they are going to do to make the event a success. A success means that everyone had fun! If we can do our events like this I think we all will be more involved and less burdened by the process. Dave has a lot of good ideas of things we can do as a club, and some others came up with some good ideas as well. If you want to add anything, feel free. I want to hear what you want your club to be for you,

Larry Schubert  
AC9GO  
larry.schubert@gmail.com

**NEXT  
MEETING**

**MARCH 13  
At OSF**

**7:00 pm  
Lower Level  
Meeting Room**



## Rebuilding an old Ham Radio

by  
Larry Schubert

It is amazing what you can find on YouTube these days. If you have a problem around the house with an appliance or whatever you can probably find a video on YouTube that can show you how to fix it. Now, having said that, there are a lot of things left out of the video's at times and I would suggest that you might want to watch 2 or 3 videos before you tackle a job that you have never tried before. As per normal I learned this the hard way some time ago with a leaky faucet. It looked oh so simple. When I was a kid they used to have a requirement in scouts that you knew how to change a washer in a faucet. After all, how hard can it be, right? Wrong! I figured I would just pull it apart, run down to the local hardware, pick up whatever washer I needed and zip back home, put it in and WAALA. No leak, and I'm a hero with the XYL.

You guessed it, or maybe you knew, the simple faucet in the bathroom sink, is not so simple. My faucet has a cartridge. This is when I turned to YouTube. I pulled up a video of my faucet, and sat down to learn what I would need to fix this faucet. The guy on my big TV made it look oh so simple. He told me what I needed in the way of a cartridge as well as tools, and made it look so simple to pull out the old cartridge, and replace it with a new one. He even showed how to easily pull out the cartridge and turn it into the right direction if you ended up with the hot and cold water reversed. Ok just so I don't belabor the point, the local hardware didn't have the part. When I finally found it, I couldn't get the old one out, and had to return for a puller built special to pulled the old cartridge, and after I got the old one out and the new one in, with the help of a few more videos. I ended up with a leak worse then the one I started with, and ended up buying a new faucet.

Why did I tell this story. You could look at dozens of videos on rebuilding a old radio, and it might look easy, but those videos don't tell you about a lot of problems that you can run into. I have been an Electronic Technician for over 35 years, and I can tell you of several problems that you might run into working on an old unit. Mr. Carlson of the YouTube series "Mr. Carlson's Lab "is probably one of the best video series to watch. He is a very competent Technician. More then that he has a small fortune invested in equipment. Things that you don't see generally are his soldering and desoldering tools, and the huge stock of parts that the man must have. Many of the caps that he replaces are not available at most electronic supply houses not to mention the tubes in those old radios. I'm not even sure some of the resistors he uses would be that easy to find, and I haven't even touched on some of the special parts in those old boat anchors. If you want to try it I wish you luck, but I have little use for a radio 70 years old. Most can't even do a good job of picking up SSB. Basically, the point I'm making is be sure that you know what you are getting into before you try a project of this size. It can easily turn out to be one of those projects that sits on the end of your bench for months while you try to find a part or parts

- 73 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.*

***"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 - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, [kc9nex@gmail.com](mailto:kc9nex@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 - 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,

## A Simple, Concise, eyes on Dog & Pony Show. How A 3D Printer Works.

During our March 13 Meeting we will be entertained and possibly hypnotized by the workings of a table top 3D printer.

—Printing things ....

As Jeffrey Metters attempts to explain the mysteries of this sought after process.

Join the RARA group and bring your intrigue and skepticism. Come and be-dazzled by the technology your grandkids already understand and use.

Learn from a presenter with nothing to loose.

- But his reputation.

So, Make plans to attend our next RARA Meeting at the OSF Hospital in the Lower Level meeting Room.

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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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_