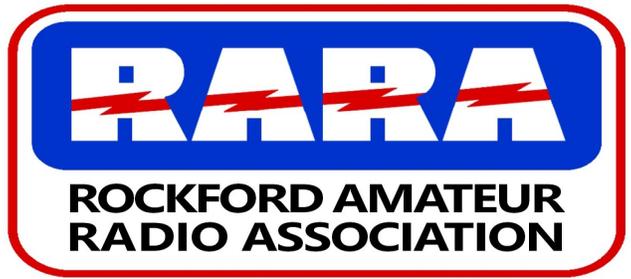


HAMRAG

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.

November 2020

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Presidents Message

RARA letter for November

Wow, here we are in November already. I had a birthday on November 2, and as a present my doctor said that the treatments had been a success and that my PSA level was down to zero which apparently means that the cancer is gone. I couldn't have received a better birthday present. I'm not even sure that he knew it was my birthday, but I accept it as a present anyway. Thank you!

Another thing that happened was that my wife and I are both retired as of this month. I am still doing a little consulting over the phone with some of my previous customers, but it doesn't amount to much. Most of the systems that I worked with have been exchanged for newer systems, and it is getting harder and harder to get parts for a unit that was designed and built in the 80's. That is something to think about if you want to work on older radios.

This month I touched on QRP, and my thoughts about following what the QRP guys do when planning your setup. I heard from a couple of guys that said I was right on about what the QRP gang does to make contacts. The more I researched QRP, the more I came to respect it, and what we can learn from those that have taken up that part of our hobby. In a way you might say that they have honed their skills to the point that they make some of us, myself included, really look like amateurs. My plan is to write more about this elsewhere here in the RAG.

This month is nomination month. I will be talking about it Friday night at our regular meeting on the air starting at 7pm. I will start the meeting on the 146.610 repeater, and if I have any problems shift it to the 147.195. We need to get at least a full list of officers and board members, and it would be nice to have extras to run for the various positions to give members a choice. Considering the fact that I have only had one in person meeting all year, I'm sure there are members that would like someone else to take my office, and this is your chance to nominate someone else. We also have a couple of people that have said they would like to step aside to give others a chance to get on the board or into an office. Think about it, and bring your ideas to the meeting on the air at 7pm Friday evening. Also, this is the time to consider the RARA Ham of the Year. Think of the guys that worked on things for the club and community. Does anyone stand out?

73
Larry AC9GO
RARA president

NEXT MEETING

Friday
November 13
7:00 PM

Live

On AIR

146.610
Repeater
Or
147.195



ARRL Urges Members to Join in Strongly Opposing FCC’s Application Fees Proposal

Under the proposal, amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio application for new licenses, license renewals, upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. The FCC also has proposed a \$50 fee to obtain a printed copy of a license. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees. Amateur Service licensees have been exempt from application fees for several years.

ARRL is encouraging members to file comments that stress amateur radio’s contributions to the country and communities. ARRL’s [***Guide to Filing Comments***](#) includes “talking points” that may be helpful in preparing comments. These stress amateur radio’s role in volunteering communication support during disasters and emergencies, and inspiring students to pursue education and careers in engineering, radio technology, and communications.

“[**FCC Proposes to Reinstate Amateur Radio Service Fees**](#),” reported by ARRL in August,

Hams in action

November 11, 2020

The Hurricane Watch Net is at Level 3 status, which means a tropical cyclone could become a hurricane and threaten the HWN’s region of interest within the next 48 hours.

The Hillsborough County ARES/RACES group in the ARRL West Central Florida Section ([**WCF**](#)) has been requested to staff five shelters, Section Manager Darrell Davis, KT4WX, told ARRL. “Other counties here in the ARRL West Central Florida Section are on standby as well. A regional SKYWARN net has been activated on the NI4CE repeater system.—ARRL newsletter Nov 2020

HAMS in Space

In other amateur satellite news, Jérôme LeCuyer, F4DXV, set yet another record, this time via EO-88, on October 28, working Vladimir Vassiljev, R9LR, at a distance of 4,560 kilometers (2,827 miles). F4DXV is now a distance-record contact partner on 10 LEO satellites, while R9LR is a contact partner for records set on four LEO satellites. AMSAT tracks claimed [**distance records**](#). — Thanks to *AMSAT News Service*

Why QRP?
By
Larry Schubert AC9GO

Recently I've been thinking about QRP and why it was so good to follow the QRP gang around to find out what they were doing to make contacts. For those of you who are new to our hobby QRP means low power which could be 5 watts or lower, sometimes less than a watt for CW or some of the digital modes. For ssb they might go as high as 10 watts. I talked to a couple of QRP guys and then I started to research what the QRP gang was doing and why. Honestly, I sometimes think I'm really dense, as I discovered in my research, a lot of the group that go into QRP, do so because they have reached their peak in Ham radio. These are the guys that have worked all states, all continents, all countries, and often they are the same guys that have won a number of contests and any other honor that an operator could achieve. I talked to David Gauger, W9CJS, and bluntly asked him, "Why would a guy use QRP during the low sun spot cycle?" His answer was a surprise, but it instantly hit me. He pointed out that a lot of Hams felt the same way, "but interestingly a sizable group of hams is a little tired of firing up their 1500 watt linear and having a response to their CQ each time." he went on to point out, "They are looking for a new challenge, and QRP these days is certainly a challenge." WAM! It hit me! OK, sometimes it takes a jolt, but my eyes were opened.

Here was part of the hobby that I had missed. No, I'm not ready to give up my linear yet, but apart of QRP includes building transmitters, receivers, antennas, or any number of other things for the your setup. I've put together a number of things over the years, probably more antennas than anything, but I am going to renew my love of building things to see what I can come up with which will include maybe a little QRP. What have I found out about the QRP guys and what they do? Many will go out to locations where they can make contacts with low power. SOTA, Summits on the air, POTA Parks on the Air, and some can be found on YouTube showing their skills. They are prone to build antennas that they can easily put in a backpack along with a small transceiver, and battery pack that will last as long as needed or longer. They have been known to talk between continents on less than a watt, and seem to constantly be shooting for more miles per watt. These are the guys that have taken our hobby to it's peak and beyond, and even if you aren't ready to take that step I suggest that you follow them and study them because they do know what they are doing. As a hint, take a look at the half wave end fed or the vertical antennas depending on what you want to do. Look around for a small kit, so you can experience making contacts on something you put together. Oh yeh! Now you're talking.

73
Larry Schubert AC9GO
larry.schubert@gmail.com

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

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

Brandon J McGrew bmacmagoo@hotmail.com There is also testing available in Janesville.

Contact wi9fry@gmail.com For mote info.

2020 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Larry Schubert, AC9GO, 815-624-7772, larry.schubert@gmail.com
Vice President - Dan Hallstrom, KB9LOJ, 815-229-7526, hallstrom@gmx.com
Secretary - Jennifer Van Zieleghe, KD9FMJ, 815-222-4221, jenvan1964@gmail.com
Treasurer - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, kc9nex@gmail.com
Repeater Chairman - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784, kurt.eversole@gmail.com

Directors: Bill Callow, 815-298-1923, KC9OJP, bill5002@comcast.net

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

Local Events and Information

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 13, 2020 - On Live Radio 7pm - 146.610

Weekly Monday Night Net 7 pm

Weekly—Tuesday Night Net - Thursday Night Net (see info below)

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 Bill KC9OJP, 7 pm

Thursday Night Health Net— **147.195** hosted by Larry AC9GO, 7 pm

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 ____/____/____