

# 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.

## Presidents Message

Hello RARA,

It has been a while. As you may have noticed, this issue of the Ham Rag is covering two months. Jeff KD9MEC has been fighting with computers, and as I understand it also involved a server which refused to work and had to be replaced. At any rate the world is back off of tilt and computer goblins have now been captured so all is well. Thank you Jeff!

Good news! The governor has lifted most restrictions on gatherings as I understand it, as of June 11th. That means that we can safely have field day if you have been vaccinated I assume. I haven't read the information on what restrictions will still be on gatherings, but that is what I heard. As I write this, we as a club have not yet set any rules yet either and we will want to keep all safe. We will let you know. Breaking News Bill KC9OBJ, has found a location for RARA to set up for Field Day which by the way is June 26 and 27. We will be located at the Genoa VFW. The VFW is only 30 minutes from Rockford. Bill has posted more details on our Facebook site, and they can also be found here in the Rag. Bill will also be posting on Facebook a call for volunteers to work the event so if you want to have a turn at the microphone be sure to let him know. By the way, for some of you newer guys and gals this is a chance for you to find out what it means to work the HF bands in the General and Extra portions of the bands. As long as there is a licensee of that class available, anyone can work those portions of the bands. We'll show you how to do it. Thank you Bill!

More great news! Have you checked out the W9AXD.ORG website? Kerry KD9MAP has transformed our website. All the missing Ham Rags have been posted. New things have been added to the Home page, and the website looks great. Hats off to Kerry and a big thank you for all that you have done for the club. Kerry also has a CW net Wednesdays on 28.150 mhz at 8pm.

While we are on the cw topic, Larry K9KZT has been giving practice sessions after the RARA info net (7 pm Mondays) and health and wellness nets on Tuesday and Thursdays (7pm) , and while Jimmy KC9GCR has been off with Covid , Larry has been taking over the Friday night fun net with Rick KD9QDP, as well as the Monday night net. Rick is also doing a 10 m net Tuesdays at 8pm.

Just in! Jimmy KC9GCR expects to be released Friday May 14. He will be in quarantine for 10 days after that.

April/May 2021

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NEXT  
MEETING  
**May 14**  
**7:00 PM**

Live

On AIR

**146.610**  
Repeater  
Or  
**147.195**

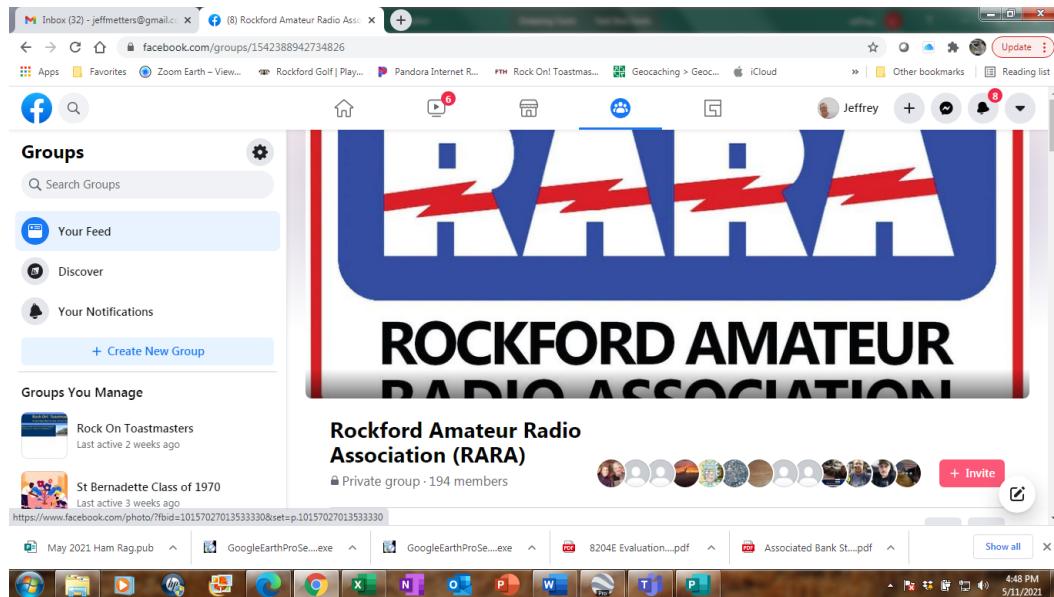


Did you know....  
... RARA has a facebook group?

Yes sir, we are right up there with the rest of the crazy world.  
If your on the internet and would like to join our group on Facebook  
Just search for the Rockford Amateur Radio Association (RARA)  
And click Join.

We have a few moderators that will let you in.

This is the place for up to the minute news and events.



The Monthly HamRag is mainly used to express Ham projects and long term goals.

We are always looking for articles, projects and Stories to share with our Local Ham Community in this monthly emailed publication.

We do have a library of older issues on our Web Site  
<http://w9axd.org>, which has just been updated.

These Communication channels are available to all of us.  
And we will keep them up and running as long as you Hams keep using them.

We have plenty of ways to communicate .... Talk to you la8er

This weekend I decided to build a Yagi antenna using material within ten feet of where I was standing in my kitchen when the idea struck me. A closet produced an old wooden yard stick and a handful of flimsy metal shirt hangers. The junk drawer offered rubber bands, side cutting pliers, poorly sized crimp ring connectors and a calculator. I cheated with the split post BNC adapter, aka cobra head, since that was down the hall and more than ten feet away.

Half an hour later I was up and running. As you can see in the photo Yagi math allowed me a six element unit using what I had. I built it for 460 and 462 gave me an SWR of 1.08. Dropping to 442 moved the SWR to 1.27.

Dimensions for those who care are 12 inches for the driven element, cut evenly in half with rings crimped on the end. I filed off some hanger enamel before crimping for a better connection. I also cut down and reshaped the ring connectors as they were too large for the posts. 12.75 inches for the reflector and 11.5 inches for each director element. Rubber bands hold each element in place. I read somewhere that antennas with 4 or more elements do better with .25 wavelength spacing instead of the usual .15. .15 gives a 10Db gain and .25 amps it to 27Db, but can't prove that.

Daniel Nelson KD9KNG



## 2021 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, KB9LOJ, 815-229-7526, [hallstrom@gmx.com](mailto:hallstrom@gmx.com)  
Secretary - Jeffrey Metters, KD9MEC, 815-670-5506, [jeffmetters@gmail.com](mailto:jeffmetters@gmail.com)  
Treasurer - James Curtis , 779-537-2233, KC9GOL, [jimhcurtis7818@yahoo.com](mailto:jimhcurtis7818@yahoo.com)  
Repeater Chairman - Kurt Eversole. KE9N, 815-389-2784, [kurt.eversole@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.eversole@gmail.com)

**Directors:** Bill Callow, 815-298-1923, KC9OJP, [bill5002@comcast.net](mailto:bill5002@comcast.net)  
Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, [kc9nex@gmail.com](mailto:kc9nex@gmail.com)  
Mark Broman, N9CNW, 815-218-5514, [markbroman@hotmail.com](mailto:markbroman@hotmail.com)  
Lawrence Lisle, K9KZT, 815-397-9595, [l.lisle@usa.net](mailto:l.lisle@usa.net)  
Hamrag Editor - Jeffrey Metters, KD9MEC, 815-670-5506, [jeffmetters@gmail.com](mailto:jeffmetters@gmail.com)  
Webmaster - Kerry Tatlow KD9MAP, [kd9map@gmail.com](mailto:kd9map@gmail.com)  
Repeater License Trustee - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, [kc9nex@gmail.com](mailto:kc9nex@gmail.com)

## Local Events and Information

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**May 14, 2021** - On Live Radio 7pm - 146.610 or 147.195

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.

### **AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE**

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 more info.

**\$10 RARA  
for the year  
2021  
New, Old, Retired**

Name: .....Call Sign.....

Street address.....City.....State.....Zip.....

E-mail.....Best Phone.....  
Can we release E-mail and phone to members only? Yes....No....

What things do you like to do with Ham radio? .....

.....  
What do you want to do, but need more information to do it?.....

.....  
Would you be available to make a presentation on some part of our hobby and what?.....

.....  
What can we as a club do better?.....

.....  
Please fill out the and mail it along with \$10 to: Rockford Amateur Radio Association  
PO Box 8465  
Rockford, Illinois 61126