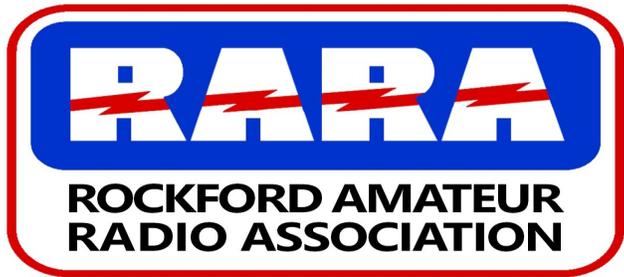


HAMRAG

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.

August 2021

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My fellow Hams,

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Wow, here it is August of 2021 all ready. I remember as a kid that I didn't think I would live this long, but here I am, and thanks to modern science there are many of us that wouldn't have made it through this past year. Kind of a sobering thought isn't it when you think of the knowledge gained over this past 100 years, or even in the lifetimes of most of us. As a child I can remember seeing horses pulling farm implements such as plows and wagons out in the fields. That was in the late 1940's, and most farmers had gone to tractors, but there were still a few that still had the team of horses to do the work. Remember across the nation at that time the atomic bomb had been developed along with the jet airplane. A number of changes were being made in radio as well.

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In the fifties, when I first entered ham radio, the transition was made from AM to SSB. At first SSB sounded more like Donald duck then anything, but gradually the radios were made better and easier to tune so that the guy on the other end sounded human, and gradually hams switched from the beautiful sounds of AM to SSB which took about half the space and was far more effective for communication. Today we are in transition again. SSB may someday soon be overtaken by digital voice and CW which has outlasted them all may be overtaken by by digital communication of some sort. It is still the easiest way to make a transceiver that will talk around the world. CW is really the earliest form of digital communication, and the least expensive way to transmit long distance.

**NEXT
MEETING**

August 13

7:00 PM

Live

On AIR

**146.610
Repeater
Or
147.195**

The point I'm making is we as ham radio operators have a front seat and a hand on the steering wheel to the future in radio communication. It will be Ham radio operators the will lead the way in communication to the future. Welcome to the drivers seat my friend. What you do in the months and years ahead will determine what the future holds. Have fun with your radio.

73

Larry AC9GO larry.schubert@gmail.com



Bleeps and Bloops by KD9MAP, Jul 29 2021

HF has not been kind to me the last couple days, so I've been scanning VHF and UHF cataloging bleeps and bloops, with the object of eventually trying to figure out what and/or where they are. I figured out one of them this afternoon, with help of sigidwiki.com, which shows the waterfall patterns of various kinds of modulated signals.

Scanning with my indoor VHF-UHF j-pole antenna, RTL-SDR receiver, and GQRX, I spotted a juicy signal at 152.840 MHz NFM. Flipping thru the pics at sigidwiki, I saw that it looks like a paging mode called POCSAG. My favorite modem software fldigi does not demodulate POCSAG, so I looked for different demod software, and found multimon-ng. After about a half hour of fiddling with levels, I decoded occasional POCSAG512 messages, among other types, in the signal:

```
5000 Function: 1 Alpha: 18.0<NUL>
5001 Function: 1 Alpha: 618.0c per kWh Av07-29-2021 14:40<NUL>
5104 Function: 1 Alpha: 18.0c perkWh Average 07-29-2021 14:40<NUL>
5004 Function: 1 Alpha: [[[[[00000100]<NUL>
5000 Function: 1 Alpha: 18.0<NUL>
5001 Function: 1 Alpha: 618.0c per kWh Av07-29-2021 14:40<NUL>
5104 Function: 1 Alpha: 18.0c perkWh Average 07-29-2021 14:40<NUL>
5004 Function: 1 Alpha: [[[[[00000100]<NUL>
5000 Function: 1 Alpha: 16.0<NUL>
5001 Function: 1 Alpha: 616.0c per kWh Av07-29-2021 14:45<NUL>
5104 Function: 1 Alpha: 16.0c perkWh Average 07-29-2021 14:45<NUL>
```

The bold-highlighted text appears to be real-time electricity price quotes, I assume from a utility company to an industrial customer nearby.

Another type of signal on this frequency is a morse code burst at 0:12 and 0:42 of the hour:



This one is from 2012UTC. Looks like "WPZ722" to me, but I can't find it in a quick online search. Maybe someday I'll hop in the car with my rcvr and fox-hunt the geographic origin of this signal.

So for all you scanner guys: some of those bleeps and bloops probably mean something, and there's free software out there to help you figure them out, if you have interest, time, and patience. Copy those weird signals while you can, because someday all this stuff will be encrypted.

73 DE KD9MAP

Here's the geomagnetic activity forecast for August 6 – 31 from F.K. Janda, OK1HH.

The geomagnetic field will be:

- quiet on August 12 – 13, 20 – 21, 23, 28
- quiet to unsettled on August 7 – 9, 14, 19, 22, 25 – 27, 31
- quiet to active on August 6, 11, 15 – 18, 29 – 30
- unsettled to active August 10, 24
- active to disturbed: Nothing predicted

Mark Your Calendars 2021 Radio Expo

Northern Illinois' Largest Hamfest

**Sunday
September 26th, 2021**

Boone County Fairgrounds
8791 IL-76, Belvidere, IL 61008

Dealers!
Radios!
Computers!
Electronics!
Raffles!

Indoor Market 8am-3pm
Flea Market 6am-3pm
Breakfast - Lunch
Bring The Family
Hourly Drawings

Talk-In Repeaters
146.760 - 107.2 CFMC

CFMC
COMMERCIAL CLUB
SINCE 1965

VBC Testing 9am-Noon
RV's or Motor Homes
Camping
Water-Electric \$35

MAKING HAM RADIO FUN

Advance Tickets - \$8.00 - At the Gate - \$10.00 - Kids under 12 Free Tickets required with Tables

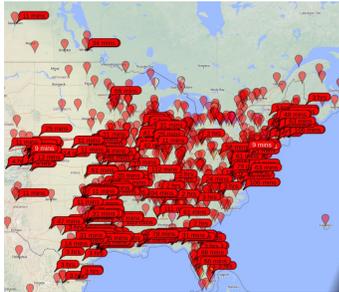
Name & Call _____ # of Tickets _____ x \$8 = _____
Address _____ All tables _____ x \$15 = _____
City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____ \$10.00 - Inside Electric _____ Outside Electric _____
For event questions: Call 773-614-4733 Make Check payable To: _____ Total _____
Email radioexpo@gmail.com Chicago RW Club 8743 Decatur apt1E
Printed on website <http://www.chicagoradioexpo.com> North Riverside, IL 60546

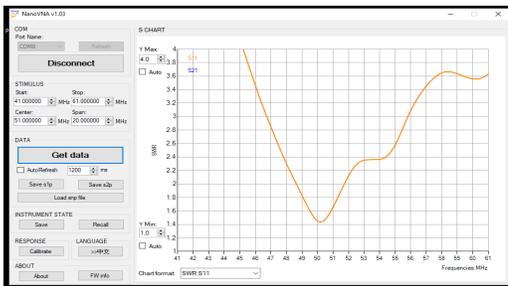
CFMC reserves the right to make any necessary changes required
Vendor setup is Saturday, September 25th from 9:00 - 4:00 PM with security crew
night.

First Day On Six Meters, by KD9MAP Sat July 24 2021

Looking at live spotter maps like PSKMap, I've noticed that 6m has become the most popular band on FT8 this summer, so I figured it was time to give 6m a try. I made a monoband inverted-V dipole using common insulated #14 stranded copper wire and a \$13 eBay Chinese 1:1 balun.

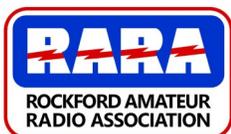


The dipole is small enough to mount indoors, so I duct-taped it to the inside of my north second-floor picture window (I'm not married, so I can get away with interior decorating like that.) Then I cut it to resonance using the handy SWR charting feature of my NanoVNA analyzer. According to the SWR meter in my rig, I get between 1:1 and 1.2:1 SWR at 40W forward power, which is all the power I dare to apply to that cheap balun.



So this afternoon on 6m, I worked 19 stations, and got spotted by 271 stations. I'm satisfied with how well the antenna works considering the tiny amount of effort I put into it. Not only do I get access to a new HF band, but I can also use it during thunderstorms when my outdoor HF antennas are disconnected.

1	2021-07-24	22:34	AAØRG	6m	50.316	FT8	DM78qx	🇺🇸
2	2021-07-24	22:27	K5TRA	6m	50.316	FT8	EM18bf	🇺🇸
3	2021-07-24	22:16	WB5AAA	6m	50.316	FT8	EM48bh	🇺🇸
4	2021-07-24	22:10	WTØDX	6m	50.316	FT8	DM79pn	🇺🇸
5	2021-07-24	21:59	KØXM	6m	50.316	FT8	EM28RU	🇺🇸
6	2021-07-24	21:39	AB8YZ	6m	50.316	FT8	EM12pt	🇺🇸
7	2021-07-24	21:35	W5JAY	6m	50.316	FT8	EM26ud	🇺🇸
8	2021-07-24	21:19	N2NL	6m	50.316	FT8	EL97ue	🇺🇸
9	2021-07-24	21:13	KF5BA	6m	50.316	FT8	EM58ki	🇺🇸
10	2021-07-24	21:00	W5TCX	6m	50.316	FT8	EL29ex	🇺🇸
11	2021-07-24	20:56	W5QJ	6m	50.316	FT8	EM38bb	🇺🇸
12	2021-07-24	19:42	W3US	6m	50.316	FT8	EM95ns	🇺🇸
13	2021-07-24	19:23	W5HI	6m	50.315	FT8	EM02af	🇺🇸
14	2021-07-24	19:19	N5NA	6m	50.315	FT8	DM92aa	🇺🇸
15	2021-07-24	19:05	N5TJ	6m	50.315	FT8	EM13qe	🇺🇸
16	2021-07-24	18:38	KØBJ	6m	50.315	FT8	DM99kj	🇺🇸
17	2021-07-24	18:11	KN4NN	12m	24.917	FT8	EM78TE	🇺🇸
18	2021-07-24	17:47	K4GAZ	20m	14.077	FT8	EL96WH	🇺🇸
19	2021-07-24	17:12	NZ5X	6m	50.316	FT8	DM96oj	🇺🇸
20	2021-07-24	16:44	NM5U	6m	50.316	FT8	DM65uv	🇺🇸
21	2021-07-24	16:40	W9XB	6m	50.316	FT8	EM52	🇺🇸



Join us on FACEBOOK for the latest info
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1542388942734826>

2021 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Larry Schubert, AC9GO, 815-624-7772, larry.schubert@gmail.com
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Repeater License Trustee - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, kc9nex@gmail.com

Local Events and Information

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 9 2021 - On Live Radio 7pm - 146.610 or 147.195

Weekly Monday Night Net 7 pm —Tuesday Night Net - Thursday Night Net

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 There is also testing available in Janesville.

Contact wi9fry@gmail.com For mote 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