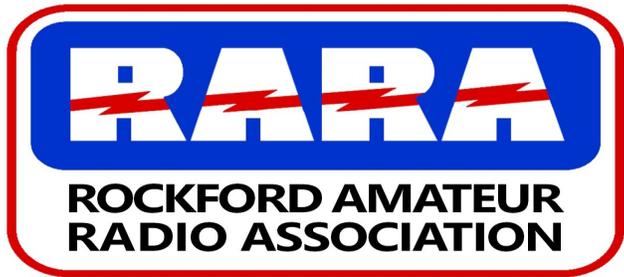


# HAMRAG

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 2021

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## Presidents Message

Welcome to February,

Wow, here we are in February 2021! I don't know about you, but for me, I'm glad to see 2020 in the rearview mirror. It will be good to see the covid 19 virus behind us as well, but at this point it still looks like the end of summer before we can safely get everyone together. I'm hoping that it is closer to the front of summer, and that we can get field day included. There are other things that I would like to do this summer. I would like to bring back the summer picnic and get as many of the area "Hams" together as possible. I would also like to have a fox hunt if possible. The thing is these are things that I want, but I would like to know what you would like. Remember, my job is to do whatever the club wants, and that might not include any of these things, but maybe something else like kit building or antenna building or radio courses for the tech, or general, or extra tests.

Speaking of things to do. It is becoming more and more difficult to come up with programs that we can do on the air. Got any ideas? Let me know if you do.

For our February meeting I plan to come up with ideas of things to do while on lock down. What have you been doing? Have you found any good kits? Have you learned how to do another mode on your transceiver? Read any good books? Learned CW? Built any good antennas? I'll open it up so we can hear what everyone has been doing this past year and see if we can get some good ideas for the next few months.

We have a new net. Kerry, KC9MAP, has started a Wednesday night CW net primarily for beginners or those that haven't been on the air with CW for a while. The net is for anyone that wants to check in, but Kerry says he will run it at 8 words per minute so that anyone can check into the net. As a reminder, if you have just learned Morse code you should be able to copy at about 5 wpm, and though 8 wpm will push you a bit, it shouldn't take long to be able to copy at that speed, and frankly if you miss a few letters it isn't a big deal. Kerry's CW net starts at 8 pm on Wednesday night on the air on 10 meters at 28.150Mhz. Also, connected to this, but separate, Larry K9KZT, has started a code class that is currently running three days a week on Monday following the RARA net on the 146.610 repeater and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings following the RA-RA health and welfare nets on the 147.195. All three nets start at 7pm.

73 and be careful out there,  
Larry AC9GO

### NEXT MEETING

Friday  
February 12  
7:00 PM

Live

On AIR

146.610  
Repeater  
Or  
147.195



## The K7RA Solar Update

02/05/2021

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: We just witnessed 5 days in a row with zero sunspots, but on February 2 a small sunspot group (2801) appeared on our sun's northwest limb. It soon rotated off the sun's visible area, and on February 4, the sunspot number was back to zero.

We will probably see a few more days with no sunspots, but a return after February 11 is possible, when increased solar flux is forecast.

Solar flux over the next 30 days is predicted at 74 on February 5 – 11; 76 on February 12 – 16; 78 on February 17 – 22; 76 on February 23 – 25; 74 on February 26; 73 on February 27 – March 1, and 72 on March 2 – 7.

Here's the geomagnetic activity forecast for February 5 – March 2 from F.K. Janda, OK1HH.

The geomagnetic field will be:

quiet on February 18 – 19, 26 – 27

quiet to unsettled on February 5 – 6, 9 – 13, 17, 24 – 25

quiet to active on February 7 – 8, 14 – 16, 20, 23, 28

unsettled to active February 21 – 22, March 1 – 2

active to disturbed nothing predicted

solar wind will intensify on February (8 – 10, 15 – 17, 20 – 22,) 23 – 24, (25 – 28)

Notes: Parentheses mean lower probability of activity enhancement.

- from AARL.org February 2021

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## Plans to Retrieve Titanic Wireless Equipment Put on Indefinite Hold

02/02/2021

RMS Titanic, Inc., (RMST) the company that owns salvage rights to the *Titanic* shipwreck, has indefinitely put off its plans to retrieve the vessel's radio equipment for exhibit. The company cited the coronavirus pandemic for the delay, according to a court filing the company made on January 29. The Atlanta-based company said its plans have faced "increasing difficulty associated with international travel and logistics, and the associated health risks to the expedition team." RMST's primary source of revenue comes from its exhibits of its vast collection of *Titanic* relics, which have been closed or seen only limited attendance due to virus-related restrictions

- February AARL.org.

## ARISS is Seeking Hosts for Ham Radio Contacts with the Space Station

02/03/2021

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARISS**) is seeking formal and informal educational institutions and organizations, individually or working together, to host amateur radio contacts with an International Space Station (ISS) crew member. Contacts would likely be scheduled between January 1 and June 30, 2022. These voice radio contacts are approximately 10 minutes long and in a question-and-answer format. ARISS contacts afford participants the opportunity to learn firsthand what it's like to live and work in space, and about space research conducted on the ISS. Students will also have an opportunity to learn about satellite communication, wireless technology, and radio science.

Crew scheduling and ISS orbits will determine the exact dates. ARISS is looking for organizations that can draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan. Organizations must demonstrate flexibility to accommodate changes in dates and times of the radio contact. The deadline for proposals is March 31, 2021.

Visit the **ARISS website** for more details and a proposal form. ARISS has operated amateur radio from the ISS for 20 years, and scheduled ham radio contacts between ISS crew members and schools and student groups around the world are a hallmark of the ARISS program. The ham radio stations onboard also are available for crew members to use and serve as back-up communications capability. In the US, ARISS is sponsored by NASA, the ISS National Laboratory, ARRL, and AMSAT.

An ARISS introductory webinar will be held on February 25, 2021 at 8 PM EST (0100 UTC on February 26). Participants must **register**.—Go to [AARL.org](http://AARL.org) for more info. - [AARL.org](http://AARL.org)

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## Friday night RARA MEETING ON THE AIR.

For this meeting I want to find out what you have been doing this past year with the COVID 19 VIRUS keeping us at home. What kind of Ham radio projects have you enjoyed. Have you put up an antenna, put together a kit, rebuilt an oldie but goodie, learned CW, or relearned it, entered contests, or what have you been up to. Did anyone Elmer someone new to Ham radio. I would like to hear about it, and if possible meet a new ham on the air. Meeting starts at 7pm Friday night. Generally we knock off close to 8pm when the Friday Night Fun Net starts with Jimmy KC9GCR. Tell us what you have done. See you Friday night at 7pm. Larry AC9GO. February 12, 2021 February meeting

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Rockford has a new Silent Key. Dennis Eksten, W9SS, passed away February 3rd. At one time Dennis and Gene Duncan, W9GD (SK) were the biggest DXers in the area. Both reached Honor Roll status. Dennis was also instrumental in starting the VE sessions in Rockford.

- Shari Harlan - From our Facebook Page (RARA)

## 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)

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Repeater License Trustee - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, [kc9nex@gmail.com](mailto:kc9nex@gmail.com)

## **Local Events and Information**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**February 12, 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 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