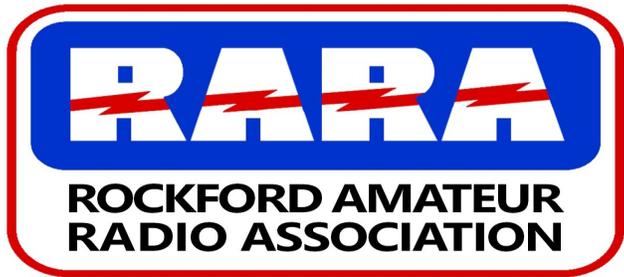


# HAMRAG

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.

**January 2021**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Message - page 1
- PSK reporter - page 2 &3
- License Exam Info. — page 4
- Upcoming Events page 4
- Area NETS page 4
- RARA Members Form -page5

## Presidents Message

My Fellow Hams,

Finally, HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2021 could not get here fast enough! At last we have hope that we will once again be able to get together as friends, as family, and as hams, and I'm sure you could add to that list. It is not going to happen this month, but the light is at the end of the tunnel. It may be three months or it may be six months down the road, but it will happen. The year 2020 was the year that wasn't. The year 2021 is set to be the year that is.

We recognize that we as a club did not do much of anything this past year.

Could we have done more?

Yes, I'm sure we could have, but I am still wondering what it is. All year long we looked at each other and kept asking What can we do? No matter what we thought of, we couldn't overcome the road blocks. Looking back, I felt that I failed as a leader, and though I can point out that I was fighting cancer most of the year, but that is just an excuse. I know I could have done better, and I apologize for what I didn't do. We the board members of RARA feel as a group you should have received more, so we are going to do something about it. FOR THE YEAR 2021 YOUR DUES WILL ONLY BE \$10. THAT'S RIGHT ONLY TEN DOLLARS FOR THE YEAR. NEW MEMBERS, OLD MEMBERS, HIGH SCHOOL MEMBERS, RETIRED MEMBERS, MEMBERS IN FLORIDA, TEXAS, CALIFORNIA OR TIM BUCK TWO (where-ever that is) ONLY TEN DOLLARS FOR THE YEAR FOR EVERYONE.

Other plans for the year. Winter Field Day will be held on January 30 and 31 1900 UTC Saturday to 1900 UTC Sunday. Again, we will have to do it on an individual basis. It doesn't look like the state is going to allow group activities. There are some other events that you may want to participate with such as Straight Key Night, which is held on New Years Eve. The Bands are waking up. Have fun.

Hopefully, by June we'll be able to get together for Field Day, and if possible I would like to get all Hams in the area together for an old fashioned picnic. I want to have some antenna building days, some fox hunts, and other things. What we are able to do will depend on what you as a group want. Also we will have more programs on the air as long as our meetings are being held on the air.

Stay Safe My Friend! Have fun with your radio.

'73

Larry AC9GO [Larry.schubert@gmail.com](mailto:Larry.schubert@gmail.com)

[RARA president](#)

**NEXT MEETING**

**Friday  
January 8  
7:00 PM**

**Live**

**On AIR**

**146.610  
Repeater  
Or  
147.195**



There's a great website that shows digital amateur radio traffic around the globe in real time. It's very useful for seeing where your signal is being heard, and seeing where other stations are being heard.

pskreporter.info/pskmap.html is the website. It gathers up live spotter reports contributed by many of the operators using digital modes, and puts them in a live database. You make a map from the reports in the database. You can choose to filter the stations shown by band, by mode, by grid square, by age, etc, etc.

Here's a quick example. I operated FT8 for 3 hours on 15 meters on Dec 20, working 19 unique stations. At the end of the day, I asked PSKReporter to show me a map of all the stations that spotted my signal during the prior 12 hours, a summary of my day's propagation:



we see my 50W signal was heard today, at times. from Alaska to Antarctica, from New Zealand to South Africa. I was probably heard by many more stations, but these are the ones that reported their spots.

Green is 30 meters, and blue is 40 meters. If I hover my mouse cursor over a flag, it shows me all the details for that spot report, including the call of the transmitting station. So this map shows me, even if I am working phone or CW, not digital, that under current conditions maybe I, here in Illinois, have best chances for Alaska on 30 and 40; probably 40 is better east of the Mississippi. If you leave the map page idling up on your browser screen, it will update itself every few minutes to show the changing conditions and operating patterns.



## 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 - Skyler Whitenack, KD9PJC, [skynojoke@gmail.com](mailto:skynojoke@gmail.com)

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

## **Local Events and Information**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**January 8, 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