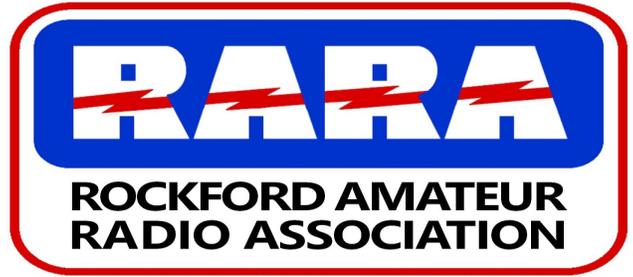


HAMRAG

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.

March 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Presidents Message

Hello RARA members,

First of all, congratulations you have made it through 2020 and now the winter of 2020 – 2021, and with all that we have had to put up with in the last year that is saying something. Time to think of better days ahead and things like Parks On The Air (POTA) and that is what our topic will be for Friday nights RARA on the air meeting. KC9OJP, Bill will be our on air expert. Bill has done some POTA activation, and he also handles the Skywarn activation, and I'm looking forward to having him answer your questions. Bill has been a very active member of our club and hobby this year. Besides POTA and Skywarn he is a director for the club, and among other things was instrumental in starting the two "Health and Welfare" nets on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Speaking of nets, if you have been thinking about CW, we have code practice three nights a week with another board member, Larry K9KZT. Larry is currently holding code practice after the Monday, Tuesday and Thursday night nets. The speed is about 8 words per minute, so if you find you can keep up, you will also find some stations on the air that you can copy. There is also a local 10 meter CW net on Wednesday at 8pm put on by Kerry KD9MAP, who has also been a very active ham. He has written articles for the Ham Rag, and you may remember him from his presentation at one of our on the air meetings on Software Defined Radio (SDR).

Speaking of SDR radios, I just installed the latest version on my IC-7300. I believe that the IC-705 also has a new version. I'm not sure if that came out before sales opened up here in the US or not, but I just heard of it on YouTube, so it hasn't been out long.

At our last board meeting we talked about some of our plans for the year. We want to put together a field day event in June, and we are also talking about a possible breakfast or lunch in the park, and invite all of the Hams in the area. Still not sure how we can pull that off, but we are thinking late summer for that. Other ideas are welcome. I just got my second shot of Moderna, and I feel like a weight has been lifted off. If we get enough of the guys vaccinated we should be able to start having regular meetings soon.

Hey, have fun with your radio, and be careful out there,

73

Larry AC9GO

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NEXT MEETING

**Friday
March 12
7:00 PM**

Live

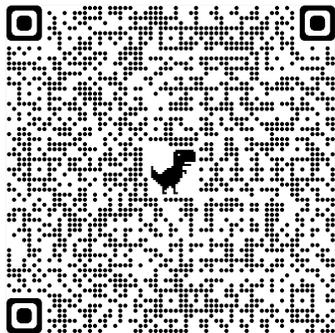
On AIR

**146.610
Repeater
Or
147.195**



Want to try something different?

Use your QR Code reader on your phone (if you have one) or copy and paste the link code into your browser,



<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXJuZXZdzbGluZS5vcmcvP2Zvcm1hdD1yc3M/episode/NThiMDg5ODViZTY1OTQ3YmYxNzF1MDVlOjU4YjA4YVWVjOWMwM2UwMGMxNzBiM-zE3NT02MDQxNDk1NWQ2NjdkNzAzZTQxYTFINjQ?hl=en&ved=2ahUKEwi2qoWZwqPvAhWQW80KHW0EAflQieUEegQIEhAF&ep=6>

This is an On Line weekly podcast about amateur radio topics.

Here is another Pod cast that may be of interest.

https://www.blubrry.com/arrl_the_doctor_is_in/

Scroll down for the episode you want and click the PLAY arrow to listen!



[AMSAT-DL Operators Track Mars Probes](#)

03/03/2021

Members of Germany's AMSAT organization, AMSAT-DL, in cooperation with the Sternwarte Bochum Institute in Bochum, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, have been using the institute's 20-meter (65.6-foot) diameter dish antenna to listen directly to signals from probes in Mars orbit.

Signals have been copied from the Chinese Tianwen-1 and the Hope Emirates Mars Mission (EMM) spacecraft now orbiting Mars and transmitting in the 8.4 GHz band.

Recordings of the signals can be heard on YouTube with regular updates by following [@amsatdl](#) on Twitter. In 2003, radio amateurs added phase-locked receivers in the 2.3, 5.8, and 10.4 GHz amateur bands, as well as an 8.4 GHz receiver. There is also an S-band 2.4 GHz amateur transmitter running 250 W PEP (peak envelope power). In 2006, the dish was used to copy signals from Voyager 1 at a distance of nearly 15 billion kilometers (9.3 billion miles). — *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*



Spacewalk Could Return ARISS Ham Station in ISS Columbus Module to the Air

03/09/2021

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARISS**) reports that efforts to determine what's keeping the ham station in the ISS Columbus module off the air have been unsuccessful thus far. The radio equipment works, but no signal appears to be reaching the external ARISS antenna. The station, typically operated as NA1SS, has not been usable since new RF cables were installed during a January 27 spacewalk extravehicular activity (EVA) to support the commissioning of the **Bartolomeo** payload hosting platform installed last spring. During the January EVA, the coax feed line installed 11 years ago was replaced with another built by the European Space Agency (ESA) and Airbus.

ARISS has scheduled a March 10 news conference to discuss efforts to restore operational capability to the Columbus module ham station. The news conference will provide insights into some of the cable troubleshooting already conducted, ARISS said. During a March 13 spacewalk (EVA), astronauts Mike Hopkins, KF5LJG, and Victor Glover, KI5BKC, plan to return the ARISS antenna feed line cabling to its configuration prior to the January 27 spacewalk.

ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said the ARISS team has been working closely with NASA and the ESA to identify what may have caused the "radio anomaly" keeping the ISS Columbus module ham station off the air.

This past week, astronauts on the ISS performed troubleshooting tests on all four new feed lines installed on the Columbus module. One cable was earmarked for the ARISS station, while the other three are for Bartolomeo. ARISS reported over the weekend, however, that it was unable to establish communication using any of the feed line cables connected to the ARISS radio system, which was tested in Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) mode.

The plan to return the ARISS cabling to its original configuration was a "contingency task" for a March 5 spacewalk, but the astronauts ran out of time. On March 5, astronauts Kate Rubins, KG5FYJ, and Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP, worked on some other Bartolomeo cable/connector troubleshooting. If all goes well, the March 13 spacewalk will complete that work.

ARISS became aware of the station problem after a contact with a school in Wyoming, between ON4ISS on Earth and Hopkins at NA1SS, had to abort when no downlink signal was heard. For the time being, ARISS school and group contacts with crew members have been conducted using the ham station in the ISS Service Module. - AARL



2021 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 - Jeffrey Metters, KD9MEC, 815-670-5506, jeffmetters@gmail.com
Treasurer - James Curtis , 779-537-2233, KC9GOL, jimhcurtis7818@yahoo.com
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Directors: Bill Callow, 815-298-1923, KC9OJP, bill5002@comcast.net

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Hamrag Editor - Jeffrey Metters, KD9MEC, 815-670-5506, jeffmetters@gmail.com

Webmaster - Skyler Whitenack, KD9PJC, skynojoke@gmail.com

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

Local Events and Information

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 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 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