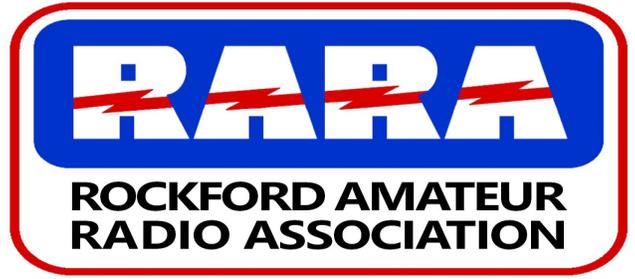


HAMRAG

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 Everyone,

Our December meeting is an in-person meeting at Gerry's Pizza. This is on December 9th, at 5:00pm. Come see everyone and enjoy the holiday season! Share the stories and events of this past year, along with the things you want to do this next year. Everyone is invited, both members and non members.

Also, if you want to join RARA, or renew your membership and pay your dues for 2023, this would be a good time to do so. Money collected for RARA goes to maintaining the repeaters, financing our events throughout the year, club insurance, and other yearly expenses. Without your support, we would not be able to provide these things.

Congratulations to the people who have been elected to be on our Board for 2023. Everyone is needed to fulfill the objectives that we have, and their input and work all make this possible. Thank you to all this year's (2022) Board members who have supplied their ideas and insight to make our club a success. See inside the Hamrag for the new Board members.

I hope to see everyone Friday night,
Kurt Eversole—KE9N



December 2022

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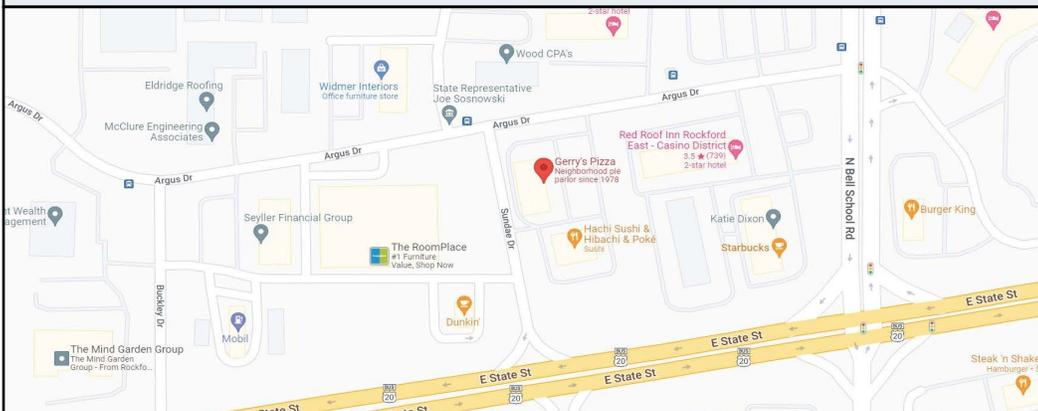
NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
December 9, 2022
5:00 pm

In Person Meeting
at Gerry's Pizza

Location:

Gerry's Pizza
7403 Argus Drive
Rockford, IL 61108



'Twas the Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their HT's to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
And the DX Packet Cluster,
While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,
And a little old driver
Who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be [Wayne Green](#).

But no, it was Santa,
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas,
To clean up the bands.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before-
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV.
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box.
A new rig? I thought!

A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!
(If he thought I'd been bad

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

It might be QRP!
Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
That I worked Public Service?
He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.
I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent.
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month's rent!
He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."
Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good-bye.
I ran back to the station,
And the pile-up was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.
Oh, too late, for his final
Came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.
The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please call me, or email me at kurt.eversole@gmail.com

Cut-off for the January 2023 issue will be Sunday, January 1, 2023

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

Local Events and Information

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 9, 2022– In Person Meeting at Gerry's Pizza 5:00pm

December 21, 2022 - RARA Board Meeting on Google Meet

January 13, 2023 - General RARA Meeting on Google Meet

January 25, 2023 - RARA Board Meeting

RARA Repeater Information

Both repeaters (146.610 and 147.000 (both have a pl 114.8)) will function with both digital and analog radio signals, but the repeaters require time to determine whether the signal is digital or analog. To operate the repeater properly you must first be sure the frequency is clear, then key and hold the microphone button down for **1-2 seconds**. Then begin speaking. If you fail to do this, the first part of your message will be lost.

2023 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784, kurt.eversole@gmail.com

Vice President - Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-633-0089, n9vju@comcast.net

Secretary - Larry McFall, KD9HKX, 815-900-1820, lpmcfall@charter.net

Treasurer - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, kc9nex@gmail.com

Directors:

Kevin Puckett, N9EGF, 815-218-1551, krpuckett@gmail.com

Ron Callahan, N2RON, 608-289-0198, ron.n2ron@gmail.com

Larry Lisle, K9KZT, 815-397-9595, l.lisle@usa.net

Kerry Tatlow, KD9MAP, kd9map@gmail.com

Webmaster - Kerry Tatlow, KD9MAP, kd9map@gmail.com

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

Hamrag Editor/Repeater Chairman - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784

FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 10:00 am. An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

"The Spring Garden Family Restaurant"

4820 N. 2nd Street

Loves Park, IL 61111



"You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat."

Local Net Information

Mon - 7:00pm - RARA Info. Net & CW Lesson, 146.610 (-) offset, pl 114.8
8:00pm - McHenry Cnty. RACES Net, 146.835 (-) offset, pl 91.5

Tues - 7:00pm - Health & Tech Net & CW Lesson , 146.610 (-) offset, pl 114.8
7:00pm - Rock County Public Service Net, 145.450 (-) offset, pl 123.0

Wed - 7:00pm - Stephenson Cnty. ARES Net, 147.390(+) offset, pl 114.8
7:30pm - Greater Beloit Radio Net, 147.120 (+) offset, pl 123.0

Thurs - 7:00pm - Northern Illinois Skywarn Training Net, 147.195 (+) offset, pl 114.8, with the Health & Tech Net & CW Lesson following.

Fri - 8:00pm - Friday Night Fun Net, KC9GCR, 146.610 (-) offset, pl 114.8

Sat - 8:00pm - Saturday Ragchew Net, 146.610 (-) offset, pl 114.8
9:00pm - Saturday Night Fun Net Milw., 146.910 (-) offset, pl 127.3

Mon. thru Friday - 8:00am to 9:00am - Senile Net, 14.287 (HF USB)

NO HOUR OF LIFE
IS
WASTED
WHEN I'TS SPENT
ON THE
HAM RADIO

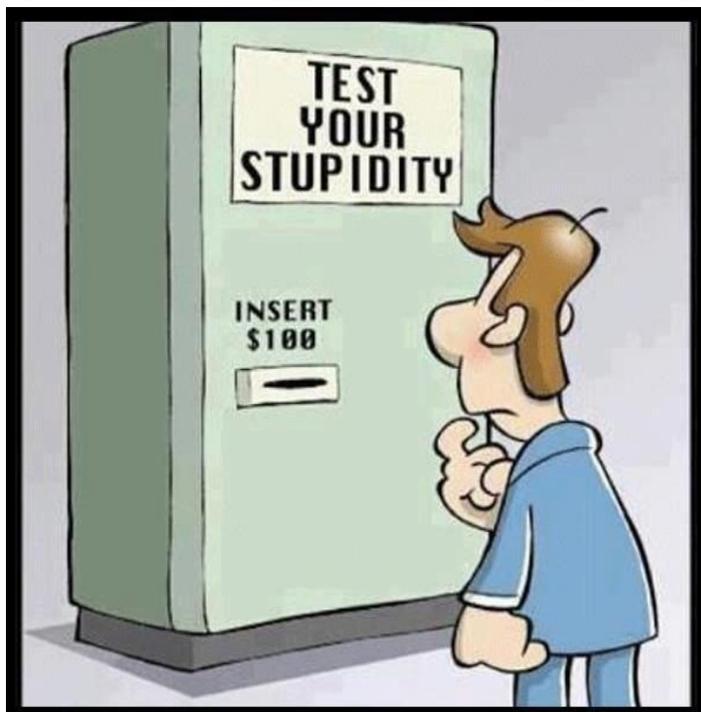
I CAN ALREADY
HEAR THE SOUND



OF ME GOING BROKE
BUYING MORE GEAR!



“All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names.”



More pics on www.LeFunny.net

On the Air Events

Youth on the Air Month-Long Event Begins December 1

On December 1, 2022, YOTA begins a month-long, special event to celebrate young amateur radio operators -- [YOTA Month 2022](#). YOTA is Youth or Youngsters on the Air. Amateur radio operators aged 25 and younger will be on all bands using all modes throughout the month to make contacts around the world. In 2021, YOTA participants worldwide made 119,516 contacts, surpassing their goal of 100,000 contacts.

In the United States, the call signs for the event will be [K8Y, K8O, K8T, and K8A](#). Argentina will be active as LR1YOTA, Canada as VC3YOTA and VB7YOTA, El Salvador as YS1YOTA, and Honduras as HQ2YOTA. Amateur radio operators are encouraged to listen for and contact these stations, as well as all call signs ending in the letters "YOTA" across the globe.

In addition to the month-long celebration, on December 30 from 1200 to 2359 UTC, round three of the [YOTA Contest](#) will be active.

Various YOTA activities and events are organized throughout the world. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Youth in Amateur Radio web page includes additional information and links at <https://www.iaru.org/on-the-air/youth-in-amateur-radio>.



December 10 Meter Contest

If you're looking for something to do in the cold winter month of December, the 10 meter contest is coming up December 9-10, 2022. Don't be fooled that there are no signals there. Every year in the contest, 10 meters is alive and well with plenty of contacts. See what you can do, and you don't need anything fancy for a radio or antenna to operate on 10 meters.

Contest Details

- 1. Object:** For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 meter band.
- 2. Date and Contest Period:** Second full weekend of December. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; ends 2359 UTC Sunday (**December 9-10, 2022**)
 - 2.1.** All stations operate no more than 36 hours out of the 48-hour period.
 - 2.2.** All off-times must be a minimum of 30 consecutive minutes.
 - 2.3.** Listening time counts as operating time.

For more information go to : <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

News From Around The Globe

The K7RA Solar Update

No new sunspots appeared over the past reporting week, November 24 to 30. But sunspots were visible every day. Then on December 1 three new sunspot groups emerged. The sunspot number rose from 12 to 49 and the total sunspot area went from 10 to 330.

Sunspot numbers and solar flux declined during this reporting week (November 24 to 30), with average daily Sunspot number dropping from 66 to 46, and average daily solar flux from 116.5 to 108.3.

Solar wind streams from coronal holes kept geomagnetic indicators active, with average daily planetary A index jumping from 5.1 to 18.6, and middle latitude A index from 3.4 to 14.

On Wednesday, November 30 the magnetometer at Fairbanks, Alaska showed the college A index at 54, the highest value over the past month. No doubt this produced aurora. The next day the disturbance continued, with collage A index at 51. These are very large numbers.

The current prediction from Thursday night has solar flux reaching a peak of 130 this weekend, rather than 135 recently predicted. This is much earlier than the prediction in yesterday's ARRL Letter. We might also see solar flux below 100 around December 24.

Look for flux values of 120 and 124 on December 2 and 3, 130 on December 4 and 5, 125 on December 6 and 7, then 120, 125, 125, 130, 115 and 110 on December 8 to 13, 105 on December 14 to 17, 100 on December 18 to 23, then 95, 105 and 110 on December 24 to 26, 115 on December 27 to 30, and 120 on December 31, then 125 on January 1 to 6, 2023.

Announced DX Operations

2022 Dec06	2022 Dec08	Gibraltar	ZB2 <small>NEW</small>	YL2GM	DXW.Net 20221203	By YL2GM as ZB2/YL2GM; 6m; FT8
2022 Dec06	2022 Dec20	Solomon Is	H44SHD	HB9SHD (B/d)	425DXN 20221111	By HB9SHD; 40-6m; SSB FT8
2022 Dec08	2022 Dec12	Ceuta & Mellila	EA9 <small>NEW</small>	YL2GM	DXW.Net 20221203	By YL2GM as EA9/YL2GM; HF
2022 Dec10	2022 Dec16	Bangladesh	S21DX	LoTW	TDDX 20220905	By S21RC S21AM S21D S21TG S2ABK fm IOTA AS-140; HF; SSB FT8 (f/h); yagi, VDA, Beverages; amplifier; QSL via EB7DX
2022 Dec13	2022 Dec18	Laos	XW4KV <small>NEW</small>	F4BKV	DXW.Net 20221203	By F4BKV; 40 20 15 10m
2022 Dec13	2022 Dec22	Maldives	8Q7CA <small>NEW</small>	LoTW	DXW.Net 20221203	By R3CA fm Nalaguraidhoo I; 80-10m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS or R6CA
2022 Dec20	2022 Dec31	Crozet	FT8/c	LoTW	TDDX 20211028	By F6CUK as TBA; 30 20 17m; QSL via Club Log OQRS or F6EXV Buro; see Web for direct options; operation to continue until Jan 26, 2023 (w/ a total of 3 weeks actual operating time within this window)
2022 Dec22	2023 Jan20	Senegal	6W <small>NEW</small>	WA3DX Direct	TDDX 20221205	By WA3DX as 6W1/WA3DX, 6W6/WA3DX, 6W9/WA3DX; mainly 20m, but also 40-10m; SSB FT8; spare time operation
2022 Dec23	2023 Jan03	Costa Rica	TI7	LoTW	TDDX 20221128	By VE3BW as TI7/VE3BW fm Las Villas del Guayabo; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via VE3BW or Club Log OQRS
2022 Dec29	2023 Jan05	Cayman Is	ZF2IT <small>NEW</small>	LoTW	DXW.Net 20221205	By VA3ITA fm Grand Cayman I; HF; 100w; vertical, dipole
2022 Dec29	2023 Jan05	Norfolk I	VK9MTO	ZL1MTO	DXW.Net 20221023	By ZL1MTO; 20 10m; SSB FT8 FT4; dipole
2022 Dec29	2023 Mar15	Gabon	TR8CR	F8EN (B/d)	TDDX 20221110	By F8EN; 30-10m; CW

Thoughts for December

Thoughts for December
By Larry Schubert, AC9GO

Wow! It's that time of the year, Christmas, New Year's Eve, and thoughts of this past year and the year ahead. I don't know why but in the past, it just seems that I've ended up doing something with the antenna about this time of the year. If you are able to catch a good day or two, you might be able to string up a wire or two that will make those cold winter days ahead a little more productive in catching that rare DX signal or just to talk with an old friend across the country. It might be a good time to mention to your partner that you sure would enjoy that Three element Beam, or End fed half wave, or new transceiver under the Christmas tree this year. Maybe a gift certificate to Ham Radio Outlet, or GiGa Parts, or DX Engineering, or whatever. You get the idea.

Now if you are putting up a long wire, remember to put some kind of strain relief on the ends to keep your wire from snapping, if you are hooking it to a tree that blows around in the wind. It is also a good idea to put lighting protection on the cable going into the shack, and also a drip loop before it enters the house, so you don't have to empty water out of your transceiver. A good coating around any of the joints of the coax of silicone or some type of water proofing is also a good idea. Any water that gets into the coax will ruin it over time, and if it is working like you want it, you don't want to have to have to redo it later.

Oh, and don't forget New Year's Eve. That's the night when many hams get out their old boat anchors and straight keys for Straight Key Night which starts at 0000 UTC and ends at 2359 UTC. All who participate are winners, and you can use straight keys or bugs. Go to arrl.org and read the rules. The idea is to enjoy conversational CW. I've never spent all night at it, but I have made a few contacts over the years. It's fun, even if you sound like you are sending with your left foot. Enjoy!

While you are making resolutions for the new year, you might like to resolve to maybe try something different, or something new in ham radio for the year ahead. Think about it. I've been thinking about two things. I have tried FT8, but didn't get it going. I'm going to give it another go, and I have never tried to send a picture, and I want to give that a try. I'll no doubt work on some other things along the way, and I hope to tell you about those things as well in future articles this next year. If you have anything that you think I should try let me know, and maybe we can try them together.

If I don't see you before the holidays, let me wish you a Very Merry Christmas and Very Happy New Year. If you can't be with your family and/or friends for the holidays, make the best of your electronics and talk to them with your smart phone or computer so you can at least see them when you talk.

73,
Larry, AC9GO
larry.schubert@gmail.com

Anyone Remember This?

Below is the first Hamrag ever published. Volume 1, Number 1, from September 1956.



HAM RAG

Vol. 1

September, 1956

Number 1

As you all probably know by now, Rockford has a fine radio club. It is called the Rockford Amateur Radio Association, "RA PA".

Dave Walker, W9NJC is President, W9SKI is V.P., W9DQV is Secretary and W9LRZ is Treasurer. The membership is 35. New members are invited to forthcoming meetings. Membership is open to all persons interested in becoming radio operators. A training period will be held this fall.

Paul Seider, W9GT, Rockford, and Jack O'Brien, W9TT, Chicago, conducted a transmitter hunt and demonstration at the last club meeting. It was a very interesting and helpful event. At this time we would like to thank them very much. Oh yes! He found the transmitter in a clump of trees off No. Main Rd. in 45 minutes !!

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Whether you realize it or not, we've got a going club on our hands. It's up to us to keep it going. Maybe you are wondering just why the thing got started. It was this way:

A bunch of the local 10 meter gang was whooping it up (as usual) and talk got around to why Rockford didn't have a rib roaring club. No one seemed to come up with a logical reason for not having one so a group got together and began to yak about what it took to have a club that would interest the average ham. Ideas began to float around, and it seemed to boil down to several basic requirements.

First, in order to keep up one's interest in attending meetings, there must be a real meaty program. Secondly, there must be activities of a type that promote club loyalty. Third, we can be a great help to those who want to get started in this stimulating hobby. We must not overlook the fact that we, as operating amateurs, can provide the community with vital communications in the event of a local or national disaster. All of these are excellent reasons for forming a club and in a nutshell, that is the brief history of the beginning of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association. Can we keep it going and growing??? -- If we can, it will be because everyone pushes; if we can't, it will be because too many of us are riding. Which will it be????

For the first time in 18 years, Chicago will be the scene of an ARRL National Convention. The 1957 Convention will be held during the Labor Day Weekend, 1957 at the Palmer House.

NSIAF drove through town the other day and worked several fellows on 6 meters. His KRL belongs to a YL Club with a membership of 200.--Come on you YLs.

The Harvard, Ill. Club has weekly xmitter hunts with a lot of interest.

HAM RAG

W9MCO, W9DQV, W9DIF, W9TRF and some others are on 6 meters. W9CHN has a new DR 35. W9GIC is getting a new S-85 rcvr. W9YHI is going mobile again. W9GRU had an operation - also a new harmonic. W9ALJ is now on 10. W9NWB won the grand prize for the club name. W9RNU won a 1000 multiplier kit at the Hamfesters' Ham Fest.

HELPING HANDS

Late report from W9BQO is that the Chirp Klik and S. letter Society is going to fix Frank Donagh, retired Postmaster of Compton, Ill. with a rcvr. ant., practice oscillator and key, ARRL Handbook and Call Book. Frank is confined to his home with arthritis and hopes to be able to get back on the air. He held the call W9ACA back in 1928. Don also said that if anyone would care to loan a rcvr. of any kind, he would see that Frank got it. Let's see what our club can come up with !!

WANTED

W9SKU is looking for a 6-foot relay rack and also table size rack. Will swap.

Our next regular club meeting will be Thursday, September 13, 7:30 at the Red Cross. George Ashton, W9PNY of Riverside, Ill. will give a demonstration on Beam Antennas - a program sure to interest all. SEE YOU THEN !!

EDITOR-----J9GHI "Smokie"



website: w9axd.org
email: w9axdrara@gmail.com

2023 RARA Membership* Form

Dues are \$25.00

(This is an editable PDF Form. Fill in the information with your keyboard, then save the PDF, and then attach it to an email to: w9axdrara@gmail.com, or give it to one of the RARA officers)

Date: _____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

Name: _____ Callsign: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone - Home: _____ Cell: _____

Can we release your e-mail and phone number to members only? Yes _____ NO _____

Are you a member of the ARRL (American Radio Relay League)? Yes _____ NO _____

What things do you like to do with ham radio?

What things do you want to do, but need more information to do so?

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

Do you have any questions that we can help you with presently? If so, explain below.

Please fill out all the information on the form and mail it with \$25.00 to the following address:

Rockford Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 8465
Rockford, IL 61126

Make your check payable to: Rockford Amateur Radio Association or use the PayPal link below to use PayPal, and email your completed form to: w9axdrara@gmail.com to complete your membership application. *When prompted by PayPal, please use "friends and family", so there are no fees incurred.*

PayPal Link:



*Membership is based on approval of the RARA Board. The membership fee will be returned if you are not approved.