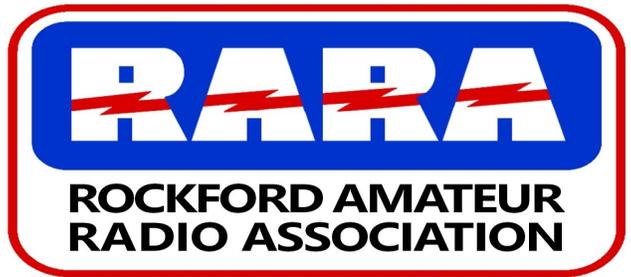


HAMRAG

Visit our website for more club and area ham information at <http://w9axd.org>, or join us on



RARA Mission Statement

A member association with common interest of public service to the community through the use of amateur radio.

April 2024

From the Board

RARA is a volunteer run organization of individuals donating their time each month to develop activities, maintain repeaters, nets, and education. There are associated expenses and when you become a club member, your dues are providing a service to your community and furthering the hobby of amateur radio.

Welcome to our newest RARA members:

Curtis Conard, studying for Technician and Bruce Magnuson, N9BWM

Thanks to returning members:

Rickie Traeger, WX9RLT and Paul Johnston, W9PJ

2023 HAM of the YEAR—Nomination forms were emailed to 2023 RARA members—please return your nomination by April 19. See email for details.

Planning is underway for events and club meeting programs. Please put the following dates on your calendars:

Swap Meet & Social at Camp Winnebago Sunday, May 19, 9am-noon

This is a bare bones event and time to bring items you may want to swap or sell and a good opportunity to just hang out with other hams.

Summer Field Day at Camp Winnebago, Sat & Sun, June 22-23

See page 4 for more information on the 2024 Field Day.

From the Greater Beloit Amateur Radio Club (GBARC)

Join us for Breakfast (Denny's South Beloit) & Foxhunt, Sat April 13.

See page 5 for more information on the Foxhunt.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Board - page 1

Next Meeting - page 1

Local Events & Info
Pages 2 - 5

Featured Article - W9CJS
Pages 6

Rookie Roundup - W3MBX
Page 7

Featured Article - K9KZT
Pages 8 - 9

Featured Articles - AC9GO
Pages 10 - 11

Resource Links
Pages 12 - 13

Upcoming Exams
Page 14

Hamfests
Pages 15 - 18

Page 19
Membership Form



NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY— April 12, 2024 - 7:00pm

OSF St Anthony Med Center—lower level (Foundation Room)
5666 East State Street, Rockford

“Experience with Keys—hands on exercise”
Presented by: Tom Shouler, N9VJU

Local Events and Information

April 12, 2024 RARA Membership Meeting 7:00pm
April 24, 2024 RARA Board Meeting 7:00pm on Google Meet

2024 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-633-0089, n9vju@comcast.net
Vice President - Larry McFall, KD9HKX, 815-900-1820, lpmcfall@charter.net
Secretary - Larry McFall, KD9HKX, 815-900-1820, lpmcfall@charter.net
Treasurer - Verna Schubert, KD9YUM, 815-505-8170, schubie2@charter.net

Directors:

Antonio Felix, KD9YUK, 815-566-5705, toniofelix@hotmail.com
Larry Lisle, K9KZT, 815-397-9595, l.lisle@usa.net
Matt Marshall, W3MBX, 815-222-5959, matthew.marshall@gmail.com
Kevin Puckett, N9EGF, 815-218-1551, krpuckett@gmail.com

Hamrag Editor - Verna Schubert, KD9YUM, 815-505-8170, schubie2@charter.net
Webmaster - Verna Schubert, KD9YUM, 815-505-8170, schubie2@charter.net
Repeater License Trustee - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, kc9nex@gmail.com
Repeater Chairman - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784, kurt.eversole@gmail.com

Local Net Information

Mon - 7:00pm - RARA Info. Net & CW Lesson, 147.195 (-) offset, pl 114.8
- 8:00pm - McHenry County RACES Net, 146.835 (-) offset, pl 91.5

Tues - 7:00pm - RARA Tech & Social Net & CW Lesson, 147.195 (-) offset, pl 114.8
- 7:00pm - Rock County Public Service Net, 145.450 (-) offset, pl 123.0

Wed - 7:00pm - RARA Chat Net, 147.195 (-) offset, pl 114.8
- 7:00pm - Stephenson Cnty. ARES Net, 147.390(+) offset, pl 114.8
- 7:30pm - Greater Beloit Radio Net, 147.120 (+) offset, pl 123.0

Thu - 7:00pm - Northern Illinois Skywarn Training Net, 147.195 (+) offset, pl 114.8

Fri - 8:00pm - Friday Night Fun Net, KC9GCR, 147.195(-) offset, pl 114.8

Sat - 8:00pm - Saturday Ragchew Net, 147.195 (-) offset, pl 114.8
- 8:00pm - Pink Hamsters YL Net, Milw., 146.910 (-) offset, pl 127.3
- 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)

Local Events and Information

Editor's Note

If you would like to have something published, please call me, or email me at schubie2@charter.net

Articles are welcome from all hams.

Share your special interest, whether building antennas, contesting, DX, Digital modes, Solar activity, etc. Currently seeking regular contributors for a "Back to Basics" column and to keep us updated on upcoming DX-peditions.

Please note the early deadline for the May Hamrag.

Cut-off for the May 2024 Hamrag will be Wednesday April 24, 2024

73, Verna—KD9YUM, Editor

For Sale by RARA

Programmed Baofeng UV-5RTP Radios (just a few left)

\$30 each—pick up at Club Meeting

Contact Larry McFall, KD9HKX

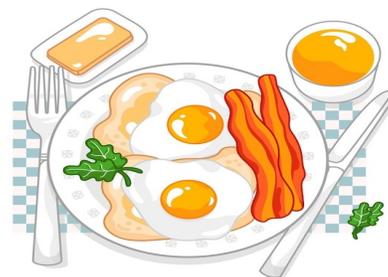
815-900-1820—lpmcfall@charter.net

FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Meets every Friday morning from 7:30 am until about 9:00 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*



Local Events and Information



It's time for Summer Field Day; let's be radioactive!

June 22 – 23, 2024

We have an awesome plan this year. We plan on running two HF rigs; SSB and Digital/CW plus a GOTA (Get On The Air) station, a satellite station plus solar powered VHF station. Last year the GOTA station was a huge hit; it gave people the opportunity to run an HF rig without any pressure and get to know the HF side of the hobby. Field day also gives everyone the opportunity to get to know each other better & have some face-to-face rag chew time. There is something for everyone and a way to try different things.

Stay the night. Bring your tent or camper (no hookups for the campers available) or even sleep under the stars if you like. There is plenty of room for everyone. There will be a grill, indoor restrooms and plenty of shade if you want to stay out of the sun.

Sign-up sheets forthcoming for a variety of things; more to come:

Set-up

Take down;(this is critical; we want to make sure we have enough people at the end to help stow things away properly.

Operators; operators; operators, operators. We need operators for SSB, Satellite, PSK, CW and GOTA. Whether you are experienced or not plan on operating; it's a lot of fun and there will be plenty of seasoned operators to give you whatever guidance you want.

We will be running 24 hours so if there are any night owls you are in luck

If you have a field day story, please share it. You can email Verna (KD9YUM) at vernas.kd9yum@gmail.com and she can put it in the Hamrag.

Location:

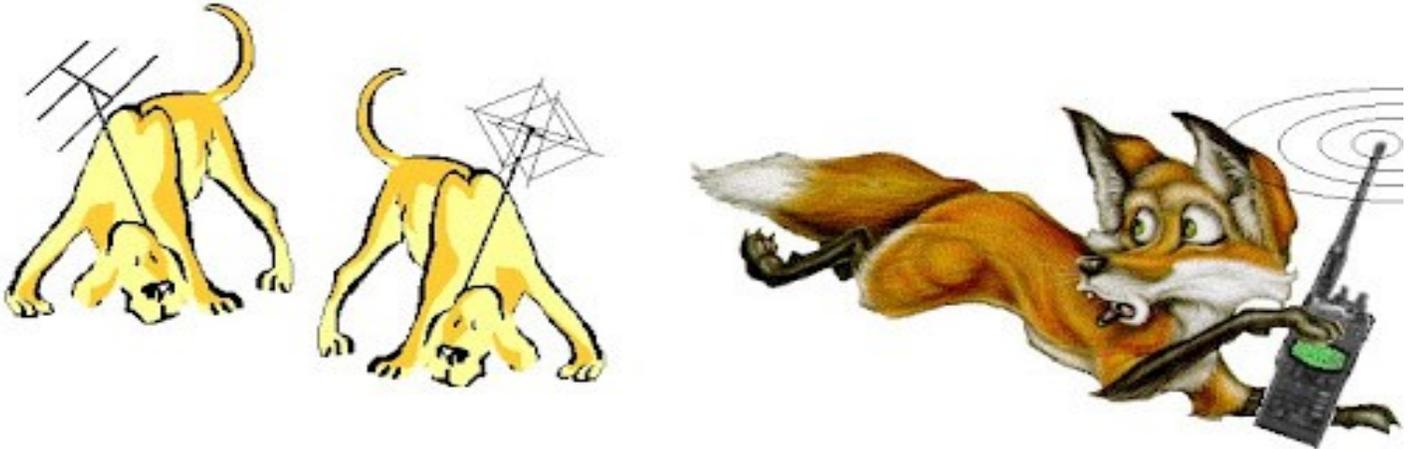
YMCA Camp Winnebago; 5804 North Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103.

Further details to come so keep an eye out on RARA Facebook page and future Hamrags. If you have questions, call or email Matt (W3MBX) 815.222.5959 or matthew.marshal@gmail.com.

Local Events and Information

Whether you are an Elmer, or a newcomer to ham radio, you are invited to participate in the Greater Beloit Amateur Radio Club's Fox Hunt.

The GBARC is hosting a foxhunt, Saturday, April 13, 2024 starting around 10am. The fox Hunt will begin following the 8am monthly ham breakfast held at Denny's Restaurant / Flying J Truck Stop (IL75 & 190/39). While there is no official starting point, many will start from the Denny's parking lot following breakfast.



RARA members, other fellow hams, and those interested in amateur radio are all invited. The fox will be hidden somewhere in Rock County Wisconsin, on public land. The official start along with the simplex frequency will be announced on the Janesville Repeater, 145.450 minus offset 123.0 CTCSS.

The fox will be monitoring the 450 repeater during the hunt to answer any questions you may have other than "where are you?"

A fox hunt is an exercise in Radio Direction Finding (RDF), where amateur operators will use a variety of radio signal receiving equipment (typically 2 meter hand held radio) to find a hidden transmitter that will automatically transmit a repeated beacon signal. As the receiver's antenna is pointed toward the hidden transmitter, the signal strength will rise and as it is moved away, it will drop. As a result you can determine with direction the transmitter is located. You will continue receiving the signal from various locations and using mapping/triangulation, you will narrow down the proximity of the hidden transmitter. As you get very close to the transmitter, you will attempt to reduce the signal strength using a variety of methods, either attenuating the signal or just reducing the antenna effectiveness to continue to hone in on the location of the transmitter.

This is a great time to try fox hunting or to improve your hunting skills and possibly win a prize!

Contact brett@k9by.us with any questions.

73, Brett Johnson, K9BY
President, GBARC

Feature Article

READABILITY IS WHAT COUNTS By David Gauger W9CJS

THE FUNCTION OF ANTENNAS

TRANSMITTING: Emit as much Electromagnetic energy as is possible.

RECEIVING: Produce the best signal to noise (S/N) that is possible

NOT the highest S-Meter reading, but the best S/N ratio.

You've heard a weak signal and punched the PreAmp button only to find that the signal is louder but no more readable than before because the noise came right up too. Generally, if a signal is down in the noise we can improve the S/N by reducing the RF gain control. If we were to use the pre-amp the ambient noise may trigger the AVC to reduce the gain, thereby making our weak signal even weaker. As a rule: Turn the RF gain back from maximum to improve the S/N.

We will always have atmospheric noise (distant lightning strikes), and solar noise (from particles in space entering our ionosphere/troposphere, and more locally, from the battery charger on your neighbor's electric lawn mower. My worst source of noise seems to be from the WiFi modem right in the room with me.

VERTICAL ANTENNAS AND RADIALS

You've seen them, Ads which say "Our vertical requires no radials." Oh really? Any quarter wave cannot radiate without having something to "push against"

So you've seen it dozens of times... he stands in the boat as it approaches the pier. With one foot on the pier and the other in the boat, he pushes, but, the boat backs away dumping him into the water. It would have been no problem if the boat hadn't moved. Your quarter wave antenna is searching for something to push against, to act as the other half of the wave. Usually, the 1/4 wave vertical finds the coax feeder and uses that as the 'other half'. This usually helps but is far less effective than a field of radials.

If radials for verticals are not really necessary, why are commercial AM radio towers required to have a minimum of 120 radials around the compass?

Those who know use many radials. Books recommend 32 radials as optimum for our vertical antennas but the minimum should be one 1/4 wavelength radial for each band. Incidentally, ground radials are far more effective if elevated a foot or two above the surface. This is the recommendation of an Alpha Vertical antenna we sometimes used for POTA (Parks On The Air). (Who wants to cut the grass if there are elevated radials?) See also QST archives Dave Poole AD9DP article on this topic.

Rookie Roundup 2024

Calling all Rookies! April 21, 2024

Mission: To encourage newly-licensed operators (“Rookies”) in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators (“Non-Rookies”) are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators – either on the air or in person.

Objective: Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands.



Rookies of all ages can participate in the ARRL Rookie Roundup. Matt Marshall, W3MBX, participated in the 2023 Rookie Roundup. It was his first time operating in a contest, and he said that he had so much fun that he's looking forward to participating in Field Day. [Matt Marshall, W3MBX, photo]

Rookie Roundup is a contest aimed at amateurs licensed for three-years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August, and December). Rookies can contact anybody, while “Old Timers” make contact with only Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event!

“Old Timers” should also take note of this event. Consider opening your station up to a rookie (or two) and become an Elmer. Remember, the more operators are on the air, the more fun the Roundup will be for everyone.

Be sure to read the rules before the event. It is also helpful to be familiar with the logging and submission processes ahead of time.

NEW RULES - MORE ROOKIES!

- You can be a Rookie if you were first licensed in 2024, 2023, 2022 or 2021 - send the year you were first licensed in the exchange.
- If you were licensed before 2021 you can also be a Rookie if you made your first Amateur Radio contact during 2024, 2023, 2022 or 2021 or if you haven't made any contest contacts on the contest mode (SSB, CW, or RTTY) before the Rookie Roundup contest, send the current year in your exchange - either of these reasons qualify you as a Rookie for just one year.
- Rookies will attempt to make as many contacts as possible during this 6-hour event. Rookies work everyone - and non-Rookies work only Rookies.

This is a great way to try out contesting in an event designed for newcomers. You do not need to be an ARRL member to join the fun!

To read the complete rules, use this link and scroll to “Complete Rules”. [Rookie Roundup \(arrl.org\)](https://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup)

Ham Gear from the 50's & 60's by Larry Lisle, K9KZT

What was the ham equipment used by the novices of the 50's and 60's like?

Well first of all it was big and heavy compared to today's outfits. They had to be big because tubes are larger than solid state and get hot, which meant they needed room for air to circulate. They were heavy because tubes needed transformers to turn the 110 (not 117) volts from the wall socket into the high voltage for the plates and low voltage for the filaments. Transformers are heavy!

Receivers and transmitters were separate—not the transceivers of today.

Receivers back then came in two flavors: general coverage and ham band only. The typical general coverage receiver was just that. It would typically receive everything from the AM broadcast band to 30 MHz. It usually also had a bandspread dial. You set the main dial to a mark indicating 40 meters, for instance, and then used the bandspread dial which was usually calibrated to tune 40.

The ham band only receiver was different; It had a calibrated dial for each of the ham bands then available. Which might have included the WARC bands depending on when it was built.

The receivers usually had two volume controls, one for radio frequency gain, the other audio gain. For AM voice the RF gain was usually at max and the AF controlled the loudness. For SSB and CW it was reversed: AF max, RF controlled loudness. This was done to prevent overloading the receiver since the automatic gain circuit was usually switched off when the beat oscillator (BFO) was turned on. This was later improved on!

Selectivity was a problem. Some receivers had no more than a broadcast band receiver so you talked to the ham with the loudest signal!! Forget Sunday afternoon!

The most common solution was a crystal filter. This was razor sharp and was great for CW. Sometimes manufacturers included circuitry that made it usable for voice but it wasn't very good which led to the development of bandpass filters like the Collins mechanical filters.

An interesting gadget was the "Q multiplier" which used regeneration in the IF circuit to produce a sharp peak OR a sharp null for dispatching a interfering station. Heathkit made one as an accessory that could be used with any popular receiver. Unfortunately, adding it detuned the IF so you needed equipment to realign the set which hardly anybody had. Another accessory was an audio filter, such as the National Select-o-ject which really helped and just plugged in between the receiver and headphones.

The receivers worked well with just a piece of wire for an antenna, though some hams used a switch so they could use the transmitting antenna for their receiver too.

Novice transmitters might have only had three tubes: a crystal oscillator, an amplifier and a rectifier. When the novice upgraded they could add a VFO to tune all over the band and/or a modulator for AM phone. Typical of this kind of transmitter was the Johnson Viking Adventurer. Other popular transmitters were the Heathkit DX-40 and the World Radio Labs Globe Scout. which had modulators built in and a VFO available as an accessory.

Feature Articles

Transmitters were built in metal cabinets with a hat full of screws holding it together because television interference (TVI) was a horrible problem and could have ended ham radio as we know it. The output circuit was often a pi-network which helped with TVI and would load almost any length wire or a coax fed antenna.

It all sounds so primitive now but many transmitters were built from kits so what you built you could repair and parts were standardized and available. No proprietary chips only available from an off-shore manufacturer.

Look for some of these at the Ham Swapmeet and Social May 19, or at the Belvidere Hamfest in September. *Remember three things*: ask if they work before buying; remember they use high voltage (put a plastic bag over the key to avoid a shock and ask a ham who is familiar with them before going inside) and don't let them run unattended.

73 K9KZT



A World Radio Labs 680A was found in many novice hamshacks



VFOs from Johnson Viking and Knight Kit. Johnson transmitters had great styling.



The Hallicrafters S40A was a medium quality receiver. Made from 1947-49 but popular in the fifties



Heathkit VFO and DX40 transmitter. Both very popular.

Feature Articles

What Do I Need As A New Ham? By Larry Schubert, AC9GO

Every once in a while I'll have a new ham ask me what kind of a rig I think they should get when they get their license. Often they are just about to get their Tech license, and they are asking about whether I think the latest Icom or Yaesu rig is the best. I hate to brake it to to them, but I think they should get a mobile VHF or VHF/UHF rig, and use it as their base station. I also think that they should figure out what kind of antenna they want and get a pole up with some coax and an antenna. Since 10 meters is the only HF band they can now get on maybe hold off on an HF rig until they find out a little more about them. Join a ham radio club, participate in some local nets, and maybe participate in Field Day and use some HF rigs before you make that kind of investment.

What can you do with a VHF or VHF/UHF rig you ask. Hey that's where you find the Ham radio water cooler (so to speak) . That is where you find all the local hams. Generally, it's the local amateurs that support the repeaters. Here in the Rockford area two of the four active VHF repeaters are supported by the Rockford Amateur Radio Association (RARA). In recent years we've had to do a lot of work on the machines, which isn't complete at this point, but they have the latest Yaesu Fusion hardware and software. Fusion is the Yaesu digital software, and is available on both repeaters, but is rarely used at this point, because few hams have these digital rigs. The 147.000 is covering the north part of the county very well at this time, and our repeater team is looking for a good place the move the 146.610 repeater. It's currently at the OSF St Francis Hospital, but at a poor spot since the latest addition there has blocked the signal to the north.

Think about it, most clubs support at least one repeater. They are expensive, and most individuals don't want to make that investment. The RARA repeaters where first put in by the Experimental Amateur Radio Society (EARS), and when both clubs were being ran by the same guys they asked to join the two clubs together. A meeting was held with both clubs present. RARA had to make a pledge to all that they would maintain the repeaters, which they have. Both clubs voted to join together and they have been together ever since. That is why this is a good group to be a part of if you are new to the hobby. If you were going to go on HF right away, you would never meet the local hams.

If you look to the East Belvidere has a repeater, to the North, Beloit and Janesville have repeaters, to the West Freeport has one or two repeaters, and to the South, Dekalb has a repeater. There is even a group of repeaters in Wisconsin that cover most of the state hooked to a repeater in Rockford. A mobile radio on two meters will cover most of the area around Rockford. A 2M/440 band radio will cover that plus all of Wisconsin. But Wait There's More (Sorry but I had to do it), there are about twenty active satellites that hams can use that will cover much of the world and if you join ECHO Link you can pick what part of the world you want to talk to. Most of this can be done with a \$30 Baofeng hand held radio. Think about it. You can work the world with a \$30 radio and the right antenna, and you can make friends with the hams where you live.

As a tech you also have privileges on the 10 meter band. When you're ready to go there, I suggest you take your time.

Feature Articles

If you are going for your general class license, talk to the hams you know or on the repeater before you buy. If you have a lot of money sitting around just go to HRO (we call it the candy store.) Try out a few radios, and go ahead and pick one out. If you're like most of us and have a lot of places that money can go to, talk around to the guys about the differences that they know about in the radios and the different makes. Things like how does the noise reduction work? How about the differences in the menu systems? How do they sound on the air? How well do they hold up?

You may end up buying a 10 M mobile radio. Yes you'll need a power supply to run it in the house, but guess what, almost any transceiver you buy today requires a 12V power supply. Get one that is big enough to run a HF rig (Usually around 30 or 35 amps) Your 10 meter rig should be at least 50 W. You will need a pole maybe 25 or 30 ft tall for your antenna. Enough coax to get from the top to the shack. Make an antenna. I suggest at least an inverted V because it will match the coax and transceiver better than a dipole, and it only needs one pole to get it in the air. If you have a lot of time on your hands and good at building things you could make a Ground plane, Yagi or Moxon. If you need help, just get on 2 Meters on one of the nets and ask. You may get several answers. Just pick out what sounds the best and give it a try. Remember if you put RF into an antenna it has to go somewhere. Have fun with your radio! That's what it is all about.

73, Larry AC9GO larry.schubert@gmail.com

It's Spring

It's that time of the year when we hams want to get out and enjoy the weather, and along with it all the outdoor events that are being planned. If you check the calendar you will find such things as FOX HUNTS, HAMFESTS, POTA ACTIVATIONS, and don't forget our SWAP MEET AND SOCIAL GATHERING coming up in May. Along with these things, many of us are thinking about putting up a different antenna, or maybe just reinstalling an old one that was knocked down by the winter weather. Who knows, you may be installing a mobile rig that you just got, or maybe you are planning a camping trip, and you want to try out that portable that you've been itching to try.

Along with getting outside don't forget to brush up on communication related to severe weather and/or emergencies. You never know when that information will be needed. Just this past week a ham and his family were caught in "Death Valley". All other communication was lost. Cell phones are apparently useless where they were. Their car broke down in the middle of nowhere. He sent out a mayday call which was heard by a POTA activator. Rangers were notified, and they were able to find the family, and rescue them. Death Valley is not a place where you want to be stranded. The contact was made on twenty meters. You never know when that radio is going to come in handy. Have fun, enjoy your hobby. 73, Larry AC9GO

Links to Amateur Resources

WA7BNM Contest Calendar. This site provides detailed information about amateur radio contests throughout the world, including their scheduled dates/times, rules summaries, log submission information and links to the official rules as published by the contest sponsors.

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar: Home](#)



[DX-World | The World's Biggest and Best DX News Service for DXers and IOTA enthusiasts](#)

The Reverse Beacon Network

The Reverse Beacon Network is a revolutionary new idea. Instead of beacons actively transmitting signals, the RBN is a network of stations listening to the bands and reporting what stations they hear, when and how well.

[Welcome! - Reverse Beacon Network](#)

NCDXF/IARU International Beacon Project

The Northern California DX Foundation [NCDXF](#), in cooperation with the [IARU](#), constructed and operates a worldwide network of high-frequency radio beacons on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930, and 28.200 megaHertz. These beacons help both amateur and commercial high-frequency radio users assess the current condition of the ionosphere. The entire system is designed, built and operated by volunteers at no cost except for the actual price of hardware components, shipping costs, and so on. [International Beacon Project Locations and Information \(ncdxf.org\)](#)

Parks on the Air

Parks on the Air (POTA) is an international radiosport award program that encourages licensed amateur radio operators to visit and operate portable equipment in parks and public lands. Operators can be activators, who set up stations in parks, or hunters, who contact activators from other locations². The program aims to promote emergency awareness and communications from national/federal and state/provincial level parks.

For information:

[Parks on the Air | POTA | Parks program for amateur radio.](#)

For Spotting Activators

[Parks on the Air | POTA](#)

Links to Amateur License Resources

Study resources are numerous and available in a variety of formats. This is a listing of some of the more popular. The list includes websites, books, online study, and YouTube. With neither an electronic nor strong math background, the Fast Track books were perfect for me. I (KD9YUM) used them exclusively for my technician study and for my general study, I also used HamStudy.org. Some are free, others range in price – but there is something for everyone. Key to study is to find what works for you, make sure the resource you use is based on the current question pool, find out when exams are offered and pick a date to aim for, and study consistently for at least an hour a day. Ham radio is a lifelong learning hobby, don't get discouraged by thinking you need to learn in all in a month!

TECHNICIAN Class (Element 2) Pool is effective July 1, 2022 and is valid until June 30, 2026.

GENERAL Class (Element 3) Pool is effective July 1, 2023 and is valid until June 30, 2027.

EXTRA Class (Element 4) Pool is effective July 1, 2020 and is ONLY valid until June 30, 2024. A new pool will be released on July 1, 2024

****ARRL Exam Review**** - Provides study materials and practice exams for all levels of amateur radio licenses.
[ARRL Exam Review for Ham Radio™](#)

****HamStudy.org**** - Offers free practice exams and study guides for the FCC amateur radio exams.
[HamStudy.org: Cutting edge amateur radio study tools](#)

****QRZ.com Practice Tests**** - Provides practice exams for the FCC amateur radio exams.
[Practice Amateur Radio Exams by QRZ Ham Radio](#)

****Hamradioprep.com**** – A multimedia course using the science of learning to engage all learning styles through video, audio, text, and practice exercise. <https://hamradioprep.com/>

****The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual**** - Published by the ARRL, these books are a comprehensive guide to all levels of amateur radio licensing. The link will take you to the Technician License manual with the others listed at the bottom of the page. <https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/2003373064>

****Gordon West's Technician Class Study Manual**** - A popular study guide for the FCC Technician class license exam <https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/2015951493>

****The Fast Track to Your Technician Class Ham Radio License**** - A concise study guide for the FCC Technician class license exam. [The Fast Track to Your Technician Class Ham Radio License]([Amazon.com: The Fast Track to Your Technician Class Ham Radio License: Covers All FCC Technician Class Exam Questions July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2026 \(Audible Audio Edition\): Michael Burnette, Kerry Burnette, Michael Burnette, Michael Burnette: Books](#))

****Fasttrackham.com**** (website is a companion to the Fast Track books and used for practice exams, teaching videos and more) [Know your stuff. - The Fast Track to Your Ham Radio License % \(fasttrackham.com\)](#)

****Ham Radio Crash Course**** - A podcast that covers various topics related to amateur radio, including exam preparation. <https://www.youtube.com/user/hoshnasi>

Upcoming Testing

Looking to upgrade or know someone looking for a testing location?

More information available at ARRL.org

- **04/20/2024 | [Ottawa IL 61350-2017](#)**
Sponsor: American Legion Post 33 ARC
Location: American Legion Post 33
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call Ahead allowed)
[Learn More](#)
- **04/27/2024 | [Milwaukee WI 53223-4736](#)**
Sponsor: MRAC VEC, Inc
Location: Ham Radio Outlet
Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **05/04/2024 | [Madison WI 53715-2143](#)**
Sponsor: Four Lakes ARC
Location: Univ of WI Space Place
Time: 8:00 a.m. (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **05/04/2024 | [Schaumburg IL 60194](#)**
Sponsor: Schaumburg ARC (SARC)
Location: Schaumburg Park District Community Recreation Center
Time: 9:00 AM (No Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **05/11/2024 | [Janesville WI 53545-3024](#)**
Sponsor: Wisconsin Area VEs (WAVE)
Location: Saint John Lutheran Church
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **05/13/2024 | [Libertyville IL 60048-1308](#)**
Sponsor: Lake County RACES/ARES
Location: Lake County EOC
Time: 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)

53rd Annual

Madison Hamfest

Sponsored by MARA, the Madison Area Repeater Association
A Non-Profit Organization

Saturday April 13, 2024
8:00 AM until 12:00 PM

The MARA Hamfest features vendors of new and used equipment for Amateur Radio, Electronics, Computers, computer parts and software. Come see our huge Flea Market in the Mandt Community Center's spacious 26,000 sq ft main hall.

VE testing starts at 10:00 AM.

Vendor space is sold on a "first come, first served bases"

Location: Mandt Community Center (Same location since 2000)
GPS: North 42.91157 West 89.21647
Address: 400 Mandt Parkway, Stoughton, Wisconsin
Directions: Take US Hwy 51 South from Madison to downtown Stoughton, WI.
Turn South on 4th Street and the Mandt Center is 3 blocks ahead on the left
Talk in: MARA's Wide Area Repeater 147.150 MHz (+600) pl 123.0
Parking: Free
Seller Setup: Friday night 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Saturday morning, 6:00 AM

Ticket, Table and Chair Prices

Tables are limited to availability!

Hamfest general admission tickets:	Purchased on website	\$8.00 per person
<u>Ages 12 and younger: FREE</u>	At the door <u>CASH ONLY!</u>	\$10.00 per person
Eight-foot vendor table fees	Purchased by March 25	\$20.00
Admission tickets are NOT included	After March 25	\$25.00
In the price of tables		
Chairs		\$5.00
AC Service		\$30.00
Admission ticket along with table rental is Required		<u>At the door is CASH ONLY</u>

MARA is not responsible for theft or damage. All orders are final – No refunds.

Hamfest tickets, and vendor table space can be purchased at the MARA website: www.w9hsy.org If you have questions about purchasing tickets, chairs, table space. Please check the web page or contact us by e-mail at hamfest@w9hsy.org

The Ozaukee Radio Club presents its 44th Annual Spring Indoor
Amateur Radio, Electronics & Computer



SWAPFEST



featuring **TOWER ELECTRONICS!**

Saturday, April 27, 2024 – 8 AM to 12 PM (setup begins at 6 AM)

Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Center (Milwaukee Curling Club)
W67N890 Washington Ave., Cedarburg, WI 53012

Talk-in: 146.97 MHz – PL 127.3 Hz

Door Prizes! Free WIFI

Food sold by Cub Scout Pack 516/586

Admission: \$7.00 at the gate

Children 12 and under FREE, with a paid adult admission

6 ft. Tables: \$12.00 in advance, \$15.00 at the door, if available

Use the Order Form below, email, or call Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY at 262-421-6351

Email: swapfest@ozaukeeradioclub.org

More information: <http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/> or <http://www.facebook.com/orcwi>

For Advance Tickets and Tables, send check with a **SASE** (Business-Size #10 envelope) to:
Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY- W69N905 Evergreen Ct N, #202, Cedarburg, WI 53012-1170

Name: _____

Call sign: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

No. of Tickets: _____ X \$7 = _____

(Advance tickets are double stub)

No. of Tables: _____ X \$12 = _____

Electricity: Yes (Add \$5) _____ No _____

Total Amount: _____

(Please make checks payable to ORC)



The DeKalb Hamfest



Sponsored by the Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club
Sunday...May 5, 2024...8am to 1:00 pm
Vendor/Tailgate Setup—Saturday 1 PM to 9 PM
and Sunday 6 AM to 8 AM via Back Gate
\$8.00 Advance Ticket (Double-Stub—See Below)
\$10.00 Admission at the gate (Single Stub).

Overnight Camping on Fairgrounds \$25 per night—Includes Electric and Sewer

Rain or Shine
2 Large Buildings
3 Cash Prizes
Prize Drawings Every
Half Hour

Free Outside
Tailgating
No VE Testing
Chairs not furnished

Food Vendor: Hyvee
Fairground Regulations
Prohibit Vehicles in
buildings



Always the First Sunday in May. May 5, 2024

Sandwich Fairgrounds, Sandwich, IL

(Just North of RT. 34 Intersection of SUYDAM and GLETTY Roads)

TALK-IN: KARC Repeater 146.730 pl=100 (-) or 146.52 Simplex

**** PLEASE USE MAIN GATE ****

????????????? Questions ??????????????

Phone: Bob Yurs—W9ICU—Hamfest Chairman at 815-757-3219

Or e-mail w9icu@arri.net

KARC Hamfest Webpage / Hotel Info: www.karc-club.org

Return to: KARC, PO Box 371, DeKalb, IL 60115

Deadline: April 20, 2024 MUST INCLUDE SASE FOR ADVANCE TICKET SALES

Advance Tickets will not be for sale on site

ADVANCE TICKETS @ \$8 each (Dual Stubs)

INSIDE TABLES @ \$10 each (FREE TAILGATING)

Total...Please make checks payable to KARC

Telephone Number _____ e-mail address _____

Call Sign _____

STARVED ROCK RADIO CLUB™

AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE SANCTIONED HAMFEST 2024



HAM RADIO, RC MODELS,
COMPUTER & ALL HOBBIES
FLEA MARKET 6AM-1PM

AMATEUR RADIO HOBBYIST &
COLLECTORS SHOW



SUNDAY, JUNE 2nd 2024
Indoor 8:00am to 1:00pm

MENDOTA TRI-COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
503 1st Ave, Mendota, IL 61342

ARRL VE TESTING 9:30am to 11:00am
GRAND PRIZE CASH DRAWINGS \$50-\$75-\$100 at 12:00noon

TICKETS \$8.00 ADVANCED (2 Stubs) or \$10.00 AT GATE (2 Stubs)
ALL ADVANCED ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 20th 2024
GRAND PRIZE WINNERS NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

- ✓ LARGE INDOOR EXHIBIT BUILDINGS - Indoor Setup: Sat 12noon to 6pm & Sun 6am to 8am
- ✓ TABLES \$10.00 ADVANCED OR AT THE GATE WITH FREE ELECTRICITY
- ✓ FREE OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET-TAILGATING AREA 6AM to 1PM
- ✓ ONSITE CAMPING-ELECTRICITY AVAILABLE – FEE BY FAIR BOARD
- ✓ HOURLY DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS

FOR ADVANCED TICKET AND TABLE SALES OR GENERAL INQUIRIES: SEND A SASE TO
SRRCTM C/O Hamfest Chairman, PO Box 198, Leonore, IL 61332-0198

E-mail: starvedrockhamfest@gmail.com or see our internet site for latest info www.w9mks.org

I39 to Exit 72 US Rte 34, West to 1st Ave, South(Left) to Fairgrounds on Left.

GPS: N41.545580deg W089.108484deg (N41deg 32.735min (44.08sec) W089deg 6.509min (30.54sec))

TALK-IN by SRRCTM Repeater - W9MKS 147.120 +103.5PL

BREAKFAST and LUNCH ON-SITE BY CATERER

To keep Ticket prices down, DO NOT dispose of unwanted equipment on the fairgrounds.
If it doesn't sell or you can't give it away- Take it Home!

MAIL WITH PAYMENT & SASE ENCLOSED TO:

SRRCTM C/O Hamfest Chairman
PO Box 198
Leonore, IL 61332-0198

Make checks payable to SRRCTM

Name: _____	QTY	ITEM	EACH	EXTENDED
Address: _____	_____	Advance Tickets	\$ 8.00	\$ _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____	_____	Indoor Tables	\$10.00	\$ _____
Phone: _____		Total	\$	\$ _____



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

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. See below for mail in information and/or PayPal information)

Date: _____ (mm/dd/yyyy) New Membership ____ Renewal ____

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.

Mail In: 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.

For Internet application and payment:

To use PayPal, click on the link below. After clicking "Send" and then logging in, enter \$25.00 in the "Dollar Amount", and click "Send", to complete your payment to RARA. Also, **DON'T** forget to email your completed form to: w9axdrara@gmail.com for your membership application. *Thank you for your support!*

PayPal Link:



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