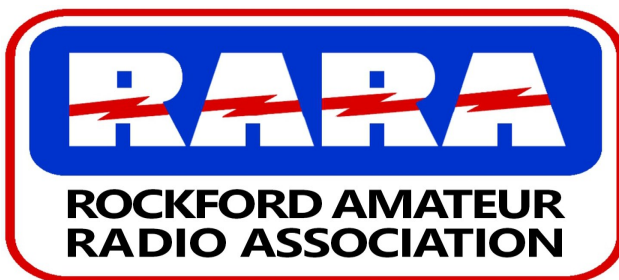


HAMRAG

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.

July 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 returning RARA member: **Robert Larson, KC9ICH**

Many, Many, Thanks to Matt (W3MBX) for taking on the role of coordinator for Summer Field Day. A wonderful time was had by all, well done!



Please put the following dates on your calendar:

- * Belvidere Hamfest—Sunday, Sept 22.
- * Family Picnic—Saturday, Sept 28 —Hononegah Forest Preserve, details to come.
- * JOTA (Scouts, Jamboree on the Air) - Saturday, Oct 19 at Camp Lowden, Oregon IL.
- * 2025 Summer Field Day— June 28-29, 2025

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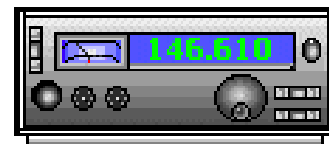
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NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY— July 12, 2024 - 7:00pm

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

**Go Box Show and Tell - Dave Gauger, W9CJS
HAM of the Year**

Local Events and Information

July 12, 2024 RARA Membership Meeting 7:00pm
July 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:

Dan Larson, KD9SAZ, 312-292-1989, kd9saz@gmail.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

Upcoming Meeting Programs:

- July 12, Go Box Show and Tell, Dave Gauger, W9CJS
- August 9, Basic HF Operation Information, Kurt Eversole, KE9N
- September 13, available*
- October 11, Proper Station Layout, Kurt Eversole, KE9N
- November 8, available*
- December 13, available*

*If you are available to provide a program at one of the monthly meetings with an available opening, please contact one of the board members.

Editor's Note

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

Articles are welcome and encouraged from all hams.

Due Date for the August 2024 Hamrag is Monday, July 29, 2024

73, Verna—KD9YUM, Editor

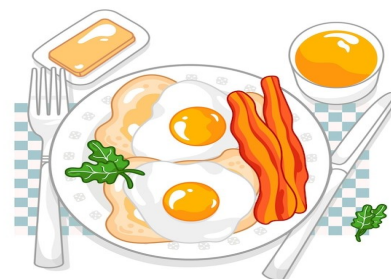
Local Events and Information



FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Meets every Friday morning from 7:30 am until about 9:00 am.
We order breakfast at 8:00 am.
An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



Local Net Information

- Mon** - 7:00pm - RARA Info. Net & CW Lesson, 147.195 (+0.6) offset, pl 114.8
- 8:00pm - McHenry County RACES Net, 146.835 (-0.6) offset, pl 91.5
- Tues** - 7:00pm - RARA Tech & Social Net & CW Lesson , 147.195 (+0.6) offset, pl 114.8
- 7:00pm - Rock County Public Service Net, 145.450 (-0.6) offset, pl 123.0
- Wed** - 7:00pm - RARA Chat Net, 147.195 (+0.6) offset, pl 114.8
- 7:00pm - Stephenson Cnty. ARES Net, 147.390(+0.6) offset, pl 114.8
- 7:30pm - Greater Beloit Radio Net, 147.120 (+0.6) offset, pl 123.0
- Thu** - 7:00pm - Northern Illinois Skywarn Training Net, 147.195 (+0.6) offset, pl 114.8
- Fri** - 8:00pm - Friday Night Fun Net, KC9GCR, 147.195(+0.6) offset, pl 114.8
- Sat** - 8:00pm - Saturday RARA Ragchew Net, 147.195 (+0.6) offset, pl 114.8
- 8:00pm - Pink Hamsters YL Net, Milw., 146.910 (-0.6) offset, pl 127.3
- 9:00pm - Saturday Night Fun Net Milw., 146.910 (-0.6) offset, pl 127.3
- Mon. thru Friday** - 8:00am to 9:00am - Senile Net, 14.287 (HF USB)

Feature Article

BUILD A GO-BOX with Dave Gauger, W9CJS

I surely enjoyed my 2Kw, Hunter Bandit amplifier feeding my 3 Element Tri-bander beam on a 40 ft tower. I had reached the pinnacle of HF operating, and yes, it surely did work out. I enjoyed having a response to any CQ on most any band or mode ... BUT ...after a while I tired of being on top of the heap, king of the hill, top dog, and so forth. I called this “Brute-itis” ...

Actually, I thought lovingly of the early days of my Ham experience ... young teen ... S-38 receiver ... crystal controlled rig and so forth ... just like you remember We had fun, probably more fun then than now. The bands were wide open and just loaded with AM or CW signals. Just today I tuned 20 m CW and found only one loud signal, W1AW blowing in over S9, but not one other CW signal did I hear.

Perhaps others are feeling “Brute-itis”, perhaps some of you are feeling “bored” with it all. I **suggest an answer.**

Take on a challenge ... try a new (to you) mode, have you tried PSK, or QRP, or FT-8 and so on? It can re-energize your Ham experience. And also, why not design and build a Go-Box which fits your equipment and your personal needs. and provides a means of operating “In the field” It’s great fun.

Many years ago TenTec came out with a couple of very simple QRP transceivers. Each had several PC boards one for each main function. A friend shared that with his business, he could buy the individual PC boards, so I had him buy a complete set for me.

I assembled them together with a home built keyer board from a QST “Der Kleiner Keyer” circuit, and built my own mechanism. Together, mounted in an 8x10x4 inch aluminum box and with a 6:1 vernier dial and two 6volt lantern batteries, I built a QRP rig. I had made a simple transceiver, totally portable, battery operated, and I had more fun than in a long time.

Today, some 40 years later, I’m still fiddling with QRP, and portable rigs. Over the years I’ve built a number of Go-Boxes housing various rigs from an IC-735 to an IC-703, and two years ago I bought the IC-705, and yes housed it in a home brew Go-Box.

This interest in both QRP and field operating using a rig in a Go-Box has proven to be a shot in the arm for my Ham interest, and now with POTA (Parks On The Air), the portable rigs in Go-Boxes have teamed up with homemade MagLoops to provide a ton of fun.

Many of you share the same experience as I’ve depicted above. Why not branch out if you haven’t already, and build a Go-Box. Then take it on vacation with you, or spend an hour at Rock Cut State park. It’s great fun.

Dave Gauger W9CJS

Feature Article

REMINDER—reprinted from June 2024 Issue

LOOKING AHEAD with Dave Gauger W9CJS JULY RARA MEETING – WE HOPE YOU CAN BE THERE

Verna Schubert, KD9YUM has suggested for our July meeting, we zero in on GO-BOXES. I think that's an excellent idea, considering the significant experience among some of our members. Expanding on her suggestion, why not widen the involvement, a little, as outlined below. It seems to me that there are two general areas of interest.

Comprehensive wide coverage portable setups .

1) **Some have equipment intended for real-world emergency events** where Ham radio has proven to be of immense value in back-up communication and eyes-and ears reporting, and also health-and-welfare messages during emergencies.

Often, this equipment is outfitted for most any foreseeable event. Not only do they provide competent equipment, but operators who've had training in the rigors of a controlled net and regular practice via SET (Simulated Emergency Test) experiences. Bravo to those of you have put in the time and effort to provide public security services with portable com center operations for both local and wide-area needs.

We'd love to see your comprehensive GO-BOX, but if not, how about a couple 8x10 photos (they are not expensive at Walgreen)

Casual, hobby activities in the field.

2) **Others take on the challenge of operating in the field**, perhaps at a local park, using a battery and small, portable radio and antenna. We could list a plethora of activities intended to tap into this group of Hams who have taken on the QRP (five watts or less) challenge.

Publications often highlight BICYCLE MOBILE or PEDESTRIAN MOBILE and so forth. Among these POTA has become very popular and well organized. There are variants like:

POTA (Parks On The Air)

SOTA (Summits On The Air)

IOTA (Islands On The Air)

VOTA (ARRL—Volunteers On The Air)

JOTA (Scouts—Jamboree On The Air)

And there are more. From experience with POTA several of us can attest to the fun challenge that each of these activities provides. The equipment used for these is far less comprehensive than that described in #1 above.

At the July RARA meeting I suggest that we showcase both areas. If you could possibly bring in your Go-Box, fine. You could just bring in your KX-2 or HW-8 for Show-And-Tell items, this would be fine. We'd be surprised that such a meeting might challenge our members to get active in one or both areas. You can help that by bringing in some gear... doesn't have to operate... no batteries required ... can be brought in a tote box, or your shirt pocket Tuna Tin 2 Why not? You can make this a really fun and interesting meeting. See you there, Dave Gauger W9CJS

Summer Field Day 2024—It's a Wrap!!

What a fantastic Field Day!

Field Day is certainly a team effort and we had great teamwork. I really did not do that much; I gathered resources, asked for help and let everyone do their thing and they did it well. Everyone who promised to fill a role did so plus more and executed flawlessly. There are so many to thank I don't know where to start; if I forget someone or get something wrong, please let me know. First, I want to thank everyone who participated; the participation is what makes the event successful; a huge thank you to everyone who took time out of their weekend to support RARA and Field Day. I want to thank Kurt (KE9N) for providing a lot of the equipment (antennas, rigs, filters, coax, generator, vehicle etc.); Kurt has this down to a science and I could not have done it without his help throughout the whole process; all the way from planning beginning in April to the actual event to wrapping up the submission to ARRL. Dave (W9CJS) thank you for providing a totally self-sufficient CW/Digital station. I don't have a lot of field day history, but having a CW station allowed us to run 2A instead of 1A and that CW/Digital station ran non-stop Saturday. The food was outstanding; thank you Dan (KD9SAZ), Jamie (W9JTC) and Jeremy for an awesome lunch and Verna (KD9YUM) for dinner. Sunday breakfast of the "custom doughnuts" compliments of Dan (KD9SAZ). As for publicity, Kevin (N9EGF) pulled a rabbit out of his hat with pre-event media coverage as well as reporting at the event on Saturday. Verna (KD9YUM) did a lot; she made flyers and posted them around town, kept the social media promotion going and helped with details I perhaps may have missed. Mike (KD9MED) brought out a PRC 320 British military HF rig (Falkland war era) for demonstration; that was fascinating; thank you Mike for coming out and bringing the rig. Thank you to Scott (KB9VRW) from our friends at the Salvation Army for stopping out and providing some informational materials on SATERN. It's been mentioned several times, thanking RARA for including the GMRS group; I want to thank you! You guys really came through and knocked the food out of the park. I really don't view the GMRS group as separate; we are all radio people; whatever your flavor makes no difference.

I have yet to combine the logs, but an estimate is probably 250-300 contacts. I believe over 100 of those contacts are from Kevin (W9KLG), Justin (K9FEO) and Jimmy (KC9GCR) from running all night. I went to sleep around 2330-0130 and was up around 0500 and they were still running. I believe the farthest contact was made by Verna (KD9YUM) to Hawaii over 4,000 miles away.

We had some non-RF fun too; quite a bit of rag chewing and getting to know each other better & that was awesome. It was great meeting older RARA members for the first time. Also, Joe's (K9JPP) son Jacob and I had fun throwing a boomerang around; no one got hurt but there were a few close calls. Perhaps next year we can have other games like Jarts or chicken; that would make things a bit interesting.

Summer Field Day 2024—It's a Wrap!!

We did not get many visitors; I believe the threat of weather kept people away; I'm already brainstorming for next year how to get more community members to visit. We could have gotten more contacts as well; there are many ways to maximize contacts and we plan on having programming at future RARA meetings discussing tips and tricks. As for the weather; well same thing happened last year. We had to shut down twice due to lightning. Once the lighting passed completely, we brought it back up and ran all night.

Let's think about next year. If you are thinking about improvements, things you think did not go right; maybe you want to chair the event next year. I believe we should all think about continuous improvement.

To everyone who helped and participated.....

BRAVO ZULU

Matt (W3MBX)



Summer Field Day 2024—It's a Wrap!!

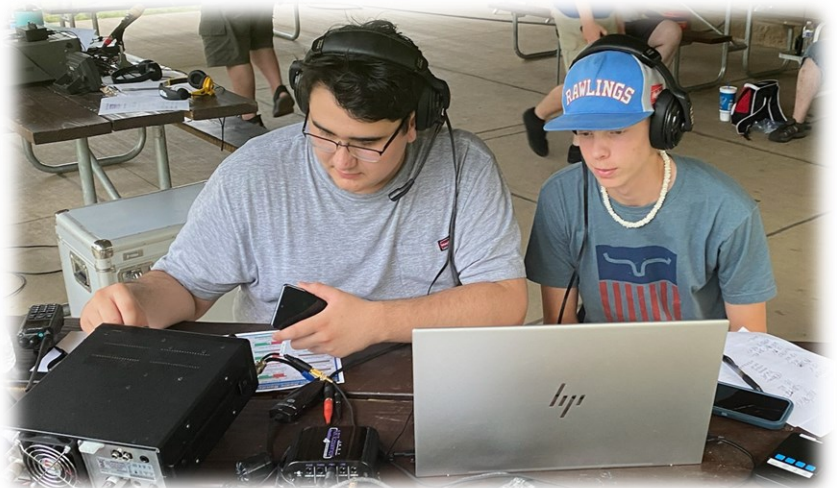


HAM RADIO FIELD DAY
ROCKFORD

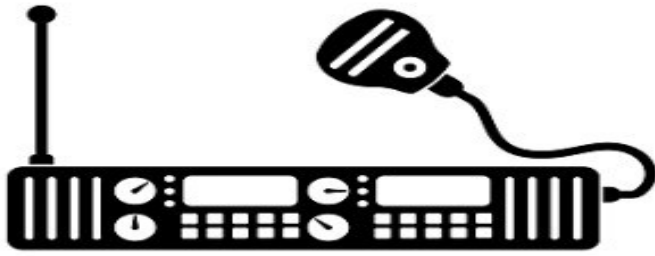
Summer Field Day 2024—It's a Wrap!!



**CQ Field
Day.....CQ
Field Day!**



Summer Field Day 2024—It's a Wrap!!



Summer Field Day 2024—It's a Wrap!!



Summer Field Day 2024—It's a Wrap!!



Summer Field Day 2024—It's a Wrap!!



Best Field Day
Ever in my
entire life!



Night Shift!



Summer Field Day 2024—It's a Wrap!!



Upcoming Testing

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

More information available at ARRL.org

[Click here](#) for link to VE Teams offering Online Exam Sessions

- **07/13/2024 | Janesville WI 53545-3024**
Sponsor: Wisconsin Area VEs (WAVE)
Location: Saint John Lutheran Church
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **07/13/2024 | McHenry IL 60050-4422**
Sponsor: NW IL S WI Amrron
Location: McHenry Masonic Lodge
Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **07/18/24 | Geneva IL 60134-2725**
Sponsor: Fox River Radio League
Location: Geneva Lutheran Church
Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **07/27/2024 | Milwaukee WI 53223-4736**
Sponsor: MRAC VEC, INC
Location: Ham Radio Outlet
Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **08/03/2024 | Freeport IL 61032-4116**
Sponsor: Stateline Amateur Club
Location: Freeport Public Library
Time: 12:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **08/03/2024 | Schaumburg IL 60194**
Sponsor: Schaumburg ARC (SARC)
Location: Schaumburg Park District Community Rec Center
Time: 9:00 AM (**No Walk-ins** allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **08/12/2024 | Libertyville IL 60048-1308**
Sponsor: Lake County RACES/ARES
Location: Lake County EOC
Time: 7:00 PM (**No Walk-ins** allowed) [Learn More](#)

W9DXCC Convention

I have been to W9DXCC a number of times and enjoy the convention and have had the opportunity to meet a lot of top-tier Contestors and DX'ers. I will probably never have the abilities or the stations these people have but I am thankful for what they do for this hobby.

Chuck K9LC



W9DXCC Convention

The W9DXCC convention is held annually in the Chicagoland area. Sponsored by the Northern Illinois DX Association, this convention is one of the premier DX conventions in the country. Enjoy the day filled with quality programs, equipment vendors, QSL card checking, prizes, and socializing. Be sure to end the day by staying for the convention banquet. There is a charge of \$60 to attend the convention and an additional charge for the dinner choice for the banquet.

Contest / DX University

Contest and DX University will take place prior to the W9DXCC convention. Contest U and DX U will allow you to gain knowledge to improve your contesting scores and to improve your DXing skills. Contest U/DX U is two separate programs that will have presentations during the day. You are free to attend presentations in either program and can switch between presentations if you desire. There is a \$45 charge to attend the Contest/DX University.

Banquet

The banquet will be held Saturday evening following the W9DXCC convention. An excellent dinner, conversation, and keynote speaker will be on tap. Please feel free to register your spouse, or significant other, as a guest if they wish to join you for the banquet only. Meal Choices include: NY Strip Steak with Peppercorn Cognac Sauce (\$68), Grilled Chicken with Lemon Caper Sauce (\$59), or Grilled Salmon with Citrus Burre Sauce (\$60).

2024 Convention Dates and Location

Friday, September 13th, 2024

Contest and DX Universities

Saturday, September 14th, 2024

W9DXCC Convention & Banquet

Location

Both W9DXCC and the Universities will be held at the:

Chicago Marriott Naperville
1801 North Naper Boulevard
Naperville, Illinois 60563.

There is a link on the registration page for special rates for the convention.

W9DXCC Convention



Prizes

You can purchase raffle tickets for two different raffles. These raffles are used to support DXpeditions.

Raffle #1- Prize: **Icom IC7300**. Tickets will be \$5.00 each or priced in discounted blocks. If you purchase them during registration, they are 1 ticket for \$5, 3 tickets for \$10, or 7 tickets for \$20. This prize will be drawn at the end of the W9DXCC convention programs.

Raffle #2 – Prize **Flex 8400**. Tickets will be \$10 each or priced in discounted blocks. If you purchase them during registration, they are 1 ticket for \$10, 3 tickets for \$20, or 7 tickets for \$40. This prize will be drawn at the end of the banquet. Attendance to the banquet is not necessary.

In the past there has been other prizes given away during the convention and other smaller raffles too.

Registration

To register to attend the W9DXCC, the universities, and banquet go to:

<https://w9dxcc.com/registration>

W9DXCC is an ARRL sanctioned event.

What is a DX?

DX is a telegraphic shorthand for “distance” or “distant”.

What is a DX-pedition?

A DX-pedition is an expedition to what is considered an exotic place by amateur radio operators and DX listeners, typically because of its remoteness, access restrictions, or simply because there are very few radio amateurs active from that place. This could be an island, a country, or even a particular spot on a geographical grid. Some locations are rare due to their extreme inaccessibility, such as Clipperton Island, Navassa Island or Desecheo Island.

RADIO EXPO 2024

Illinois Largest Hamfest

Dealers!

Radios!

Computers!

Electronics!

Raffles!

Sunday

September 22nd, 2024

Boone County Fairgrounds

8791 IL-76

Belvidere, IL 61008

Indoor Market 8am-3pm

Flea Market 6am-3pm

Breakfast – Lunch

Bring The Family

Hourly Drawings

VEC Testing 9am-Noon

RV's or Motor Homes

Camping

Water-Electric \$45

Contact Fairgrounds for Permit

Talk-In Repeater

146.760 – 107.2

WA9ORC



Making Ham Radio Fun!

Name / Company	<input type="text"/>	Call Sign	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>		
City	<input type="text"/>	State	<input type="text"/>
Zip	<input type="text"/>	Phone	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

Service	Cost	Quantity	Total
Advance Tickets	\$8.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Outside Power	\$10.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Inside Tables	\$20.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Inside Power	\$10.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

For event questions: Call 773-614-4733 , or Email wa9orc@gmail.com	Make Check payable to: Chicago FM Club 3619 S. 54 th Ct. Cicero, IL. 60804	Or, Pay by Zelle: 	TOTAL DUE: <input type="text"/>
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Vendor setup is Saturday, September 21st from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM with security overnight.
CFMC reserves the right to make changes as required

Radio Expo 2024_04



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.

Rev. 3/10/2024