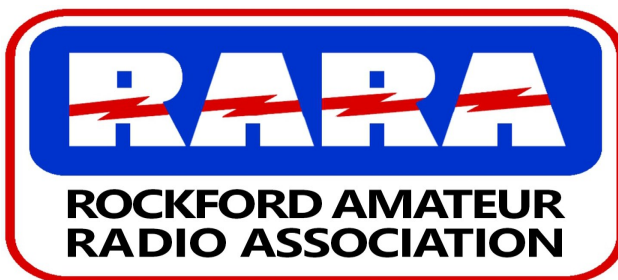


HAMRAG

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.

June 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.

The board extends its thanks to Tony Felix, KD9YUK for his time serving on the board. With the demands of school and work needing to take priority right now, the board sadly accepted Tony's resignation. See you further down the log, Tony!

Mid-term board vacancies are filled by appointment of the president, with board approval. **We welcome**, Dan Larson, KD9SAZ to the RARA board. Dan brings lots of knowledge and energy to the board and RARA. You can meet him at field day and most monthly meetings.

Welcome new RARA members:

Pedro Palos, KJ5GCS and Doug Passmore, currently studying

Thanks to returning RARA members:

Jamie Cook, W9JTC and Jon Lipscomb, AC9YE

Please put the following date on your calendar:

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

Field Day planning is almost complete but not too late for your participation! This is a great opportunity for new hams and those still exploring the hobby. **More at the June 14 meeting** and on page 4.

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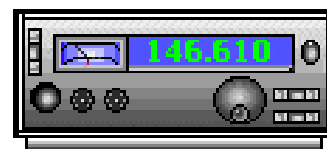
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RARA Membership Form



NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY— June 14, 2024 - 7:00pm

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

Finalizing Field Day Plans
HAM of the Year
Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) update

Local Events and Information

June 14, 2024 RARA Membership Meeting 7:00pm
June 26, 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

Thanks to Kevin Puckett, N9EGF, for the interesting May Meeting presentation on LiPO4 Batteries and Solar Charging for portable operations.

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 July 2024 Hamrag is Tuesday, June 25 2024

73, Verna—KD9YUM, Editor

Local Events and Information

The independent Swap Meet and Social was held May 18th at Camp Winnebago and was a great success! About 24 hams attended and trading and socializing were great! The event will be held again next May about the same date, yet to be finalized.

For those that missed it, the event is not sponsored by any club or organization; all are welcome! There's no admission, no food except what you bring, no vendors or VE testing, just a bunch of hams getting together to swap stuff and socialize!

Thanks to Jim, KC9GCR and others for helping to spread the word on the air and to Verna, KD9YUM for mention in the RARA Hamrag, and to MATT, W3MBX for the great location!

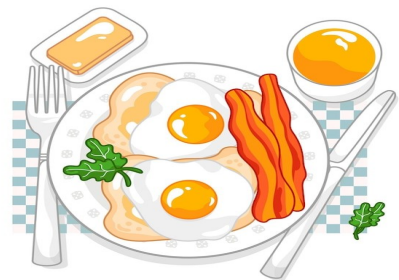
See you next year!!!

Larry Lisle, K9KZT

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.



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

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 (**P**arks **O**n **T**he **A**ir)

SOTA (**S**ummits **O**n **T**he **A**ir)

IOTA (**I**slands **O**n **T**he **A**ir)

VOTA (ARRL— **V**olunteers **O**n **T**he **A**ir)

JOTA (**S**couts—**J**amboree **O**n **T**he **A**ir)

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

Ham newbie editor asks, What's a Tuna Tin 2? Click on the Tuna for more!



Feature Article

Why Field Day? By Larry Schubert, AC9GO

Why do we have Field Day anyway? Field Day is a lot of things. It is a contest, it is an open house, and a way for Ham radio operators to demonstrate what hams might do in an emergency. While the information is basically a short exchange of information between stations it demonstrates how we can efficiently, and accurately send information from one station to another using portable power, radios and antennas put up on an outside site.

Started in 1933 by the ARRL, Field Day has become a favorite get together for hams in the United States and Canada. It has become a picnic, a camp out and a demonstration to the community of the amateur radio capabilities. Hams use all types of communication to exchange messages with other amateurs across the continent. Field Day might also be a couple of hams camping for the weekend, setting up their portable operation and working through the night.

Some stations use the Morse code, others use satellites or digital communication. They also use Single Side Band which is voice communication in an electronic format that makes it many times more effective than a signal put out by an AM or FM broadcast station. Hams today utilize many forms of communication. Some hop into their car in the morning to go to work here in the Rockford area may turn on their transceiver and talk to a friend in northern Wisconsin or maybe hook into the internet through a repeater and talk to a friend in England or France or almost any where in the world. When they get home in the evening they may talk through a satellite or send a picture or a comic with slow scan tv. If they are lucky they may be able to talk to the International space station. Ham radio is on the cutting edge of communication.

Field Day is the fourth weekend of June each year. The public is invited to a Field Day site to see what emergency communications might look like. Most hams would be glad to show you around their site.

When an emergency strikes, Ham radio is often on the front lines serving their community and area with communication for fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, earth quakes or whatever. They were there on 9/11 in New York. They were in Boston when the marathon was bombed, and they are here in Winnebago county when the weather turns bad. Trained weather spotters will spot trouble spots that the weather radar can't see. Radar indicates the possibility, Hams are their eyes when needed.

When mother nature hits an area with a fire, a tornado, a hurricane, or a flood Hams are there to help. Because of what they do on a normal basis they are able to communicate a message fast and without mistakes. Join us for field day. You'll be glad you did.

73 Larry AC9GO

Local Events and Information



June 22 – 23, 2024

There is something for everyone young and old. It is a chance to learn about amateur radio, further develop skills, operate several different modes, experiment if you want, and socialize with others.

We will be running two HF rigs; SSB and Digital/CW plus a GOTA (Get On The Air) station. Additionally, solar powered VHF/UHF station.

Call in Frequencies will be:

VHF 147.195 repeater
GMRS: 462.575 repeater

Plan (all times local):

Set-up: 0900-1200
Lunch: 1100-1300
Begin: 1300-Saturday, June 22, 2024
Dinner: TBD
Take-down: 1200-Sunday, June 23, 2024

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.

Items you may want to consider bringing:

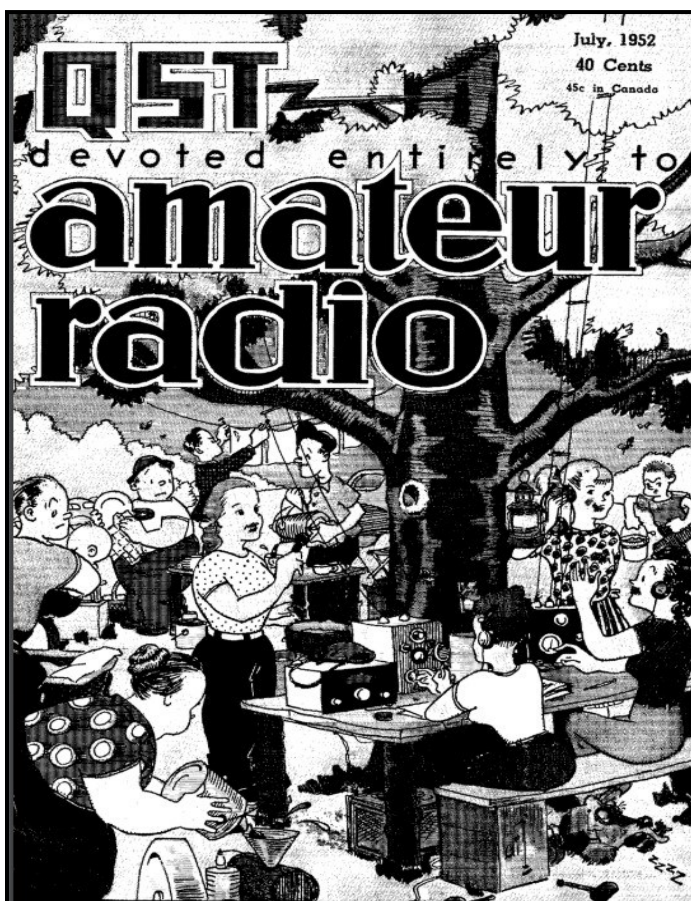
- ⇒ Lawn chairs
- ⇒ Bug repellant
- ⇒ Sun block
- ⇒ Specific beverages you like, the Club will be supplying water
- ⇒ Rain gear in the event there is inclement weather

Location:

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

If you have questions, call or email Matt (W3MBX) 815.222.5959 or
matthew.marshall@gmail.com.

Field Day



2024 ARRL FIELD DAY IS JUNE 22-23

- ⇒ Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC (1pm CDT) Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday.
- ⇒ Object: To work as many stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.
- ⇒ A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of amateur radio.



Feature Articles

My Field Day Experiences by Matt Marshall, W3MBX

My first field day was Winter Field Day with the Beloit Club. I had my technician license for about 6-7 months, was a member of RARA, was studying off-and-on for my General and I wanted to learn more about HF. Kurt (KE9N) invited me to join him and the Beloit Club at Chuck's (WD9BB) house. Winter Field Day 2022 was a huge snow store; I told Kurt I think we should get extra points for doing it in a blizzard. After the introductions, Chuck says "...Get him on the radio...". A little reluctant to hop right on; I knew there was some sort of a protocol, I just didn't know what it was; I wasn't mic shy; I have been on the radio since I was 18 in the Navy so that didn't bother me; I volunteered to log while Kurt was running the radio so I could see what was happening. Logging came pretty naturally; I knew the phonetic alphabet and the software was pretty simple to use. Within a short amount of time Kurt had a pile-up; it was a little hard to keep up at times, but I did; watching an experienced operator plow through the pile-up's is pretty impressive. Then Chuck piped up again and said "...put a mic in his hand...", so I did. First time running HF and I loved it; I was pretty sure I would like it, but I got bit by the HF bug right then and there. Throughout that evening and the next day, I ran with Kurt (KE9N), Greg (K9GJN) and Brian (KD9QVB). Everyone has their own technique and I took pieces from everyone; I learned a ton during that field day and was hooked on HF. Shortly after winter field day I joined the Beloit Club (actually joined that Sunday evening), bought a used HF rig, got my General in March and was running HF whenever I could. I had a makeshift set-up for my EFHW antenna and had to put it up and take it down every time I wanted to operate; it slowed me down a little bit, but when I had time, I was on the air. Side note; I rarely do things halfway; I call it "full blast immersion syndrome"; my wife calls it obsessive compulsive disorder...I like my diagnosis better.

My second field day was last year (June 2023) with RARA; I had so much fun at winter field day I couldn't wait until Summer. I volunteered to help with pre planning, set-up and take-down, operating, GOTA etc.; wherever I could be helpful; I wanted to experience every piece. I also know this stuff doesn't get done by itself; it takes a team plus I really enjoy it, so I figured...let's go all in (there is that syndrome again). Summer Field day was blast! Learning all the time; set-up, antennas, band pass filters, propagation, operating efficiency, etc. I had the opportunity during the downtime to really get to know some of the Club members which was awesome. Kevin (N9EGF) prepared the food; it was excellent; we also had the opportunity to do quite a bit of rag chewing too. I didn't operate as much as I thought I would, but had a great time; I have as much fun watching other people having fun and participating as I do myself. Larry (AC9GO) and I ran together & we got some great pile-ups, Gordon (KC9NEX) and I ran for a while; we traded back and forth logging and operating. One of the most awesome things to see was Joe (K9JPP) and his dad (K9OUP) running together.

Feature Article

I even got my 16-year-old daughter on the radio, albeit for just a few minutes, but I got her on. We had a few people very interested in the hobby; one even got his technician license Tony (KD9YUK) several months later. The GOTA station was a huge success; it was used quite a bit for contacts as well as demonstration/teaching by experienced operators. By noon Sunday I was pretty exhausted, but I had so much fun I couldn't wait until the next one.



Looking forward to Summer Field Day 2024; I have been planning for months; I know it's a little overkill but what the heck; it's fun. I would encourage everyone to come out, even if you only have an hour or so; trust me, it will be worth your time and it's always nice to see people in person.

73'

Matt

W3MBX

Feature Article

My Most Unforgettable Field Day Experience by Bill Fritsche, K0SDZ

My most unforgettable field day experience was back in the 80s when a buddy KB9BTB invited me to participate in field day with his group, the Saint Croix County club. I had been privileged to introduce Bob to amateur Radio a couple years earlier. At his 50th birthday party I showed him my 2-meter HT and demonstrated a Local repeater. Bob immediately became infected with the Radio bug and began working toward licensure. Now a couple years later as a full-fledged ham, he invited me to join his local club for field day in Western Wisconsin.

What was most memorable about this experience was its unique location, an abandoned Nike missile base. It was hidden away in the wooded Hills of St. Croix County, yet it was a short distance from interstate 94. During the Cold War it had served to provide missile defense against the potential threat of Soviet bombers carrying nuclear weapons. About 40 miles east of St. Paul it was one of four similar installations ringing the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Now After a few decades of exposure and neglect, what remained was like a military base ghost-town. As best I can recall, buildings were dilapidated with no available plumbing or electricity... potentially a very cool field day set up.

We strung wires and brought in benches and chairs. There were couple of 1980s style Kenwood HF rigs to for the shack. We fired up the generator. A naked bulb illuminated the dingy stained walls. I brought my Dow-Key bug and my favorite headset.In strange surroundings It's nice to have a couple things you're familiar with. Bob and I volunteered for the early morning shift, 200 to 600 local time, Bob worked phone and I was pounding brass. It turned out to be a good location. We were putting respectable signals and getting good reports. The band was in decent shape with plenty of stateside activity through the night on 40m CW. We kept busy busy...had to do our own logging with paper and pencil.

Of course, activity comes in spurts. Sometimes there's a pile-up. Other times You are digging weak signals out of the mud. Then things get quiet for a while. Coffee helps maintain alertness to a certain point but then Sleep deprivation hits and concentration lapses. More coffee. More fatigue.

Eventually There's kind of a twilight-zone of altered consciousness. Strange fleeting thoughts and disturbing questions come to mind:

Feature Article



Shouldn't this place be a restricted area ?

Exactly who obtained permission for us to be here anyway?

Did they get it in writing?

Could some Stray RF activate a long-forgotten Nike Buried in a nearby silo?

Well, I don't need to tell you that everything turned out OK and we did not innocently trigger global thermonuclear war that night. The sun came up as usual. We shared a hearty breakfast, swapped a few stories, and passed the baton to the next crew.

I'm hoping to join the RARA field day in 2025. Meanwhile, have a great field day 2024.

73

Bill KOSDZ



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

- **07/06/2024 | Schaumburg IL 60194**
Sponsor: Schaumburg ARC (SARC)
Location: Schaumburg Park District Community Recreation Center
Time: 9:00 AM (**No Walk-ins** allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **07/06/2024 | Madison WI 53715-2143**
Sponsor: Four Lakes ARC
Location: Univ of WI Space Place
Time: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **07/08/2024 | Libertyville IL 60048-1308**
Sponsor: Lake County RACES/ARES
Location: Lake County EOC
Time: 7:00 PM (**No Walk-ins** allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **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](#)

Miscellaneous

For Sale from the estate of Scott Francis AA9SF:

Icom IC-22S, 2-Meter Transceiver, 10/1 Watts.....\$45
Icom IC-208H, 2-Meter or 70-Centimeter,
2-M 55/15/5 Watts, 70-Cm 50/15/5 Watts\$275
Icom IC-V8000, 2-Meter Transceiver, 75/25/10/5 Watts\$175
Icom IC-28A, 2-Meter Transceiver, 25/5 Watts\$70
Uniden BC120XLT Scanner, 100 Channel.....\$35
All above units sold as working but untested.

Other Items:

Barker & Williamson 423 Filter\$25
NIC 108KA, 12 Volt, 8 Amp Power Supply\$40
Heathkit AM-2 SWR Meter.....\$10
Home Brew 6-Meter Antenna Tuner\$25

Manuals for the Icom radio's are available online.

Lower offers will be considered.

Contact:

Larry McFall, KD9HKX

RARA Secretary

815-900-1820 or

lpmcfall@charter.net

The South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest 2024!

Date: Saturday July 6, 2024

7:00 am to 3:30 pm

Sellers can enter at 6:30 am

\$5.00 per person at the gate

American Legion Post 434

9327 S Sheppard Ave

Oak Creek WI

Talk-in Frequency

146.910 127.3PL -offset

Our contract with the American Legion does not allow any early setup to reserve selling spaces .

Karen KC9WQJ 414-578-0492...or kc9wqj@gmail.com

Food available through the American Legion Women's Auxiliary at @6:30 am

American Legion Bar will open @ 10 am



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