

HAM RAG

Rockford Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Visit our website for more club and area ham information
in the Rockford area at <http://rara.tripod.com>

August 2003

The Aftermath



At the July meeting Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW, Scott Allhouse, KB9YRW, Sue Peters, KA9GNR, and Pat Ryan, KC6VVT, accepting for Kevin Hayck, KB9WOB (not present) received awards and recognition for the work they did during and after the storms of July 5.

The meeting presentation was given by R. Pat Ryan, KC6VVT, Section Emergency Coordinator for the Illinois Section, who talked about ARES and the need for volunteers in emergency situations.



Special Meeting Location And Time

Picnic in the Park
At
Alpine Park Shelter #2
(Near playground)

August 10, 2003
Time 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Barbeque ,bake beans, water, and soft drinks will be provided by club.

Please bring your own table service and a dish to pass.

Up Coming and Ongoing Project's

On The Waterfront - John Birly, AA9SK
Truck Project - Herb Eckstein, W9AMJ
ARES - Sue Peters, KA9GNR

Please offer to volunteer your services where you can. For they always need or going to need help for Events and Projects.

On The Waterfront is our largest fundraiser of the year and that time is coming at the end of the month. John Birly AA9SK is the committee chairman and is needing volunteers to help fill some time slots for selling tickets.

Presidents Log – August 2003

This month's log starts with a request for HELP from the members of the club. As you are aware, On The Waterfront is our biggest fundraiser of the year and that time is coming at the end of the month. John Birly AA9SK is the committee chairman and is calling everyone to help fill some time slots for selling tickets. Please look at your calendars and make room to help your club out raising money and have a good time all at the same time.

This is Picnic month for RARA, so our annual family picnic will replace the regular meeting. See details in this month's Ham Rag for picnic information.

I am hearing through the grapevine that some of you have specific programs you would like to see at the RARA meeting. You may have an idea of a presentation that others have not thought of and would be of great interests to all. Please let your club officers or board members know of any ideas you have for monthly presentations. As of the printing of this Ham Rag there is not a scheduled presentation for September.

Herb, K9AMJ, is the chairman of the truck committee and is looking for help in working on the truck, if you are interested in working with Herb on this project please let him know.

I would like everyone to keep in mind the new Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Winnebago County, Sue Peters, KA9GNR, is a member of RARA and would invite all members to work with her and help with any and all events, emergency or community service.

If you know of any hams that are not members of RARA or some of the members that have not been to a meeting in a while, please invite them to our next meeting.

As always, your comments and/or suggestions are always welcome, your officers and board members are here to serve you.

73, and see you at the meeting.

Scott, KB9YRW

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS TO THE RESCUE AS CELL PHONES FAIL

Interlinked emergency repeaters played a key role in providing communications during the recent Arizona wildfires.

Radio Amateurs in Navajo County set up repeater links to allow contact between the Red Cross communications center and a number of evacuation sites. This, after it was found that cellular telephone coverage across the area was inadequate.

The hams stepped in when the walkie-talkie feature of the cellular telephones failed to operate as advertised. The reason appears to have been the small number of relay sites available in the isolated areas where the fires were burning.

The hastily assembled Amateur Radio relay system along with existing high level Amateur service repeaters are reported to have performed flawlessly. This made possible an ongoing exchange of vital evacuation information. (ARNewline)

The monthly Board of Directors Meeting are held at Saint Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

RARA-ATV Update

Want to get on ATV? We are getting closer to getting the repeater on air the we have our new call as W9ATN. We now also have most of the key components needed to start testing. The repeater will have an input of 1253 Mhz and an output of 421.25 Mhz (channel 57 on a cable ready tv). In the future we are planning to put in 1.2 Ghz to 2.4 Ghz links to widen the receive range beyond the Rockford area to better serve surrounding communities. This may help in keep the costs down and allowing more amateurs wanting to get into ATV to do so.

To achieve the initial money for the start up costs, dues have been set at \$50.

The dues go totally to the ATV fund and you will become a member of ATN-Illinois. The money DOES NOT count towards any regular RARA membership dues. Money will be kept separate from any other RARA fund by the RARA-ATV account. We hope that regular members will continue to support RARA in their normal fashion. It may well be that after a couple of years at \$50, that we will be in a maintenance mode and will be able to reduce the ATN dues. That will be up to you, the membership of ATN.

So, if you would like to join the RARA-ATV/ATN-Illinois please make the check out to RARA-ATV and send to:

Gene Harlan
5931 Alma Dr.
Rockford, IL 61108

Thanks for your support of ATN-Illinois and RARA-ATV.

Contact John at ka9sog@arrl.net or Gene at atvq@hampubs.com for any questions about RARA-ATV.

FCC upholds vanity fee policy, sets new fee start date.

The FCC has announced that the new Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$16.30 for the 10-year license term will go into effect September 9. Until then, applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the current \$14.50 fee per vanity call sign application. The FCC says it expects to collect close to \$160,000 from 9800 Amateur Radio vanity call sign applicants during Fiscal Year 2003. That's up by almost \$30,000 and 800 applications from FY2002.

In releasing its annual Report and Order on the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY2003, the FCC responded at some length to comments filed from the amateur community. Some commenter had questioned the need for the fee, the requirement to pay it when renewing a vanity call sign and why refunds were not automatic.

Telecommunications Act provisions governing regulatory fee assessment cover applications for vanity call signs, which, the FCC said, "are voluntarily requested by licensees" and are "a value-added benefit not afforded to all licensees." Assessment of a regulatory fee to cover the FCC's processing and enforcement costs to make the vanity call sign service available is reasonable, the FCC concluded.

The FCC said its current policy of assessing "a nominal fee" at the time of initial application and at each renewal also allows greater access to vanity call signs. "A high one-time-only fee would be cost prohibitive for many entities wishing to obtain a vanity call

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**Rockford Amateur Radio Association
Monthly meeting of the membership**

July 11, 2003

St. Anthony Hospital

RARA President Scott Allshouse, KB9YRW, called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Minutes: The minutes from the June meeting were read by Secretary Wendy Owano, KC9BCF. The motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Larry Snyder, K0HNM, second by Chuck Liljegren, WB9UMC, and the motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Rich Ludwig, K9PK, reported a balance of \$3,448.25 as of June 24, 2003, a **net loss** of \$888.97. Money from the savings account was transferred to the checking account to cover the costs of insurance and decals for the club truck. Larry Snyder moved to accept the report as presented, second by Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW, and the motion was carried by voice vote.

Old Business: Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, reported that things are going well with getting the ATV repeater ready for use. The repeater was assigned the call sign of W9ATN. Gene also reported that 2 ATV contacts were made on Field Day.

Truck Committee: Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ, reported that he needs volunteers for the committee to get the work done on the truck. Herb will meet with the RARA board at its next meeting to present his committee's ideas for the truck. If you are interested in helping on this committee, please contact Herb.

OTW: Committee chairman John Birly, AA9SK, reported that many volunteers are needed for this club fundraiser being held on August 29, 30, and 31. RARA members should expect to get a phone call requesting their help. The shifts are 4 hours in length. **Help make this a successful money-maker for the club.**

New Business: Sue Peters, KA9GNR, thanked everyone who helped with the severe weather situation the weekend of July 5 and 6.

Mark Broman, N9CNW, reported that he received a thank you from the RAMP organization for the help that hams provided at the Wheel-A-Thon event.

Herb Eckstein has some ham equipment to sell. If interested please contact Herb at his email address, herbx9@yahoo.com and he will forward a list to you.

Scott informed everyone about an ARRL bulletin that had information from the WRC-03 (World Radio Conference). One highlight in the bulletin was about 40 meter regulations. Another highlight was the conference's recommendation to drop the Morse Code requirement; each country must make its own decision on this issue.

John Lawrence, N9OTC, reminded the members that there is a Monday night net on the 146.610 repeater. The activity for the net has decreased over the past weeks.

Guest speaker was R. Pat Ryan, KC6VVT, Section Emergency Coordinator for the Illinois Section.

Larry Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Bill Peters, WB9MCZ, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Owano, RARA Secretary



RARA Officers for 2003

President: Scott Allshouse KB9YRW
Vice President: John Auerswald KA9SOG
Secretary: Wendy Owano KC9BCF
Treasurer: Rich Ludwig K9PK
Director: Shari Harlan N9SH
Director: Joe Roling N9HEZ
Director: John Birly AA9SK
Director: Larry Snyder K0HNM
Newsletter and Web Site:
John Auerswald KA9SOG

THE NEXT AMATEUR RADIO EXAM SESSION IS

**9 AM SATURDAY
AUGUST 16, 2003.**

**North Suburban
District Library
6340 N 2nd St.
Loves Park, IL**

Check-in is from 9AM till 11AM. We require two signature ID's (one must be a photo ID).

If you are a licensed amateur radio operator bring your original current license and a copy.

If you are using a CSCE for an element credit bring the original and a copy.

Copiers available at site. (We need to see the originals & keep a photocopy of each document used for element credit.)

The test fee for 2003 is \$12.00.
Walk-ins welcome.

HAM RADIO TESTING: QPC RECALLS QUESTION

From the National Conference of Volunteer Examiners Coordinators word that its Question Pool Committee of has withdrawn question T5B04 from the Element 2 Question Pool. This, effective July 27th. This question is withdrawn due to the changes in Part 97 of the Amateur Service rules dealing with the new 60 Meter amateur allocation. (NCVEC)

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sign," the Commission said. The Commission also said it incurs costs to manage each vanity call sign throughout its existence, not just in the first 10 years.

Regarding refunds due when the FCC denies an application, the FCC said its rules require a written request from applicants before it can process refunds of regulatory fees. "The written request serves as documentation when cross-referencing each unique file number that may be entitled to a refund," the FCC added.

The FCC said the documentation was particularly important in the case of Amateur Radio vanity applications, "because filing trends indicate that some applicants file several vanity call sign applications per day for several days on end." Requiring a written request makes it easier to certify "which fees are to be refunded for which dismissed applications," the Commission said. In addition, those processing applications in FCC bureaus and offices don't have the authority to issue refunds without proper documentation.

A copy of the Report and Order is available on the FCC Web site at,
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-184A1.doc.

**Have anything or would like to
submit an article to be put in the
Ham Rag or the website?
Contact me by e-mail at
ka9sog@arrl.net and visit [http://
rara.tripod.com](http://rara.tripod.com) for any late
breaking news and information.**

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The
Mailing
Address
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Here

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION

New Student Fee \$10

DUES REGULAR/INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY \$25
SENIOR 62 OR ON DISABILITY INCOME \$10
HAM RAG ONLY \$5

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

RENEWAL _____ NEW _____ RETIRED _____

RADIO INTEREST _____

OTHER INTERESTS _____

SUGGESTIONS _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:
ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 8465
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126

