

# HAM RAG

Rockford Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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in the Rockford area at <http://rara.tripod.com>

September 2003

## Joe Roling, N9HEZ - S.K.

Joseph William Roling, 56, of Rockford died Thursday, Aug. 14, 2003, in his residence from a sudden illness. Born Aug. 2, 1947, in Rockford. Son of Irvin and Margaret (Simon) Roling. He was a lifelong Rockford resident. He was employed at the information desk at OSF



St. Anthony Medical Center. He was a member of the Rockford Amateur Radio Club as a past club officer and was a current board of director; past president and current member of People First of Illinois, an advocacy group for disabled people; a former member of Rockford Indoor Sports Club; He was a volunteer for OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center for 10 years. He was an avid White Sox fan. He loved all sports, visiting with friends and family in person and online. He was a graduate of East High School in 1967 and Rockford Business College. Survivors include his mother, Margaret Roling of Rockford; sister, Elizabeth (Barry) Mendeloff of Byron; brother, Richard (Mary) Roling of Chicago; four nieces, Tara (Chris) McCarver of Inver Grove

*(Continued on page 2)*

**The September meeting is at  
7:00 pm September 12, 2003**

The program for this month's meeting  
will be:

**Dennis Lolli  
Winnebago County  
ESDA Chief**

*Saint Anthony Medical Center  
5666 E. State Street Rockford, IL.*

To get to the meeting room go to the main entrance - turn right at desk - go to the end of hall to the meeting rooms.

## From the Desk of AA9SK

John Birly, AA9SK, wishes to thank all of those who helped with On the Waterfront being successful. About 130,000 dollars of tickets were sold during the 3 days of the event.

We will know at an later date how much we made when the efficiency report is completed by the Waterfront Committee.

John, also reports that 2,164 points were earned during the Field Day 2003 event. There were 500 bonus points included in that total. Overall the day was successful and a fun time.

**Please fill out the survey that you should of received via email or other methods from Larry Snyder, K0HMN, who developed it for the RARA - Board of Directors and return it to Larry. Member viewpoints and interests are very important and this is a great opportunity to be heard and help steer RARA into the future.**

## President's Log September 2003

This month's log starts on a very sad note, I am sorry to announce the passing of a member of the Board of Directors, Joe Rolling, N9HEZ. Joe passed away at his home on August 14<sup>th</sup>, please see the article regarding Joe on the cover of this HamRag.

The presentation for the September meeting will be Dennis Lolli, Chief of the Winnebago Sheriff's Emergency Response Team, Dennis has been the ESDA Director for a number of years. Dennis will be talking about the role of Ham Radio in a declared emergency working directly with the county.

On The Waterfront has come and gone for 2003, I would like to thank everyone involved this year selling tickets. This is the largest fundraiser of the year for RARA and everyone has a great time selling and talking with the visitors. As the writing of this log I do not have the totals but will report these numbers to the club as soon as I receive them. A special Thank You goes to John Birly, AA9SK, as the chairman for this project.

Classes are coming up again for new and upgrading hams at Rock Valley College, the Technician class will be the 1<sup>st</sup> two Saturday's in October and the General will be the 1<sup>st</sup> two Saturday's in November. If you know of folks looking to enter into the hobby or current hams wanting to upgrade, please let them know of our upcoming classes.

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 the September 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



Pictures of the 2003 August RARA picnic.

*Joe Rolling (Continued from page 1)*

Heights, Minn., Jeni (David) Kahley of St. Charles, Niki (David Cunningham) Teranova of Chicago, Sara Terranova of Champaign; and several great-nieces-and-nephews. Predeceased by his father, Irvin J. Rolling.

Mass of Christian Burial was Monday, Aug. 18, in St. Joseph Catholic Church, 202 Second Ave. SE, Farley, Iowa, with Fr. Dennis Cain officiating. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery in Iowa. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the family.

RARA will greatly miss him and his contributions to the club and hobby. We express our sympathy to his family for their and our loss.

Known in the hospital is Bob Smith, N9FCN, who is recovering from an auto accident not too long after being hospitalized for a lengthy illness. Last known address was the VA hospital in Madison, Wisconsin.

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 making good progress on the new ATV repeater, despite all the summer activities going on. The repeater has been on the air transmitting from time to time for checking the tone control to see that it works properly. All that is left is the 1.2 GHz receiver mounted in a box and the video inputs/outputs wired to be accessible from the outside of the controller cabinet. The only other pieces of equipment that we need are the 434.00 MHz Xtal controlled receiver for the secondary video input and a 430 MHz 100w amp.

The antennas are temporarily going to be mounted at Gene's, WB9MMM, house so that the repeater can be tested as a repeater for a few weeks to make sure everything is working as expected.

So, soon we should have it up and running. When we do, we will have a portable unit that we can take around town and do some testing. So, if you are wondering how it will work from your location, we hope to be able to "show" you. Then you can decide if you want to invest in the equipment yourself. We may incur some trouble in some locations since we need height to actually get the signal into the repeater, but we hope what we can do will give you an idea that your location has possibilities.

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, which 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

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

## Scanner Tales

by KB9SKW

In response to several members by request. I am going to start to write a column in the Ham-Rag every month based on Public Safety. Mostly the column will deal with public safety frequencies and terminology. In the coming months I will touch on and explain such things as what MABIS is, list all of the area police and fire 10 codes (yes police and fire use different 10 codes) and who exactly is a Tom or Ida unit. So for this month I am going to share area police and public safety frequencies and explain what they are in a little bit of detail.

154.755 MHz PL 156.7 Hz Control 1  
KYX863 Winnebago County West Side. Primary site was located the WIFR tower, secondary is 400 West State Street.

155.415 MHz PL 156.7 Hz Control 2  
KYQ863 Winnebago County East Side, Primary site located at 190 and East State Street on the IDOT tower.

155.565 MHz PL 156.7 Hz Control 3  
KNBG360 City of Rockford West Side. City police west of the Rock River, recently upgraded to a repeater system. Primary site location 3300 West State Street, secondary 4316 Newburg Road.

155.625 MHz Control 4  
KNBG360 City of Rockford East Side. City police east of the Rock River, upgraded to a repeater two years ago. Was located at 2929 Charles Street on East High School but recently moved to 4316 Newburg Road.

155.730 MHz PL 156.7 Hz Control 5  
KNBG360 Control 5 is a city wide frequency. You will hear APB's and such here. Backup to Control 3 or 4.

156.150 MHz Control 7  
KNBG360 Control 7 is used for tactical and surveillance communications by the City of Rockford police.

155.850 MHz Control 8  
KNBG360 Control 8 is used for car to car communications by the City of Rockford police.

155.190 MHz PL 156.7 HZ KSE905  
Loves Park Police Department dispatch. Repeater is located 5600 Windsor Road in Loves Park.

158.730 MHz PL 156.7 Hz WNQ1613  
Cherry Valley Police Department dispatch. Repeater is located at 806 Elgin Street in Cherry Valley. CVPD also works off of Control 2.

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

August 10, 2003

Alpine Park Shelter—RARA annual picnic

President Scott Allshouse, KB9YRW, called the meeting to order at 1:55 pm.

Scott asked that the members let him or any other board member know what they would like to see for presentations for future monthly meetings.

Scott mentioned that elections for club officers will be in October. The election committee is Shari Harlan, N9SH, and Wendy Owano, KC9BCF. They will be contacting members.

Mary Auerswald, KC9AKC, will be planning the awards dinner for January. The dinner will be held at Thunder Bay Grill. Individual reservations for the event can be submitted starting in October.

Sue Peters, KA9GNR, announced that she had selected three hams to assist her in her role as EOC. The individuals chosen were Eric Hultgren, N9MCS, John Lawrence, N9OTC, and Kevin Huyck, KB9WOB. Congratulations to the three!

Shari mentioned that 12 hams held helped with the State Street Mile event. Thanks to all of you!

Shari moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Eric Hultgren, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Owano, KC9BCF  
RARA Secretary



**Up Coming and Ongoing Project's**

Election Committee - Shari Harlan, N9SH, and  
Wendy Owano, KC9BCF  
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.**



A few months ago the 146.610 repeater went off the air due to a lighting strike to the WROK tower. Being that the tower is a live tower a device called an isocoupler is used to isolate the repeater from the tower. The picture on the left is what a good one looks like, the one on the right is why the repeater was down for about 3 days. Luckily the station engineer for WROK had a spare one laying around so Herb, K9AMJ, was able to replace it at no expense to the club.

***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**

## HAMS A BRIGHT SPOT DURING POWER BLACKOUT

When a power blackout struck at least a half dozen eastern states August 14, many Amateur Radio operators were ready and able to provide whatever assistance they could. Hardest hit were metropolitan areas like New York City, Detroit and Cleveland. In New York, residents and commuters found themselves stranded in electricity-dependent elevators and subway or rail cars while visitors ended up stuck at airports, which were forced to shut down. With the cellular systems overloaded or out altogether, the incident turned into a test of Amateur Radio's capabilities to operate without commercial power.

"It was a good drill," said New York City-Long Island Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Carrubba, KA2D. But, he adds, it was a cautionary tale too. "The lesson is that everybody gets a little complacent," he said. "Have emergency power backup and make sure it's working!"

By and large, Carrubba said, ARES members did what they were trained to do. "It's going to show the worth of Amateur Radio," he said of the blackout response. "There were people on the air immediately."

Diane Ortiz, K2DO, the Public Information Coordinator for NYC-Long Island was one of them. When power went down in her Suffolk County community, she started up an informal VHF net. Over the next 20 hours or so, it passed some 500 pieces of what Ortiz described as largely "health-and-welfare traffic."

"People are getting on and helping," she said. In addition to handling messages for people stranded in the city, amateurs also relayed useful information, such as which stores or filling stations were open and operating. With many radio and TV stations dark, and hams were able to help fill the information void, Ortiz said.

In the Big Apple itself, ARES teams provided communication support for Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) set up at main transportation centers in Manhattan. ARES members also accompanied ERVs on fire calls.

RACES activated in most Greater New York City area counties after a state of emergency was declared. Some ARES teams--including a few across the Hudson River in New Jersey--activated or remained on standby to help if called upon. In New Jersey, a net linked the Red Cross lead chapter's N2ARC in Princeton with other New Jersey ARC chapters.

Michigan Section Manager Dale Williams, WA8EFK, reports scattered ARES activations. Williams, who lives in Dundee south of Detroit, was without power August 15 and relying on his emergency generator. Some Michigan ARES teams assisted emergency operations centers and the Red Cross.

In Ohio, Section Emergency Coordinator Larry Rain, WD8IHP, reports that all ARES organizations in northern Ohio were activated after the power grid went down. Still going strong at week's end were ARES teams in Cleveland and Akron. "ARES is handling communication support for Ohio Emergency Management in the affected cities and communities," Rain said. Ohio VHF and UHF nets and the Ohio SSB net on HF have been handling blackout-related traffic.

Nancy Hall, KC4IYD--who lives 20 miles west of Cleveland--said she's glad she'd taken the ARRL Emergency Communications Level I class. "I have to say that being a ham and knowing about emergency preparedness did make life easier for me and my family," said Hall, who's now signed up for the Level II class.

New England states were far less affected by the blackout. ARES/RACES operators in the region were on standby after the blackout. Only Connecticut and sections of Western Massachusetts reported significant outages, and ARES nets activated in both states.

Bill Sexton, N1IN/AAR1FP, an Army MARS member, said his emergency power capability permitted him to check into the Northeast SHARES (National Communications System HF Shared Resources Program) net and maintain e-mail contact after Berkshire County lost power.

"The experience proved once gain the great strength of ham radio in an emergency," Sexton said. "It is self-starting, and it is everywhere." (ARRL News)

## BPL PLACES FCC AT REGULATORY CROSSROAD, AMRAD SUGGESTS

Encouraging Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology puts the FCC at a regulatory crossroad, the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) <<http://www.amrad.org>> has suggested. AMRAD's remarks came August 20 in reply comments filed in response to the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket 03-104). The Washington, DC-based organization's comments also outlined its BPL testing and measurement efforts, which included laboratory and real-world conditions. AMRAD said any departure from the "current baseline" of Part 15 rules that govern unlicensed services would invite "troublesome unintended consequences" that could prove difficult to correct.

"The FCC is facing some serious decisions on whether to continue with past rules and historical enforcement or to dispense with their historical role and substitute rules which give the unlicensed Part 15 systems priority over the licensed systems such as the amateur radio service," AMRAD said. "Such changes to Part 15 rules would tip the responsibility of compliance so as to favor the unlicensed users and leave the FCC facing a large number of harmful interference complaints to resolve."

AMRAD recommended the FCC proceed "slowly and with caution" in advancing BPL as a viable and economical alternative to existing high-speed Internet technologies.

The non-profit scientific and educational organization expressed concerns as to whether the FCC would be able to enforce Part 15 rules as written in the face of neighborhood Internet service interruptions caused by "a single radio amateur or other FCC-licensed radio transmitter." It said its own testing has demonstrated that a 20-meter amateur transmitter running as little as 10 W in the vicinity of an in-house HomePlug standard BPL local network could seriously impair

the system's throughput. A 100 W signal would cause it to collapse altogether.

Ironically, the HomePlug standard substantially notches out the amateur bands--something ARRL convinced the HomePlug Powerline Alliance to do after amateur complaints sparked a recall of HomePlug-standard devices. The new 60-meter band is not notched out, however.

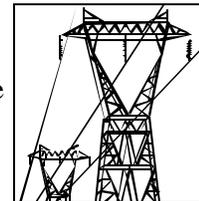
AMRAD said its observations and tests demonstrate that broadband BPL signals that conform to Part 15 "are well above the ambient noise and will interfere with many forms of reception." It said other non-HomePlug-standard systems that don't notch out ham bands "could cause more serious interference problems."

In the final analysis, AMRAD said, the FCC "must proceed with great care and take actions now to conduct testing to gather critical information" before making regulatory assessments. "The FCC efforts should remain focused on providing broadband to the home and not focus on any specific technology," AMRAD asserted.

AMRAD member Frank Gentges, K0BRA, recently assisted ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, in the League's efforts to assess the impact of BPL on HF. Gentges gave Hare a guided tour of "hot neighborhoods" in Manassas, Virginia, where BPL is undergoing field trials.

Although the reply comment window closed August 20, the number of comments in response to the FCC's BPL NOI was 4553 as of August 29 and counting, with some 100 comments filed since the deadline. Many comments in the BPL proceeding have come from the Amateur Radio community.

AMRAD's reply comments are available on the FCC Web site:



[http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6514683575](http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6514683575)

**THE NEXT AMATEUR  
RADIO EXAM SESSION IS**

**9 AM SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 20, 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.

**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.**

**Free Antenna for pickup**

**Cushcraft R7 Vertical  
25 feet long, needs work  
Gary - K9LJN 624-7441**

**ISS PACKET SYSTEM FAILS  
AGAIN  
AFTER BRIEF RESTART**

After being out of service for some time, the RSOISS packet system aboard the International Space Station reappeared briefly on August 24, much to the delight of packet users. But it didn't stay in operation very long.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says he still hopes the current crew of Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, can get to the bottom of what's wrong with the packet module before the Expedition 8 crew arrives in October.

Bauer says Malenchenko was able to reactivate the packet system on August 24 at around 1200 UTC. "Over the next nine hours, many hams around the world sent unproto digi signals through the packet system," he said, before the system abruptly quit. Bauer says the ARISS team has had several discussions on what the next steps should be.

Complicating the debugging effort, he said, is Progress rocket undocking and docking maneuvers that will occur over the next few days, leaving little extra time for the crew to troubleshoot the problem. Bauer said the current plan is to have Malenchenko provide a visual status report of the packet module (i.e., which switches are on, what LEDs are illuminated).

Bauer says having Malenchenko recycle the power should bring the packet system back up. "If the system abruptly shuts down after a few hours--as we expect--we will then ask the crew to attach a computer to the packet module, download the current parameters to the ground and reset the module," he said.

Bauer has expressed confidence that the packet problems will be resolved and that ARISS will move on to other challenges--including the installation of the Phase 2 hardware in a couple of months. "Please keep the faith," he said.  
(ARRL News)

**Rockford Amateur  
Radio Association, Inc.**

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September 2003

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

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

