

# HAM RAG

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In the Rockford area at <http://w9axd.com>



## NOVEMBER 2005

January is membership renewal time.

### Presidents Corner - NOVEMBER 2005

Prez Sez - -

1. Congratulations to the newly elected 2006 officers & board members.
2. Thank you to all of the members who have stepped up and taken on the jobs needed done to keep RARA moving forward.
3. An invitation for those of you who haven't accepted the challenge to do so. We need everyone to make it a success.

Tim (KC9DNN) will have another of his magic wands (antennas) at this months meeting. See what he has conjured up this time! We know that Tim and Chuck E build antennas, & Hoover builds keyers, so what do you build??

There has been no action taken as of yet toward the relocation of the 147.000 & the 223.88 systems. We are still looking for a suitable location.

Sue (KA9GNR) tells me that there will be a discussion regarding the January awards banquet. She has 3 places to choose from with several menu choices. Plan to be at this months meeting and bring your future appetite with you. Think January!

Don't forget to cast your vote for HAM of the YEAR. Access the work of the members and come up your choice. Fill out the blank in last month's HAM RAG and turn it in to Shari.

Remember this is your organization. Yours & only yours and only you **CAN** make the difference.

Have a safe family Thanksgiving!

73 Bill MCZ with contributions from Sue GNR

### From the Desk of the Vice President....

From the desk of the Vice President...

This year I think that I had a good run with being 2005 RARA Vice President. I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity, and their faith in me. I did the best that I could do, and I learned alot. Alot about my self, politics, and the club. I hope we always strive to do better, and to make it a better club for the new hams as they come along.

I ask that everyone makes way for the new 2006 RARA Officers. Please welcome them as well as you have welcomed me. I think next year will hold a lot of promise. This little club of ours can only be what we make it to be. So please give a warm welcome to Sheri N9SH, and Kurt KE9NJ. May this club be blessed with many more new members.

Signing Off & 73

Tim KC9DNN

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#### NEXT MEETING

**Friday, November 11, 2005**

The program for this month's meeting will be:

#### Movie and Popcorn

"Last Voice From Kuwait"  
by ARRL

#### LOCATION

St. Anthony Medical Center  
5666 E. State Street  
Rockford, IL

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

## Secretary's Report (RARA Club Meeting October 14, 2005)

Meeting called to order by President Bill WB9MCZ at 7:11 PM. Bill asked everyone to introduce themselves before we started the meeting.

Secretary Report – Gene KA9BOD, acting secretary read the September 8 meeting minutes. There were two corrections; the name of Carl W9TQ's wife should be Mary and the call sign of Steve James KA9NPT. Gene WB9MMM made motion to accept minutes as read and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary K9LJN. All approved.

Treasurers Report – Carl W9TQ read the treasurers report for the month of September as follows. There was income of \$52.00 (sale of OTW buttons \$36 and leftover meat from picnic \$16.) Expenses of \$58.81 (telephone \$51.81 and meeting snacks \$7.) The check book balance of \$189.01, Savings balance of \$4,138.31 for ending total cash on hand of \$4,327.32. Bob WA9NTT made motion to accept treasurer's report and seconded by Chuck WB9UMC. All approved.

### Old Business

On the Waterfront – Bill WB9MCZ heard from the OTW people who reported that we had a 99.7% accuracy with the money we handled in the ticket booths. OTW will cut RARA a check for \$1,576 for our efforts. (Last year RARA received \$1,325.)

Banquet – Sue KA9GNR will be the chairman for the banquet in January. She has looked at several places so far including Home Town Buffet, Giovanni's, Lino's and is looking for other suggestions. A couple suggestions offered were Lone Star and China Buffet. If you have other suggestions please contact Sue. She is trying to keep the price under or near \$25 if possible.

Head of the Rock Regatta – Wayne KA9IMX gave a report on this event. There were 17 hams that worked the event with an added bonus that 5 new people were given the opportunity for training in the morning and then put to work in the afternoon.

Boy Scout Encampment – Steve James KA9NPT, the main coordinator of the event for amateur radio, gave a report on AirCamp. There were about 5000 boys attending the AirCamp with about 40 different activities to participate in. Amateur Radio had about 20 hams staffing the radio portion using call K9BSA. The hams were from assorted clubs in Northern Illinois. About 2,200 boys came to visit and got to see ATV, PSK31, construction table, a 20 meter station and CW station. About 150 – 200 contacts were made during the event. Gene WB9MMM showed the portable ATV equipment the Rockford group used for Air Camp.

### New Business

Equipment for sale – Gene WB9MMM reported that he has been contacted by Marv Smith, K9RUK about some old teletype equipment that he needed to part with. Mike Gratti, N9AYI also had a 30 foot push up mast he was giving away.

ARRL News – Brad WW9WW asked for input on the ARRL Audio News being run after the Monday night 8 PM net. The RARA board will be making a decision at the November board meeting to determine if the audio newsletter will continue to be run or go away. Please contact Brad or a board member with your comments.

Election of Officers – Gary K9LJN, Bob WA9NTT and Dave W9MG conducted the voting process for election of club officers. The nominees were: President **Shari Harlan N9SH**, Vice President **Kurt Eversol KE9NJ**, Treasurer **Carl Cacciatore W9TQ** and Secretary **Colleen Peterson KC9EWJ**.

All four positions ran un-opposed. Fred, W9WOQ made a motion to accept these nominees as the new officers of RARA for 2006 and seconded by Dave W9MG. A vote of the membership present was unanimous.

Election of Board Members – (Vote for 2) The current President Bill Peters WB9MCZ and VP Tim Peterson KC9DNN did not run for re-election and automatically step onto the board of directors. The nominees for Director were: **Larry Carlstrom K9LC**, **Chuck Liljegen WB9UMC**, **Dick Nelson N9ZO**, **Dan Hunt KC9ATR**, **Wendy Owano KC9BCF** and **Mike Oberg AB9AY**. Ballots were passed out to the membership attending the meeting. The votes were counted and audited by Gene KA9BOD.

The two new Board Members for 2006 elected by popular vote are: **Dan Hunt KC9ATR** and **Wendy Owano KC9BCF**.

A motion was made by Chuck WB9UMC to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Dave W9MG at 8:41 PM.

The program was given by Wayne Hansen KA9IMX who presented a discussion on "Preparing for Emergencies" and a show and tell of the various emergency kits that he has for assorted conditions.

Submitted by Gene KA9BOD, acting secretary.

## ATV ACTIVITY & JOTA

ATV has had activity this weekend and last. Last Saturday several of us were involved in AIRCAMP 2005 at the Rockford Airport. It was a lot of fun. Wayne, KA9IMX; Dan, KA9ATR; John, KA9SOG; Mikayla, KC9HVQ, and myself were able to show off ATV to some 4000+ scouts! We had an ATV receive site set up about 1000 feet from the flight line where scouts were being given free plane rides by members of the EAA. Mikayla was doing live ATV interviews after they had their flight and the scouts lined up to be next on TV. We made about 6 hours of recordings and will pick highlights out and condense for later showing at one of our meetings.

Today we had JOTA and were prepared to transmit from our QTH through the repeater to John and Mikayla at their QTH. We had everything set and ready to go, and the repeater was working quite well. Last year we had 45-50 scouts come to our house and did about the same as we intended to do today. We were transmitting through the repeater while we waited for the scouts to come. The hours were 10 am to 2 pm. Well, I am sorry to say that not one scout showed up. We do not have a clue why especially since the turnout was so good last year. Thanks to Gene, KA9BOD; Dan, KC9ATR; Paul, K9RNR; Scott, W9SBA; John, KA9SOG; Mikayla, KC9HVQ; and Shari, N9SH for standing by the whole time waiting for a scout to show. While we waited, we sat around having good conversation and Gene, KA9BOD, even made contact on 40 meters with someone on an S bridge. I guess the bridge is in the shape of an "S". So, while disappointed about the turnout, we are sure to try again next year.

Gene - WB9MMM

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

October 15th there was 1 applicant resulting in no new license or upgrade.

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, November 19, 2005.

Location: St. Anthony Hospital  
5666 E. State Street  
Rockford, IL

Exams will be held in the St Francis Room (just right of the front entrance after you enter).

Check-in is from 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM.

What You Need To Bring To A W5YI-VEC Session

1. Your original Amateur License (unexpired or within the 2 year grace period) and a copy to attach to the paperwork.
2. Any valid CSCE that you are using for credit. Again the VE's have to see the original and have a copy to attach to the paperwork.
3. Two forms of Identification with your signature on them. One must be a picture ID (drivers license, passport, school ID, library card, credit card, etc.)
4. Test Fee \$14.00 cash or check. (please make checks payable to W5YI-VEC)

Contact Information  
Randy Scott, W9HL  
W9HL@arrl.net 815-877-4328

## SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

By Gary - K9LJN

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
XU7TAS	CAMBODIA	NOW TO NOV 10	ON4AJV
EX/ES1FB	KYRGYZSTAN	NOW TO NOV 14	ES1FB
A35BO	TONGA	NOW TO DEC 1	HB9FBO
HS0AR	THAILAND	NOW TO DEC 31	E21YDP
HS0T	THAILAND	NOW TO DEC 31	HS6NDK
VQ9OG	CHAGOS IS.	NOW TO DEC 31	W9ROG
H40HL	TEMOTU	NOV 5 – 11	HL1XP
VK9CG	COCOS-KEELING	NOV 8 – 21	W0YG
TX0P	MAYOTTE IS.	NOV 9 TO DEC 7	F6AUS
R1MVI	“MV” ISLAND	NOV 17 – 28	UA2FF
ZK2LU	NIUE	NOV 17 – 28	W2LU
A52CDX	BHUTAN	NOV 18 TO DEC 3	F9DK
PZ5WP	SURINAM	NOV 23 TO DEC 4	PA7FM
TZ5A	MALI	NOV 25 – 29	G3SXW
9M2/E21EIC	W. MALAYSIA	NOV 26 – 27	E21EIC
9M6NA	E. MALAYSIA	NOV 26 – 27	JE1JKL
6W1RW	SENEGAL	NOV 26 – 28	F6BEE
4S7PAG	SRI LANKA	NOV 28 TO DEC 16	F5PAC

**Note:** Sources for this column include the 425DXN, ARRL, NG3K and NJDXA websites.

### Recent Ham Radio Recognition in PC Magazine

**JOHN C. DVORAK**

**The most overlooked participants in Katrina relief were the ham radio folks. Bush should give them all medals.**

PC MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 8, 2005  
WWW.PCMAG.COM Page 93

Thanks to Wendy KC8BCF for forwarding this article to the Ham Rag.

## Inside Track

**T**wo weeks after Hurricane Katrina, it was reported that over 100 Internet networks were still down in Louisiana, as well as another dozen elsewhere that had been in the path of the hurricane. So much for the notion that the Web is impossible to kill. Hard to have an Internet with no power! WiMAX and other solutions are useless, too, though I suppose a generator would be useful for WiMAX. Whatever the case, the most overlooked participants in the Katrina relief effort were the ham radio folks, who were doing whatever they could as ad hoc emergency dispatchers, creating their own network within the system. These dedicated persons pride themselves on their ability to do worldwide communications under adverse conditions, and the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) and its members, as well as others, were a big part of the aid effort. Of course, since amateur radio is anything but trendy in today's Xbox, gene-splicing world, there was zero coverage of its contribution in the mainstream press, and these people are not the world's greatest self-promoters. At least some of us are paying attention. **Good work, guys!** Bush should be giving medals to you all.



**Whither Ultra Wideband Dept.:** I've written about

# BOY SCOUT ENCAMPMENT—AIRCAMP 2005

A recent amateur radio opportunity came together during AirCamp, October 7-9, 2005. This event was hosted by Blackhawk Area Council BSA and took place on the grounds of historic WWI and WWII U.S. Army Camp Grant. The portion of the camp used for the event is currently located within the boundaries of modern day NW Regional Chicagoland Airport at Rockford.

Milt Forsberg, K9QZI, of BSA Troop 7 in Champaign is trustee of K9BSA, and he allowed the hams the use of it throughout the weekend. This callsign has been utilized in previous similar situations to help promote amateur radio within the state.



Amateur Radio at Air Camp 2005, two motor homes with stations, demo tent and Motorola communications van, only tower and beam showing at far left. Photo by Dan Hunt, KC9ATR

Scouts could visit the code oscillator booth and try out various buzzers, sounders, blinking lights and utilize keys from early in the 20th century; a WWII tank key, oscillators from BUD, Knight, MFJ, and Heathkit A Bencher paddle was available, plus a J-38, a Navy knob hand key and a battery powered original BSA oscillator-blinking-light-sounder. In the construction area scouts could choose from a blinking LED kit, a code oscillator, or other items available to build.

Big Thunder ARC from Belvidere provided antenna arrays. A 30 foot tower with a tribander gave one station access to the airways, while another used a 40 meter vertical. The third station used a military tripod mast with sections up to 30 feet as the mid-point for a G5RV (courtesy of Jim-WB8HMD).

One of the three HF station utilized PSK-31. Typing on a computer was not a challenge for these folks. They enjoyed the interaction with people from around the world. Multiple contacts by each HF setup were made to stations both stateside and abroad.

The VHF/UHF stations could utilize the local repeaters, or simplex, to demonstrate these portions of amateur radio as well. IRLP was available locally via a local repeater through the courtesy of Tom-W9TMW.

ATV performed well during the day. Eleven year old Mikayla Auerswald, KC9HVQ, interviewed scouts as they returned from their plane rides. A monitor was in the ham radio area displaying to the crowd what was happening on the flight line during the interviews. ATV equipment and expertise was provided by members of Amateur Television Network Of Illinois members: Gene-WB9MMM; Wayne-KA9IMX; John-KA9SOG; Dan-KC9ATR, and Mikayla-KC9HVQ.

MARC-Motorola, Schaumburg brought out their well-equipped and fully stocked communications van. Many people commented on the telescoping mast and all the equipment inside.

Members of Big Thunder, ATN-ILL, MCWA, Mallard Lake Wouff Hon Society and MARC helped in setup, operation, and take down. Steve, KA9NPT, his wife Janice and daughter Jodie and the staff of AirCamp: K9QZI, KA9LMK, KC9AMZ, KO2R, WD9IOK, N9EP, WB9MMM, K9TMS, K9KQB, K9WH, KC9EII, WB8HMD, KB9GIV, KA9SOG, KC9HVQ, KA9IMX, KC9ATR, and K9QI did a great job.



Mikayla, KC9HVQ interviewing scouts on ATV as they came off of the plane ride. Photo by Dan Hunt, KC9ATR



Assorted demo stations with CW keys, ATV, construction station, as well as various handouts. Photo by Gene Harlan, WB9MMM

ARRL Illinois Section  
Section Manager: Sharon Harlan, N9SH  
n9sh@arrl.org

# Camp Lowden BSA or Bust

Colleen, KC9EWJ got a call in mid-October from Scout Master Rob Timm about JOTA. So Colleen, KC9EWJ said ok. On Sunday we tore apart the ham station, computer and all, and loaded it all up into the car. Got to Camp Lowden BSA, and started to set up the station.



JOTA, Camp Lowden, Cub Scouts of Pack 315.  
Photo by Colleen Peterson, KC9EWJ

While we were setting up, some of the Cub Scouts started coming in and asked questions. My wife Colleen, KC9EWJ answered as many as she could. When I was ready, I powered up the station, and took over answering the questions.

The Station consisted of a tower computer, MFJ sound card interface, Yaesu FT-897 Transceiver, and a 20M wire dipole stuck up in a 40 ft climbing tower. I needed 2 coaxes to run the length. This would also mean I would need a barrel connector. I thought that I brought one, but I couldn't find it. So I resorted to using my power meter as a connector. It worked out fine. So now the computer is powered up, radio going, and a bunch of kids asking questions. What do you do

now? I just turned up the volume so they could hear PSK31. I also pointed out the words coming across the screen.

That really got the ball rolling. This even got the Scout Masters attention. Soon I had my Macro reprogrammed for "CQ JOTA", and had a reply in no time. I asked if any of the kids wanted to type some questions, but I found out that many of them were too young or too shy to type. So they asked all of their questioned, and I typed for them. We were using Mix W for the program, which allowed me after a few QSO's, to do some in RTTY, computer aided CW, and then in SSTV. Slow Scan Television really got there attention.

After receiving a picture, they wanted me to send one. I asked if I could take a picture of them, and send it. The Cubs loved the idea, so I got out my Digital camera. In no time we were in business. Sending pictures back and forth. With the various modes, we contacted Florida, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and a SSTV receive from Iceland. After all that I gave the kids a chance to try Morse Code to send there name (not on the air). Everybody there had a blast, even the moms.



Tim, KC9DNN at Camp Lowden running a JOTA demo for campers.  
Photo by Colleen Peterson, KC9EWJ



Tim, KC9DNN running PSK31 JOTA demo for boys at Camp Lowden.  
Photo by Colleen Peterson, KC9EWJ

Cub Scout Master Rob Timm, invited me to help out again next year, and said he had a lot of fun. The kids grabbed a lot of brochures, and thanked Colleen and I for the fun opportunity. We broke down the station, and headed home as the sun was setting on a really fun, and tiring day.

Tim Peterson, KC9DNN



Free Technical advice for hams.  
WB9LHU Earth Works 965-9841

*HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING*

*PLEASE DRIVE  
SAFELY  
WHERE EVER  
YOU GO*

### NEW FEATURE ON THE 146.61 REPEATER

Starting Monday September 12, Brad WW9WWW will host the ARRL AUDIO NEWS on the 146.61 repeater after the completion of the 8 PM net which is hosted by Diane WB9VLK.

*Responses to the Audio News will be re-evaluated at the November RARA board meeting to determine if it should be continued. Please forward your comments to Brad whose email address is WW9WWW@yahoo.com or any RARA Board Member.*

### **\*\*\* HELP \*\*\***

If you would like to have something published, please call me or email me at ka9bod@arrl.net.

**Cut-off for the December 2005 issue will be Friday November 25, 2005.**

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

### RARA Repeaters

146.610 -	pl 114.8	W9AXD
147.000 +	pl 114.8	W9AXD
223.8800 -	pl none	W9AXD
ATV input 1250 Mhz/ 434 Mhz		W9ATN
output 421.25 Mhz		

### **2006 RARA Officers and Board (Elected October 14, 2005)**

President—Shari Harlan, N9SH  
Vice President — Kurt Eversol, KE9NJ  
Secretary — Colleen Peterson, KC9EWJ  
Treasurer — Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ  
Directors:  
Bill Peters, WB9MCZ  
Tim Peterson, KC9DNN  
Wendy Owano, KC9BCF  
Dan Hunt, KC9ATR  
Newsletter — Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD  
Web Master — Paul Franklin, K9RNR

### **RARA Officers and Directors - 2005**

President – Bill Peters, WB9MCZ  
Vice President – Tim Peterson, KC9DNN  
Secretary – Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW  
Treasurer – Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ  
Directors: Dan Hunt, KC9ATR  
Gene Harlan, WB9MMM  
Scott Allshouse, W9SBA  
Wendy Owano, KC9BCF  
Newsletter—Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD  
Web Master—Paul Franklin, K9RNR

### **FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST**

Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 9:30 am at the **Morning Glory Restaurant**, 408 7th St, Rockford  
An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company. Everyone is welcome to attend.

# HAM OF THE YEAR---2005 NOMINATION

The Ham of the Year is an honor that is presented to the R.A.R.A. member who has contributed the most to the club and to amateur radio in general during the year. This year the selection will be made by a committee established to evaluate the nominations of deserving candidates from those submitted by club members.

Your nominee should be chosen using two basic criteria: The nominee must be a R.A.R.A. member and should have performed exemplary service for amateur radio during the year 2005.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to fill out the form below, or a facsimile, completing all of the requested information. Nominations may be mailed to N9SH at the address below or handed to her at the next club meeting. All nominations must be received by December 9, 2005. They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Mail nominations to:  
Shari Harlan, N9SH  
5931 Alma Drive  
Rockford, IL. 61108  
N9sh@hampubs.com

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Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_

I nominate the above person for the RARA Ham of the Year-2005 award for the following reasons:

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_





P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email: [ka9bod@arrl.net](mailto:ka9bod@arrl.net)

Web: [www.w9axd.com](http://www.w9axd.com)

Monday 8PM	2 Meter	146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM	ARES	147.195 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATURN	146.610 - 114.8

Nets

place address label here

**NOVEMBER 2005**

**January is membership renewal time**

**ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO  
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Single Adult: \$25.00 Adult w/Family: \$30.00  
Single Senior: \$15.00 Senior w/Family: \$20  
Student: \$15.00

Above rate includes the RARA monthly newsletter, Ham Rag, via email.

Ham Rag Via U.S. Postal Service: \$12.00 extra

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_

Radio Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Other Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 8465  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126