

HAM RAG



Visit our website for more club and area ham information
In the Rockford area at <http://w9axd.com>

August 2006

RARA Mission Statement

A member association with common interest of public service to the community through the use of amateur radio.

President's Corner

July is almost over--I can hardly believe that in just four weeks school will be back in session, and the On the Waterfront Festival will be here. Have you signed up to work in the ticket booth yet? There are some time slots still open. We really have a good time working the weekend down there.

On the 4th of July 5 RARA members provided communications for the Meld 4th of July 10K run. There was no problems other than a shortage of water along the race course. This made our communications even more important because the morning was very warm. Working along with me was KA9BOD, who served as net control, Jim, N9KUY, Herb, WR9H, and Paul, K9RNR.

The next weekend we had an antenna party at our house to put up our tri-band beam. Gene had done all the repairs needed and it was ready to be put up on the 70 foot tower. Thanks to K9RNR, KA9SOG, AB9KA, K9AMJ, N9MCS, KC9ATR, K9PK, and KC9GOL for helping out that day. I hope I have not forgotten anyone--if I have I apologize. Without their help Gene and I could never have gotten that beam off the ground.

On August 12th RARA will be helping with communications for the State Street Mile. This is a fun event to work and a good one for a "first time" working communications. Gene, WB9MMM, is taking names of those willing to work the communications part as well as names to work ATV along the mile long race course. Give Gene a call is you would like to be involved.

On August 13th we will have the club picnic at Alpine Park, shelter #1, starting at 1 P.M. The club has barbeque left from Field Day so we will be serving this as well as brats and hot dogs. If you wish any other kind of meat I suggest that you bring your own. The club will also furnish soda, but here again if you have a favorite soda, suggest that you bring your own. We had 4 cases of soda left from Field Day so we will be using that. You will also need to bring a dish to pass and your own table service. We are two for two with rain for our outside events this year, let's hope we have a good day, sunny and mild, on the 13th.

See you at the picnic,
73, Shari, N9SH

Inside this issue:

President log	1
VP Log	2
Secretary Log	2/3
On the Waterfront information	3
Notices VEC Testing	4
Dxpedition info Swain's Island July mtg. program	5
License training information	6
Items for Sale & Miscellaneous	7
RARA Officers	7

NEXT MEETING

Sunday
August 13, 2006

No Meeting
Family Picnic

LOCATION

Alpine Park
Shelter #1
1 PM to 3 PM

Alpine Park is two block's south of State Street on Alpine Rd. Enter park and take first left up the hill to shelter #1.

From the Desk of the Vice President....

TRY SOMETHING NEW LATELY?

As our interaction with other people brings about conversation concerning various topics, I'm amazed as to the depth of knowledge each has on some particular subject. Reading through QST gives us the opportunity to further our exposure to many different aspects of amateur radio. I don't usually read the articles that I'm not really interested in, but I force myself sometimes to at least read an article or two that deals with a facet of radio that I am not educated in. You will soon find out that many people have done extensive experimenting, testing, calculating, building, and so forth, which has given us many of these modes, or technological advancements we have today. Pick any area of amateur radio and with a little investigation, you can find people that have spent much of their ham radio career in a specific field and are very well educated in this area. The part of this that all the people I talked to agreed on was that they had fun and enjoyed the challenges they had to overcome. The other thing that was ever present was that usually their interest in a certain area was sparked (no pun intended) by a simple question or seeing an article of something new and they wanted to learn more. If the summer heat is getting a little unbearable, try picking up some type of amateur information that you have not been exposed to and at least find out a little more about it. You might be surprised, you may like it and be the next author of an article in QST people will be reading. See you all at the August picnic!

Best regards,
Kurt Eversole – KE9NJ

Secretary's Report

July 14, 2006 RARA Club Meeting

Shari N9SH called the meeting to order at 6:57pm.

The secretaries report was read by Colleen KC9EWJ. Motion to approve made by Susan KC9JDT and second by Chuck AB9KA. All approved.

The treasures report was read by Carl W9TQ. The cash on hand \$ 5,452. Motion to approve made by Kurt KE9NJ and second by Gene KA9BOD. All approved.

The next meeting will be the RARA picnic at Alpine park, and there will be no business or meeting just the picnic.

OSF has said yes to putting up the 147/220 repeaters.

Next month is the state street mile. Gene WB9MMM will need help and help with ATV work.

Gene KA9BOD will not be the ham rag editor next year. Help is wanted.

Old Business:

OTW is still open for ticket booth volunteers for F,S and S. August 16th at 6pm is a training night for ticket booth supervisors. It will be at the security entrance at the Metro center off of Church street.

Dick KC9BCB reported there were 1,427 total contacts for field day.

(Secretary Report Continued on page 3)

(Secretary Report Continued from page 2)

New Business:

Job opening with the FCC. A Communication Specialist.

The Board has asked that the club decide what to do with the two old generators they have.

Many options were brought up. Buy a small briefcase sized one, donate to a school or sell to someone in the club.

Tim KC9DNN made a motion to sell off and Dan KC9ATR second the motion. The decision was that Shari N9SH would take bids on both or either generator.

Sue KA9GNR has a box of old tubes at her house. Anyone that picks them up can have them.

Carl W9TQ made a motion to end the meeting and second by Gary K9LJN. The meeting ended at 19:38 pm.

Submitted by Colleen Peterson KC9EWJ secretary.

RARA FUND RAISER

Other than dues, this is the clubs only source of money

Members man a ticket booth at
ON THE WATERFRONT
September 1, 2 & 3
(It really is a lot of fun)

The club is reimbursed based on the number of tickets sold.

Teams work 4 hour shifts
Supervisors work the whole day
(Workers get free OTW buttons)

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING WITH THIS EVENT

To volunteer
Contact Chairman - Bill Peters WB9MCZ
815-654-9590

FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 9:30 am. An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company. Everyone is welcome to attend.

*“Red Flame Family Restaurant” 915 S. Alpine Rd
Across from Alpine Park*

Upcoming RARA Events

- 2006 -

Family Picnic – Alpine Park Shelter #1 August 13th

(Alpine Rd 2 blocks south of State St.)

Gathering from 1 PM to 3 PM

Bring dish to pass

The ham classes scheduled for this fall 2006

Tech -- Oct 14 and 21, 2006

General -- Nov 4 and Nov 11, 2006

Classes meet on Saturdays from 8:00 Am to 4:00 PM

Both will be at RVC. Cost per class including Text is \$48.00

Carl W9TQ

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

July 15th there were 5 applicants. Resulting in 4 new Technicians

Jeremy Degenhart
Eric Haskins
Hans Haskins
Regina Perry

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, August 19, 2006.

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 till 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
FP/K9OT	ST. PIERRE MIQUELON	NOW TO AUG 6	K9OT
5W0DW	SAMOA	NOW TO AUG 10	KT8X
4O3T	MONTENEGRO	NOW TO AUG 13	YT6A
4W6AAB	TIMOR LESTE	NOW TO AUG 15	PA7FM
TK/IZ1DSH	CORSICA	NOW TO AUG 15	IZ1DSH
3D2BD	ROTUMA	NOW TO AUG 17	F4ELJ
XX9TJS	MACAO	AUG 11 – 16	JM1LJS
JW/IN3TCH	SVALBARD	AUG 12 – 14	IN3TCH
OY/DL2RMC	FAROE IS.	AUG 21 – 23	DL2RMC
GJ5XW/P	JERSEY	AUG 26 TO SEPT 1	G5XW
OJ0LA	MARKET REEF	SEPT 8 – 14	LA9VDA
	New just announced	DXCC entity No. 337	
KH8SI	SWAIN'S ISLAND	July 27 to ???	Unknown

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

ARLD031 Swain's Island, KH8, added to ARRL DXCC List

As a result of the reclassification of American Samoa, and upon the filing of a request and substantiating evidence, and with the concurrence of the DXAC and the Awards Committee, Swain's Island has been added to the DXCC List.

Swain's Island, entity number 337, qualifies as the first separation entity from American Samoa, now a Political Entity. The distance between American Samoa and Swain's Island has been determined to be in excess of 350 km as required by DXCC Rules Section II, Paragraph 2, Section b). QSOs made with Swain's Island on or after 0001z, July 22, 2006 will count for DXCC credit. The prefix is KH8.

For additional information, including the DXCC Reference Number for Swain's Island, contact Bill Moore at the DXCC Desk at dxcc@arrl.org.

Editors note: Above information from the ARRL website July 24, 2006.

July Meeting Program on QRP Transmitters using Vacuum Tubes



Some of the QRP vacuum tube transmitters that Greg, K9QI discussed at the meeting. Not shown are some Tube Tuna Tin Transmitters.



Shari, N9SH presenting thank you certificate to Greg, K9QI for his program presentation on QRP Vacuum Tube Transmitters.

Pictures by: Bob WA9NTT

Editors note: As of July 1, 2006 the amateur license testing pool has changed for all classes of license. If you are considering an upgrade to your license there are many ways you can prepare for the test. You can take one of the courses offered by RARA in cooperation with Rock Valley College or you can do self study with courses that are available from the ARRL and other sources. The topic listed below is one of the ways you can update your knowledge of amateur radio. The website listed at the end of the article also has material for other classes of license.

Gene KA9BOD - editor

(This is a news release that I received courtesy of Gene WB9MMM)

Summer 2006

NEW TECHNICIAN CLASS BOOK INCLUDES AUDIO CD

Gordon West, WB6NOA, announces the 6th Edition Technician Class license preparation book for the new question pool released July 1, 2006. The 212 page book also includes a free audio CD on VHF and UHF propagation.

“The included audio CD creates excitement in our students preparing to earn their new Tech license,” comments West.

“This new book for the Element 2 Technician Class covers all of the new 392 question pool which was totally overhauled to bring in current relevant questions and answers, written at intermediate school levels,” comments Pete Trotter, KB9SMG, the book publisher.

West’s new book with included hour long CD has reorganized the entire question pool for “subject group” learning techniques. “Students and instructors won’t need to skip around in this book. We have grouped together fifteen topic areas which will logically teach the excitement of amateur radio.” adds West, 2006 recipient of the Dayton Hamvention™ Ham-of-the-Year award, and 2006 QCWA Presidential award.

This fully illustrated book includes over 150 ham radio websites, highlighted key words for day-before-test preparation, multiple frequency charts, and fun “ham hints” featuring Professor Elmer.

“Young students will appreciate all of the contact information Professor Elmer presents in a rather humorous manner-with some very cool websites including many from the American Radio Relay League,” adds West.

Included with the book is an ARRL membership signup application, too. Inside the book is also a free trial magazine subscription for “CQ”, an ICOM America equipment discount valid on successful test passing and course completion, plus a free offer for a graduation certificate and multiple ham band color radio charts.

“This book is ideal for home study because West gives out his phone number multiple times to encourage home-study students to call me with their progress, questions, and where to find a local examination team,” comments Larry Pollock, NB5X, with the W5YI ham instructor program. He indicates the book will be sold by dealers and distributors for under \$19 which includes the free audio CD.

The book is published by Master Publishing, edited by Peter Trotter, KB9SMG, and written by Gordon West, WB6NOA, and available at (800) 669 9594. The audio CD is recorded by both West and world famous six meter DXer Ken Neubeck, WB2AMU.
www.MasterPublishing.com

ITEMS FOR SALE / WANTED

Yeasu FT-1000D: Speaker, phone patch, digital recorder and mic. Asking \$2,000.00 Call Louie Rossi, N9FBC at 815-963-6819.

Wanted: Two - Rohn 25, 10 foot tower sections. If you have available, Please contact John Cotner - KC9IED at 815-389-3418 or KC9IED@arrl.net. Thank You!

Ham Rag Editor: It is my intention to resign as Ham Rag Editor at the end of the year. If you are interested in taking over as the editor please contact the RARA president, Shari N9SH or any of the club officers listed below. Gene KA9BOD (815) 226-1806.

RARA Generators: At the 7-14-06 club meeting, the membership voted to sell both generators. Bids will be taken for each generator. The bid process and dates will be determined soon.

Orange generator—3 KW, Pincor brand. (Problem—Has leaking gas tank.)

Gray generator— 2.5 KW, Onan brand, late 50's/60's. (Problem—Does not regulate real well.)
(Parts are still available for this unit and can be gotten at Rockford Precision Diesel.)

Volunteer Police Scanner Monitor

(Posted: 12/11/2005) ABC affiliate WTVO-TV is looking for an individual who has an interest in listening to scanner radios. The station may provide a majority of the radio equipment needed, if you don't already have it. Someone who spends a lot of time at home or indoors is needed. Call News Director Mike Wright or email mwright@wtvo.com. WTVO-TV Channel 17, WQRF-TV FOX 39 and Rockford UPN 16 are located at 1917 N. Meridian Rd. in Rockford, IL.

Contact Phone: (815) 963-5413

Equal Opportunity Employer

RARA BOARD MEETING MEETS ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 PM
St. Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL

RARA Repeaters

146.610 - ENC/DEC pl 114.8 W9AXD
**147.000 + ENC/DEC pl 114.8 W9AXD
**223.880 - ENC/DEC pl 118.8 W9AXD
ATV input 1250 Mhz/ 434 Mhz W9ATN
output 421.25 Mhz
(** = Temporarily off the air—being relocated)

Editors note: The new repeater location will be at St. Anthony Hospital. Installation should be within the next couple of months subject to all details being worked out.

2006 RARA Officers and Board

President—Shari Harlan, N9SH
Vice President — Kurt Eversole, 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

Editors Note

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

Cut-off for the September 2006 issue will be Friday August 25, 2006.

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

**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

August 2006

<u>Nets</u>	
Monday 8PM	2 Meter 146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM	ARES 147.195 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATURN 146.610 - 114.8

Place address label here



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126
Email: ka9bod@arrl.net
Web: www.w9axd.com