

# HAM RAG



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

## December 2006

### President's Corner

Thanksgiving is over and now the rush toward Christmas. The time when we try to look back at the year and reflect on all the blessings we have received. This year has been a pretty good one for RARA. I would like to thank Kurt, KE9NJ, Colleen, KC9EWJ, Carl, W9TQ, the officers and Bill, WB9MCZ, Tim, KC9DNN, Wendy, KC9BCF, and Dan, KC9ATR the directors for their service. Thanks to Gene, KA9BOD who served as Hamrag editor; Herb, K9AMJ, who is our repeater chairman; Paul, K9RNR, our webmaster.

Thanks also to Sue, KA9GNR, awards banquet chairman; Chuck, AB9KA and Carl, W9TQ, for teaching the Technician and General classes; Colleen, KC9EWJ, for her help with the Breakfast in the Park; Dick, KC9BCB, Field Day Chairman; Linda, KC9FAH, for feeding the crowd at Field Day; David, KA9GEU, and Susan, KC9JDT, for their help with the picnic; Gene, WB9MMM, State Street Mile, Bill, WB9MCZ, OTW Chairman; and Chuck, AB9KA, nominating chairman. We had a lot of fun this year and I look forward to 2007.

Be sure to get your nomination for Ham of the Year in to Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, by December 8th which is the regular club meeting night. You will find the ballot on line or elsewhere in the Hamrag.

Also be sure to make your reservation for the club banquet in January. All meals need to be paid for in advance. Look elsewhere in the Hamrag for the menu and cost, and time and place.

I have some sad news to report. Chuck Liljegren, WB9UMC, became a Silent Key on Friday, November 24th. Chuck has been very ill for some time and was in Mayo's when he passed away. Please keep Carol and the girls in your thoughts and prayers.

We lost another member of the ham community on November 12th. Ron Beiersdorff, WD9FVB, was a former RARA member. I got to know him as a teacher at Eisenhower where our daughter attended middle school. Our condolences go out to Ron's family.

Gene and I will not be at the next RARA meeting so I would like to take this opportunity to wish every one of you a very Merry Christmas and the very best New Year. It has been a privilege to serve as your club President and I wish Don, KB9AYF, all the best.

73,  
Shari

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#### • NEXT MEETING

#### • Friday

#### • December 8, 2006

#### • LOCATION

- St. Anthony Medical Center
- St. Anthony Room #1041
- 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.

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

Well, 2006 was a great year for RARA and ham radio. If you have not read the December issue of QST yet, check out page 89 for the results of Field Day. RARA placed 21<sup>st</sup> out of 127 entries in the 4A category. We had a total of 1436 contacts and 5196 total points including bonus points. Most importantly, we learned about operating under portable conditions and had a great time doing it.

The ARRL has continued to protect and advance our privileges and it appears other radio spectrum users are becoming increasingly concerned with the effects of BPL, and have voiced their opinions with the FCC.

This year we moved the 147.000 and the 223.880 repeaters to the new location at St Anthony Hospital. This was done through the help of many people, and our thanks to them is extended.

Speaking of people, I can think of a few times where ham radio has played an important part in a decision I have made in life, or has helped solve a situation encountered. I would guess you maybe able to think of a few stories to tell as well, so our program for our December meeting will be for you to share a story or two about how ham radio has helped in an emergency, or how it has played a part in a direction in your life. You never know, it may someday help someone else who is listening.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season, and please remember the hams and their families, who have become Silent Keys this past year in your prayers.

See you at the meeting!

Happy Holidays,

Kurt Eversole – KE9NJ

### See an Iridium Satellite Flare!

Extremely Bright, worth the effort to catch. Hard to predict over 2 weeks. So here are just a few, to get more see <http://www.heavens-above.com>. Sirius the brightest star in the night sky is only Magnitude -1.4!

Date	Local Time	Intensity (Mag)	Alt.	Azimuth	Distance to flare centre	Intensity at flare centre (Mag.)	Satellite
07 Dec	05:45:47	-0	48°	341° (NNW)	35.1 km (W)	-8	Iridium 84
07 Dec	17:20:32	-6	28°	194° (SSW)	6.8 km (W)	-7	Iridium 50
08 Dec	05:39:48	-3	47°	343° (NNW)	16.9 km (W)	-8	Iridium 12
10 Dec	05:27:47	-0	45°	347° (NNW)	34.4 km (E)	-8	Iridium 52
11 Dec	17:05:32	-3	25°	202° (SSW)	16.6 km (E)	-6	Iridium 52
12 Dec	07:17:58	-1	74°	321° (NW)	22.9 km (W)	-9	Iridium 43

## Secretary's Report

### RARA Club Meeting Minutes 11-10-2006

Meeting was called to order by President Shari N9SH at 7:03 PM.

Secretary report – Minutes of the October 13, 2006 meeting were read by Gene, KA9BOD in the absence of Chuck, K9SAN. Chuck, AB9KA made a motion to accept minutes and seconded by Bob, WA9NTT. All approved.

Treasurer's report - No treasurer's report was read.

### Old Business

Shari, N9SH read a thank you note for RARA's sympathy card from Wayne, KA9IMX regarding the death of his father.

Shari, N9SH commented on a note from ARRL thanking us for the \$10 donation in memory of Milt Carlson.

Chuck Liljegren, WB9UMC has been hospitalized in serious condition. A card was being passed around for all to sign.

Shari, N9SH commented on and read the menu for the RARA Banquet in January.

Repeater status report comments by Rich K9PK, Gene WB9MMM and Shari N9SH. Both repeaters 147.000 and 223.880 are up and running along with the new control link.

### New Business

Gene, WB9MMM reported on the ISS contact schedule. We are in the queue for sometime in January and February 2007. Information letters and email are coming from NASA in preparation for the event at Christian Life School. Charlie Sufana, AJ9N of Munster, IN has volunteered his antennas and rotors and will have them in Rockford prior to the contact date. We will need about 15-20 hams to assist with the project. Contact Gene, WB9MMM if you would like to help.

Pat Ryan, KC9VVT announce the upcoming Princeton Ham Fest on

Motion to end the meeting was made by John, KC9IED and seconded by Don, KB9AYF at 7:20 PM.

Meeting Program – Pat Ryan, KC6VVT, Section Emergency Coordinator for Northern Illinois discussed the roll that hams play in support of emergency communications and why.

Submitted for Chuck, K9SAN by Gene, KA9BOD (acting secretary for meeting.)

# RARA Mission Statement

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

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

November 18th there were 6 applicants. Resulting in 6 new licenses.

Johna Winters Technician  
Raymond Hahn Technician  
Ryan Maguire Technician  
Johnna Tanji Technician  
\* Technician  
\* Technician  
\* name withheld

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, December 16, 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-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](mailto:W9HL@arrl.net)  
815-877-4328

### **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*

# AB9KA HAM I-Q Refresher

## Answers on Page 11

### Technician

How soon may you transmit after passing the required examination elements for your first amateur radio license?

- A. Immediately
- B. 30 days after the test date
- C. As soon as your license grant appears in the FCC's ULS database
- D. As soon as you receive your license in the mail from the FCC

### General

Which of the following standards must be met where FCC certification of an external RF amplifier is required?

- A. The amplifier must not be able to amplify a 28-MHz signal to more than ten times the input power
- B. The amplifier must not be capable of reaching its designed output power when driven with less than 50 watts
- C. The amplifier must not be able to be operated for more than ten minutes without a time delay circuit
- D. The amplifier must not be able to be modified by an amateur operator

### Extra

Which of the following geographic descriptions approximately describes Line A?

- A. A line roughly parallel to, and south of, the US-Canadian border
- B. A line roughly parallel to, and west of, the US-Atlantic coastline
- C. A line roughly parallel to, and north of, the US-Mexican border and Gulf coastline
- D. A line roughly parallel to, and east of, the US Pacific coastline

# SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

By Gary - K9LJN

<b>CALLSIGN</b>	<b>QTH</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>QSL VIA</b>
FO5RH	FRENCH POLYNE-	NOW TO DEC 4	F2HE
<b>VU7RG</b>	<b>LAKSHADWEEP IS.</b>	<b>NOW TO DEC 10</b>	<b>N2OO</b>
XT2WC	BURKINA FASO	NOW TO DEC 13	F1IQH
A7ORRY	QATAR	NOW TO DEC 15	EA7FTR
J20SA	DJIBOUTI	NOW TO DEC 16	ON7SAT
VU3JRA	INDIA	NOW TO DEC 16	DJ3KR
9Q1D	CONGO	NOW TO DEC 31	SM5BFJ
R1FJT	FRANZ JOSEF LAND	NOW TO DEC 31	UA4RC
VQ9OG	CHAGOS IS.	NOW TO DEC 31	W9ROG
7Q7HB	MALAWI	NOW TO JAN 13, 2007	G0IAS
A35GN	TONGA	DEC 25 TO JAN 3, 2007	VK2GND
XT2C	BURKINA FASO	JAN 6 – 20, 2007	F9IE
XU7ACY	CAMBODIA	JAN 7 – 30, 2007	K2NJ
S21EA	BANGLADESH	JAN 10 – 16, 2007	EA3BT

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

P.S. I'm sorry to say that this will be my last DXpedition column. Since doing this column and occasionally writing operating tip articles for the past three years, my priorities in life have changed after going back to work and regularly visiting our Grandchildren (in the Champaign area). If anyone would like to continue this column, I will be very happy to assist him or her with the format and explain the websites that I have used to get this information. It's been enjoyable, but it really is time for a change. 73 & DX, Gary - K9LJN

**RARA Officers and Board Positions  
2007**

**• Officers:**

- **Don Russell** - KB9AYF - President
- **Bob Neumann** - K9SAN - Vice President
- **Chuck Derwent** - W9TZU - Secretary
- **Gene Harlan** - WB9MMM - Treasurer

**• Board Members**

- **Carl Cacciatore** - W9TQ
- **Kurt Eversole** - KE9NJ
- **Shari Harlan** - N9SH
- **Dan Hunt** - KC9ATR

**• Ham Rag Editor**

- **Christi Russell** - KC9HUE

## Silent Key

Charles (Chuck) Liljegren WB9UMC became a Silent Key Friday, November 24th. He was at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, when he passed away with his family at his side.

Chuck has been a long time active club member throughout the years taking part in Field Day activities, even bringing his camper out to the Field Day site so we could use it for one of our stations. He also took part in the last Rock River Regatta in October.

He leaves behind his wife, Carol and two daughters; his mother and sister plus nieces and nephews. His father-in-law is Othel Andrews, K9JMW.

Funeral services were at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, November 30, at Zion Lutheran Church. Burial was in Scandinavian Cemetery

**RARA BOARD MEETING MEETS ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 PM**

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

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

### 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)

### 2006 RARA Officers and Board

President—Shari Harlan, N9SH

Vice President — Kurt Eversole, KE9NJ

Secretary — Chuck Derwent, K9SAN

Treasurer — Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ

Directors:

Bill Peters, WB9MCZ

Tim Peterson, KC9DNN

### Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please email KC9HUE at chilly73@gmail.com

**Cut-off for the December 2006 issue will be Friday November 24, 2006.**

# HAM OF THE YEAR---2006 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 2006.

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 KA9BOD at the address below or handed to her at the next club meeting. All nominations must be received by December 8, 2006. They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Mail nominations to:

Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD

3531 Cross St.

Rockford, IL 61108

ka9bod@arrl.net

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_

I nominate the above person for the RARA Ham of the Year-2006 award for the following reasons:

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## RARA Banquet

The RARA Banquet will be January 12, 2007. Cocktails at 6:00 P.M. with dinner at 7:00 P.M. This is a seven course meal which includes Relish tray, Soup, Garlic and Pizza Breads, Lino's Special Salad, Variety of Pasta (Mostacioli-Ravioli-Tortellini), Coffee, Spumoni.

Baked Lasagna (meatless) .....\$15.00  
Baked Chicken ala Lino.....\$15.00  
New York Strip steak.....\$23.00  
Baked Cod.....\$17.00

All prices have been rounded up and include tax and tip. The prices do not include drinks, only coffee. There will be a cash bar.

To make reservations call Shari, N9SH, at 398-2683. If you worked a shift at Waterfront be sure to let me know when you call so you can get your discount. Otherwise just mail your check, made out to RARA to:

Shari Harlan  
5931 Alma Dr.  
Rockford, IL 61108



## Answers to I-Q Refresher

### Technician

How soon may you transmit after passing the required examination elements for your first amateur radio license?

C. As soon as your license grant appears in the FCC's ULS database.

Reference: CFR 97.5 (a)

### General

Which of the following standards must be met where FCC certification of an external amplifier is required?

B. The amplifier must not be capable of reaching its designed output power when driven with less than 50 watts.

Reference: 97.317 (a) (3)

### Extra

Which of the following geographic descriptions approximately describes Line A?

A. A line roughly, parallel to, and south of, the U.S-Canadian border.

Reference: CFR 97.3 (a) (29)



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126  
Email: [chilly73@gmail.com](mailto:chilly73@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.w9axd.com](http://www.w9axd.com)

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

**November 2006**

place address label here

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_