

HAM RAG



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

JULY 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

Hello everyone. We are two for two with rain on the RARA outdoor events. On the day of the Breakfast in the Park I awoke around 6 a.m. to heavy rain. About 6:15 I made the decision to hold the breakfast at "Harlan Park" on Alma Drive instead of at Dahlquist Park. There was a lot shorter walk to get to the shelter. I made a quick call to Colleen, KC9EWJ, and Tim, KC9DNN, who were on their way and told them that "Plan B" was in effect. After unloading their car, Tim went back to the park to send people over to our house for breakfast. We put up a sign, that was missed by some, on the shelter. All in all we had a pretty good turn-out for the event considering the quick change of locations. We set up tables in the garage plus had the kitchen table available. Thanks to Colleen for doing all the shopping and making pancakes and Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, for doing a great job with the bacon. I helped out with the eggs and sausage. It was a very good breakfast.

RARA's Field Day is now history. We also had rain--in fact on Sunday there was quite a storm. This, too, had a very good turn out, and the park was a nice place to be. We had several trailers set up with stations running 40m, 80m, 20m, 15m, PSK31 and a tent with ATV. Thanks to Dick Fleming, KC9BCB, and Kurt Eversole, KE9NJ, for taking on this event. Thanks also goes to Linda Hunt, KC9FAH, for doing all the shopping and making sure all of us were fed. Linda spent the entire weekend at the Field Day site working very hard cooking and cleaning up afterwards. Thanks also to Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, and Colleen, KC9EWJ, who helped with preparing the food. Thanks to all who came out and worked at each of the stations and participated in this event. We proved once again that we can set up in the field and operate for 24 hours, even in a rainstorm.

As many of you may have noticed, two of our repeaters are off the air. The two meter and the 220 repeater are down because the site we had on Sandy Hollow Road was sold and the building is going to be torn down. We have a new location for these repeaters at St. Anthony Hospital. We will be moving forward with getting these repeaters back on the air as soon as possible. We need to work with the Illinois Repeater Association to get them re-coordinated to the new location.

Our July meeting will be back at St. Anthony Hospital and details are found elsewhere in the newsletter. Also please consider volunteering for the On the Waterfront ticket booth this year. It is really a fun event, plus you get to listen to some good music while you are working. Bill Peters, WB9MCZ, is the chairman for this event.

See you at the meeting.

73
Shari Harlan - N9SH

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NEXT MEETING

Friday
July 14, 2006

Meeting Program:
QRP Transmitters using
Vacuum tubes

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.

From the Desk of the Vice President...

2006 SUCCESSFUL FIELD DAY

Many thanks to our chairman, Dick Fleming, and all the other people involved in the great field day experience of 2006. While the total score of RARA has yet to be completed, everyone deserves top honors for their cooperation and helpfulness with this event. The food was great, the weather was great (if you're a frog and like a little rain from time to time), and everyone had a S9 +40 on the fun scale. Probably everyone learned a thing or two, which makes us better prepared and better operators as well. Those who could not attend should plan on next year and find out what field day is all about. THANKS TO EVERYONE!

Best regards,
Kurt Eversole – KE9NJ

Secretary's Report

Editors note: There was NO meeting in June. The RARA board voted not to have a meeting at Breakfast in the Park and the annual picnic in August.

Field Day 2006

Editor note:

(More pictures on the website at WWW.W9AXD.COM)

Roland Olson Forest Preserve June 24 & 25. Operating 5A with stations on 15M (ssb), 20M (cw & ssb), 40M & 80M (cw & ssb), ATV and PSK31. Setup started at 9:30 AM with operation starting at 1300. Weather was mainly overcast with occasional rain during the evening and overnight. Cease operation at about 10:30 AM Sunday with heavy rains at about 11 AM. About 20-25 people operated the event and about another two dozen who came out to observe. Everyone pitched in to help setup and tear down the various stations. The groups made (unofficially) over 1,500 contacts during the event. A great time was had by all.



Herb WR9H and Dave KA9GEU operation 20M SSB.



2006 field of operation



Dave W9MG, Tim KC9DNN & Dick KC9VBV
Photo by Bob WA9NTT



Steve K9LLI & Shari N9SH operation 20M SSB.



Chuck K9SAN & Gene WB9MMM
operation ATV.



Kurt KE9NJ operation 40M/80M SSB.

SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

By Gary - K9LJN

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
9M6/JA3EGZ	EAST MALAYSIA	NOW TO JULY 10	JA3EGZ
KH0/NA8O	MARIANA IS.	NOW TO JULY 10	JK1FNL
SV9/CX3AN	CRETE	NOW TO JULY 10	CX3AN
5B/WB2REM	CYPRUS	NOW TO JULY 13	WB2REM
C91HQ	MOZAMBIQUE	NOW TO JULY 13	K5LBU
5H1DN	TANZANIA	NOW TO JULY 14	S57DX
HS0ZGH	THAILAND	NOW TO JULY 14	G4UZN
YJ0IR	VANUATU	NOW TO JULY 15	W3HNC
T66T	AFGHANISTAN	NOW TO JULY 31	OH6MKL
TF/IW5DCE	ICELAND	NOW TO DEC 8	IW5DCE
J45DOV	DODECANESE	JULY 15 – 20	4X4DX
FW8AA	WALLIS & FUTURA	JULY 15 – 24	JA8UWT
MJ0AWR	JERSEY	JULY 26 TO AUG 1	K2WR
5W0DW	SAMOA	JULY 27 TO AUG 10	KT8X
TK/IZ1DSH	CORSICA	AUG 3 – 15	IZ1DSH

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

Editors note: This article courtesy of Jim Miller, W4JR

“A NEW COUNTRY FOR DXers ???”

Montenegro poised to become newest DXCC entity (Jun 8, 2006) – The Republic of Montenegro, which declared its independence June 3, has applied for United Nations membership, according to *The Daily DX*. The move paves the way for the tiny Balkan nation to join the DXCC list. "Once Montenegro is accepted into the UN or obtains a call sign prefix block, DXers will have a new DXCC entity," says ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG. The division of Serbia and Montenegro eliminates what remained of Yugoslavia. Serbia's parliament this week declared Serbia a sovereign nation as heir to the former Serbia-Montenegro union. Assuming that Serbia continues to hold its current seat in the UN, it will stay on the DXCC list as a pre-existing and continuing DXCC entity, Mills explained. A decision on whether to admit Montenegro into the UN must go before the UN Security Council and then the general body of member nations. A UN spokesperson could not say how long the process might take, *The Daily DX* said.

***** ITS OFFICIAL AS OF JUNE 28, 2006 *****

(ARRL E-Mail 6-29-2006 titled) SB DX ARL ARLD026 ARLD026 Montenegro is newest ARRL DXCC entity

A new ARRL DXCC entity has come into being! As expected, the United Nations admitted the Republic of Montenegro as its 192nd member June 28, and that action automatically makes the tiny Balkan nation the 336th current DXCC entity.

"According to the ARRL DXCC List criteria, entities on the UN list of member-states qualify as political entities," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG. "Therefore, effective June 28, 2006 (UTC), ARRL has added The Republic of Montenegro to the DXCC List. Claims for DXCC credit will be accepted immediately."

Current Montenegrin radio amateurs reportedly may continue using their YU/YT/YZ/4O/4N-prefix call signs until the International Telecommunication Union designates a new call sign block for the new country.

In anticipation of Montenegro's new nation status, the International DX Festival Montenegro, with information on the web at, <http://www.yu6scg.cg.yu/international-dx-festival.html>, has been set for July 20 until August 12. That's when several international operators will join forces with Montenegrin Amateur Radio operators from at least three different stations using a common call sign in an effort to meet the DX community's need to work the newest DXCC Entity. Festival organizers have set the ambitious goal of 200,000 contacts for the event, which will use all HF bands.

Montenegro declared its independence on June 3 following a national referendum May 21.

Program for July 14 Meeting

Kurt has booked the program, described below for **July 14th**.

The program is presented by:

Greg Buchwald - K9QI

Motorola, Inc., Communications Research Laboratories

Schaumburg, IL

Note from Greg ->

I would like to do the presentation on:

QRP Transmitters using Vacuum Tubes

I will present 2 designs I have made and built; the first is a plate-modulated version of a 1968 CW design that appeared in the ARRL handbook and which was re-visited a couple years back in QST as the T-5 / Two Tube Tuna Tin Transmitter.

I have boards laid out for that design and will discuss that as well. The second transmitter I will discuss is my miniature version of the Joe Sinton / Continental Electronics High Efficiency Screen Modulated Doherty AM Transmitter. The particular design I will present uses subminiature tubes and generates about 2 watts of carrier on 40M. I hope the presentation will prove to be interesting to your membership.

73,

Greg - K9QI

(Editor note: Thanks to Kurt KE9NJ and Chuck AB9KA for the input.)

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

June 17th there were no applicants.

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on **Saturday, July 15, 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

An Inexpensive Desktop Antenna...

Recently I had gotten a new dual band radio, but I wanted to use this one for events, etc., and would be moved around a lot. I needed another antenna, but I wanted one that was small, and could be used on both 2 meters, and 70 centimeters. I knew that a 1/4 wave on 2M, would also be 1/2 wave on 70 cm. The plans are in the ARRL 05' Handbook on page 22.56. But I decided to make some slight modifications. I followed the plans on making the radiating element 19.25 inches, but instead, I make the ground plane only 6.25 inches (.25 = 1/4). Then I bent the ground-plane down for best SWR. They ended up bent down 30 degrees for my antenna. Also I had some shrink tubing, and put that on. however this is not needed. As for parts I used a basic SO-239 chassis mount connector, and some welding rods cut to size. The ground plane needs to be attached to the SO-239, and it can be done one of two ways. If you have the "Solder Fillet SO-239" you can put the end of the ground plane rods in the top of the holes, solder, then bend down. Or if you have the regular type, make or solder on a loop in the ground rod, and bolt it to the SO-239 connector. As for the radiating element simply solder to the center pin. In my picture you can sort of see that I also added a connector with a 90 degree bend. This is not required, but was convenient for me.

PARTS LIST: (1) 19.25" welding rod (radiating element), (4) 6.25" welding rod (ground plane), (1) SO-239 Connector, (4) pairs of small matching nuts, washers, bolts (to attach ground plane to SO-239)

Timothy Peterson, KC9DNN



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

BREAKFAST IN THE PARK Rained out and moved
last minute to Shari N9SH & Gene WB9MMM kitchen and garage



Shari N9SH, Chuck AB9KA, Colleen KC9EWJ and Colleen's harmonic.



Anna (Linda's harmonic), Bill WB9MCZ, Dick N9ZO, Chuck K9SAN, Linda KC9FAH and Shari N9SH head.

SURVEY QUESTION

We are trying to find out if there is interest in getting clothing with a RARA logo on it.

Would you be interested in getting logo clothing? YES NO

If interested, what would you prefer?

T-Shirt	Yes	No
Polo shirt	Yes	No
Jacket	Yes	No
Hat	Yes	No

Please send an e-mail to Carl W9TQ@ARRL.NET or contact a club officer with your preference.

HAM CLASS INTEREST SURVEY

In the fall of 2006 and the spring of 2007 RARA will be planning and scheduling ham classes. It would be of help if we would know what interest the Ham Community had in different ham classes. **The following classes could be scheduled if we thought that sufficient interest would justify their scheduling.**

- Technician Class
- General Class
- Extra Class

These classes would be offered through Rock Valley College.

If you have any interest or know of anyone that has an interest:

send an e-mail to W9TQ@ARRL.NET

let us know the number of people interested and which classes that they would be interested in.

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

Editors Note

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

Cut-off for the August 2006 issue will be Friday July 28, 2006.

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

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: I am looking for a **Digital Display model DG5** for a Kenwood TS520SE radio. Please contact Gene KA9BOD at 815-226-1806 or email at ka9bod@arrl.net.

Crystals: Are you looking for a special crystal for the project your working on? Contact Everett L. Stockton of Classic Frequency Control, Inc at (405)-943-8095. (Manufacturer of quality quartz crystals)

Radio Company Liquidation:

Editor of Ham Rag,

I own a two way radio company in Northern Minnesota that has been in business since 1954 and I am liquidating all of my GE/Macom/Ericsson service parts and equipment. I have thousands of parts on hand, including some new equipment like UHF PCS and MRK portables. We can email a complete list of available parts. No reasonable offer will be refused. We accept visa & master card. My web site is www.jayen.com my email is john@jayen.com and my phone number is 800-227-2269 ext 105.

Please pass this information on to your club members.

Thank You

John Krautbauer

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. I will provide whatever help you need to get set up. Gene KA9BOD (815) 226-1806.

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

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

**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



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email: ka9bod@arrl.net

Web: www.w9axd.com

<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

JULY 2006

place address label here