

HAM RAG

Visit our website for more club and area ham information
In the Rockford area at <http://w9auxd.com>



MAY 2006

RARA Mission Statement

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

Presidents Corner

First, of all I want to thank Kurt, KE9NJ, for the great program last month. We had a great turn out again when Roberto Beltramelli, WA9E, from the Amateur Radio Toy Store was here.

You know, whether you on the job every day or if you are retired it is easy to fall into a rut of the every day grind. I know that when someone asks me what I've been up to I usually answer "Same old thing." Why not break the grind and volunteer to help with some of the walks and runs that go on during the summer? I know that Sue, KA9GMR, would appreciate your helping out on just one or two events. Also getting to a RARA meeting could be a good break in the daily routine. Come give us a try--Kurt has some good programs lined up.

I received word from our Section Affiliated Club Coordinator, K9KQB, the RARA has officially been renewed as a Special Service Club. I had some difficulty with the renewal process as I did it via the ARRL web site. After two weeks I wrote to HQ and they said that they would resend the application to Eric, K9KQB. After a week I wrote to Eric and he said he had not received the application and to send it directly to him, which I did. I have an email that he approved the application so we are still a SSC.

Congratulations to Carl, W9TQ, and Chuck, AB9KA on the General Class. The testing session after the second day went very well and we have several persons who passed the General exam. Thanks to Rusty, WB9QYV, Lonnie, KA9WON, Randy, W9HL, Mike, AB9AY who gave up part of their Saturday afternoon to give the test. Oh yes, I was there too. Roberto made mention last month that the FCC has made their decision on the code and that there was going to be an announcement at Dayton. If this does occur the club may add an additional General class to our schedule so that those technicians who are interested in upgrading will be able to attend a class.

There has been a very good turn-out at the Friday morning breakfast at the Red Flame. The food is pretty good, the prices are good and the conversation is always good. Last month we had some visitors from Sweden visit along with W9SS. It was really fun to have visitors and to be able to ask about amateur radio in Sweden.

I have received our booth assignment for the On the Waterfront festival. This year we will be located at the Local Stage--in the past couple of years it was the City Stage--and further back, say four or five years ago it was the Ethnic stage. Anyway our booth will be in the alley entrance to the stage, just off State street. We are promised a bigger booth so we will need several volunteers. Talk about getting out of the grind and volunteering for an activity! We will be asking for supervisors for Friday night, all day Saturday, and all day Sunday as well as people to fill the various four hour shifts. If you can help us out for a few hours please let us know. This is the club's bread and butter for the next year.

That's about all I have for this month--see you on May 12th.

Shari Harlan - N9SH

Inside this issue:

President log	1
VP Log	2
Secretary Log	
Ham class survey	3
Breaking news	
RARA Events	4
Special Olympics	
Dxpditions	5
Pictures from mtg	
VEC Testing	6
Survey question	
Items for Sale & Miscellaneous	7
RARA Officers	7

NEXT MEETING

Friday
May 12, 2006

Meeting Program:

Field Day

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....

REMEMBER BOY SCOUTS OR GIRL SCOUTS?

Many years ago when I was in Boy Scouts, and later when my sons were in scouts, we were always told to be prepared. Of course it was more fun doing other things like tying up other scouts and then explain later that we were just practicing our knot tying skills. Never the less, later in life the motto "always be prepared" seems to echo a bit louder. Well, it's not too late to redeem yourself, because Field Day is just around the corner. Dick Fleming – KC9BCB, is this years Field Day chairman and I will be assisting him. Our next meeting in May will be a planning and informational meeting so we can be prepared and conduct Field Day, have fun, and make contacts. **If you have never been involved in Field Day, now is the perfect time to volunteer.** Every Field Day teaches us something about being prepared. We will need a lot of volunteers so please join us at our next meeting. If you would like to contact Dick, his number is 815-964-3423 or you may contact me at 815-389-0392. CQ FD CQ FD W9AXD

Best regards,
Kurt Eversole – KE9NJ

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Just a reminder that it is now past the April 1, 2006 grace period for membership renewal. As of April 1, your 2005 membership ended and you have been removed from the Ham Rag distribution and the membership roster.

You may pay you dues by coming to the next meet or sending it to PO Box. 8465, Rockford IL. 61126-8465

Secretary's Report

The April club meeting was called to order by Shari N9SH at 7:01 pm.

Secretary Minutes:

The minutes were read by Colleen KC9EWJ. Motion to approve made by Carl W9TQ and second by John KC9IED. All approved.

Treasures Report:

The Treasures Report was read by Carl W9TQ and the cash on hand was \$6,149.83. Motion to approve made by Gene WB9MMM and second by Susan KC9JDT. All approved.

Announcements:

Shari had submitted the special club status and is waiting for approval. Also from now on when the club has an event there will be no business meeting at the event.

The ATV club president Mikayla KC9HVQ gave a report and mentioned that there would be an ATV club meeting on Saturday at Sam's Pizza.

Gene WB9MMM gave a repeater report for Herb K9AMJ.

The Field Day chairman this year is Dick Fleming KC9BCB. Dick will be in need of help with food, generators etc.

Old Business:

Carl W9TQ made mention that the next ham class is Saturday at RVC. Chuck AB9KA had eight students in the tech class and all passed the test.

Carl is still collecting money for classes and dues. For the ones that have paid dues he still has the cards.

John KC9IED thanked everyone for the get well card that was sent to him.

New Business:

Dan KC9ATR mentioned that on April 22nd there will be an ARES, Sky warn and ESDA meeting at either the Red Cross or Salvation Army Center, he would let us know when he finds out.

Sunday April 23rd Wayne, KA9IMX needs help with the Heritage run.

Gene WB9MMM wants to have an antenna party to take down his tri band beam, due to damage.

Motion to end the meeting made by Jim W4JR and second by Carl W9TQ. All approved. The meeting ended at 7:33pm.

A radio presentation was made by Roberto Beltramelli WA9E from the Amateur Radio Toy Store.

Submitted by Colleen Peterson KC9EWJ secretary.

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.

BREAKING NEWS

The RARA board has just been notified that we will have to relocate the 147.000 and the 223.880 repeaters that are located at Sandy Hollow and Alpine road before the end of June. The board is working to secure a new location for these machines and is also working with the Illinois Repeater Association for re-coordination if necessary. More information to follow.

The 147.000 repeater is currently off the air.
The 223.880 repeater will be taken off the air as of June 1.

RARA Board

Summary Status of April General Class

A total of 9 people showed up for the class at Rock Valley College. Two people did not return after the first class and one person came only to the second class. 7 people took the general test and 6 passed the written test but did not take the code portion at the time.

Congratulations to those that passed the written test and also to the instructors Carl W9TQ and Chuck AB9KA for another successful class.

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

FIELD DAY

Plan now to come out to **Field Day June 24 / 25** at Roland Olson Forest Preserve. We need help setting up and operating for this event. This is an excellent opportunity for all license classes to get onto the low bands as well as socialize with other hams. **EVERYONE** is welcome.
(More information to follow at the May RARA meeting)

Upcoming RARA Events

- 2006 -

Breakfast in the Park – Dahlquist Park June 10th

(Park is 2 Blocks west of State St & Fairview)

Serving breakfast from 7 AM to 9 AM.

Field Day – Roland Olson Forest Preserve June 24th & 25th

(East of I90, north of hwy. 173 on Atwood Rd.)

Setup starting at 10 AM on Saturday the 24th

Field day starts 1300 Saturday and runs till

Sunday at 1300

(Assist in anyway you can)

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

(More information to come)

Amateur Radio Operators needed for Special Olympics on Saturday, May 13, 2006

The **Special Olympics Area Spring Games** will be held **Saturday, May 13, 2006** at Harlem High School in Machesney Park. We need several volunteers to provide communications for these games. We must arrive sometime between 7:30-8 AM. This is an all-day event that usually ends by 5 PM, and volunteers are asked to work the entire event. Most volunteers are done before 4 PM. You must register with me to receive a t-shirt and meal ticket.

I will only be registering the Amateur Radio operators. Any other family members who wish to sign up as huggers or in another volunteer capacity must contact the Northwestern Illinois Special Olympics office in Rockford at 965-3795 to register. Family members of Amateur Radio operators who wish to assist their loved ones with their communications duties may do so, however they will not receive a t-shirt and meal ticket unless they have registered prior to the event.

If you have any questions, contact me at Rocky-N9OCW@Juno.com or call (815) 877-2217. Leave a message on my answering machine and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Please help if you can. I will need your name, callsign, t-shirt size and preference of what event you want to work (if you have a preference). We need at least 8 volunteers to work this event.

Respectfully,
Rocky Schwarz N9OCW
ESDA Amateur Radio Team Member
Winnebago County, Illinois
Rocky-N9OCW@Juno.com

SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

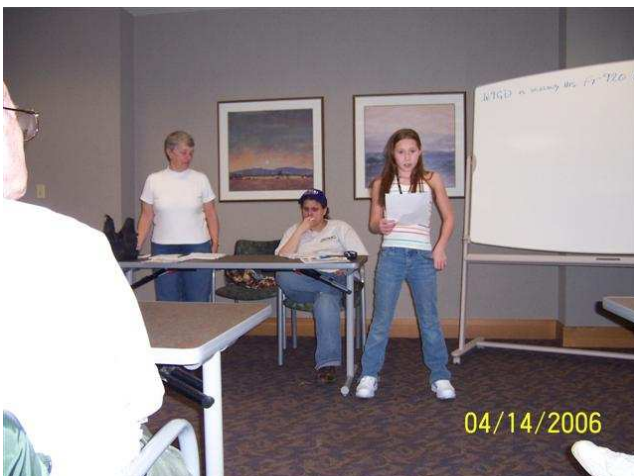
By Gary - K9LJN

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
3B8/ON4LAC	MAURITIUS	NOW TO MAY 13	ON4LAC
VK9LNO	LORD HOWE IS.	NOW TO MAY 13	N6NO
6O0M	SOMALIA	NOW TO MAY 19	PA7FM
FP/DJ2VO	ST. PIERRE IS.	NOW TO MAY 20	DJ2VO
EL2PM	LIBERIA	NOW TO MAY 31	EI5IF
J5UAP	GUINEA-BISSAU	NOW TO JUNE 10	HA3AUI
9Q/ON7KEC	CONGO	NOW TO JULY 31	ON7KEC
AH8/W9EYE	AMERICAN SAMOA	MAY 15 – 21	W9EYE
CN2WW	MOROCCO	MAY 20 – 29	EA7FTR
VI9NI	NORFOLK IS.	MAY 25 TO JUNE 20	???
A72O06	QATAR	JUNE 1 TO JULY 31	EA7FTR

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



Roberto Beltramelli WA9E from the Amateur Radio Toy Store giving presentation on various radios currently on the market.



ATV club president **Mikayla KC9HVQ** gave a report and mentioned that there would be an ATV club meeting on Saturday at Sam's Pizza

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

April 15th there were 5 applicants. Resulting in 3 new Amateurs

Adam Chernow, KC9JHY, Technician
Allen Goodman, KC9JHZ, Technician
John Huddleston, KC9JIA, Technician

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, May 20, 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).



Randy W9HL, Lonnie KA9WON and Shari N9SH Volunteer Examiners at testing session.
Photo by Gene KA9BOD

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

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.

ITEMS FOR SALE / WANTED

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)

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.

FT-920 HF Rig: For sale. HF + 6M currently in use and in good condition asking \$600. Please contact Gene W9GD either on the 146.61 repeater or call and leave message at 815-732-7994.

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 June 2006 issue will be Friday May 26, 2006.

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

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

Do you have a question about radio?
Call Scott, WB9LHU Earth Works
965-9841

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

MAY 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