

# HAM RAG



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

## November 2006

### President's Corner

As I write this October is almost over and I am having trouble keeping up with the falling leaves, getting the gardens ready for winter and all of the other chores that come up in the fall. Gene has the antennas pretty well ready for winter also.

Congratulations to our new officers for next year. If you were not at the October meeting to know who was elected here they are: Don Russell, KB9AYF-President;

Bob Neuman, W9TZU-Vice President; Chuck Derwent, K9SAN-Secretary; Gene Harlan, WB9MMM-Treasurer. One board seat was up for election and Dan Hunt, KC9ATR was elected to fill that board seat. I am sure that this will be a very good board.

Tim, KC9DNN, and Colleen, KC9EWJ, have moved to the Chicago area. Tim transferred into the Chicago area with his job at CVS (Osco Drug) this month. We will all miss his hard working attitude.

I have made reservations for our club banquet at Lino's on the second Friday in January (January 12th). Look elsewhere in the Hamrag for the menu.

This month's meeting will be a good one as Pat Ryan, KC6VVT, is always very interesting to listen to and visit with. Be sure to come and meet him.

Hope that you have a Happy Thanksgiving.

73,

Shari, N9SH

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#### • NEXT MEETING

#### • Friday

#### • November 10, 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.

**Chuck Liljegen, WB9UMC, is in the intensive care unit at St. Anthony Hospital in critical condition. Chuck has been in intensive care since October 31. At this time he is unconscious and does not know that the family is there. Please keep Chuck and his wife Carol in your thoughts and prayers. Also it would be extra nice to send cards to them.**

Shari Harlan - N9SH

## KEEP GOING RODNEY!

Throughout our ham radio experiences, we sometimes are misunderstood or unappreciated, even though we do our best to always help in communications and emergency efforts. We try to educate the public about ham radio and the service we provide, but many people really don't understand the importance of our service. Sometimes I think we are the "Rodney Dangerfield" of communications. WE GET NO RESPECT! This isn't just in ham radio, there are other areas that people provide their time and resources, and by and large it sometimes goes un-noticed or not recognized. However, that isn't why we have the Amateur Radio Service in the first place. We do it for the sake of helping others and disregarding what some may not understand. There are many challenges that we face in Amateur Radio, both in protecting the spectrum we are provided to operate in, and moving forward with technology to further our efforts. So we may be the "Rodney Dangerfield" of communications, but we still do what we do best and the world is a better place for it. Maybe we should all wear orange ties and then we will get noticed. It worked for Rodney!

Our program for November will be by Pat Ryan KC6VVT, who is the ARRL Illinois Section Emergency Coordinator. Pat will be discussing his role as EC, the importance of ARES, and what we can do to help. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Best regards,

Kurt Eversole – KE9NJ

## Secretary's Report

RARA Club Meeting 10/13/2006 Minutes

Sheri called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes from the September meeting were read by Christi Russell, KC9HUE. Gary, K9LJN, approved and Chuck AB9KA, seconded. All approved.

Treasurer report was read by Carl, W9TQ. The generators were sold, and the profits were added to the club account. Chuck, motioned to accept, and the club approved.

The end of the year banquet was discussed briefly. Shari, N9SH, will have more on the menu and prices at the next meeting.

Check from the 'On the Waterfront' event has been received. Thanks go out to all those who volunteered. The error total was %1.08. Hope we have a great time next year.

Chuck, AB9KA, noted that Rock Valley College dropped the ham Radio Tech class due to low enrollment.

### New Business

Carl, W9TQ, and Gene, KA9BOD, are working on a class for the Center of Learning and Retirement on Ham Radio. Please let those you know who are retired and might be interested.

Chuck, AB9KA presided over the elections of the new officers for the 2007 year. Congratulations to the new officers as follows:

Don Russell, KB9AYF-President

Bob Neumann, W9TZU-Vice President

Chuck Derwent, K9SAN-Secretary

Gene Harlan, WB9MMM-Treasurer

Dan Hunt, KC9ATR-Board

Motion to end the meeting made by Susan Peterson, KC9JDT and second by Gary, K9LJN.

Submitted by Christi Russell, KC9HUE.

## RARA Mission Statement

A member association with common interest of public service to the community

### AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

October 21st there was 1 applicant. Resulting in no new licenses.

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, November 18, 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

### **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*

## FCC Finally Does Something with "Omnibus"

Looks like there are some issues.....

### FCC "Omnibus" Report and Order Contains Pluses, Minuses and Errors

NEWINGTON, CT, Oct 20, 2006 -- While the FCC's recent *Report and Order (R&O)* in WT Docket 04-140 seems to offer something for just about every sector of the Amateur Radio community, it's not without its shortcomings. Most of these appear to be unintended consequences stemming from the FCC's arguably too-generous allocation of 75 meter phone spectrum to Amateur Extra class licensees. Based on the record, the FCC said it was persuaded to authorize more 75 meter spectrum than indicated in its 2004 *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)*.

"Indeed, a number of commenters argue that the *NPRM* proposal to increase the amount of spectrum permitted for voice communications would still not meet the demand for voice communication in the HF bands, particularly in the 80 meter band," the FCC said in the *R&O*, released October 10. Several radio amateurs filing comments made a case to extend the 80 meter allocation further downward, the FCC continued, "believing that expanding the band more than the Commission proposed is justified because the CW band 'is grossly underused and represents a huge waste in spectrum.'"

The FCC concluded that the commenters' arguments -- several suggested a phone band extending down to 3600 kHz -- were "reasonable." Far more modest phone expansions were the rule for 40 and 15 meters, the other affected bands (see [revised band charts](#) for details).

Once the new rules go into effect, the 75 meter phone band will span 3800 to 4000 kHz for Generals, 3700 to 4000 kHz for Advanced class licensees (ARRL had requested 3750 to 4000 kHz), and 3600 to 4000 kHz for Amateur Extras (ARRL had requested 3725 to 4000 kHz).

#### Reallocation Credits and Debits

The ample 75 meter Amateur Extra class phone allocation not only effectively reduces the amount of 80-meter spectrum available for CW, RTTY and data, it actually eliminates Advanced and General class access on any mode to certain segments where they now have privileges. Sensitive to fallout from the "incentive licensing" debacle of the late 1960s, the FCC has indicated it wouldn't let that kind of thing happen again.

In the runup to the April 2000 license restructuring, the FCC assured the Amateur Radio community that any pending changes would not take away any incumbent licensee's privileges, and it carefully avoided doing so in its restructuring *R&O*. Even while applauding the ARRL's "refarming" proposal in this docket's *NPRM*, the FCC pointed out that "as proposed, no licensees would lose any spectrum privileges." Nonetheless that's just what happened:

Generals lose access to 150 kHz of CW/data spectrum on 80 meters while gaining 50 kHz of phone spectrum on 75. They also lose access to 25 kHz of CW/data spectrum on 40 meters but gain 50 kHz of phone privileges on that band. Factoring in another 25 kHz of phone spectrum on 15 meters that's an overall gain in privileges of 125 kHz of phone spectrum offset by an overall loss of 175 kHz of CW/data spectrum -- or a net *loss* of 50 kHz in spectrum privileges.

Advanced licensees also lose access to 150 kHz of CW/data spectrum on 80 meters but gain 75 kHz of phone spectrum on 75. They also lose access to 25 kHz of CW/data spectrum on 40 meters but gain 25 kHz of phone spectrum there. That's an overall loss of 175 kHz of CW/data spectrum offset by an overall gain of 100 kHz of phone spectrum (25 kHz less than Generals). The net loss in Advanced privileges works out to 75 kHz (25 kHz greater than Generals).

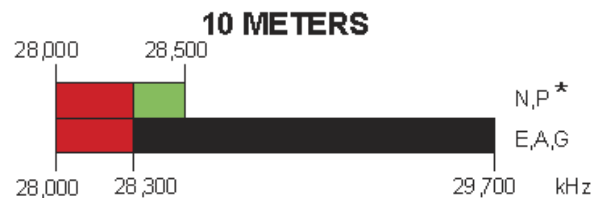
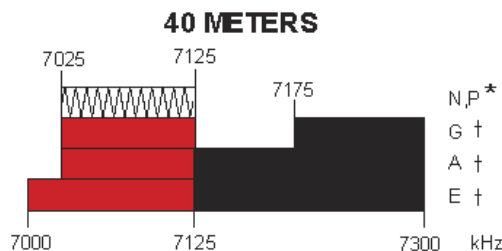
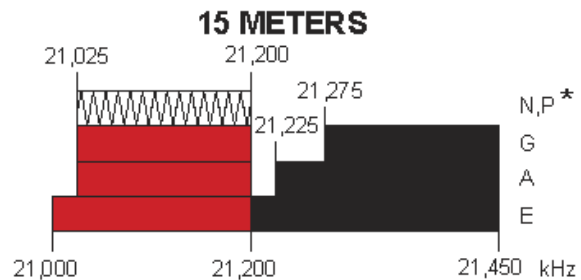
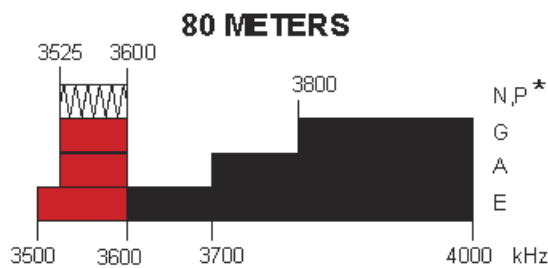
On the other hand, the new rules are "*nothing but net*" for Novice and Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees. Given permission to operate CW in the current General exclusive-CW allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters and CW/data on 10 meters, where the FCC provided an another 100 kHz, these licensees take home a whopping 250 kHz of additional HF spectrum.

## Did the FCC Mean to Do That?

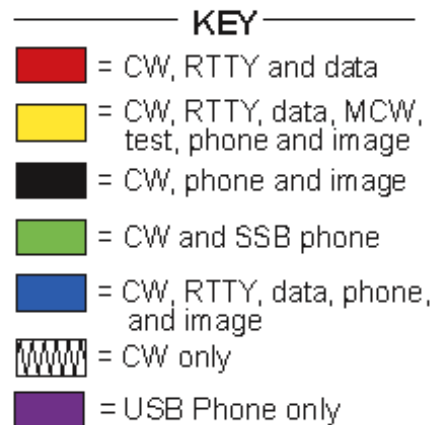
The *R&O* contains several apparent mistakes, too. For example, in §97.301(d) the 80 meter row should read 3.525-3.600 MHz for all three ITU regions. In §97.305(c), the frequencies in the first line for 40 meters should read 7.000-7.100 MHz. The FCC plans to fix these errors in the "official" *R&O* text that will appear in the *Federal Register* later this fall.

Other corrections may prove more troublesome. Creating a humongous 75 meter phone band for Extras effectively, but apparently inadvertently, deleted the only 80 meter segment where automatically controlled digital stations may operate -- 3620 to 3635 kHz. The new rules no longer permit RTTY and data there, however.

In addition, the FCC accommodated the inclusion of images in data transmissions by defining a range of image emission types as "data" and limiting them to 500 Hz bandwidth in the RTTY/data subbands. Unfortunately, it did so in a way that also limits J2D emissions -- data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter -- to 500 Hz bandwidth.



† Phone and Image modes are permitted between 7075 and 7100 kHz for FCC licensed stations in ITU Regions 1 and 3 and by FCC licensed stations in ITU Region 2 West of 130 degrees West longitude or South of 20 degrees North latitude. See Sections 97.305(c) and 97.307(f)(11). Novice and Technician Plus licensees outside ITU Region 2 may use CW only between 7025 and 7075 kHz. See Section 97.301(e). These exemptions do not apply to stations in the continental US.



E = AMATEUR EXTRA  
 A = ADVANCED  
 G = GENERAL  
 P = TECHNICIAN PLUS  
 T = TECHNICIAN  
 N = NOVICE

# SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

## By Gary - K9LJN

<b>CALLSIGN</b>	<b>QTH</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>QSL VIA</b>
3C0M	ANNOBON IS.	NOW TO NOV 4	EA5BYP
BX3/DJ3KR	TAIWAN	NOW TO NOV 5	DJ3KR
XU7MDY	CAMBODIA	NOW TO NOV 5	OH4MDY
TT8PK	CHAD	NOW TO NOV 20	F4EGS
VQ9JC	CHAGOS IS.	NOW TO DEC 1	ND9M
9Q1D	CONGO	NOW TO DEC 31	SM5BFJ
R1FJT	FRANZ JOSEF IS.	NOW TO DEC 31	UA4RC
7Q7HB	MALAWI	NOW TO JAN 13, 2007	G0IAS
FT5XP	KEGUELEN IS.	NOV 1 – 7	F4EFI
TK/DL2SBY	CORSICA	NOV 2 – 11	DL2SBY
A35AX	TONGA	NOV 2 – 14	ON5AX
5H1HW	TANZANIA	NOV 7 – 22	I5JHW
KH0/K3UY	MARIANA IS.	NOV 10 – 15	UA3DX
V63DX	MICRONESIA	NOV 13 – 18	JA7HMZ
5A7A	LIBYA	NOV 14 – 28	DL9USA
VK9AA	COCOS-KEELING	NOV 20 – 27	DL8YR
CN2R	MOROCCO	NOV 21 – 27	W7EJ
XU7ADE	CAMBODIA	NOV 25 – 26	E21EIC
VU7RG	LAKSHADWEEP IS.	DEC 1 – 10	N200???

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

**AB9KA**  
**HAM I-Q Refresher**

Technician

Why are unlicensed persons in your family not allowed to transmit on your amateur station if you are not there?

- A. They must not use your equipment without your permission
- B. They must be licensed before they are allowed to be control operators
- C. They must know how to use proper procedures and Q signals
- D. They must know the right frequencies and emissions for transmitting

General

What part of a data packet contains the routing and handling information?

- A. Directory
- B. Preamble
- C. Header
- D. Footer

Extra

What is the most common method of transmitting data emissions below 30 MHz?

- A. DTMF tones modulating an FM signal
- B. FSK (frequency-shift-keying) of an RF carrier
- C. AFSK (audio frequency-shift-keying) of an FM signal
- D. Key operated on/off switching of an RF carrier

**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

## ITEMS FOR SALE / WANTED

**Do you need metal for a project?** Carbon, alloy, aluminum, stainless, plastics, brass, bronze, angle, tubing all shapes & sizes large & small. \$10 minimum order, will sawcut to any length. Hobbyists and public welcome. ([Http://www.metalexpress.net](http://www.metalexpress.net)) Metal Express, 2108 Harlem Rd, Loves Park, IL 61111 Jeff Ziemer (815) 282-6544.

**60 Ft. tower for sale:** The Winnebago Public Library recently acquired a property that has a 3 legged tower, shaped like a windmill (wide at bottom & narrow at top). It has some rust but appears sound. The successful bidder will have to disassemble and remove without damaging local structures or landscape. The library board was hoping to get \$300 for it but for a fast sale, they are willing to hear an offer. Contact Gary Winters, KA4IHK (815) 335-7050 cell phone: (815)975-1410. 201 N. Elida St Winnebago, IL 61088.



**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

(\* = Back on the AIR!)

(\*\* = 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](mailto:chilly73@gmail.com)

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

## 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

Why are unlicensed persons in your family not allowed to transmit on your amateur station if you are not there?

**B. They must be licensed before they are allowed to be control operators**

**Reference: CFR 97.109(b)**

### General

What part of a data packet contains the routing and handling information?

**C. Header**

### Extra

What is the most common method of transmitting data emissions below 30 MHz?

**B. FSK (frequency-shift-keying) of an RF carrier**



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 \_\_\_\_\_