

HAM RAG



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

August 2007

RARA Mission Statement

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

President's Corner

With summer going on, the activity level of the club is a little on the down side. So I wanted to thank all of those that are still active. The sun has been blank with sunspots so HF has been pretty dead, so I have been playing with UHF. There has been some interesting ducting going on. I hooked up my mobile rig on low power (5w) to an abandoned DB420 (9db gain Omni/ 16 folded dipoles) at ~275f agl. Its fed with 7/8 in. heliax. I was bringing up repeaters in Madison, Chicago, and all over the place with 5-9+ signals. I called CQ on 446 simplex and worked a guy in Mundelein, il. He was running 40W at 40ft. It was a real blast. I did it again the next day and everything was still the same, so it most likely is just the antenna height not ducting. I could hear the Chicago PD repeaters even the ones downtown almost full scale. I heard IFB's from Chicago and Madison. The FRS band was just plain nuts, sounded like a DX pileup. Some times you just need to try something different. I did learn something interesting In checking the antenna for SWR all I could get was infinite to 1 across the whole uhf ham band. I thought it was the meter, so we got a different one. this time an MFJ analyzer for uhf.. Still the same full scale SWR everywhere. hmmm bad coax, bad antenna. Well lets try low power, not going to hurt the radio at that. local repeaters work fine, lets try Chicago's fish far... Full scale.. hmmm ok lets try a smaller Chicago repeater. full scale.. ok antenna is receiving ok. lets try Madison.. full scale.. ok the antenna is good, the radio likes it on low power, lets try medium. yup, that's ok.. try high power, still ok.. No swr cutback on the radio, no quirkiness.. hmm why wont the meters work. So I borrowed a military version of a Bird watt meter. It showed between 35W and 40W forward and ~200mw coming back. Ahhh... the meters couldn't handle the RF from the other transmitters on the tower, namely 4KW ERP of 104.9mhz 50 ft above that antenna. I figured the frequency difference and vertical separation would be enough. Nope Only the mil spec meter would work right. Its built a little better and the slugs are tighter in rejecting out of band RF. It was fun.

The picnic in the park is coming up on Aug 12th. It will run from 1pm to 3pm. Lets have a blast this time. It will be at Alpine part shelter number 1. I'm hop-

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• NEXT MEETING

• Friday

• September 14, 2006

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• No Meeting

• Family Picnic

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• 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.

President's Corner Continued

ng for a good turnout. Bring a dish for the potluck, and don't forget your table service. We will be supplying Burgers, Brats, Hotdogs, and buns. There is also going to be a foxhunt. See page 5 for more details.

Don KB9AYF

Secretary's Report

The meeting for July 13, 2007 was called to order at 7:14.

Gene WB9MMM gave the treasures Report. Motion Given by Karl, W9TQ and second by

No secretaries report given.

A full field day report will be given at the September meeting

Karl wants classes at Rockvalley College

Gene is holding Tech Classes at his home beginning July 24.

The ATV repeater was checked and water was found in the 70cm feed line.

The club will ask K9PK to update that repeater message for future events.

Gene is still seeking assistance with the state street mile.

Chuck is still looking for assistance for on the water front. He will be calling folks asking for help.

The booth is at the ethnic stage. This is Booth T9 and Madison and Walnut.

There will be an email notice for the picnic.

The meeting was voted to be closed by Joe kb9mth and seconded by Jimmy

(Secretary Report Continued on page 3)



Family Picnic – Alpine Park

Shelter #1 August 12th

(Alpine Rd 2 blocks south of State St.)

Gathering from 1 PM to 3 PM

Bring dish to pass

We will be having a Fox Hunt!!!

RARA FUND RAISER

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

Members man a ticket booth at

ON THE WATERFRONT

August 31st through

September 2nd

(It really is a lot of fun)

Please contact Chuck - AB9KA

Teams work 4 hour shifts

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

Upcoming RARA Events

- 2007 -

Family Picnic – Alpine Park Shelter #1 August 12th

(Alpine Rd 2 blocks south of State St.)

The ham classes scheduled for this fall 2007

Tech -- Oct 20 and 27, 2007

General -- Nov 10 and Nov 17, 2007

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

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

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

AB9KA's Ham I-Q Refresher

Technician

What is connected to the green wire in a three-wire electrical plug?

- A. Neutral
- B. Hot
- C. Ground
- D. The white wire

General

What must you do if, when operating on either the 30 or 60 meter bands, a station in the primary service interferes with your contact?

- A. Notify the FCC's regional Engineer in Charge of the interference
- B. Increase your transmitter's power to overcome the interference
- C. Attempt to contact the station and request that it stop the interference
- D. Stop transmitting at once and/or move to a clear frequency

Extra

For a shortened vertical antenna, where should a loading coil be placed to minimize losses and produce the most effective performance?

- A. Near the center of the vertical radiator
- B. As low as possible on the vertical radiator
- C. As close to the transmitter as possible
- D. At a voltage node

Answers on page 7

Foxhunt

There will be a foxhunt following the picnic August 12th. We will hide two or three low-power 2m transmitters within a few hundred feet of the picnic shelter. All fox hunters will start at the same time, or else we may stagger the start times if there are a large number participating. You can work individually or in teams. Each transmitter will be marked with a label bearing a code word for you to write down on your entry sheet. Finishing placements will be by total time to find all foxes.

This will be a beginner's hunt, so all the "foxes" will be directly reachable over slightly rolling but civilized terrain. There won't be any need to climb or crash through the brush.

If you have a direction-finding antenna, that would be best, although some hams can find a hidden transmitter using body shielding and a rubber duck alone. Check out Joe Moell's website www.homingin.com for ideas. Construction plans for the very popular "tape measure beam" can be found on the Internet at home.att.net/~jleggio.

No need to enter in advance, just show up for the picnic with your handheld. Good hunting!

73, Rich Ludwig K9PK

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

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)

2007 RARA Officers and Board

President—Don Russell KB9AYF

Vice President — Bob Newman W9TZU (Resigned)

Secretary — Chuck Derwent K9SAN

Treasurer — Gene Harlan WB9MMM

Directors:

Shari Harlan N9SH, Dan Hunt KC9ATR,

Kurt Eversole KE9NJ and Carl Cacciatore W9TQ

Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please call me or email me at kb9mth@arrl.net.

Ham I-Q Answers

Technician

What is connected to the green wire in a three-wire electrical plug?

- C. Ground

General

What must you do if, when operating on either the 30 or 60 meter bands, a station in the primary service interferes with your contact?

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- A. Near the center of the vertical radiator

Stuff for Sale

I have some radio equipment that belonged to Roger Sawvell (SK) for sale. There is two hand-helds and charger and accessories

One 2 meter hand held Yaesu-- ft-23R

One 220 hand held FT-33R

There is the charger and ext. ants. for both radios, and a speaker mike and cases for both radios. There is also an extra ni-cad Battery pack. Fnb-11 600 mah Manuals for both radios.

Asking \$200 for both or make an offer.

Dale KB9WD

dlandis@ameritech.net

(815) 633-0520

Field Day 2007



By: Suzie Follman
13 News

Natural disasters often take out communication lines first. It's why some residents want to be prepared for anything.

Rockton even has a few hams of its own. They're volunteers who hook up radio equipment to send messages, like Morris Code, around the world.

From an empty Rockton field, technicians reached people in places as far California and the International Space Station!

Field Chairman Joe Perry says, "There were no radio communications. All radio systems were out. Cell phone services were out. So we were there to provide emergency communications."

The group radioed more than 50 people from the field.

Updated: June 25, 2007, 4:45 pm





**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 _____



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

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

August 2006

place address label here