

# HAM RAG



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

## June 2007

### President's Corner

Well 1/2 a year has gone by already. Looking forward to field day. Its always special partly because its my birthday and because I have a lot of fond memories from field days past. My home town ham club uses field day to bring the group together and really show what we can do in an emergency. If the weather is bad then we just sit around and swap stories. I really enjoy camping and making dx contacts. Its one of the few times I get to work more than just a few contacts. I invite all of you to come out to the site and stop by and work a few contacts. If you don't have any HF gear, this is the time to see what its like.

I definitely what to recognize Bob Ditzler KC9LLS for getting his license. Its really great that he did. I'm very proud of him for getting it done after all these years! Congrats!

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#### • NEXT MEETING

##### •Friday

- June 13, 2007
- 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.

I am studying to take my Extra exam and a commercial radio exam this month. The Commercial exam is from the Society of Broadcast Engineers: Certified Broadcast Radio Engineer. Its something I have wanted for a lot of years. If I pass it will be a great personal achievement for me. Its amazing how much the two have in common. The commercial radios are really just ham rigs with much bigger components.

Wish me luck on both!

Thanks,

Don

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

Well I took the Generals test and passed. I can't wait to make my first contact . I am looking for ideas for the tech portion of the meeting. If anyone has a topic or a guest speaker please contact me @ 847-890-9185 or on our repeater as I have my HT on all day. I 'm sorry that I seem to be a vp in absence. However, my grandson was diagnosis with a rare form of M.S. and we were at the hospital. I fully intend to make this next one barring any seen or unseen cosmic event.

73's  
Bob Neumann W9TZU

### **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*

## Secretary's Report

May 11, 2007

The meeting was called and the reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and approved.

Field Day will be the last full weekend of June (Weekend of 23rd). We have a food chairman. Joe Perry will be Field Day Chairman. Poppers, tents, and small trailers are allowed on the grass. Motorhomes and vehicles must stay on the parking lot.

Breakfast in the park is Jun 9th. Sue KC9JDT is chairman.

The heritage run and the walk America are coming up.

Submitted by Chuck Derwent K9SAN, Sec.

### RARA Officers and Board Positions 2007

#### **Officers**

Don Russell-KB9AYF-President

Bob Neumann-W9TZU-Vice President

Chuck Derwent-K9SAN-Secretary

Gene Harlan-WB9MMM-Treasurer

#### **Board Members**

Carl Cacciatore-W9TQ

Kurt Eversole-KE9NJ

Shari Harlan-N9SH

Dan Hunt-KC9ATR

**Joseph Perry KB9MTH-Editor**

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

April 21st there were 5 applicants resulting in 3 new Technician and 2 upgrades

Robert Ditzler - New Technician

Datha Olney - New Technician

Jason Robbins - New Technician

Steven Finger KC9JDP General

William Spears Jr KB9OPC General

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, May 16, 2007.

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 til 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 should you do if a large scale emergency has just occurred and no net control station is available?

- A. Wait until the assigned net control station comes on the air and pass your traffic when called
- B. Transmit a call for help and hope someone will hear you
- C. Open the emergency net immediately and ask for check-ins
- D. Listen to the local NOAA weather broadcast to find out how long the emergency will last

## General

What is the name of the stage in a VHF FM transmitter that selects a harmonic of an HF signal to reach the desired operating frequency?

- A. Mixer
- B. Reactance modulator
- C. Preemphasis network
- D. Multiplier

## Extra

What is the average power dissipated by a 50-ohm resistive load during one complete RF cycle having a peak voltage of 35 volts?

- A. 12.2 watts
- B. 9.9 watts
- C. 24.5 watts
- D. 16 watts

Answers on page 13

## Club Announcements

**This is a temporary change for  
the month of June.**

Breakfast in the Park

Blackhawk Park

June 9th

7:30 to about 10:30

Airport Drill

Rockford Airport

June 9th at 8:00am

Field day

June 23rd and 24th

Starts at 7:30am on June and 23rd and ends at noon on June 24th

**The following items are being offered for sale:**

A MFJ 12 volt power pole. Like new but a little dirty. The price is \$15.00. If interested email Joe-kb9mth at kb9mth@arrl.net or by phone at 8159866728.

Please email Joe with anything you would like to add. Digital pictures in Jpg format are welcome.

## ISS Contact a Success!

### CHRISTIAN LIFE SCHOOL ISS CONTACT A SUCCESS

Three years ago I asked Christy Saunders, who was then our grandson, Dustin's fifth grade teacher at Christian Life, if she would be interested in having her students contact the International Space Station. Christy was very excited about this prospect. We then went to the elementary principal, Rhonda Kluck, and she said, "We have to do that!" So we began the application process. I found out at the Starved Rock hamfest that our application had been accepted. This began the three year waiting period.

We actually heard nothing during this period until the fall of 2006 when we got an email from Rosalie White, K1STO, asking if we were still interested in the contact. Of course the answer was yes. Still we did not hear very much until January 2007 when we got a prospective date of the week of February 26th. We then started having meetings to prepare for this date. A group of hams met with a maintenance person from the school to find the best route for the antenna wires to come into the church building. Originally this event was not going to be a whole school event, but as the time got closer the staff at Christian Life thought that this was such a once-in-a-lifetime event they wanted the whole school to be present. Our original set-up date was to be February 24th. This was the weekend in February that we had blizzard warnings, and Gene was in Iowa. We found out about two weeks before the date that it was a no-go. Actually a sigh of relief could be heard, especially since no one was looking forward to putting up antennas in the snow. The waiting went on.

Finally in March our mentor Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, told us we were slated for a three day window the week of April 23rd. We got Wednesday April 25th at 2:21 P.M. On Saturday April 21st the work began in earnest getting all of the equipment set up. Charlie, AJ9N, came from Indiana and brought antennas, coax, rotors and rotor controls and radios. Gene and I supplied our Yaesu 847 for IRLP and Jim Zahrndt, KF9AU supplied his 847 as a backup radio just in case Charlie's failed. The team of workers gathered at 8:30 A.M. on the 21st for breakfast at the church (great place for breakfast!) and then proceeded to get everything set up—they worked all day finishing up at 6 P.M. Before they left they had to pull all of the antenna wires back up onto the catwalks above the church so they would not be visible during the church services held on Sunday. Charlie went back home on Saturday evening.

On Wednesday April 25th we met at the church again for breakfast around 8:30. Charlie was coming from Indiana for the day to help us get things finished up and tested. This was an absolutely great day for amateur radio in the Rockford area. We got some really positive media coverage, and I really cannot say enough about the staff at Christian Life School who were so eager for this to happen. I may have been the one that was seen on camera, but what I did could not have happened if the group that was behind the scenes had not worked so hard. This was truly a group effort and Gene and I would like to thank Jim Zahrndt, KF9AU, Paul Franklin, K9RNR, Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO, Kurt Eversole, KE9NJ, Robert Larson, KC9ICH, and his wife Shannon, Dan Hunt, KC9ATR, John Auerswald, KA9SOG, Mikayla Auerswald, KC9HVQ, Karl Auerswald, KC9HVR, Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, Don Russell, KB9AYF, Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, Joe Perry, KB9MTH, John Cottner, KC9IED, Rich Ludwig, K9PK, Richard Nelson, N9ZO, Tom Weltzer, W9TMW, Wayne Hansen, KA9IMX and Larry Alex, KB9KCK for all of their help. Each of us had there part in this event to make it work and each one did their job very well.

(continued on page 8)

## ISS Contact Part 2

Each of us had there part in this event to make it work and each one did their job very well.

Many comments came in from people at the school, such as:

“Definitely very cool. Almost as cool as that time when I was visited by space aliens, or was that illegal aliens? Oh, well. Never mind that. Thanks for your hard work on putting this together.”

“I wanted to thank you for all your efforts in getting the special Space Station Assembly arranged. My son came home from school today just bubbling over with excitement about the things he learned today.”

“Thank you for your hard work and desire to see our contact with the ISS come to fruition! Hearing Suni’s voice impacted me more than I had anticipated – certainly something I will remember always!”

We are getting together SWL cards for the guys who want them to send in along with the QSL cards from the students. If you want an SWL card get them to either Gene or me very quickly so they can be sent off with the school’s cards.

Information for a SWL card – all that listened there can get one:

Name:

Call (if you have one):

Confirming QSO with: NA1SS

Day: 25 Month: 4 Year: 2007

UTC Time: 19:21

Frequency: 145.8 MHz

RST: 59

Mode Voice or FM

QSL: Please

The above can be as simple as putting the above information on a sheet of paper. It does not have to be an actual “QSL” card.

One of the very best things to come from this event is that the teacher, Christy Saunders, and several students want to get their amateur radio license! Christy wants to talk about having a class at the school. Now this makes this contact an even bigger success.

73,

Gene, WB9MMM and Shari, N9SH

(Pictures on page 9)

# ISS Contact Pictures



ISS014E19466

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UTC Time: 19:21

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RST: 59

Mode Voice or FM

QSL: Please

### 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

### Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please email KB9MTH at [kb9mth@arrl.net](mailto:kb9mth@arrl.net)

# Ham I-Q Answers

## Technician

What should you do if a large scale emergency has just occurred and no net control station is available?

C. Open the emergency net immediately and ask for check-ins

## General

What is the name of the stage in a VHF FM transmitter that selects a harmonic of an HF signal to reach the desired operating frequency?

D. Multiplier

## Extra

What is the average power dissipated by a 50-ohm resistive load during one complete RF cycle having a peak voltage of 35 volts?

A. 12.2 watts

(Calculate the RMS value, then use  $E^2 / R$ ) ( $E_{\text{peak}}^2 / 2R$  also works)

## Articles of interest from the area

As your new editor. I want to use this area for you. Please submit anything that you have experienced or new reports of interest that you want to share. Please email anything you would like to add to kb9mth@arrl.net. I need this by the last Tuesday of the month.

Joe Perry-KB9MTH

Editor



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126  
Email: chilly73@gmail.com  
Web: www.w9axd.org

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

place address label here

**April 2007**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_