

HAM RAG

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In the Rockford area at <http://w9axd.com>



December 2008

RARA Mission Statement

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



In Memory of **Gene Harlan, WB9MMM** (Husband of Shari, N9SH) (RARA VP)

May he rest in peace.

Gene passed away on Wednesday morning, November 26, 2008 at his home with his family by his side. He is survived by his wife, Shari, N9SH, 1 son, Shawn and 1 daughter, Wendy and 4 grandchildren. Our sincere condolences to Shari and the rest of the family. (It is okay to send flowers. Memorial contributions should be given to the church.)

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President's Log

Presidents Log, December, 2008

WB9MMM – sk

Gene Harlan – WB9MMM joined the ranks of Silent Key, November 26, 2008. As this year's vice president, Gene provided us with outstanding presentations. For many years, his knowledge and positive personality has been a firm foundation for all that is good within RARA and amateur radio. To say he will be missed is an understatement. It will take many men to continue his works and much labor to do them as well as him. We miss you, I miss you. 73, good friend.....

November General Meeting

We had another great meeting and great turnout for the General Meeting. We started out the meeting with the presentation this time. David J. Dyrnes, from Rockford Midway Village pointed out some of the treasures available at the Midway Village and demonstrated the value the village has for Rockford. Gordon – KC9NEX, next year's RARA president has seen an opportunity for RARA and Midway Village: "it seems as if it would be a great site for Field day". What do you think?

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NEXT MEETING

**Friday
December 12, 2008**

Meeting Program:

**"Digital Modes and
Ham Radio Deluxe"**

Robert Larson, KC9ICH

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.

Rockford Amateur Radio Association

Latest news and events on our web page: <http://www.w9axd.org>

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73 de K9RNR

It has been a good year for RARA! Membership is more than last year; our bank account is bigger too. We had some great presentations, good food, and most of all great fellowship.

My goal as president this year was to provide opportunity and reason for the members and non-members to come to RARA meetings and events. To accomplish the goal, I asked the hardest working and dedicated members of RARA to do more than they have been accustomed to do, your Officers and Board of Directors. Without a moment's hesitation, they responded positively and came through with events, programs and the website. My hope now is that all of this year's hard work is seen as a foundation for the members to renew their membership and non-members to choose to join us. There is a lot of opportunity in RARA.

A grateful thank you goes out to each and every one of the Officers and Board of Directors for 2008. You are the ones that made this year fun for all of us. You're many hours and dedication to Rockford Amateur Radio Association has made RARA 2008 an Association each and every member is proud to be part of. Thank you also to the members for the respect you have shown me as your president.

The officers and board of directors for 2009 have started planning for next year. And from what I have seen, it will be another year of opportunity for each and every RARA member.

RARA December General Meeting

One of the interesting displays at Field Day and JOTA this year was the digital communications station Bob – KC9ICH provided. For our meeting presentation, Bob will demonstrate some of the many features and options available within the Ham Radio Deluxe/DM780 software. It is amazing what is bundled into this software. If you are at all interested in digital communications, computer software and the joining of the two make sure to mark your calendar to attend Bob's demonstration at this month's general meeting.

The RARA meeting will be at OSF in our usual first floor meeting space. Hope to see you at the meeting, Friday night, December 12, 2008, at 7:00 pm!

73 & Good DX,
Paul - K9RNR

RARA Information Net

The Rockford Monday Night Net has ended as of November 24, 2008.

At the Nov. 26th Board Meeting, the RARA Officers and Board of Directors discussed the issue at length. They decided that the history of the net in Rockford is something to preserve and should be continued. Therefore, RARA will be starting a RARA Information Net, on our 146.610 repeater at 8:00 pm, beginning Monday December 1, 2008.

The purpose of the net will be to disseminate RARA related information as well as other Amateur Radio related information. As a club sponsored activity, please check in with Net Control and help make this net a success.

The Net Control will be rotated between the club members, with all amateur radio operators encouraged to check in (RARA members as well as non-members). This week's net control operator will be Gene - KA9BOD.

The net is a new project for the club, your input as to what to include is needed and appreciated. Let any of the officers and board know your thoughts and ideas. If you wish to be a net control operator, let any of the officers know. All are encouraged and welcome to participate.

Secretary's Report

RARA Club Meeting
November 14, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by president, Paul Franklin, K9RNR with 18 in attendance. In order to accommodate our guest speaker's schedule, the meeting program "Information about Midway Village" presented by David J Dynes, President of Midway Village was given first. The business meeting followed at 7:49 PM after the talk and a short break. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves and state their reason for a RARA membership.

Secretary Report:

The minutes for the October 2008 meeting were published in the November 2008 Ham Rag. There was one correction noted in that the meeting date was listed incorrectly and corrected. Gordie, KC9NEX made a motion to accept the minutes as published, seconded by John, N9OTC. All approved.

Treasurer Report:

Rich, K9PK reported for the period of September 30 thru October 27, 2008 as follows:

Income	\$50.00
Expenses	\$137.16
Ending checkbook balance	\$442.95
Ending savings balance	\$5,199.87
Cash on hand	\$5,642.82
Gain/(loss) from last year	(\$618.74)

Gene, KA9BOD made a motion to accept report and seconded by Gordie, KC9NEX. All approved.

Old Business:

1. Website – Bob, KC9ICH was not present but reported to check the website for late breaking news and some new features relating to repeater lists and Google Earth Maps.
2. On The Air Contest - the next contest for Nov./Dec. will be for contacts closest to the North Pole.
3. On The Waterfront – Steve, K9LLI, Rich, K9PK and Paul, K9RNR were recognized for their efforts as shift supervisors and Gordie, KC9NEX for working multiple shifts. The club got a check for \$1,809 for our efforts. We had a 99% efficiency.
4. Ham of the Year nomination forms are due by the December meeting.

New Business:

1. 2009 Officers – We still need a VP, Secretary and Ham Rag Editor.
2. Logo club shirts and Jackets - Get your orders in soon. More info in the November Ham Rag page 6.
3. RARA Banquet scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 2009 – Menu info is available in the November Ham Rag. Please get your orders in to Shari, N9SH by December 31. Reservations must be prepaid.
4. Red Flame the location of the weekly Friday morning breakfast in under new management and the new name is "The Undecided".
5. Termination of the Monday night net on the 146.61 repeater being rescheduled to Friday night. A letter will be sent to the parties involved and this topic will be discussed at the next board meeting. There was discussion about this topic.

The meeting closed at 8:51 PM.

Submitted by:
Gene, KA9BOD
RARA Secretary

Membership Dues Due
It is time once again to renew your RARA dues.

Rockford Amateur Radio Association
Latest news and events on our web page: <http://www.w9axd.org>

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

November 15th there were 3 applicants resulting in 1 new license and 2 upgrades.

New License
Robert F. Rose

Upgrades
James Puls KC9ONJ Extra
Joel Schroer KC9MGS Extra

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on **Saturday, December 20, 2008**.

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

The ham classes scheduled for this Spring 2009

Tech -- March 7 & 21, 2008

General -- April 4 & 18, 2008

(Registration for both classes via RVC.

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

Both will be held at RVC. Carl W9TQ

Tech Class - through RVC Center for Learning in Retirement
Classes meet on Mondays, Feb. 23 to Apr. 13 1 PM to 3:30 PM
(Register through RVC Center for Learning in Retirement)

VEC examiners will be available at last session of all classes

Rockford Amateur Radio Association

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2009 RARA Officers and board

President – Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX

VP – *No one*

Treasurer – Rich Ludwig, K9PK

Secretary – *No one*

Board of Directors –

Chuck Derwent, K9SAN

Robert Larson, KC9ICH

Mike Oberg, AB9AY

Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ

Ham Rag Editor – *No one*

(Please consider serving on one of the 3 open positions)

AWARDS BANQUET TO BE HELD JANUARY 10, 2009

The RARA Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2009 at Lino's, 5611 East State Street.

We plan on cocktails at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM. We need a minimum of 30 people for a private banquet room.

The seven course dinner includes: Relish Tray, Soup, Garlic and Pizza Breads, Lino's Special Salad, a Variety of Pasta (Mostaccioli-Ravioli-Tortellini), Coffee, Spumoni, and the entree.'

Choice of entree:

Baked Lasagna \$16.00

New York Strip Steak \$24.00

Baked Cod \$18.00

Baked Chicken ala Lino \$16.00

All prices include tax and tip and are rounded up to the nearest dollar.

Remember if you worked at the On the Waterfront ticket booth, you will get \$5.00 off per shift worked. In other words, if you worked 1 shift you will receive \$5.00 off, 2 shifts \$10.00 off and so forth. Supervisors will receive their dinner courtesy of the club to say thank you for all the hard work.

To **make your reservation** call Shari Harlan, N9SH, at 815-398-2683 **by December 31**. All reservations must be pre-paid. Send your check payable to RARA to Shari Harlan, 5931 Alma Dr., Rockford, IL. 61108.

Rockford Amateur Radio Association

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ITEMS FOR SALE / WANTED

VK3YNG Fox Hunt Sniffer and tape measure beam — \$150.00
Contact N9SH at 815-398-2683

LOGO CLUB SHIRTS AND JACKETS

We have made arrangements to make RARA club members shirts and or jackets if you are interested. They will have the club LOGO and your CALL above the left pocket.

The shirts will be white or egg shell white with the RARA logo and call letters. There will be two styles of shirts and one jacket.

A. Long sleeve Denim cloth button down the front with a cost of \$25 .

B. Short Sleeve Polo Shirt with a cost of \$21.

C. A Zip up Windbreaker with a cost of \$30.

There is an up charge for extra large sizes. A \$2 extra for 2X and \$4 extra for 3X and larger sizes.

If you are interested in getting one of these items please contact Carl, W9TQ.

Carl, W9TQ

CORRECTION

Correction: Jim – W4JR brought to my attention that the “Digital Voice for Amateur Radio” video presented at the RARA October Meeting was produced by ARVIN; Amateur Radio Video News. Not ARRL, as I wrote in the last two Hamrags. Jim mentioned that the same producer has other video’s that are also interesting. Check ‘em out if you get a chance. Paul – K9RNR

RARA BOARD MEETING MEETS ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 PM St. Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL

AREA 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

146.805 - ENC/DEC pl 114.8 K9AMJ

224.440 - ENC/DEC pl 118.8 K9AMJ

147.255 + ENC/DEC pl 114.8 WX9MCS

444.725 + 107.8 WX9MCS
Linked to FISHFAR

2008 RARA Officers and Board

President—Paul Franklin, K9RNR, 815-298-2251

Vice President — Gene Harlan, WB9MMM,815-398-2683

Secretary — Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, 815-226-1806

Treasurer — Rich Ludwig, K9PK,815-547-6435

Directors:

Robert Larson, KC9ICH,815-226-1875

Chuck Derwent, K9SAN,815-519-0848

Mike Oberg, AB9AY, 815-399-0961

Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-623-3623

Ham Rag Editor—Shari Harlan, N9SH, 815-398-2683

Repeater Chairman — Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ,815-399-6822

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.

*“The Undecided Restaurant” 915 S. Alpine Rd
Across from Alpine Park (New Owner)*

Rockford Amateur Radio Association

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HAM OF THE YEAR---2008 NOMINATION

The Ham of the Year is an honor that is presented to the R.A.R.A. member who has contributed the most to the club and to amateur radio in general during the year. This year the selection will be made by a committee established to evaluate the nominations of deserving candidates from those submitted by club members.

Your nominee should be chosen using two basic criteria: The nominee must be a R.A.R.A. member and should have performed exemplary service for amateur radio during the year 2008

We encourage you to take a few minutes to fill out the form below, or a facsimile, completing all of the requested information. Nominations may be mailed to KA9BOD at the address below or handed to her at the next club meeting. All nominations must be received by December 12,2008 They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Mail nominations to:
Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD
3531 Cross St.
Rockford, IL 61108
ka9bod@arrl.net

Nominee _____

Call _____

I nominate the above person for the RARA Ham of the Year-2008 award for the following reasons:

Signed _____

Call _____



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email:

Web: www.w9axd.com

Nets

Monday 8PM RARA Info Net 146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM ARES 147.255 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM SATURN 146.610 - 114.8

place address label here

December 2008

**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