

# HAM RAG



## RARA Mission Statement

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

## February 2008

### President's Log

There have been quite a few Ham Radio activities throughout the month of January. First and foremost for RARA was our Awards Banquet. What a fantastic event this year. The banquet started at 6:00 PM and by 6:05 PM the room was filling up fast. The members and guests were all smiles, joining in the festivities. Lino's did a great job serving us in a timely fashion with some fine food. My wife and I each had the Chicken which was really tender. I do have to say, the ice cream was about the hardest scoop I have ever had. I was up for the challenge and succeeded, I do love ice cream.

The Awards presentation was a high point for me, as I was able to express my appreciation for the efforts the members had in the various club activities throughout 2007. Each and every award was well earned!

Dan – KC9ATR presented John Cotner – KC9IED with the Ham of the Year award. John enthusiastically accepted the position of Emergency Coordinator – Illinois Winnebago County ARRL ARES and has proven to be the right person for the job. All of Winnebago County is privileged to have John in this Critical position. RARA is proud to present John with the award.

From the reports that I have been hearing, many of the hams in the area are working the low bands and adding to their DXCC count. The sun spot cycle may be moving up, lets' hope so. Six and Two have had a couple of band openings too. All kinds of opportunities out there, wow. There is also talk of new antennas, rotors, and towers but it seems as these are in the planning stages right now. That's a good thing, considering the weather we have been having.

I wasn't able to go to the Wheaton Hamfest this year, but again from the reports from those that did, a good time was had by all. Most found that "goodie" that they just had to have and brought it home with them. Maybe I'll make it next year, I hope so.

The new Officers and Board will meet for the first time Tuesday, January 29, 2008. The main topics will be the budget and club events for the year. A meeting agenda and preliminary 2008 budget have been distributed in preparation for the meeting.

The General meeting will be Friday, February 8, 2008, at 7:00 PM OSF. It should be a good meeting, hope to see you there.

73, Paul – K9RNR

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### NEXT MEETING

Friday, February 8, 2008

### .LOCATION:

St. Anthony Hospital

5666 East State St.

### PROGRAM

Friday Night at the Movies:.

Everything you wanted to know about antennas but were afraid to ask

# FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Friday Nite At The Movies

The February meeting should be good, especially if you are interested in how antennas work.

The video for the meeting is from the ARRL Audiovisual Library entitled "Everything you wanted to know about antennas, but were afraid to ask". We have seen this one before, maybe 4 years ago, but it has been requested to be shown again by several people. I reviewed it the other day and enjoyed it so much I viewed it a second time. It is 1 Hour 8 Minutes short. The presenter has a transmitter set up on, I think, 1.2 GHz and has antennas to show that some of us have never seen. At that frequency they are not very large and by using tone that is generated by the transmitter and a portable dipole on the receive antenna, the antenna patterns can easily be visualized.

We have a tentative schedule for programs for the rest of the year:

March - Antenna project showing how to make and adjust for proper SWR.

April - QSL cards - everything you need to know. Bring yours for show and tell.

May - Generator and battery systems

June - Field Day plus surface mount soldering

July - Fox Hunting

August - Picnic

September - Spark Gap transmitter video. Neat video shows how one was put together and works.

October - ARRL Dick Isely? Have not asked him yet so we will see.

November - Digital communication such as PSK31

December - ATV

We had more ideas than meeting nights, so there is plenty left over for 2009! If you would like to be the presenter for one of these topics, speak up now. Our own members have plenty of knowledge to share with each other and it is a fun thing to do.

I am looking forward to the new year. Let's enjoy the meetings and each other. Let others that are not members know what is going on and bring someone along as a guest. The best way to increase our membership is to show people that we have fun, have educational programs, and all enjoy each others company.

See you at the meeting!

Gene - WB9MMM

## **HAROLD “HARRY” CARTWRIGHT, WB9PBO , SK**

“Harry Harold Cartwright, 81, passed away in his home Jan 21, 2008, after a courageous battle with lung cancer. He was born in Thebes, IL. He spent most of his life in Rockford moving here with his family in 1939. He was a paratrooper in the 11th Airborne Division in World War II. He was a 32nd degree Mason, a volunteer election judge for 12 years and past president of the Rock River Valley Radio Club (CB club).

He worked briefly for Sundstrand and then moved to National Lock as a journeyman machinist. He was an avid photographer and consistently produced striking imagery. Learning radio theory while in the Army, he augmented his income as a part-time repairman for Johnson-Guler.

Harry enjoyed debate and was known for his often cutting political commentary. He recently retired to Mountain View, Arkansas and enjoyed his last days watching nature from the porch of the cabin that he shared with his wife of more than 50 years.

Services were Friday, January 25, and interment is in Norricks Chapel Cemetery, Mountain View, Arkansas. Harry was accorded Masonic Rites and Military Honors.

From the Rock River Times.

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## **EDITOR’S QRM--N9SH**

Our January meeting was the annual Awards Banquet at Lino’s on East State Street. There were 30 people attending and all of us had a really great time visiting and eating the great food. The service at Lino’s is always very good and there has already been a request to go back there next year. I think that this could be arranged.

Do any of you remember Vito Fiore, K9UCM? Vito used to work at Rock Valley College as an electronics instructor. He was also in charge of the station that was there at the college. Gene got an email from Gene Melton, AK9N, another former Rockford ham that Vito was listed in QST as a silent key. We looked and there he was. He was listed as living in Dayton, Ohio. He still had his K9UCM call. We do not know the date of his death.

On Friday March 14, 2008 from 8:00 am until 2:30 pm there will be a Tornado Shelter Seminar. This seminar is specifically geared for emergency planners, business and industry owners, operators and managers, school administrators, hospital and nursing home managers, and many more. The primary speaker for this seminar will be Timothy P. Marshall, P. E. He specializes in building damage assessment from all types of disasters--natural and man-made.

On Saturday March 15, 2008 will be the Advanced Weather Spotter Seminar from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm. This seminar is designed to provide advanced information needed by weather spotters to identify and accurately report the formation of severe weather events. Both seminars will be held on the campus of Wheaton College in Wheaton, Il. The Tornado Shelter Seminar will be at the Billy Graham Center--Barrows Auditorium. The advanced Weather Spotter seminar will be at the Todd M. Beamer Student Center--Cory Alumni event Room. You must pre-register for both seminars. Fee is \$30 prior to Feb 29, \$40 on or after Feb. 29.

**Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.**

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

# JOHN COTNER KC9IED RECEIVES HAM OF THE YEAR AWARD



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# JUST SURFIN'

Hey Surfin Dude, I just got my amateur radio license, so I'm new to ham radio. I want to buy some radio equipment, but I don't know what's good, especially when looking at used stuff. Do you have any suggestions?

Why yes, my ionospheric friend. There is a website [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net) that can be a great help. You know before websites, you had to talk to a lot of people and separate the "wheat from the chaff" before buying something that you were going to enjoy, but now if you go to **eham.net** there's a "Product Reviews" area for just about everything related to ham radio. There is over 6000 different products and services listed with over 59,000 separate reviews. Let's say you are looking at a used mobile VHF radio. Click on "VIEW MORE REVIEWS" and then click on the "Transceivers VHF/UHF Base/Mobile" category. Scroll down the page listing all the radios until you find the model you are interested in. Click on the model and you will see all the reviews on the radio. But remember, these are only opinions about the radio, so use your judgment wisely. Just about anything you are interested in buying is in the product reviews category, both new and used equipment. Anyway, if you have a little time, go to [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net) and do a little surfin'.

73 for now,

Surfin' Dude

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## COMING EVENTS

February 23, Western Lake Co. ARS WeCARS TechFest, Fox Lake Comm. Center, 23 South Street, Fox Lake, IL. Talk-in 145.755 Simplex and IRLP node 4239

March 16, Tri-County ARC Hamfest, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 305 Heyer Drive, Jefferson, WI.

March 9, Sterling-Rock Falls ARS Hamfest, Challand Middle School, 1700 16th Ave., Sterling, IL. Talk-in 146.85 (PL 114,8).

March 28-29, AES SUPERFEST 2008. AES Milwaukee, 5710 West Good Hope Road. Talk-in 145.130/144.530 N9LKH (PL 127.3)

April 19, Madison Area Repeater Association Swapfest, Stoughton, WI. Mandt Community Center, 400 Mandt Parkway, Stoughton, WI.

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## 2008 RARA OFFICERS and BOARD

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

Vice President--

Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, 815-398-2683

Secretary--

Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, 815-2261806

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

Directors

Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875

Chuck Derwent, K9SAN, 815 239-2247

Mike Oberg, AB9AY, 815-399-0961

Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-623-3623

Repeater Chairman

Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ, 815-399-6822

Ham Rag Editor

Shari Harlan, N9SH, 815-398-2683

## 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 - Cable Channel 57

146.805 - ENC/DEC pl 114.8 K9AMJ

224.4400 - ENC/DEC pl 118.8 K9AMJ

147.255 + ENC/DEC pl 114.8 N9MCS

Rockford Amateur Radio Assoc.

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

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

January 19th there were 5 applicants resulting in 1 new Technician and 2 upgrades

New Technician  
Name withheld

Upgrades  
William Null, KA9OWG General  
Steven Sproull, KC9KCQ General

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, February 16, 2008.

Location:

St. Anthony Hospital  
5666 E. State Street  
Rockford, Il

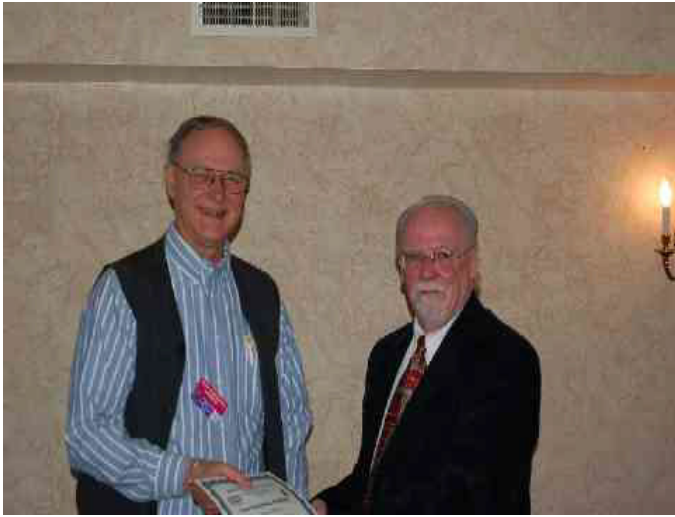
Exams will be held in the St Francis Room (just right of the front entrance after you enter).

Check-in is from 9:00 AM 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](mailto:W9HL@arrl.net)  
815-877-4328



**Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD and Paul Franklin, K9RNR**



**Chuck Derwent, K9SAN and Paul Franklin, K9RNR**



**Linda Hunt, KC9FAH, Dan Hunt, KC9ATR, Paul Franklin, K9RNR**



**Gene Harlan, WB9MMM and Shari Harlan, N9SH**



**Dave Bond, W9MG and wife Marilyn**



**Chuck Ingle, AB9KA and Paul Franklin, K9RNR**

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**Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ and wife Mary**



**John Lawrence, N9OTC and John Cotner, KC9IED**



**Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD and wife Joyce**



**Dick Fleming, KC9BCB and wife Evelyn**



**Paul Franklin, K9RNR and wife Judy**



**Gene Harlan, WB9MMM and Paul Franklin, K9RNR**

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P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email [shari@hampubs.com](mailto:shari@hampubs.com)

Web: [www.w9axd.org](http://www.w9axd.org)

NETS

Monday 8 PM 2 Meter 146.610 - 114.8

Thursday 7 PM ARES 147.255 + 114.8

Thursday 8 PM SATERN 146.61 - 114.8

# February 2008

## ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Single Adult: \$25.00 Adult w/Family: \$30.00

Single Senior: \$15.00 Senior w/Family: \$20.00

Student: \$15.00

Above rate includes the RARA monthly newsletter, Ham Rag, via email

Ham Rag Via USPS: \$12.00 extra

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_

Radio Interests \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Interests \_\_\_\_\_