

HAM RAG



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

April 2009

RARA Mission Statement

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's column -	page 1
Secretary's Report pg.	2 & 3
VP Mutterings -	page 4
Licensing Info. -	page 5
DX & Contest Info. -	page 6
Items for Sale -	page 7
Repeater Info. -	page 7
RARA Information -	page 7
Other Net Info. -	page 8

President's Column

Greetings All,

If you are like me, then you have also been out looking at your antennas, and thinking about what we want to build, or put up, as the weather finally starts to break and gets a little warmer. This warm stint has allowed me to get my tower grounded (FINALLY) and then pull up a G5RV antenna for some DX listening and maybe a little PSK31 work.

The board and I have been working on a few ideas for up-coming programs, stay tuned and see what new ideas we may come up with for you!

We still need some people to step forward to chair, and help with events. The only other choice is to cancel them due to no interest. I do not think (no interest) is the problem; but maybe the idea that you may not know what to do or is expected from you. Do not worry, you will have plenty of help, just step up and try. Who knows, you may like the experience and feel you want to be more involved.

Finishing up I want to thank Joe Perry for volunteering to be our new PIO. This position is our public information officer and he will make sure all of our upcoming events and other items we feel need to be publicized get into the local media.

Do not forget that the AES Superfest show is the weekend of April 3rd & 4th, 2009. A link to their site is as follows:

<http://www.aesham.com/newsletter/Superfest2009.pdf>

73,
Gordon Seaman - KC9NEX

NEXT MEETING

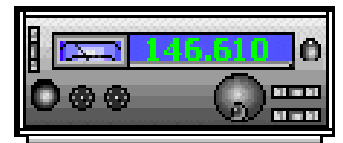
Friday
April 10, 2009
7:00 PM

Program Topic:
GROUNDING
A primer for all hams

By: Dick Fleming
KC9BCB

LOCATION

St. Anthony
Medical Center
Room #1041
5666 E. State Street
Rockford, IL



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

Secretary's Report



RARA Club Meeting

March 13th 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Gordon Seaman KC9NEX with 21 Hams in attendance. Also present was a first time visitor, Rich McKenzie. Many of our fellow Hams spoke with him and I gave him a copy of the March Ham Rag.

Gordy asked each of us to introduce our self and give a brief description of our recent Ham related activities.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes for the February 13th Meeting were published in the March Ham Rag. Gene KA9BOD made a motion to accept the minutes as read and John N9OTC seconded the motion. All approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Rich, K9PK read the report for the period January 27th through February 23rd 2009.

Income:	\$125.00
Expenses:	\$204.85
Net income/loss	\$(79.85)
Ending Checking Balance	\$626.41
Ending Savings Balance	\$6410.55
Ending Total Cash on Hand	\$7036.96

Old Business:

Gordy KC9NEX asked if anyone had any old business to discuss.

He then went on to say that the following Chairman positions are still open and requested a volunteer to lead each function:

Chairman for Breakfast in the Park. June 13th

Chairman for the Family Picnic. August 16th

Chairman for On the Water Front

Chairman for JOTA. The date is open for either October 17th or 18th.

Public information officer was needed. Joe Perry K9JPP volunteered for this position.

New Business:

Gordy suggested that our Web page include a list of area Hamfests with dates and particulars.

He went on to mention the following Hamfests:

Tri- County Hamfest, Jefferson, Wisconsin March 15.

Amateur Electronic Supply, Superfest, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 3rd and 4th.

Stoughton Wisconsin. Madison Area Repeater Association, Hamfest, April 18th.

Galva, Illinois, Area Amateur Radio Operators, April 19th.

(continued on next page)

Secretary's Report *(continued)*

Gordy announced that the new Web Site address for ARES is www.winnebagoares.org. There will be a Special Event Station operating from Midway October 5th through the 19th Special Event call sign K4M.

The Tech classes have been cancelled at RVC. The General Classes for April 4th and April 18th are still open but could be cancelled due to lack of students.

The Club is looking for other sites to hold training seminars in an effort to reduce costs for perspective Amateurs.

Herb, WR9H reported that Radio Havana CO2KK is on at 7PM local time each Tuesday and Saturday on 6 MHz discussing Amateur Radio and DX.

Chuck, AB9KA spoke of Far Horizons and Adler Planetarium sponsoring balloon launches carrying Amateur Radio. If anyone is interested in participating they could contact him or Don W9DRR.

An informative presentation was then given on D-STAR by Mark Thompson of Palatine, Illinois. Mark is very active in assisting area clubs with getting started with D-STAR. A formal motion was not made for closure of the meeting. Informally, the meeting ended at Approximately 10:15 PM.

Submitted by:
Al, KD9CA
RARA Secretary

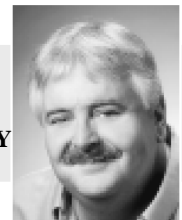


Gordon West,
WB6NOA

**FIFTEENTH ANNUAL
AES
SUPERFEST
APRIL 3rd & 4th • 2009**



**ARRL Sanctioned
Hamfest**
Special Guest
Steve Ford, WB8IMY
Editor, QST



LOCATION: AES Milwaukee, WI (5710 W. Good Hope Road)

HOURS: Friday (4/3) 2:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. • Saturday (4/4) 8:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Special Guest: Steve Ford, WB8IMY

**FREE Admission • Manufacturer Representatives • Forums • V.E. Testing
Gordon West • Local Clubs & Organizations • DXCC Card Checking • Fox Hunt
Talk-in • Free Parking/Shuttle Van • Hot Food for Purchase**

Talk-in: N9LKH (145.130/144.530, PL 127.3 Hz) and KC9LKZ (MADOG UHF D-STAR)
442.46875 +

Free Parking. If the AES lot is full please use the Elks Lodge lot just across the street, to the east • Food Concession by BSA, Troop 205 Prize Drawings each 1/2 hour • Grand Prize Drawing, Saturday 2:45 P.M. (Must be present for 1/2 hour drawings, but not for Grand Prize)

Mutterings from the Vice President-

It seems to me that DXing is a common thread that runs through the veins of most radio enthusiasts.

Just what is DXing? That kinda depends on whom you ask. Wikipedia has a definition that seems to cover all facets:

"DXing is the hobby of tuning in and identifying distant radio or television signals, or making two way radio contact with distant stations in amateur radio, citizens' band radio or other two way radio communications hobbies."

To a SWL'r it might be hearing a BBC broadcast on a medium wave band in the evening.

To a 2 meter operator it could be connecting with a ham down the road in Tuscola, Illinois. Ask your W9AXD WebMaster and he might say it's hearing a radio signal bouncing off the moon. If radio is your hobby then DX usually plays a role - just different forms.

The other day I heard a long time ham say he'd "never worked any DX -wouldn't know where to start.". My response was that old adage given to most new hams - LISTEN.

Well, listen to what? DX! Whatever kind of DX that trips your trigger. Let's spin the dial to DXCC type of DX. You might start with downloading a 'spotting program' off the Internet. Plenty of those to be had. These are current reports from folks who have heard or contacted a station and then provide you the exact, hopefully, frequency and time the station was found. Another time and place to turn the dial is during an on-the-air contest.

The CQ WorldWide contest is on during the last week end of March. It's amazing how HF bands that have been 'dead' for so long seem to come alive with booming signals from all over the place. Listen to the exchanges that are given back and forth. Then hop into the fray. Even if only pretending to be a contestant you might still make some contacts that can go into your logbook. It's your beginning.

See you on the air.

73,

Steve Thorne, K9LLI

RARA Information Net

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)

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.

146.610 (pl 114.8) repeater at 8:00 pm, every Monday, except on holidays.

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

Editors Note

If you would like to have something published , please call me or email me at ke9n@arrl.net.

Cut-off for the May 2009 issue will be Saturday, April 30, 2009.

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

March 21st there was 1 applicant resulting in no new license or upgrade

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, April 18, 2009.

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

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*

DX NEWS AND CONTESTS

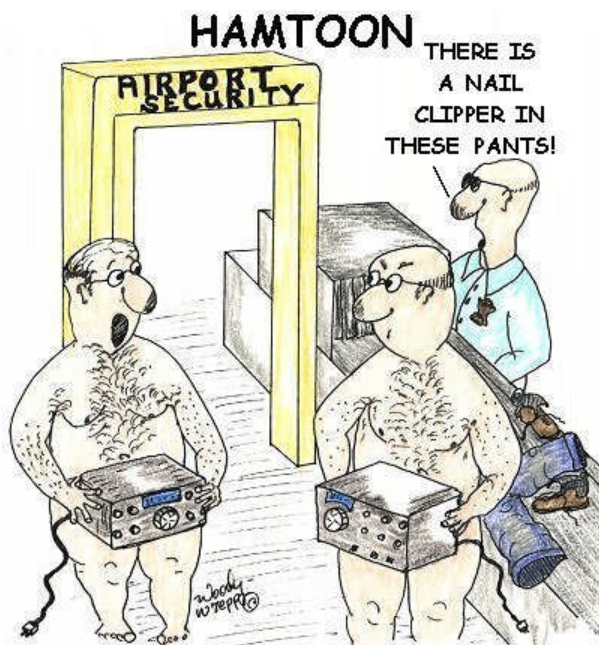
SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
PJ2	NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	APRIL 1 TO APRIL 11	PA4JJ
KH0	MARIANA ISLAND	APRIL 3 TO APRIL 7	JP1PZE
VK9XGO	CHRISTMAS ISLAND	APRIL 4 TO APRIL 11	JA1XGI
VK9N	NORFOLK ISLAND	APRIL 4 TO APRIL 4	F5VHY
C91FC	MOZAMBIQUE	APRIL 9 TO APRIL 13	ON4CJK
SO4R	WESTERN SAHARA	APRIL 12 TO APRIL 17	EA5RM
JW	SVALBARD	APRIL 19 TO APRIL 25	F8DVD
JD1BLK	OGASAWARA	APRIL 29 TO MAY 12	JM1LJS
C21TI	NAURU	MAY 1 TO MAY 30	EA4ATI
ZD8KR	ASCENSION ISLAND	MAY 4 TO MAY 11	G0UNU
ZK2V	NIUE	MAY 16 TO JUNE 20	LotW
C6AMS	BAHAMAS	JUNE 1 TO JUNE 14	NA6M
8Q7CQ	MAIDIVES	JUNE 1 TO JUNE 15	G0VJG
SX5LA	DODECANESE	JUNE 8 TO JUNE 14	SX5LA

UPCOMING CONTESTS

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW, May 30-31, 2009

Note: Source for this column include the NG3K website.
Information submitted by Kurt - KE9N



WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO TAKE THE AIRPLANE TO THIS HAM CONVENTION ?

Courtesy
Of
Woody
W7EPP



I HEARD HE IS THE BEST IN HIS FIELD !

ITEMS FOR SALE / WANTED

FOR SALE

Hy-Gain AV-640 8 Band Vertical Antenna, very good condition with manual. Currently disassembled into major subassemblies. \$200.00 firm. Might consider trades. For more information contact Greg, W9VOX, email - gik1406@verizon.net

Icom 735 + Mic + Matching Power Supply --- \$415.00
includes 500 cycle CW filter
Kenwood TS-120S + Matching Power Supply - \$295.00
MFJ 9420X 20 M XCVR w/mic + CW ----- \$190.00
Autek QF-1A Audio Filter AC Version ----- \$55.00
Shure Mobile Mic #404 w/PJ068 ----- \$30.00
Curtis EK-430 CMOS Keyer ----- \$75.00
Swan SWR-3 Meter ----- \$50.00
MFJ 207 Antenna Analyzer ----- \$75.00
Hy-Gain 14AVQ Vertical Antenna 40-6 Meters- \$65.00
Drake WV-4 VHF Wattmeter ----- \$75.00
B & W Protax Radial Antenna Switch 376 ----- \$40.00
Super Antennas MP-1 Port. 80-6 Meters ----- \$110.00
Bird QRP Wattmeter ----- \$75.00
Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr. Paddle ----- \$90.00
Heil HM-IC Mobile Mic. ----- \$65.00
Radio Shack RARE DSP 40 Filter ----- \$40.00
Murch UT-2000A 2kw 80-10 Meter Tuner ----- \$125.00
SGC MAC-200 Master Antenna Command Center \$215.00
Mirage B34G 2 Mtr. Amp. ----- \$95.00
Heil Goldline HMM-K Dual Element mic. ----- \$65.00
(wired for Kenwood 8 pin connector)

WANTED

Mic or Speaker Mic for Yaesu VX-1R
Mfg. model # MH-34B4B

Mic or Speaker Mic for Radio Shack HTX-200
Mfg. model # 19-310

SMA H/T antenna for 2 mtrs. And 440
such as Comet SMA 24 / SMA 503 or
Diamond RH77CA / SRH-519

For more information contact Steve Thorn, K9LLI at 815-399-9161 or email: steve.thorn@att.biz

*If you wish to post a ham radio item for sale on the RARA website,
send the information in an email to: robert@kc9ich.com*

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 +	ENC/DEC pl 107.2	WX9MCS
	Linked to FISHFAR	

2009 RARA Officers and Board

President - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034
Vice President - Steve Thorne, K9LLI, 815-399-9161
Secretary - Al Fischer, KD9CA, 815-885-3926
Treasurer - Rich Ludwig, K9PK, 815-547-6435
Directors:
Chuck Derwent, K9SAN, 815-519-0848
Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, 815-332-2479
Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875
Mike Oberg, AB9AY, 815-399-0961
Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH
Ham Rag Editor - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784
Repeater Chairman - Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ, 815-399-6822



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: ke9n@arrl.net

Nets

Monday 8PM	RARA Info.	146.610 - 114.8
Thursday 7 PM	ARES	147.195 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATURN	146.610 - 114.8

place address label here

April 2009

**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