

# HAM RAG



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

## June 2009

### RARA Mission Statement

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

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## President's Column

Greetings,

Here it is June already and events for the club are rolling full steam ahead. On June 13<sup>th</sup> we have Breakfast in the Park from 8:00 am to 11:00 am at Alpine Park shelter #1. This event is being chaired by Chuck Derwent, K9SAN, and I look forward to a fine meal and good company. Following in two weeks on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> is our annual Field Day event which is being held at Roland Olson Forest Preserve. Kurt Eversole, KE9N, is chairing this event and we hope to have a fine turn out again this year. Come on out and bring your friends whether they are hams or not, maybe they will get the bug and decide to join us in this great hobby. Details for Field Day are on page 5 of the Hamrag.

Do not forget to mark your calendars for On the Waterfront, September 4, 5, and 6<sup>th</sup> this year. This is our club's only money making event of the year so your help is really needed to make this a success. Last year was my first time working the event and my wife and I both found it fun and so easy to do, we both even worked extra shifts to help out. Come on out and be part of the event and help your club out at the same time as this benefits us all.

Until next month 73,

Gordon Seaman KC9NEX

### NEXT MEETING

**NO REGULAR  
CLUB MEETING  
FOR  
JUNE**

**Breakfast in the Park  
on  
June 13th  
At Alpine Park  
Shelter #1  
8:00 am to 11:00 am**

**Come hungry and  
ready to have fun!**

### New Location 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 Stockholm Inn"***

**2420 Charles Street  
Rockford, IL 61108**



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



## Secretary's Report



### RARA Club Meeting May 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by our Vice President, Steve Thorne, K9LLI. There were 22 Hams in attendance.

#### Secretary's Report:

Al, KD9CA, reported that the minutes were published In the May Ham Rag and said there were copies available if anyone needed one. Gene, KA9BOD, made a motion to accept the minutes as published and John, N9OTC, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Steve, K9LLI, asked AL, KD9CA, to read the treasurer's report since Rich, K9PK, would not arrive until later. Al read the treasurer's report dated March 31<sup>st</sup> through April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Income:	\$40.00
Expenses:	\$32.72
Net Income/Loss	\$ 7.28
Ending Checking Balance	\$716.06
Ending Saving Balance	\$6411.06
Ending Total Cash on Hand	\$7127.14
Gain ahead of Last Year	\$319.45

#### Old Business:

Steve asked if there was any old business to discuss.

John, N9OTC, took the floor and said that Gordy had asked him at the April meeting to head a committee to review the Rockford City Ordinance that restricts antenna structure height and design. John said that John, KC9IED, and Jim, KC9GOL, and himself comprised that committee. He reported their findings were that the Rockford City Council had copied another cities ordinance in its entirety and apparently did not have any idea of what they passed.

Steve asked that John, N9OTC, review this information with the committee and devise a plan of how to take this forward. Who should RARA see? Dave, W9MG, suggested we fill out a petition to the City Council. John said he will report back at the next meeting.

Steve, K9LLI, reported that a Chairman for the Breakfast in the Park was still needed. The event is to take place on June 13<sup>th</sup> and will be cancelled if we do not get a volunteer by the Board meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Chuck, K9SAN, volunteered to be the Chairman and Chuck, AB9KA, offered his assistance. A discussion followed and Al was asked to read the Board minutes regarding the food budget for Breakfast in the Park. Al reported that the food budget for this event is \$175.00.

Steve began a short discussion on D-STAR. Shari, N9SH, said we must be sure that changing to a D-STAR repeater will not require us to be re-coordinated. She said if the repeater was moved, then for sure we would have to re-coordinate.

Steve reported that John, KC9IED, still needs 4 or 5 volunteers for the Rockford Marathon held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. He also needs some volunteers to assist at the Logli stores with the programming of the Midland Weather Radios that they are selling.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Secretary's Report *(continued)*

### New Business:

Kurt, KE9N, spoke about Field Day.

1. There will be 3 stations unless someone else wants to have a station. This will give us a 3A designation.
2. Brad Ambro, N9EN, will have a station for 40 & 80 meter CW, and Kurt, KE9N, will have a station for 40 & 80 meter SSB. Gene, KA9BOD, will have a station for 20 meter SSB.
3. Kurt asked Bob, WA9NTT, if he could take pictures for the event.

Kurt pointed out that extra points were available for the following:

- 100 points for attempted media publicity
- 100 points for holding Field Day in a public place.
- 100 points for having a public information table.
- 100 points for having an elected official visit the event.
- 100 points for having a representative of an Agency visit the event.
- 100 points for conducting Ham training at the Event.
- 100 points for copying the ARRL Field Day Message

Kurt will also have 2 computers available with a DOS logging program named CT and will provide instruction to anyone who wants to become familiar with CT.

Jim, N9VJ, then gave a presentation on matching a Vertical Antenna using solutions by computer /graphic programs.

Dave, W9MG, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM and John W9JGO seconded the motion.

Submitted by,  
Al, KD9CA  
RARA Secretary

## 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)

Let any of the officers and board know you 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.

### Editors Note

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

**Cut-off for the July 2009 issue will be Tuesday, June 30, 2009.**

Kurt - KE9N, Editor

## Mutterings from the Vice President-

It seems to me that there's a good little Ham periodical out there that is going unread by too many of us. Apparently that's been its affliction for some time. It is called World Radio Online. Once upon a time, (it goes back over 25 years), this was a hard copy rag that was distributed all over the globe. But, not in sufficient quantities or not with sufficient advertising revenues. A while back CQ Magazine picked up the rights to what was remaining of WorldRadio. Fortunately for us hams they didn't just bury it in some dusty old file cabinet. WorldRadio continues to be published but now in an online version. While I may not be a big fan of reading volumes of printed matter on a computer screen, I am making an exception here. WorldRadio is "printing" some interesting stuff worth, at least, a few minutes of your time to pick and choose some good info to peruse.

<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WorldRadio.html>

is the URL I found that gets me to a place to begin. There may be other URL's just as useful but here's a starter location for those of you who have not come across WorldRadio – of late anyway. There are even some back issues on line to allow you to get caught up on some of the magazine's recent material.

A particular article just jumped out at me and I went to it first..

Go to the following URL and get this PDF downloaded.

[http://wr.cq-amateur-radio.com/wro\\_issues/2009/WRO\\_0509\\_38-50.pdf](http://wr.cq-amateur-radio.com/wro_issues/2009/WRO_0509_38-50.pdf)

Then fast forward to page 40 of the download and you'll see (hopefully) an article titled:

# Healthy Radio Clubs: Keys to our Future

Here are just the first couple of paragraphs as a teaser. Your honorable editor wouldn't allow me enough space for the whole story so go to the pdf and 'HERE'S THE REST OF THE STORY'.

What notice could be more appropriate for inclusion in the Hamrag.

**S**pring is the season for fresh, new beginnings. It's also a perfect time to take an inventory of your radio club's health. Has it grown in the last year or is it stagnant? Is the club "radio active" with lots of activities, interesting programs, and participating members? In short, is it growing or standing still?

Keeping a radio club in good health is vitally important.

We've observed over the years that there is a strong connection between strong, active clubs and the growth of amateur radio itself.

For example, clubs that offer classes and VE testing provide the very lifeblood of growth; not only for the sponsoring radio club, but for the Amateur Radio Service itself.

You get the gist. Hope you go on for the entire issue.

See you on the air.

73,  
Steve Thorne, K9LLI

# CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY

June 27th and 28th is our annual Field Day event, which is being held at Roland Olson Park. Come out and join the fun! We start setting up at 8:00 am on Saturday and start operating at 1:00 pm to 1:00 pm on Sunday. If you never operated before, this is an excellent time to learn. Gene, KA9BOD, will have a 20 meter SSB station set up for you to make contacts with and learn about proper techniques. Everyone is invited, as with a control operator present, you can operate regardless of your license class. There will be two other stations covering both CW and SSB. And don't forget to bring an appetite, as there will be food to eat, people to see and fun to be had! We need help in setting up radios and antennas, operating and logging, food preparation, and teardown, so if you have not already made plans let me know what you would like to do. My phone number is 815-389-2784, or you can e-mail me at : ke9n@arrl.net.

For directions to Field Day, check out the Field Day locator on the ARRL web page at :

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>

On the right hand side click on the List By State/Province, and then click on "Illinois" for the state. Then click on "W9AXD, Roscoe, IL" in the list, and a map showing our location will be displayed.

Many of us are planning to stay overnight, so bring a tent, camper, or whatever you have, and enjoy camping and ham radio in the same weekend.

See you at Field Day 2009!

73,

Kurt Eversole - KE9N

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

May 16 there was 1 applicant resulting in 1 upgrade

Tom Shouler N9VJU      General

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

# DX NEWS AND CONTESTS

## SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

CALLSIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
<b>C6AMS</b>	BAHAMAS	JUNE 1 TO JUNE 14	NA6M
<b>8Q7CQ</b>	MALDIVES	JUNE 1 TO JUNE 15	G0VJG
<b>SX5LA</b>	DODECANESE	JUNE 8 TO JUNE 14	SX5LA
<b>ZY0F</b>	FERNANDO DE NORONHA	JUNE 10 TO JUNE 15	PY2WAS
<b>S92LX</b>	SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	JUNE 13 TO JUNE 27	DK7LX
<b>V29JKV</b>	ANTIGUA	JUNE 23 TO JULY 3	W6JKV
<b>5R8KD</b>	MADAGASCAR	JULY 1 TO JULY 15	LotW
<b>OY</b>	FAROE ISLANDS	JULY 27 TO JULY 29	IW4BLZ
<b>VK9AAA</b>	NORFOLK ISLAND	JULY 22 TO JULY 29	W3HNC
<b>TK9X</b>	CORSICA	JULY 25 TO AUGUST 1	EA4URE
<b>OH0</b>	ALAND ISLAND	JULY 26 TO AUGUST 7	CT1BWW
<b>TF</b>	ICELAND	JULY 31 TO AUGUST 11	IW4BLZ
<b>OJ0</b>	MARKET REEF	AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 2	CT1BWW
<b>SU8LH</b>	EGYPT	AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 9	SU1SK

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

RSGB IOTA Contest July 25-26, 2009  
 CQWW DX Contest, RTTY, Sept. 26-27, 2009  
 CQWW DX Contest, SSB, October 24-25, 2009  
 CQWW DX Contest, CW, November 28-29, 2009

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

### 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

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

## ITEMS FOR SALE / WANTED

### **FOR SALE**

16 Foot. aluminum streetlamp pole with 4 bolt base. \$75.00, pay RARA. Contact Dave Bond, W9MG

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### **FOR SALE**

Icom 735 + Icom Mic + Matching Pwr Supply --- inc 500 cycle CW filter	\$395.00
Kenwood TS-120S + Matching Power Supply ----	\$275.00
MFJ 9420X 20 M XCVR w/mic + CW -----	\$175.00
MFJ 207 Antenna Analyzer -----	\$69.00
Autek QF-1A Audio Filter AC Version -----	\$55.00
Autek QF-1 Audio Filter -----	\$35.00
Shure Mobile Mic #404 w/PJ068Plug-----	\$25.00
Curtis EK-430 CMOS Keyer -----	\$55.00
Swan SWR-3 Meter -----	\$50.00
Hy-Gain 14AVQ Vertical Antenna 40-6 Meters-	\$55.00
Drake WV-4 VHF Wattmeter 20-200Mhz-----	\$75.00
B&W Protax Radial Antenna Switch 376 -----	\$30.00
Super Antennas MP-1 Port. 80-6 Meters -----	\$99.00
Bird QRP Wattmeter -----	\$49.00
Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr. Paddle -----	\$90.00
Heil HM-IC Mobile Mic. -----	\$65.00
Heil Goldline HMM-K Dual Element mic. -----	\$55.00
Radio Shack DSP 40 Filter (RARE)-----	\$40.00
Murch UT-2000A 2kw 80-10 Meter Tuner -----	\$99.00
Mirage B34G 2 Mtr. Amp. NIB-----	\$85.00
Hustler RM 80 meter coil-----	\$25.00
Palomar Preselector Model 408 -----	\$99.00
Heathkit HR-1680 Rcvr -----	\$99.00
Turner +2 Mic -----	\$20.00
KVM Switch 4 PORT NIB-----	\$25.00

For more information contact Steve Thorne, K9LLI at 815-399-9161 or e-mail : [steve.thorne@att.biz](mailto:steve.thorne@att.biz)

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Yaesu FT-1000D with Kenwood desk mic w/stand, Kenwood speaker and phone patch. Like new condition. \$2000.00 firm. Contact Louis Rossi, N9FBC, at 815-966-7974

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### **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 Thorne, K9LLI at 815-399-9161 or email: [steve.thorne@att.biz](mailto:steve.thorne@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](mailto:robert@kc9ich.com)*



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Website: www.w9axd.org

E-mail: ke9n@arrl.net

Nets

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

place address label here

**June 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