

HAM RAG



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

RARA Mission Statement

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

President's Log

Greetings All,

Here it is May already and I consider this month, the calm before the storm. By this, I mean everyone is in the planning stages, along with gathering equipment for the annual Field Day event which will be held on the fourth weekend in June. Also in June is the annual "Breakfast in the Park", which will be held on the 12th, one day after the monthly membership meeting. This year the chairman of the event will be Tom, N9VJU, and I would like to thank Tom for stepping up and volunteering for this position. I know he would encourage, and appreciate anyone who wishes to help with this event so please contact him if you are interested. By working together, we are able to have fun and hopefully heavily attend events during the year. I look forward to them all as I hope you do too. As I am writing this the wheels have been put into motion to have the 147 Mhz repeater from the St. Anthony site evaluated by a third party to fill out an affidavit for the insurance company so we can move forward on our claim and get the repeater back on the air. At the same time the 220 machine is being returned to the vendor for a look-see, to determine what is wrong with that unit and assess its return to service.

On another note, I am not sure how many members are aware that we as a club have an opportunity to acquire antenna space on a tower located near Latham road. The site is over 400 feet high and at this time the club is in the planning stages of placing the 220 machine from St. Anthony at that location with the possibility of also adding a 440 repeater at that site. We have already obtained permission from the Illinois Repeater association for the 220 move, and they have given us a choice of two frequencies to use on 440 which we are still investigating.

As a final reminder please keep open the dates of September 3rd, 4th, and 5th which is the annual "ON THE WATERFRONT" festival, which is the clubs only fund raiser for the year. We need as many members along with family and friends to come out and help staff our booth selling tickets to the attendees. It is the easiest work I have ever done and the time flies, so please plan on helping out this year.

73, and have a great May!

Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX
2010 RARA President

May 2010

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NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY

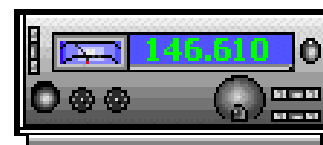
May 14, 2010

7:00 pm

**Presentation:
"Geocaching"**

**By:
Dave Yanke, N9SSG**

**Location:
St. Anthony
Medical Center
Foundation Room
5666 E. State Street
Rockford, IL**



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

From the Vice President

Our May meeting topic on geocaching should be interesting. *Geocaching* is a treasure hunting game where you use a GPS to hide and seek containers with other participants in the activity. To put this into amateur radio perspective, it is like fox hunting where we try to find the fox or hidden transmitter.

We did not have a very good response for the technician class which was scheduled for May 1 & 8 so the class was cancelled. In its place, plans are being made to schedule another class in the October time frame. More details will follow. (Every four years the question pools change. The Technician class question pool gets updated on July 1, 2010. The current general class pool will get updated on July 1, 2011. The extra class question pool will change as of July 1, 2012.)

On a different topic, last week I did something that I seldom do. As I was looking through the May 2010 issue of QST, I stopped to read the "Correspondence" page. A couple of the letters to the editor caught my eye which I read and then went back to the referenced article in an earlier copy of QST to see what the reader was talking about.

One of the letters that caught my eye was titled "DX Decorum". The article in question ["Op-Ed: DX Etiquette," Mar 2010, page 100]. I came away with the fact that we all need to take a look at our ham radio etiquette each time that we are on the radio, no matter which frequency we are using. On 2M when we use the repeater and are in a QSO, are we leaving a gap between transmissions to allow others to break in if they need or want to. Do we listen to see if the frequency is in use before we press the transmit button. Are we courteous of other hams when we use our radios. It might be a good time to brush up on the rules and procedures.

I have found ham radio operators to be very courteous in general. Lets keep it that way.

73,
Gene, KA9BOD
2010 RARA VP

UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

May 14th - General RARA Meeting 7:00 at OSF
"Geocaching" by Dave Yanke, N9SSG, from Sycamore, IL

May 25th - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

June 11 - General RARA Meeting 7:00 at OSF
"Field Day Planning" by Kurt Eversole, KE9N
and "ARRL Update" by Kermit Carlson, W9XA

June 12 - "Breakfast in the Park" at Alpine Park, Shelter #2

Secretary's Report



RARA Club Meeting April 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, at 7:07 PM. There were 30 members and guests in attendance.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were published in the March *Ham Rag*. Al, KD9CA, said that there were printed copies available for anyone who wanted one. John, N9OTC, made a motion to accept the minutes as published and Tom, N9VJU, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Paul, K9RNR, read the report for the period of February 22nd through March 27th 2010.

Income:	\$114.00
Expenses Total:	\$273.41
Net income/ Loss:	(\$159.41)
Ending Checking Balance:	\$2038.93
Ending Repeater Checking Balance:	\$145.92
Ending Savings Balance:	\$3214.02
Ending Total Cash on Hand:	\$5398.87

Tom, N9VJU, made a motion to accept the report as read and Chuck, K9SAN, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Old Business:

Gordy, KC9NEX, asked Chuck, AB9KA, if there was anything new to report regarding the 220 repeater. Nothing was new to report and the subject will be reviewed again.

Gordy, KC9NEX, made the following announcements.

Tech classes will be held on May 1st and May 8th. More information will be on the web site.

A chairman for *Breakfast in the Park* is still needed. The date is Saturday June 12th.

Please keep the Labor Day weekend open. Club members will be needed to man our participation in *On the Waterfront*, the only club funding event of the year.

New Business:

Gordy, KC9NEX, announced that the ARRL is expected to have its new format for their web site operational by April 12th.

Gordy also said on April 18th there will be the first ARRL *Rookie Roundup* scheduled for 6 hours on Sunday afternoon.

Kurt, KE9N, asked if everyone received their email with the Field Day questionnaire as he will collect them at the end of the meeting. He said the questionnaire will help him in planning the event.

Kurt, KE9N, asked for a volunteer to photograph various items to document Field Day in order to get extra points. Steve, W9SWT, said he would do this.

Kurt, KE9N, mentioned that he is looking for some additional operators for the 40/80 CW and SSB station. He also stated that he will run CT version 10 for the logging program.

Gene, KA9BOD, confirmed that there will be a 20 meter SSB station.

Gordy, KC9NEX, will let Kurt know if he will have a 20 meter digital station.

Gene, KA9BOD, will present awards to any persons who make their first ham radio contact.

Gordy, KC9NEX, said the club is looking for a Public Information Officer and anyone interested should see him for the details.

(continued on next page)

Secretary's Report *(continued)*

Saturday, April 10th will be the annual Amateur Electronic Supply Company Superfest in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

April 17th the Madison hamfest will be held in Stoughton, Wisconsin.

Area AR Operators hamfest will be held on April 18th in Galva, Illinois.

Steve W9SWT won the 50/50 drawing.

Gene, KA9BOD, introduced Jim, N9VJ, who gave a very informative presentation on how to use the *EZNEC* program to develop ham radio antennas.

At 8:18 pm Jim, N9VJ, made a motion to adjourn and Dick, KC9BCB, seconded the motion.

Submitted by:

Al, KD9CA

RARA Secretary

Hamvention[®]: Experience the ARRL EXPO at the Dayton Hamvention

On May 14-16, hams from all over the world will make their way to the Hara Arena, located in Trotwood, Ohio for the 2010 Dayton Hamvention[®]. Held annually since 1952, Hamvention is one of the largest Amateur Radio gatherings in the world, and as we have been doing since 2005, the ARRL will bring the ARRL EXPO -- a showcase of ARRL exhibits and activities that celebrate the very best of Amateur Radio -- to thousands of radio amateurs. ARRL staff will also present a number of exciting, interactive forums throughout Hamvention weekend.

For more information go to www.hamvention.org.



RARA Information Net

The purpose of the net is 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 is 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 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.

How to Select a Suppressor Stub

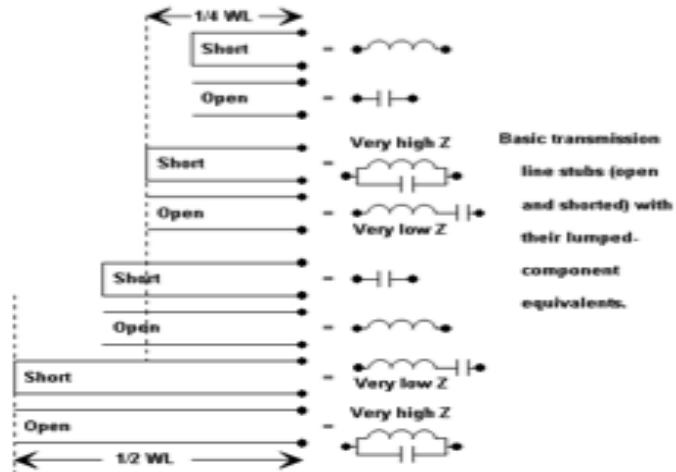
(or, first you hear it, now you don't) *contributed by Jim Elkins, N9VJ*

What is a suppressor stub, anyway? A suppressor stub is a $\lambda/4$ or $\lambda/2$ electrical length of coax attached perpendicularly to a transmission line with a "T" coupler. Its job is to cancel energy at a selected frequency, but to pass energy at all other frequencies. The impedance (Z) of a suppression stub is a function of (1) frequency, (2) length, and (3) stub type (open, or shorted).

And now,

The chanted Mantras:

A $\lambda/4$ shorted stub has very high Z .
A $\lambda/4$ open stub has very low Z .
A $\lambda/2$ open stub has very high Z .
A $\lambda/2$ shorted stub has very low Z .
The picture to the right shows it all.



The Rules:

If you use a shorted stub, it is always a shorted stub, regardless of f .

If you use an open stub, it is always an open stub, regardless of f .

For an f you **do not** want to attenuate, pick a stub with a high Z at that f . A high Z stub is ignored by the circuit at that f . The energy is not diminished.

For an f you **do** want to attenuate, pick a stub with a low Z at that f . A low Z stub is seen by the circuit as a short circuit at that f . The energy disappears.

Depending on f , the same physical length stub can be high Z or low Z . The 90° electrical length change ($2f$ or $f/2$) allows the stub to flip-flop from high to low Z , or low to high.

The Calculations:

1. For a $\lambda/4$ stub, $L = 245.9/f$, for the electrical length in feet. Multiply that quotient by the Velocity Factor of your coax to determine the physical length in feet.

For a $\lambda/2$ stub, $L = 491.8/f$, for the electrical length in feet. Multiply that quotient by the Velocity Factor of your coax to determine the physical length in feet.

Some Applications by Example:

On Receiving Antenna Coax. If you want to receive signals on 14.2 MHz, but attenuate signals received from a transmitter on 7.1 MHz, place a $\lambda/2$ (on 14.2 MHz) open stub (high Z) on the receiving antenna coax. At 7.1 MHz the stub (same physical length) is a $\lambda/4$ open stub (low Z).

On Transmitting Antenna Coax. If you want to transmit on 7.1 MHz, but cancel the 14.2 MHz second harmonic, place a $\lambda/4$ (on 7.1 MHz) shorted stub (high Z) on the transmitting antenna coax. At 14.2 MHz the stub (same physical length) is a $\lambda/2$ shorted stub (low Z).

Live Ham Radio Broadcast

Help us test the W5KUB.Com hamradio video broadcast. We broadcast live streaming video and audio of hamfests. We will be broadcasting the Dayton Hamvention in mid-May but our site is up and running 365 days per year with recorded video of ham related activities. In addition to the video, we have a chat room where everyone can chat with the W5KUB gang or other hams around the world. We are viewed in approx 150 countries each year during our live broadcast.

Again this year we will be giving PRIZES to lucky viewers. GRAND PRIZE this year is a Yaesu FT-950 HF/6 meter transceiver and if the grand prize winner is logged in at the time of announcement, they will also win a VX-170. Other prizes include Heil microphones, Diawa wattmeters, LDG auto tuners, weather stations, baluns, Comet antennas, G5RV antennas, ham hats, QSL cards, to mention just a few. See our web site for a list of all prizes and rules.

We converted from media player to Flash media this year and need your help to log in to the site and help us test the capacity.

The site is <http://w5kub.com>

Thanks and good luck on the prizes,

Tom, W5KUB

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

April 17th there were 9 applicants resulting in 5 new licenses and 3 upgrades

New Licenses

Douglas Abrahamson, Technician

Mark Libby, Technician

James Mikesh, General

Brett Johnson, Extra

Upgrades

Charles Libby, N9VJN, General

David Milburn, N9XUL, Extra

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, May 15, 2010.

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

\$\$\$ Items for Sale / Wanted \$\$\$

SELLING: 29 Feet of ROHN 25G TOWER consisting of (1) 9 foot Top Section and (2) 10 foot straight sections. All sections are unattached and in good USED Condition. Total Price: \$159 or Best Offer

Reply to me at w9ss@hotmail.com or leave me a message on my telephone, 1-815-877-6768. I have taken several JPG photos of the three unattached sections; if you would like to see them, please give me your email address and I will email the JPGs to you. Thanks! 73, Dennis G. Eksten, W9SS

SELLING the following items:

Item	Condition	Price
3COM V.Everything Modem 56k	NIB	\$ 9
MFJ 1772 20M dipole	NIB	19
Ringo Ranger 2M antenna	Used	11
Windom Antenna 7Mhz – 30Mhz	NIB	29
Barker Williamson Window Ant 40-2M	Used	39
Hy-Gain 14AVQ Vertical 40m-6M	Used	49
Workman BS1HAM Dipole 40m-440	NIB	29
Hustler Super 75M module	Used	39
Vibroplex Square Brass Racer	Used	49
Mirage B34G 2M AMP w/ pre-amp	NIB	69
Heil HMM Hand mic (Kenwood)	NIB	59
Drake W-4 HF Watt Meter	Used	75
Drake WV-4 VHF W Meter 20-200Mhz	Used	75
TracKey Memory Keyer	Used	29
Autek CMOS MK-1 Memory Keyer	Used	49
Autek QF-1A Audio Filter	Used	39
ICOM 735 Transceiver DX Magnet	Used	349
w/ ICOM PS-55 Pwr Supply		
w/ Internal Keyer		
w/ CW Filter		

For more information contact Steve Thorne, K9LLI, at 815-399-9161 or steve.thorne@att.biz

WANTED: Automatic Antenna Tuner capable of 200 watt operation. Contact Mike Oberg, AB9AY at 815-399-0961

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	

2010 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034
 Vice President - Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD, 815-226-1806
 Secretary - Al Fischer, KD9CA, 815-885-3926
 Treasurer - Paul Franklin, K9RNR, 815-298-2251

Directors:

Shari Harlan, N9SH, 815-398-2683
 John Lawrence, N9OTC, 815-397-4624
 Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-877-9129
 Steve Thorne, K9LLI, 815-399-9161
 Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875
 Ham Rag Editor - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784
 Repeater Chairman - Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-979-1049

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



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

May 2010

**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