

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.

Presidents Log

Happy New Year every one. I hope everyone is doing well. The New Year brings many new opportunities for us all.

Some of those new opportunities could be a new kit, antenna project, DXing, or just cleaning up the shack.

We are still looking for someone to fill the VP position. This is an important job that does require a little time and can be a fun job. Please let me know if you are interested. This is a short report due to a computer problem. Next month will be more in depth

Tom Shouler
N9VJU

January 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

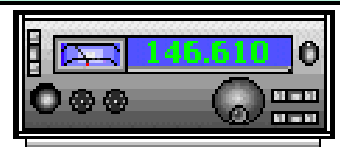
Presidents Log -	page 1
Treasurer's Rpt. -	page 2
Secretary's Rpt. -	page 3
K7RA Report -	page 4
Bits and Pieces -	page 5
VEC -	page 6
Hamfest -	Page 7

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY
January 8 2011
6:15

**Banquet and
Awards
Presentation"**

Location:
Lino's Restaurant
5611 State Street
Lower Level
Rockford, IL



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

From the Treasurer

For the period Nov 30, 2010 to Dec 28,2010 from the report of Paul Franklin, submitted to the Ham Rag by John G. Olson W9JGO 2011 RARA treasurer.

Income :	\$1944.90
Expenses:	\$ 27.19
Ending Checkbook Balance:	\$3927.45
Ending Repeater checking balance:	\$300.00
Ending Savings Balance	\$3214.02
Ending total cash on hand:	\$7441.47

During this period \$288.00 was transferred from the Checking Acct to the Repeater Checking Acct.

REMINDER! 2011 dues are payable now. The correct form is provided in this issue of the Ham Rag below as well as on the cover sheet for mailing (Last Page).

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

Secretary's Report



Rockford Amateur Radio Association

Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the December 10, 2010 membership meeting

The December, 2010 meeting of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association was called to order by Gordy Seaman at 7:08 PM.

A motion to accept the minutes from the November meeting as printed in the HAMRAG was made by John N9OTC, Motion was then seconded and passed.

The Treasurers report was deferred due to absence of the treasurer until later in the meeting.

Old Business: Gordy reported we now have 4 members for the 2011 board. He also showed off the afghan made and donated by John Olson's wife. We have received a check from "On the waterfront" for about \$1809 which is believed to be a record.

Gene KA9BOD has forms for "Ham of the year" nominations. He reported there have been 7 turned in so far. Gene also reported on progress of the ongoing general license class.

New Business: Chuck Ingle gave a report. He had sent in the power supply for evaluation which was returned as OK. There are still problems and Chuck wants to send it back to Astron again. There was discussion on the cost of shipping such a heavy item.

Gordy thanked all the officers and board members, naming them individually for their help and support this past year.

Tonight's program was two videos on DX-peditions

Paul Franklin K9RNR gave the Treasurers report, Dave Bond W9MG moved to accept, second by Steve Thorne K9LLI. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by Dave Bond W9MG, Second by Steve Thorne K9LLI, passed.

Respectfully submitted:
John Lawrence, N9OTC
Secretary

The K7RA Solar Update

There were no sunspots for a full week, from December 18-24. Christmas day saw a return to sunspot activity, so the last two of those spotless days were in the Thursday through Wednesday reporting period in this bulletin, December 23-29.

Average daily sunspot number for this past week rose nearly 15 points to 19.7, and average daily solar flux was about the same as last week. It changed from 80.1 to 80.3. The latest forecast from NOAA/USAF shows solar flux for December 31 through January 10 at 83, 84, 84, 82, 80, 80, 80, 83, 88, 88 and 88. Predicted planetary A index 5 on December 31 through January 2, 7 on January 3-6, and 5 again on January 7-10.

Our report from Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions December 31 to January 3, unsettled geomagnetic conditions January 4, quiet to unsettled January 5, and quiet again on January 6.

Although there are two more days of sunspot and solar flux readings to complete the 2010 data, with 363 data points we can easily calculate the year's averages. Yearly averages of daily sunspot numbers for 2004-2010 were, 68.6, 48.9, 26.1, 12.8, 4.7, 5.1 and 25.5. Yearly averages of daily noon 10.7 cm solar flux readings from Penticton for 2004-2010 were 106.6, 91.9, 79.9, 73.1, 69, 70.6 and 80.

These averages represent a nice increase in solar activity, but they still indicate a weak solar cycle. We can compare these averages with yearly averages around the end of the previous solar cycle. Cycle 23 probably ended in late 2008, and Cycle 22 ended in mid-1996, so averages based on calendar year are somewhat skewed, whereas counting 365 day periods or perhaps shorter increments after the end of a cycle would not be. For 1993-1998, yearly averages of daily sunspot numbers were 79, 48.1, 28.7, 13.2, 30.7 and 88.7. Over the same period the yearly averages of daily solar flux were 109.5, 85.8, 77.1, 72, 81 and 117.9.

But looking over the data at hand, as presented, tells us that the activity at the minima between Cycles 23 and 24 was lower than between 22 and 23, and Cycle 24 still seems to be advancing much more slowly. Perhaps at another time we could examine the averages over shorter periods following each minimum.

Last week's bulletin neglected to mention the propagation column in the January 2011 issue of Worldradio by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA. This is available for free online on the 20th day of each month. This time Carl gives a careful analysis of skewed long-path propagation on 40 meter CW between G3WW and YB0AZ, England to Indonesia. You can find it at <http://www.worldradiomagazine.com> and Carl's column runs from pages 38-40.

Jon Jones, N0JK regularly reports on E-skip openings on 6 meters. This time he wrote, "Finally another winter season Es opening. From Wichita EM17 I worked K4UI EM76 with very loud signals at 0117 UTC December 27. Also heard a couple of '5s' in EL09 and K5AB/b EM10. Most of it was going overhead as was too close in for most of the Es." You can take a look at this opening by querying <http://www.vhfdx.info/spots/>. He listed contacts from 0111z-0125z on December 27. Just leave everything at default, but select 50 MHz, Reported from 27 December 2010 at 0110 UTC until 27 December 2010 at 0130 UTC, and select the aximum number of returned QSOs at 100 or 250. Click on "Submit Query," and you will see the listing. You can also click on the NA Map tab to see a map of the paths reported. And if you want, you can expand the times in your query to see more than what on reported. Note that if you don't see QSOs listed all the way to the early and late times you've entered, either you have hit the QSO limit, or there were no QSOs reported during that period. If you hit the limit, then just narrow the time period, and also move the period forward and backward in time to get a full report on 6 meter openings. Also note that you can restrict the report to paths greater than some arbitrary value.

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.



BITS AND PIECES

Here are a few links that you might find entertaining. I tried to avoid common ones and some of these reflect my personal bias:

AC6V Amateur Radio and DX Links - <http://www.ac6v.com/>

Antennex magazine page - <http://www.antennex.com/>

BAMA Boat Anchor Manual Archives - <http://www2.faculty.sbc.edu/kgrimm/boatanchor/>

Bill's Ham Radio WWW Server NJ7P - <http://www.nj7p.org/index.htm>

Heathkit Manuals (Paid) - <https://sc2.vom.com/d8/index.fwx?C=MANUALS>

EHam Net Equipment Reviews - <http://www.eham.net/reviews/>

Frank's Electron Tube Pages - <http://www.tubedata.org/>

HamLinks Ham Radio toolbar for Firefox and Internet Explorer - <http://www.piexx.com/>

Ham Radio Repair - <http://www.hamrepair.com/>

Ham Radio Spectrum (antennas) - <http://ku4ay.net/antenna.html>

Ham Radio Beacons - <http://www.hamradiosecrets.com/ham-radio-beacons.html>

KARC- Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club - <http://www.kish-club.org/>

Mods-DK (Free manuals – Limited number/session) - <http://www.mods.dk/member.php>

Morse Keys and Paddles - <http://www.mtechnologies.com/keys.htm>

Nostalgia Air - <http://www.nostalgiaair.org/> - <http://www.nostalgiaair.org/>

Official U.S. Time Clock - <http://www.time.gov/timezone.cgi?Central/d/-6/java>

Old Man International Sideband Society - <http://www.omiss.net/Facelift/>

QRZ Live DX Spot Reports - <http://vintageradiogear.com/>

Piexx Electronics (Parts and boards for Kenwood/Icom/etc.) - <http://www.piexx.com/>

Radio Banter Radio Forum - <http://www.radiobanter.com/>

RigPix - <http://rigpix.com/>

Surplus Sales of Nebraska (Pricey) - <http://surplussales.com/index.html>

Savvy Frog (Eclectic links) - http://www.savvyfrog.com/Recreation/Amateur_Radio/

The Wireman- <http://www.thewireman.com/antennap.html>

Vintage Ham Radio Auctions - <http://vintageradiogear.com/>

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

December 18th there were 7 applicants resulting in 1 new license and 5 upgrades

New License

Richard Covert, Technician

Upgrades

Raymond Knapp III KC9OPJ, General

Matthew Schultz KC0SVJ, General

Paul Spencer KC9QPL, General

Daniel Hunt KC9ATR, General

Gary Galloway KC9TIN, Extra

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, January 15, 2011.

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 until 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)**

Randy Scott, W9HL

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 - Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-877-9129
Vice President - OPEN
Secretary - John Lawrence, N9OTC, 815-397-4624
Treasurer - John Olson W9JGO

Directors:

Al Fischer, KD9CA, 815-885-3926
Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034
Steve Thorne, K9LLI, 815-399-9161
Web Master - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-226-1875
Ham Rag Editor - Jim Holich, AB9SX, 779-522-8796
Repeater Chairman - Chuck Ingle, AB9KA, 815-979-1049

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

We would like to thank Randy Scott W9HL for his many years as the Northern Illinois Volunteer Coordinator. He has resigned his post, but he will continue as Volunteer Examiner.

The new coordinator is Rusty Cordell WB9QYV. The VE staff will remain unchanged. In lieu of a telephone number for this issue, he can be contacted at WB9QYV@aol.com.

This is a demanding task, and we should all give him our support. Without it, Ham Radio in the Northern Illinois area would be extremely difficult.

Hamfest Information

The Capital City Hamfest
Madison, Wisconsin

Saturday, February 12, 2011—0900 - 1300 (Vendor set-up 0800)

A FUN event for amateur radio and electronics hobbyists... Get together, sell excess equipment, see friends, buy gear and parts you need, meet folks you've met on the air, and beat the winter blues.

Memorial U.C.C. Fellowship Hall
5705 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg.

Admission - \$5.
Under age 13 - Free.
Vendor Tables - \$10.

Visit the website <http://www.wd8das.net/hamfest> for more

AES Superfest

Our 17th Annual ARRL Sanctioned Show!

DATES: Friday, April 1st (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) and Saturday April 2nd (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

WHERE: AES Milwaukee, 5710 W. Good Hope Road

WE PROVIDE: A FREE table with electrical in an area where you can interact with other clubs, promote and recruit new members. There is NO Admission; your organization is invited to attend without obligation.

We are again expecting a large participation from major Ham Manufacturers and area clubs/organizations. There will be VE testing, interesting forums, a fox hunt, prizes, the Gordon West show and more!

SET-UP:

Friday (4/1): Access 9:00 a.m., show opens at 2:00 p.m.
Saturday (4/2): Access 8:00 a.m., show opens at 8:30 p.m.

INFORMATION & TABLE RESERVATION:

Have a Club Representative contact Ray Grenier, K9KHW at: 414-881-3528 (cell) or e-mail: rayk9khw@aol.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	147.255 + 114.8
Thursday 8 PM	SATERN	146.610 - 114.8

place address label here

January 2011

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Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email _____

Renewal _____ New _____ Retired _____

Radio Interests _____

Other Interests _____

Suggestions: _____

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 ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126