

# HAMRAG

March  
2018

# Soldering Skills For Beginners

March 9th  
Randy Long - AC90F

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Next Meeting: Soldering Skills For Beginners • Friday March 9th 7:00 PM  
Location: St. Anthony Medical Center • Foundation Room • 5666 E. State Street Rockford, IL

# Presidents Message

Greetings all,

Here it is March already and hopefully nicer weather is not far behind. I have many ham related outdoor projects to get done this spring as I suppose many of you do also.

This month we are having a presentation on soldering basics for those who are new to building things. These skills could become useful next month as we will be having a presentation on fox hunting. There are a couple projects which you could put some of those soldering skills to use on. The first being a tape measure beam for locating the direction of the fox and the second being an attenuator which is used to help when you are getting closer to the fox and need to narrow down the direction when the signal is getting stronger. I'm going to be out of town for the April meeting so I will bring my tape measure beam and attenuator which I have built and instructions for both to the March meeting. There are many examples for each on the web and these are in no way a recommendation, just the ones I have chosen to start with.

I don't know if you have seen the reports lately, but the ARRL has been reporting on the possibility of adding more HF frequency access to the technician's class license. If this is of interest to you please go to the ARRL's website and read about their proposal, it would open up more HF usage to the technician class.

I hope to see you on March 9, 2018 at OSF in the Foundation room at 7:00 pm.

Sincerely,  
Gordon Seaman KC9NEX  
2018 RARA President  
kc9nex@gmail.com



## 2018 RARA Officers & Board

### Officers:

President  
Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX  
815-262-0294,  
kc9nex@gmail.com

Vice President  
Randy Long, AC90F  
815-978-6673  
randy@rdlgraphics.com

Secretary  
Open

Treasurer  
Jennifer Van Zieleghe  
KD9FMJ  
815-222-4221  
jenleek@usa.com

### Directors:

Repeater Chairman  
Open

Greg Kuczek, W9VOX  
815-713-5461  
gjk1406@comcast.net

Jacek Gadjka, KD9ELI  
773-505-5604  
hyacinth27109@yahoo.com

John Goodwin, N9JHG  
815-520-3842,  
goodwin49@gmail.com

Larry Schubert, AC9GO  
815-624-7772  
larry.schubert@gmail.com

### Special Projects:

Hamrag Editor  
Lynn Long, KD9IFP  
815-978-6673  
randy@rdlgraphics.com

Webmaster  
Randy Long, AC90F  
815-978-6673  
randy@rdlgraphics.com

Repeater License Trustee  
Robert Larson, KC9ICH  
815-540-0309  
rlarson4@sbcglobal.net



# Editor's Note

Thanks for the feedback on the new Hamrag design. Down the road Randy and I will be adding a few new items and ideas to the layout. Anything you would like to see added?

As always I'm looking for information, articles and photos for the next issue. Please email your items by the first of each month to the email below.

Thanks  
Lynn Long KD9IFP  
Hamrag Editor  
randy@rdlgraphics.com.



# RARA Repeaters

Both repeaters (146.610 and 147.000 (both have a pl 114.8)) will function with both digital and analog radio signals, but the repeaters require time to determine whether the signal is digital or analog. To operate the repeater properly you must first be sure the frequency is clear, then key and hold the microphone button down for 1-2 seconds. Then begin speaking. If you fail to do this, the first part of your message will be lost.

# RARA Mission Statement

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

# DX Ops March 2018

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by	Info
<b>March</b>						
01	05	Sri Lanka	4S7NKG	LZ1NK Direct	DXNews	By LZ1NK fm Weligama (IOTA AS-003); 20180222 40-10m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; 1kw
01	08	Hawaii	KH6	Home Call	AA4NC 20171103	By AA4NC as KH6/AA4NC and AA4VK as KH6/AA4VK; World War II Commemorative DXpedition
01	10	Cayman Is	ZF2AE	LotW	DXNews 20180208	"By AA5UK fm Grand Cayman (IOTA NA-016); HF; digital, some SSB ; ZF2AE/ZF8 fm Little Cayman I Mar 5-10; QSL also OK via AA5UK direct and eQSL"
01	15	Revilla Gigedo	4B4B	XE1B Direct	DXNews 20171212	"By XE1B fm Socorro I (IOTA NA-030, DK48mr); 160-6m; SSB; Spiderbeam, verticals, longwire; 1st activation since 2011; QSL also OK via Club Log"
02	11	Zimbabwe	Z2LA	M00XO	DXW.Net 20180115	"By LA7THA LA7WCA LA9VPA; 160-10m; SSB CW; Hexbeam, dipoles, inverted L; QSL also OK via Club Log"
02	15	Easter I	XR0YD	LotW	DL7VEE 20171101	By DH8WR DJ9KH DL2AWG DL2RNS DL4SVA DL5CW DL7JOM DM2AUJ DM3BJ DL7VEE; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; 3 stations; 24x7; QSL also OK via DL4SVA (DARC Buro or direct) and Club Log
02	20	Guadeloupe	FG	LotW	DXNews 20180221	By OE6MBG as FG/OE6MBG fm IOTA NA-102; 80-10m; SSB CW
05	31	Reunion	FR	F1FJR	TDDX 20180223	"By F1FJR as FR/F1FJR fm IOTA AF-016; 80-10m; FT8; 50w; Buddipole, long wire; operation to continue until May 15; QSL OK via Buro or direct, also eQSL"
06	13	Bahamas	C6A	LotW	TDDX 20180126	By NF3R as NF3R/C6A fm Andros I; QSL also OK via eQSL
06	13	Spratly Is	9M0W	YT1AD	DXW.Net 20170125	By YT1AD HL5FUA K9JM YT3W ZL3WW K1LZ K1ZM JT1CO F6GNZ PY2XB KO8SCA WD5COV W5XU VK3FY VK3FN SV2GWY 9M6ABZ 9M6RHM 9M6ZAE fm Layang Layang; 160-6m; CW SSB + digital; QSL OK via Buro or direct
06	16	Belize	V31GX	LotW	425DXN 20180223	"By G4SGX fm Ambergris Caye (IOTA NA-073); 80-6m; CW, perhaps FT8; QRV for BERU Contest; QSL also OK via G4SGX and Club Log"
06	20	Guadeloupe	FG	LotW	425DXN 20180223	"By OE6MBG as FK/OE6MBG fm IOTA NA-102; 80 40, perhaps 10m for Europe; SSB CW; holiday style operation"
07	16	Belize	V31GX	LotW	DXW.Net 20180107	By G4SGX fm Ambergris Caye (IOTA NA-073); CW FT8; QRV for Commonwealth Contest; QSL also OK via Club Log
07	18	Benin	TY7C	LotW	F5NQL 20171204	By F1ULQ F4AZF + team; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY PSK FT8; further QSL details on Web page
07	21	Curacao	PJ2	LotW	DXW.Net 20180209	By PB1HF as PJ2/PB1HF; HF; QSL also OK via PB1HF direct and eQSL

# DX Ops March 2018

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by	Info
<b>March</b>						
08	12	Bermuda	VP9	LotW	TDDX 20180220	By KG6CIH and WH6DSN as KG6CIH/VP9; 80 40 20 15m; SSB
08	Apr05	Madeira	CT9	LotW	DL3KWF 20180221	By DL3KWF as CT9/DL3KWF and DL3KWR as CT0/DL3KWR; mainly CW and WARC bands + 60m; QSL also OK via DL3KWF/DL3KWR and eQSL
09	17	Macao	XX9B	PP1CZ	PY2MC 20171115	"By XX9LT PP1CZ PR7AB PY2MC PY2SEX PY2WAS PY3MM PY4BZ PY5HSD PY5KD PY6RT PY7XC VU3RSB; 160-10m; 3 stations, 24 hrs; QSL also OK via Club Log (real time updates)"
09	19	Congo	TN5R	EA5RM	TDDX 20180125	By EA1SA EA5KM EA7AJR EA7KW F9IE F8ATS HK6F IK5RUN IN3ZNR JH4RHF EA5RM; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY
10	11	Mauritius	3B8XF	Club Log	DXW.Net 20171129	By G3TXF; QRV for BERU Contest
10	17	French Polynesia	TX5X	LotW	DXNews 20170424	"By W0ZRJ KH600 fm Tahiti (IOTA OC-046); 20-10m; mainly CW, perhaps some SSB JT9; 100w; QSL also OK via KH600 direct and Club Log"
13	17	Solomon Is	H44YM	EA5GL	EA5GL 20180125	"By VA7YM fm Honiara, Guadalcanal (IOTA OC-047)"
13	18	Philippines	DU1	LotW	DXNews 20171220	"By SP5APW as DU1/SP5APW fm Palawan I (IOTA OC-129); 40 20 17m; mainly SSB, some RTTY PSK FT8; QSL also OK via SP5APW and Club Log"
13	22	St Lucia	J68SL	LotW	TDDX 20180220	By WF2S fm Gros Inlet; FT8
13	28	Curacao	PJ2	Club Log	425DXN 20180216	By DL9NBJ as PJ2/DL9NBJ fm IOTA SA-099; HF; CW SSB
14	27	Curacao	PJ2	LotW	DK50N 20180111	By DK50N as PJ2/DK50N; 80-6m; CW SSB + digital (RTTY FT8); QSL also OK via DK50N (Buro or direct) and Club Log
15	31	Cameroon	TJ	LotW	IK7JWY 20180130	By I2YSB + team as TBA; exact begin and end dates TBA
17	24	Anguilla	VP2EGO	WB2REM	TDDX 20180118	By WB2REM; SSB CW FT8; holiday style operation; QSL also OK via Club Log
19	26	Galapagos	HC8	4Z1JJ	TDDX 20180223	"By 4Z1JJ W4LJJ as TBD; 40 30 20m; SSB FT8, some CW; 50w; vertical; holiday style operation"
20	Apr29	Barbados	8P6DR	LotW	TDDX 20180202	By G3RWL; 80-10m; CW RTTY; 100w; G5RV; QSL also OK via G3RWL
21	Apr03	Malawi	7Q7EI	LotW	DXW.Net 20171009	By 14 EI DX Group ops; 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY; QSL also OK via M00X0 and Club Log
23	Apr02	Burina Faso	XT2MAX	LotW	DK1MAX 20180127	By DK1MAX; holiday style operation; QSL also OK via DK1MAX and eQSL
27	Apr11	Mauritius	3B8MM	DL6UAA	TDDX 20180220	By DL6UAA fm IOTA AF-049; 40-10m; CW + digital

From: <http://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

# Ham Funny



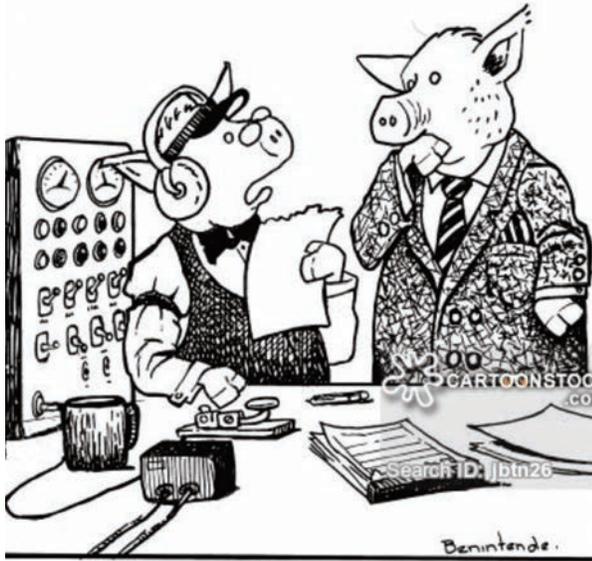
Looking for a control on my rig when I haven't used it in a while:



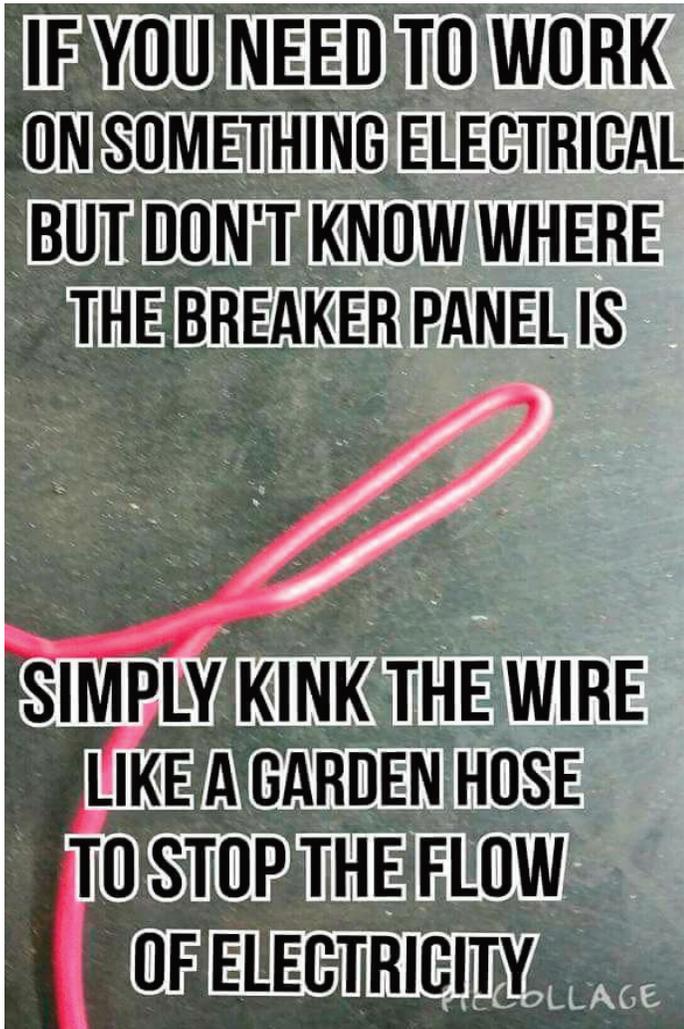
I knew I should have checked the SWR on my mobile linear!



"Still better



Than a Baofeng."



Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 10:00 am. An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company.

**Everyone is welcome to attend.**

“The Spring Garden Family Restaurant”  
4820 N. 2nd Street  
Loves Park, IL 61111

# Webmaster Code

The updated RARA website is now on-line. The site is now smart device ready and will adjust the page layout depending on the size of the device used. I hope this helps keep you up-to-date when you're on the run or away from your computer. We are planning additional updates this year come back and take a look.

I still need your help in planning club meetings for the last half of 2018. Please pass along any ideas.

Randy AC90F  
VP/Webmaster  
randy@rdlgraphics.com.

w9axd.org





### Programs

- April - Fox Hunting
- May - Digital Communications
- June - Field Day Preparation and Planning
- July - Field Day In Review
- August - Connectors  
Power Poles & Cable Assembly
- September - December  
TBA - Any ideas?

### Meetings

- March 9, 2018  
General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF
- March 20, 2018  
RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF
- April 13, 2018  
General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF
- April 17, 2018  
RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF



## Ham Testing

Banks, Jeffery S.  
Technician

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM March 17, 2018.

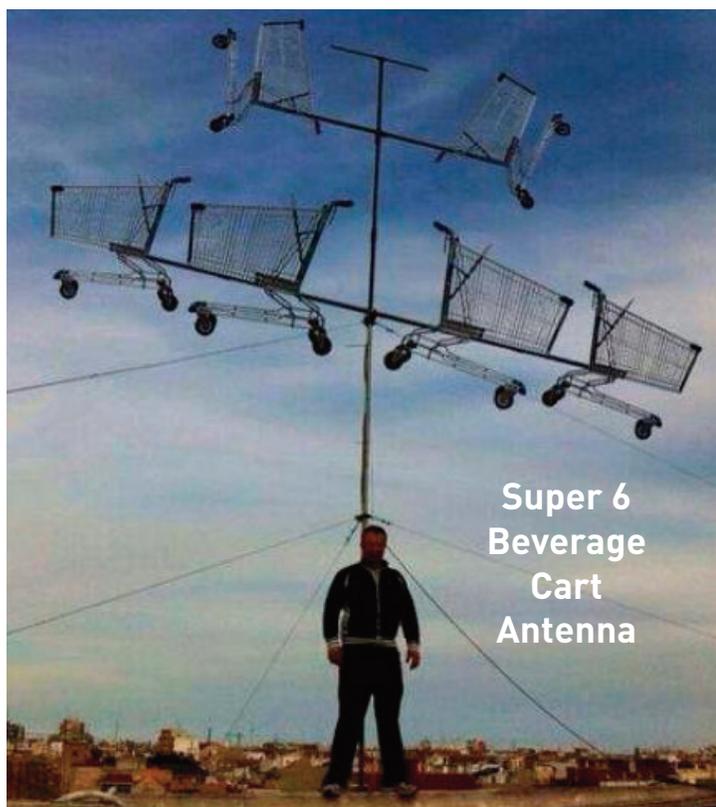
Walk-ins welcome. Check-in is from 9AM-10AM, no exams started after 10:30.

We require two signature ID's and one photo. If you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator bring a copy of your FCC ULS page with your call sign. If you are using a CSCE for exam credit, bring the original and a copy (We need to see the originals & keep a photocopy of each). No copier on site. The test fee is \$14.00. Bring a non-programmable calculator.

#### Location:

OSF St Anthony Medical Center  
5666 E State St (Bus US20) Rockford IL  
Exams are held in the St Francis Room  
(Main Entrance then turn right).

Jim Holich AB9SX  
jholich@comcast.net



Super 6  
Beverage  
Cart  
Antenna



**February 9, 2018**

No meeting due weather.  
No meeting minutes.

# Area Nets

## Monday Night 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 Jimmy, KC9GCR, (net control). 146.610 - offset (pl 114.8) RARA repeater at 8:00 pm, every Monday, except on holidays.

## Tuesday Night Tech Net

at 8:00 pm, 145.110 (pl 123.0). Tony, N9ARB, is net control.

## Wednesday Night Stephenson County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Net

at 7:00 pm on 147.390 + offset (pl 114.8). N9ARB, Tony, is net control.

## Thursday Night Northern Illinois ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Net

at 7:00 pm on the 147.195 + offset (pl 114.8) repeater with either Marianne, KT9KS; Sean, W9STR; or Ricky, WX9RLT, as net control.

**Thursday Night Northern Illinois Skywarn net** at 8:00 PM on the 147.195.

**Friday Night Fun Net** - Every Friday night at 8:00 pm on the 146.610 - offset (pl 114.8) RARA repeater with Jimmy, KC9GCR, as net control.

# Ham (Radio) Recipe

## Lynn's "Kind-a-Sorta" Instant Pot Ham and Bean Soup

Prep time: 10 mins

Cook time: 35 mins    Total time: 45 mins

Serves: 6-8 servings

### Ingredients

- 1 pound dried great northern beans
- 1 onion, diced
- 2-3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 4-5 small carrots or 2-3 large, chopped
- 1-2 medium potatoes
- 1 pound ham cubes
- 6 cups chicken broth, or water and a couple chicken cubes.
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- Seasonings of choice

### Instructions

1. Rinse and pick through the dried beans to remove any small rocks or debris
2. Place rinsed beans into pot. Cover with water. Cook on bean setting for 15 minutes. Release pressure and drain.
3. Place onion, carrots, celery, a potato or two, ham and seasonings of choice into pot. (I like garlic, salt, pepper and a bay leaf.)
4. Pour chicken broth over all the ingredients in the pot.
5. Seal lid and set cook time on bean setting for 20 minutes.
6. Do a quick pressure release.
7. Serve in bowls.

# RARA Membership Form

If you would like to join the Rockford Amateur Radio Association, please fill out the form below and mail it (with the membership fee payment) to the address shown at the bottom of the form. If you would like to join at our next meeting (see 1st page for meeting details), fill out the form and bring the form with your payment to the meeting and see our treasurer, Jennifer Van Zieleghe, KD9FMJ.

**Thank you for your support!**



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

website: w9axd.org

Membership Type:  New  Renewal

Annual Fees:  \$20 - Student (up to age 24)

\$35 - Adult  \$25 - Senior (age 62+)

Above rate includes the  
RARA monthly newsletter, Ham Rag, via email  
Ham Rag via USPS: \$12 extra

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Ext: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

May we make your phone and e-mail available for other RARA members only?  Yes  No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO:  
ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 8465  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126