



# HAMRAG

March  
2019

March 8th **A Ham  
Radio  
Mystery  
Try #2** By: TBA

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Next Meeting: A Ham Radio Mystery • Friday March 8th • 7:00 PM  
Location: St. Anthony Medical Center • Foundation Room • 5666 E. State Street Rockford, IL

# President's Message



Greetings all,

If the weather holds this month we should be able to get a regular meeting in - finally the first regular club meeting for 2019.

## Have you become **"RADIO ACTIVE"** Yet!

The days are starting to move fast and Field Day will be just around the corner. The board is looking for your ideas to help make this year more public friendly. To grow RARA we need new members and new hams - Field Day is a great opportunity to demonstrate our hobby. So, get the brain gears turning and come to the meeting with ideas and plans on how you and RARA can be more **RADIO ACTIVE** this year during Field Day.

The board is also looking at a couple of other community events where we as a club could participate. Ideas include a simple float in a parade, securing a table at local business/service shows, and maybe hosting a radio fox hunt event. BUT, the board cannot and should not do this alone. We need RARA members to step up and take the lead planning and coordinating events.

RARA still needs one more board member - **yes I'm pointing right at YOU.**

Jen still has program openings for 2019. Step out of your comfort zone and take on a challenge. It's not that hard. You don't need to be good looking (I've proven that one). You don't need to be a polished speaker - all you need is the love for ham radio and just talk about what you like to do. **Done, Simple, Quick** - So easy even a caveperson (for the PC people) could do it! Again I've proven it by doing it - you can too!

With all that in mind - **ARE YOU READY TO BECOME RADIO ACTIVE?** See myself or one of the board members at the next club meeting to volunteer or just fill out the volunteer form on page 4 and hand it in at the next meeting. **Take the lead and help grow RARA!**

Sincerely;

Randy Long, AC9OF  
2019 RARA President



## 2019 RARA Officers & Board

### Officers:

President/Webmaster  
Randy Long, AC9OF  
815-978-6673  
randy@rdlgraphics.com

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

Secretary  
Greg Kuczek, W9VOX  
815-713-5461  
w9vox@comcast.net

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

### Directors:

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

Kurt Eversole, KE9N  
815-389-2784  
kurt.eversole@gmail.com

John Mori, N8TA  
(815) 484-3657  
johnlmori@icloud.com

1 Open Director  
Please Volunteer

### Special Projects:

Repeater Chairman  
Kurt Eversole, KE9N  
815-389-2784  
kurt.eversole@gmail.com

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

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



# Editor's Note

## What Do You Have That I Need?

**BECOME RADIO ACTIVE. Help fill the Hamrag! I need stuff to fill every issue!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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



**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**

# 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.



# 2019 RARA Radio Active Volunteer Form

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

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in volunteering as a RARA Board member:

I Would like to volunteer to help Jen with a program or two in 2019:

Program Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Month: \_\_\_\_\_

I have an idea for Field Day and will volunteer to help make it work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have other ideas for the club and will volunteer to help make them work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Antennas

Perhaps the most overlooked piece of ham equipment is the antenna, and for good reason. Most of us don't live on a piece of property, or frankly, have the kind of extra money laying around to have or support a large antenna farm. How many of us dream of someday having a six element beam for our favorite band perched up about 150 feet, let alone a whole farm of them. Ok time to get back to earth. If you live in an apartment, townhouse, condo or a house on a small city lot you are very limited as to what you can put up. If you have a friendly neighbor, you may be able to stretch out a dipole, or put one in your attic, but chances are you are going to make a compromise somewhere along the way. I did know a guy that lived in a sub division that once put up a rhombic with the permission of half a dozen neighbors, but that is the exception and not the rule. It was designed for 6 and 2 meters, but three wavelengths for each of four sides still takes up a lot of real estate. But I digress. If you want to get on 80 or 40 meters on a small city lot, you may be able to put something diagonal on the lot or with the use of coils you may be able to put something in your attic. I would suggest that you try your best to keep it outside, because you will have less noise, and a much better signal.

Another thing to look at is a loop antenna. These new loops have a high Q. Because of their high Q they have less noise and they put out a good signal. They are limited because their design really doesn't allow any broadband work. If you move frequency's on the same band you have to re-tune, and they are very limited in the power you can use on most of them again because of design. I would think a loop would be a great choice if you enjoy low power work or digital communication.

If you want to be able to work all HF bands a vertical might be a good choice. I would look at the verticals that don't require radials if you have a small lot. I have to admit that the first

antenna I bought was a five band vertical. At the time, I was on a small city lot and there was no room for radials. The only real counterpoise it had was the coax which was basically aimed toward New York City from where I was at the bottom of Michigan. That didn't keep me from talking to Alaska and Hawaii with 60w on 80 M with CW as well as all points in between. If you have a steel roof, sit it in the middle.

Apartments, town houses, and Condo's pose a different set of problems. You can hang a 20 M inverted Vee out the top of the second floor, but the two wires are going to be right next to the apartments, town houses, or condos next door. I'll never forget the lady next door knocking on the door, and asking how she could turn me off her stereo which wasn't even turned on at the time. One hundred watts and it was loud enough that I could hear myself coming through the wall. Qrp, loop antennas, repeaters and maybe even radio over the internet. It is a big problem, and the solution isn't easy. You can have the best equipment and still have problems. By the way, there are easy ways to fix that problem with the stereo.

Bottom line, if you can get property, do it. If you can't, get a vertical, or look into the many types of wire antennas that can give you a great signal. If you can afford an antenna farm, go for it. It will give the rest of us someone to talk to on the low sunspot cycle. If you are having problems like some that I've talked about here, just ask for help at a club meeting. You might be surprised as to how easy some of the problems are to solve if you talk to the right people. Watch the Rag for club meetings that feature talks on the subjects that might help you with your problems, or if you have experience in areas that can help others, volunteer to put on a program. We have some great discussions.

73 , AC9GO larry.schubert@gmail.com



### Programs 2019

March - A Ham Radio Mystery

April - The Pros and Cons of Buying or Selling Old Equipment

May - Near Vertical?

June - Field Day Planning and Preview

July - Parks On The Air (POTA)

August - Radio Estate Planning - Helping Your Family Understand What's in the Ham Shack

September - Radio Fox Hunt Training

### Meetings

March 8, 2019

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

March 19, 2019

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

April 12, 2019

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

April 16, 2019

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

# Ham Testing

In February we had 3 successful applicants:

McDonough, Jason R.  
Upgrade to General KC9UNC

Scott, Ronald S.  
Passed 2 Elements (General)

Wrate, Christopher A  
Upgrade to Extra KB9UJC

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM March 16, 2019.

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).

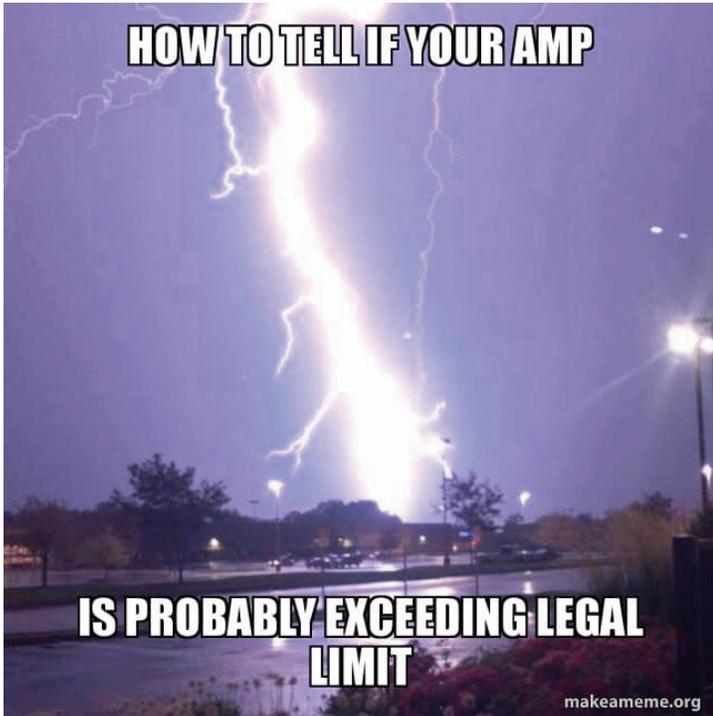
Jim Holich AB9SX  
jholich@comcast.net



### Feb. 8, 2019

No meeting due to weather.  
So no minutes.

# Ham Funny



# Area Nets

## MONDAY

### 8:00 PM - 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 every Monday, except on holidays.

**8:00 PM** - VARA (Valley Amateur Repeater Association) Net 176.790 (-, 107.2)

**8:00 PM** - WX9MCS Repeater Ham Radio Traders Net (Echolink) 444.725

**8:00 PM** - McHenry County ARES/RACES Net 146.835 (-,91.5)(This net is also conducted on the 1st and 3rd Saturday's of each month @ 8:00pm)

**8:30 PM** - Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club Net 146.730 (-, 100.0)

**9:00 PM** - 10 Meter Net 28.375 Rockford, IL

## TUESDAY

**7:00 PM** - Rock County ARES / RACES 145.450 - PL 123.0 Janesville, Wi

**8:00 PM** - Tuesday Night Tech Net, 145.110 (pl 123.0). Tony, N9ARB, is net control.

**9:00 PM** - Wisconsin ARES / RACES Statewide - Digital 145.610 - KB9UNX-10 Winlink 2000

## WEDNESDAY

**7:00 PM** - Wednesday Night Stephenson County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Net, 147.390 + offset (pl 114.8). N9ARB, Tony, is net control.

**7:00 PM** - WX9MCS Repeater National Weather Service in Chicago/Romeoville Weekly Weather Net 444.725 (Echolink)

**8:00 PM** - Freeport Swap Net 147.390 Freeport, IL

**8:00 PM** - N9SZV Six Meter Net 51.540 FM Simplex

**9:00 PM** - Madison Amateur Radio Association 147.150 - PL 123.0 Madison, WI

## THURSDAY

**7:00 PM** - Thursday Night Northern Illinois ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Net and Thursday Night Northern Illinois Skywarn net, on the 147.195 + offset (pl 114.8) repeater.

**9:00 PM** - ATV Net Video 439.250 (cable channel 57) Voice 144.340 Rockford, IL

## FRIDAY

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

## SATURDAY

**8:00 PM** - McHenry County ARES/RACES Net 146.835 (-,91.5) This net is conducted on the 1st and 3rd Saturday's of each month (also ever Monday @ 8:00pm)

## SUNDAY

**4:30 PM** - Illinois ARES Net 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month 145.350 - PL 107.2 (Chicago) 46.925 - PL 100.0 (Kane County)

**7:30 PM** - Arrow Net 144.410 Woodstock / Mc Henry

**8:00 PM** - Big Thunder ARES Net 147.375 - PL 100.0 Belvidere, IL

**8:00 PM** - Southern Wisconsin Listeners (SWL) Net 147.150 - PL 123.0 Madison, WI

## OTHER NETS

**HF Net Information** - Head on over to the RARA website and take a look at the "Nets" page. We now have listings and links to great HF nets.



# EXPERT CODE OPERATORS ARE ALWAYS IN DEMAND!

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sive, scientific training Walter Candler gave me. Practice is necessary, but without proper training to develop Concentration, Co-ordination and a keen Perceptive Sense, practice is of little value. One likely will practice the wrong way."



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# 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 cover for meeting details), fill out the form and bring the form with your payment to the meeting and see our treasurer. **Thank you for your support!**



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

website: w9axd.org

**Membership Type:**  New (New memberships after July 1st are 1/2 price)  Renewal

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

\$35 - Adult (25-61 years old)  \$25 - Senior (Starts the year you will turn 62)

Above rate includes the  
RARA monthly newsletter, HamRag (website download)  
HamRag 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

All membership applications to become either a new member or to be reinstated as a member of RARA must be approved by the RARA board.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Year \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_