



# HAMRAG

May  
2019

May 10th

# Near Vertical Incidence Skywave

By: Jim Holich - AB9SX

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Next Meeting: Near Vertical Incidence Skywave • Friday May 10th • 7:00 PM  
Location: St. Anthony Medical Center • Foundation Room • 5666 E. State Street Rockford, IL

# President's Message

Greetings all,

## What have you done to be "RADIO ACTIVE or RADIO PROACTIVE" during the month of April?

We as a club had a great opportunity of being both this last month. April in Durand looked to be a great test bed in reaching out to the general public... but Mother Nature had other ideas - **SNOW!**

The bad weather kept many people at home that day so the actual numbers walking through the show were very low. We still had fun getting a few young people on the air for the first time. The booth crew had the opportunity to talk to five or six adults who showed interest about how to get into the hobby. The high point for myself was talking to the veterans who had memories of using CW and radios during their service.

All in all, I think we had a great dry run (or snow run) for future events. We have a great booth, video and handouts. We provided a hands-on area for the kids with the CW keys. The go box was hitting the 610 until the weather started to interfere. Once we lost contact with the 610 we just used simplex within the show area. The kids had fun and the parents appreciated that we were giving the kids the on-air opportunity.

I'm not looking at this event as a waste of time - we did get a few good leads for new hams, we exposed kids to CW and on-air time and we developed a great booth. **A PLUS - PLUS -PLUS!**

**Here is your next opportunity to be RADIO ACTIVE!  
FIELD DAY 2019 - JUNE 22-23  
HELP RARA BE RADIO ACTIVE  
VOLUNTEER AT THE MAY MEETING**

Randy Long, AC90F  
2019 RARA President



## 2019 RARA Officers & Board

### Officers:

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## Editor's Note

Looks like we are missing some material this month. Did you forget to send it in?

Help make a great Hamrag - send in photos, info and articles by the 20th of the month.

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

# JUNE MEETING



## PLANNING

### 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.

# SHOUT OUT

I have a **SHOUT OUT** for five RARA members, two manufactures, and one non-ham, who in their own way were very **RADIO ACTIVE** with the April in Durand event.

I had a great work crew in the booth...

### THANK YOU

William Calow - KC9OJP  
James H. Curtis - KC9GOL  
Jacek Gadjka - KD9ELI

They all worked in the booth despite the bad weather and low numbers. We had fun and a few good laughs - sorry Jim it seems like you were on the butt end of most of the humor that day.

I have two special **SHOUT OUTS** for working as event supporting members...

Bruce A. Carlson - N9OHT  
Scott DeSantis - KB9VRW

Before the weather interfered with our ability to contact the 610 Bruce had the opportunity to talk to a young person on-air. **A BIG THANK YOU**, you made that kids day!

A second **BIG THANK YOU** to Scott for providing RADIO ACTIVE wrist bands, pens and making sure the ARRL sent some great handouts. The adults like the pens and the kids of all ages like the bands.

A **THANK YOU** to HEIL and YAESU for providing materials, hats and shirts. There are a few kids running around Durand now sporting ham gear.

A final **SHOUT OUT** to a non-ham (I'm working on him) - my son Scott for helping his old man setup and helped with the load out at the end - Thanks!

If I missed anyone else - **A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALSO!**

Randy - AC9OF



## Ham Testing

In April we had 2 successful applicants:

Calderwood, David C  
Technician

Francis, Dean L  
Technician

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM May 18, 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



### Programs 2019

May - Near Vertical Skywave

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

May 10, 2019

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

May 21, 2019

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

June 14, 2019

General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

June 18, 2019

RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

June 22-23, 2019  
2019 Field Day Event

# RARA **HAM**Mentor

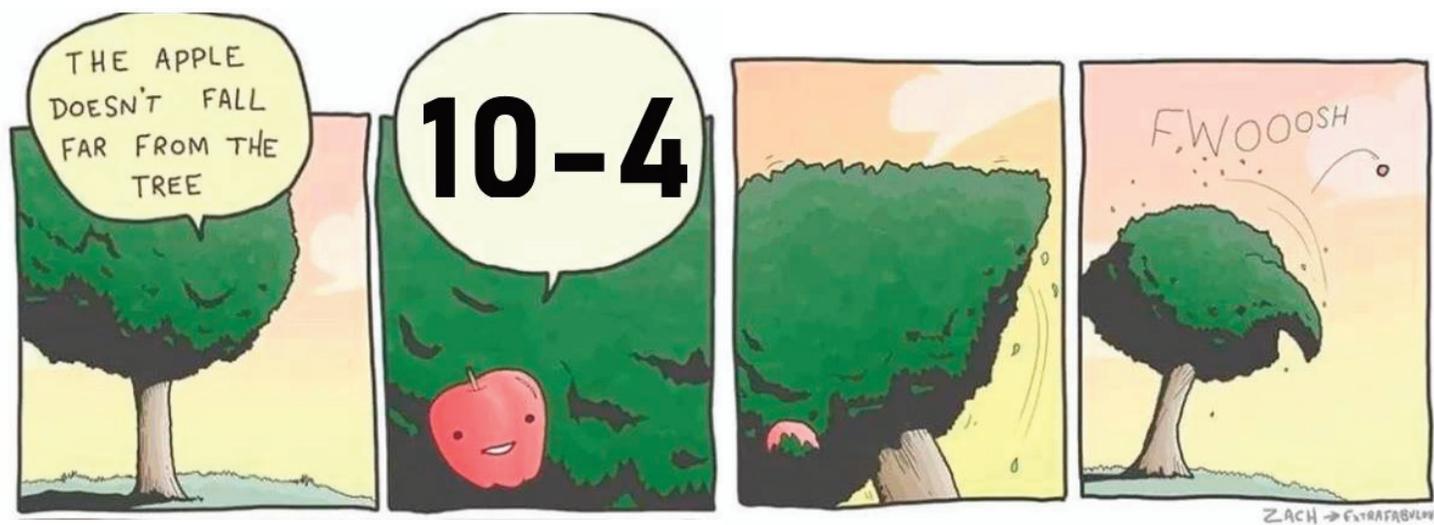
This program is still in its development stage. If you have any ideas or would be willing to help please sign up at the May meeting.

This program will only work if you are willing to help.

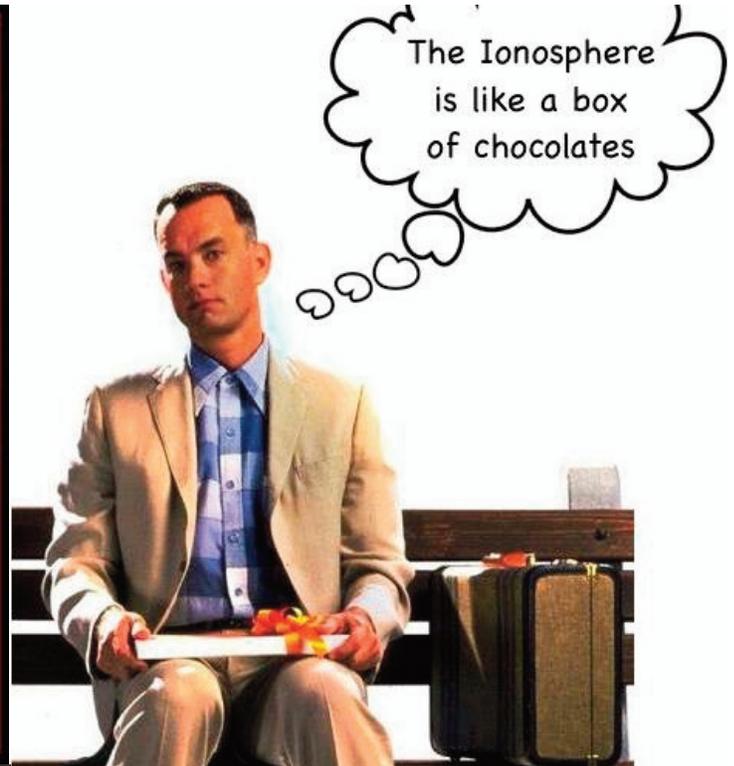
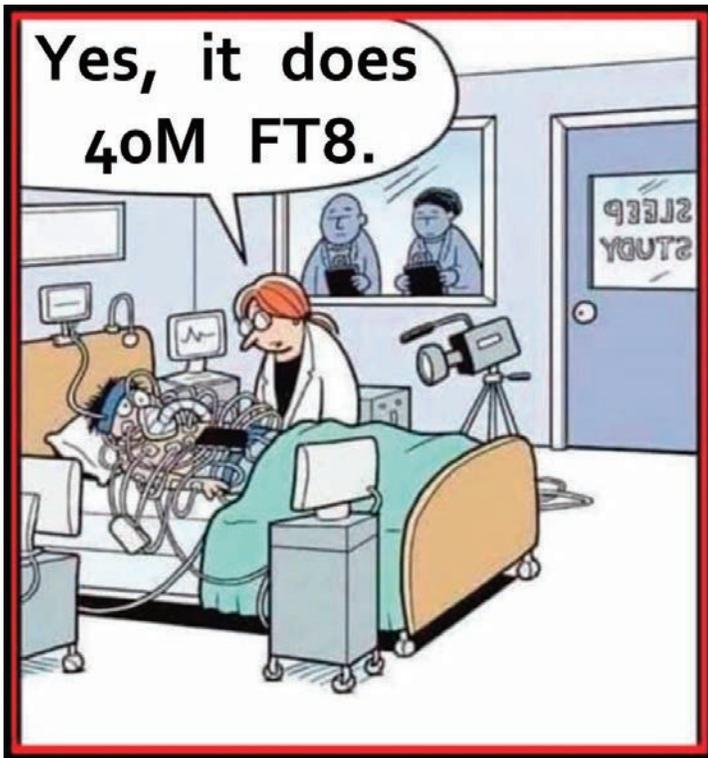
## TIME TO LEARN ABOUT THIS



## "SURFACE MOUNT" SOLDERING STUFF.



# Ham Funny



**WHEN YOU HAVE A WELDER  
BUT NOT A HF AMPLIFIER:**



**Bert found a new source  
of free antenna wire.**



# 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.





# Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Jen KD9FMJ with 20 present at the meeting. Jen KD9FMJ was filling in for Randy AC9OF who was unable to attend.

of expertise and to provide contact information that could be made available to newer Hams...possibly in the Hamrag.

## Last Meeting Minutes

- No minutes read aloud since a copy was not available. Jen KD9FMJ asked for comments from attendees since it was posted in the Hamrag. There were no comments.
- Motion to accept by Jim AB9SX and seconded by Gordy KC9NEX. Passed by membership vote.

## Treasurer's Report

- Report presented by Gordy KC9NEX.
- Motion to accept by Larry AC9GO and seconded by John N9JHG. Passed by membership vote.

## Old Business

- No old business discussed.

## New Business

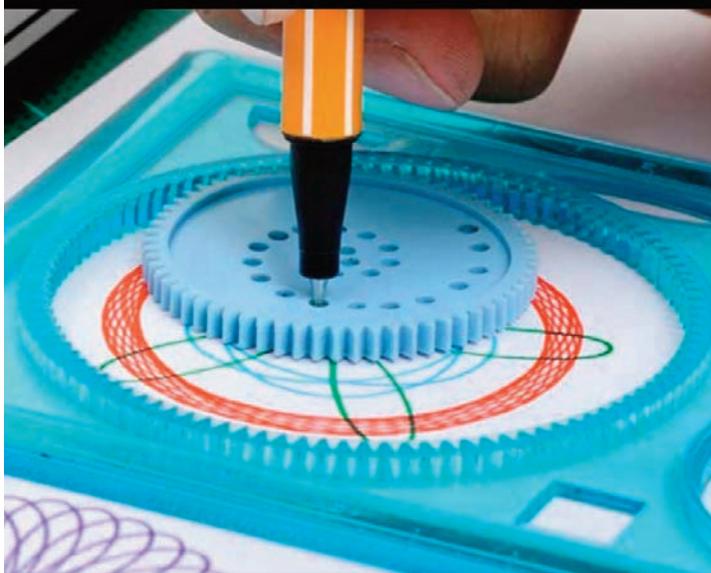
- Jen KD9FMJ advised that Randy AC9OF is still looking for volunteers to help set-up or attend the "April in Durand" event. A sign-up sheet was distributed...
- Kurt KE9N advised that Field Day 2019 will be held at the Roscoe VFW. A sign-up sheet was distributed...
- John N8TA presented an idea for mentoring new Hams to the club. Most Hams had a mentor to assist them when they entered the hobby and it's vital to continue this tradition. Sign-up sheets were distributed to the attendees for the purpose of identifying areas

## Presentation

- Kurt KE9N presented "The Pros and Cons of Buying or Selling Old Radio Equipment". The presentation covered different aspects and helpful recommendations to protect Hams when buying or selling used Ham-related equipment. The presentation was very informative and well received.

Motion to adjourn by Gordy KC9NEX and seconded by John N9JHG. Passed by membership vote.

## MY UNDERSTANDING OF



## A SMITH CHART.

# Photos From April in Durand



The RARA booth without the go box



Jimmy helping a young lady get on the air



The Fox 1 model and antennas



The CW section - hands on for the kids



Manuals and the Pixie radio



Some of the great handouts

# A Few On The Air Events

## Canadian National Parks on the Air

<https://www.midstatehams.org/blog/258-canadian-national-parks-on-the-air-event-set-to-start-on-january-1.html>

## Florida Parks on the Air

<http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/county-parks-on-the-air/>

## 05/15/2017 Vermont Parks on the Air

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/292829457810746>

## 05/03/2019 Old Timer's Day

WWW.WC4DC.ORG

## 05/04/2019 100th Anniversary Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association

[www.qrz.com/db/w8qly](http://www.qrz.com/db/w8qly)

## 05/04/2019 Cold War Museum / Francis Gary Powers Dedication

[coldwar.org](http://coldwar.org)

## 05/04/2019 COSI Big Science Celebration

[www.qrz.com/db/w8lt](http://www.qrz.com/db/w8lt)

## 05/04/2019 Garretson Forge and Farm 300th Anniversary

[www.flarc.net](http://www.flarc.net)

## 05/04/2019 Lewis & Clark 1804 Expedition Old Baldy (AKA) The Tower

[www.qrz.com/db/n0hwj](http://www.qrz.com/db/n0hwj)

## 05/04/2019 SPARC 5th Anniversary

[www.qsl.net/nj2sp](http://www.qsl.net/nj2sp)

## 05/04/2019 Texas Forestry Museum Special Event

[www.detarc.net](http://www.detarc.net)

## 05/05/2019 The INDYCAR Grand Prix

[www.w9ims.org](http://www.w9ims.org)

## 05/08/2019 Golden Spike 150th Celebration

[www.w7g.org](http://www.w7g.org)

## 05/11/2019 Centennial Celebration of San Antonio Radio Club

[www.w5sc.org](http://www.w5sc.org)

## 05/11/2019 Russell Cave National Monument 58th Anniversary

<https://jcar.us/russellcave>

## 05/11/2019 USS Midway Museum Ship Special Event: Operation Frequent Wind

14.320 7.250; PSK31 on 14.070. QSL. USS

## 05/11/2019 W4LX 60th Anniversary of Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club

[fmarc.net](http://fmarc.net)

## 05/12/2019 Landing Day Celebration

[www.k4rc.net](http://www.k4rc.net)

## 05/12/2019 National Police Week 2019

[exlasd@msn.com](mailto:exlasd@msn.com)

## 05/17/2019 EMS Week 2019

[w9wca.com](http://w9wca.com)

## 05/17/2019 Memphis, TN Bicentennial Celebration

<https://www.qrz.com/db/w4bs>

## 05/18/2019 | 3rd Annual William Becknell Heritage Days Special Event - Founder of the Santa Fe Trail

[www.wb0sft.org](http://www.wb0sft.org)

**For more On The Air events got to the ARRL events search page**

[http://www.arrl.org/special\\_events/search/page:1/model:Event](http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:1/model:Event)

# 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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_