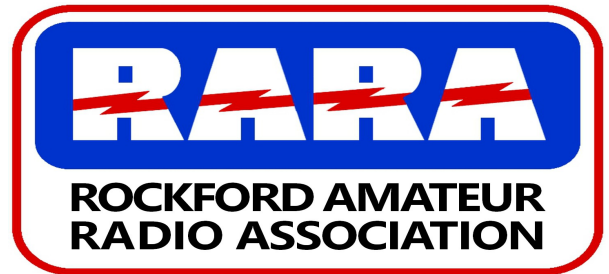


# HAM RAG

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 Column

Hello Everyone,

It was a good time had by all those who came to the Holiday and Awards Banquet at Gerry's Pizza. I am humbled that you awarded me the Ham of the Year award. Certificates of appreciation were also awarded for service during 2015 to: Alvin Alexander-KC9GIO for field day coordinator, Scott Francis-KG9SF for director & repeater trustee, Kurt Eversole-KE9N for director, repeater chairman & Hamrag editor, Gordon Seaman-KC9NEX for director & repeater committee, Ron Callahan-N2RON for repeater committee, Dennis Johanson-K9VMY for director & repeater committee, Bruce Carlson-N9OHT for secretary, Jim Holich-AB9SX for director, Shannon Larson-KC9QBC for treasurer, and David Larsen-N9ZXL for director.

Looking forward to this year's activities, we start it off with a line-up of officers, directors and committee chairs:

President – Robert Larson-KC9ICH

Vice-president & repeater committee chairman – Gordon Seaman-KC9NEX

Secretary – Bruce Carlson-N9OHT

Treasurer – Shannon Larson-KC9QBC

Director – Dave Larsen-N9ZXL

Director & repeater committee – Dennis Johanson-K9VMY

Director – Larry Schubert-AC9GO

Director & repeater committee – Kurt Eversole-KE9N

Director & Hamrag editor – Mike Proctor-AC9JZ

Field Day Coordinator-- Alvin Alexander-KC9GIO

Our club's general meeting on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> will kick-off with a program video entitled, "Navassa Island DXpedition 2015". You don't want to miss this one.

See you at the meeting,  
Robert Larson, KC9ICH

**February 2016**

## CONTENTS

- 1-President's Message
- 2-Events, Items Needed, Breakfast, Info Net
- 3-Remember This?
- 4-Emergency/Community
- 5-Get Copy of FCC License
- 6-Jan Amateur Exam Results, Officers & Board, Area Repeaters
- 7-Why Become a Ham Today?, Repeater Update
- 8-CW Chart, Visualized

73

## NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY**

**February 12, 2016**

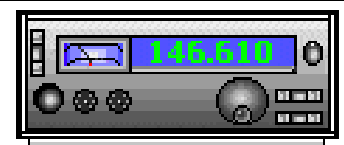
**7:00 pm**

**"Navssa Island  
DXpedition  
2015"**

**NEW  
Temporary  
Location:**

**OSF St. Anthony  
Medical Center  
5666 East State Street  
Rockford, IL 61108**

**HICKEY  
ROOM**



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

## RARA Events and Information

### UPCOMING RARA EVENTS

**Friday, February 12, 2016** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF (**Hickey Room**)

**Tuesday, February 23, 2016** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**Friday, March 11, 2016** - General RARA Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

**Tuesday, March 29, 2016** - RARA Board Meeting 7:00 pm at OSF

### REPEATER COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Repeater Committee is in search of four 19" cabinet rack shelves, and two rack mount drawers. We thought we would start with our members and readers first. If you have any of these items that you are not using, or have access to them, let us Know.

Sincerely,

Gordon Seaman, Repeater Chair

[glseaman@outlook.com](mailto:glseaman@outlook.com)

### FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

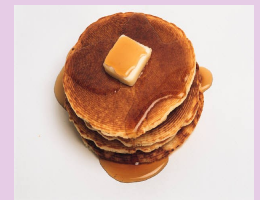
Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 9:30 am. An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company.

*Everyone is welcome to attend.*



**"The Morning Glory"**

211 7th Street  
Rockford, IL 61104



### 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.**



# QST

February 1958

50 Cents

55c in Canada

## devoted entirely to amateur radio

FEBRUARY

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

- 1958 RESOLUTIONS
1. No hay wire.
  2. Get beam rotator working.
  3. Clean up TVI.
  4. Clean up oil burner QRM.
  5. Install TR switch.
  6. Install ant. patch panel.

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE



## EMERGENCY/COMMUNITY SERVICE

### Amateur Radio Emergency Service

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service, or ARES, has come back into being in Winnebago County. Marianne Geiger is the Emergency Coordinator, or EC, who is spearheading the formation of the group. Originally the EC of just Boone County ARES, Marianne decided to expand into Winnebago County after learning that the County Emergency Association was interested in working with amateur radio operators, as they have in the past. After gaining approval from the Section EC of ARES, which is under the umbrella of the ARRL, Boone County ARES became Northern Illinois ARES, and encompasses both Boone and Winnebago Counties, with some members from Ogle and Stephenson Counties.

The goal of the group is to provide communications support for emergencies where the usual modes of communication (cell phone, internet, etc.) are overwhelmed or nonfunctional. The group is going to be prepared to deploy at the behest of the emergency management community when they need help. In addition, and in-between emergencies, they will provide communication capability for any community or charity event in our area, such as marathons, parades, bicycle races, or festivals. The members are all volunteer and, of course, enthusiastic about amateur radio and helping out their communities. You can find out more on their website, <http://www.northernilares.org/> including contact information if you would like to engage their services. 73 Marianne Geiger, KT9KS



## Obtain Valid Copy of New or Existing FCC License

PLEASE NOTE: Per Public Notice DA 15-72,

The FCC no longer mails license authorizations. If you provide an email address on your application, an official copy of your license will be automatically emailed to you after the application has been granted.

Licensees can also opt to download electronic authorizations by logging into License Manager:

Log in to <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp> with your FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Password

If you do not know the password:

Click on the Contact Tech Support link

Click the Reset Password button and follow the prompts for resetting the password

After receiving confirmation of a successful password reset, click the link for Universal Licensing System (DO NOT click the CORES Public Interface link.)

Click the button labeled ULS License Manager; you will be taken to the log in screen

Click the, "Download Electronic Authorizations," link on the navigation bar on the left side of the License Manager home page.

1. To search for the authorization(s) you want to download:

a. Enter the call sign OR

b. Enter a date range (based on Effective Date of the license)

2. In the My Authorization box, select the call signs you wish to download

3. Add the call signs to the Authorizations to Download box.

4. Once the licenses have been selected, click the Download button in the lower right-hand corner of the screen.

5. The download will be automatically converted to a PDF file, and you can choose to Open (to print) or Save (to save to a desired folder)

Downloading Electronic Authorizations Using the Chrome Browser

Filers using Chrome will need to turn off the Pop-up Blocker before downloading. To turn off the Pop-up Blocker:

1. Click on the Settings icon (3 horizontal lines) in the upper right-hand corner of the browser

2. Click on Settings

3. At the bottom of the Settings page, click the link Show Advanced Settings

4. Under the Privacy heading, click the Content Settings button

5. In the Content Settings window, scroll down to the Pop-ups section

6. Click Allow all sites to show pop-ups; click the Done button

7. Close the Settings tab

After the authorization(s) have been selected for download, follow these steps for accessing the PDF file in Chrome:

1. After clicking the Download button, a blank window will open. At this point, the authorizations are downloading. (If the filer exits this window prior to the download finishing, the download will not complete.)

2. Once the download completes, it will appear at the bottom of the blank window.

NOTE: If the download button cannot be seen at the bottom of the screen, maximize the window

3. Click on the button to open the PDF file

Downloading Authorizations Using MAC Operating Systems

The FCC recommends using the Chrome or Firefox browsers for MAC when downloading authorizations using the MAC OS.

PDF ERRORS:

If you receive one of the following error messages after attempting the above steps, you may need to install or update the Adobe Acrobat Reader:

Invalid or corrupted PDF file. Message: Invalid PDF structure

Go to the following website - <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

1. You may uncheck the optional offer.

2. Click the Install now button.

3. You will be prompted to either save or run the file. (If you are prompted to save the file, you will need to locate your download folder and run the file.)

For further assistance with the installation please refer to the Need help? link on the screen.

MOBILE DEVICES:

Mobile devices will need to have a PDFviewer to open the Electronic Authorization. We recommend installing Adobe Acrobat Reader from the app store.

Should you have any further questions or need additional information, please submit a request for help at <https://esupport.fcc.gov/onlinerequest.htm> , or call the FCC Licensing Support Center at 1-877-480-3201.

Sincerely,

FCC Licensing Support Center

# AMATEUR RADIO EXAM INFORMATION

The results for January 16, 2016:

Combs, Arthur J	Upgrade to General	KD9BIJ
Guyer, Hale P	Upgrade to General	KD9ESK
Herriman, Dalton C	Technician	
O'Neal, Ryan D	Technician	

Many thanks to Joseph Moore KA9LMK, John Olson W9JGO, Rusty Cordell WB9QYV, Bob Mitchell KU9I, and Jim Holich AB9SX for their time.

Amateur Radio exams are held the 3rd Saturday of every month in Rockford IL. The next session is 9 AM February 20, 2016. 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](mailto:jholich@comcast.net)

## AREA Repeaters

146.610 - ENC/DEC pl 114.8 W9AXD  
147.000 + ENC/DEC pl 114.8 W9AXD

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

## 2016 RARA Officers and Board

Officers:

President - Robert Larson, KC9ICH, 815-540-0309  
[kc9ich@arrl.net](mailto:kc9ich@arrl.net)

Vice President - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034  
[glseaman@outlook.com](mailto:glseaman@outlook.com)

Secretary - Bruce Carlson, N9OHT, 815-218-1764  
[bruce.n9oht@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.n9oht@gmail.com)

Treasurer - Shannon Larson, KC9QBC, 815-298-7549  
[shannon1234@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shannon1234@sbcglobal.net)

Directors:

Repeater Chairman - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-234-5034  
[glseaman@outlook.com](mailto:glseaman@outlook.com)

Ham Rag Editor - Mike Proctor, AC9JZ, 815-414-2329  
[ac9jz@outlook.com](mailto:ac9jz@outlook.com)

Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784 [kurt.eversole@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.eversole@gmail.com)

Dennis Johanson, K9VMY, 815-255-4603 [##k9vmy@arrl.net](mailto:##k9vmy@arrl.net)

Dave Larsen, N9ZXL, 815-914-6078 [n9zxl@att.net](mailto:n9zxl@att.net)

Larry Schubert, AC9GO, 815-624-7772 [schubert1@charter.net](mailto:schubert1@charter.net)

## WHY BECOME A HAM IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

Several of the authors you read on Hackaday are ham radio operators and we've often kicked around having a Hacker Chat about "Why be a ham today?" After all, you can talk to anyone in the world over the Internet or via phone, right? What's the draw?

The Radio Society of Great Britain had the same thought, apparently, and **produced a great video** to answer the question. They mention the usual things: learning about technology, learning about people in other parts of the world, disaster communications, and **radiosport** (which seems to be more popular outside the United States; people compete to find hidden transmitters).

In addition, they talked a lot about how hams get involved with space communications, ranging from talking via satellites, to talking to people on the space station, to actually building small satellites. As the narrator says, there are "hundreds of ways to have techie fun" with ham radio.

One thing we noticed they showed but didn't say a lot about, though, is the educational opportunities. You can learn a lot, and working with kids to help them learn is often very rewarding (and you usually learn something, too). Just to forestall the comments that this post isn't hack related, we'll note two things: there is a Raspberry Pi shown and just past the two-minute mark, there is a very clever hacked together Morse code key.

We talk a lot about ham radio, ranging from **Arduino-based digital modes** to putting together **portable stations** (you can see a similar one in the video, too). One other thing we noticed they don't mention: it is generally much easier to get a license today than ever before. Most countries (including the United States) have abolished the Morse code requirements, so while some hams still enjoy CW (hamspeak for operating Morse code), it isn't a requirement.



### ATTENTION: ALL USERS OF RARA REPEATERS

The Repeater Committee would like to announce that we are in the process of taking possession of two new **Yaesu System Fusion** repeaters to replace our current units. These new units have the capabilities of Analog voice, (so your current radios will still work just like they do now), along with the option of Digital voice capabilities. There are also other features we hope to include in the future as we become more familiar with these repeaters. The reason that this notice is being posted is to give all our members and others, who may be looking for a new radio, either a handheld, mobile, or base, a heads up to look at the new radios from Yaesu that include the dual Analog and Digital functions.

You can look up these radios at the Yaesu Website: <http://yaesu.com/>

More information will be forthcoming as things progress, the units are installed, and other features are added.

Sincerely,

Repeater committee

A B C D E F G

DIT-DAH DAH-DIT-DIT-DIT DAH-DIT-DAH-DIT DAH-DIT-DIT DIT DIT-DIT-DAH-DIT DAH-DAH-DIT

H I J K L M N

DIT-DIT-DIT-DIT DIT-DIT DIT-DAH-DAH-DAH DAH-DIT-DAH DIT-DAH-DIT-DIT DAH-DAH DAH-DIT

O P Q R S T

DAH-DAH-DAH DIT-DAH-DIT-DAH DAH-DAH-DIT-DAH DIT-DAH-DIT DIT-DIT-DIT DAH

U V W X Y Z

DIT-DIT-DAH DIT-DIT-DIT-DAH DIT-DAH-DAH DAH-DIT-DIT-DAH DAH-DIT-DAH-DAH DAH-DAH-DIT-DIT

1 2 3 4 5 6

DIT-DAH-DAH-DAH-DAH DIT-DIT-DAH-DAH-DAH DIT-DIT-DIT-DAH-DAH DIT-DIT-DIT-DIT-DAH DIT-DIT-DIT-DIT-DIT DAH-DIT-DIT-DIT-DIT

7 8 9 0

DAH-DAH-DIT-DIT-DIT DAH-DAH-DAH-DIT-DIT DAH-DAH-DAH-DAH-DIT DAH-DAH-DAH-DAH-DAH

Remade by  
Fattredd

<http://www.learnmorsecode.info/2010/12/a-cool-new-way-to-learn-morse-code/>





P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126  
Website: [www.w9axd.org](http://www.w9axd.org)

Local Area Nets

Monday 8:00 PM RARA Info. 146.610 - 114.8  
Friday Night Fun Net 8:00 PM 147.255 + 114.8  
Illinois Traffic Net (daily) 6:00 PM 3.905 LSB

place address label here

February 2016

**ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

website: [w9axd.org](http://w9axd.org)

Membership Type : ☐ New ☐ Renewal  
Annual Fees: ☐ \$10 - Student (up to age 24)  
☐ \$25 - Adult ☐ \$15 - 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