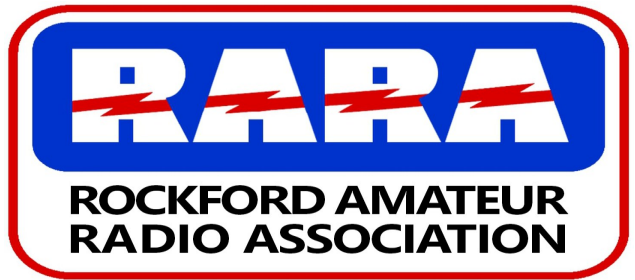


# HAMRAG

Visit our website for more club and area ham information at <http://w9axd.org>, or join us on Facebook at this [LINK](#)



## RARA Mission Statement

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

**RARA is a volunteer run organization** of individuals donating their time each month to develop activities, maintain repeaters, nets, and education. There are associated expenses and when you become a club member, your dues are providing a service to your community and furthering the hobby of amateur radio.

## Welcome New Members!

Kevin Randall K9HBT and Alan Fielder N9ALF

## Congrats on receiving your call signs!

Tony Middleton KE9DTA and Mike Cichonski KE9DSK

## Thanks to this month's contributors to the Hamrag

David Gauger W9CJS, Brad Nicholson KA9WRZ,  
Larry Schubert AC9GO, and Verna Schubert W9YUM

## Editor's Note

If you would like to have something published, please call me at 815-505-8170, or email me at [w9yum.vs@gmail.com](mailto:w9yum.vs@gmail.com)

Articles are welcome and encouraged from all hams.

**Due Date for the September Hamrag is Friday August 29, 2025**

73, Verna—W9YUM, Editor

## NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY— August 8, 2025 - 7:00pm**

OSF St Anthony Med Center  
(Foundation Room-ground/cafeteria level)  
5666 East State Street, Rockford

Social Time following meeting at Gerry's Pizza  
7403 Argus Drive, Rockford

August 2025



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## President's Message— Larry McFall, KD9HKX

Hello fellow RARA members and friends:

Greetings RARA members,

I can't believe it's already August, but I am looking forward to the cooler temperatures of fall. In looking ahead RARA's fall activities will include helping with JOTA, our anniversary celebration and the Belvidere hamfest. At the moment we are planning a special event and picnic to celebrate RARA's 70th anniversary.

At our last board meeting Matt Marshall (W3MBX) was appointed to replace Kurt Eversole (KE9N) as the repeater committee chairperson. I want to express my sincere gratitude to Kurt for all of the hard work he has done over many years as repeater chairman. Kurt has done an outstanding job of keeping our repeaters up and running well. I am sure however that the repeaters are in good hands with Matt as the new chairman.

Also at the last board meeting Doug Passmore (KE9CNS) was appointed as the new repeater license trustee. Again I want to thank Gordon Seaman (KC9NEX) for his diligence, as the past repeater license trustee, in his oversight of the operation of the repeaters. There is still some paperwork to make this official with ARRL and the FCC. Please join me in showing our appreciation to Kurt and Gordon for their hard work.

RARA has reserved two tables for the Belvidere Hamfest on Sunday, September 28. A handful of volunteers are needed for setting up and to work the tables promoting RARA. A couple of people have already reached out to help (Mark KE9COB and Guy KE9CZZ) and a couple more would be nice. Please reach out if you have any items you would like to sell at the RARA tables. We do ask you are present and a percentage of your sales go to the club. Contact Verna W9YUM at [w9yum.vs@gmail.com](mailto:w9yum.vs@gmail.com) for more information. We will be discussing at the Friday night (8/8) meeting as well.

Let's all enjoy the summer months and get on the radio!

73,

Larry, KD9HKX

# RARA Board and Local Nets

Tuesday, August 5, 2025 RARA Board Meeting 7:00pm on Google Meet  
Friday, August 8, 2025 RARA Membership Meeting 7:00pm OSF St Anthony

## 2025 RARA Officers and Directors

### **Officers:**

President - Larry McFall, KD9HKX, 815-900-1820, [lpmcfall@charter.net](mailto:lpmcfall@charter.net)  
Vice President - Matt Marshall, W3MBX, 815-222-5959, [matthew.marshal@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.marshal@gmail.com)  
Secretary - Jamie Cook, W9JTC, 779-423-9054, [W9JTC@yahoo.com](mailto:W9JTC@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer - Verna Schubert, W9YUM, 815-505-8170, [w9yum.vs@gmail.com](mailto:w9yum.vs@gmail.com)

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Repeater License Trustee - Doug Passmore, 815-979-9229, [dgpasmore@att.net](mailto:dgpasmore@att.net)  
Repeater Chairman - Matt Marshall, W3MBX, 815-222-5959, [matthew.marshal@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.marshal@gmail.com)

## Local Net Information

**Mon** - 7:00pm - RARA Info. Net & CW Lesson, 147.195 (+0.6) offset, pl 114.8  
- 8:00pm - McHenry County RACES Net, 146.835 (-0.6) offset, pl 91.5

**Tues** - 7:00pm - RARA Tech & Social Net & CW Lesson , 147.195 (+0.6) offset, pl 114.8  
- 7:00pm - Rock County Public Service Net, 145.450 (-0.6) offset, pl 123.0

**Wed** - 7:00pm - RARA Chat Net, 147.195 (+0.6) offset, pl 114.8  
- 7:00pm - Stephenson County ARES Net, 147.390(+0.6) offset, pl 114.8  
- 7:30pm - Greater Beloit Radio Net, 147.120 (+0.6) offset, pl 123.0

**Thu** - 7:00pm - Northern Illinois Skywarn Training Net,147.195 (+0.6) offset, pl 114.8

**Fri** - 8:00pm - Friday Night Fun Net, KC9GCR, 147.195(+0.6) offset, pl 114.8

**Sat** - 8:00pm - Saturday RARA Ragchew Net, 147.195 (+0.6) offset, pl 114.8  
- 8:00pm - Pink Hamsters YL Net, Milw., 146.910 (-0.6) offset, pl 127.3  
- 9:00pm - Saturday Night Fun Net Milw., 146.910 (-0.6) offset, pl 127.3

**Mon. thru Friday** - 8:00am to 9:00am - Senile Net, 14.287 (HF USB)

## Key Dates to Save!

**Saturday, September 13, 2025, 11am until we are done!**

**Family Picnic and celebration of RARA 70th Anniversary**

Hononegah Forest Preserve, 80 Hononegah Forest Preserve, Indian Rest Shelter

*Planning is underway for a week long radio special event celebrating RARA's Anniversary. More details about how it works and how you can participate from home are just around the corner! Several individuals are working hard to make this happen but we will need your help....all from the comfort of your own station or for more fun, take it portable!*

**September 28, 2025, 8am—noon**

**Radio Expo 2025 (Belvidere Hamfest) Sponsored by the Chicago FM Club**

RARA has tables and is looking for volunteers to assist.

This is a great hamfest!

**October 2025—POTA Get together! Rock Cut State Park**

Are you one of the RARA members that expressed interest in POTA on your membership form? Well....stay "tuned" for an educational and fun event. John Alcock NG9M, one of RARA's resident POTA gurus will demonstrate how it works from setup to getting you on the air—antenna options, spotting, logging, working a pile up!

**Saturday, October 18, 2025—Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) details to come**

**Saturday, October 12, 2025—2025 Bank of America Marathon is recruiting ham radio volunteers** Great opportunity for those interested in radio public service! (see page 15 for more details)

*Wow—there's something for everyone! Stay radio active, friends!*



**RARA members**—please be sure the email address you provide is one you check regularly to make sure you receive club updates and the monthly Hamrag.

**Don't forget to let us know if there are changes to your email or phone number, ARRL membership status, or call sign.**

Please email updates to Verna W9YUM at [w9yum.vs@gmail.com](mailto:w9yum.vs@gmail.com) & add me to your contacts.

## Who Are They? Rockford Radio Club

This photo was taken December 4, 1940, about 14 years before RARA was formed and long before a number of you were born! I came across the photo in the June 1982 Hamrag with the names and call signs in the September issue. If you knew or are related to any of these hams, please drop me an email at [w9yum.vs@gmail.com](mailto:w9yum.vs@gmail.com)



On the following page is a memory shared from Paul Dean WB9HGZ of #14 Claude Middleton W9VZ (W9RBT).



In our June issue we ran a photo of area Hams of 1940 asking who they were, Here is a list of the answers so far.: 1) John Alexander, 2) Carl White, 3) Wes, 4) Ernie Storer/W9MAP, 5) Maurice Nelson/W9FL-(W9BRY), 6) Zygmunt Podgorny/W9MOS, 7) Claude Middleton/W9VZ-(W9RBT), 8) Art Anderson/W9WSG, 9) Paul Johnson/W9BNO, 10) Lennie Anderson, 11) Bob Brand, 12) LeRoy, 13) Carol Carlson/W9TET, 14) H. Doau/W9ORP, 15) Fred Newburg/W9PGQ, 16) Joe, 17) Jack, 18) Jack Hubbel, 19) Bob Coats, 20) Zigi, 21) Everett Hallquist/W9AGV, 22) Milt Carlson/W9FFQ, 23) ??, 24) Reggy Wells / W 9 G K I,  
Thanks to Dick/N9UN for his help in getting so many answers.

# Who Are They? Rockford Radio Club

## Fond memories of Claude Middleton W9VZ shared by Paul Dean WB9HGZ

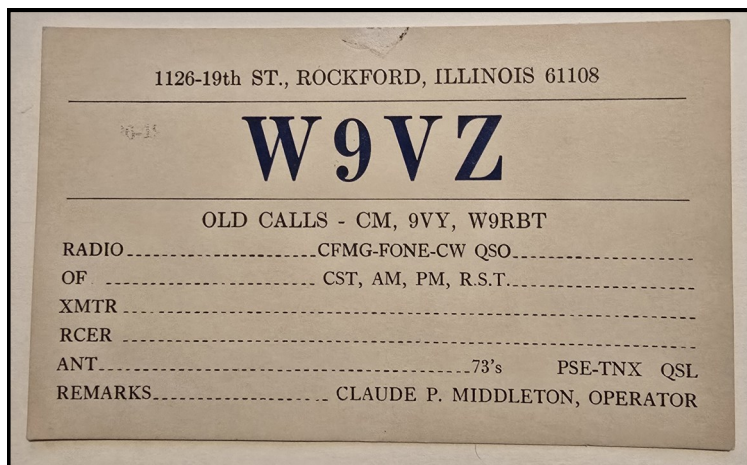
Claude, W9VZ, was the "granddaddy" of the Rockford 6 meter net. He had a huge beam on a 50 foot tower and always boomed in! He was among my first contacts. He had a Gonset Communicator III, fondly known as a "Gooney Box" and a D104 microphone. When he passed away, I bought it at the estate sale. I still have it.

Claude was previously W9RBT and taught print shop at Lincoln Junior High. He was retired when I met him, but my mom said he was teaching there when she attended Lincoln in the 40s. They used to say RBT stood for either "Rockford's Best Teacher" or Rockford's Baby Tender". :) The story goes, if you fell asleep in class, he would sling a piece of lead type at you!

His original call was "CM", then 9VY. When the FCC started to allow people to change their calls, prior to the vanity program, I am not sure how it worked but a bunch of RARA members got together and got him W9VZ, as close to 9VY as they could.

He lived on 19th St His house was uphill from Charles St. I lived on Shaw St, also uphill from Charles so we had nearly line of sight, separated by a few miles. Of course when he transmitted, my meter pegged. Claude operated a pair of Drake twins on HF.

He told me many stories of his early days as a Ham. All fascinating.



## Numbers, Part of Life by Dave W9CJS

How old are you? ... You respond with a number of years.

How much do you weigh? ... You respond with "None of your business" ... heh

How much power do you run? ... "One hundred watts, but I'm saving for a Kilowatt amp"

We measure much in life with numbers. Not everything can be quantified like, for instance, How does one measure "Love" ... or "Personality" ... "moods" ...etc. but there are many, perhaps most things can be described with numbers.

You could describe lots of things with numbers, like your wife for instance...

No ... we won't get into that.

For a moment, let's consider how we have developed ideas, concepts, and machines to help us measure, store and manipulate numbers.

If I say to you, "My antenna shows an SWR of 3:1 you know what that means.

"Ah ...3:1 may be OK but getting to a point where you probably should use a tuner"

Also, if I say, "I've increased my power from 100 watts to 1000 watts."

A quick 'calculation' reveals that your \$1500 expenditure has given you 1.5 S-units increase.

Who knows what the first calculator was. Perhaps something like counting toes or using an abacus. Biblical measures included the Cubit the length of the King's arm from elbow to tips of fingers or a denarius (one day's wages)

Do you remember when your sister or mother got a job using a Comptometer machine? I do. How about the slide rule? ... It was a giant leap in calculation ability and useful for years. It required no batteries, no recharging, and always returned 2 and often 3 significant figure accuracy.

Enter the electronic calculator. What an amazing little gadget with LED display and 8 digit readout. My boss, (A VP of the company) proudly returned from a trip to Japan in the early 70's with a "Four banger calculator" which added, subtracted, divided and multiplied ... but amazingly couldn't handle negative numbers.

Oh! I was so impressed with Hewlett Packard's HP35 ... and the Texas Instrument series of calculators with Scientific Notation, Sines, Cosines, Logarithms, Square roots ... a true dream come true .. if you had the money. (it did handle negative numbers properly)

## Numbers, Part of Life by Dave W9CJS

And then, outdoing themselves they produced programmability... enter a complex equation with re-iteration and storage for the program for future use. Whoa what was this world coming to? Yet, one can now buy a calculator with all of those functions, at a cost of a couple dollars. Better yet, they're usually included in our cell phones.

About that same time the unheard of thing came into being ... a personal computer. Remember the IMSAI computer, or the VIC 20 and VIC 64, the Apple 2 or eventually the IBM PC. All had a boot-up program in ROM (Read Only Memory) and BASIC and TEXT programs, all utilizing programmability in RAM (Random Access Memory) for temporary storage.

I still have an early NEC 8300 (like the Radio Shack 100) laptop computer with BASIC, TEXT (elementary Word Processor) and TELCOM (a facility for sending E-Mail on telephone lines) ... remember CompuServe? There was a run on this machine by reporters covering the Political Presidential Convention. They could type in their report and send it back to the publisher in time for inclusion in the Evening Newspaper.

All of this to say that "Time marches on" ... the God-given brilliant minds of inventors all over the world have given us wonderful tools, not only for calculation, but for the exchange of emails, pictures and videos and a million other uses too numerous to mention and for pictures from 200 miles in space sharp enough to identify our car in a parking lot or where a car was parked as marked by its heat image in the pavement.

What a wonderful world we live in ... now if we could only get our politicians to be more statesman-like and ourselves to be more accommodating, tolerant and peaceful.

I know ... I've left out huge technical developments, but this is what came to mind. Ooh ... it's past time for lunch. I'd better ...

Dave Gauger W9CJS

# RARA 2025 Family Picnic & 70th Anniversary Celebration

Date: Sat 09/13/25  
Time: 11:00 a.m.—4:00pm

Hononegah Forest Preserve  
80 Hononegah Rd, Rockton IL 61072  
Indian Rest Shelter (has electricity,  
if you want to bring a crockpot.  
(directional signs will be posted)



## **FUN SOCIAL EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!**

FOR RARA MEMBERS AND ANYONE INTERESTED IN AMATEUR AND GMRS RADIO AND THEIR FAMILIES!

RARA will provide burgers, dogs, grill supplies, paper goods, condiments, and water. You will bring yourself and your family and one or two dishes to share with others (think salads, desserts, casseroles, baked beans, chips, etc.) Covered shelter, plenty of tables, and electricity!

Please contact W9YUM with the number attending and what your dish to share will be. Most importantly, we don't want anyone to not attend because they are unable to bring an additional dish!

**Feel free to bring lawn games!**

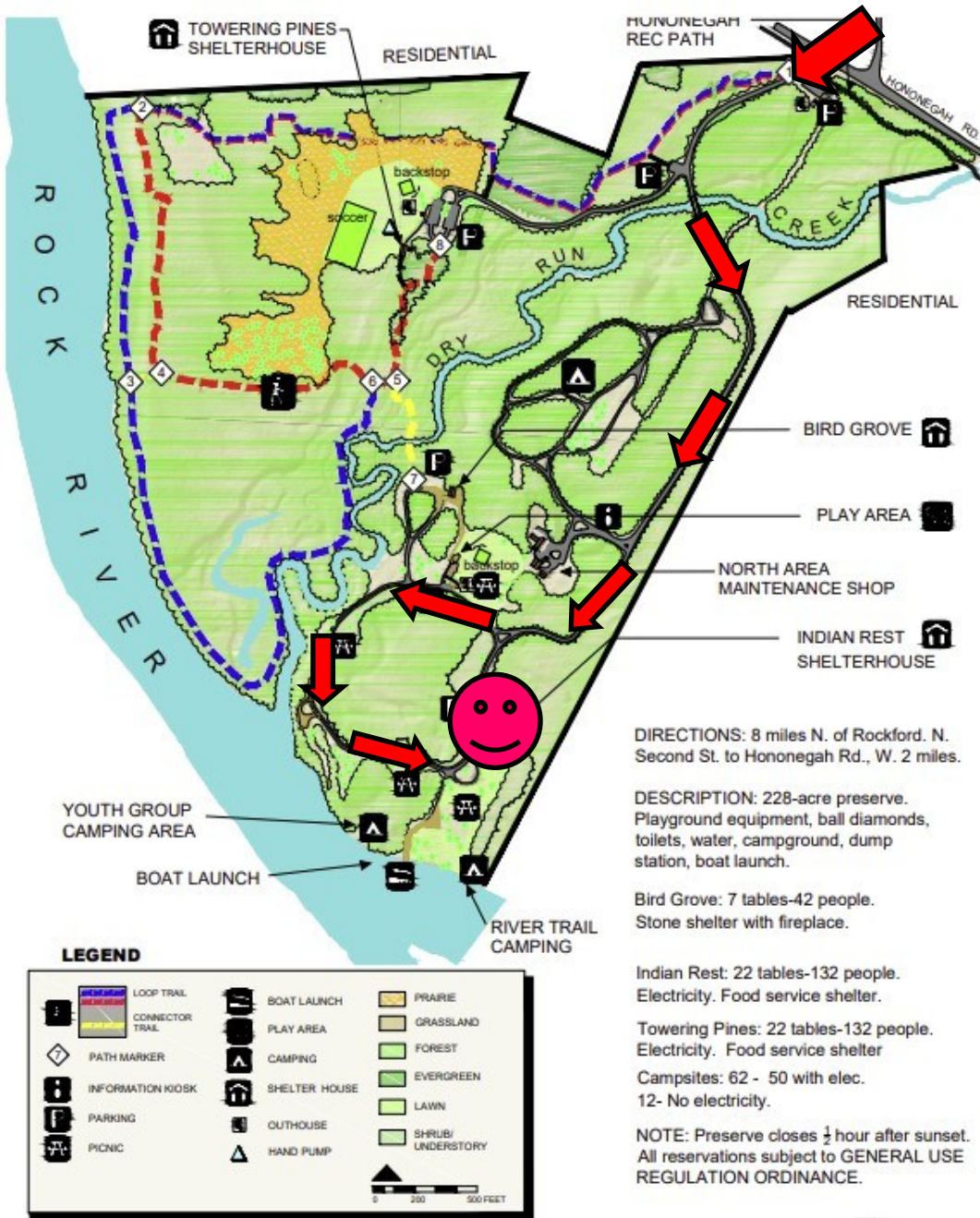
Prize drawing 3:00 p.m.  
Must be present to win  
Yaesu FT-65-R 5W VHF/UHF FM Dual Band Handheld



Contact person: Verna Schubert, W9YUM  
[w9yum.vs@gmail.com](mailto:w9yum.vs@gmail.com) or 815-505-8170

# RARA Family Picnic and Anniversary Celebration

For those of you attending last year's picnic or the May Swapfest this year's picnic will be at the same location and at Hononegah Forest Preserve. You enter off of Hononegah Road and follow the road as shown on the map. You will pass a couple of roads on the right but keep going straight. After passing the campground turn you will go down a hill and enter a one way loop, passing a playground and another road to the right. Just keep going straight (around the loop). You will pass the boat launch and see the shelter on your right, displayed as the big smiley face on the map.



**DIRECTIONS:** 8 miles N. of Rockford. N. Second St. to Hononegah Rd., W. 2 miles.

**DESCRIPTION:** 228-acre preserve. Playground equipment, ball diamonds, toilets, water, campground, dump station, boat launch.

**Bird Grove:** 7 tables-42 people. Stone shelter with fireplace.

**Indian Rest:** 22 tables-132 people. Electricity. Food service shelter.

**Towering Pines:** 22 tables-132 people. Electricity. Food service shelter

Campsites: 62 - 50 with elec. 12- No electricity.

**NOTE:** Preserve closes 1/2 hour after sunset. All reservations subject to GENERAL USE REGULATION ORDINANCE.

For additional information call (815) 877-6100, or visit [www.winnebagoforest.org](http://www.winnebagoforest.org)

**HONONEGAH FOREST PRESERVE**  
80 HONONEGAH ROAD



When I first got my Technician license (after what felt like cramming for the SATs while learning a foreign language), I declared:

**“I have zero interest in upgrading to General. Nope. Nada. I’m good right here.”** A couple of months later, I realized that HF was calling my name—literally—and I’d have a lot more fun with a General ticket. So I hit the books again, passed the exam, and was ready to start chasing DX. Little did I know, our antenna setup wasn’t going to work and it would take a lot of friends, a lot of time, a tower, and a 3-element Yagi...but that’s a story for another day.

### **Enter: Digital Modes (aka The Thing I Swore I’d Never Do)**

Then came the next bold proclamation: **“Digital? Not for me. I’m a SSB phone kind of ham.”**

That held up until the 13 Colonies Special Event rolled around and I was short a few QSOs. Turns out, those elusive stations were hanging out on FT8. So I did what any curious ham would do—I dove in and set up FT-8. Thanks to the Icom 7300 and WSJT-X, it was surprisingly painless. I was soon decoding signals and making contacts. The Yaesu 991A? A bit more stubborn. But with help from our ever-resourceful Facebook group, I got it humming along too. Now I’m having a blast—and yes, I’ve officially eaten my words.

### **FT8: It’s Real Ham Radio (Even If It Doesn’t Talk Back)**

I know, I know. Some of you are in the “FT8 isn’t real ham radio” camp. But hear me out:

- It teaches you about propagation
- It lets you work weak signals from across the globe
- It’s basically magic with a waterfall display

Throw in PSK Reporter, and you’ll have a lot of fun!

### **I’m Not the Only One Who’s done a 180**

Just ask Mark Ford, KE9COB. Not long ago, he was perfectly content with 2 meters and a sprinkle of 10 meters. HF? Not interested. But guess what? That “never” started to crack and now with his General ticket, it won’t be long until he is chasing DX.

### **What’s Your “Never”?**

We all have one. Maybe it’s CW. Maybe it’s contesting. Maybe it’s building your own antenna out of coat hangers and dreams. Whatever it is—ditch the “never” and give it a shot. You might just surprise yourself.

## From the Workbench by Larry AC9GO



I remember when I first started as an electronic technician it wasn't a big deal at the time, but I was fairly excited by the prospect. Even though I had not yet graduated with my electronics associate degree, I had most of the courses completed, and my experience as a ham. I was given a bench space, a solder station which included an iron and a solder sucker, as well as a soldering electrostatic discharge mat (ESD), a wrist strap, and a coiled cable that was grounded to the mat and the AC ground. This was to keep you from zapping your parts with static which I later found out could produce failure in parts up to days or weeks later in the field. By the way, that ground strap has a one-Megaohm resistor, so *you* don't fry if you touch the hot side of a plugged-in unit.

Additionally, I was given a volt ohm meter, a stack of product that was either in need of calibration or fixing, along with the paperwork which included the calibration procedure and the circuit diagrams for the product. That is when I started putting my knowledge to work. First, I was expecting to have an oscilloscope, because I had spent many hours working with O-scopes while in school. I soon found out that I really didn't have much need for an O-scope to diagnose and find most problems in electronics.

Hams deal with receivers, transmitters, transceivers, power supplies, amplifiers, feed lines and antennas. Anything in that group can be the cause of a problem. The first thing you do to find a problem is check the power supply. The power supply is generally at the beginning of most products. Very little today requires a power supply of more than 25 volts, but the supply begins with 120 volts alternating current (VAC) which is often turned into 170 volts direct current (VDC) for a switcher supply and then back to around 5VDC for the rest of the board or maybe 12VDC. Many times, it can be run through a transformer to something 15VDC or less. The question of course is "Do we have the voltages we are supposed to have?" If not, that may be the only problem, so you first fix the power supply. If you have the right voltages, the questions are "What is the problem?" "What is the unit supposed to do?"

If the supply checks out, you then go to the next thing, the receiver, and check that out. If that works you go to the next thing, etc. until you find where the problem is. Locating the problem is often the most difficult thing to find, but once you find the problem area you know where to focus.

## From the Workbench by Larry AC9GO

Once you have identified the problem area, with the power off, you are going to move to the circuit board level looking for signs of damage due to high heat as failing components will often draw high current. Examine the board closely looking for shorts or burned components and check around the area for other damaged parts as a component that breaks down can damage other parts as well. Remove and replace the damaged parts and try it out. Are there any other problems? Give the unit a complete check and go through the alignment procedure to make sure everything is working correctly. When checking a transmitter always use a dummy load.

For older products, or tube-based units, be very careful because voltages can be lethal. If you haven't worked on them, they can be very dangerous and not forgiving. Line voltage can kill you, and some of the voltages in these units can be several hundred or even into the thousands of volts. You Tube has several people that show repairs on video. I saw one guy say it is OK to use acid core solder. If you want to ruin a \$1,500 transceiver, go ahead but I'd suggest changing the channel quick. The one I will recommend is "Mr Carlson's Lab" He does an excellent job repairing old radios and equipment. If you want to follow his example, just know that a lot of the parts he uses are hard to get, and sometimes expensive.



If you are going to solder, I recommend that you use 63/37 lead-based solder and do so in a well-ventilated room. Silver solder is recommended because of the possibility of lead poisoning. It requires very high heat and is

very difficult to work with. Many circuit boards will not hold up to the heat required for silver soldering. If you know you will have trouble with the lead in lead-based solder working with these boards is not for you. I worked with lead-based rosin core solder for over 30 years with no problems that I know of and will continue to use it until something better comes along.

## From the Workbench by Larry AC9GO

I recommend that you have a good temperature-controlled soldering iron, and a vacuum driven solder sucker. Pace made a good one when I was working, and they can be found used on Ebay.com but today there are others on the market that you may be able to purchase at a lower cost. Both the soldering tips and the solder sucking tips should come in various sizes for different jobs. It is also good to have some different size solder available.

As an example, [jameco.com](http://jameco.com) has 63/37 tin/lead solder .031 in a flux pocket pack for \$3.95 each for 15g, and if you want a lot more a 500g roll is \$29.95. If you are going to do surface mount, they also have solder paste. Tariff could be added to the price. They also have a soldering mat and other supplies including variable control irons, desoldering tools and kits to practice on, [Parts-express.com](http://Parts-express.com) was another website I have used for solder and tools.

A couple of things to think about as I wrap this up. Solder comes in several sizes and types. If you go to a hardware store you are likely to find acid core solder. Do not use this on anything electronic. The acid can eat through a board trace or a connection. Use only rosin core solder. Sizes vary from .015 to maybe .060. If you are soldering surface mount, try .015, for soldering a big transformer maybe .060. For most things maybe .031 would be a good start. Hook up wire is the best thing for a kit. I was reminded of this when my son came for a visit and brought along a kit and had stranded wire which took way too long to solder and the little strands were causing shorts. Hook up wire is generally solid and about 22 AWG with plastic coating. If you are soldering something with high voltage and power, you may want something a little heavier. It comes in a variety of colors which could be a kit building advantage.

I can only scratch the surface with an article of this size, but hopefully I have given you a good starting place if you want to trouble shoot electronic equipment. If you run into problems with a brand-new rig, take it to an expert. That is not the place to start. Maybe start on a kit to get your feet wet. If you run into any problems about trouble shooting or soldering, just drop me an email at [larry.schubert@gmail.com](mailto:larry.schubert@gmail.com) or call. I'm in the club directory. Hey, have fun with your hobby. That's what it is all about. 73 Larry AC9GO

# Chicago Marathon Ham Radio Call for Volunteers

Time to build our roster for the 2025 Bank of America Chicago Marathon, October 12, 2025. This will be our 17th year supporting the Marathon and we are proud to be part of this world-class running event. The organizers are expecting 55,000 runners, which will put a strain on all aspects of the event. We are hoping to recruit 160 hams (and non-hams). We support the volunteer medical team in multiple ways and locations. Each is a specialty area, requiring a specific set of skills.

**Forward Command.** The people who work in this environment must be excellent at handling radio traffic and be able to balance a hectic workflow with a calm demeanor. We need loggers, trackers, radio net-controllers and liaisons.

**Course Medical Tent.** Typically, this is a small team of radio folks who support the medical team and the Aid Station Captain at the 20 on-course medical tents. For the most part, this group forms their own independent unit and is often organized by a club. Laflin is a medical transfer hub and has its own unique personality. The Course Medical Tents teams represent our largest block of volunteers.

**Pre-Finish** – this is a unique group that works with the medical teams to provide a response for the last mile of the course. Hams are staged in between medical people and serve as communicators. This can be the most challenging part of the course since it is near the finish line. Last year, we had 22 ham radio ops there and we could use even more!

**Triage.** This is a special team that roams around after the finish line with a small medical unit as a fast response to a distressed runner in Grant Park. Our job is to call for help if the situation requires more support. This group literally runs a great deal and operators need to be prepared to work a couple of long hours without a break. We are also looking for a few people to help set up and takedown. Finally, we will be staging a few people in the post-race party zone to help the medical teams assigned to that part of the event.

Registration starts here. Fill out this Google form. Feel free to pass this along to friends or colleagues who might have an interest.

<https://forms.gle/mCnVjbyrg4x4pSkz7>

Submitted by RARA Member Brad Nicholson, KA9WRZ

## Hamfest, Contest and DX Links

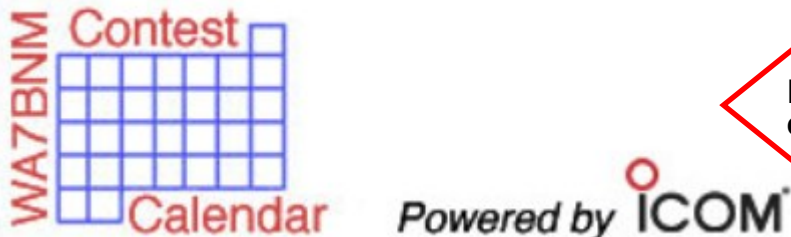
Hamfests and Swapfests in Northern IL, Northwest IN, and Southern WI **Click the link**



Thanks to K9MSG, Kirk Musselman— [www.amateurradioevents.com](http://www.amateurradioevents.com) or use link above

No more struggling to find local foxhunts, hamfests, public service/volunteer events and more. **Over 50 events** are all in one place including maps, descriptions, contact links, costs, and more. And, we just added a *Guide for Amateur Radio Volunteers* and a list of worldwide *Amateur Radio History Events* which you can join remotely.

The site will keep updating and expanding to carry more types of events (training, POTA, etc.) so bookmark the site and join us as we bring event organizers and amateur radio operators together to grow the amateur radio community. Please use the contact page to share suggestions, updates, additions, or comments.



Link to the **WA7BNM Contest Calendar** or go to [www.contestcalendar.com](http://www.contestcalendar.com)

Want to see what's new in the world of DX? Select the link below and make sure you check out the weekly bulletins or go to [www.dxworld.net](http://www.dxworld.net)



# Upcoming Exams

Looking to upgrade or know someone looking for a testing location?

More information available at [ARRL.org](http://ARRL.org)

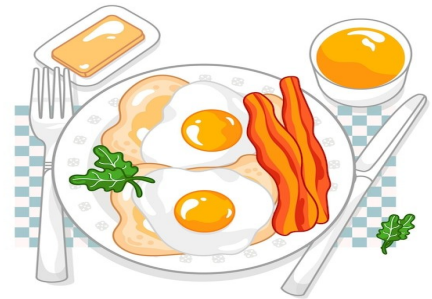
Note: click on the red text to link to more information

[Click here](#) for link to VE Teams offering Online Exam Sessions

**MUST HAVE FRN AHEAD OF EXAM**

- **08/19/2025 | [Woodstock IL 60098-2953](#)**  
Sponsor: McHenry County Wireless Assoc  
Location: Free Methodist Church  
Time: **7:00 PM** (No Walk-ins/Register or Call ahead) [Learn More](#)
- **08/23/2025 | [Delavan WI 53115](#)**  
Sponsor: N9RK VE Team  
Location: Community Center  
Time: **1:00 PM** (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **09/06/2025 | [Madison WI 53715-2143](#)**  
Sponsor: Four Lakes ARC  
Location: Univ of WI Space Place  
Time: **8:00 AM** (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **09/20/ 2025 | [Milwaukee WI 53223-4736](#)**  
Sponsor: MRAC VEC, INC  
Location: Ham Radio Outlet  
Time: **8:30 AM** (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **09/20/2025 | [Janesville WI 53545-3024](#)**  
Sponsor: Wisconsin Area VEs (WAVE)  
Location: Saint John Lutheran Church  
Time: **1:00 pm** (Walk-ins allowed)

# Local Ham Breakfasts



## WEEKLY FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Meets every Friday morning from 7:30 am until about 9:00 am.

We order breakfast at 8:00 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***

## MONTHLY SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

**The Greater Beloit Amateur Radio Club (GBARC) meets monthly on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:00 a.m.**

Denny’s Restaurant


Flying J Truck Stop (IL 75 & 190/39)

All are welcome to join the group for food and lot’s of “ham” talk.



# The RARA Store

The RARA Store has been very well received. Thanks to all of you purchasing shirts, hats, mugs, and more. RARA receives a commission on each purchase made, what better way to promote RARA and your enthusiasm for amateur radio, all while supporting your club and local business!

To access the store, scan the QR-code below or select this link  [SHOP RARA STORE](https://stores.inksoft.com/rara)

[HTTPS://STORES.INKSOFT.COM/RARA](https://stores.inksoft.com/rara)

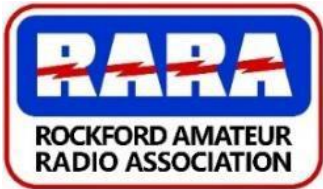


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website: [w9axd.org](http://w9axd.org)  
email: [w9axdrara@gmail.com](mailto:w9axdrara@gmail.com)

# RARA Membership\* Form

## Dues are \$25.00

*This is an editable PDF Form. Fill in the information with your keyboard,  
then save the PDF, and then attach it to an email to: [w9axdrara@gmail.com](mailto:w9axdrara@gmail.com)*

**For Internet payment:** To use PayPal, click on the link below. After clicking "Send" and then logging in, enter \$25.00 in the "Dollar Amount", and click "Send" to complete your payment to RARA.

Click here for the PayPal link 

**Mail in information:** Fill out all the information on the form and mail it with \$25.00 to the following address:

Rockford Amateur Radio Association  
P.O. Box 8465  
Rockford, IL 61126

Make your check payable to: Rockford Amateur Radio Association

*Thank you for your support!*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/dd/yyyy)      New Membership       Renewal   
Name: \_\_\_\_\_      Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_      License Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_      City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_      ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_      E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone - Main: \_\_\_\_\_      Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_

Can we release your e-mail and phone number to members only? Yes  No

Are you a member of the ARRL (American Radio Relay League)? Yes  No

*(check all boxes that apply to the following questions)*

What type of equipment do you own?      Base       Mobile       Handheld   
What band capabilities do you have?      HF       VHF       UHF   
What are your favorite operating modes?      Voice       CW       PSK31       FT4/FT8       SSTV   
What club activities can you help with?      Field Day       Hamfest       Special Event   
Can you operate under emergency power?      Yes       No   
How did you hear about RARA?      Other Member       Internet       Friend       Listening on air

I would like to learn more about: Weather Spotting & Skywarn      POTA      Other (list below)

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

**\*Membership is based on approval of the RARA Board. The membership fee will be returned if you are not approved.**