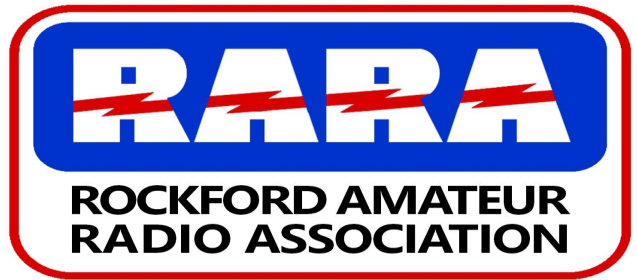


# HAMRAG

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 RARA Members!

Marv Smith, K9RUK—Edmond Mertenich, KB9OTC,  
Jon Lambert, KE9CAW — Bob Krenkel, KC9BK  
David Lefavour, WB9LXO — Mark Ford, call not yet assigned

## Congratulations!

Mark Ford for passing his technician exam  
Doug Passmore for passing his technician & general exams

*Many thanks to those of you that have already renewed for 2025.*

*If you have not already done so, please take a couple of minutes to do so. A membership form with instructions on renewing can be found on the last page of the newsletter. At the end of February, members not renewing will be placed in a "lapsed" status and will no longer receive club email.*



## February 2025

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## NEXT MEETING

Friday, February 21, 2025 at 7pm

Program "System Fusion Operation" by Greg Niles, K9GJN

**This will be a virtual meeting on Google Meet**

**Please note the date change for February to avoid a conflict with Valentine's Day**

**A meeting link will be emailed to members and posted in the Facebook Group**

## President's Message—Larry McFall, KD9HKX

***At the last monthly RARA meeting*** we honored and celebrated many of our members who have done a great deal this past year in service to our club. These members went above and beyond so that the rest of us could learn and enjoy our meetings and events.



Members and guests provided programs for our meetings and were presented with certificates of appreciation that read "*With thanks for your contributions to the monthly meeting program and education of members*".

Presented to:

Tom Schuler, N9VJU, Scott DeSantis, KB9VRW, Kevin Puckett, N9EGF,  
Kurt Eversole, KE9N, Dave Gauger, W9CJS, Jimmy Curtis, KC9GOL  
Daniel Larson, KD9SAZ, and Larry Lisle, K9KZT

The day to day business of the club is overseen by the board of directors. Duties of the board include reviewing expenses, planning a budget, and ensuring that the club is financially viable. The club also has two repeaters and one of the board's primary responsibilities is to ensure that those repeaters operate and function as intended for the benefit of all area amateur operators. The Board also plans for monthly meetings including programs that are either planned by the board or find speakers who have subjects that will be of interest to the membership. The Board also plans the events that the club will sponsor or participate in during the year, including all the details required to make those events educational and fun. Those members of our club who have volunteered to serve on the board have generously given a great deal of time to ensure that the club operates smoothly and the events that we put on during the year are beneficial and enjoyable by the membership.

After serving the club for several years two of our members are retiring from the board. In recognition of their long and outstanding service on our board, Kevin Puckett, N9EGF and Larry Lisle, K9KZT were presented certificates of appreciation that state the following "*In recognition of your commitment to RARA and the advancement of Amateur Radio through your outstanding service as a board member*".

## President's Message—Larry McFall, KD9HKX

Outgoing president Tom Schuler N9VJU has served several years on the board and last year as RARA's President. In recognition of his long and outstanding service as board President, Tom, was presented with a certificate of appreciation that states, *"In recognition of your commitment to RARA and the advancement of Amateur Radio through your outstanding service as President."*

### **Ham of the Year**

The nominating committee received a great number of nominations from the membership and the committee sincerely appreciates your efforts to nominate your fellow members. The nominations yielded two nominees. Each of those nominees have performed outstanding service to the club and to the advancement of amateur radio, participated vigorously in planning all of the events that the club had this year and especially in regard to the thousands of details that are required to make these events go smoothly. Each of the nominees for "Ham of the Year" have stepped in whenever help was needed by anyone whether it was working on club events or helping their fellow hams on various projects. Both of these nominees have been diligent in serving on the board always offering advice and insight into the items under discussion. While it's difficult to choose between the two nominees one nominee did clearly stand out as the member deserving recognition as "Ham of the Year". The runner up for ham of the year is Matt Marshall, W3MBX. Matt was presented a certificate of appreciation for his service to the club and the membership.

Comments from the nominators for this year's "Ham of the Year" included: *"Outstanding care and concern for all. Exemplary control, attitude, and a will for perfection throughout all events. ....(the nominee) just simply went way out in all cases.....watches carefully and does all needed to make every event simply perfect!!!"* The nominee *"took on much more than ham rag editor....stepped up whenever necessary in order to further membership and strengthen the club."* For this and many more reasons too numerous to list here the "Ham of the Year" for 2024 was Verna Schubert, KD9YUM (now W9YUM) and she was presented a plaque that read in part "For Outstanding Contributions to RARA and Amateur Radio."

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for each of our award winners, who provided a great service to the club. *Thank you and 73's. Larry, KD9HKX*

## Local Events and Information

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 RARA Board Meeting 7:00pm on Google Meet  
Friday, February 21, 2025 RARA Membership Meeting 7:00pm on Google Meet

### 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 - Joe Perry, K9JPP, 815-2138-3891 [K9jppham@gmail.com](mailto:K9jppham@gmail.com)  
Treasurer – Verna Schubert, KD9YUM, 815-505-8170, [vernas.kd9yum@gmail.com](mailto:vernas.kd9yum@gmail.com)

#### **Directors:**

Jimmy Curtis, KC9GOL, 779-537-2233, [jimheurtis7818@yahoo.com](mailto:jimheurtis7818@yahoo.com)  
Dan Larson, KD9SAZ, 312-292-1989, [kd9saz@gmail.com](mailto:kd9saz@gmail.com)  
Mike Richardson, KB9SSV, 815-616-0200, [kb9ssv@msn.com](mailto:kb9ssv@msn.com)  
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Webmaster - Verna Schubert, W9YUM, 815-505-8170, [vernas.kd9yum@gmail.com](mailto:vernas.kd9yum@gmail.com)  
Repeater License Trustee - Gordon Seaman, KC9NEX, 815-262-0294, [kc9nex@gmail.com](mailto:kc9nex@gmail.com)  
Repeater Chairman - Kurt Eversole, KE9N, 815-389-2784, [kurt.eversole@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.eversole@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

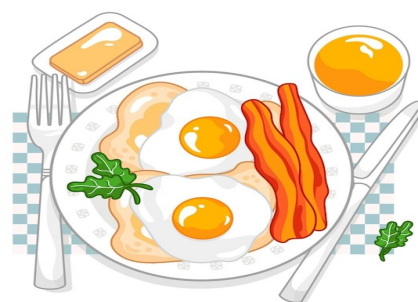
**Thu** - 7:00pm - Northern Illinois Skywarn Training Net,147.195 (+0.6) offset, pl 114.8

**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)

## Local Events and Information



### 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.

During the warmer weather month’s, a fox-hunt follows breakfast (approximately 10 a.m.).



# Breaking News

## SENATORS WICKER, BLUMENTHAL REINTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO PROTECT AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

*FEBRUARY 6, 2025*

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senators Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., today reintroduced the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act, which would give amateur radio operators the right to install amateur radio antennas and serve their communities. Many homeowner associations prevent amateur radio operators from installing outdoor antennas on residential properties. However, this communication method has proven to be essential in emergencies and natural disasters, such as hurricanes in states like Mississippi and Connecticut.

“Mississippians should have access to every possible means of warning for natural disasters, including amateur radio operators. In an emergency, those warnings can mean the difference between life and death,” **Senator Wicker said**. “The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act would remove unnecessary roadblocks that could help keep communities safe during emergencies like tornadoes, hurricanes, and fires.”

“When disaster strikes, amateur radio operators provide vital, often life-saving information, which shouldn’t be hindered by prohibitive rules or confusing approval processes. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act eliminates obstacles for ham radio enthusiasts, allowing them to continue their communications and serve their communities in the face of emergencies,” **said Senator Blumenthal**.

### **Background:**

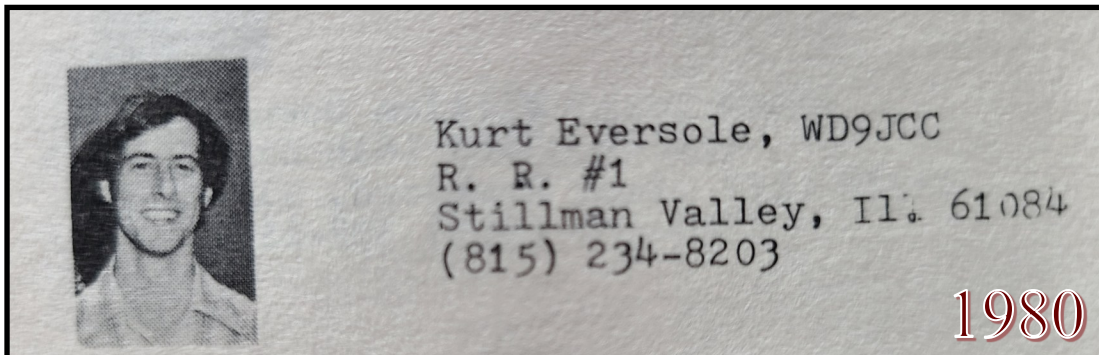
The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act would limit the scenarios in which homeowner associations could ban, prevent, or require approval for the installation or use of amateur radio antennas.

Among other provisions, this legislation would:

- Prohibit homeowner association rules that prevent or ban amateur radio antennas;
- Clarify the approval process for installing amateur radio antennas; and
- Give amateur radio operators a private right of action.

**The full text of the legislation can be found [here](#).**

## Celebrating 70 years—RARA History



*From RARA member Paul Dean, WB9HGZ*

Back in the early 70s, RARA printed a bunch of these on light card stock (as I remember, it was blue) and sold them at the meetings for \$1 with the proceeds going to the treasury.

## Verboten Notischer ACHTUNG!

Alles lookenspeakers in das hamschacken: Das radiomachinen is nicht fur gefinkerpoken. Und mitten graben. Ist easy schnappen der springwerk, blowenfusen und poppenkorken mitt spittszensparken. Ich have license from der Sammy Unkle. Running das radiomachinen by dummkopfen mittout license makkin hoosegow geput or marks gepayen. Das rubber-nakken sightseer keepen hands in das pockets. Relaxen, - to das goofy sprechen gelisten, un das bouncing meterish pointer gewatchen.

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

## IS THIS YOUR STORY? DAVE GAUGER, W9CJS

So, I was 10 years old, crawling under a neighbor's back porch and looking for a lost baseball, when an old radio chassis, devoid of any parts except a front panel and a variable capacitor, caught my eye. For some reason, this captivated my interest, and I took it home. Almost instantly, my interest in my electric train vanished and was replaced by dreams of having my own radio.

I spent \$3 of my paper route money at Bob Rodgers radio store in the purchase of a coil, and germanium crystal detector plus a set of Trimm earphones. After several false starts, including trying to glue wire connections together, I figured out how to use my dad's soldering iron, heated on a gas stove in the basement. The crystal radio worked. It received three AM radio stations, mostly at the same time. Older sister Doris asked if she could listen to the Longine Symphonette broadcast and wasn't I proud to let her.



In an old copy of Popular Electronics, I found a circuit for an "oscillator" ... a milliwatt broadcast band transmitter, so I built it up using a wooden cheese box for a chassis. I'd power up the AM radio in the dining room, then run back upstairs to broadcast to my mother, in the kitchen fixing supper. ***"Flashy Flash .. Today American bombers attacked Tokyo. Our best buildings went up to meet them."*** (an old Bob Hope joke that I'd heard). This went on for weeks, broadcasting to my mother who lovingly laughed.

Still, that old panel and chassis I'd recovered beckoned to me.

In that same old copy of POPULAR ELECTRONICS ... I found an article about a three-tube regenerative short-wave receiver. Off to the radio store I went and purchased the components for the radio. I spent many days putting that radio together and when I got it all finished ... voila ... nothing worked. Not to be deterred, I knew there was a "radio guy" (I could tell by the big antenna) over on Chase Street so with radio and magazine in a bag, I biked over to his home. I'll always be indebted to the kindness of that man, who heard my story and invited me, a complete stranger, into his basement shop where he went through the schematic, re-soldering poor connections and changing wrong ones. Eventually it worked, and I was thrilled ... couldn't wait to get home to show Dad.

The radio introduced me to audio fits and spurts and the hiss of regeneration, but also to Morse Code. The owner of the radio store, Bob Rogers, was learning code to earn his Ham License. He offered to take me to West Chicago where J.B.Maloney held a code class every Wednesday evening in his radio store. There were about six of us, and I soon copied 13 wpm and studied a Class B license manual.

## Is This Your Story? DAVE GAUGER, W9CJS

By now, World War II was over, I was 12 years old and hopefully, equipped for the Ham, Class B license. “Mom, I need to take the Ham Exam in Chicago.” ... “OK when will you be home?” Today, can you imagine letting a 12-year-old buy a round trip ticket from Wheaton and ride alone 25 miles to Chicago on the CA&E electric line? In those days it was not so unheard of ... but sadly, today one would not consider it. None-the-less it happened.

Passing the code and written tests were easy and I was out onto W.Jackson Blvd. walking to both Newark Radio (833 W.) and Allied Radio (901W. ) about a block apart. Allied had some equipment powered up so that “customers” like me could spin the dials and listen. The HRO 60 and the Hallicrafters SX28 were my favorites. Supper time found me home pouring over ad brochures for many Ham Radios, none of which I could ever dream of owning, but a modest replacement for the “Regen” were to come.

I continued going to the code class to show off my new license but what interested me most at the store was a used, Hallicrafters S-38 ... not a “B” model, not an “A” model but the original, complete with variable BFO control... used price was \$30. I just had to have that radio, and if I was judicious in saving my paper route money, I could buy it. I eventually did. (Mom gave me the last \$5)

The rest is, well, history I guess. What captivated me in 1946 is alive and well today. Just yesterday, I fired up my Icom IC-703 at 5 watts into the Inverted EL and had a nice chat on PSK31. What’s not to like?

I bet every ham I know could relate a story not much different than this, marked with the kindness of a stranger, an “Elmer”, over on Chase street. Sadly, he never knew that his kindness helped me into a professional career in electronics and engaged me in one of the best, if not the best hobby in the world, Ham Radio.

*Dave Gauger, W9CJS*

### **Save the date!**

**Swap Fest— Sunday, May 18, 2025, 9am—noon**

Rain or Shine.

### **Please note the new location!**

Hononegah Forest Preserve (Site of last fall’s RARA Family Picnic)

80 Hononegah Road, Rockton IL

No sponsor, No admission, No vendors, No VE testing!

Just a bunch of hams getting together to swap stuff and socialize.

Please direct questions to Larry Lisle, K9KZT

L.lisle@usa.net or 2 meter nets

## Shacking Up by Larry AC9GO and Verna W9YUM

**AC9GO** - My XYL, Verna W9YUM, has hit the ham bands with a storm. After 30 years of marriage and a lot of “not interested” from Verna whenever I mentioned Ham radio, she suddenly decided to go for her license. In the summer of 2023, she was in California, near Yosemite, visiting her sister and family. On Field Day she decided to stop at a field day site with her sister. It was there where she met a lady ham running a GOTO (Get on The Air) station, and after her visit she was hooked. Now her story is little different and I’ll let her tell it herself. Just two months later she had her Tech license, and just four months after that she had her General.



**W9YUM** – Hahaha, I love the way Larry envisions my journey (or is it a 30-year fantasy)! Let’s start with my trip to California. While visiting the beautiful Sierra Nevada’s and having fun running around with my sister, I saw the Mountain Amateur Radio Club was set up for field day and asked if she would mind stopping. I noticed a GOTA station and decided I would give it a try just so I could tell him, I made a field day contact. I was so nervous and even with a script, it was a nerve-wracking experience, and I was glad it was over; and I was definitely NOT hooked.

A couple of weeks after returning home, I was concerned that in my retirement life, I had developed a very comfortable routine that didn’t challenge me at all. Wake up, drink coffee, do the wordle puzzle, work in my small garden, and go for a hike. I needed something to exercise my brain cells. The “Larry’s”, AC9GO and K9KZT, had just started teaching a technician class which got me thinking. Working toward my technician license would fit the bill! It was new and very foreign to me as I had zero electronic knowledge and not a strong math background. I didn’t join their class but found study materials that worked for me and started on my technician studies. I didn’t even tell him I was studying initially because I didn’t want anyone else to know. After about 8-weeks of study, I went to Freeport to take the exam and passed. Was I ready to get on the air.....NOPE!

Did I hit take the bands by storm? <<I’d love to live in Larry’s head>> The real story is, I really didn’t know if I wanted to go on the radio at all and I had severe mic fright. It was quite a while before I made my first contact. I was finally ready and had everything written down. Larry suggested the repeater and I asked not to use Rockford repeaters because I didn’t want anyone I knew to hear me. We went to the Beloit repeater (yes in my mind, it was far away!) and guess who responded to my, “This is KD9YUM, listening”.....Kurt KE9N! I was incredibly nervous, we talked for a bit, and I finally looked at Larry and mouthed, “how do I end this”?

## Shacking Up by Larry AC9GO and Verna W9YUM

**AC9GO** - As far as the shack goes, we have had little trouble in sharing the use. While she loves the contests, I go for more of a rag chew type of thing. Besides the contests she enjoys the special event stations. Her hamming generally takes on specific times while I can get on the air at almost any time for my use of the rig, and I have to say it is just enjoyable to sit there and watch her crack a pile up. We both like to hunt POTA stations, but we haven't activated in a park yet. We both also enjoy working special event stations. We have both received certificates from the Navajo Code Talkers, the Bigfoot Special Event in Tacoma, and I don't know how many battleship stations we have talked to.

Verna has taken advantage of almost everything my computer has to offer in logging and making contacts. She pulled me kicking and screaming into the latest the computer has to offer. It wasn't that long that I was keeping a paper logbook. As much as I have done with computers, I just hadn't taken the time to look at what all they could do for me.

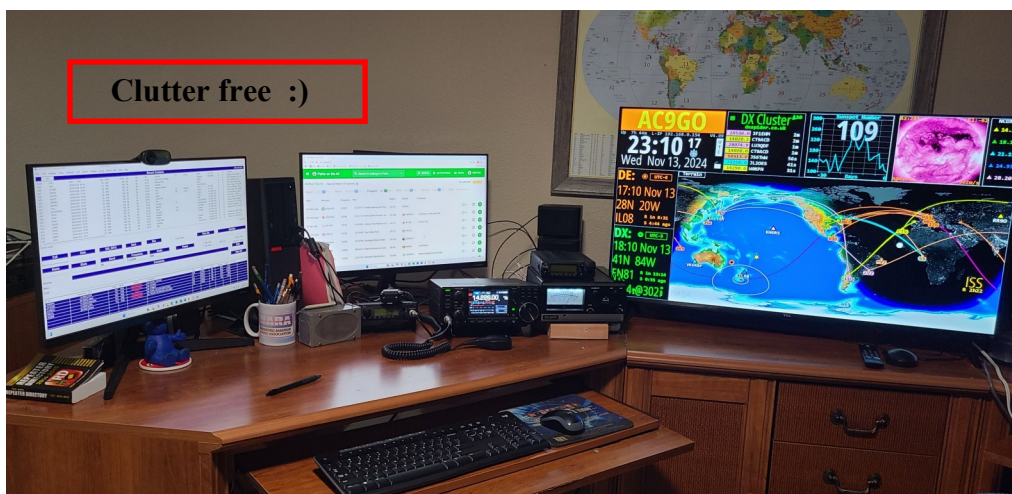
The shack has changed with Verna now in it. The mess I used to keep on the desk is now gone, (not allowed) and I now do all of my logging on the computer. A beam has been added to the station, with the help of some of our ham friends, and we now have a 40" TV that displays a ham clock for each of us depending which one is on the air. Those are the main things from my side of the story but let's hear what Verna has to say.

**W9YUM** – I agree with Larry that as far as sharing the use of the shack for our on-air activities, there has not been an issue. I am an early bird, and he is a night owl. Since I enjoy quick contacts (POTA, DX, Contests) and don't really enjoy Ragchew, I may be on for short times off and on during the day unless I am working a contest. We really have no station access issues though.

Clutter - the biggest change to the station was clearing out the clutter. I am far from a total neatnik, but I do struggle with workspace clutter. In my mind, everything has a place, and it is returned to that place when you are done using it. It keeps it out of the way, and you always know where to find it when you need it. Larry struggled with this change the most. Cleaning up after himself and leaving the station ready for another user took some getting used to. After a while I just started picking it all up and plopping it on his chair. I am happy to report that he is doing much better now.

## Shacking Up by Larry AC9GO and Verna W9YUM

Station set-up and accessibility - I like the things I use the most to be easily accessed. I brought a new set of eyes and perspective to the station. We moved a few things around to make them easier for me to reach. After a few months, I focused on equipment that wasn't being used yet taking up a lot of station real estate. I would ask, "what is that and when was the last time you used it"? The amplifier and antenna tuner had not been used for quite a while and wouldn't be needed for quite a while. I suggested we move them out of the station for now. Seeing the panic in his eyes, I reassured him they would be returned when needed.



### Other station tools

Being very used to data entry, I started researching logging programs. Larry liked N1MM and used it by recording onto a paper log and then eventually entering into the N1MM log. I didn't really care for it and he wasn't consistent in using it. My preference was N3FJP and after a trial, I purchased it and configured it for communication with the Icom-7300. Now armed with my general ticket and a tower, 3-element Yagi with a rotator, in place (thanks to the help of wonderful friends) my radio world began to open! At one of the Friday morning breakfasts, Kevin N9EGF, asked if I had configured it for spotting. I had not but couldn't wait to get home and set it up! My log is interfaced with qrz.com for call sign lookup and to upload to my log and to LoTW for log updating. To AC9GO, this makes me a technological genius and I'll let him continue to think that! <<wink, wink>> One day, I sat down with Larry to find out what he really wanted out of a logging program and N3FJP seemed like a good solution for him. Since we both have our own Windows logins, it was very easy for me to add him to my subscription and to date, he is very happy with it. He enjoys having the qrz look up screen pop up and also uses the spotting.

In closing, we both continue to learn from each other and enjoy our now shared hobby and look forward to continuing to see what else is out there for us!

## Winter Field Day 2025 by Brett K9BY

Winter Field Day 2025 setup went well as the weather cooperated for once this year, not too cold, not too much snow, and sunny days. The participants setup a temporary G5RV mini antenna as one of the two temporary antenna's required for a bonus objective. Before getting stated at 1PM all the participants present decided we would not to setup the second temporary 40/80 meter dipole as there was a solar storm imminent, and the group felt that 40 and 80 would not be usable over night. Needless to say we will not be claiming the temporary antenna setup objective when filing our log data.

The primary antenna used during the event was Chuck's (WD9BB) Hy-Gain TH-11DX beam at 40'. The TH-11DX feed line was terminated in to a 10/15/20 triplexer provided by Kurt (KE9N) which then fed each of the three stations through the GBARC band pass filters. During the evening hours we also used Chucks (WD9BB) home brew end fed dipole with high performance 49:1 balun.

We ran 3 stations over the course of the event:

Yaesu 991-A (Greg K9GJN)

ICOM 7300 (Kurt KE9N)

Kenwood TS-850S-AT (Chris N9OEG)

Logging was done using N3FJP WFD logging software using a network setup. This allowed the contacts from all 3 stations to be aggregated in to a single log real time. This greatly helps in reducing the number of duplicate stations from being logged, but it doesn't help much from wasting time to find out they are a dupe.



There were a total of 368 Phone contacts and 2 CW contacts. Thanks you Jim (KD9GDY) for the CW multiplier. The WFD group does not accept FT-4 / FT-8 digital modes contacts as those modes don't allow for custom exchange required for emergency operations, so no digital contacts were made this year.

I (K9BY) have not had time to perform full log analysis, so the final numbers may change (discard invalid contacts, correct operator / logger data, etc...) before the final submission. The initial review shows we had 12 operators and 9 loggers over the 24 hour period. The unconfirmed DX contacts are Brazil, Argentina, Italy, Namibia and Uruguay. In addition we also picked up Hawaii which can be a challenge.

Tear down was complete before 2PM on Sunday. I (K9BY) would like to thank Chuck Bell (WD9BB) for allowing us to use his barn and firewood once again for are WFD exercise. They general consensus was everyone had a great time.

## Winter Field Day 2025 by Kevin

**Winter Field Day** is an exciting, annual event for amateur radio enthusiasts, taking place on the last full weekend of January. It offers a unique opportunity for radio operators to set up field operations in remote locations, enabling us to connect with other participants worldwide. It helps participants improve our preparedness for disasters and enhance our operational abilities in adverse conditions. Amateur radio operators have the freedom to use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands while employing voice, CW, and digital transmissions. Almost equally important, Field Day provides us with an opportunity to gather to foster friendship and bonding within our elite community. Not to mention, share stories, make up a few tall-tales, laugh and enjoy good food!

This year was no exception! For the past several years, RARA has teamed up by invitation, to join the gang from the Greater Beloit Amateur Radio Club (GBARC) for this fun event. Chuck **WD9BB**, graciously hosts us in his wood shop, turned Field Day Ham Shack. For those of you who don't know, Chuck runs the Senile net on **14.287**, M-F from 8am-9am (local). This net has been running since the 1960's and Chuck has been net control for the past 8 ½ years! This past December marked Chuck's 30,000<sup>th</sup> check in!!

### Hearty Breakfast

The day starts about 8am on Saturday morning at the Denny's restaurant inside the Flying J truck stop in South Beloit, Illinois. About 20-25 hams gather for breakfast. You can imagine the topics discussed. After the meal, most folks adjourn to their vehicles and the motorcade heads down Hwy 67 toward Chuck's place. Once there, we help Brett **K9BY**, unload some new toys from his truck. Brett is the **Chief Wizard** on the project and this year, he linked three computers and radios via a Raspberry Pi network system to synchronize, coordinate and record all contact logging.



### Food Arrives

As the BTUs from Chuck's wood burner begin to radiate throughout the room, Greg **K9GJN**, arrives toting a crockpot full of award-winning chili! Verna **W9YUM**, and Larry **AC9GO**, bring in some chicken salad sandwiches and various cookies. Chuck **WD99** brought out the deviled eggs and suddenly, the work bench is transforming into a buffet table and it becomes obvious that nobody will be hungry. Brian **KD9QVB**, delivers his secret recipe, home-made, kettle cooked popcorn. He always brings "Sweet" and adds "Spicy" for the adventurous within the group. I off-load a crockpot full of freshly smoked, Jamaican Jerk chicken legs as we begin to test the Amp draw on Chuck's electrical system.

## Winter Field Day 2025 by Kevin

### **Crazy Clete's Coffee**

In addition to ham radio, Cletus **KD9NZJ**, is an excellent amateur coffee roaster and connoisseur. He always brings a sample of his current roast. Have you ever tasted the brew of perfectly roasted, \$40/lb. coffee beans? He graciously shared this treat with all who were interested. It was delicious.

### **Mid-Day Trivia Information Exchange**

*"One can never underestimate the knowledge imparted upon us if we listen." By somebody important*

### **WFLD-TV 32 - Chicago**

Dean **K9FLO**, shared some information that I found fascinating. Many years ago (if I kept the details straight), Dean was involved with a project at WFLD-TV 32 in Chicago. Their transmitter was installed on the top of the John Hancock building in downtown Chicago, which has an architectural height of 1,128 feet (344 meters) without including its antennas. When measured to the top of its two antenna masts, the building stands at 1,500 feet (457 meters).

This was the first, 1-million-Watt transmitter built for the television industry! The 1-Megawatt monster created enough energy to heat the top 32 floors of the Hancock building while throwing off enough omni-directional, RF power in the UHF spectrum to be picked up by little hollow aluminum bars on rooftops back here near Rockford and beyond! Pretty impressive!

### **Amateur Aviation**

I also got to visit with an ultralight aircraft pilot and learned a little about flying lawn chairs and powered parachutes. Not to mention the pucker-factor experienced while attempting to land a 27-mph craft into a 32-mph wind.

### **Burrs Cranks and Grinds**

Another discussion was had covering the disassembly, cleaning and reassembly of a commercial grade espresso/coffee mill that uses burrs to create a perfect grind through which to push very hot, pressurized water through the fresh grounds, to create the perfect espresso shot!

## Winter Field Day 2025 by Kevin



### Pizza Time!

Another tradition is the Saturday night pizza! Brett **K9BY**, Greg **K9GJN**, and Lyndon **WA9JLD**, bought all the pizzas we ate, including the Heart Attack Specialty Pizzas! - *Thank You guys!!*

### Sunday Donuts & Re-Heated Pizza

If you missed it, Sunday morning came along with a variety of fresh donuts for all to enjoy. Chuck began the alignment process of the (BTU-DP) British Thermal Unit Deflection Panel as well as the engineering and material selection for the Deflection Panel Support Mechanism (See Photo) in order to provide us with a deliciously toasted crust and hot, melted cheese pizza toppings for the Sunday Brunch! Leftover pizza *always* tastes better the next day!

*(Check the Facebook page for more photos, details and a couple of video fly-bys of the event!)*

### Many Hams Make Event Fun

It's amazing to witness the tremendous knowledge, expertise, story telling abilities and yes, a little BS spreading which all lends to the laughter and warmth filling this small room for 24 hours! What a great group of people! Al **W6ALH**, travels over 2,000 miles every year just to come back to hang out with us! So many others were here to make this event fun. I know I will miss a few, for that I apologize. Matt **W3MBX**, Ed **KB9NBP**, Chris **N9OEG**, Dean **K9FLO**, Kurt **KE9N**, Jim **KD9GDY** are some that were there when I was.



If this whets your appetite for some *Radio Active* festivities, mark your calendar for the end of June, 2025. This is when we will do it all over again at a different location for our Summer Field Day event! Don't miss it!!

'73 Kevin, N9E

# Winter Field Day Fun



# Winter Field Day Fun



# Winter Field Day Fun





DX-Adventure is thrilled to announce an upcoming DX-pedition to the beautiful South Andaman Islands (IOTA AS-001).

From **March 10th to March 20th, 2025**, an experienced team of 12 operators will be active from South Andaman, operating 6 stations around the clock on bands from 10m to 160m (incl. WARC + 60m), using CW, SSB, and DIGI.

Months of careful planning and preparation have brought together an international team of experienced DX-peditioners, including:

ON4AMX Marc | ON4HIL Patrick | ON5UR Max | ON5RA Pascal | ON5TN Karel | ON6CC Marc | ON7FT Jonas | ON7USB Geert | ON7RU Franky | ON8AZ Francis | PA3EWP Ronald | PA9M Marcel.

Six stations mean a lot of material and it is a big challenge to transport it all to VU4. With 1.150kg of equipment meticulously prepared, we will try to offer the best experience possible for you, covering 24/7 operations to maximize the change on having a QSO with us. VU4 ranks as **#28** for the USA and **#53** worldwide, making it a rare and exciting challenge.



# Amateur Resources

## AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA LENGTH CHART

FREQUENCY (Mhz)		1/4λ (Feet)	1/2λ (Feet)	1λ (Feet)	1/2λ Inv Vee 90° (Feet)
<b>160 METERS</b>	1.800	130' 0"	260' 0"	558' 4"	257' 5"
	1.850	126' 6"	253' 0"	543' 3"	250' 5"
	1.900	123' 2"	246' 4"	528' 11"	243' 10"
	2.000	117' 0"	234' 0"	502' 6"	231' 8"
<b>80 METERS</b>	3.500	66' 10"	133' 9"	287' 2"	132' 5"
	3.750	62' 5"	124' 10"	268' 0"	123' 7"
	3.900	60' 0"	120' 0"	257' 8"	118' 10"
	4.000	58' 6"	117' 0"	251' 3"	115' 10"
<b>40 METERS</b>	7.000	33' 5"	66' 10"	143' 7"	66' 2"
	7.150	32' 9"	65' 5"	140' 7"	64' 10"
	7.300	32' 1"	64' 1"	137' 8"	63' 6"
<b>30 METERS</b>	10.100	23' 2"	46' 4"	99' 6"	45' 10"
	10.150	23' 1"	46' 1"	99' 0"	45' 8"
<b>20 METERS</b>	14.000	16' 9"	33' 5"	71' 9"	33' 1"
	14.150	16' 6"	33' 1"	71' 0"	32' 9"
	14.300	16' 4"	32' 9"	70' 3"	32' 5"
	14.350	16' 4"	32' 7"	70' 0"	32' 3"
<b>17 METERS</b>	18.068	12' 11"	25' 11"	55' 7"	25' 8"
	18.168	12' 11"	25' 9"	55' 4"	25' 6"
<b>15 METERS</b>	21.000	11' 2"	22' 3"	47' 10"	22' 1"
	21.200	11' 0"	22' 1"	47' 5"	21' 10"
	21.450	10' 11"	21' 10"	46' 10"	21' 7"
<b>12 METERS</b>	24.890	9' 5"	18' 10"	40' 5"	18' 7"
	24.990	9' 4"	18' 9"	40' 3"	18' 6"
<b>10 METERS</b>	28.000	8' 4"	16' 9"	35' 11"	16' 7"
	28.500	8' 3"	16' 5"	35' 3"	16' 3'
	29.700	7' 11"	15' 9"	33' 10"	15' 7"
<b>6 METERS</b>	50.000	4' 8"	9' 4"	20' 1'	9' 3"
	54.000	4' 4"	8' 8"	18' 7"	8' 7"
<b>2 METERS</b>	144.000	1' 8"	3' 3"	7' 0"	3' 3"
	148.000	1' 7"	3' 2"	6' 9"	3' 2"

Antenna length calculations are based on the following formulas:  
 1/2 wave dipole (feet) = 492/frequency in Mhz  
 Full wave loop (feet) = 1005/frequency in Mhz  
 Inverted Vee with 90 degree included angle is 66% the length of 1/2 wave dipole

Note:  
 Cut wire slightly longer to allow for connecting insulators and pinning.  
 Height above ground, nearby wires, trees, etc. will change tuning slightly.

MILLENNIA  
ARTS

## Upcoming Exams

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

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

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

**MUST HAVE FRN AHEAD OF EXAM**

- **02/18/2025 | [Woodstock IL 60098-2953](#)**  
Sponsor: McHenry County Wireless Assoc  
Location: Free Methodist Church  
Time: 7:00 PM (NO Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **02/22/2025 | [Milwaukee WI 53223-4736](#)**  
Sponsor: MRAC VEC, INC  
Location: Ham Radio Outlet  
Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **02/22/2025 | [Delavan WI 53115](#)**  
Sponsor: N9RK VE Team  
Location: Community Center  
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **03/01/2025 | [Madison WI 53715-2143](#)**  
Sponsor: Four Lakes ARC  
Location: Univ of WI Space Place  
Time: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **03/08/2025 | [McHenry IL 60050-4422](#)**  
Sponsor: NW IL S WI Amrron  
Location: McHenry Masonic Lodge  
Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)
- **03/15/2025 | [Janesville WI 53545-3024](#)**  
Sponsor: Wisconsin Area VEs (WAVE)  
Location: Saint John Lutheran Church  
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) [Learn More](#)

## Upcoming Contests

### YL-OM Contest



The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL), K4LMB, will host the 2025 SSB/CW/Digital YL-OM Contest from 00:00 UTC February 13 until 23:59 UTC February 14. All licensed amateur radio operators throughout the world are invited to participate. All bands except 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters may be used. Net and repeater contacts do not count. Participants may work up to 36 of the 48 hours. The

contact procedure is simple. OMs (male hams) call “CQ-YL,” and YLs (female hams) call “CQ-OM.”

For more information, complete rules, and awards, visit <https://ylrl.net/contests>

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### School Club Roundup

February 10-14

This 5-day event runs Monday through Friday from 1300 UTC Monday through 2359 UTC Friday. A station may operate no more than 6 hours in a 24-hour period, and a maximum of 24 hours of the 107 hour event.

For the full information and rules, visit <https://www.arrrl.org/school-club-roundup>

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### ARRL DX Contests

**Contest Objective:** To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations. One contest period is CW-only and one is Phone-only. Use only the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands.

### International DX—CW Contest

February 15-16, Begins 0000 UTC Saturday and runs through 2359 UTC Sunday

### International DX— Phone Contest

March 1-2, Begins 0000 UTC Saturday and runs through 2359 UTC Sunday

For the full information and rules, [visit https://www.arrrl.org/arrrl-dx](https://www.arrrl.org/arrrl-dx)

### Editor's Note

If you would like to have something published, please call me at 815-505-8170,  
or email me at [vernas.kd9yum@gmail.com](mailto:vernas.kd9yum@gmail.com)

**Articles are welcome and encouraged from all hams.**

**Due Date for the March Hamrag is Friday, February 28, 2025**

73, Verna—W9YUM, Editor



# 2025 Hamfest Calendar (Midwest)

Assembled by [K9MSG](mailto:K9MSG) (2/4/25) – send updates to [K9MSG@outlook.com](mailto:K9MSG@outlook.com)

	DATE	NAME (web link)	TIME	SPONSOR (email link)	LOCATION	COST	TALK-IN	NOTES
1	Feb 1	<a href="#">Antique Radio Club Swap Meet</a>	8am – 10am	<a href="#">Antique Radio Club of IL</a>	570 S. Gary Ave, Carol Stream, IL	Free	NA	5x per year
2	Feb 22	<a href="#">Cabin Fever Hamfest</a>	7am – 1pm	<a href="#">LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club (W9LY)</a>	LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 IN-2, LaPorte, IN	\$8 adult, <12 free	146.97, 131.8pl	Food, door prizes
3	Mar 16	<a href="#">Tri-County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest</a>	8am – 1pm	<a href="#">Tri-County Amateur Radio Club (W9MQB)</a>	Jefferson County Fair Park, Activity Ctr, Jefferson, WI	\$10 door, \$8 in adv	145.49	Food, beverages
4	Mar 16	<a href="#">Sterling Rock Falls Hamfest</a>	8am – 1pm	<a href="#">Sterling Rock Falls Amateur Radio Society (W9MEP)</a>	Sauk Valley Community College, 173 IL Rt2, Dixon, IL	\$10 door, \$8 in adv	146.850, 114.8pl	Rolls, drinks, free parking
5	Apr 5	<a href="#">Antique Radio Club Swap Meet</a>	8am – 10am	<a href="#">Antique Radio Club of IL</a>	570 S. Gary Ave, Carol Stream, IL	Free	NA	5x per year
6	Apr 26	<a href="#">Ozaukee Spring Swapfest</a>	8am – 12pm	<a href="#">Ozaukee Radio Club (W9WQO)</a>	W67N890 Washington Ave, Cedarburg, WI	\$7 adult, <12 free	146.97, 127.3pl	Food, prizes, free WIFI
7	Apr 26	<a href="#">Madison Hamfest</a>	8am – 12pm	<a href="#">Madison Area Repeater Assoc (MARA – W9HSY)</a>	400 Mandt Parkway, Stoughton, WI	\$10 door, \$8 in adv	147.150 +600, 123pl	26K ft main hall, prizes, free park
8	May 4	<a href="#">DeKalb Hamfest</a>	8am – 1pm	<a href="#">Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club (WA9CJN)</a>	Sandwich Fairgrounds, Sandwich, IL	\$10 door, \$8 in adv	146.730, 100pl	Prizes, camping
9	May 16-18	<a href="#">Hamvention</a>	9-5pm F/S, 9-1pm Sun	<a href="#">Dayton Amateur Radio Association (W9BI)</a>	Greene County Fair, 210 Fairground Rd, Xenia, OH	\$30 adult, <12 free	146.94(-), 123.0pl	\$26 before 3/1
10	May 31	<a href="#">Green Bay Hamfest</a>	8am – 12pm	<a href="#">Green Bay Mike &amp; Key Club (K9EAM)</a>	120 S Henry St, Green Bay, WI	\$5	147.120,107.2pl	Food, drawings
11	Jun 1	<a href="#">Starved Rock Hamfest</a>	9am – 1pm	<a href="#">Starved Rock Radio Club (W9MKS)</a>	Mendota Fairgrounds, 503 1 <sup>st</sup> Ave, Mendota, IL	\$10 door, \$8 in adv	147.120(+), 103.5pl	Prizes
12	Jun 7	<a href="#">Antique Radio Club Swap Meet</a>	8am – 10am	<a href="#">Antique Radio Club of IL</a>	570 S. Gary Ave, Carol Stream, IL	Free	NA	5x per year
13	Jul 20	<a href="#">KARS-Fest</a>	8am –	<a href="#">Kankakee Area Radio Society (W9AZ)</a>	Will Cnty Fairgrnds, 710 S. West St, Peotone, IL	\$10 door, \$8 in adv	146.94, 107.2pl	Indoor, outdoor
14	Jul 5	<a href="#">South Milwaukee Swapfest</a>	7am – 3:30pm	<a href="#">South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club (WI9SM)</a>	9327 S. Shepard Ave, Oak Creek, WI	\$5	149.910(-), 127.3pl	Food, beverages
15	Aug 1-2	<a href="#">Antique Radio Club Radio Fest</a>	6pm Fri, 7-3pm Sat	<a href="#">Antique Radio Club of IL</a>	Medinah Shriners, 550 N Shriners Dr, Addison, IL	Free	NA	Indoor, outdoor, food, Fri auction
16	Aug 2	<a href="#">Elkhart East Hamfest</a>	9am – 2pm	(multiple)	N. IN Event Ctr, 21565 Exec Pkwy, Elkhart, IN	\$8 adult, <12 free	147.330(+), 131.8pl	Includes RV Hall of Fame admit.
17	Aug 3	<a href="#">Hamfesters Hamfest</a>	8am –	<a href="#">Hamfesters Ham Radio Club (W9AA)</a>	Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL	\$10 door, \$8 adv, <12free	146.52	Flea mkt opens at 6am
18	Sep 20-21	<a href="#">Midwest Superfest</a>	7am – 5pm	<a href="#">Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club (W9UVI)</a>	17189 IL-29, Chillicothe, IL	\$10	147.075, 156.7pl	Prizes, camping
19	Sep 28	<a href="#">CFMC Radio Expo</a>	8am – 3pm	<a href="#">Chicago FM Club (WA9ORC)</a>	Boone Cty Fairgrounds, 8797 IL-76, Belvidere, IL	\$10 door, \$8 in adv	146.760, 107.2pl	Camping, 6am Flea Mkt
20	Oct 4	<a href="#">Antique Radio Club Swap Meet</a>	8am – 10am	<a href="#">Antique Radio Club of IL</a>	570 S. Gary Ave, Carol Stream, IL	Free	NA	5x per year
21	Nov 15-16	<a href="#">Fort Wayne Hamfest</a>	9-4pm Sa, 9-2pm Su	<a href="#">Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society (W9INX)</a>	Allen County War Mem Coliseum, Ft Wayne, IN	\$8 (\$4 Sun) <12free	146.880(-)	Prizes, food, training, \$8 park
22	Dec 6	<a href="#">Antique Radio Club Swap Meet</a>	8am – 1am	<a href="#">Antique Radio Club of IL</a>	570 S. Gary Ave, Carol Stream, IL	Free	NA	5x per year



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). See below for mail in information and/or PayPal information)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/dd/yyyy)    New Membership \_\_\_\_\_    Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_    State: \_\_\_\_\_    ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone - Home: \_\_\_\_\_    Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

What things do you like to do with ham radio?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What things do you want to do, but need more information to do so?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you be available to make a presentation on some part of our hobby and what?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any questions that we can help you with presently? If so, explain below.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail In:** Please 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.

**For Internet application and 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. Also, **DON'T** forget to email your completed form to: [w9axdrara@gmail.com](mailto:w9axdrara@gmail.com) for your membership application. *Thank you for your support!*

PayPal Link: 

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