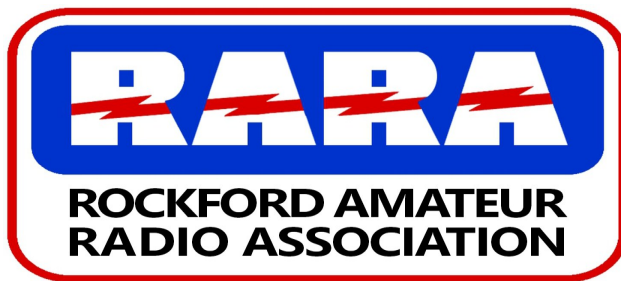


HAMRAG

Visit our website for more club and area ham information at <http://w9axd.org>



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 to New RARA Members:

Robert "Grizz" Grizzell W3GRZ

Congratulations to:

Allan "Pops" Levandowski (KB9ETC) on his General ticket

Thanks to this month's contributors to the Ham Rag

David Gauger W9CJS, Kerry Tatlow KD9MAP &
Larry Schubert AC9GO

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

Articles are welcome and encouraged from all hams.

Due Date for the March Ham Rag is Wed February 25, 2026

73, Verna—W9YUM, Editor

**NEXT MEETING
(NOTE MEETING DATE CHANGE)
FRIDAY— February 20, 2026 - 7:00pm**

**Program: 3-D Printing presented by
The Ham Radio Dude, Sean Klechak W9FFF
follow him at <https://www.youtube.com/@DudeTested>**

This will be a Virtual Meeting on Google Meet
A link will be emailed to members on Friday morning of the meeting and posted to the Facebook Group

February 2026

**Calling CQ for
over 70 years**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Cover Page - page 1

President's Message
Page 2

RARA Board & Local Nets
Page 3

Key Dates to Save
Page 4

Behind the Mic
Meeting Your Net Control Ops
Pages 5-6

Know Your Acronyms
Dave W9CJS
Pages 7-8

From the Workbench
Larry AC9GO
Page 9

Cheap Chinese Logic Analyzer
Kerry KD9MAP
Pages 10-12

Announcements
Page 13

Hamfests, Contests, DX Links
Page 14

Local HAM Breakfasts
Page 15

RARA Store
Page 16

Ham Fests
Jefferson & DeKalb
Pages 17-18

RARA Membership Form
Page 19

President's Message— Larry McFall, KD9HKX

Greetings, members and friends of RARA.

The board met a few days ago to start planning for several activities and events we would like to participate in this year. As in years past we have started planning for ARRL Summer Field Day, the RARA family picnic, and the Belvidere hamfest. And I'm sure it's somewhere in this edition of the Ham Rag you'll see something regarding the Tri-County and Fest that takes place in February. With thanks to Guy KE9CZZ, we have booked a table for this hamfest and hope to see many of you there. We would also like to do a POTA event the membership can participate in and learn about. This could come about as we do a dry run for setting up the antennas for field day. And lastly, we are looking to piggy back on the May 17 Swap Meet at Hononegah Forest Preserve with an afternoon project of some type (to be determined). Please stay tuned in (pun intended) for further details on all of these events.

We also have some important projects that we would like to accomplish this year. The board has set itself a deadline for submission for 501c3 status. I'm sure many of you have seen the email from Verna about establishing a committee to work on our new website. While our old website has served the club very well, because it was built with a very expensive software product that we can no longer access, we can no longer maintain it. Fortunately there are many free or more affordable website building tools available for use.

Finally the repeater committee has made improvements to the 146.610 repeater that I believe you'll read about later in the Ham Rag. They also hope to soon have the 147.000 repeater operating again with equally good access. Thanks to the repeater chairman, Matt W9MBX and the committee for their hard work on this.

Thank you to all of our members who have renewed their membership for 2026!

73's to all,
Larry KD9HKX

RARA Board and Local Nets

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 RARA Board Meeting 7:00pm on Google Meet
Friday, February 20, 2026 RARA Membership Meeting 7:00pm Google Meet

2026 RARA Officers and Directors

Officers:

President - Larry McFall, KD9HKX, 815-900-1820, lpmcfall@charter.net
Vice President - Jamie Cook, W9JTC, 779-423-9054, W9JTC@yahoo.com
Secretary - Guy Adams, KE9CZZ, 815-985-8554, ke9czz@gmail.com
Treasurer – Verna Schubert, W9YUM, 815-505-8170, w9yum.vs@gmail.com

Directors:

Jimmy Curtis, KC9GOL, 779-537-2233, jimhcurtis7818@yahoo.com
Dan Larson, KD9SAZ, 312-292-1989, kd9saz@gmail.com
Doug Passmore, KE9CNS, 815-979-9229, dgpasmore@att.net
Mike Richardson, KB9SSV, 815-616-0200, kb9ssv@msn.com
Hamrag Editor - Verna Schubert, W9YUM, 815-505-8170, w9yum.vs@gmail.com
Webmaster - Verna Schubert, W9YUM, 815-505-8170, w9yum.vs@gmail.com
Repeater License Trustee - Doug Passmore, KE9CNS, 815-979-9229, dgpasmore@att.net
Repeater Chairman - Matt Marshall, W3MBX, 815-222-5959, matthew.marshall@gmail.com

Local Net Information

- Mon** - 7:00pm - RARA Info. Net & CW Lesson, 146.610 (-0.6) offset, pl 114.8
- 8:00pm - McHenry County RACES Net, 146.835 (-0.6) offset, pl 91.5
- Tues** - 7:00pm - RARA Tuesday Night Net & CW Lesson , 146.610 (-0.6) offset, pl 114.8
- 7:30pm - Rock County Public Service Net, 145.450 (-0.6) offset, pl 123.0
- Wed** - 7:00pm - Wed Night Chat Net, 146.610 (-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 - Winnebago Co. Skywarn Net, 147.195 (+0.6) offset, pl 114.8
- Fri** - 8:00pm - Friday Night Fun Net, KC9GCR, 146.610 (-0.6) offset, pl 114.8
- Sat** - 8:00pm - RARA Ragchew Net, 146.610 (-0.6) offset, pl 114.8
- 8:00pm - Pink Hamsters YL Net, Milwaukee 146.910 (-0.6) offset, pl 127.3
- 9:00pm - Saturday Night Fun Net Milwaukee 146.910 (-0.6) offset, pl 127.3
- Mon. thru Friday** - 8:00am to 9:00am - Senile Net, WD9BB, 14.287 (HF USB)

Save the Date!

Monday, February 16, 2026 (7:30pm)

Monthly Skywarn Meeting

This is a virtual meeting via google meet. If you are interested and did not receive an invite, please contact Joe, K9JPP at K9jppham@gmail.com

Sunday, March 15, 2026(8am-noon)

Tri-County (Jefferson) Hamfest RARA will have a table for our members to use. Members wishing to sell items at the RARA table should be at the event no later than 7:30am and plan to work at the table. RARA receives 15% on sales less than \$100 and 10% on items selling for greater than \$100. You will need a ticket \$8 advance / \$10 door to enter the event.

Guy, KE9CZZ is coordinator and can be reached at ke9czz@gmail.com. See more information further in the Ham Rag.

Sunday, May 3, 2026 (7am –1pm)

Dekalb Hamfest

Sponsored by the Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Flyer with more information is included in the Ham Rag

Sunday, May 17, 2026 (9am—noon)

Spring Swap Meet

Hononegah Forest Preserve (Indian Rest Shelter)

Coordinated by Larry Lisle K9KZT

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

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

Sat June 27 - Sun June 28, 2026

ARRL Summer Field Day

This annual event is always held on the **fourth Full weekend in June**. Please get it on your calendar as a lot of help is needed for a successful and fun event! Thanks to Matt W3MBX, Camp Winnebago has been reserved. More information will be provided as we get closer to the event.

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 Ham Rag.

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 & add me to your contacts.

Behind the Mic—Meet Your Net Control Operators

This new monthly feature will spotlight one or two of the net control voices you hear weekly or multiple times a week on both RARA and other local nets. Although they each bring their own style and the new formats are varied, they all show up week after week to make sure nets run smoothly, newcomers feel welcome, and old friends stay connected.



This Net Control Operator (NCO) can be heard on the Monday night RARA Info Net, Wednesday Night Chat Net and the RARA Saturday Night RagChew Net. On Monday and Tuesday nights he also provides beginning morse code practice. Many of you know him by Larry, K9KZT. Let's get started!

How long have you been a ham radio operator and what got you interested in the hobby?

I have been a ham for 68-years, originally licensed on January 9, 1958. I got originally interested in radio by listening to faraway broadcast stations on a Christmas Motorola portable radio. It was about the size of a small suitcase. It was a very nice radio with six tubes and could really pull them in. I also found books at the library that showed you could actually build your own set. That wonder—that you could hear people from far away on something you built yourself has never left me.

What do you enjoy most about serving as a net control operator?

Chatting with people and learning from them.

What type of net do you provide NCO services for?

I share net control duties on the following nets:

- ◆ Monday night RARA Info Net (local news and chat)
- ◆ Wednesday night Chat Net—Short light topics such as recipes, favorite dining spots, ham radio equipment in the future, antennas, etc. about 30 minutes
- ◆ Saturday night Rag Chew Net—More indepth talk about AI, Robots, shop and home economics in schools, favorite books etc. Each net control in the rotation has a different slant.
- ◆ Monday and Tuesday nights—I provide beginning morse code practice directly following the nets.

What's the most memorable or challenging experience you've had while running the net?

When the repeater went down and I didn't know if that was the issue or if it was my rig.

Behind the Mic—Meet Your Net Control Operators

What advice would you give to someone who's thinking about becoming a net control operator for the first time?

Listen a lot to all the nets in the area and then start one, maybe with a friend or two! Sundays are wide open for another net, we can have more than one net on weekdays. Perhaps just chat or center conversation around a topic such as history (local and world) sports (from little kid softball to the pros) a book club (maybe a ham related article or a regular book) food home cooking or dining out) or a ladies net. There are lots of ways to go and it wouldn't have to be the same each week.

Beyond the nets, what are your favorite ham radio activities or modes?

I like talking to hams, building, and working CW on 40 meters. I also enjoy HamFests as long as they are aren't too far away.

What piece of equipment is in your station that you couldn't live without, and why?

I couldn't live without my 2meter rig and my HF receiver currently a Hammarlund HQ 170

Is there anything else about yourself you would like to share?

I've been very fortunate to be in ham radio so long and for the new friends I've made. It's a hobby that has so many dimensions I can't imagine someone being bored. I was a teacher for about 45 years. Before that I was a heat treater, a medical lab technician and a soldier. I loved being a teacher because I got to work with the greatest people in the world—kids!

Editor's Note:

Larry has been published a number of times in the ARRL QST magazine.

- ⇒ Reading Radio Fiction (April 1994, pg 51)
- ⇒ How About Used Gear for 80-and 40-meter CW (March 1987, pg 47)
- ⇒ Ham Radio—A Class Act in School (January 1986, pg 54)
- ⇒ The Tunable Crystal Oscillator (October 1973, pg 30)
- ⇒ New Life for the All-American Five, Beginner and Novice (June 1971)

Know Your Acronyms—Dave Gauger, W9CJS

KNOW YOUR ACRONYMS

Acronyms, ... do you use them ... short cuts when writing? They've been perfected by teens and young adults because they are constantly texting. I downloaded a "complete" list of (teen) acronyms, and it totaled seven pages on which there were 567 such 'short cuts' Indeed, some are intended to fool parents and others by obscuring some meanings.

Many people in areas of common interest use them, and rightly so. They do speed up communication. We commonly expect to hear Acronyms from Doctors and Pilots and we, ourselves, use many in the areas of Ham Radio and Computers. Test yourself to see how many you know of those here, Find the answers on the following page.

TEEN TALK

IMHO _____
LOL _____
BTW _____
B4N _____

FYI _____
HAG1 _____
DTC _____

MEDICINE

DNR _____
AFIB _____
BMI _____
GERD _____

EKG _____
TAVR _____
ICU _____
MRI _____

AVIATION

ADF _____
CAVU _____
ATIS _____
GPSS _____

ILS _____
VFR _____
ASL _____
FSS _____

HAM RADIO

SSTV _____
EFHW _____
MCW _____
UHF _____

RTTY _____
PSK31 _____
SMD _____
APRS _____

COMPUTERS

CPU _____
LAN _____
BIOS _____
ASCII _____

RAM _____
HTTP _____
HDD _____
ALU _____

Know Your Acronyms—Dave Gauger, W9CJS

ACRONYM USE

Using acronyms is perfectly OK when everyone in the group understands, (perhaps all medical people) but if one or more is not savvy, then we should politely define the acronym, the first time we use it. They will appreciate that; it will make all in the group feel welcome.

TEEN TALK

IMHO	In My humble Opinion	FYI	For Your Information
LOL	Laughing Out Loud	HAG1	Have a Good One
BTW	By the Way	DTC	Darn This Computer
B4N	Bye for Now		

MEDICINE

DNR	Do Not Resuscitate	EKG	Electrocardiogram
AFIB	Atrial Fibrillation	TAVR	Trans-Arterial- Valve-Replacement
BMI	Body Mass Index	ICU	Intensive Care Unit
GERD	Gastro Reflex Disease	MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging

AVIATION

ADF	Automatic Direction Finder	ILS	Instrument Landing System
CAVU	Ceiling and Visibility Unlimited	VFR	Visible Flight Regulations(rules)
ATIS	Air Terminal Information System	ASL	Above Sea Level
GPS	Global Positioning System	FSS	Flight Service Station

HAM RADIO

SSTV	Slow Scan Television	RTTY	Radio Teletype
EFHW	End Fed Half Wave	PSK31	Phase Shift Keying (31 Hz Bandwidth)
MCW	Modulated CW.....	SMD	Surface Mounted Device
UHF	Ultra High Frequency	APRS	Automatic Packet Reporting System

COMPUTERS

CPU	Central Processing Unit	RAM	Random Access Memory
LAN	Local Area Network	HTTP	Hyper Text Transfer Protocol
BIOS	Basic Input Output System	HDD	Hard Disk Drive
ASCII	American Standard Information Interchange	ALU	Arithmetic Logic Unit

BTW WNDITWB... using Acronyms ...BSF ...TMA ... CWYL ... GTG ...

Dave Gauger W9CJS

From the Workbench by Larry AC9GO



I've just got a couple of things to talk about this month. First, Winter Field Day was canceled this year by many clubs across the nation. Verna, W9YUM, and I always look forward to the Beloit Club's event. *(Did you know there are quite of few hams that are members of both RARA and the GBARC)?* Our Beloit Club decided to cancel as well, reasoning that it was going to be just too cold out to have members running around on possibly slick country roads in the middle of the night. We did tease our Wisconsin friends a bit about canceling because of the cold but agreed it was too cold to be traveling in the middle of the night. Verna and I decided to join the masses and worked the event from home using my call sign as 1H, IL . (One station at home in Illinois). We ended up with 163 contacts over the weekend, using primarily search and pounce although I did call CQ for a short time. We worked Brian, KB9QVB, in Roscoe on two different bands. He said it took him back for a few seconds when he heard the familiar, AC9GO call sign but Verna's voice! Over the course of the event, Brian called CQ almost exclusively and rolled up over 500 contacts. All in all, we made the best out of the situation made contacts and had fun.

Second, I would like to take a minute to talk about the 146.610 repeater. The RARA repeater chairman, Matt W3MBX, and his team did a great job of getting it moved to the tower owned by Stateline Amateur Radio Services. The coverage area is large and the repeater sounds nice and clear. The Tuesday night net that I cover as net control operator had a whopping 22 check ins on February 3. In addition to our regulars, there were check-ins from Dakota, two from Woodstock, and one from Cedarville. While they didn't know if they would be regular check ins, They wanted to help us gauge coverage and send their congratulations.

Both Winter Field Day and the Weekly Nets are great opportunities to make sure your equipment is working as it should and will be available for you to use in the event of an emergency.

See you down the log!
73 Larry AC9GO

Cheap Chinese Logic Analyzer Review, by KD9MAP

I've been doing a lot of building and experimenting with CD4000 series CMOS DIP-packaged logic chips, and Raspberry Pico W's. I figured a logic analyzer would help a lot with debugging the circuits on the bench. To my surprise, I found that adequate logic analyzer peripherals can now be purchased for under \$10 each. They were getting good reviews too! So I bought a pair of them from Walmart(!) for \$14, tax and shipping included. (The item is actually shipped from Shenzhen, like a lot of the electronics parts I buy.)

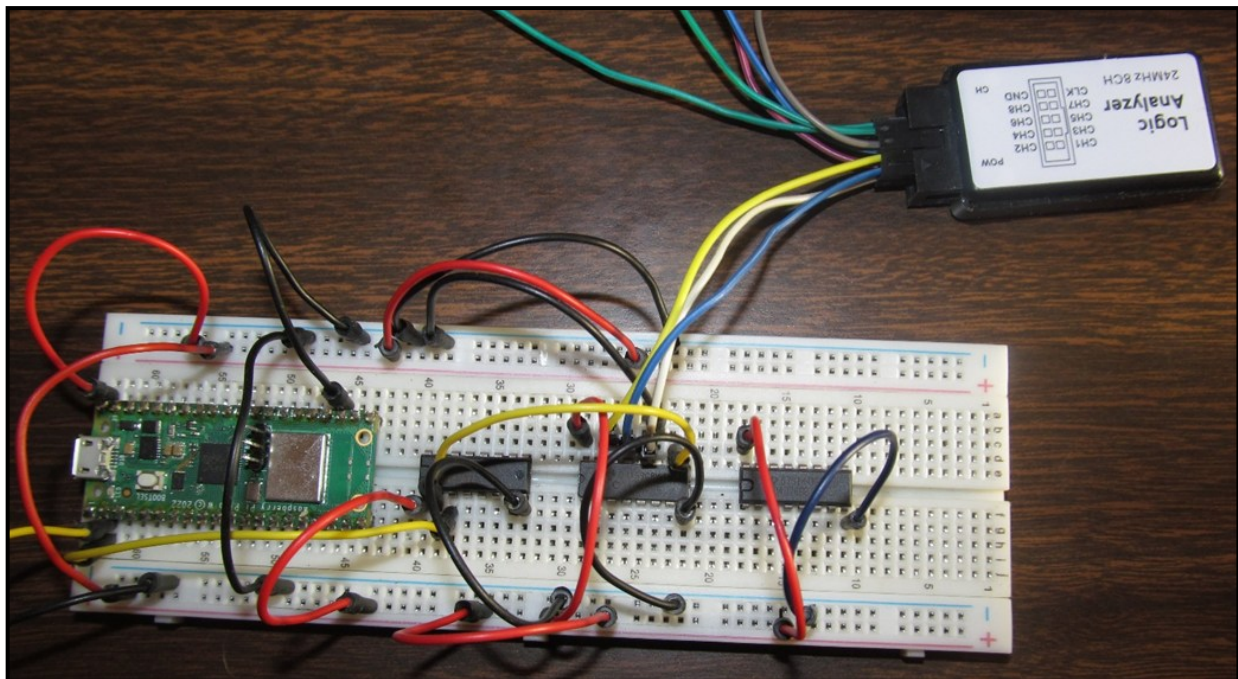
These analyzers are no-name manufactured, and come with no instructions at all; you need internet search skillz to find info. They are best used with free Pulseview software, available for Win, Linux, and Mac.

I tried doing the Win install on a Win 11 laptop, and the process was painful enough that I said 'the heck with it, I'll use it with Linux.'

Happily, all the software needed to use the analyzer on an RPi 5 running Raspberry Pi OS Trixie can be installed with *only this one* single command:

```
sudo apt install pulseview sigrok-cli sigrok-firmware-fx2lafw
```

You don't even need to reboot after install. Take that, Windows! :)



Cheap Chinese Logic Analyzer Review, by KD9MAP

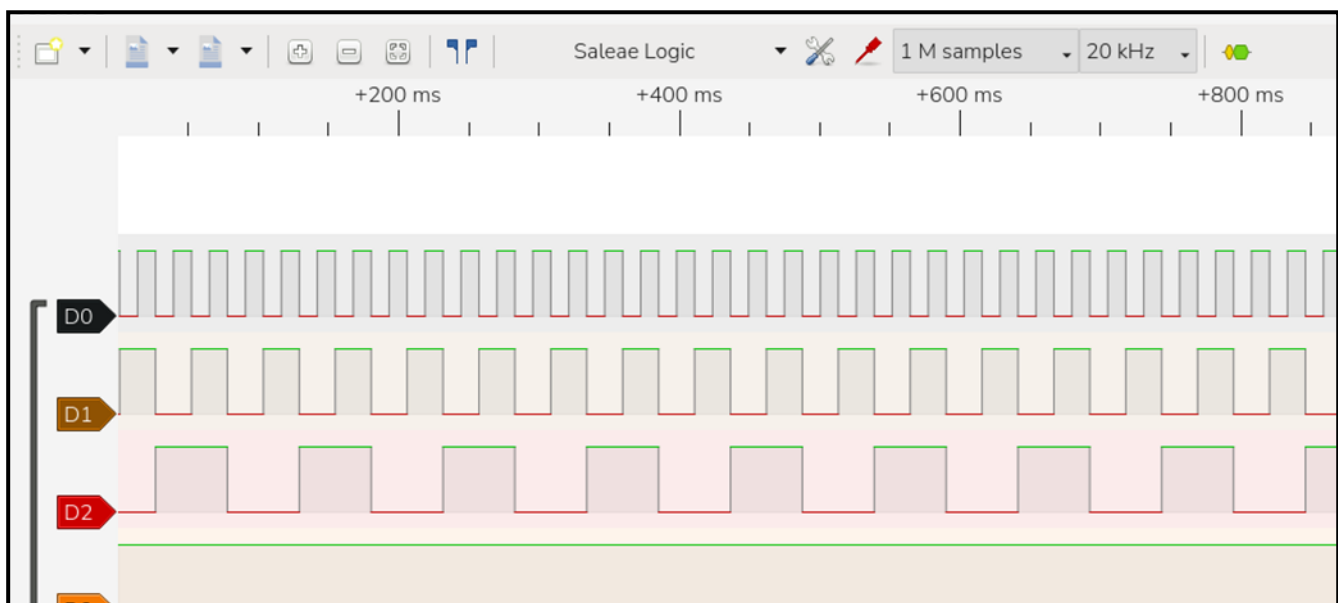
This is the test setup with power and USB cables disconnected. On the left is a Raspberry Pico W. Here I'm using it only as a handy PWM square wave generator, and usually run it from a 5V USB battery. The output goes via yellow wire to a CD4050 buffer-converter. I learned that the logic output levels of the Pico don't work reliably with the logic inputs of CD4XXX series logic running at 3V3 Vdd. I had to power the CMOS chips from 5V Vdd, and use the CD4050 to step up the Pico output logic level signal to a level that the CMOS inputs find tasty.

The output of the CD4050 goes via yellow wire to the input of a CD4020 binary counter, which has 12 output stages; for the first experiment, I chose to monitor only three (yel, wht and blu.) The analyzer connects to the computer running Pulseview via a USB cable (not shown here.)

Even though I apparently *forgot to ground the analyzer* directly to the DUT, it still worked right :) Maybe the ground through the USB cable took care of that.

(The chip on the right is a currently unused CD4026. That's a more complex counter with seven-segment display outputs, which displays a much more intriguing timing diagram than the CD4020 does. I got it running. If anybody wants, I can do a part 2 article about that; there's not enough room in this one to cover it.)

The analyzer worked the first time I tried it. Here's a picture of Pulseview and analyzer displaying the timing diagram of three consecutive outputs (Q8-Q10) of the CD4020 binary counter clocked at 10 kHz. Q8 freq is divided to yield Q9, which is divided to yield Q10.



Cheap Chinese Logic Analyzer Review, by KD9MAP

There's supposedly a way to load Pulseview into a Pico W, to turn it all by itself into a logic analyzer. However, according to the reviewer linked below, it tops out at lower frequencies than these, and isn't as accurate as these cheap analyzers are.

What's this all got to do with radio? I doubt that logic analyzers are often used in radio field troubleshooting, but the fact is that modern radios are jam-packed with digital circuitry, and logic analyzers are most definitely used in developing their prototypes. Combinatorial (gates, inverters) and sequential (flip-flops, counters, memories) logic design are actually fun to play with, and this is another tool to use to learn it. There might even be a couple of license test questions about digital logic basics, for all I know. The old CD4XXX chips are still available in DIP packaging, so they are easy to wire up using tenth-inch spaced breadboards; easier to use than modern SMD packaged chips IMHO.

These analyzers are another example of the amazing availability of very-low-cost, high-quality electronic devices in recent decades. Other examples are the NanoVNA vector network analyzer, the TinySA spectrum analyzer, the SI5351 frequency synthesizer, the RTL-SDR Blog receiver dongle, and the huge managerie of cheap tiny microcontroller boards. All these gadgets provide powerful functionality to electronics hobbyists at stunningly affordable prices.

References

Here's a detailed review that pushes the analyzer to the limits:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWXDJa05RGI>

Here's the Walmart product page, but you can find these analyzers for sale everywhere:

<https://www.walmart.com/ip/2-Sets-USB-Logic-Analyzer-24MHz-8-Channel-24M-Seconds-Logic-Analyzer-Debugger-for-ARM-FPG-0k166/17102651471>

Here's the Pulseview software page:

<https://sigrok.org/wiki/PulseView>

FYI, here is the github home of the device drivers and firmware that the analyzer uses:

<https://github.com/sigrokproject/pulseview>

Raspberry Pi products:

<https://www.raspberrypi.com/>

CD4050 Hex Buffer-Converter:

<https://www.ti.com/product/CD4050B>

CD4020 Binary Counter:

<https://www.ti.com/lit/ds/symlink/cd4020b.pdf>

CQ....CQ....CQ....Announcements!



SKYWARN
WINNEBAGO CO

Winnebago County SKYWARN Monthly Meeting

Be Ready. Be Informed. Help Protect Our Community.

Join the Winnebago County SKYWARN team for our monthly meeting focused on severe weather awareness, storm spotting, and community preparedness.

📅 Every 3rd Monday
🕒 7:30 PM

For more information, please email: WinnebagoCoSKYWARN@gmail.com

From Freeport Illinois:

The Friday Night Fun Net with Jimmy Dorsey, KC9GCR

Every Friday at 8PM Central Time
W9AXD Repeater 146.610 Rockford Illinois

Live Streamed on the
Kerry Tatlow YouTube Channel

[Link Here to Kerry's YouTube Channel](#)

Hamfest, Contest and DX Links

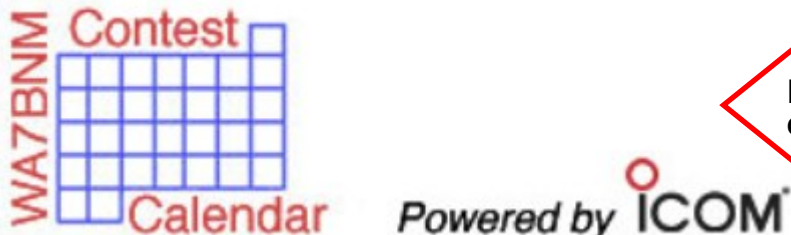
Hamfests and Swapfests in Northern IL, Northwest IN, and Southern WI **Click the link**



Thanks to K9MSG, Kirk Musselman— www.amateurradioevents.com 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.

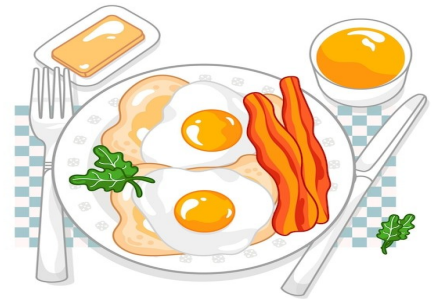


Link to the **WA7BNM Contest Calendar** or go to www.contestcalendar.com

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



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—Time for Spring Items!

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)



**ORDER YOUR
ROCKFORD
AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION
GEAR TODAY!**



**SCAN
HERE
TO SHOP
NOW**



VIEW MORE PRODUCTS ONLINE

Tri-County Hamfest 2026

Buy/Sell Amateur Radio Equipment, Electronics and Computer Gear



Sunday
March 15, 2026



Free Parking!

ADVANCE SALES: Admission: \$8 8' Table Space - \$15/ea
AT THE DOOR: Admission: \$10 8' Table Space - \$25/ea

Amateur Volunteer Exams will NOT be offered this year
Check in at the TCARC table for other local testing options

Presented by: TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - W9MQB
Talk-in on the 145.49- Repeater (CTCSS 123.0)

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR PARK
ACTIVITY CENTER
503 NORTH JACKSON AVE.
JEFFERSON, WI 53549

- Vendors will be admitted at 6:30 AM
- Vendors-only unloading zone on West side
- Food and beverages available
- General Admission and Sales begin at 8:00AM



Take I-94 to Exit 267 (Johnson Creek). Head south on 26 to the Hwy 18 Exit (#27). Exit East on Hwy 18 and turn left onto Jackson Ave. Look for the Fair Park sign.



Next year's date: March 21, 2027

Register online at <https://www.W9MQB.org/SwapFest>

Mail-In Registration Form

Admission: _____ X \$8.00 = \$ _____ Note: Table Reservation does not include Admission.

8' Tables: _____ X \$15.00 = \$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Call Sign: _____

Street: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail-In Reservations require that we receive your payment **BY MARCH 1st** with a self-addressed, stamped envelope at:
TCARC Hamfest 2026, P.O. Box 321, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Questions? Call Michael Zore (AE9MZ) at 414-455-5493 or Email: hamfest@w9mqb.org

DeKalb Hamfest



The DeKalb Hamfest



Sponsored by the Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club
 Sunday...May 3, 2026... Front Gate 7 am to 1:00 pm
 Vendor/Tailgate Setup—Saturday 1 PM to 9 PM
 and Sunday 6 AM to 8 AM via Back Gate
 \$8.00 Advance Ticket (Double-Stub—See Below)
 \$10.00 Adm at the gate -No Large Bills (Single Stub).

Overnight Camping on Fairgrounds \$25 per night—
 Includes Electric and Sewer

Rain or Shine
 2 Lg Unheated Bldgs
 3 Cash Prizes
 Prize Drawings Every
 Half Hour

Free Outside Tailgating
 No VE Testing
Chairs not provided
No Valet Parking
You Unload/Re-Load
Carts not Provided

Food Vendor: Hyvee
Fairground Regulations
Prohibit Vehicles in
buildings

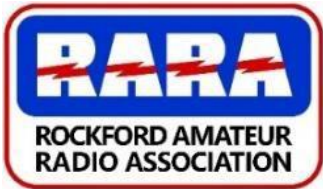


Always the First Sunday in May. May 3, 2026
Sandwich Fairgrounds, Sandwich, IL
(Just North of RT. 34 Intersection of SUYDAM and GLETTY Roads)
TALK-IN: KARC Repeater 146.730 pl=100 (-) or 146.52 Simplex
****** ATTENDEES USE MAIN GATE ONLY ******

????????????? Questions ??????????????
Phone: Bob Yurs—W9ICU—Hamfest Chairman at 815-757-3219
Or e-mail bob@w9icu.us
KARC Hamfest Webpage / Hotel Info: www.karc-club.org

Return to: KARC, PO Box 371, DeKalb, IL 60115
Deadline: April 20, 2026 MUST INCLUDE SASE FOR ADVANCE TICKET SALES

Advance Tickets will not be for sale on site
 _____ **ADVANCE TICKETS @ \$8 each (Dual Stubs)**
 _____ **INSIDE TABLES @ \$10 each (FREE TAILGATING)**
 _____ **Total...Please make checks payable to KARC**
 _____ **Telephone Number** _____ **e-mail address**
 _____ **Call Sign**



website: w9axd.org
email: 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*

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.**