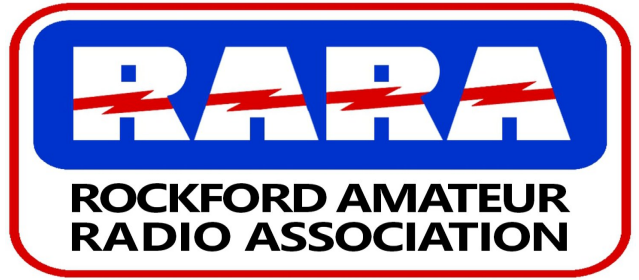


# HAMRAG

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:

**Jason Ackerman KE9CPF, David Lavoy, Joe Wenstrom KC9RUH, Jeff Andrews K9JAA and Greg Warnick**

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

David Gauger W9CJS, Larry Lisle K9KZT, and 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](mailto:w9yum.vs@gmail.com)  
**Articles are welcome and encouraged from all hams.**

**Due Date for the October Hamrag is Sat October 25, 2025**

73, Verna—W9YUM, Editor

## NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY— October 10, 2025 - 7:00pm**

**Board of Directors Election**

**Program: Transistor Amplifiers by Larry McFall, KD9HKX**

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

**October 2025**



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# President's Message– Larry McFall, KD9HKX

Greetings RARA Members,

The following is from ARRL Central Division and Illinois Section:

There is a grassroots movement underway to show lawmakers how much Americans value amateur radio. Grassroots campaigns succeed when ordinary people take action together. Your support and involvement can make the difference and lead to real, lasting change. Your voice and support is vital to the passage of this legislation.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act is making its way through Congress. The bipartisan bills -- H.R.1094 in the House and S.459 in the Senate – are designed to prevent restrictive homeowners' association (HOA) rules that currently prohibit or severely limit the installation of amateur radio antennas, even when such antennas are hidden in trees, placed in attics, mounted on vehicles, or look like flagpoles. This bill will ensure that licensed operators have the tools and access needed to stay ready and continue serving communities when disaster strikes. But Congress needs to hear from real people like you.

Here's how you can help:

1. Send a letter to your elected representatives. Fill out your letter of support by pointing your favorite web browser to <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/>. Simply fill in your callsign and hit the "Send My Letters" button. These letters will be hand delivered to members of Congress.
2. Spread the word. If you have already sent your letters, now is the time to advocate. Share information about how to send a letter with your fellow amateur radio operators at club meetings, breakfast gatherings, hamfests and other events. Every conversation builds momentum and support. More information about the efforts can be found at <http://arrl.org/current-legislation>.

Thank you for standing up for emergency preparedness, public safety, and the future of the amateur radio service.

ARRL Central Division

Director: Brent A Walls, N9BA

ARRL Illinois Section

Section Manager: Thomas H Beebe, W9RY

In other news from the Board:

The Board has created the Emergency Services committee with Dan Larson, KD9SAZ and Jimmy Curtis, KC9GOL as co-chairs. The committee will work with our members and local officials to coordinate efforts to provide emergency communications during local emergencies and disasters.

Matt Marshall, Repeater Chairperson, reports the committee is waiting on a quote for moving the antenna on OSF to higher location and installing new heliax. The other repeater is being moved to a new location with a tower. The committee is trying to get all the above accomplished by the end of 2025. While we may have some significant costs involved in moving the 146.610 and increasing the antenna height on the 147.000 we do not, as this time, know what those costs will be.

Have a great month and get on the air.

# RARA Board and Local Nets

Tuesday, October 9, 2025 RARA Board Meeting 7:00pm on Google Meet  
Friday, October 10, 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@yahool.com](mailto:W9JTC@yahool.com)  
Treasurer - Verna Schubert, W9YUM, 815-505-8170, [w9yum.vs@gmail.com](mailto:w9yum.vs@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)  
Tom Shouler, N9VJU, 815-978-6476, [n9vju@comcast.net](mailto:n9vju@comcast.net)  
Hamrag Editor - Verna Schubert, W9YUM, 815-505-8170, [w9yum.vs@gmail.com](mailto:w9yum.vs@gmail.com)  
Webmaster - Verna Schubert, W9YUM, 815-505-8170, [w9yum.vs@gmail.com](mailto:w9yum.vs@gmail.com)  
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!

**October—Time to renew your RARA membership for 2026.** The form can be found at the end of this newsletter, on the website W9AXD.org, or in the “files” section of the Facebook group and will be emailed to members. Thank you for your past support and ongoing support and thanks to those of you already sending in your dues. RARA is 90 strong and growing— good things are coming!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, October 18, 2025—Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA),** will be held at Camp Lowden Scout Camp. JOTA is a worldwide event and, as a volunteer, very rewarding! Contact Jimmy Curtis KC9GOL 779-537-2233 for more information on how you can help.

Please note, unlike Field Day and the Picnic, there really isn't time for socializing and there is limited space. This event is focused on assisting scouts with a basic understanding of amateur radio and getting them on the air operating a station using HF, CW, and possibly 2meter simplex modes.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday , October 19, 2025—Illinois QSO Party**

**Date/Time:** 1700 UTC October 19, 2025 to 0100 UTC October 20, 2025

**Bands:** 160 through 2 meters, excluding WARC bands (60, 30, 17 and 12 meters)

**Exchange:** IL stations give RS/T and county; others give RS/T and state, province or country

**Full rules** can be found at: <https://w9awe.org/ilqp/#68-84-wpfd-2025-ilqp>

Scroll down to “Past Results, Rules ETC” and select 2025.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ham of the Year Nominations—Due by November 15**

Ham of the Year award is an honor presented to the RARA member contributing above and beyond what was required to the club and to amateur radio in general during the past year. This year the selection will be made by a committee of RARA members established to evaluate the nominations of deserving candidates from those submitted by club members.

The nomination form is found near the end of this issue with further instruction. It will also be emailed to all RARA members.

**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.**

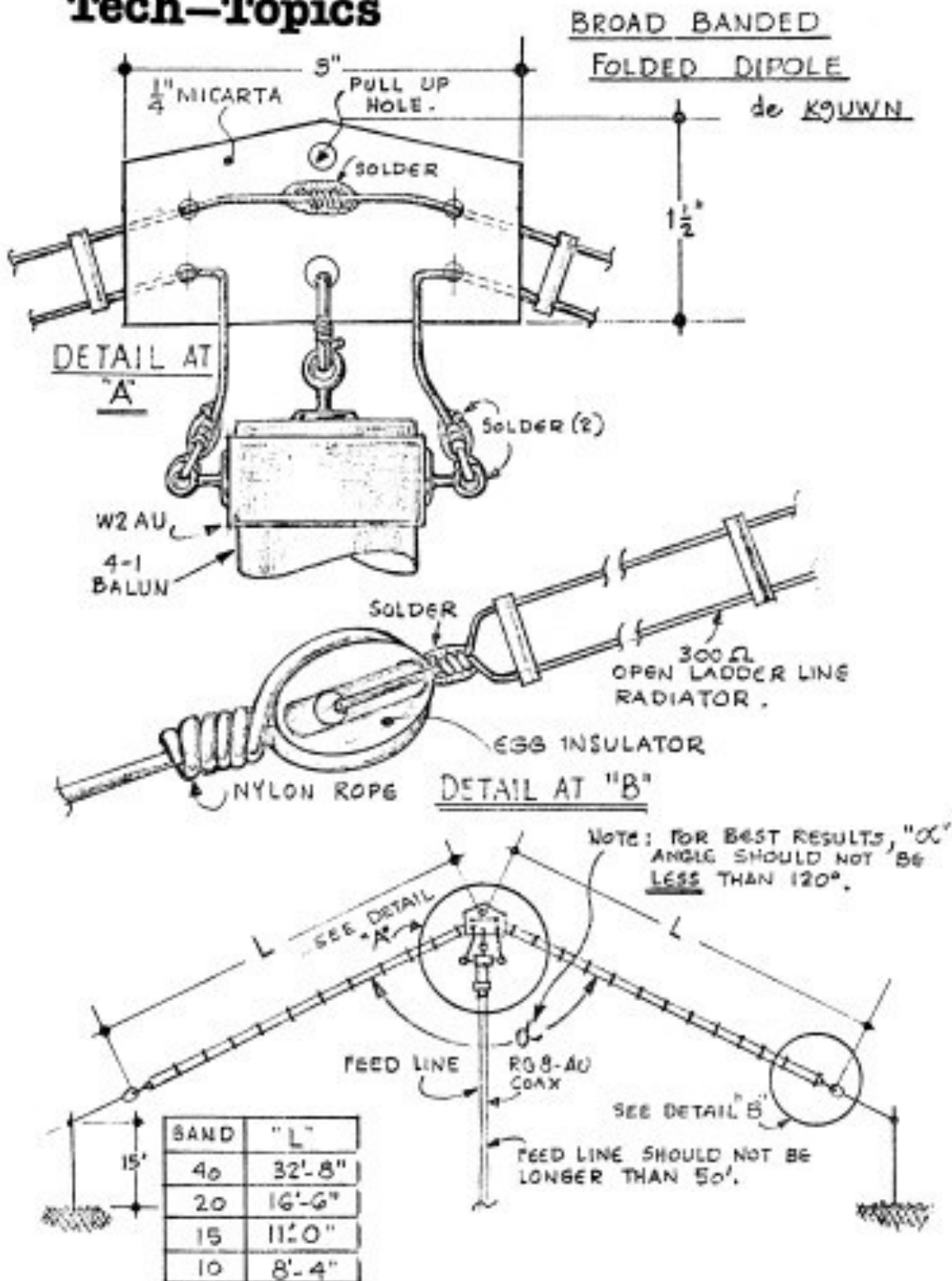
Please email updates to Verna W9YUM at [w9yum.vs@gmail.com](mailto:w9yum.vs@gmail.com) & add me to your contacts.

# Blast from the Past

Reprinted from the October 1976 Hamrag



## Tech-Topics



## BEAM ME UP, SCOTTY by Dave, W9CJS

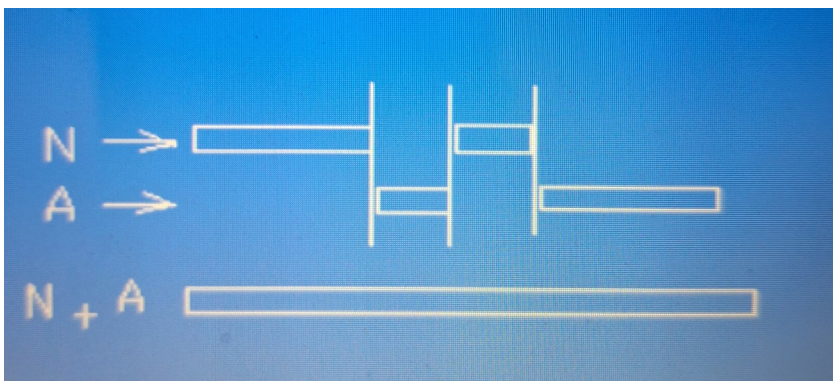
“BEAM ME UP” from Star Trek was a bit different from what “Flying The Beam” meant in 1935.

Air navigation was a problem soon after the Wright Brothers invented powered flight at Kitty Hawk. Pilots originally just flew by Uncle Jack’s barn, every pilot knew where it was, but air travel soon grew to include cross country flights and familiar “barns” weren’t so plentiful. Very early, Bleriot, a Frenchman built and flew a plane 20+ mi. across the English Channel.

Even worse, in poor visibility, clouds, fog, or snow showers, one could, and still can, get totally discombobulated (confused) about where you were. From a few hundred feet in the air and up, there are darn few street signs (Heh) common landmarks are difficult to distinguish, visually. There were a few farmers who would paint a town name and an arrow on the roof of their barn so that passing pilots could find where they were. Towns usually had their town name on the water tower. Lost? ... circle and read the water tower.

Air navigation developed in a pattern something like this:

1. Dead reckoning ... use a compass heading and off we go with great hopes.
2. Point contact ... mark my course on a map and use water towers etc. as check points.
3. Use the new “Sectional charts” or rotating beacons to delineate navigation lanes..



All of these pre-suppose that ONE CAN SEE THE GROUND ... but what if ...well, poor visibility killed a lot of pilots and various schemes were tried, but then one day engineers introduced the N-A radio navigation beams. This was a giant leap toward safe instrument flight.

The N-A radio navigation used a transmitter which broadcast in four, alternate 90 degree quadrants transmitting either an A or an N in Morse Code. Pilots could hear both the N and A but depending on where you were, one would be significantly louder than the other. Since DIT -DAH and DAH-DIT meld together, at the 90 degree junctions around the compass their audible volume became equal so they formed a solid tone, a BEAM.

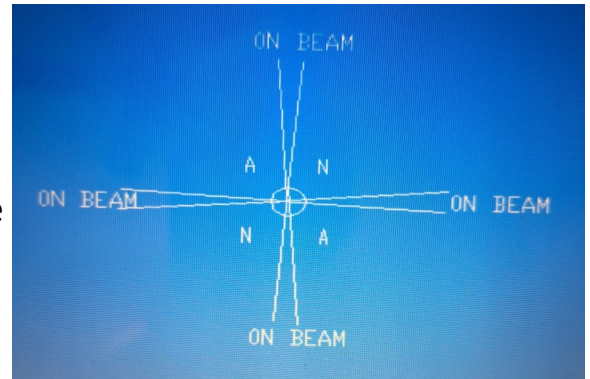
There were four similar beams situated one every 90 degrees, all leading to the transmitter. This worked reasonably well and were standard navigation tools.

## BEAM ME UP, SCOTTY by Dave, W9CJS

These A-N transmitters were situated all around the country forming a grid of radio highways which would lead from city to city.

Early in my flying career I convinced my folks to let me fly us to see a football game at Univ. of Michigan where my older sister was enrolled. On the flight back visibility was poor and cloud ceilings were low. Flying below the clouds was extremely bumpy so I decided to climb above the clouds and fly the beam. Both worked

... and we found South Bend Airport by following their beam. I must admit ... God flew the plane that day, it was foolish and illegal to climb to get "on top" or descend through the clouds. I had minimal training and was not qualified or licensed in IFR (instrument flight regulations) but Hey! I'm 18 now, I can do anything.



In the 1940's the new VHF Omni-Range stations started appearing all over the country. Radio information from an OMNI station to an indicator in the plane moved a needle left or right of any direction you set on the instrument. If the needle was left of center, correct your course a bit left, and similarly to the right. It was beautiful ... select an OMNI station on your Sectional Chart near your destination, tune the radio to it's frequency, set the compass direction and voila! The indicator needle would swing left or right, telling you the direction to fly to arrive at the station. You didn't need to see ground check points at all just keep the needle centered. OMNI transmitters were often located on or near airports. Navigating at night, in or above the clouds was no problem. Soon after OMNI development, radio engineers rotated the system vertically providing directional and glide slope ILS (Instrument Landing System) information right down through the clouds to your runway... almost blind landings.

Today, many planes are outfitted with a "Glass Panel" ... GPS and other displays which provide more information than you think you will ever need... but then one day... what was that?... the engine coughed and missed a beat or two... do I need to land?, ... but where's the nearest airport? Push a button and you are given distances, directions, gliding range, COMM frequencies and various services available at all the nearby airports." Watch out for those power lines shown on the chart, they're 800 feet ASL (Above Sea Level)

And radio made it all possible. Dave Gauger W9CJS

## CQ....CQ...CQ....THE ILLINOIS QSO PARTY

HELD ANNUALLY ON SUNDAY, THE THIRD FULL WEEKEND OF  
OCTOBER (10/19/2025)

Starting with the 2006 ILQP, the WIARC assumed the responsibility of sponsoring and administering this annual event. The ILQP takes place each October and involves amateur operators in all Illinois counties as well as operators from across the USA and in many foreign countries. The QSO party provides Illinois operators the opportunity to be the 'rare ones' while providing stations outside of Illinois the opportunity to log many of the rarer Illinois counties. Illinois stations may operate as Fixed, Portable, Mobile or Rover stations. High and Low power classes are provided for both Illinois Fixed and Non-Illinois stations and QRP competition is also provided.

Note from Kurt Eversole , KE9N

The 2025 Illinois QSO party is coming up October 19, 2025. The ILQP is a fun activity which only lasts 8 hours, from 1700 UTC to 0100 UTC October 20th. You can operate as a single individual, or as a group. RARA (as a club activity) has operated in this event in the past. The object is to work as many stations as possible, with Illinois counties, states, VE provinces and DX as multipliers. There is a separate logging program from N3FJP for this contest. Check out the attachment for the rules, and times of operation. Let me know if you have any questions, or have an interest in operating as a group.

For information and rules, use this link <https://w9awe.org/ilqp/> Scroll down and click on the 2025 folder for this year's rules.

### Illinois QSO Party 10/2015 reprinted from 11/2015 Hamrag

A few of us got together to operate the Illinois QSO Party held on October 18th. Gordon, KC9NEX, reserved the call K9K, and those who operated and logged were: Alvin, KC9GIO, Gordon, KC9NEX, Bob, KC9ICH, Jacek, KD9ELT, Len, KD9CDC, and myself, KE9N. We had a great time, and traded off operating the radio and logging. We ended up with 520 contacts and 100 multipliers for a total score of 52,000 points. The Illinois QSO Party is a great way to learn the basics of contesting and have a great time! Hope to hear you next year in the contest. 73, ---- Kurt, KE9N ----



# Recap! September Happenings

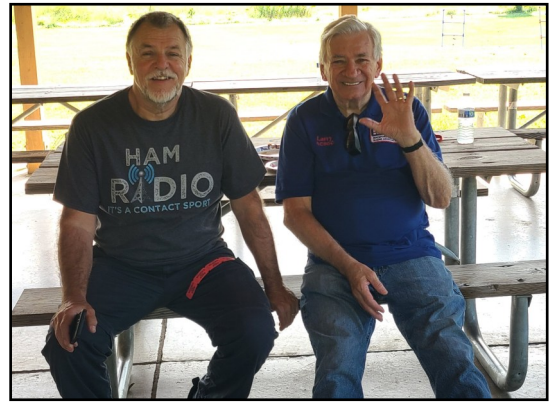
**Family Picnic....** Many, many thanks to all helping to plan and implement the 2025 Family Picnic and Anniversary Celebration, and to everyone attending and providing delicious dishes to share! We were not at a shortage of good company and yummy food. This year we had about 60 in attendance over the course of the day. It was great fun meeting spouses, kids, and grandkids. In addition to the grand prize, A Yaesu FT-65-R Dual Band Handheld won by Mark KE9COB, we expanded our prize selection this year, and although many were small, they were well received. We had a station setup and had several operators get on the air. All in all, it was a great time for many of our members to socialize and get to know each other better.



Grand prize winner of the Yaesu FT-65 and programming cable Mark KE9COB!  
Prize courtesy of Stateline Amateur Radio Services.



## Recap! September Happenings



The Chicago FM Club Hamfest (Belvidere Hamfest) was well attended and a great opportunity to promote RARA. We had a great location and were one of the first areas seen by participants as they entered the building. The outdoor flea market had beautiful weather and lots of vendors. We had the opportunity to promote RARA to a number of individuals which may result in a couple of new members and did result in a new member (really returning member), Jeff K9JAA (Welcome back!).

Many thanks to the Hamfest Volunteers. Pictured (L-R) Joe K9JPP, Guy KE9CZZ, Kurt KE9N, Mark KE9COB. Not pictured, Mike KB9SSV, Matt W3MBX, Jimmy KC9GOL, Doug KE9CNS, and Verna W9YUM.



## The Radio Boys on Poison Island by Larry Lisle, K9KZT

### *A tribute to the radio fiction of bygone days*

The three Radio Boys stood on the shore of Forbidden Lake. The weather was cool, even for early October. They were about to head home for dinner, having spent the day hiking when Dick suddenly said, "Look, fellows, I think there's a chest of some kind on the beach of Poison Island!"

"I think you're right, Dick," said Tom. "I'm sure it wasn't there this morning!"

"Let's go take a look," said Dick.

"But fellows, it's almost time for dinner" said Donuts, the third member of the trio.

"It won't take long to get out there," said Dick.

"Let's go!" Said Tom.

So the three lads got in the old boat they had found on one of their earlier expeditions and started Tom's small outboard motor.

Before long they were pulling the boat ashore and striding toward the old chest. Arriving first, Tom threw open the lid.

"It's just junk" said Dick.

"Grumphh" said Donut's, having reached into his backpack for one of his emergency donuts.

Suddenly, a scream cut through the gathering twilight.

"That sounds like a lady in trouble! said Tom.

"Let's go" cried Dick.

So the three boys ran toward where the sound seemed to have come from, Tom in the lead and Donuts puffing along behind the other two.

After about twenty minutes of searching they had found nothing unusual on the small island. They returned to the beach and Tom said, "We'd better call the sheriff when we get home."

"Look!" said Dick. "The boat has a hole in it!"

"You're right" said Tom. "Somebody threw the rock that was right here through the bottom!"

"How will we get home?" Said Donuts.

"I don't know," said Tom. "And nobody knows where we are, let alone that we came out to Poison Island!"

"What will we do?"

WELL, GENTLE READER, WHAT WILL THE BOYS DO?

*To be continued*

# Membership Renewal and New Member Applications

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for your 2025 RARA Membership and to those already renewing for 2026. Here's a snapshot of what your \$25 membership did in 2025.

That's just a little over \$2 per month—Such a Deal!

- ⇒ Monthly meeting and educational program
- ⇒ Informative monthly newsletter
- ⇒ Two-day Summer Field Day at Camp Winnebago with educational opportunities and delicious meals.
- ⇒ Fall Family Picnic with prizes, food, and great company.



Your membership also sponsors:

- ⇒ Two repeaters (exciting news on the repeaters) and,
- ⇒ Three weekly RARA nets

***Please consider renewing your membership for 2026 and if you wish, additional donations are welcome and may be earmarked for the general fund or repeater fund. Membership forms are always available in this newsletter, the website [W9AXD.org](http://W9AXD.org) or the Facebook group.***

## Notes:

**New Applicant:** Applications received and approved now through the end of the year are good through 2026 so its a perfect time to join.

**Renewing Member:** We do ask renewing members to submit an application form each year to make sure all information is accurate. Additionally, changes were made to the form to help us gather additional information for planning purposes.

## 2026 Board of Directors

The board of directors for 2026 were elected at the October 10 meeting. Thanks to all nominees coming forward and ready to continue the momentum gained over the past couple of years. We appreciate your confidence in our ability to get the job done for you. Directors are all volunteers and contribute many hours throughout the year for the benefit of all members.

Congratulations and thanks to:

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| * President, Larry McFall KD9HKX   | * Director, Jimmy Curtis KC9GOL    |
| * Vice President, Jamie Cook W9JTC | * Director, Dan Larson KD9SAZ      |
| * Secretary, Guy Adams KE9CZZ      | * Director Doug Passmore, KE9CNS   |
| * Treasurer, Verna Schubert W9YUM  | * Director Mike Richardson, KB9SSV |

***If contributing as a director is not something that interests you***, please find a way to answer the calls for volunteers during the year. It is also very rewarding for directors to see you show up and participate! An active membership is critical and many hands make light work.....not to mention a lot of fun!

Often, clubs like RARA, have members who feel they are too old, physically limited, or just don't realize the skills they have that would be very welcome to the club. Skills like....photography, technology knowledge, teaching, writing and editing, hospitality, mentoring and encouraging others.....and more. So look into your bag of tricks and reach out to help where you can!

## From the Workbench by Larry AC9GO



If you think you would like to build an antenna but just don't know where to start here is a nice little project that doesn't all that long, and could give you a nice signal into your favorite repeater. Over the years I've built or rebuilt several of these, and they put out a great signal. I say several because there was one that I put up on some TV mast that wasn't all that sturdy, and at least once a year a wind or ice storm would break or bend over the TV mast and I would find a part of it either broke off or completely bent out of shape. Usually it just took straightening out one of the

elements, replacing a part of the mast, and holding it up with some black wire ties. (By the way, never use white ties outside, the sun will destroy them in about a month.)

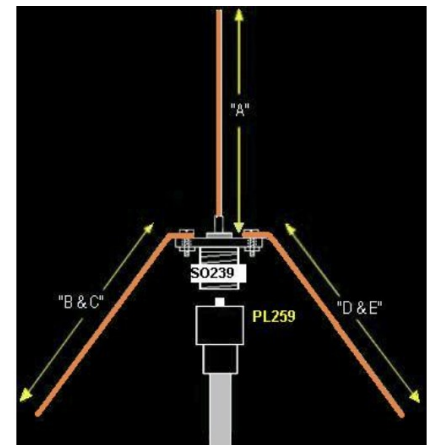
The antenna is perfect for 2 meters because a ground plane antenna is vertically polarized, and generally circular in pattern, so you can hit any repeater in any direction if your repeater is not obstructed by something like a building or your antenna isn't obstructed to the repeater. The antenna is also close to a 50 ohm match for your transceiver. I'm sure you can find this on the internet in several locations. I found it on a site called Ham universe and the URL is <https://hamuniverse.com/2metergp.html>.

Parts list: 1 pc. SO 239 (The antenna is built on this device.)

5 pc # 12 copper wire (1 pc 19 5/16 inches for A) (4 pc 20 3/16 inches for B thru E)

Note: You may not be able to solder to the base of the SO 239. Some of the metal that they are using will not take solder. The radiator should not be a problem however. To match the SWR, the four radials are the place to cut, and the start would be about 1/8 inch on each.

The calculations were made for 146 (mhz). The formula is  $(234/\text{FREQ MHZ})$  add 5% for radials. The wires that are used for radials may have to be bolted to the SO-239, because the metal is not that easy to solder to. The best connection would be a small lug, big enough to fit over the bolts that go through the four corners with a star washer between the lug and the SO 239 and followed by the nut. The star washer insures a good electrical connection.



The reason to start with 146 mhz is because it is at the lower part of the repeater section of the band which means the radials will likely be a little longer than the repeater you are making the antenna for. Though there is little difference at this frequency, it could make a difference if you are going for a repeater some distance away. If you were going for the 147.000 repeater you would divide  $234 / 147 = 1.59$  feet or 19.10 inches. Then add 5%  $19.10 \times 1.05 = 20.05$ . so start with 20 inches of wire for each leg of the B,C,D,E , and cut A to 19.5 inches. When you check your SWR, start with a cut of 1/8 inch on each leg and go from there.

Have fun with your new antenna, and Ham radio.

73 Larry AC9GO .

## Hamfest, Contest and DX Links

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

# AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS



THE HAM RADIO COMMUNITY IN ACTION!

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.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Powered by ICOM

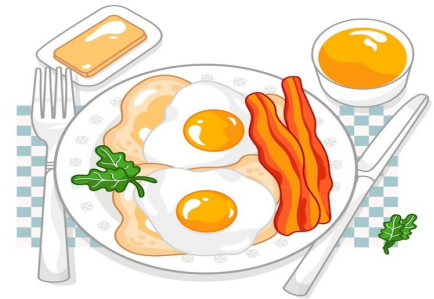
Link to the WA7BNM Contest Calendar or go to [www.contestcalendar.com](http://www.contestcalendar.com)

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)

Powered by ICOM

**DX** WORLD.net

## Local Ham Breakfasts & Social Time



### 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 Fall 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!**



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HERE  
TO SHOP  
NOW**



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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.**

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

## HAM OF THE YEAR - 2025 NOMINATIONS

The Ham of the Year award is an honor that is presented to the RARA member(s) who has contributed the most above and beyond what was required to the club, and to amateur radio in general during the past year. This year the selection will be made by a committee of three RARA members established to evaluate the nominations of deserving candidates from those submitted by club members.

Your nominee should be chosen using two basic criteria: The nominee must be a RARA member, and should have performed exemplary service for RARA and amateur radio during the year 2025. Please take a few minutes to fill out the form below, or a facsimile, completing all of the requested information.

Nominations may be e-mailed or mailed to Larry McFall, KD9HKX, at the address below. All nominations must be received by November 15, 2025. They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Email or mail nominations to:

Larry McFall, KD9HKX  
5683 Coyote Trail  
Roscoe, IL 61073  
email: [lpmcfall@charter.net](mailto:lpmcfall@charter.net)

Nominee(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Call(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I nominate the above person(s) for the RARA Ham of the Year 2025 award for the following reasons:

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Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_