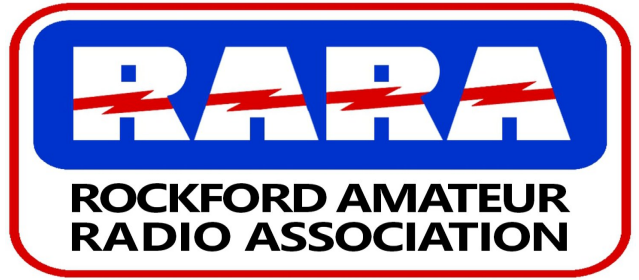


HAMRAG

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



RARA Mission Statement

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

June 2026

Calling CQ for
over 70 years

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:

Chuck Gooden K9LC, and Larry Hill N9HJM

Thanks to this month's contributors to the Ham Rag

Dave W9CJS, Larry AC9GO, Paul WB9HGZ, Robert W3GRZ



PARTICIPATE IN YOUR LOCAL
ARRL FIELD DAY
JUNE 27-28



NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY— June 12 - 7:00pm

Summer Field Day Planning

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

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President's Message— Larry McFall, KD9HKX

Hello fellow RARA members and friends:

All of you know the new RARA website is up and operational . If you haven't yet checked it out please do. The new website is very user friendly and has lots of information about our club and activities. I'd especially recommend checking the "Resources" tab; there is a wealth of information there at your fingertips. A big thank you to our website committee especially Verna, W9YUM and Robert "Grizz", W3GRZ.

In other news from the board the 501 c3 committee has the application ready to be filed. Once again a big thank you to Matt Marshall W3MBX for all of his work on the application.

Additionally, the Emergency Services committee has started work on emergency communications planning for OSF Saint Anthony.

Field day, June 27th and 28th is getting very close. Doug and his team are planning a great field day at Camp Winnebago. This year we're planning to have two HF-SSB stations, an HF-CW/FT8 station and a HF GOTA station. I hope all of you can make it to Camp Winnebago to have a great time with your fellow hams.

73,
Larry KD9HKX

Editor's Note

If you would like to have something published, please call me at
email me at w9yum.vs@gmail.com

Articles are welcome and encouraged from all!

Due Date for the July Ham Rag is Tue June 30, 2026

73, Verna—W9YUM, Editor

RARA Board and Local Nets

Tuesday, June 9, 2026 RARA Board Meeting 7:00pm on Google Meet
Friday, June 12, 2026 RARA Membership Meeting 7:00pm OSF St Anthony

2026 RARA Officers and Directors

Officers:

President - Larry McFall, KD9HKX, lpmcfall@pm.me
Vice President - Jamie Cook, W9JTC, W9JTC@yahoo.com
Secretary - Guy Adams, KE9CZZ, ke9czz@gmail.com
Treasurer – Verna Schubert, W9YUM, w9yum.vs@gmail.com

Directors:

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Doug Passmore, KE9CNS, dgpasmore@att.net
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HamRag Editor - Verna Schubert, W9YUM, w9yum.vs@gmail.com
Webmasters - Verna Schubert, W9YUM, & Robert Grizzell, W3GRZ, w9axdrara@gmail.com
Repeater License Trustee - Doug Passmore, KE9CNS, dgpasmore@att.net
Repeater Chairman - Matt Marshall, W3MBX, matthew.marshal@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

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

Thu - 7:00pm - Winnebago Co. Skywarn Net, 146.610 (-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 Dates!

Friday, June 12, 2026 (7pm)

RARA Monthly Meeting—Field Day Planning

OSF St Anthony, Rockford—Foundation Room

Saturday, June 13, 2026

Beloit Club Breakfast and Foxhunt

Ham Radio breakfast 8:00am at Denny's restaurant located at the Flying J travel center (I39 / I90 & IL 75, or Gardener & Willowbrook Rd, South Beloit. We can talk lots of radio!

After the breakfast (about 10:00AM) we will be having a Fox-Hunt starting at the Denny's parking lot. Bring your Fox hunting radios/Antennas!

Monday, June 15, 2026 (7:30pm)

Winnebago County Skywarn Monthly meeting

OSF St Anthony—lower level of main entrance in the Foundation Room

Saturday, June 27 - Sunday, June 28, 2026

Summer Field Day—YMCA Camp Winnebago

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! Field Day chairman is Doug Passmore, KE9CNS. Volunteers are needed!

Friday, July 10, 2026 (7pm)

RARA Monthly Meeting—John Kruk (Yaesu) System Fusion

OSF St Anthony, Rockford—Foundation Room

Monday, July 20, 2026 (7:30pm)

Winnebago County Skywarn Monthly meeting

OSF St Anthony—lower level of main entrance in the Foundation Room

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Radio Expo 2026 (Belvidere Hamfest)

Flea Mkt 6am-3pm, Indoor Market 8am-3pm

Boone County Fairgrounds

Belvidere, IL

**New email address? Phone Number? A new call sign? Upgraded your License?
Joined the ARRL?**

Don't forget to let us know so our records are accurate and you aren't left out of the loop!
Please email updates to Verna W9YUM at w9yum.vs@gmail.com & add me to your contacts.



Join in the Fun!

Saturday, June 27, 1pm– Sunday, June 28, noon • YMCA Camp Winnebago

Field Day is right around the corner! We're heading back to YMCA Camp Winnebago for amateur radio's biggest weekend of the year. Here's everything you need to know. Please note, planning is still underway so there may be additions to the schedule.

This Year's Setup

We're running **3-Alpha** — three radios operating simultaneously on portable power operating as K9E. We'll also have a **GOTA (Get On The Air) station** for anyone who is unlicensed, newly licensed, or hasn't been on the air in a while. GOTA will operate using W9AXD and licensed operator will be right there to assist. On Saturday, we will have a station running morse code (CW) and will switch to FT8 in the evening and overnight. We encourage our GMRS friends to join in the fun!

For our public visitors (1:00–6:00 PM Saturday), we'll have a greeting and orientation area plus a Skywarn display for severe weather education and outreach. Invite your friends and encourage them to get on the radio!

Schedule

Saturday, June 27

9:00 AM Setup begins
12:00 PM Lunch
1:00 PM Operating begins / Public open house starts
6:00 PM Public open house ends
7:00 PM Dinner

Sunday, June 28

Morning Donuts & coffee (time TBD)
12:00 PM Tear down

The Food

Great news — we're doing both lunch AND dinner this year!

Lunch: Grilled burgers and hot dogs with all the traditional fixings, plus chips, salads, and more.

Dinner: Pulled pork (made with Smoking Coop's pork butts!), cheesy potatoes, smoked mac & cheese, and more. *Want to contribute a side dish or dessert? The more the merrier — let us know!*

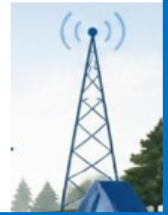
Sign up today!

A big thank you to everyone who has already signed up!

Haven't signed up yet? Take a look at where we're still a bit light — particularly in the **operating and logging area**. This is a great opportunity to get involved and have some fun. We'll be scheduling slots to make sure everyone gets break times for food and refreshments. [Click to Sign up!](#)

See you at Camp Winnebago!

Questions? Email w9axdrara@gmail.com
rockfordara.org



Field Day Tips & Techniques That Every Operator Can Use

Note, RARA will be using K9E (kilo-9-echo) and W9AXD (whiskey-9-alpha-xray-delta)

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day as a contest, even though it technically isn't one. But if your idea of Field Day fun is chasing the highest score possible, **these tips from ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X**, will help you maximize your results. *Whether you're a seasoned contester or getting on the air for the first time, these techniques will make your operating smoother, faster, and more effective.*

1. Call CQ — Don't Just Tune the Dial

You'll log far more stations by calling CQ than by hunting and answering. If you're not getting replies, keep calling. Top contesters call CQ for several minutes before moving on. Three or four tries is giving up too soon.

2. Keep Your CQs Short

Get to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about five seconds between calls to give stations time to respond.

3. Stick to Standard Phonetics

"Cute" phonetics might sound fun, but they don't always get through — and they can confuse newer operators. Keep it clear and consistent.

4. Give Your Exchange Once

Keep it simple and say it once: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they need a repeat, they'll ask.

5. Running a Pileup? Lead with Your Exchange

Once you've pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange first before asking for theirs. This keeps the rhythm going and speeds up the whole process.

6. Can't Hear the Full Call? Ask for One Letter

When the pileup is thick and you can't make out a full callsign, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."

7. Keep Acknowledgments Brief

Don't linger after each QSO. A quick "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey" keeps the contacts rolling.

8. Find Your Pace and Hold It

Screaming into the mic or rushing through contacts will burn you out fast. A comfortable, steady pace is more efficient and more sustainable over a 24-hour event.

9. Use a Headset and Foot Switch

A boom mic headset and foot switch free up both hands for logging. Writing or typing with a mic in your hand slows everything down.

10. Chase Every Bonus Point

Don't leave points on the table. Copy the Field Day message, send traffic, use natural power for QSOs — there are numerous bonus opportunities that can significantly boost your score

No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun — however you define it.
Source: ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X — Dayton Hamvention Field Day Forum

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 month we feature an NCO from north of the border—Clinton WI. You know him as Chuck Bell, WD9BB, and hear him Monday-Friday morning from 8am-9am on the Senile Net. This HF net can be found on the band at 14.287.

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

I have been a ham for over 50 years. I was loaned a A2516 receiver, attached a wire and was thrilled with the DX and the Morse Code....it lit a fire!

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

I enjoy knowing I am keeping a net on the air that was started in the 60's for an avid morning group of "checker -inners who enjoyed hearing from one another.

What type of nets do you provide NCO services for?

The Senile Net which is a casual, easy to wake up to net. we talk about the weather, projects, family, radios you name it. This HF net is active Monday-Friday mornings from 8am-9am and can be found on 14.287.

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

The most memorable would be meeting and hearing from new contacts and the DX check-ins. The most challenging part is recognizing controversial subjects and keeping things cordial.

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

Keep good record of your check ins as well as any radio contacts—take notes, names, qth, etc. I keep a handwritten log and the N3FJP logging program. The hand log is by districts which I can turn to at will.

Behind the Mic—Meet Your Net Control Operators

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

I do mostly HF, a few contests, Winter/Summer field days, and local hamfests.

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

Related to my net, it would be my rotator as I am constantly putting it on whoever I am talking with. The big TH7DX Yaggi is easy to love as well.

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

I'm a Navy veteran and I live in the country on 3-acres with plenty of room for garden, orchard, woodshop, and antennas. I have been dong the Senile Net for 9-years with over 35,000 logged contacts. I have been blessed to have many "smarter than me" hams and friends that got me started and keep me going!

From Freeport Illinois:

The Friday Night Fun Net with Jimmy Dorsey, KC9GCR

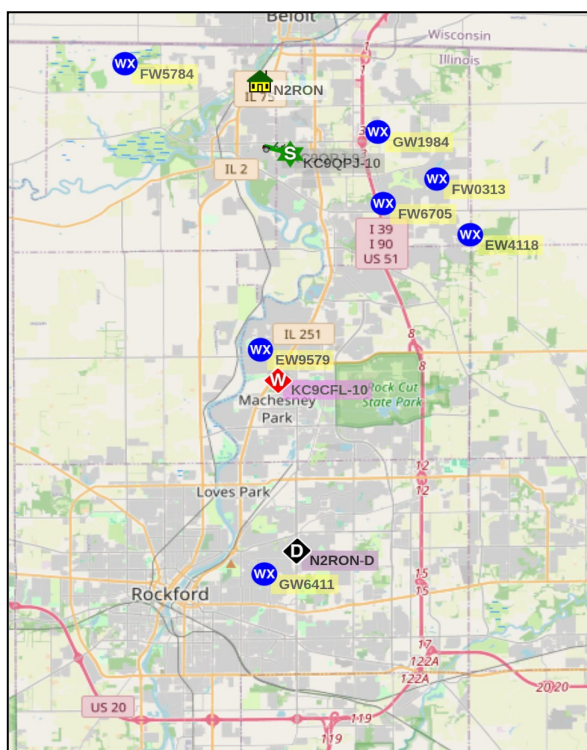
Every Friday at 8PM Central Time
W9AXD Repeater 146.610 Rockford Illinois
Live Streamed on the
Kerry Tatlow YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/@ktatlow>

Citizen Mesh Networks Part 2: Ecosystem Robert Grizzell—W3GRZ

Many in HAM radio community have probably heard or used APRS at some point. Others may have used Winlink or RTTY on HF too. Digital modes aren't new and the vast majority of differences usually come down to data structure and modulation. These are what enable Mesh Networking.

Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) is probably the most popular form of Mesh Networking in the Amateur Radio community. APRS utilizes a broadcast form of packet radio that provides a real time means of communication in a local area. Some of the APRS packets can contain data like GPS coordinates, text messages, weather information, and alerts. APRS packets are not repeated by default, but if in range of a Digipeater that's in range of another Digipeater, a message can travel quite far.

Many of the more expensive mobile and handheld transceivers have native support for APRS, but any radio can be turned into an APRS beacon with a Terminal Node Controller (TNC). A TNC is a piece of software that runs on a device, demodulating or interpreting the audio or "packets" coming from the radio. Some TNCs are self-contained devices, others operate as an app on your computer or phone. On Raspberry Pi devices DireWolf is often used. On Android, APRSdroid is the most popular option. Due to its maturity, APRS also has the widest selection of available hardware, software, and tools for Amateur Radio operators.



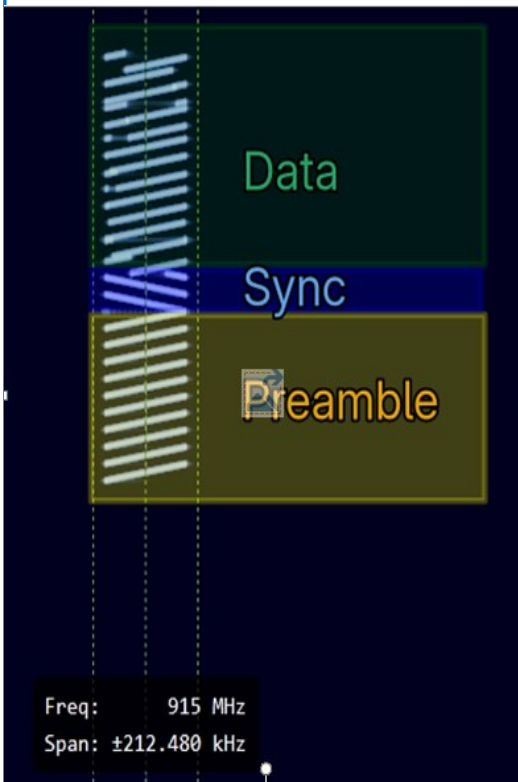
APRS Stations in the greater Rockford area as seen on <https://aprs.fi/>

When the situation calls for more than just text, location, or weather updates, a real mesh network capable of data streams is required. The Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN) provides this capability for HAMs. More than just an organization, they create custom firmware for commercial WISP radio devices that unlock extra frequencies/channels in the 900 Mhz, 2.4 Ghz, and 5.8 Ghz bands. These extra frequencies are typically shared with other systems and often have less interference than the unlicensed sections. When using AREDN-enabled devices FCC rules still apply, so a callsign must be configured.

Citizen Mesh Networks Part 2: Ecosystem Robert Grizzell—W3GRZ

These AREDN-enabled devices enable a wide range of EmComm purposes from sending larger files like pictures and video to running their applications that require networking such as collaborative documents or medical records. The device configuration has been highly automated allowing these devices to automatically join and coordinate with relative autonomy. Individual nodes can move around and the network will attempt to heal itself using the Babel routing protocol. Depending on the frequency most devices can communicate at distances of ¼ mile or more. If line-of-sight is achieved with directional antennas, it can often be above 10 miles. Many are inexpensive ranging from \$25 to \$300. Depending on the model, they may also allow a single cable to carry both power and data. Power-over-Ethernet (PoE) sends DC voltage on 2 of the 4 twisted wire pairs in a standard Ethernet cable. This simplifies node deployment in many respects, but requires sufficient power to operate.

Newest to the ecosystem is class of low-powered radios developed for IoT devices. LoRa (meaning “long range”) radios are a type of packet radio that uses a Chirp Spread Spectrum to deliver messages at great distances with low transmit power, typically 22 dBm (0.15 W).



Components of a Meshtastic

LoRa can be thought of as a “cheap radio wobbling around” with each left and right wobble providing the necessary encoding. In ideal conditions with low ground clutter, a message can often be heard from 5-10 miles.

In North America, they operate on the unlicensed portion of the 33cm band, from 902 to 928MHz. Data rates are similar to that of APRS, but range can be traded for faster modulation. Any LoRa radio configured with the same parameters will demodulate the message.

Due to their IoT nature, the devices run on battery power and can exist independently of existing power or data infrastructure. If integrated with a GPS receiver or environmental sensors, they can operate in any number of roles from asset tracker to weather station. Reticulum operates more as a network stack, using LoRa as just one means of communication.

Citizen Mesh Networks Part 2: Ecosystem

Robert Grizzell—W3GRZ

Added to this is a layer of AES Encryption. Due to its unlicensed nature, FCC rules permit anyone to encrypt their transmissions on this band so long as the power remains below 1 watt (30 dBm). This allows individual or groups to configure their own LoRa networks for private communication. Nearby mesh nodes do not need to decrypt the message in order to repeat it.

By far the largest application of LoRa mesh networking is the LoRaWAN protocol. Used primarily in the commercial space, LoRaWAN is often used for asset trackers or environmental sensors. LoRaWAN Gateways process and forward messages to and from traditional IP networks. This allows warehouses and manufacturing plants to track the position and conditions of each asset and the environment they are operating in.

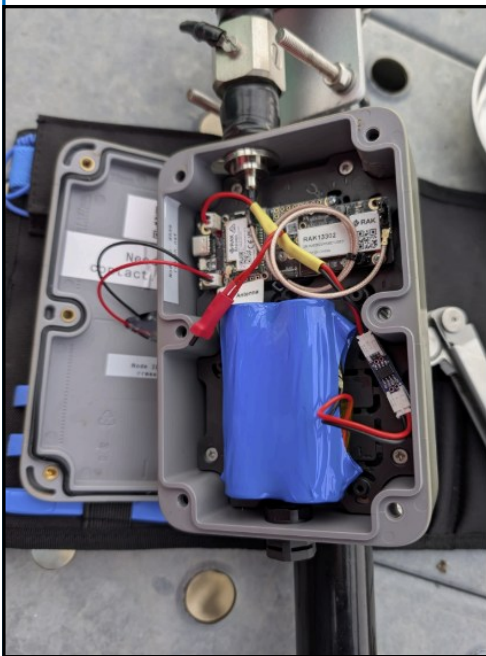
Similarly, the Helium Network is a cryptocurrency that can be earned by running a special LoRa Gateway that listens for LoRa packets in the wild. Each incoming connection earns you a Helium Network Token (HNT). While popularity has dropped with the value of the coin, The Things Network has grown and operated without the monetization aspect. The goal of each is to build a geographically dispersed and public network as an alternative to cellular providers. In recent years, Open Source Software projects like Meshtastic and MeshCore have opened up these cheap devices for hobbyists and layman alike. It's found an especially interesting cross-over with Amateur Radio and has driven a recent increase in licensed operators.

Among the most popular of these is Meshtastic. The LoRa radio is paired with a low-powered microcontroller that pairs to a phone via Bluetooth. The Android or iOS device is then used to configure and send messages over the Mesh Network. Other nearby devices will pick up and forward the message to all over nearby devices. In larger mesh networks, especially in urban or mountainous areas, solar-powered nodes are configured as repeaters and remotely managed through another node.

MeshCore separates itself from Meshtastic by providing a more reliable message routing algorithm. With Meshtastic, packets are flooded by each node in the mesh. This eats up Air Time and doesn't always guarantee delivery. In MeshCore, messages can be flooded to discover a path and then directly routed once established. This difference in philosophy reduces congestion on larger metropolitan or dispersed meshes where better positioned nodes handle lots of traffic.

Citizen Mesh Networks Part 2: Ecosystem

Robert Grizzell—W3GRZ



It also supports many data radios, serial lines, AX.25 TNCs, JS8Call, and pretty much anything that can handle 500 baud of data. The steeper learning curve of Reticulum keeps adoption relatively low. While projects like Meshtastic and MeshCore remain easier to approach. All three projects offer similar chat and encryption services.

Its important to note that Meshtastic and MeshCore are standalone networks protocols. Gateways and bridges to the Internet exist as custom software, but the platforms are not built to handle internet traffic. Some newer support for 2.4Ghz radios has been added to each protocol, but it remains limited in deployment due to range and line-of-sight limitations.

A notable exception to this are RC craft using ExpressLRS on 2.4Ghz. As drones fly farther and faster, demand for better more efficient radios has driven the move from Analog to Digital. It does not operate as a Mesh Network, but it does operate in the same bands using the same hardware. Relays and repeaters for ExpressLRS exist, but the added latency can make craft harder to control. Hardware commonality means switching between projects is easy. In many cases, any device that supports Meshtastic can also run MeshCore or Reticulum. Devices are flashed via USB from a standard web browser. They can be repurposed and recycled to suit a number of different needs. Their low-powered and cheap nature make them viable for remote locations. The integration with smart phones also make them intuitive to use.

If any of this interests you, check out the sites below. 73 - W3GRZ

Resources	Vendors - USA 🇺🇸
APRS.fi - aprs.fi AREDN - arednmesh.org Meshtastic - meshtastic.org MeshCore - meshcore.io Reticulum - reticulum.network ExpressLRS - expresslrs.org	Rokland - rokland.com Atlavox - atlavox.com LowMesh - lowmesh.com MeshSmith - meshsmith.net Spec5 - etsy.com/shop/SpecFive
	Vendors - China 🇨🇳
	Elecrow - elecrow.com Heltec - heltec.org LILYGO - lilygo.cc RAKwireless - store.rakwireless.com SeeedStudio - seedstudio.com

Blast from the Past! December 1976 Ham Rag

Many thanks to Paul WB9HGZ for alerting me to this article. He came across it while enjoying the Ham Rag archives and also sent a copy of the QST Cover referenced in the article. Paul also noted it was unfortunate that W9AXD was not mentioned in the magazine and no attribution was given to RARA. Great glimpse of RARA Field Day history!



Editor's QRM

Did you recognize the cover on the November QST ? To those who may not have seen the picture, it is of the R.A.R.A. Field Day site at WB9KOT's country estate. For those who need further identification of those shown in the photograph, WB9KOS has given the following information. Left to right on the ground:

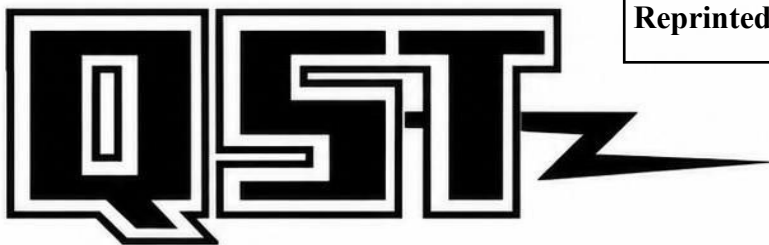
Holding double rope -----	WB9KZQ - Jim Dunlea
Wearing hat -----	K9UWO - Frank Reiter (Committee Chmn.)
Operating end loader -----	WB9KOT - Clyde Aspling
Hand on hip -----	WB9KOS - Bill Ridgway
Behind tower -----	WB9HGZ - Paul Dean
In chair in foreground -----	Eileen Muffler, YL with HGZ
Hand on ladder -----	K9VJJ - Paul Klein
Back view, under sign -----	WB9JMW - Othel Andrews
Back view, holding guy -----	WB9ILH - Ray Lenburg
Two men of roof :	
Left slope -----	Bob White, OM of Diana WB9VLK
Right slope-----	K9KGV - Lloyd Kissick

Clark Bullen, W9COX was the expert behind the camera. Location at the QTH of Clyde Aspling, 4970 Linden Road, Rockford, Illinois.

Recent word received that Frank Reiter, K9UWO, and Frank Riggs, W9HP, are recuperating at their homes after surgery, our best wishes to them for a speedy recovery.

With this issue I shall phase out my editorship of the Ham Rag. It has been interesting work and an experience that none should be without. So to all, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Blast from the Past! 1976



Reprinted courtesy November 1976 QST

devoted entirely to Amateur Radio

November 1976 \$1.50



**1323 stations + 16,120
participants - FD '76.**

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Equivalences—Dave W9CJS

In each case, think of the definition, an equality, or a name for the expression given!

- 1) $IR = \dots\dots\dots$ Answer = Voltage (Ohm's Law)
- 2) $X_c = X_L$
- 3) $468 / \text{wavelength} =$
- 4) 1000 cycles per second =
- 5) 146.520 Megahertz -
- 6) QRP power
- 7) MCW
- 8) 30 - 300 MHz
- 9) 31 Hertz
- 10) RKFD REPEATER PL TONE (2M)
- 11) RTTY
- 12) VHF offset
- 13) FCC
- 14) Part 97
- 15) Max E / Min E
- 16) 14.060 MHz
- 17) RIT
- 18) Opposition to all electric currents
- 19) 7.000 Mhz to 7.300 Mhz
- 20) Happy wife =

You probably got them all ...good going.

Dave—W9CJS

From the Workbench by Larry AC9GO



It's Party Time!

Many, many years ago the ARRL set up a 24-hour period in the month of June each year to make sure that ham radio operators were in a ready state to operate in a portable manor if they were called out in an emergency. Somewhere along the way Canada joined with the US. Somewhere along the way the ARRL made the weekend into a contest, but continued to promote the idea the event was to prepare your readiness to operate portable in case of emergency.

Amateur radio operators, being of the type to never miss a great opportunity, thought this was a great opportunity to not only make a lot of great contacts, not only on the air but locally with a bunch of friends. The result was that it was a great time to party. Since it was an all night event the party had to last all night.

I've talked in the past about my first Field Day Party, but in case you may have missed it. Here is a brief review. It happened in Fort Wayne. At the time, in the 1950's, the Ft Wayne Radio Club actually had a building and a small piece of property, on the south side of town. That was the first time that I had ever seen the property, and as I remember it had three towers on it and at least two of the towers had beams at the top. I was was a teenager at the time, and I don't remember if I had a license at the time or not. It really didn't matter because they said we could operate under the guidance of other hams that were there, and two or three of my buddies were licensed.

In those days I think we had about four stores in town that had electronic parts, and at least two or maybe three of those stores sold Ham radio equipment. They were very competitive, and one of the stores provided the latest and one of the greatest pieces of Amateur radios ever made and at the time it may have been the only transceiver made at that time. This is still one of the radio's that is still in demand by collectors, the Collins KWM2. At the time it was something we all drooled over, and here we got to play with it all night. It was a delight to say the least. It was the first transceiver I had ever seen let alone had a chance to touch and work with, and yes, I did stay up all night, even though I didn't make that many contacts. The bands weren't in the greatest shape, and I really didn't know what I was doing, but what did we care? It was an all-night party.

Have fun with your radio!

See you at the party! Larry AC9GO

P.S. Don't tell the ARRL, they still think it's to test your portable abilities. <<wink, wink>>

The RARA Store—Time for Field Day & Skywarn!

What better way to promote RARA and share your enthusiasm for amateur radio, all while supporting your club and local business! When you shop the online store, RARA receives a commission and you are supporting local amateur radio and repeaters!

Shop the store at stores.inksoft.com/RARA

CQ...CQ...CQ...Check in to the RARA Store for the latest Skywarn and Field Day gear! All the favorites are still there!



Hamfest, Contest and DX Links

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

AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS

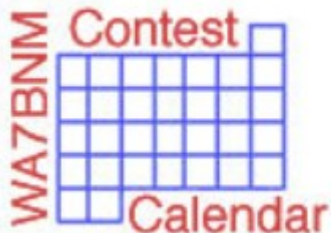


THE HAM RADIO COMMUNITY IN ACTION!

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



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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

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DX WORLD.net

Local Ham & GMRS 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.



BI-MONTHLY SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST



The Rock River Valley GMRS Breakfast Club meets on
the First and Third Saturdays each month at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. C’s Family Restaurant
4309 W State Street
Rockford, Illinois 61102

Radio Expo 2026

Illinois Largest Hamfest

Dealers!
Radios!
Computers!
Electronics!
Door Prizes!
Raffles!

Sunday
September 27th, 2026

Boone County Fairgrounds
8791 IL-76
Belvidere, IL 61008

<https://chicagofmclub.org/radio-expo-2026/>



Indoor Market 8am-3pm
Flea Market 6am-3pm
Breakfast – Lunch
Bring The Family
Hourly Prize Drawings
VEC Testing 9am-Noon

RV or Motor Homes
Camping
Water-Electric \$50

Tickets at the Gate
\$12.00
Two Door Prize Stubs

Talk-In Repeater
 146.760 – 107.2
 WA9ORC

Advance Tickets
\$10.00
 Four Door Prize Stubs

Making Ham Radio Fun!

Name / Company		Call Sign
Address		
City	State	Zip
Email	Phone	

Service	Cost	Quantity	Total
Advance Tickets	\$10.00		
Outside Power	\$10.00		
Inside Tables	\$25.00		
Inside Power	\$10.00		

For event questions:
 Call **773-614-4733**, or
 Email wa9orc@gmail.com

Make Check payable to:
 Chicago FM Club
 3619 S. 54th Ct.
 Cicero, IL. 60804

Or, Pay by Zelle:
wa9orc@gmail.com



TOTAL DUE:

Vendor setup is Saturday, September 26th from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM with security overnight.
 CFMC reserves the right to make changes as required