



# the RARA RAG

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**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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NO. 2

## AMSAT

Marykay Vesco, KC2DPG

We would like to invite everybody to come down to our second meeting of this season, which is October 5, 2001 at 8:00 PM at the Henrietta Fire Hall on East Henrietta Rd. Our topic will be on AMSAT presented by Walter Obenhofer, NQ2O. Walter is our local AMSAT Field Operations Area Coordinator.

AMSAT is Amateur Radio Operators who share an active interest in building, then launching and communicating with each other thru non-commercial Amateur Radio Satellites. AMSAT groups experiment with new and more sophisticated ways of communicating, which has played a key role in significantly advancing the state of the art in space science, space education and space communications technology.

AMSAT Area Coordinators are volunteers who serve as AMSAT's ambassadors to the Amateur Radio community. They serve in a variety of roles, like making presentations at local Hamfests and clubs. They also serve as local "Elmers", providing technical and operational help to hams in the area.

Don't forget, it's October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Henrietta Fire Hall, 8 PM. I'll see you there!

### RARA Meeting

October 5, 2001

8:00 PM

Henrietta Fire Hall,  
3129 E. Henrietta Rd.

AMSAT

Presented by Walter Obenhofer, NQ2O  
AMSAT Field Operations Coordinator

## Rochester Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

A large part of our Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> RARA BOD agenda dealt with Ed Holdsworth (N2EH) reports on the K2JD station and a review of our emergency preparedness procedures. Ed is the amateur radio communications officer for Monroe County, RACES, ARES and RARA. Although he is the expert on the subject, I am paraphrasing the information.

Yes, the EOC had been activated on September 11<sup>th</sup> and amateur radio was ready. Ed, along with Roger Harnaart (WB2BWQ) and Jack Tripp (W2JAT) were on hand to man the station. Others called in but were not needed. The packet station found a path to Albany and the crew was ready to establish communications at the Red Cross building if called on. They were in contact with the HF nets on 75 and 40 meters.

The question of local amateur radio emergency procedures was raised at the meeting. What if we had a local disaster something like an ice storm, flooding, power outage, nuclear power plant event or other. How should amateur radio participate in these events?

The request for local amateur radio emergency services starts with a call-up list. Ed is at the top the list. When called, Ed, or his designee will go to 50 or more RACES/ARES amateur radio operators. These operators are familiar with the K2JD station co-located with the Monroe County EOC. The operators stay current by participating in public service events.

There are several functions that we hams provide. One primary function is to provide a radio link between the EOC and the Rochester

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## Presidents Comments

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Our last BOD meeting was 1 day after September 11, 2001. The mood at the meeting was different than those of the past. We did not talk much about the events of the previous day except to acknowledge that we were mourning for an incomprehensible loss at the World Trade Center in NYC and we were at war with a poorly defined enemy called terrorism. We know that the view of the world had changed and our priorities had suddenly shifted. We listened to each other very well that evening. We expressed our RARA business effectively and completed it. We spent a little more time than usual listening to the persons giving their reports and appreciated their dedication to amateur radio and to RARA.

This article is short because much of what I had written is about my search to bring meaning to the events unfolding a few days after September 11. It has been helpful for me to write about it but the result probably belongs in a personal diary.

My thoughts turned toward writing an article that summarizes our local amateur radio emergency protocol. It appears on page 1 of this newsletter and was inspired by the heroism richly exhibited by the emergency service providers in NYC.

## Historical Bits:

Ed Gable, K2MP

1945—RG-8 Coaxial cable became widely available to the Ham market.

1952—Phone is authorized in the 40 meter band for the first time.

1978—Novice License term became 5 years and renewable.



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## Letter To The Editor

The following e-mail was sent to a couple of RARA's members from one of our Old Timers. There maybe others that would like to hear from this gentleman so this is his note to us.

Roland Janes, K2JWJ — Once a regular attendee, but retired in 1976 from Farrel Co. Now visiting daughter in Georgia. I really have enjoyed RARA RAG since...but realize the extra expense to the club and at 90-yr don't do hamming anymore though keeping license intact on two-meters...greetings to all you being active, and Ed, N2EH, and Ed, K2MP, and Harold K2HC who is finally retiring, (Western Union will be the loser!!). And to you...all who've been rocks holding it together with enthusiasm. I remember setting up the chairs, and speakers and projects, etc. My hearing held me back, of course; my 6-m loop was on the windowsill corner of Winton and Blossom. I taught and tested some in the 70's at home. I was a machine designer at retirement.....long story. Hope RARA has grown even more than usual. Thanks again for the RAG. But, I dislike the demise of code in the license...note the Internet still operates!! as well as amateur radio.....73's to all.....Rol.....I think you should remember my name from the RAG you save...and 88's to the Winton coeds, not mentioned in RAG.

*(ed...Thanks for your words of encouragement and glad to hear that you are still enjoying the RAG.*

**NEXT RAG DEADLINE  
OCTOBER 12, 2001**

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## Public Service

Ed Holdsworth, N2EH EC/RO

The annual Pumpkin Patrol sponsored by the New York Sate Police, Troop 'T' has again asked our assistance this year. This event has been covered for several years and is operated for the total length of the New York State Thruway with people from the various counties covering those overhead bridges in their respective counties. This is a challenging event and since it's inception we have had some exiting times but we have not had a serious accident in Monroe County. The event will be in operation Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, both starting at 7:00 PM and closing at Midnight. We have several signed up as this is being written but we are looking for a few more volunteers. If you wish to work on this event, you can sign up at the October meeting or call me at 624-1929. If I am not available, leave a message for me and I will call you back.

The American Diabetes Assoc. has two events in October that are being coordinated by Keith Freeberg, N2BEL. They are the ADA Fall Foliage Ride held on October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. This will cover a 130-mile bike ride over the two days, covering Seneca and Cayuga Counties. They will need volunteers for about seven hours each day. There is also, the ADA walk for Diabetes on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:45 AM. This is a 6-mile walk that starts and ends at School #1, Hillside Avenue at the base of Cobbs Hill. If you have an interest in working either of these events contact Keith at 458-8246 or [kff@frontiernet.net](mailto:kff@frontiernet.net).

### RARA Amateur Radio

#### License Testing

All Elements Needed  
To Complete a License Class

Saturday

October 20, 2001

Registration - 8:30AM

Testing - 9:00AM

Social Services Building  
111 Westfall Rd., Rochester

Inquires (716) 334-4488

[aa2fo@rpa.net](mailto:aa2fo@rpa.net)

# Radio Enthusiasts Celebrated A Rich Past And A Bright Future On Amateur Radio Awareness Day

Scott Bauer, W2LC Section Manager

In an era when e-mailing, instant messaging, and other fast and easy forms of communication have become a daily ritual, it may surprise some to know that the Internet has not replaced the original wireless chat community, Amateur Radio. In fact, not only is Amateur Radio keeping pace with today's communications technologies, it is evolving and exciting new generations of high-tech talkers. Amateur Radio Awareness day was held September 15<sup>th</sup>, to recognize the nation's 680,000 ham radio operators who hold FCC Amateur Radio licenses and continue to make significant contributions to technology, education and public service activities. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio, sponsored awareness Day.

"Today's Amateur Radio operators are experimenting with the latest in digital communications, building their own satellites, and meeting people all over the world. You can use the Internet to do that too, but it's the human voice and the challenge in making contacts all over the world that makes this hobby so great."

One of the most traditional activities for Amateur Radio operators is to serve their communities in times of disaster. So far this year, operators in several states have volunteered their communications expertise during flash floods, tropical storms forest fires, and terrorist acts. Operators often work in conjunction with local emergency management officials and relief organizations such as the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army.

Amateur Radio enthusiasts come from virtually every age bracket and from every profession. Throughout the year, Amateur Radio operators help coordinate communications for marathons, bike races and parades. Some show local students how they can make new friends in far away places or help them discover an interest in a future technical career.

Today, there are more than 680,000 Amateur Radio operators in the United States and more

# RARA RAG 20 Years Ago, October 1981

Ed Gable, K2MP

V-P and program chairman Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, reported that the program would be on Fire Safety conducted by Captain Gerard McHugh and Lt. Jack Murphy of the Rochester Fire Department. The annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was announced less any detailed information other than the date of October 17<sup>th</sup>. Locals were encouraged to listen to the N2JC repeater on 28/88 where the exercise will unfold. Roger Dennis, WB2HWO, wrote to enlist support for hiring a tour bus for the 1982 Dayton Convention. Roger already has a book of rooms reserved and was trying to find out the level of interest. Writing for the Rochester DX Association, Rick Berg, WA2RLQ, announced the program was a planning session for the CQ World Wide Phone contest. RDXA meetings at that time were held at the Colonial Hotel on Empire Blvd. A large portion of this issue of the *RAG* was devoted to RARA's written response to FCC Docket 80-729, the so called *Plain Language Rules* docket. RARA's opinion was that the docket fell short of meeting its goal and several suggestions were offered. The docket later failed and was dropped. Dwight Hill, K2KWK, wrote announcing the discontinuance of the ARRL frequency measuring test as its usefulness was doubtful with today's modern, well calibrated equipment. *Harvey's Ham* store (KB2LB) in Caledonia, NY remained a long term advertiser. From the Want Ads you could buy a Swan 400 from Joe Phillips, W2DHV.

**LOST & FOUND:** Someone left a navy blue light jacket at the September meeting, please call me during the day at 334-5000, ask for Marykay. I work in Henrietta and can either bring it to the next meeting or you can stop by and pick it up, but please call first.

than 2.5 million worldwide. For more information on Amateur Radio, contact The Rochester Amateur Radio Association at (716) 442-0587. Information is also available from the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main Street Newington, CT 06111 or by calling 1-800-32-NEW HAM. The URL for ARRL's home page is [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

## The Art Of QSL'ing

Chris R. Shalvoy, K2CS

At the next meeting of the RDXA I'll be giving out my secrets in obtaining those "tuff ones"...Having obtained almost 300 countries, many, many different avenues are available to give you the best chance of confirmation. Most of these, but not all I am sure, will be covered at the next meeting to be held as follows:

7:30 PM, 16 October 2001  
Monroe County Social Services Building  
111 Westfall Road

Hope to see everyone there.

## Emergency Preparedness *(Continued from page 1)*

Red Cross. We also provide a communications link among the Red Cross, County Social Services and County Health functions. The primary value has been handling supplies traffic to the hospitals and shelters. This requires hams to be present at these facilities and connected with the supervisory staff there. When the power grid is down and cell phones are jammed, the roll of hams becomes critical.

Do you have a roll you can play if not currently on the call-up list? You may be needed. First you must be ready. Your personal and family situation must be positioned to enable you to help others. Your contribution will be enhanced if you and your equipment are ready for field operations. Most of us are not normally in that state of readiness. You can learn and follow the amateur radio participation during an emergency by listening to the 146.88 repeater. Please note that the repeater may have a net control operator who is calling the shots. Should additional volunteers be needed appropriate announcements will be made on the repeater.

Further emergency information is readily available on the ARRL web site. I found an interesting emergency checklist in the members' only discussion section. It referenced one person's list at <http://home.earthlink.net/~w0ipl/EmCom/equip.htm>.

**RARA HOTLINE**  
442-0587

## When Is JOTA?

John D. Van Griethuysen, N2BNE

The JOTA program always falls on the third full weekend in October. The JOTA begins at 0001 hours local time on Saturday, October 20, 2001, and ends at 2359 hours local time on Sunday, October 21, 2001. Note: Lots of JOTA stations are on earlier to check out their equipment and stay on later to make use of the DX. Where? JOTA Scout Frequencies are:

Band	SSB	CW
80M	3.740*, 3.940 MHz	3.590 MHz
40M	7.090*, 7.290 MHz	7.030 MHz
20M	14.290 MHz	14.070 MHz
17M	18.140 MHz	18.080 MHz
15M	21.360 MHz	21.140 MHz
12M	24.960 MHz	24.910 MHz
10M	28.390 MHz**	28.190 MHz

\* Not authorized to transmit in the United States (Region 2), however, you may listen.

\*\* For United States, to allow novices to participate in JOTA on the phone.

John Gilly, W3OAB and John Van G., N2BNE have been asked by the folks running the Northern Lights District Fall Camporee, to put on another JOTA display in the "youth section" of Mendon Ponds Park, where there will be a minimum of 400 Cubs, Scouts, Leaders & parents camping the weekend of October 19-21 2001. If you can, give either John a call and "work some Scouts". We may also be on one of the local repeaters introducing the Scouts to some "third party" traffic.

A brief list of some good JOTA info Web sites are The BSA International JOTA Site: <http://www.scouting.org/international/jota.html> and The ARRL's JOTA Site: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jota.html>.

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