



# the RARA RAG

Published by  
**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

VOL.54

MARCH 2002

NO. 7

## Amateur Radio And Paleontology

Marykay Vesco, KC2DPG

We have a very special guest speaker this month traveling all the way from Saegertown, Pennsylvania. That is Bernie Fuller, N3EFN who is our ARRL Atlantic Division director. Bernie usually talks about more than one single topic when he does a presentation, so he will address us on several topics relating to amateur radio and ARRL. Bernie is involved with many topics that we read about in QST. This is a chance for a very special and insightful perspective on our hobby.

Bernie is a dynamic speaker who provides a very descriptive and frank understanding of the topics. We are fortunate to have him as our guest. Please spread the word that everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meeting. This includes hams, non-hams, club members and non-club members. The only requirement is that you have an interest in the hobby of amateur radio.

### RARA Meeting

March 1, 2002

8:00 PM

Henrietta Fire Hall,  
3129 E. Henrietta Rd.

### Amateur Radio And Paleontology

Presented by

Bernie Fuller, N3EFN  
ARRL Atlantic Division Director

## Hamfest Programs – Part II

Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Last month was the first of a four part series on the Rochester Hamfest Programs. It is now time for part two of this series. This information is for your use in knowing ahead of time, which programs you would like to attend.

### Hands On Antenna Construction:

As a follow-up to one of the programs listed last month on Computer Aided Antenna Designs, Ed Hare, W1RFI, the ARRL Laboratory Supervisor, shows you how to build a 2-meter Yagi beam using parts and materials you can buy at Home Depot or your local hardware store! It can't be that hard — Ed actually builds the antenna with a blowtorch while wearing a tie, all the while telling you all about how he designed this simple antenna that actually works on the air. If he is as good as he says he is, he will have plenty of time to answer your antenna questions. See if you can "Stump the Speaker" by asking him questions he can't answer!

### Traffic Handling:

Traffic Nets can be found on all bands at different times during the day. They are very useful in getting general traffic passed from one person and location to another. These NETS are always active and practicing their skills so that they will be able to handle any emergency traffic should the need arise. When that time comes, and it does all too often, this group of dedicated Hams is very professional and expedient in helping with the emergency communications requirements. Bruce Zeller, KA2GJV, Western New York Section Traffic Manager will be holding a forum on general information relating to the NETS. The purpose is to ex-

*(Continued on page 6)*

# the RARA RAG

PUBLISHED BY

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333

RARA Hotline 442-0587 Website: www.ggw.org/rara/

**Editor**.....Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU  
652 Beverly Drive, Webster, NY 14580-2305 (585) 671-7079  
Internet: wb2efu@frontiernet.net

**Assistant Editor**.....George Platteter, AA2FO  
82 Colonade Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (585) 334-4488  
Internet: aa2fo@rpa.net

VOL. 54 MARCH 2002 NO. 7

## OFFICERS:

President: Peter Fournia, W2SKY.....377-0535  
Internet: w2sky@arrl.net  
Vice-President: Marykay Vesco, KC2DPG .....381-7773  
Internet: kc2dpg@aol.com  
Secretary: Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY.....334-7640  
Internet: wb2sxy@arrl.net  
Treasurer: Richard Goslee K2VCZ.....334-1762  
Internet: rgoslee@rochester.rr.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL.....458-8246  
Internet: kff@frontiernet.net  
Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ.....292-6665  
Internet: rharnaart@yahoo.com  
Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH.....624-1929  
Internet: n2eh@frontiernet.net  
Bill Hopkins, AA2YV.....586-5009  
Internet: w1hopkin@naz.edu  
George Masny, KA2GPJ.....377-7853  
Internet: ka2gpj@arrl.net  
John Rogers, W2JTR.....352-3523  
Internet: jtrogers@easynet.net  
Jack Tripp, W2JAT.....381-7757  
Internet: w2jat@arrl.net

Club Historian: Ed Gable, K2MP  
License Testing Director: George Platteter, AA2FO  
Membership Chairman: Keith Bozek, N3HGN  
Hamfest General Chairman: Harold Smith, K2HC  
Public Relations: Keith Freeberg, N2BEL  
License Class Director: Norm Turner, WB2LBQ  
Web Page Administrator: Peter Fournia, W2SKY  
Club Station Trustee: Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH

The RARA RAG (USPS 605-440) is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., 24 Elaine Drive Rochester, NY 14623. Subscription is \$5.00 per year (included in the annual membership dues and may not be purchased separately). Periodicals postage paid in Rochester, NY.

POSTMASTER - Send address changes to The RARA RAG, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, New York 14692-8333. Full permission is granted for reprinting articles provided a credit line is given to the RARA RAG. The RAG exchanges with other organizations' publications.

RARA Life Membership is available for twenty times the annual dues.

RARA RAG 2

## Prez Says

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Our amateur radio license course started on February 11<sup>th</sup>. It's not too late to join. Thanks again to the instructors and to Norm Turner for pulling the strings to keep this important program rolling. George Platteter got an announcement into the D & C newspaper. One also appeared on Penfield cable TV.

Bob Moore suggested that we operate a silent auction at our general meeting. This is a low-keyed way for members to display and sell their equipment. The BOD agreed. Read more about this idea elsewhere in this newsletter.

The radio coaches have started their 7<sup>th</sup> program with another 6<sup>th</sup> grade class at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Our reputation preceded us. Excited students exhibiting their best behavior welcomed the coaches. Our previous 6<sup>th</sup> grade class was saying some nice things about us. On the negative side, school budget cutbacks have eliminated funds that have previously paid for our field trip transportation expenses. This has created a crisis for our field trips. Read more about this elsewhere in the RAG.

More encouraging comments have been received about the monthly meetings. This last meeting featured a dynamic presentation by airplane modelers. The seating arrangement was radically altered to enable the airplanes to fly inside. And fly they did! Three of them flew, with about 8 additional airplanes on display. Thanks to Marykay Vesco for providing these topics of high interest.

Our new Boy Scout Venture program started last month with only 2 scouts. Not enough for a BSA sanction. Another scout opted to join our spring amateur radio license course. Organizers of the program, particularly Keith Freeberg and Bill Williams chose to continue this program. Many other hams support them. Ramsey 20-meter receiver kits have been purchased for the program. The scouts will build them and use them with Digipan software. This part of the program will develop computer, electronics and radio skills. Keith Freeberg has recommended changes that will strengthen the program and increase our future

(Continued on page 6)

## Radio Coach Field Trip At Risk

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

The Rochester City School District budget crisis had impacted our RARA Radio Coach program. We have lost funding for field trip transportation. Thomas Jefferson Middle School had covered this expense in the past. It has not been budgeted in RARA's Radio Coach account.

This impacts our field trip to RIT's Image Science program scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>. The Radio Coaches highly value this trip because of the cheerful delivery and educational impact. It is geared to middle school children. Our students love it! We want to keep it!

However, transportation will cost about \$200. This is higher than the normal \$1.00/student RTS bus cost. The travel time between the school and RIT is too long using normal buss transfer arrangements. We need to schedule a special school bus. See how you can help below.

### Radio Coach Field Trip at Risk!

Please Pledge \$10 to \$25 to cover the Radio Coach field trip cost.

Goal: \$200 by March 7, 2002

Call Peter Fournia, W2SKY  
(585) 377-0535

## Silent Auction

John Rogers, W2JTR

One of our members has suggested we have a silent auction at our monthly meetings. It was decided at the recent Board Of Directors meeting to have several auctions and then review the membership feed back. The first of these silent auctions will take place at the March meeting.

RARA members are encouraged to bring an item to the meeting, which will be placed on a table. The item should be clearly marked with the member's call sign. Only one item per member will be accepted. Note cards will be provided and the member should put the article's name and his or her call sign on the card. The remaining attendees, members or guests, will put a bid amount and their call sign on the card. There is no reserve bid. If your Kenwood TS-570 sells for a dollar, the buyer will be happy even if you don't share that same happiness. All bids must be received before the start of the meeting, 8:00 PM, **NO EXCEPTIONS!!** The successful bidders will be announced after the door prize draw. Final transactions are between buyer and seller. The club receives no commission from these sales.

**RARA HOTLINE**  
**442-0587**

## Historical Bits

Ed Gable, K2MP

1919 — Radio Corporation of America (RCA) is formed

1939 — The Cubical Quad antenna is designed to solve corona discharge problems at HCJB's high altitude station. Becomes popular Ham Antenna.

1999 — Globe Wireless, one of the World's largest Ship-to-Shore communications service providers, ended all use of CW.



**RE/MAX**  
Realty Group  
Licensed Real Estate Broker

40 Grove Street  
Pittsford, New York 14534-1317

Bus: (716) 389-1028  
Fax: (716) 442-3905

E-mail: [toni@toniconnors.com](mailto:toni@toniconnors.com)  
E-mail: [paul@paulmackanos.com](mailto:paul@paulmackanos.com)



**PAUL MACKANOS**  
Sales Agent  
K2DB

*50 Years  
Combined  
Experience*



**TONI CONNORS**  
Associate Broker



Each Office Independently Owned and Operated.

## K 2 Otetiana To Join Growing List Of Local JOTA Calls

Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

Hardly a *RAG* issue comes out that members don't read about a RARA special event, a public service or an activity involving the greater Rochester area youth. The club is fortunate to have so many dedicated operators; you hams are what make RARA great! This fall RARA is being called on again to assist in the Jamboree On The Air. JOTA falls on the local Scout Council's major weekend campout (Oct 18-20, 2002) near Naples, NY, this year, and anticipates about 3000 scouts and leaders to have fun at their 4<sup>th</sup> Challenge Trophy Camporee. Teams will be needed to man stations in the hills near Naples, to demonstrate our many modes of communications, and possibly even support logistical communications on a crowd this big. We will check the satellite orbits as time draws near for some far out QSO's. This year's team has secured the K2O Special Event Call for the event.

Teams may be assembled in the Rochester area for operators who can't commit to the time away, to run JOTA stations here. As always Girl Scouts, Brownies, Cubs, Explorers, Ventures, Guides, and all other youth groups (and Moms & Dads, Grammas & Grandpas) are invited to join in the fun!

RARA's liaison to Otetiana Council (hence the 'O' in the call K2O) is the very JOTA familiar N2BNE, John Van Griethuysen. He can be contacted at [jvangril@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jvangril@rochester.rr.com), or (585) 663-8192. Let John know what JOTA job you want before someone else grabs it, what part of the activity you want to support, what modes you like to operate for the schedule, and if you can campout for the weekend or just part of it. Teenagers call the 200+ activities at the Camporee a Challenge; so unless you have the heart of a sixteen year-old, don't apply for the "Cardiac Hill Climb" or the "Widow-Maker Run!"

SUPPORT OUR  
ADVERTISERS

RARA RAG 4

## A Most Memorable QSO

Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

I had a 2 watt transistorized portable Lafayette 6 meter AM rig hooked up mobile in my '65 Fairlane, to an un-tuned piece of (I think) the right coax, and a 1/4 wave whip on a 'big spring' on the rear bumper. I was parked near my girlfriend's apartment in Rochester, during afternoon drive time, (how do you spell QRM?) with my antenna too near to a power-sapping stop sign pole (...and QSB?), when I heard some activity on 6 meters near one of my crystal (!) frequencies. So ignoring the smell of perfume and gasoline, I answered the CQ and had a nice QSO with Mike, K9QHO. We eventually said 73, and after my date, in true ham fashion, I sent Mike my QSL. (Ok, who thinks they know the end of the story?)

Now, fast forward 29 years, past the rice-paddies, ten years of night school, raising 4 boys, buying 3 houses, surviving the Y2K scare and passing my 20 wpm Morse test, I am working CW stations on 40 meters. We all have repeat QSO's with stations and that helps bind us hams together. I've come to recognize some of the calls that I've previously worked before my computer log pops them up, but lo-and-behold here is K9QHO, Mike! We had both kept our old calls or we may not have recognized our previous QSO. Well, we had a very long chat that night, and brought each other up to date on our lives and histories. And, again in true ham fashion, I sent a QSL off to him.

Several weeks later Mike QSL's back with a two-sided copy of my original 1971 card, including the 6 cent stamp and my comments and equipment on the reverse side! I looked up his picture on his web site; he's done some good things, even if my computer log only indicates:

710712 21:45 6 K9QHO Indiana Mike AM sv  
000106 00:57 40 K9QHO Indiana Mike rep CW sv

It was a real thrill.

Rochester Hamfest  
May 31,  
June 1 and 2,  
2002

## RARA RAG 20 Years Ago, March 1982

Ed Gable, K2MP

The March meeting was on the subject of DX and presented by Steve Woodard, K4SMX, showing a slide program on the 1979 DXpedition to the Spratly Islands. The meeting venue then was the Eisenhart Auditorium at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. John Schooley, K2NC, reports on his successful negotiations with Dave Vigilone, FCC Engineer-in-Charge at the Buffalo Office, to bring license testing to the 1982 Hamfest. It is noteworthy that the FCC staff cannot be paid and offered their services and travel expenses. The combined RARRA/Rochester VHF Group auction was announced with its location being the Farm and Home Center on Highland Avenue. With this issue, K2MP, started publishing a column titled "RARA RAG 20 Years Ago". Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, wrote on upcoming Public Service events such as the March of Dimes and the Susquehannock Pro Road Rally. This was the sixth year of STPR activity. The local results of the January VHF contest were announced with the top five being: John Yells, N2JY; Chuck Oneske, K2YCO; Rich Place, WB2JLR; Multi-Op stn K2JFV and Multi-Op stn WA2KGM. Billie Robinson, WB2FNF, wrote describing the availability of a certificate for working 15 members of SKYLARC, *The Second Area Young Ladies Amateur Radio Club*. Two large, quarter page Help Wanted Ads were inserted by the new Scientific Radio Systems of Orchard Street, city. From the Want Ads you could buy a 2 KW PA from Bob Anderson, W2OL.

## You Give Me Info, I Give You Info

William Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

RARA is asking for your input on some serious issues facing YOUR club and Amateur Radio in general. I presented EVERY point from the last survey to YOUR Board of Directors and Officers and the RARA Leadership wants your input; wants to make a better club and has a "Make it so!" attitude. Since we are all advocates of communications, let's target this for starters.

### INFO TO ME:

What items should be on a condensed sheet or listing of the Club benefits and resources along with contact person phone/email?

What RARA committees you want to work on (or head up) but haven't been asked, or don't know who to contact?

Internal Promotion: What kinds of information would you include in a member handbook/manual/packet? What other (1<sup>st</sup> Friday) General Meeting sites are close to you and would attract members? What kinds of Club activity would be an "I can't miss that one!" to you?

External Promotion: How would you get ex-RARA members back into the club? How can we get more women licensed and enrolled in RARA? If you weren't a RARA member right now, what would be the best way to reach you and entice you to join?

Would you be interested in electronic notifications and club information if it saved RARA (therefore you) printing and postage costs?

### INFO TO YOU:

*RARA and other information on the bands – more to come:* RARA is a frequent contributor to the Sunday Hillside Reports (K2KWK, Dwight) 8:45 PM, alternating on K2RRA (146.88), N2HJD (146.925) and K2SA (146.79) and many RARA members are available on the 9:00 PM Monroe County FM Net that immediately follows.

*RARA Emergency Activations:* This takes place  
(Continued on page 7)

**FOR SALE:** Two Meter Multi-mode Transceiver. Kenwood TS-700SP. Full Frequency coverage, all mode, AC & DC power, with mic, power cords and Manual. One owner, perfect condition. Also, Six Meter PA, Mirage B-1015, Solid state, 10 watts in, 150 watts output, 12 VDC, All Mode and built-in RX preamp. Current Catalog price \$369, today \$195.00. Ed Gable, K2MP, (585) 392-3088 or [k2mp@arrl.net](mailto:k2mp@arrl.net).

## Hamfest Programs—Part II (Continued from page 1)

change ideas and changes that are being made or people feel should be made to the NETS. If you are a traffic handler or would like information on becoming one, this is the meeting you want to attend.

### **Amateur Radio's (ARES And RACES) Role On And After September 11, 2001:**

Are you an ARES or RACES member? Yes you say, but you have never been called on to perform in an emergency. Well let's hope you don't, but in case you do here is a place to learn what is required of you and how to prepare for that time. Frank Fallon, N2FF, Hudson Division Director and Ken Goetz, N2SQW, New York State Radio Officer, State Management Offices will host this meeting. These two gentlemen were drawn into an emergency that none of us ever expected, the terrorist's attacks that took place in New York City on September 11, 2001. They became deeply involved in the emergency radio communications that were required and took place after this tragic event. They will try to inform everyone on how the Hams responded to this event and how their efforts assisted others, individuals and agencies. They will cover things that were learned to help us prepare for any other type of disaster and how to become better prepared for the unknown.

### **National Weather Service Presents Derecho Of 1998:**

This will be a very interesting program on natural disasters that are caused by weather. Presented by Judy Levan, N2TEZ and Bob Hamilton, N3QOT of the National Weather Service, you will learn how weather can create the need for ARES and RACES activities as well as Sky Warn. This will be a review of the Labor Day Derecho of 1998, which resulted in damage from extreme western New York through eastern New York. A before/during/after the storm format will discuss the meteorology of a derecho, including forecasting, detection, and warning. The program will continue with a "damage survey" and show ground level and aerial damage photos.

Well folks, that is all for now. You will

## Prez Say (Continued from page 2)

appeal with scouts. The BOD agreed to partner with the Kodak venturing programs and change our listing to "Electronics and Careers via Amateur Radio". I feel that this program has a huge potential to excite young people about the modern aspects of our hobby.

The EOC has moved to their new location with amateur radio attached. Ed Holdsworth has kept the BOD informed along the way. I'm excited about the new equipment and operating arrangements that will follow. Ed has agreed to share it with us in a future *RAG* article or general meeting. If we press him enough he may even arrange a visit during working hours!

There continues to be a lot of dialog and ideas about promoting local amateur radio more aggressively. We have many important newsworthy events that the public should be informed about. The obvious are: Radio Coach program, School Club Roundup, the Venture Scouting program, JOTA activities, general meeting topics open to the public, amateur radio license course, public service activities, and emergency preparedness activities. Amateur radio is an extremely diverse hobby that can have an appeal to everyone. Locally, we have the programs, the need, the people and the energy to resurrect the vibrant potential of this hobby. We do not have a coordinated approach that bridges area clubs and we do not have an aggressive promotional strategy. I'm interested in volunteers who are willing to actively participate on an area wide committee aimed to develop a strategy that connects club activities and aggressively promotes the hobby.

---

### LIFE, ACCIDENT & HEALTH AGENT

#### **MARYKAY VESCO**

*KC2DPG*

310 Commercial Street  
East Rochester, NY 14445  
716 381-7773 Fax/Phone



**P&C BROKER      NOTARY PUBLIC**

---

have to watch for the April issue of the *RAG* to find out what else is going to take place at this years Hamfest. Don't forget to mark the dates on your calendar. They are May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. See everyone there!

## You Give Me Info, I Give You Info

(Continued from page 5)

on 146.88 (pl 110.9).

*Skywarn Emergency Nets:* Summer months only on 146.31 (pl 141.3) at 7:00 PM Tuesdays and 145.11 (pl 110.9) at 7:30 PM, also on Tuesday. There is an all year round Sunday mornings net at 9:30 AM on forty meters at 7.234.

*RARA information on the phone:* Hotline is (585) 442-0587. Board Of Directors and Officers are listed on page 2 of the *RARA RAG* and on the Website. Rochester Hamfest is (585) 424-7184.

*RARA Information via the WWW:* RARA website is located at [www.ggw.org/rara/](http://www.ggw.org/rara/).

*RARA Information via e-mail:* Send me your e-mail address and let me know what type of notifications/activities you want to receive; RARA general (this is a moderated reflector), RARA training, public service, licensing classes, testing, and special events or RARA youth programs such as Radio Coaches, Venture, JOTA, Etc.

For further information and to add comments to this list contact your secretary, [wb2sxy@arrl.net](mailto:wb2sxy@arrl.net) with "how do I..." and I will route issues to the responsible RARA Officer or Committee. Every answer is important so please respond. The best way is to email at [wb2sxy@arrl.net](mailto:wb2sxy@arrl.net). The next best is leaving a voice message at (585) 987-3680 after 5 PM.

Let me know if you would like a personal reply; I will need a way to get back to you. Venting and grumbling are OK too! All replies are strictly confidential. E-mail addresses are for RARA use only.

### SILENT KEY

Joseph J. Favata, KA2AQM  
August 14, 2001

Kenneth J. Gardner' W2BGN  
January. 14, 2002

## RARA Amateur Radio License Testing

All Elements Needed  
To Complete a License Class

Saturday  
March 16, 2002

Registration - 8:30 AM  
Testing - 9:00 AM

Social Services Building  
111 Westfall Rd.  
Rochester, NY

Inquires (585) 334-4488  
[aa2fo@rpa.net](mailto:aa2fo@rpa.net)

NEXT RAG DEADLINE  
MARCH 8, 2001

AUTO ACCIDENTS  
WILLS and ESTATES  
REAL ESTATE  
SOCIAL SECURITY  
DISABILITY

**Sherwood Snyder**

Attorney At Law  
546-7258 • 183 E. Main St.  
W2KFU Suite #1024

**This Space Could Be For You**  
**Join The *RARA RAG***  
**Advertisers**  
**Improve Your**  
**Exposure And Profits**  
**Call (716) 671-7079**

**GLENWOOD**

594 HAGUE STREET  
 ROCHESTER, NY 14606

HOURS:  
 M-F 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

PH: (716) 328-1600  
 FAX: (716) 328-3630

**ELECTRONIC**  
**COMPONENT PARTS**  
 (NEW AND NEW SURPLUS)

- LARGE SELECTION
- HIGH QUALITY
- LOW PRICES
- IN-DEPTH INVENTORY

**WE STOCK THE FOLLOWING:**

|             |                |               |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| AC CORDS    | IC'S           | SOLDER        |
| CAPACITORS  | LAMPS          | SWITCHES      |
| COAX CABLE  | LED'S          | TRANSISTORS   |
| CONNECTORS  | MOTORS         | TRIACS        |
| DIODES      | POTENTIOMETERS | TRIMPOTS      |
| ENCLOSURES  | RELAYS         | VARIABLE CAPS |
| FANS        | RESISTORS      | WIRE/CABLE    |
| FUSES       | SCR'S          | ZENER DIODES  |
| FUSEHOLDERS | SHRINK TUBE    | LOTS MORE     |

**TRY GLENWOOD FOR ALL YOUR COMPONENT REQUIREMENTS**

**FULL LINE DISTRIBUTORS FOR**

|                          |                    |                        |            |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------|
| <b><u>NTE</u></b>        | Replacement Semi's | <b><u>TYTON</u></b>    | Cable Ties |
| <b><u>PRB</u></b>        | VCR Belts & Accy   | <b><u>PROTEK</u></b>   | Test Gear  |
| <b><u>GC/THORSEN</u></b> | Tools & Chemicals  | <b><u>MUELLER</u></b>  | Test Leads |
| <b><u>SL WABER</u></b>   | Outlet Strips +    | <b><u>GOLDSTAR</u></b> | Test Gear  |
| <b><u>WAHL</u></b>       | Soldering/Drilling | <b><u>PALADIN</u></b>  | Tools      |
|                          | Tools & Accy       |                        |            |