



the RARA RAG

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NO. 8

April Old Timers' Night

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Vice-President, RARA

This year's "Old Timer's Night", hosted by the popular, entertaining and creative Mr. Ed Gable K2MP, will celebrate one of the most significant events to enhance, promote and ensure the growth of ham radio: the Novice Class License. The Novice license contributed for over 50 years to the sustained growth of the Amateur Radio Service.

Mr. Gable will entertain and enlighten us about the events leading to the creation of Novice license, how it evolved over several years of the FCC trying to get it right, and how it affected the overall growth, stability and structure of Amateur Radio ever since. Equipment and artifacts of the period will be demonstrated by members of the Antique Wireless Museum.

Mr. Gable is especially interested in recognizing RARA members who progressed through the ranks starting with the Novice License during its first decade of the 50's. How many of you remember 75 watt, crystal controlled transmitters on HF CW? Did you have an Elmer? If you had a 1950's Novice License please come to the meeting, bring photos, and share your memories. Send your 1950's photos to Ed Gable egable@rochester.rr.com to be included in the presentation for all to enjoy.

Come to the RARA General Membership Meeting April 7, held at Henrietta Fire Company #1, Lehigh Station and East Henrietta Roads. In addition to the presentation, nominations for officers and directors for the 2006-2007 season will be received. The meeting begins at 7:30 sharp.

RaRa MEETING

April 7, 2006

7:30 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall #1
3129 East Henrietta Road
Old Timers' Night
With Ed Gable, K2MP

Managers Wanted at Local 501(c)3 Educational, Not-For- Profit Corporation.

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Chairman, RARA Nominating Committee

In today's employment environment, would a management position in a 500 member educational non-profit look good on your resume?

You bet it would, so consider this a personal invitation. RARA and the ham radio community are looking for energetic people to help explore local opportunities for the future of Amateur Radio. If you are dissatisfied or unhappy with your daytime job and want to add more management skills to your resume, you are reading the right article. All licensed members seeking areas of more responsibility inside the Amateur Radio community, please notify one of the nominating committee members.

If you would like to be one of the movers-and-shakers in the ham radio environment, but this year is too busy for you, let us know and we'll call you next year. We can fit any job to what you are looking for.

Proven leaders are available to mentor and train you in the management skills and abilities you would like to develop. RARA needs backups for every leadership position and we can promise that you will not be bored. Postings open immediately. Send a short (300 - 500 word) biographical to the nominating committee as soon as possible.

Peter Fournia w2sky@amsat.org 585-377-0535

Keith Freeberg n2bel@arrl.net 585-254-0722

Bill Kasperkoski wb2sxy@arrl.net 585-764-0312

SILENT KEYS

Bernard M. Agins, KD2CU

February 26, 2006

Robert E. Branch, W2RAS

March 1, 2006

the RARA RAG

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The Prez Sez

By Dick Goslee, KG2I
President, RARA

I have to start out by apologizing to the Nominating Committee for a mix-up last month. I was working under a tight schedule due to being in Atlanta for a week and I was rushing in getting the RAG to the printer. I left out an article that they had sent in for publication. I noticed it when I was looking at the first printout. I then went back and re-arranged the articles and included their article. I printed it again and all looked correct. The next morning when I picked things up to go to the printer I picked up the wrong copy. As they say in the business, "the correct version ended up on the editing room floor". Sorry Bill, Keith and Peter, it wasn't planned that way.

The Library Project is coming along fine. As soon as the book set and tape set arrive from ARRL we will be making presentation to the Henrietta Library. The Board of Directors has decided that the materials will be presented in memory of past Director and long time member Raymond Pickens, WA2MYG who passed away in 2004. Ray was a long time resident of Henrietta and we thought this would be a good way to remember him especially with his love of helping new hams and hams to be.

The Scholarship deadline is coming up on April 15th so now is the time to get your applications finished and sent in. remember that the Scholarship is worth \$500.00 this year. The award will be made at the Hamfest Banquet on Friday, June 2, 2006.

I am looking forward to the "Old Timers' Night" this year. Like many of you I started out in this great hobby with a Novice license (KN2VCZ). You remember those old "N" calls don't you? Boy, that sure was a long time ago. It sure felt good when my next license grade came in the mail (no internet back then) and I could drop the "N". The hobby has come a long way since I got my license in 1957. I hope you all can come out on Friday, April 7th at the Henrietta Fire hall and listen to Ed Gable, K2MP talk about an important part of amateur radio history.

**May Rag Deadline
April 14, 2006**

**Rochester Hamfest
June 2-3-4, 2006**

Mid-Winter Highs: More hams

Raj Dewan, N2RD
RARA VE Team Leader

Feb. 18 2006. Rochester, NY. The forecast was gloomy. Blowing snow and wind. But it turned out sunny at least in one regard: Two hams, Bill Van Remmen KA2WFJ, and Jeffrey Miller KC2OQG upgraded to Amateur Extra. If you have not examined the Extra Test - Element 4 recently, you will be surprised. It requires an amazing amount of technical knowledge. A few colleges offer credit for having passed this exam. The two candidates passed with flying colors. They must have worked hard and they deserve our acclamation for their success.

In addition to these two, Nicholas Palladino joined the ranks of Amateur Radio Operators with a Technician license and a call sign of KC2PEH. Congratulate and welcome him when you hear him on the air.

Stan Avery WM3D, Bill Gibson KB2CHD, and the indefatigable Dick Goslee KG2I helped make this session possible.

On another note, one of the applications has an error where the test taker has checked the box indicating a new call sign but had not initialed it. If he had initialed it, he would have gotten a new call sign in the systematic order that the FCC follows. It turns out that the test taker wanted to retain his old call sign. Our VEC leader Diane Zimmerman AA3OF called the candidate at home to confirm what his choice was before entering it irrevocably into the FCC system. Few VECs will do this. Hats off to Laurel VEC and its head Diane Zimmerman. As you know, Laurel is the only VEC that offers testing in the lower 48 states that is free to the test takers. You can see why Laurel VEC is a great choice for our team.

Lastly, the May date for testing coincides with the Dayton Hamvention. Dayton wins out. So, there will be no testing in May. But the Rochester Hamfest will be just around the corner.

For Sale

Beam Antenna, New, Never Used, 3 El Tri-Band, 2 KW PEP, Hy-Gain HAM IV Rotator with control head, very good condition, 30 ft Steel Tower with tilt over base, All control cables. Call Al, W2CBA at (585) 889-9343 after 5:00 PM.

RaRa Hotline

(585) 442-0587

24 hours a day

Scholarship Deadline is April 15th

By George Masny, KA2GPJ
Treasurer, RARA

The final deadline for Scholarship applications is fast approaching. The Scholarship is available to a student attending College. The scholarship is available to any licensed Amateur Radio operator who is or will be pursuing any degree of Associate level or higher in any accredited school beyond high school. The individual must be a member of RARA and a resident of New York State.

Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15th. The RaRa Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee will make a final decision by May 15th. The actual award will be presented at the annual RARA Hamfest Banquet held June 2, 2006.

Applications for the scholarship may be obtained at RaRa general meetings, by mail at P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RaRa phone at 585-442-0587. Additional information and a copy of the application is available on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association web site at: <http://www.rochesterham.org/scholarship.htm>, or from one of the officers.

Donations may be made to the Scholarship Fund and should be sent to: Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Memorial Scholarship, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333. All donations are "Tax Deductible".

April Calendar – Events In The WNY Area

- 1 – Drumlins Hamfest – 8:00AM, Marletown Fire Hall, Newark, NY
- 7 - RaRa Meeting – 7:30 PM - Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 13 - RaRa Board of Directors – Dinner Meeting at Northside Inn, East Rochester
- 13 - BARK – 7:00 PM monthly meeting at Bob Rachow, N2WY, 1140 Peck Rd., Hilton
- 14 - RVHFG – 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.
- 15 - RaRa VE Testing session – 10:00AM Bldg-9 Room-3139 RIT Campus, Henrietta
- 18 - RDXA – 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Gander Mountain, Jay Scutti Blvd, Henrietta
- 21 - RRRRA – 8:00PM Monthly Meeting at Pittsford Town Hall, basement meeting room

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

This issue had a rare half-page photo on the front cover. Shown was a picture of station 8PZ, the callsign of the Radio Club of Rochester, the forerunner of RaRa. All of that was to announce the program for the April Meeting, the popular Old Timers' Night, with Bruce Kelley, W2ICE. Bruce's talk covered vacuum tubes covering the period from 1905, and the Fleming valve, all the way to one of the last tube improvements to hit the market, Nuvisters. The venue remained the 40/8 Club on University Avenue where you also enjoyed the refreshments served by George Muller, WA2IEO.

Dwight Hill, K2KWK, wrote a success story on fixing terrible interference to W1AW's bulletin frequency at 3580 kHz. After numerous failed fixes to find and cure the problem, Dwight stumbled onto the solution when he unplugged the base to his wireless telephone. The interfering signal was gone! Cause, second harmonic of the 160 meter signal used by the base unit.

Floyd Koontz, WA2WVL, wrote to announce he was forming a UHF experimenter's group. Floyd was interested in getting those involved in 902 MHz and above to get together for construction projects. Floyd was quick to point out that this was not in any way to be a formal organization.

Rag Editor Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, inserted a news flash that reported a FCC action that granted a waiver to amateurs rules allowing automatic, unattended third party traffic above 50 Mhz. On the surface, not a big deal, but that action formally allowed amateur repeater operation.

Bill March, WA2CER, as Chairman of the nominating committee, with members Irv Goodman AF2K and Ed Gable, K2MP, announced that nominations will be taken at the April and May meetings.

The Hamfest committee published information on the Rochester Hamfest with improvements being all programming on the first floor of the Dome and an indoor flea market at Minett Hall.

The only advertiser in this issue was Heath/Zenith on Jefferson Road. From the Want-Ads you could buy a 40 foot tower and three element tri-band yagi from Howie Davies, N2CUN.

AWA Spring Meet, May 6th

By Ed Gable, K2MP/W2AN
Curator, AWA Museum

The annual AWA Spring Meet will be held Saturday, May 6th at the Bloomfield Elementary School starting at 8:00 a.m. The entire day is devoted to vintage radio and communication themes, starting with indoor and outdoor flea markets, a large auction of radio items, talks and demonstrations, and continuous screening of vintage films. In the afternoon the world famous AWA Museum and Annex are open. Refreshments are available during the day and other popular group gatherings are encouraged.

The entry fee is only three dollars for this all-day event and includes an award drawing. Indoor flea market tables (provided) are \$7.00 each. Open to the public and the indoor venue assures a great time, rain or shine. Vendor space is still available. Call event Chairman Ron Roach, W2FUI, at (585) 526-5487, for further information.

Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
Media Coordinator, RARA

Spectrum, Spectrum. President George W. Bush signed legislation that includes a deadline for TV broadcasters to clear the 700 MHz spectrum and allocates \$1.2 billion in funding for public safety communications. The U.S. House of Representatives approved the package in a close vote, 216-214. TV broadcasters must clear the 700 MHz band by February 17, 2009. Afterward, 24 MHz of bandwidth will be allocated nationwide for public safety. Other frequencies will be auctioned off to commercial concerns. This bidding is touted to generate \$10 billion in revenue for the government. The proceeds will be applied to the national deficit. In addition to allocating bandwidth for public safety, the law provides grants for public-safety interoperable communications systems, money for Enhanced 911 (E-911) upgrades, and funds for a program to provide folks with analog TV sets low-cost converters allowing them to view digital broadcasts.

Ham Radio in Middle School. DuBose Middle School students in Summerville, S.C. experimented with a form of communication that few students experience.. They participated in the ARRL's School Club Roundup, a forum for hams throughout the world to make contacts with each other. DuBose's group made 233 QSOs after the week-long event, some with other schools and

others with individual hams. The students racked up contacts with amateur radio operators in 43 states, 5 Canadian provinces, and 7 countries, including Colombia, Lithuania, and Poland. The school's call sign is K4DMS, which the students cleverly spell phonetically as Knowledge For DuBose Middle School.

Request for Lifting of Restrictions. Bill Morine, a financial planner in Wilmington, N.C., is the spokesman for 21,000 hams across North Carolina. He and the hams he represents are concerned about local zoning codes and restrictive covenants that make it difficult for hams to put up antennas. The concern is especially poignant when one looks at the essential role hams played in relaying messages during Hurricane Katrina. On the East Coast, North Carolina is second only to Florida in the number of hurricane landfalls. His group is backing HR3876 which is pending in Congress. The bill addresses state and local land-use regulations and private land covenants. Rep. Mike McIntyre, D-N.C. is a co-sponsor of the bill.

ISS Record Broken. International Space Station Commander Bill MacArthur, KC5ACR, continued his QSOs with school children, most recently taking questions from students of the Itaki Elementary School in Japan. He also participated with 16 youth attending the Discover Engineering Family Day in Washington D.C. Commander MacArthur, operating the ISS station NA1SS, has become the new record holder for ARISS contacts at 29. He has time to pad this number before he returns to Earth.

Harrison Establishes Planning Committee. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has appointed 13 individuals to serve on the ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee. The League's Board of Directors resolved to establish the panel during its annual meeting in January "to appropriately prepare for future large-scale disasters." The committee will develop a comprehensive recommendation for ARRL responses to regional, national and international disasters.

"This group reflects a nationwide assembly of individuals with direct field experience in all aspects of emergency communications at various levels with disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, floods and terrorist activity to name a few," Harrison said. "There were many excellent recommendations for this committee, which is quite encouraging in itself and speaks highly of Amateur Radio's productive involvement in emergency communications." ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, will chair the ad hoc committee.

"Hello" Campaign for ARRL. A new ARRL public relations campaign set to launch this April will cast Amateur Radio in the light of the 21st century and focus on its universal appeal, even in today's already technology-rich society. At the same time, the "Hello" campaign will note the 100th anniversary of what many historians consider the first voice radio broadcast in 1906 by Reginald Fessenden. "It is quite simply the largest PR campaign that ham radio has ever attempted," says ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. Built around the word "Hello," the coordinated campaign will set "a positive, upbeat tone that highlights the international capabilities of Amateur Radio," he explained.

One aim of the "Hello" campaign will be to reframe Amateur Radio within a contemporary context. "ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, was correct in stating that the Main Street of today is not the same as the Main Street of yesteryear," Pitts went on to say. "To reach out today, the very first requirement is that Amateur Radio operators be perceived as friendly and trustworthy. That's a true public relations goal and the prime focus of the campaign." Pitts says it's not helpful to lament the time in decades past when Amateur Radio grew pretty much on its own, without too much effort on the part of clubs and individuals. "Only our combined, effective action will do that today," Pitts says. "This campaign will give hams the tools they need to reach out in their communities to non-hams and influence their perception of Amateur Radio."

The national "Hello" campaign can bring curious people into contact with ham radio groups, but it will be up to local radio amateurs to make them truly welcome, Pitts maintains. The "Hello" campaign is designed to gain momentum as the year progresses.

Components will include the release of public service announcements for use by radio and TV broadcasters and a video for meetings, presentations and even broadcast. Other highlights will include a "Hello" campaign Web site and special operating events. The high point of the "Hello" campaign will come in December on the centennial of Fessenden's first radio broadcast.

History recalls that the Canadian-born and educated Fessenden, using an early alternator, transmitted the first audio radio broadcast from his laboratory in Brant Rock, Massachusetts. Radio operators aboard ships at sea--tipped off in advance to be listening for something special--were astounded to hear Fessenden's broadcast that included the scientist and inventor playing "O Holy Night" on the violin and reading a Bible passage.

(Sidebands continued on page 6)

Sidebands – continued from page 5

The campaign will show that despite the Internet and other technologies, the possibility of being able to talk with everyday people around the world and sometimes in exotic locales--coupled with the surprise, art and uncertainty of DXing--remains a major attraction for Amateur Radio. The "Hello" campaign also will take advantage of likely FCC action this year to drop the Morse code requirement at least for General class applicants. "We all say we want to make a change for the better for Amateur Radio and get others interested," Pitts said. "This is the time, this is the chance. Stay tuned! More to come!"

Status of Injured Miner. Randy McCloy, KC8VKZ--the lone survivor of the January 2 Sago Mine disaster in Upshur County, West Virginia--is continuing to recover. Speaking on The Early Show on CBS TV March 2, McCloy's wife Anna told co-anchor Hannah Storm that her husband is talking again and even telling jokes. "He'll listen to jokes and understand," Anna McCloy told Storm. "He'll talk to me and the kids--just regular conversation." She also said McCloy has told her he remembers "bits and pieces" of the mining disaster that left 12 of his co-workers dead of carbon monoxide poisoning. McCloy, 26, who's been in a rehabilitation facility since January 26, also answers questions appropriately, recognizes his family and can "move quite well," Anna McCloy said. She has remained at her husband's side since his rescue.

McCloy eats with assistance and has expressed distaste for institutional cuisine, instead preferring the restaurant and fast food fare his wife supplies. Anna McCloy says she's "not quite sure" if her husband realizes he was the only survivor of the mine mishap. "I don't question him about it. When he wants to talk about it, I listen to him, but I don't push him, and I don't question him," she said. One of Randal McCloy's physicians, Dr Julian Bailes, told Storm that McCloy has "improved beyond our expectations" during rehabilitation. "I think we see his old personality coming back."

Well-wishers have been sending cards and QSLs to McCloy at PO Box 223, Philippi, WV 26435. A fund has been set up to accept donations for McCloy's benefit: The Randal McCloy Jr Fund, c/o Clear Mountain Bank, 1889 Earl Core Rd, Morgantown, WV 26505.

Hams Help Following Mud Slide. Radio amateurs have helped coordinate rescue operations after a devastating mud slide on the Philippine island of Leyte buried an entire village February 17. More than 1800 people are believed to have died when the village of Guinsaugon was engulfed by mud following a week of torrential rain and a small earthquake.

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The International Radio Emergency Support Coalition (IRESC, <http://www.iresc.org/>) supported the relief effort by providing communication links between the disaster scene and the International Red Cross. The IRESC specializes in connecting traditional ham radio systems--HF transceivers and VHF/UHF repeaters--with Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology via EchoLink. The EchoLink net set up for the Leyte disaster reportedly went on the air within hours of the mudslide, and Philippine amateurs used it to pass lists of missing people and survivors. Other messages included requests for food, water, mats, clothing, stretchers, medical kits and digging tools.

Western Union Follow-Up. I received a letter from Harold Smith, K2HC regarding my March edition of Sidebands, which mentioned the end of telegram service by Western Union. With Harold's permission, the text of his letter is reprinted below.

Hello Larry,

I am pleased that you covered the ending of Western Union telegram service in your Rag column. I am a veteran of 27 years of service with Western Union and another 25 or so years with an international telegraph company, FTCC (French Telegraph Cable Co.)

I am the webmaster of a site, www.westernunionalumni.com. Western Union was born in Rochester in 1851. Their offices were in the then Reynolds Arcade building on East Main Street. The original building was replaced in the 1930's with the Reynolds Arcade building that exists today at 16 East Main Street. The main operating room filled the entire third floor of that building until the office was closed in the 1990's. There were two offices on the street floor, a "front" public office and a delivery counter. An administrative and a "ticker and clock" room were on the fourth floor of the building. A brief history of the company is posted on the alumni site.

Same day telegram service was really discontinued more than 10 years ago as the major telegraph offices throughout the nation were closed down. The telegram service that was just closed was in reality an overnight courier service. Messages would be telephoned or sent via internet to a Western Union computer center near Saint Louis. A message would be printed there then handed to DHL courier for physical delivery the next business day.

My business, Com Center, at 300 White Spruce Blvd. among other things, is a money transfer agent for Western Union.

Regards,

Harold Smith, K2HC

Amateur Radio License Courses

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY
Education Chairman, RARA

Our Spring 2006 amateur radio license courses will be completed March 11 and feed into our March 18 testing program. These classes were an experiment that compressed our normal 10 week course into 6 weeks and switched them from Monday nights to Saturday mornings. So how did we do?

Signup and attendance was about the same as our Monday night course. We have 4 students in the Technician course, 3 in the General course and 2 in the Extra course. Like in the Fall 2005, there were no Morse Code students although some students have pursued CW on their own with informal assistance provided by our RARA CW course helpers. Conversion to an amateur radio license is unknown as of this writing. Because of our accelerated schedule it is very challenging for some students particularly if only one session is missed. I like the idea of alternating between a Monday night format and Saturday AM format. However, in planning next Fall's and Spring's courses we must consider school break schedules.

Many people have donated their precious time and skills to our program. Please thank them when you see them at our meetings and events. They are Brad Armstrong, W1YX and Peter Fournia, W2SKY for the Technician course, Bill Kraft, WB2IHM and Larry Lavery, WW2J for the General course and Peter Schuch, WB2UAQ for the Extra course. Additionally Steve Ziblut, WA2EKL coached extra class from his home. Kay Kingsford, NN2H and Lynn Rosenburg, N2IZX were on standby for Morse Code. RIT graciously provided the classrooms thanks to Jim Stefano, W2COP who scheduled the classrooms and Johnathan Berman KC2GRB who cleared security on each Saturday. Peter Fournia, W2SKY coordinated the Fall program.

We look forward to seeing our students acquire their new amateur radio licenses. Our September 2006 courses are in the planning stages. Most of our instructors have already signed on.

E Cubed Fair and More

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY
Education Chairman, RARA

Education is a continuous affair. So is propagation of ham radio. Every year multiple events occur in local schools, colleges and museums that enable hams to enjoy working with our area youth. The next two events are the E Cubed Fair at RIT on

May 4 and the Science Teachers fair at St. John Fisher on May 10 and 11. Both have day and evening sessions.

A staff of 3 people are currently planning these exhibits. We will have hands-on exhibits using ham radio that will engage teenagers and spark an interest in the hobby. It is now time to convert these ideas into an exhibit. We need a few more people to do that. Typically members of RDXA have carried the ball at the St. John Fisher exhibit. This year RARA has been asked to join in.

We are asking for a 2 - 4 hour block of your time either during the day or during the evening. You must also spend an hour or two before the event to acquaint yourself with the exhibit. Please inquire and signup with Curtis Braun, N2HKD (613-1402), Vic Gauvin, K1PY (381-8936) or Peter Fournia, W2SKY (377-0535).

RDXA APRIL 2006 MEETING

By Vic Gauvin, K1PY

The WA2CBU/AF2K Gibraltar DXpedition

DXpeditions have certainly changed over the years. Witness the recent half-million dollar 3YØ trip to Peter I. To return to reality, we'll have the pleasure of hearing from two local DXpeditioners who made a trip to ZB / Gibraltar. This will give us a unique perspective on how things have changed, since their trip was back in 1978!!

Russ McKay, WA2CBU (now W2RMM) / ZB2EM, and Irv Goodman, AF2K / ZB2EN, will relive their journey for us with maps, slides, and recollections of the unique thrill of "being DX." Come hear their first-hand account at the April 18th RDXA meeting, 7:30, Gander Mountain.

Digital Update

By Mark Harloff, K2CAN

I will be changing the 145.530 User port location from my QTH to Gannett Hill today (3-12-06). I will also be correcting a problem with the link to WA2UKX. The 'new' User Port will be on 145.530, located at Gannett Hill (Ontario County Park) with the Callsign: WX3P Please note.. there will no longer be a User Port on the K2CAN FlexDigi.

To reach services at K2CAN: First - Connect to WX3P on 145.530. Then Connect to K2CAN-2 for WNYDX (AR Dx Cluster), Or Connect to K2CAN-3 for FGRLKS (BPQ32 Gateway), Or Connect to K2CAN-5 for CANBBS (FBB BBS, in setup mode as of 3/12/06) Telnet port access is available for All services. See <http://k2can.net> for details. I will be adding some other services as time permits.

DRUMLINS HAMFEST - APRIL 1

By Irv Walter, WA2SOK

Spring is here, and the local 'Hamfest Season' is about to start. The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. Will hold their annual Hamfest on April 1, 2006. The location is the Marbletown Fire Hall located at 6416 Silver Hill Rd., Newark, NY. The Hamfest opens to the public at 8:00AM.

For directions, maps and additional information go to the Drumlins Hamfest web site at:

www.drumlinsarc.com/hamfest.htm

From the VP of RRRR

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY
Vice-President, RRRR

The annual auction of RRRR is now history. My living room is back to normal now. I don't have much of Ray's gear left. Thank you all for being so generous. This month also marks a change in my career as I have retired from Frontier and started work at Verizon Wireless. This should prove very challenging for me.

It is time once again to start thinking about being an officer of the club. Positions open are VP, Treas and Secretary. April is time to get ready for Dayton and then the Rochester Hamfest. For Rochester our job as a club is to provide talk-in information. We will do the same as last year and do talk-in from the Dome Center. Let's sign up for a couple of hours or so and help relieve the people who normally do this job. On the job training is provided. It can be a ton of fun.

At this time, I am securing a topic for the month of April. More info will be provided soon. Keep an ear on the repeater and an eye on the website.

By the time you read this, it is very possible that N2HJD/R will be at it's new location. Papers have been signed and we are off to a three year relationship with Frontier for tower space. This space is controlled by the Board of Directors and our contract. The 220 MHZ antenna is what has to go up on the tower. We are using an existing antenna on the tower for 440. If you want to see how the coverage can be, try the 442.925 repeater as it is there unless 442.800 takes it's place. Get involved in the group. Become an officer for 2006/2007. You will be glad you did.

Public Service Excellence

By Keith Freeberg, N2BEL
Public Service Coordinator, RARA

Can you commit just two hours to excellence? That is all the time it takes to work some of the public

RaRa Rag 8

service events this spring, summer or fall. Imagine, just two short hours to knowing how well you are prepared to use amateur radio to help yourself, your family, friends and neighbors.

If you want to learn more about the way police, fire and emergency medical services will communicate with each other in power outages, ice storms, floods and even acts precipitated by others, then a short stint on a public service event can help you learn more about that.

If you are wondering how far you will have to travel or if you have the right equipment or even how rigorous it might be, it is time to drop me a line. You will find the travel can be very quick and convenient. You will find that the right equipment is either already in your possession or available for loan. And you will feel just how easy it is to accomplish.

With all the demands placed on us by our jobs, family commitments, and finding time to just take a moment for yourself, two hours of purpose drive life will form an easy segue out of a state of constant rushing without paralyzing your time. Those short, two little hours can help restore your sense of satisfaction. You will know just what excellence feels like and know where to go to find it in yourself for two hours at a time.

Call or email Keith Freeberg today to find out how easy it is to find your excellence in communication in only a few hours. Write to n2bel@arrl.net or call 585-254-0722.

Upcoming events include the "MS Walk" on Saturday May 7th in Rochester, Greece and Geneseo. On June 3rd is the "STPR" in Wellsboro, PA and on June 11th we have "Tour de Cure" in Rochester. Sign up, you will have fun.

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