

# the RARA RAG

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## RARA-RVHFG Joint Sept Meeting

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD  
Vice-President, RARA

If you have been paying attention, you may have noticed that the days have been getting shorter and the nights have been crisp and cool. And perhaps you have detected that unmistakable scent of autumn on the horizon. September is here once again and I would like to extend a personal invitation to each one of you to join me as we kick-off a new RARA meeting season.

With your help it will be a season of interesting and exciting program topics. Those of you who attended the last meeting in June will remember that we asked you to fill out a 3x5 card with your suggestions for program topics that you were interested in hearing about and topics that you were willing to talk on. The results of that informal survey indicated that most of you were interested in hearing more about a wide range of topics including: IRLP, Echo Link, APRS, PSK31, WinLink and other digital modes; emergency/portable HF/VHF antenna construction methods; satellite communications; understanding HF propagation; field trip or tour of an interesting communications related company or organization; QRP construction and operating techniques; 2-meter and up operations and more. We will see how many of these topics we can showcase before June '07 catches up with us.

The September meeting will be a very special meeting to start out the new season. RARA is pleased to host the membership of the Rochester VHF Group at our September meeting. That's right, RARA and the 'Groupers' under one roof! Be sure to attend this historic meeting and extend a warm welcome to our fellow Amateur operators. Andy Flowers, K0SM, RVHFG Chairman has assured me that they are as excited to join us as we are to have them share in this landmark event. The meeting program will be provided by one of the 'groupers,' John Gilly, W3OAB. John has been working hard and has collaborated with Ed Gable, K2MP, and curator of the A.W.A. Electronic Communication Museum to put together a walk down memory lane. You guessed it; the September program topic is The History of VHF. If you have ever heard one of John's presentations you know that they are informative and entertaining, top notch in every respect. It is sure to be an interesting night. Check out the RARA website for the latest meeting information at <http://rochesterham.org> and while you're at it, visit the Rochester VHF Group site at <http://www.rvhfg.org> and the A.W.A. website at <http://www.antiquewireless.org>. Don't miss it! See you on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Hamfest Information

For the person who purchased the Hallicrafters HT-40 XMTR at Rochester Hamfest Bring & Buy booth: You left behind the six crystals. Additionally, the manual is now available. Please call the RaRa hotline, (585) 442-0587.

## RaRa/RVHFG Joint Meeting

September 8, 2006

7:30 PM

Henrietta Fire Company #1  
3129 East Henrietta Rd

"The History of VHF"

John Gilly, W3OAB &

Ed Gable, K2MP

## SILENT KEYS

William C. Prensky, W3HMM

May 16, 2006

W. Sterrett Parkinson, N2XVO

July 28, 2006

Reece Brewley, KC2AQX

August 5, 2006

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## The Prez Sez –

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

President, RARA

One final check on a club activity. Do things make sense? For those of us who like to operate portable or mobile, even RV-mobile during the summer months, 'one last walk-around' is one of the most important functions. How many things were left behind on your last portable operation? Did someone forget an important cable or back-up battery? Did the TV get turned off when we left home? There are a hundred little details that our everyday life uses as transitions. In RARA the same happens at the General or Board of Directors meetings. Was this news item listed in the right place to be mentioned at the meeting? Did I write everything I wanted to in that last article? Were the right people thanked at the end of the evening? The 'one last walk-around' can save countless hours on our vehicle or station – are all the little things in place, do they make sense? Try this out yourself: before any event try walking around it one last time and make sure the tires are ok, the wires and cables all in place, the batteries packed, and the lawn chairs put away. A minute of forgetfulness can cost many hours of regret.

### On the road hams monitoring local calling frequencies.

For many summers, on out of town family events, I have been impressed with the number of hams monitoring the national simplex calling frequency on two meters. (146.52) This may be an initiative in which RARA may be interested. We have I-90 passing through our area along with I-390 and I-490. Many people use repeater directories, I find them hard to use the way they are organized and I do not want to have my laptop running in my vehicle when out of town. So the radio-road-help functions are the most useful – If someone is listening. Rochester can be one of the listening areas for hams and others in need of road assistance. We all know that CBers use channel 9 and 19 for road info and FRS users use channel 1, with no PL, for emergency communications ( see NationalSOS.org. )

**October Rag Deadline  
September 15, 2006**

**RaRa Hotline  
(585) 442-0587  
24 hours a day**

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## Did You Miss The Picnic?

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY  
President, RARA

How many 5/16 bolts can a pint jar hold? There were some nice event winners at the RARA/RRRA Joint Picnic on June 17, 2006. You can ask Irv, AF2K, about the 5/16 bolts in the jar but he won't tell you the secret number as it may be used again and generate some hefty prize winners. This year Larry W2ZEY, Jim K2BEH, Cecilia WA2NFY, (and also Larry's daughter Naomi who declined a prize) had the closest guesses and walked away with a nice picnic prize.

Max N2MXD, brought his 2m fox hunt transmitter and search antenna. A very nice prize went to Mike KB2VGF, the fox hunt winner.

The dual-event winner, Len WA2ZNC, walked away with smiles for winning the joke competition -- good memory Len -- and also collecting the most items from the scavenger hunt event. Who would think that Len could find a wisk-broom at a picnic site!

We did not have enough pocket-protectors for the next event, but Jim K2BEH, and Joel N2EZV, shared prizes in the business-card pitch, both giving an excellent showing by tossing a business card 74 inches.

Larry Wallnau's grandson Nico, won the Hit-The-Club-President-With-A-Frisbee contest taking Bill WB2SXY, out with a fast underhand throw, while Brad, KB2CHY was uninjured.

Dick, KG2I, representing the ex-presidents club did a great job grilling the hot dogs. Hope to see everyone next time at the club picnic.

## What to do with old magazines

Instead of tossing out your year-old QSTs, CQs or other radio magazines, recycle them at your friendly dentist and doctors waiting rooms. The next time you print up some return address labels, print the following also to cover your address on the front of your used magazines: (Or ask Dick Goslee, KG2I for some!)

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For info call (585) 442-0587  
[www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org)

We can promote ham radio and save some material from going to the landfills at the same time. Who knows, we might get some people interested in becoming hams, or at least read an article or two from a radio magazine.

## RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, September 1986

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RARA Historian

The kick off meeting for the 1986/87 season, with Dick Goslee, K2VCZ as President, was a visit and talk by the Associate Technical Editor and Deputy Manager of the Technical Department at ARRL Headquarters, Mr. Jerry Hall, K1TD. Jerry's talk was titled *Antenna Facts and Fallacies*. The venue was the Farm and Home Center on Highland Avenue.

Membership chairman Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU, reported that RaRa membership stood at 897 members, up over three percent from last year. RaRa Rag Editor Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, announced he is moving to Ohio and therefore this issue had a front page HELP WANTED sign looking for a new Editor. Coincidentally, the position of Public Relations Officer for the club was also open as the current PR guy, Ed Neubauer, N2BXA, also left town for a career change.

Albert de Blicke, KW2X, wrote for the RaRa VE team revealing test dates had been planned and scheduled for the entire year. The test team coordinator was John Schooley, K2NC, and the Metroplex VE coordinator was used. Test fees were four dollars. License Courses, always an important part of RaRa tradition and success, were announced for a September 29<sup>th</sup> start under the leadership of Ed Holdsworth, N2EH.

Ed Gable, K2MP, wrote his "20 years ago" article for September, 1966, where it was reported that Eddie Dunn, WA2KMI, was RaRa's president. There was only one advertiser, and that was close to home, with RaRa's own *K2JD Engraving* pushing engraved name badges for \$1.25, postage paid ! From the Want Ads you could buy a Kenwood TS-520 transceiver with all of the accessories from Len Gessin, WA2ZNC.

## Sept. Calendar – Events In The WNY Area

- 8 – RARA/RVHFG Joint Meeting, - 7:30PM  
Henrietta Fire Co. #1, 3129 E. Henrietta Rd.
- 15 – RARRA – 8:00PM, monthly meeting at  
Pittsford Town Hall, basement meeting room.
- 19 – RDXA – 7:30PM, monthly meeting at Gander  
Mountain, Jay Scutti Blvd., Henrietta
- 21 – BARK – 7:30PM monthly meeting at Bob  
Rachow, N2WY, 1140 Peck Rd., Hilton

# Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY  
PIO, WNY Section ARRL

**Dr. Charles E. "Chuck" Brady Jr, N4BQW, SK**  
Retired space shuttle astronaut and DXer Chuck Brady, N4BQW, of Oak Harbor, Washington, died July 23 following a lengthy illness. He was 54. During his years as an active astronaut in the 1990s, Brady was among the pioneers of SAREX (Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment). An ARRL member, he was active on ham radio during the 16-day STS-78 shuttle mission in 1996, at that time the longest ever. ARRL Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) liaison Rosalie White, K1STO, says Brady saw into the future of ham radio in space.

"And he predicted that Amateur Radio would be a very important means for astronauts to feel as though they were in touch with the world while staying on-orbit for months on end--and so it is," White said. "During his shuttle flight, he spent more hours on the ham airwaves than probably he should have, much to the pleasure of hams worldwide."

Following his career as an active astronaut, Brady went on to take part in several popular DXpeditions. According to The Daily DX and QST "How's DX?" Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, Brady activated some of the rarer American Pacific islands including Kure Island, Palmyra and Jarvis Island, Midway Island, Wake Island, Baker and Howland Island and Kingman Reef.

A physician, Brady held the rank of captain in the US Navy. The North Carolina native packed a lot of activities into his all-too-short lifetime. In addition to ham radio, he enjoyed canoeing, kayaking, tennis, and cycling. He received training as a flight surgeon after joining the US Navy in 1986, and he was flight surgeon for the Blue Angels Navy flight demonstration squadron from 1989 until 1990. In 1992, NASA selected Brady as an astronaut candidate, and he qualified as a mission specialist for shuttle flights, ultimately logging more than 405 hours in space.

**Website of the Month** The Amateur Radio repeater database is an extensive state-by-state list of repeaters and is updated daily. The URL is <http://www.artscipub.com/repeaters/>.

**Lost in Space** An attempt to launch 15 CubeSats from 11 universities and one private company failed July 26. Fourteen of the CubeSats, now lost, carried Amateur Radio transmit-only payloads. The Dnepr-1LV rocket lifted off from Russia's Baikonur

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Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 1943 UTC on July 26. Space Launch Report cites payload users as reporting that the mission went awry sometime after first-stage separation. An Interfax report said an emergency shutdown of the rocket's main engine initiated 86 seconds after launch, shortly before the first stage would have completed its burn. Gazeta.kz reported the vehicle fell to Earth almost 190 km from the launch site.

Originally set for June 28, the launch had been postponed until July 26. The CubeSat project was a collaboration between California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo and Stanford University's Space Systems Development Laboratory. All of the CubeSats were designed and built by students at various universities in the US and elsewhere in the world. Thirteen of the satellites were to have downlinks in the Amateur Radio satellite allocation between 435 and 438 MHz, and one was to operate on 145.980 MHz. None of the spacecraft carried a transponder. Transmitter power outputs ranged from 10 mW to 2 W.

## **Congressman, ARRL Appeal to FCC to Accommodate BPL Interference Concerns**

US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), and the ARRL have appealed to the FCC to accommodate the Broadband Over Power Line interference concerns of Amateur Radio operators. Ross's letter to FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin and the League's plea to individual commissioners and a face-to-face meeting with one FCC member come in advance of the Commission's consideration of two significant BPL-related actions.

"As you reconsider the BPL rules, please accommodate the very reasonable interests of Amateur Radio operators in avoiding interference in residential and mobile deployment," Ross asked Martin. "It is in the best interest of our emergency preparedness efforts to do so." The FCC was to meet in open session Thursday, August 3, to consider the United Power Line Council's Petition for Declaratory Ruling (WC Docket 06-10) regarding the classification of BPL Internet access service as an "information service." The FCC also will consider a Memorandum Opinion and Order in response to petitions for reconsideration – 17 in all, one from the ARRL – of the rules that apply to BPL systems (ET 04-37).

## **New Emergency Communications Bill Includes Role for Hams**

A bill to enhance emergency communication at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) includes Amateur Radio operators as part of an overall effort to provide interoperability among responders. The 21st Century Emergency Communications Act of

2006 (HR 5852), an amendment to the Homeland Security Act of 2002, passed the US House this week on a 414-2 vote and has gone to the Senate. Its sponsor, Rep David G. Reichert (R-WA) -- who chairs the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology -- says his legislation is designed "to improve the ability of emergency responders to communicate with each other" -- interoperability.

"Until the events of September 11, 2001, many people in this nation believed and assumed that first responders from different disciplines and jurisdictions could actually talk to each other," Reichert -- a former police officer -- told the House in support of his bill. "It wasn't happening. It is still not happening today. Unfortunately, that was not the case then, and, as demonstrated by the inadequate responses to Hurricane Katrina, that is not the case today." Reichert told his colleagues that the inability of first responders to communicate with each another effectively led to the loss of many lives along the US Gulf Coast last year. "This is simply unacceptable," he said.

His measure also would require the DHS to strengthen its efforts to improve emergency communications. HR 5852 calls for Amateur Radio operators to be part of a "Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group" (RECC Working Group) that would be attached to each regional Department of Homeland Security office. The RECC Working Groups would advise federal and state homeland security officials.

In addition to radio amateurs, membership in the RECC Working Groups would include state and local officials; law enforcement, first responders such as fire departments; 911 centers; hospitals; ambulance services; communications equipment vendors, telephone, wireless satellite, broadband and cable service providers; public utilities; broadcasters; emergency evacuation transit services; state emergency managers, homeland security directors or representatives of state administrative agencies; local emergency managers or homeland security directors, and "other emergency response providers or emergency support providers as deemed appropriate."

### **First ARRL Online Auction Planned for October**

The ARRL may be giving eBay and the other auction sites a little competition in the Amateur Radio arena this fall when the first ARRL Online Auction gets under way. Auction proceeds will help to support the League's educational services and programs. The event now is in the planning stages, says ARRL Business Services Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ. "We will soon embark on an exciting new venture," Jahnke said in providing the

broad strokes of the online auction to ARRL Headquarters staff members. Jahnke and her Business Services team will organize and manage the event, which is planned for late October -- the exact dates haven't been set yet -- and she promises it will be lots of fun.

"This will not be just another boring auction, because we plan to include many unique and special items related to Amateur Radio," she said. "We are hoping to offer items that will interest our audience, ranging from DXpedition vacation rentals to restored Collins 75A4s." Jahnke says this inaugural online auction will be limited to 100 items. The auction will be open to all -- ARRL members and otherwise. Bidders just need online access to take part. "With an online auction, we can reach potential bidders across the nation and around the world," Jahnke pointed out.

### **Radio Amateurs in India Assist After Terror Bombing**

After terrorists set off explosions on packed commuter trains in Mumbai (Bombay) during the evening rush hour July 11, Amateur Radio operators helped pass health-and-welfare messages to family members and fill other communication needs. News accounts say that with 8.5 million cell phones competing for the same spectrum, circuits quickly became overwhelmed with passengers calling family members or vice versa. Ham radio operators stepped in to make the connection and, working with the Bombay Municipal Corporation, helped to keep authorities informed as well. They also were able to provide information to hospitals on medical needs. Nearly 200 people were killed by the blasts, and hundreds more were injured. Police have arrested three people in connection with the attacks. An IBN-CNN report quoted Mumbai Amateur Radio Society Disaster Communications Team member Zyros Zend, VU2ZRS, as saying, "I love Mumbai. We consider it a moral duty to sign on to the air when disaster strikes. In fact, we carry our handhels and rush to the nearest spot of crisis." In 2001, Zend -- who bakes fortune cookies for a living -- was among the many Mumbai radio amateurs responding to help in the aftermath of a major earthquake in Gujarat.

### **Fall License Classes to start**

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY  
Education Chairman, RARA

The Fall License Classes will begin on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and will conclude November 11<sup>th</sup>. The classes will be held at RIT and they will be about 2 ½ hours in length. For additional details go to: [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org)

# From the RRRRA President's Desk

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY  
President, RRRRA

WOW! Where did the summer go? It seems only yesterday we were having planning meetings at Denny's about the Empire State Games. As most know, this is what occupied a lot of time this past summer and it all paid off. I won't get into details, but if you would like to know how communications came off without a hitch, just contact me. I have a short version.

I have to announce for those who are not aware, RRRRA has raised its membership fee to \$15.00 per year. This was done for one major reason. In today's world, clubs such as ours need liability insurance. This is a major cost of over \$500.00 per year. Any questions on this please be sure to contact any board member. Our goal is to not lose any members over this change. We want you as a member as well as getting more members for the club. In order for the club to survive, this change was necessary. What do we offer for the \$15.00? We offer insurance and protection for every member in case of a lawsuit. We offer a picnic every year, a free tune-up clinic, an auction with professional auctioneers not to mention the comedy involved. Most of all we offer help to newcomers to the service as well as a social environment, a stable repeater that is state-of-the-art. This is what you get. What would we like in return? We as your board members would like you to be more responsive to activities of the club and become more involved. Please take an oath now that as a member of this organization, you will attend SOME of the meetings. A list is below. Mark your calendar!

RRRA will hold its first meeting of the year 2006/2007 at the Pittsford Town Hall downstairs meeting room at 8:00PM. One subject for the meeting will be on the RRRRA auto patch. There has been a higher than normal interest in the patch in the last year or so. We seem to be the only open patch in the area right now. So we are overdue on training for the usage of the auto patch and some other minor functions of the repeater. The other subject will be on EMAIL-Encryption presented by our new VP Max Kessler.

The meeting date is always the 3rd Friday of the month. For September it will be on the 15<sup>th</sup>

Here is a list of other dates:

Oct 20 Pumpkin Patrol

Nov 17 RRRRA Tune-up Clinic

Dec 15 or as announced for Xmas Dinner out

Jan 19 2007

Feb 16 2007

Mar 16 2007 Auction

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Apr 20 2007

May 18 2007 Nominations for 2007-2008

Jun 15 2007 Annual Meeting and Elections

We have a person interested in putting together a newsletter for us. I believe this will be a good thing to happen for the club. Let's do our best to support him. Details to come soon.

The club is involved in providing communications for the Rochester Labor Day Parade held on September 4th this year. We are in dire need of about 18 operators. We have 6. I need to know if you can help out by August 20th. Please contact Brad KB2CHY on 88 or at kb2chy@frontiernet.net.

That's it for now, have a great day and we will see you in September. (Isn't there a song with that name)?

## ARES News

By Jeff Wigal, WY7Q  
Monroe County ARES

Interested in amateur radio emergency communications? If so, Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)(r) is for you!

We meet on the fourth Thursday of every month, 7:00 PM, at the Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross, 50 Prince Street, in Rochester.

Our next meeting will be September 28. More information on Monroe County ARES can be found on our website, [www.monroecountyemcomm.org](http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org).

We hope to see you there!

### **RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing**

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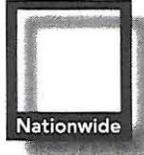
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