



the RARA RAG

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Annual Meeting/Elections May 4, 2007

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD
Vice-President, RARA

It's not your grandfather's radio! It is lighter, has fewer parts, smaller, and updateable over the Internet. Meet your friends at RaRa on Friday, May 4 for the Annual Meeting along with election of officers and directors as well as a talk on Software Defined Radios by Raj Dewan, N2RD

What is common among the latest radios: TenTec's Orion II, Yaesu FT-9000, and Icom IC-7800? Other than the multi-thousand dollar price tag, they are all updateable over the Internet. And not just the interface and screen menus, but the very functioning of the transceiver: receiver signal handling, AGC, gain distribution, modulation/demodulation, and filtering. This trend towards minimizing the hardware and maximizing the software culminates in a new breed of radios called: Software Defined Radios. Other than the front end and eventual audio output, all the intermediate processing is done digitally, i.e. using 'firm ware' that is used by specialized digital signal processors that do most of the work. The best radios today utilize a mix of hardware and software to get the best performance possible. The ratio of number of tasks done in the software over tasks done in the hardware is steadily increasing. Most modern commercial and amateur radios are essentially software defined radios.

RaRa Annual Meeting/Elections

May 4, 2007

7:30 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall #1
3129 East Henrietta Road
"Software Defined Radios"
with Raj Dewan, N2RD

In the talk on May 4, 2007, Raj will discuss the basic architecture and the technology used in software defined radios. He will demonstrate two SDR systems: Softrock 40 which utilizes a postage size USB plug in receiver and the software used by Flex Radio, and Bob Larkin, W7PUA's DSP-10 2m SDR. N2RD will also talk about the Pic-a-Star project, started by Peter Rhodes G3XJP in a series of Radcom articles. The performance of this transceiver rivals that of the latest \$10,000+ transceivers and yet you can build one at home. Raj is building one. He will bring some modules along.

Special announcement: Raj will have a limited number of SDR experimenter kits for purchase. These kits will provide 40-meter band reception. Here is a great way to get some hands-on experience in Software Defined Radio at the low price of only \$10.00.

This is a meeting that you will not want to miss. Meet your friends at RaRa and join the exciting world of Software Defined Radio.

Nominating Committee Report

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD
Vice-President, RARA

The following list is the nominees for offices for the 2007-2008 term:

Vice-President – open

Secretary – Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

Treasurer – Dick Goslee, KG2I

Directors – Jim Stefano, W2COP; Ross Mazzola, KC2LOC; Keith Freeberg, N2BEL; Frank Schramm, WB2PYD; Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY; Raj Dewan, N2RD and Duane Fregoe, KC2PCG.

Additional nominations for Officers and Directors will be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting on May 4, 2007.

SILENT KEYS

Thomas J. Campbell, W2EZ
April 13, 2007

the RARA RAG

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Public Service Coordinator.....Keith Freeberg, N2BEL
License Testing Coordinator.....Raj Dewan, N2RD
Membership Chairman.....George Masny, KA2GPI
Hamfest General Chairman.....Harold Smith, K2HC
Media Communications.....Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
License Class Chairman.....Brad Armstrong, W1YX
Awards Chairman
Education Chairman.....Peter Fournia, W2SKY
Web Page Administrator.....Peter Fournia, W2SKY
RARA Directory Editor.....Dick Goslee, KG2I
Refreshments Chairman.....Tom Austin, KA2GXX
Club Station Trustees.....K2JD, Irv Goodman, AF2K
W2EOC, Lloyd Caves, N2PU

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RaRa Rag 2

The Prez Sez

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
President, RARA

There is no down side to preparation. Years ago they did not call them 'Go Kits'. I was working with one of the phone companies to help them to prepare for the Y2K event. Actually they started working on it about August of 1999. I wanted my family prepared for just about anything anyway. I was 'one of those people' - due to my 15 year scout leader training - that had camping gear, grew my own food and fixed my own car. I thought that I was ready. Naturally, my neighbors thought I was crazy. No, I did not sell everything I had and buy a square mile in Arkansas with concertina wire and machine gun nests in each corner, but, I did have slightly above normal winter shelter requirements for this area. No, I did not bury pallets of food, fuel nor firearms (the Three F's of Survival) in my backyard. Even though, Big John said that if he 'had enough bullets he could git everything else he needed'. Anyways, TRUE survivalists are not club joiners and they don't talk much, hence, not much need for 'legal' radios, Go Kits or not.

I told my family not to discuss my preparations with their friends or anyone else. People will tuck 'Bill has food' in the back of their minds, for future use, to be remembered when they get hungry. I told my kids that if their friends were here during an emergency that family came first and friends go good with ketchup. If we prepare our families physically and mentally, hide our generators and antennas, and make sure the main escape vehicle, your RV, is in escape-ready condition, we should be all set.

Like I said earlier, there is no down side to being prepared. If there was a major event for Y2K, my family would not consume the limited resources of the locality, we would survive in a very low-key manner so as to not become targets, and spring was around the corner. As it turned out I did not have to evacuate the county but I did have a block party with all the extra food under the guise of a Fourth of July party

One of the best ways for us to get prepared is with training from FEMA, Red Cross, ARES, www.monroecounty.gov and other local preparations such as

www.monroecounty.gov/safety-projectprepare

**June Rag Deadline
May 11, 2007**

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, May 1987

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

Well, imagine my surprise when I went to the RaRa files to pull out the May 1987, issue of the *Rag* and the file was empty ! Not sure how I missed that years ago when I compiled what I thought was a complete set. So, if anybody has a copy I sure would like to have it for the files. A photo copy would do.

In the mean time, I can tell you that the May activity was filled with that of electing new officers for the next season and everyone was eagerly awaiting the arrival of the *Rochester Hamfest*. Knowing the Editor Dick Goslee always wants some copy, let's take a look at this period some twenty years ago. The hot new rigs on the market were the ICOM 761, the Kenwood TS-940SAT, the TenTec Paragon and the Yaesu FT-757GTX. Most new radios saw the introduction of built in antenna tuners, general coverage receivers, multi-mode capability including RTTY and toys in the i.f. system including cascaded filters, passband tuning and i.f. shift. All new 20 years ago.

An expanding area for hams who wanted more than chatting on SSB was the whole genre of digital communications. The hot set up was the pricey but capable AEA PK-232 multi-mode controller that could allow you to receive and transmit CW, AMTOR, ASCII, PACKET, RTTY and more with a simple PC and some provided software on a five and one-quarter inch floppy. For you QRO guys who wanted high power there were new guys on the block ready to take your greenbacks. Names like Amp Supply Company, ETO, Ameritron, Tokyo High Power Labs and RF Concepts have come and gone. For the FM crowd, and a big crowd it was, new names included Alinco and Tempo, but the big three HF boys carried the FM market too. ICOM's IC-2AT was the absolute top seller in handhelds while Kenwood's new dual band radio, with 40 watts and a GaAs FET front end, the TW-4100A, was the radio to have.

This was not a particularly exciting time for new antennas. Butternut was a relatively new name as was the short lived Tonna brand. Those wanting better performing Yagis could select from Mosley's PRO-57/67, KLM's KT34XA was a popular choice as was Hy-Gain's TH7DXS. The venerable Mosley TA-33 was still in the catalog if you could find one. The Mosley name disappeared for a few years and suddenly appeared again... alive and better than ever. Telex had a new HDR-300 rotor while KenPro solved the satellite antenna steering problem with AZ-EL rotors. Be sure to come to the Rochester Hamfest the first Friday through Sunday of June, and you'll find these items and more at the famous Hamfest Flea Market.

Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA Media Coordinator

Website of the month: Ed Culbertson, KE7FEG, gave me the link to this interesting site. The author of the site demonstrates how to use a digital camera to check solder joints on small components and boards. A digital camera with decent resolution and close-up focusing is used to take a photo for the solder connection. Using editing features of photo software [e.g. Photoshop] one can achieve 20 times magnification – far better than a magnifying glass. As they say, seeing is believing. Go to: <http://www.ae5x.com/ats3.html>

ARRL revises regulation by bandwidth: In the wake of recent changes in the Part 97 Amateur Radio rules, the ARRL has revised its "regulation by bandwidth" proposals to match the new reality, avoid some unintended consequences and temper some of the controversy the original petition had aroused. In a November 2005 Petition for Rule Making (RM-11306), the League asked the FCC to establish a regulatory regime that would segment bands by necessary bandwidths ranging from 200 Hz to 100 kHz rather than by emission mode. The ARRL now is urging the FCC to adopt a "subset" of the rules contained in its original petition that largely affects only the amateur bands at 28 MHz and above. "Because the proposals affecting the bands above 28 MHz had not aroused much controversy, they were retained in the shortened list," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, explained this week. "Regulation by bandwidth, rather than by mode of emission remains controversial below 28 MHz because of its perceived potential impact on established operating patterns, so these proposals were removed from the list with one narrow exception." That exception addresses the fact that current rules impose no effective bandwidth limit on HF digital operation. "Digital emissions using multiple carriers, such as OFDM [orthogonal frequency division multiplexing], can be designed for any bandwidth while staying within the existing rules," Sumner points out, "so, the subset of proposed rule changes includes a bandwidth limit of 3 kHz on RTTY and data emissions below 28 MHz." The proposed 3 kHz RTTY/data bandwidth limit aims to avoid the possibility existing under the present rules that a single digital station could monopolize large MF and HF band segments. *The ARRL Letter*.

Solar update: [Mid-March Report] Sunspot seeker Tad "Who Let the Spots Out?" Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, reports: For the past 10 days we've observed no sunspots at all! Periods like this – or longer – are expected at the bottom of the sunspot cycle.

(Sidebands continued on page 4)

Sidebands continued from page 3

As mentioned in a recent "Solar Update," the latest projection for smoothed sunspot numbers from the NOAA Space Environment Center puts the solar minimum at February through April 2007, with a smoothed sunspot number of 11. Another way to look at it is that the minimum is projected between December 2006 and July 2007, with a smoothed sunspot number of 12 or lower. The lower part of the HF spectrum is a good place to operate at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Unlike 10 or 15 meters, 160 and 80 meters won't be bothered by a low MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency) -- a consequence of the lack of sunspots. With less solar activity comes fewer problems with geomagnetic disturbances, which can be frequent toward the top of the cycle. [Mid-April Report] Solar swami Tad "I Got my Mojo Workin'" Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, reports: The daily sunspot number ended its stretch of zeroes Friday, March 23, after 10 days of totally blank sun. Since then the daily sunspot number has ranged from 11 to 23. The daily sunspot number is not the same as the number of sunspots but represents the number of spots and individual groups of spots. The minimum non-zero sunspot number is 11, when one sunspot is visible. Geomagnetic activity came a little earlier than predicted, with the active day on Saturday, March 24. The latest forecast puts the next period of higher geomagnetic activity on Monday, April 2. The sunspot numbers and solar flux should remain about the same, with no more than one or two spots visible. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet geomagnetic conditions for March 30 and 31, unsettled activity on April 1 and 2, quiet to unsettled on April 3, and quiet again on April 4 and 5. *ARRL Propagation e-list*.

ARES and RACES respond to train mishap:

The normally quiet community of the City of Oneida in Madison County New York was the scene of an explosion after a 78-car CSX freight train derailment Monday morning March 12, 2007. Approximately 28 of the cars derailed at about 7 AM with at least five, including two filled with pressurized liquid propane, caught fire, resulting in an explosion. A one mile voluntary evacuation zone was declared and the local chapter of the American Red Cross opened up a shelter. Emergency personnel for both Madison and Oneida Counties responded. Oneida-Madison Counties ARES responded to support the American Red Cross with backup Emergency Communications at the Red Cross shelter at the New Beginnings Church in Wampsville (the county seat for Madison County). The shelter was manned by Dave, KC2PCN, who is the liaison between O-M ARES and the Oneida Chapter of the ARC. As an ARC volunteer he is called by the ARC chapter President whenever amateur radio support is anticipated. *Western New York Section News Summary*

Fifth civilian to visit ISS: The fifth civilian to visit the International Space Station is scheduled, as of this writing, to accompany the station's Expedition 15 crew into space Saturday, April 7. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station reports that software pioneer and aviator Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, plans to talk with students at four schools during his ISS stay, one in his native Hungary and three in the US. He also may make casual contacts. A client of Vienna, Virginia-based Space Adventures Ltd, Simonyi, 58, will be the third passenger aboard a Soyuz "taxi mission" that will carry Expedition 15 Russian cosmonauts Fyodor Yurchikhin, RN3FI, and Oleg Kotov, to the ISS. Simonyi is paying an estimated \$25 million for the privilege. Upon arriving at the ISS, the two cosmonauts will join US astronaut Suni Williams, KD5PLB, whose duty tour will span Expeditions 14 and 15. Yurchikhin and Kotov will spend about six months aboard the ISS, while Williams will return home in June. Simonyi will come back to Earth with Expedition 14 crew members Mike Lopez-Alegria, KE5GTK, and Mikhail Tyurin, RZ3FT, aboard the Soyuz that's now docked to the ISS. Simonyi is a one-time Microsoft application developer and reputed billionaire. He follows in the footsteps of private space explorers Dennis Tito, KG6FZX, Mark Shuttleworth, Greg Olsen, KC2ONX, and Anousheh Ansari. *The ARRL Letter*

Florida fire department honors radio amateur:

The 2007 Firefighter of the Year in Dania Beach, Florida, is Steve Adams, N4JRW -- a firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT). The 31-year fire department veteran was cited for his "unselfish dedication to the department and his fellow firefighters." An ARRL member, Adams says he's participated in a lot of public service and emergency operations. "I am very proud of this honor," he told the League. "I was totally taken by surprise." Adams oversees the ham radio program for the Dania Beach and Hollywood emergency operations centers (EOCs). During hurricane emergencies, Adams and his son Josh, N4OSO, staff both EOCs. Over the years, Adams has spent many hours of his own time to put the best equipment and procedures in place so Amateur Radio can back up normal telecommunications in an emergency or disaster. Ham radio also permits the local EOC to link with the Broward County EOC. *The ARRL Letter*

Monroe County LEPC

The next meeting of Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday morning May 9, 2007 at 8:30 AM at the Public Safety Training Facility, 1190 Scottsville Road in the OEC, Suite 200.

The meeting is open to the public and all are welcome. Please sign in as an amateur radio guest. Coffee and doughnuts will be available.

Public Service Events Need Your Help

By Keith Freeberg, N2BEL
RARA Public Service Coordinator

If you can possibly help out on one of these fine public service events it would be greatly appreciated. If you are concerned about the high cost of fuel when you volunteer, let me know, perhaps I can help. Volunteering or getting more information about an event has never been easier. Simply go to www.RochesterHam.org and click on "Public Service" and you will have access to details and sign up on line. Or, just call me @ 254-0722 with any questions. The complete listing of the 2007 Public Service Season is below for your consideration:

Susquehannock Trail Performance Rally – Sat. & Sun., June 2 & 3, 2007

Tour de Cure – Sunday, June 10, 2007

Spirit of America Celebration – Wednesday, July 4, 2007

Cycling the Erie Canal – Mon. & Tue., July 9 & 10, 2007

International Triathlon Union – Pan American Cup Saturday, July 14, 2007

Musselman Triathlon – Sunday, July 15, 2007

Mercy Flight – Cycling for Mercy – Sunday, July 29, 2007

Multiple Sclerosis Finger Lakes Bike Tour – Sat. & Sun, August 11 & 12, 2007

Walnut Hill Driving Competition – Wed. thru Sun., August 15 – 19, 2007

Labor Day Parade – Monday, September 3, 2007

Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon – Sunday, September 16, 2007

Finger Lakes Triathlon – Sunday, September 23, 2007

America's Walk for Diabetes – Saturday, September 29, 2007

Wine Glass Marathon – Sunday, September 30, 2007

Jamboree on the Air (BSA) – Sat. & Sun, October 20 & 21, 2007

NYS Thruway Pumpkin Patrol – Tue. & Wed., Oct. 30 & 31, 2007

RaRa Hotline

(585) 442-0587

24 hours a day

Antique Wireless Association Spring Meet and Vintage Radio Auction

By Ed Gable, K2MP/W2AN
Curator AWA Museum

**Flea Market, Vendors, Programming,
Tours of the World Famous Museum**

Saturday, May 5, 2007

Bloomfield, NY Elementary School

45 Maple Ave. (Rte 444) in the Village of
Bloomfield, New York

The annual AWA Spring Meet will be held May 5th at the Bloomfield Elementary School starting at 7:00 am for set up and doors open 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. Our program features Museum Director Dr. Thomas F. Peterson, Jr. who will show there was wireless communication before Marconi, Fessenden and others. In the afternoon the world famous AWA Museum will be open. Refreshments are available during the day and other group gatherings are encouraged and popular. The entry fee is only five 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. Look for Talk-In Station W2ONT on 145.110(-) PL 110.9

For Sale

Yaesu – Quadra System VP-1000 and VL-1000; Yaesu FT-1000 MK-V; Yaesu Rotor and Controller; Yaesu SP-8 Speaker; Mosley TA-34 xlw; DSP-599 ZX Timewave; Heights Tower 36' (at location and to be dismantled and removed by you). I will e-mail pictures upon request. Serious prospectors only please. W2JRM @ 585-319-4184

For Sale

T-50H Aluma heavy duty crank up Tower, 50 feet tall, rated for 100 Mile winds and tilts to work on the antenna. Retail for \$2,500. Asking \$1,850. Detailed technical specs at

<http://www.alumatower.com>.

Also, Yaesu G-1000SDX heavy duty antenna rotor. Retail for \$469 + S&H. Asking \$250. Buy both for \$1,995!!!. You pick up. Call (585) 746-5118. N2MLG.

Election Nominations

The following RARA members have been nominated for election at the annual meeting. Biographies of each of the candidates are shown below.

Secretary:

Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

After several years as a Short Wave Listener, Bill Kasperkoski earned WN2SXY in 1964, his first amateur radio license. Currently he holds an old Amateur Extra Class license, DXCC, WAS and WAC and considers himself an avid CW rag chew operator. Bill used his FCC First Phone (now GROL) Commercial License with Ship Radar Endorsement, in TV and radio broadcast stations in the Rochester area. In the military Bill was stationed at a stateside Military Educational TV facility, and overseas as the Training NCO for his USARV unit.

At Kodak's Elmgrove Plant, Bill ran the commercial 2-way radio, repeater and pager facility for several years and taught others to troubleshoot the broadband and computer network plants. He also worked at that facility's network operations control center and a high voltage welding laser production areas, in addition to copier and special electronics servicing. In other companies, Bill worked as a network and microwave engineer for a wireless ISP, and in long distance telephone unix computer system programming and administration.

Bill has already served RARA as a license class theory instructor, secretary, vice-president and president, and holds an Organizational Management - Business BS degree from Roberts Wesleyan College. Bill worked as an operator in the Thruway Pumpkin Patrol, the K2RRA/Hamfest Talk-in station, public service walk-a-thons, Monroe County FM net and Scout Jamborees on the Air special event stations.

Bill volunteered for about 15 years as an Assistant Cub and Scoutmaster and a trainer for District and Council sessions. As an adult, Bill earned Scouting's Woodbadge and Order of the Arrow. He belongs to the ARRL, FISTS and several other local ARC's. Bill also volunteers as a radio dispatcher and EMT with the local ambulance corps.

Additional nominations for Secretary may be made at the May meeting.

Treasurer:

Dick Goslee, KG2I

I have been a Ham for 50 years now. I received my Novice call KN2VCZ in April of 1957 and advanced to Technician (K2VCZ) and then General in 1958. It took a while (I was busy) till I received

my Advanced license in 1977 and finally my Extra license in 2001. After defeating cancer in late 2003 I decided it was time for a new call and in January of 2004 I received my current call, KG2I. Along the way I served on the BOD of the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association and as President of my High School radio club and my college club at RIT. While in college at RIT I also served as President of the National Professional Photographic Fraternity, Delta Lambda Epsilon.

I have been a member of RARA since 1983. I was elected to the BOD in 1984 and I was appointed as Chairman of the Finance Committee. In 1985 I was elected Vice-President and then became President in 1986. Following my term as President I was elected as Treasurer in 1987 and served in that capacity until 2004 when I retired from the office.

Among my other jobs in RARA were a 6 year stint teaching the Novice/Technician class and a couple of years teaching the Advanced class. In 1986 I took over the operation of the RARA membership/directory database and wrote the programs to move it from a TRS-80 computer to a more modern IBM PC style system. I have maintained the database since that time and have also served as the Editor of the RARA Directory since 1986. During the early 90's I worked with Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP on the RARA RAG. When Ray Pickens, WA2MYG passed away in 2004 I became the Editor of the RARA RAG and continue in that capacity today. I also spent many years working with the famous "K2JD Engraving Team", and as a member of the RARA VE Team.

I have worked on various committees of the Rochester Hamfest since joining RARA in 1983 and in 2006 I became the Assistant General Chairman for the Hamfest. With my love of finance and in working for RARA I have decided to run for election as Treasurer for the 2007-2008 year.

I am involved in many activities with RARA because I believe in my heart that you only get out of an organization what you put in. To truly enjoy an organization you must get involved in the day to day operation.

I am employed as Director of Engineering for Quality Protection Systems. Not being satisfied with just one job I am also the Chief Starter at a local Drag Strip, New York International Raceway Park. I am also responsible for all the radios, timing equipment, lighting controls and audio equipment at the track. A couple of times a year I travel to Norwalk, Ohio to work on the track crew at that race track.

My wife Sue is licensed as N2HKA and my daughters Karen, KB2CHE and Cathie, KB2ESZ are also licensed hams.

Additional nominations for Treasurer may be made at the May meeting.

Directors:

James Stefano, W2COP

I'm a lifetime resident of the Rochester area, first becoming interested in wireless communications at the age of 5, when my dad helped me build a home made crystal set. I've been hooked ever since, earned my ticket at 15 and I've been a Ham now for the past 35 years. My primary interest however has been VHF/UHF communications.

In 1992 I became involved in Packet Radio making my first contact with the International Space Station, and for the past three years I've helped out with the ARISS programs for local schools. I'm also a member of ARES/RACES.

After retiring from 21 years in law enforcement, I joined RIT 5 years ago in the Electrical Engineering Department. I'm also the Technical Advisor to the RIT Amateur Radio Club where we manage the APRS Internet Gateway for the Rochester area and have a campus repeater with an IRLP link. For the past two years I've been fortunate in being able to accommodate space here at RIT for the board meetings, license classes and Amateur Exams.

My current project with RaRa is to implement virtual remote HF gateway, accessible from the Internet anywhere in the world. I thank you for your past two years of support and I look forward to serving another year on the RaRa Board of Directors.

Ross Mazzola, KC2LOC

This June will mark my fourth anniversary as a ham. I took my Technician license exam at the Rochester Hamfest in 2003 and I've never looked back. Since then, I've upgraded twice with the help of RARA Licensing classes to my now current Amateur Extra license. I even passed the element 1 morse code exam, albeit only five words per minute!

During this time, amateur radio has become a big part of my life. When I go camping now, I take along my radio equipment and enjoy operating as a portable station from the mountains of New Hampshire to the beaches of North Carolina. In my quest for the perfect portable antenna, I've homebrewed close to a dozen different kinds of low-cost, easy to build antennas. When I'm away on business, I'll often take along my HT and a roll-up J-pole and use IRLP to connect to stations around the country and around the world. What a thrill it is to have a QSO with someone half way around the world from your hotel room using an HT!

During the summer, I participate in the many public service events around our area. They are a lot of fun and they are excellent practice for real emergencies. Check out the link on the RARA website or just ask me if you want more information. I'm also a member of Monroe County ARES and Monroe County RACES. This is a dedicated group of well trained radio operators

whose mission it is to be ready to communicate "...when all else fails."

In my spare time (hi hi) I enjoy HF operations and have earned a Worked All States award in 2006 and I am currently working on a DXCC award (I have over 100 entities and I'm waiting for the last of the QSL cards now). The good news is that operating conditions are only going to get better from here. Perhaps my most important activity, however, is being a member of the Board of Directors of RARA where I have had the opportunity to help guide and shape one of the largest and finest amateur radio clubs in the country.

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

Licensed in 1979 and still using the same call, I've been long interested in the public service aspect of Ham Radio after hearing many powerful stories in my youth about the ability of Hams to help their communities. I have had the pleasure of serving you via the Board of Directors for a considerable time and would be delighted to continue to serve.

Frank Schramm, WB2PYD

My interest in radio communications began around the age of 7 or 8. I was highly desirous of a pair of walkie-talkies I saw in one of those "Catalog Showroom" stores that were all the rage back in the late 1960's. At the time, they were as obtainable to me as an automobile! After what seemed like all of eternity I received a pair as a gift. Each one was a hefty mass of cast metal with a telescopic antenna as fragile as gossamer wings.

Leaving one in the hands of my Dad, I set off on my bicycle to see how far I could go and communicate back home. Coverage was a mere few blocks. With that began the experimenting to increase range (no scientific method was actually applied so it was technically hacking). I hooked the unit that stayed in the house to the rooftop TV antenna, and as I traversed the neighborhood, I would couple the antenna of the portable to any and all metallic structures (shy of power lines of course). Unknowing that loading a metal fence is very unproductive, something about a direct path to ground eluded me; I still imagined superior performance and felt as empowered as any kilowatt broadcast station. I also spent a lot of time engaged with a 200-in-1 breadboard experimenter's kit. Who knew there were so many ways to illuminate a light bulb?

By Middle School, CB was all the rage and I was able to earn money to purchase "real" radios. Thus began an infatuation with Radio Shack stores everywhere. That, as a young adult, eventually led to an 8 year career at the "Shack" along with a prominent RaRa member who shall remain nameless for his own protection.

(Election Nominations cont. on page 8)

Frank Schramm, WB2PYD continued

After outfitting the two family cars, and setting up a base station with CB's I became the "Go-to" guy for neighbors, friends and family. That afforded me a great deal of experience with RF and electronics that expended to repairing TV's, stereos and the likes.

I found great satisfaction in providing public service as a channel 9 REACT operator and the annual Thruway "Pumpkin Watch" with the local CB club.

As a high school freshman, Ham radio quickly became the goal for serious communications. My closest friend was also an avid CB'er with his sights set high on the communications horizon. Together we took the RaRa licensing class with mentoring from the "Ed's", Gable and Holdsworth, and CW instruction by Bob Lauzon and the infamous chirping of his vacuum tube side tone oscillator. Once licensed in 1977, we also co-founded the Radio Club in our High School. In college I was President of the Amateur Radio Club; probably because no one else wanted to. I soon discovered my passion was less in chatting, but deeply driven with the technology and its abilities. I joined Army MARS fulfilling various positions over the years including a long running stint as Net Control for the Monday night 10m net, passing traffic between European stationed service personnel and stateside family and friends. My passion for technology climaxed in the early 1980's with the advent of the Personal Computer. I procured one at the first opportunity and quickly married it to my HF rig for MARS RTTY operation.

In the mid through late 1980's I supplemented my Public Service duties with 8 years of service to the Henrietta Volunteer Ambulance Corp. Starting as a dispatcher, I also held positions as driver, EMT medic, dispatch chief, director at large and corporate treasurer.

All that, including amateur radio, was put aside when I married and started a family in 1990. After a nearly 15 year hiatus my rekindled interest finds the hobby as exciting as it was originally back in the 1970's. You are more likely to recognize me by my attendance at every RaRa General Membership meeting since 2005, than by my voice on the air. I am currently sitting on the RaRa Board of Directors by election to fill a vacancy in January 2007.

I continue to make myself available to the RaRa membership offering my services and any expertise I may impart. In my professional life I am immersed in numerous business interests, predominantly technology related, including corporate management, marketing, financial investment, and imaging. I can be easily reached via the 28/88 repeater (Monday-Friday 9-5), the 045/645 Dansville repeater on weekends, or e-mail to wb2pyd@arrl.net

RaRa Rag 8

Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

My interest in radio began as a child. My father, an electrical engineer, gave me a National NC-105 for SWL. We also spent many hours in the basement workshop where he repaired radios and televisions for family and friends. These occasions provided my introduction to the basics of electricity and electronics. My father emphasized that learning resulted from doing – which is why Heathkits were a shared activity. I resumed SWL during adulthood – still using that old NC-105. Later restoring shortwave radios replaced time at SWL. My preferences have been for Nationals, Command Sets, and two- or three-band table radios with wood cabinets and tuning eyes. Upon retiring my doctor impressed upon me to fill my time with challenges – endeavors to keep the brain sharp and active. Amateur Radio was the first idea to cross my mind. I began attending RaRa meetings, and at the urging of my first elmer, Ray Pickens, WA2MYG/SK, I got my ticket 4 years ago. I hold a General class license. My interests are HF SSB [including QRP] and VHF/UHF mobile for trips. Homebrew antennas are another interest.

Club and Section Activities: [1] Managing Editor of the *RaRa Rag* – contributing a monthly column "Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News". The article covers current events in Ham Radio collected from local newspapers in the U.S, from ARRL releases, and news from the internet. [2] Member of the Board of Directors this past season – I also reported to the board about my activities in media communications. [3] Media Communications Coordinator for three years – In the past 12 months two feature articles appeared in the *Democrat and Chronicle* and articles in small-market weekly print media. Having two articles published in the *D&C* during the past 12 months matches the number published during the same period last year. WHAM-13 TV responded to my media release and covered the ARISS contact in January. [4] Public Information Officer for the ARRL Western New York Section. I distributed Ham Radio news and information about events to amateur radio clubs throughout western New York. [2006-2007].

I would be grateful and it would be a privilege to have the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors again. Rest assured I will represent you. My phone number is in the *Rag* and the Rochester directory. I will listen to your ideas and concerns.

Raj Dewan, N2RD

Ham radio has been a wonderful avocation for me. I have met some of the most interesting and fun people through this hobby. This has been the most valuable part of the hobby. One of the best ways to further expand my circle of friends has been through clubs, especially RARA. I have really enjoyed being a member these last two years.

The other aspect of ham radio that I find tremendously fun is home brewing. In the last

couple of years I have put together an Elecraft station, four transverters for VHF/UHF bands, the DSP-10 software defined radio, a Vector Network Analyzer and numerous other gadgets that are useful in the shack. I am currently working on putting together a panadapter for the Elecraft and building an all-band HF software defined radio that is PC independent. There are few services/hobbies where one can have so much fun putting things together.

I mostly operate CW on HF. I operate in contests and hunt DX. I have 306 countries confirmed using CW. Last fall I operated in CW Sweeps and was lucky enough to get a clean sweep. I am a member of RDXA. I have recently added 6m, 2m and 1.25m rigs. I am also a member of RVHFG and manage its website.

I joined RARA by volunteering to help with VE testing. I have been privileged to meet some great Volunteer Examiners, who are also RARA members. They give up a morning each month for VE testing thereby providing locals an easy means to get a new ham ticket or upgrade. It is most gratifying to see the delight in a new ham's face when he or she passes her first ham radio license exam. What a thrill.

In the short period that I have been a member of RARA, I have been most impressed with the variety of public service projects and other useful endeavors that RARA club members take on. It really is a full service club in true sense of the phrase. If elected, I look forward to serving as a director of the organization.

Duane Fregoe, KC2PCG

Having grown up in Caledonia, NY I remember very well 2 hams that really liked the hobby. They were Harvey Cohen (KB2LB) and Robert John who is now living in Illinois (AA8X). I can remember Harvey Cohen making a telephone call from a 2M portable radio long before cell phones and not believing what I saw. I have had an interest in wireless communication ever since holding a valid CB license in the mid-seventies before the FCC quit issuing them. Someday I was going to get a HAM license. Someday was almost 30 years later. In 2000 I bought a Technician Class study manual only to watch it collect dust. In December 2005 I bought a scanner that had some of the HAM bands pre-programmed in it. After a week with the new scanner I was surfing the net looking for new study material for that Technician Class license. On January 21, 2006 I took the Technician test and passed. On January 25, 2006 I had my ticket and 3 days later I had the HT radio to make use of my new privileges. I was soon building my first antenna so I could reach the repeaters in Wethersfield and check into the Western District Net. I currently have my General ticket and study material for the Extra Exam.

I am active with the Western District Net where I am Net Control on Wednesday night at 6:30 PM and I alternate weeks on the Sunday morning slot at 11:00 AM. I am also an active fill-in when the 2 assigned people are unable to do it. Would like see more people check-in to the WDN from the Rochester area. The public service side of amateur radio can be a lot of fun. Last year was my first try at it and I did the Tour de Cure in June and the MS Bike Tour in August. For the new hams this is a great way to meet your fellow hams in the community. I am also a member of RVHFG, RRRRA, and ARES.

The limits of the Technician license should not limit you to local communications. With my strong interest in computers I have enjoyed the use of IRLP, EchoLink, CQ100, and eQSO. Much of this would not be possible without giving special thanks to the repeater owners and trustees that go the extra mile to link their sites to the IRLP and EchoLink systems.

Outside of Ham Radio I am a Senior Project Manager for LeChase Construction and have been there 22 years. My wife (the ham widow) and my 2 young boys (future hams??) enjoy camping during the summer in our 25' condo on wheels. In 1997 I was appointed to the Town of Ogden Zoning Board and have been Chairman since 2000. I also coach Special Olympics with the Westside Training Club and have been active for the past 2 years. We are a parent run club with about 20 athletes and participate in 6 sports through the year.

In my short 14 months with a ham ticket I have done much listening and a little talking and have learned a lot. I would like to thank the nominating committee for considering me for a position on the Board of Directors for the Rochester Amateur Radio Association.

Additional nominations for Director may be made at the May meeting.

May Calendar of events

- 4 - RaRa Annual Meeting – 7:30 PM –
Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 11 - RVHFG – 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at
Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.
- 15 - RDXA – 7:30 PM, Monthly meeting at Gander
Mountain, Jay Scutti Blvd, Henrietta
- 18 - RRRRA – 8:00 PM, Monthly meeting
Pittsford Town Hall, basement meeting room.
- 24 – ARES Meeting – 7:00 PM Red Cross Hdqt.
50 Prince St, Rochester.
- 31 - Rochester Hamfest Set-Up Day – 12:30 PM
Dome Center, Henrietta.

By Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

June 9, 1300Z-1900Z, Bloomfield, NY. Rochester DX Association, W2RDX/60. Rochester DX Association's 60th anniversary from the Antique Wireless Museum. All HF bands SSB CW AM on 3.885. QSL. Via bureau, LoTW or direct Irwin J. Goodman, AF2K, 515 Drumm Rd, Webster, NY 14580-1579. www.rdxa.com

Hamming Makes for a Small World

by Bill Hopkins, AA2YV

You never know when a Ham's rantings and ravings about the hobby will produce the desired result. Two or so years ago I was privileged to have Ciro ("Cheero") Martinelli as a university exchange student from the University of Pescara (sunny Italy) in a German Language class at Nazareth College. I do remember faintly that I spoke about my beloved hobby Ham Radio to Ciro, a Neopolitan with a language ear to be envied and a memory like a sponge. (He is really from Ercolano, the other great Vesuvius eruption tourist destination.)

So, I'm sitting in my office one afternoon, finishing up letters of recommendation for graduating students, when my computer gives me a "ring" telling me I have two emails: one from Norm at Montana State University and the other from Ciro Martinelli. You can read what he sent me:

Dear Bill,

I know it's been a long time we haven't talked, but still something tells me you are the first person I should tell this thing, and, as a matter of fact, you have been the first to get me curious about radios. You might hardly remember me, I am Ciro Martinelli from the Pescara Exchange Program, year 2003. I still remember our talks about how radio works and what radio amateurs do around the world. It was you who first told me about the possibility to talk through the ISS, and the chance to connect via internet to radio repeaters and talk to people around the world from your home. Well my curiosity has grown up since then, and along with my studies, I have practiced SWL a lot, increasing my knowledge. Well to put it shortly... I just got my callsign Friday and I became a class A radio amateur. My callsign is IZ8LFK (by the way, I found yours on qrz.com). I am really excited about this and my first thought, as I said, goes to you. I hope to hear from you soon, maybe on HF bands or in Echolink (which I will get to work soon). I would really like to receive a picture of your radio station, I will send mine to you shortly. Thank you again for introducing me to this amazing world.

RSVP ;) Ciro Martinelli - IZ8LFK

RaRa Rag 10

Ciro has joined the Top Radio Team in Naples, that will soon be DXing from atop Mount Vesuvius, a first for amateur radio. So, why don't we all at RARA send Ciro an email greeting and a small photo of our hamshacks, to:

ciro1981@fastwebnet.it. He'll really find out that Hams care about the hobby.

Hams are "Techies", so sell Ham Radio

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
President, RARA

We know that ham radio attracts 'techie' people, and it always has. Today's ham activities, such as administration, emergency and public service, training and elmering, and the special event and hospitality functions, also require other talent subsets. Dealing with member and public relations, hamfests, and other served organizations requires more people- and salesmanship-type skills. Imagine this: lining up hamfest vendors and Red Cross shelters without knowing how to deal with people - this is what I mean. Through a large set of ham radio related and value-added activities, RARA guides members to practice and implement these sales and leadership skills in a non-hostile environment. Sign up for these on the job training activities. You and RARA will benefit.

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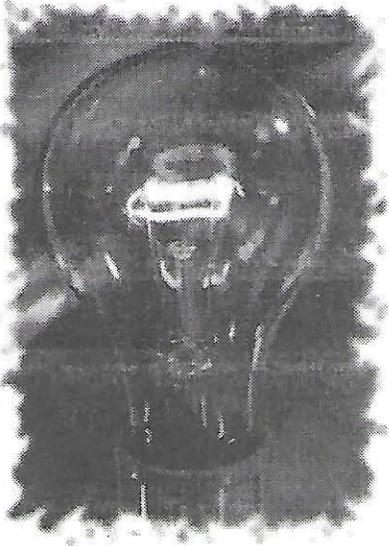
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