



the RARA RAG

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NO. 10

Joint Comedy of RARA & RRRRA Summer Picnic

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Secretary, RARA

Did you hear the one about the new spiritual group called the 'Frisbetarians?' They believe that when they leave this earth, their essence travels in a large gentle arc, lands on the garage roof, and stays there. June 16, 2007, is the day to remember for the start of your new career as a "Stand-up (to the mike) Comedian." Remember to bring your favorite joke book or print some joke sheets off the internet for your 'schtick' of comedy. Or use one from my joke book, if you dare. Just remember that this is a family gathering.

There will be frisbees available for tossing and of course food and soft drinks. Bring a dish to pass such as a salad or dessert. Hots, rolls, condiments, soda and muchies will be provided by RARA.

Come to Ellison Park at 12 Noon at Creekside Lodge with your comedy routines and practice on our friendly ham crowd! Talk-in on the '88 repeater and in-park on 146.52 because of the low lying terrain

RaRa/RRRA Annual Joint Comedy Picnic

June 16, 2007

12:00-?

Creekside Lodge at Ellison Park
Food, Beverages and Fun for All Ages

Talk-in on 146.88 repeater
Or 146.52 inside the park

ARRL Atlantic Division Convention is at the Rochester Hamfest, 2007

By Bill Edgar, N3LLR
Director, ARRL Atlantic Division

In addition to the Atlantic Division Director, Bill Edgar N3LLR and Atlantic Division Vice Director, Tom Abernethy W3TOM, we are excited to announce that the ARRL President, Joel Harrison W5ZN, will at the Atlantic Division Convention this year. Joel will be at the ARRL booth and at the ARRL forum on Saturday. If you have questions or comments for Joel, please feel free to stop by the ARRL booth to talk with him. This year, we will have two ARRL Headquarters staff members at the Atlantic Division Convention. Harold Kramer WJ1B, the ARRL Chief Operating Officer and Katie Breen W1KRB, the ARRL Membership Manager will also be at the ARRL booth to answer your questions and explain the benefits of being a member of the ARRL.

ARES Notes

By Jeff Wigal, WY7Q
Emergency Coordinator
Monroe County ARES

The next ARES NET will be held at 9:00PM on Thursday, June 14th on the 146.88 Repeater.

The next ARES meeting will be held at 7:00PM on Thursday, June 28th at Red Cross Headquarters, 50 Prince Street.

www.monroecountymemcomm.org

SILENT KEYS

Jon D. Post, N2GCQ

March 21, 2007

Robert P. Smiley, KA2SSC

April 16, 2007

the RARA RAG

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The Prez Sez

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Outgoing President, RARA

We're looking forward to summer and the picnics, hotdogs and family get togethers. I know that the warmer weather and the drone of traffic can be mesmerizing so drive carefully, we do not want to be reading about car accidents. Use your rigs responsibly while driving too. Many states are eying increases in 'distracted driver' legislation.

Keep your ears and eyes open, many interesting and long range activities and plans for increasing member benefits are about to come to fruition in your local radio organization; this is an exciting time at RARA.

At the general meetings you have seen me ask people to stand and be recognized: the Board of Directors, Sub-Committee Chairs, and workers at Public Service events, training - licensing - education classes, emergency events, youth, scouting, refreshments, history, hamfest and media - web - phone - publishing. After having these people stand, there are very few people still sitting: many kudos to all the folks, RARA depends on you. Many functions make RARA work, and many thanks to all these people. Again, thanks for helping the organization run smoothly and thanks for all the advances in services that RARA can offer the membership

Meet your friends at RARA, Meet your friends at the Rochester Hamfest. Keep operating during the warm months, sunspot numbers will improve and more portable and special event operations will be evident. Take along an HT or QRP rig on vacations, and remind your contacts that we are from Upstate NY, Rochester area, home of the Rochester Hamfest.

Keep your radios on, monitor the calling channels: 146.52, FRS ch 1 NO PL, and CB ch 9. Remember ham radio is there 'when all else fails.' Take your old QSTs to waiting rooms. Checkout the email reflectors offered by RARA, upgrade your license at a RARA class and exam session (notice how inexpensive that is?) and remind your friends of the value added membership in your organization. Send in questions to the 'Dear Elmer' column and articles and photos are always needed and welcome for media, web and other publishing from RARA. Thanks all for an excellent year at RARA.

RaRa Hotline

(585) 442-0587

24 hours a day

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, June 1987

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

This issue started out with a welcome to all members to attend the June 13th annual RaRa Picnic. The location was the Wadhams lodge in Powder Mills Park with a talk-in frequency of 28/88. The just completed Rochester Hamfest was a great success with a reported estimated attendance at 8,000 happy hams. Volunteer coordinator and Coolie Master at arms Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, wrote thanking all of the many volunteers that made it possible. And speaking of Ed Holdsworth, he was really surprised when his name was announced as the winner of the Ham of the Year award at the hamfest.

Fred Halik K2EU and Bob Hobday N2EVG, comprising the RaRa finance audit committee, reported that their audit found no issues with RaRa's financial records. It was with regret that John Everson KA2SCJ and Virgil Dumond WB2FGY were reported as silent keys. Bernie Agins, KD2CU, writing for the Rochester Repeater Association, reported that membership dues would go from a 16 year long fee of five dollars up to eight dollars.

From the Want-Ads you could buy a three element yagi, 30 foot tower and rotor from Bernie Agins, KD2CU, for \$150.00. A new commercial advertiser was Bob Roberts, WA2QAU, as an associate with Century 21.

CQ CQ CQ calling all hams 21 and under...

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
Vice-President, RARA

RaRa is your club too! As your Program Director, I want to know what YOU want RaRa to do for YOU! I know you don't care about BPL, and your idea of "Old Timers Night" is playing Tetris instead of Command & Conquer 3 on your Xbox! I want to create programs geared to your interests. So tell me what you want to do. What activities can RaRa put on to serve you? Maybe: Hidden Transmitter Hunts? How to build a shack? How to "juice" your Nintendo Wii controllers to make the neighbors dog bark? How to convince your Mom to let you string a dipole? I need your help... give me suggestions for topics that interest you. Send me your ideas and suggestions to: WB2PYD@arrl.net

I expect to see you all at the Hamfest on 6/2 and the RaRa PICNIC on June 16th at Ellison Park! You ARE going to the Picnic... aren't you? Remember: it's FREE! There will be hot's and munchies and drinks along with friends and fun. So, bring Mom & Dad, and little sis too, (yeah you gotta

Dear Elmer

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Secretary, RARA

With the expertise available in the radio community, RARA is starting a new Feature Article in your Monthly RARA RAG Newsletter.

Dear Elmer,

I have a problem with my antenna (my rig)(my mobile)(my HT) and I need help with ..."

Stay tuned as RARA will get answers to those questions you have had about equipment, operating and other radio related activities.

Please forward your questions to wb2sxy@arrl.net and they will be routed through our panel of experts and published depending on available space and we will maintain privacy.

Take part in National #1 Effort!

By Vic Gauvin, K1PY

How often can **you** be part of a nationally ranked team and participate in a #1 U.S.A effort? How often can you hook up with a group fielding a 40M beam at the top of a 90-foot (+/-) flagpole? How often can you be part of a team that figured out how to get a 40M beam at the top of a 90-foot (+/-) flagpole?!

All this and more, and in your back yard. June 23rd and 24th, RDXA Field Day, Webster Park Campground (continue south past camping area to site).

How, you ask, do you take part, especially if you're not a member? Two ways: Moral support, and as many VHF and HF contacts as you can achieve. First, come visit and cheer us on. An effort like this needs all kinds of support, and your being there gives us that boost to keep on going. And of course, every contact inches us closer to the top. Set the dual-bander to 146.55 and 446.00 and come visit us at the park. Got a young or potential ham in the family? We're running a PSK31 station that should be right up their alley. Or if for no other reason than to see how we do it, just come on up. We'll be glad to see you! And **you** will have been part of a top national effort!

QRZ Field Day de W2RDX 3A WNY

**September "RAG" Deadline
August 10, 2007**

Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA Media Coordinator

It's Elementary. I received the following email from Dave Hatch, N9ZRT, about his recent experience with introducing grade school students to ham radio:

"I had the joy of presenting our hobby to a class of 4th and 5th graders yesterday. It was elementary! We started by asking them some questions.

- How many of you have an Ipod? - 20% of the hands went up.
- How many of you play video games - 90% of the hands went up.
- How many of you play video games over 2 hours a day? - 80% of the hands went up.
- Would you say that video games really are not that good for you? - 70% hands went up very slowly.
- How many of you like gadgets? - 80% of the hands went up quickly, with smiles.
- What if you had a gadget that you could bounce your voice off the edge of space at nearly the speed of light and talk to someone on the other side of the planet, would you like that? - 100% of the hands went up, while their little heads turned sideways like the RCA dog.

The presentation began, so did the elementary enthusiasm! And may the same enthusiasm be yours as you listen for us Saturday on many HF frequencies, as we launch W9OSL for a five hour Ham Radio Expo here in Green Bay, 13:00Z - 18:00Z. You may hear some young voices on the air! We will try to get frequencies to you. There will be at about 6 stations on the air, various modes. It's elementary!" - Thanks Dave. -

Websites of the Month. The first site comes from the University of Texas Amateur Radio Club, N5XU. It created an online RF safety calculator. I put it through its paces and it is a good tool. It provides links for reference information. Visit <http://n5xu.ece.utexas.edu/rfsafety/>. The other website is for the K0S Strange Antenna Challenge. While the event will have taken place by press time, this is an interesting site for getting you imagination to run wild. Got any chicken wire and duct tape? Visit <http://www.n0ew.org/k0s/index.php/> for strange ideas.

Seniors Assemble Go-Bags. Members of the 33-year-old Heritage Village Radio/Electronic Club spent 200 hours in the last few months assembling four go-bags for emergency communications in Southbury, CT. The funding (about \$7,000) for

go-bag equipment was obtained by First Selectman Mark Cooper through a Homeland Security grant. The club members participate in Southbury's Community Emergency Response Team. The group put the several parts of the go-bags together, programmed radios with about 80 radio frequencies within Southbury and surrounding towns, and presented the finished products to Cooper Thursday. "This is a tremendous asset for the Village, the town and the community," Cooper told several of the club's members. Heritage Village is a housing development for people 55 and older. *The News-Times* [Danbury, CT].

Software Defined Radio. On the same day of Raj's great Software Defined Radio presentation to the club, the May 4 *ARRL Letter* reported on the April 20 FCC Memorandum Opinion and Order (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-66A1.pdf) on cognitive or "smart radio" systems. The FCC has affirmed its favorable policy toward the regulation of amateur software defined radios (SDRs). A cognitive radio system is an SDR that can adapt its operating parameters by interacting with its RF environment. The FCC's April MO&O was in response to petitions seeking clarification of the Commission's March 2005 Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 03-108. In that proceeding, the agency declined to adopt any new regulations for cognitive Amateur Radio transceivers or for digital-to-analog (D/A) converters. ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, says the April MO&O indicates that the FCC intends to treat Amateur Radio SDRs the same as any other Amateur Radio equipment. "This is welcome news from the FCC as it clarifies the matter of certification of amateur equipment," Rinaldo remarked. "It applies not only to terrestrial amateur equipment but also to amateur satellites, which increasingly are using SDR in their designs." The cognitive radio proceeding is emblematic of the FCC's ongoing struggle to address thorny regulatory issues to keep pace with cutting-edge technology. In its 2005 R&O, the FCC concluded that software programmable amateur transceivers and high-speed D/A converters do not "present any significantly greater risk of interference to authorized radio services" than conventional hardware radios. In response, the FCC said it "did not intend to impose any new certification requirements for Amateur Radio equipment" in its 2005 R&O, including SDR equipment that may be modified by someone other than the manufacturer. The Commission noted, however, that external RF amplifiers operating below 144 MHz and marketed for amateur use "will continue to require certification before they can be marketed."

Rochester Hamfest

June 1-2-3, 2007

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. Simple 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 for 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

NEW - 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

NEW - Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta – 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

Volunteers Needed

By Dick Groth, WB2NBU

Are you Retired? Do you like Golf? Do you like Radio? Well I have a deal for you.

The Wegmans LPGA Tournament could use the talents of a couple of people who understand radio and telecommunications, to work with the Scoring and Technology Committees. Some time is required prior to the Tournament, and quite a bit of time during the Tournament. It is an enjoyable event, and benefits the Disabled Children of Monroe County.

If interested, please contact: Dick Groth, WB2NBU at 509-3311, or by e-mail at rgroth5117@aol.com

Recycle Old Radio Mags

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Secretary, RARA

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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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 Clubroom K2JD items to be auctioned.

By Jim Stefano, W2COP
Director, RARA

This summer approximately 100 items from the K2JD clubroom will be offered for Auction on Ebay. This includes HF, VHF and UHF radios, power supplies and accessories. RaRa will send out an advance email with the selling name to search on Ebay, in order to view all the items as soon as they are posted. If you have NOT been receiving monthly emails from RaRa Advisory, please send an email with the word Advisory in the Subject Line, to RaRa_Advisory@frontiernet.net to receive the pre-auction advisory.

EmComm—What's It All About? (Part 1)

By Jeff Wigal, WY7Q
Emergency Coordinator,
Monroe County ARES

It's been a very busy and exciting year for ARES. In 2006, Monroe ARES participated in the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test for the first time in many years. We have a very strong relationship with our local chapter of the American Red Cross, as they are our primary served agency. As well, we have begun to forge new relationships with the NY/Penn Region of the American Red Cross Blood Services division, as well as local area hospitals. We enjoy a strong relationship with Monroe County RACES, and much more will be happening with our organization in the upcoming year. We've had some terrific presentations on traffic handling, NVIS communications techniques, and much more is to come.

In addition, we will be coordinating a statewide HF communications drill utilizing NVIS communications methods. This drill will be occurring on June 9.

We meet at 7:00PM on the fourth Thursday of the month, except for July, August, and December. More information can be found on our website, www.monroecountyemcomm.org. You can also find us on the air, at 9:00PM on the second Thursday of the month, on the 146.88 K2RRA repeater.

The nature of amateur radio's role in emergency communications is changing. In the post-9/11 era, there is a growing need for amateur radio operators to participate in formal training. The days of being able to jump into a disaster as an amateur radio volunteer with only a license and a willingness to help out are dwindling.

Why is training needed? Is experience with public service events, the National Traffic System, or other nets enough? DeWayne Sidon, KE4IDH, is an Assistant EC in Hamilton County, Tennessee, and has written a terrific article on the importance of training for amateur radio operators active in disasters. His article is reprinted below, with his permission.

This is part one of a three part series.

EmComm Training — What Is It and Why Should I Take It?

EmComm, Emergency Communications, training consists of a series of courses designed for amateur communicators. After successful completion of these courses, the participant can be credentialed in Amateur Radio emergency communications. Credentialing is a process used to demonstrate education, basic knowledge, understanding and skill in a subject area.

With the exception of those amateurs registered with RACES organizations or served agencies such as the Red Cross, amateur emergency communicators have not been expected to have formal training (Red Cross communications training usually dealt with the use of their message forms). Many amateurs thought that the basic skills they learned through everyday communications, contesting and public service events included everything they needed to be an effective emergency communicator. This may have been the case in the past, but it left a very poor image of Amateur Radio with our served agencies.

Amateur Does Not Mean "Not an Expert"

The world expects those who present themselves as an expert or capable of doing a certain job task to be competent in that task. For instance, if a volunteer fireman comes to your aid, you would expect that person to be knowledgeable in fire fighting and rescue skills and able to safely use his equipment. The firefighter must participate in training and practice to be able to do the job and be able to show proof of that training. We hold our volunteer firefighters to a high standard. Why should we not also expect our volunteer emergency communicators to meet designated standards?

Agencies that use the services of our volunteer communicators expect them to meet certain standards and be able to show proof of training. By using credentialed volunteers, the served agency has more confidence in, and higher expectations of, the service being provided. In this day and time, it is just no longer acceptable to do otherwise.

Tune in next month to learn how you can benefit from EmComm training.

HGTV Wants Ham Shacks

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA Media Coordinator

Spruce up those shacks! Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Public Information Officer of the ARRL forwarded the following information to me. HGTV wants to learn how hams have made space for their hobby in their homes. According to producer Ronda Berkeley, a new television series for HGTV called *Man Land* is about "places in the home that men carve out for themselves such as the shed, basement, attic or garage in order to house their passion project..." Plans are being made now for a show on Amateur Radio hobbyists and their ham radio spaces. It would be fun to see a RARA member's shack on the program and I encourage you to participate. If you are interested, contact Berkeley of LMNO Productions at 818-382-4312 for more information.

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June 1 - 2 - 3, 2007**

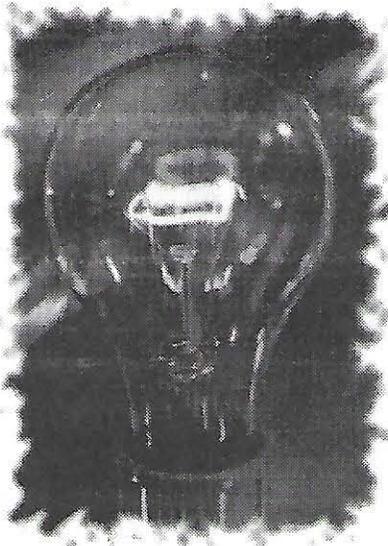
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