



# the RARA RAG

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

VOL. 60

OCTOBER, 2007

NO. 2

## RARA Regular Meeting October 5, 2007

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
Vice-President, RARA

Our next General Membership meeting is Friday October 5th. With the overwhelming positive reaction to last year's joint club meeting, we decided to kick it up a notch with what we hope will become a new annual event: The Rochester area "Radio Club Round-up" sponsored by RARA. Due to the scope of this event, we will be meeting at the RIT Xerox Auditorium! This is going to be a great time to meet, greet, and socialize! Chat with old friends, make a few new ones, and finally put a face to that voice (or call) you know so well.

Everyone with a young Ham in the family is strongly encouraged to bring him or her to this special meeting. Let's make them aware of each other, and inspire them to unite as a group with coordinated events dedicated to their interests. Show them they are welcome, and that they don't have to hide their age behind the anonymity of the microphone.

Come learn what the other area clubs are doing this year. You may discover they have some interesting events planned that you should participate in. Like an RIT ARC APRS WX Balloon launch, or one of Xerox ARC's famous Bunny Hunts just to name two.

Clubs invited to attend include:

- Antique Wireless Association
- Drumlins Amateur Radio Club
- Monroe County ARES / RACES
- RIT Amateur Radio Club
- Rochester Amateur Radio Association
- Rochester DX Association
- Rochester Radio Repeater Association
- Rochester VHF Group
- Webster High School Amateur Radio Club
- Xerox Amateur Radio Club

To access the RIT Xerox Auditorium: Park in Lot "J" and enter Building 9. Walk straight ahead to the Xerox Auditorium. Look for the "RARA" signs. Click this link <http://inside.rit.edu/maps> to view a map of the RIT campus.

Note: To satisfy the requirements of our By-Laws there will be a VERY SHORT RaRa business meeting. There will be no committee reports presented. If you have club business, please contact one of the 4 club officers for action. Committee chairpersons are still required to submit their reports to the Club Secretary.

### **RaRa MEETING**

**October 5, 2007  
7:30 P.M.**

RIT, Bldg 9, Xerox Auditorium

**Radio Club Roundup  
Meet with members of the other  
Clubs in the area and learn  
what they have to offer.**

### **SILENT KEY**

**Robert Gallagher, Sr., KB2AUD  
June 29, 2007**

# the RARA RAG

PUBLISHED BY  
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSN., INC.  
P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333  
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VOL. 60 October, 2007 NO. 2

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The RaRa RAG is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., 24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, New York 14623. Standard Mail Permit #227 postage paid in Rochester, NY 14692  
POSTMASTER - Send address changes to The RaRa Rag, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, New York 14692-8333.

RaRa Rag 2

## The Prez Sez

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD  
President, RARA

### Meet Your Friends at RaRa

Did you make it to the September meeting? Eighty-eight of you did. Those of you who did were entertained by Bill Hopkins, AA2YV, and Ned Asam, W2NED, who co-presented an excellent over-view of QRP (low-power) equipment, operating technique and on-the-air hints and tips. Bill and Ned are seasoned and passionate QRP operators and their passion was very much evident in their well-planned and exciting presentation. Three of you lucky members in attendance went away with some QRP gadgets won from bonus drawings during the presentation. All went away with a better understanding of QRP techniques and operating principles. QRP operation may be the answer you have been looking for if you are faced with CC&R or HOA antenna restrictions. A 5-Watt QRP rig loaded with an invisible wire antenna will get you on the air from your house in an antenna restricted neighborhood or an apartment, town home, or hotel room. Even if you are just a casual DXer, the on-air tips shared by Ned and Bill can be put to immediate use regardless of which end of the power spectrum you operate from. So, you are on the DXCC Honor Roll. Need a new challenge? Do it again, QRP. Thank you, Bill and Ned, for kicking off the new RARA meeting season in style.

It was great to see some new faces and new members at the last meeting. In addition to new members present, some of our regular members brought friends. Welcome to RaRa! I hope that you will find that we have a very active club that promotes all that amateur radio has to offer. Thank you for joining us. Thank you to our members who thought enough of our club to bring and introduce a friend to RaRa. There were a few regular faces not in attendance. I hope it was because of a schedule conflict and not because of something we have done or have failed to do. If it was the latter, let us know so we can fix it. Your officers and directors gauge their job approval by your meeting attendance.

**REMINDER:** The October RaRa General Meeting will NOT be held at the usual Henrietta Fire House meeting place. Instead, it will be held in the Xerox Auditorium located in Bldg. 9, on the RIT campus. Park in Lot-J and follow the "RARA" signs to the auditorium. And we have invited all of our amateur radio

friends in the area to help us celebrate amateur radio in our communities. Yes, that's right. We sent out an invitation to all of the amateur radio clubs in the area to join us for this special night. This will be a social event. There will be no amateur radio related presentation. A representative from each club will have a few minutes to address the group and tell us what is happening in their club this season. Following that, there will be plenty of time for you to meet with your friends and enjoy coffee, cider and donuts. Don't miss this one! Meet your friends at RaRa, Friday night, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm at the RIT campus.

## The New RaRa RAG

By Dick Goslee, KG2I  
Editor, RaRa RAG

Your Board of Directors and this Editor have been busy over the summer working out the details of a new and improved RaRa Rag newsletter. Phase one will reveal a slightly different size and an improved print format. Phase two will include an electronic (e-mail) edition along with your mailed hard-copy newsletter. That will also give us the ability to electronically archive past newsletters.

While we are printing the RAG in a new slightly smaller size version, the sizes of the type have not changed so you will not need to get new glasses to read the print. This smaller page size will allow us to use a smaller size envelope to mail the RAG that will also reduce our mailing costs by almost 30%. We are also changing the method of the mailing. For many years the RAG has been mailed as a Periodical. We are now going to mail the RAG as a Standard Mail Letter. This reduces the amount of work necessary in pre-sorting the mail and eliminates the need to bundle the envelopes in 3 and 5 digit ZIP sorted bundles. They now only have to be in ZIP code order in a couple of trays instead of 8 individual sacks. This is a huge saving of time in the mail preparation.

And guess what... the new size and print format along with the mailing changes will cut our production expenses in the process ... holding the line against a dues increase. More details to come in the near future.

**November Rag Deadline  
October 12, 2007**

## RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, October, 1987

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RARA Historian

Grabbing this issue out of the mail box to find out about the October meeting brought only disappointment. If VP and Program Chairman Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF, did have a program planned, he was keeping it a secret. Perhaps we'll know next month what happened. And... that's it, the entire Rag. Except for Ed Gable's 20 year feature, the entire issue had no local ham news at all. Everything was a reprint of the *ARRL Letter* or *W5YI News*. Come guys, write something. From the Want Ads you could buy a Swan 700CX and a Mosley TA-33 from Marty Suter, N2AGR.

## AWA Museum Move Progress Report

By Ed Gable, K2MP/W2AN  
Curator, AWA Museum

Hopefully you are all aware of the World Class antique radio museum in nearby Bloomfield, New York. This unique resource houses one of the world's best collections of rare and early electronic communication items including the world's first transistor radio and the first cellular telephone, just to mention a few teasers. Visit [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org).

Earlier this year Museum Curator Ed Gable, K2MP, announced the acquisition of a new fourteen thousand square foot museum building, still in Bloomfield, NY. The museum staff has been busily planning the move, the sequence of moves and hundreds of details. The first physical move was the library containing books, catalogs, magazines, other research materials and servicing information. Nothing moved until a complete inventory was completed and a new searchable library catalog was created. Hardware from the Annex building is next and then that site will be sold. Finally, the museum will be the last to move. Realistically, that is over a year away. I want to thank the many, many RaRa members who have enthusiastically offered their trucks and strong backs to help move. Thank you all.

*(AWA Museum cont. on page 4)*

### AWA Museum continued from page 3.

So far the existing volunteer staff has managed the library move well, but... the hardware moves are something else and I will not forget your offers. I know each and every one of you and I know where you live.

Standby. The A.W.A. Electronic Communication Museum, a New York State Chartered Museum, closed for the season the last weekend in September. The Museum will open again the first Saturday in May, 2008, which happens to be the date for the ever popular AWA Spring Meet. The 2008 Meet will feature a vintage equipment flea market, an auction, programming and demonstrations and much more. Mark Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, on your calendar now.

## Ham Radio Educational Opportunities

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY  
RARA Education Committee Chairman

I will be reducing my involvement in amateur radio programs. That means there is a leadership opportunity for more hams. With more hams, we can increase our educational impact and not overburden any one person. It's more effective and enjoyable that way. We have lots of people that will help! We need more people to take on a little more leadership.

A matrix of 13 ham radio educational opportunities is at:

[www.rochesterham.org/education.htm](http://www.rochesterham.org/education.htm)

Join the 5 leaders who have taken on a worthwhile and rewarding project.

So, what is your pet educational project? If you step forward I can get people to help you. In the past local clubs have focused on a specific educational project. Let's continue that tradition. I will support you but don't expect me to lead it. We may already have materials and lesson plans ready for you. RARA has a modest budget to help you.

**RaRa Memorial  
Scholarship  
Application Deadline  
April 15, 2008**

RaRa Rag 4

## EmComm—What's It All About? (Part 3)

By Jeff Wigal, WY7Q  
Emergency Coordinator, Monroe County  
ARES

Part three of a three part series on Emergency Communications (EmComm) training.

Monroe County ARES meets at the Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, at 7:00PM on the fourth Thursday of the month. More information can be found on our website:

[www.monroecountyemcomm.org](http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org).

If you want to participate in emergency communications (EmComm) as an amateur radio operator, what training is available? Is experience with public service events, the National Traffic System, or other nets enough? DeWayne Siddon, 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. The third part of his article is reprinted below, with his permission.

### What Training Is Available?

How do you go about getting this training? There are several ways to obtain the certification for the three levels of the ARRL Emergency Communications Courses. First, and often the most criticized for various reasons, is the online course. This method, while usually thought of as the most expensive way to complete the training, ensures an excellent educational experience. One alternative is traditional classroom training with a "traditional" test. Another is a hybrid course that is composed of classroom training and online testing. The least expensive might be self-study and then taking the certification exam at a traditional testing session.

Online courses and testing are a bit expensive for the average volunteer. The Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium offers these online courses and testing. The CDLC uses volunteer instructors (mentors) to keep the costs as low as possible, but still there are expenses that have to be covered. If you are a person who can complete a self-study course on your own, then do so, but for those who need interaction with other students, an instructor or mentor, then one of the other training methods might be more appropriate.

Other required courses can include FEMA training. The Federal government frequently imposes various requirements upon the State governments. By doing so, they receive federal funds. In order to promote standardized training of emergency responders, including amateur operators, the Federal government imposed a training requirement upon the States; this must be included in their emergency management plans. This requirement calls for all emergency responders to be familiar with the basic concepts of the Federal disaster response plan, as well as training in other areas that the responder would be responsible for.

This is where the FEMA IS-100, IS-700 and IS-800 courses, as well as the EmComm courses come into play. Various courses are required, depending on the level of participation in the disaster management program. For instance, basic responders may only be expected to complete the IS-700 course and Level 1 of the communications course. The county Emergency Coordinator and higher officials might be required to take all three levels of the emergency communications courses and additional FEMA courses.

### **Amateur Radio and EmComm — Looking Ahead**

The future of Amateur Radio response in disaster situations is as bright as it ever has been and there may be even more opportunity in the future. A recent Federal appropriations bill included Amateur Radio operators in the classification of "first responders," along with fire fighters, police officers, emergency medical services and others.

In order to fulfill our full potential, we as Amateur Radio operators must get prepared, stay prepared and project a trustworthy image to the public, government agencies and the various served agencies. Being "officially" trained and having credentials is a significant part of these preparations. It is also important to register your credentials with your local emergency communications group so that the information will be readily available for an immediate response. You should participate to whatever extent you can in your local emergency communications group, applying the concepts learned in the various courses.

It is not expected that those without credentials would be excluded from the disaster response, but it is almost a certainty that

without credentials you will not get the best assignments.

## **RDXA Oct. Meeting, Back to Basics—HF Operating**

By Vic Gauvin, K1PY

HF operating—uncharted territory for many of the newly licensed hams out there, and perhaps for others as well. What do you do? What are the protocols? "I don't want to make a fool of myself." Then there's the equipment, and most important of all, the antennas. There's way too many options—where do I start?

These topics and anything else related to on-air HF operating will be discussed in a good ol' fashioned roundtable at the next RDXA meeting. Recognizing that lots of newcomers and many old-timers as well can benefit from the accumulated knowledge of those who have "been there," we open the doors to all who are interested in learning the ins and outs of this most fascinating of operating activities.

"How do I work DX?" Come hear from those who have "worked them all" and those who are still, or just starting to be, in the chase. "Contests are too intimidating." Only because you don't know the ropes. They're actually one of the best ways to overcome any on-air nervousness or worrying about what to say because they're a strict format—say the exchange and you're done! Whew! Next. Come hear from those with millions of points under their belts to members who themselves are just starting out and can pass on some good advice.

"What equipment do I need? What's the best antenna?" All kinds of concerns, but typically almost anything will do—just getting on is the key part. But yes, of course, we'd prefer knowing the better stuff from the poorer stuff. Come hear from those successful with stations ranging from multiple towers and KW's to those with 100W and wires.

RDXA is all about the fun of HF operating: DX, contests, Field Day, all modes, all levels, both recreational and competitive. Learn what it takes to get yourself enjoying HF.

Come hear! RDXA, third Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 19:30 local, Gander Mountain on Jay Scutti Blvd opposite Marketplace Mall.

# ARRL Award Field Checking

By Ed Gable, K2MP

The ARRL offers several operating awards to recognize your operating skills and ability to set up a good performing station. The three most popular are the Worked all States Award (WAS), the VHF/UHF Century Club Award (VUCC) and the DX Century Club Award (DXCC). Details can be had by logging onto [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and putting the award name into the key word search. Rochester area hams are fortunate to have a local ARRL Card Checker who can verify your application and check your QSL cards necessary for each award. He is Ed Gable, K2MP. If you have any questions on how to apply contact Ed at:

[egable@rochester.rr.com](mailto:egable@rochester.rr.com) or (585) 392-3088.

## Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY  
RARA Media Coordinator

**NATO Concerned with BPL.** The Information Systems Technology group, part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Research and Technology Organization (RTO), released their report, "HF Interference, Procedures and Tools" (RTO-TR-IST-050), in June. The report discusses "the concerns raised by the potential for unintentional radio interference to be caused by the widespread operation of broadband wire-line telecommunications systems." BPL, also called Power Line Telecommunications (PLT) in Europe, uses existing power lines for telecommunications with data rates higher than 1 MBit per second. NATO said that since existing power lines were not designed for such transmissions, "they will cause unintentional RF emissions which may adversely affect the established radio noise floor directly, or by cumulative propagation from many such sources. The existing HF background noise possibly may be increased via ground wave and/or sky wave propagation." Not only could this be a problem for Amateur Radio operators, but NATO said that military users would be affected as well: "Increase of the existing HF noise floor by widespread use of PLT...will

RaRa Rag 6

bring up problems for Military Radio Users as well as for HF Communication Intelligence (COMINT) in all NATO countries. The signal-to-noise ratio thus may be reduced for tactical and strategic HF radio as well as for fixed sensitive COMINT sites." The NATO report also indicated the following: A high probability that PLT would cause increased noise levels at sensitive receiver sites given the projected market penetration; and the percentages are highly influenced by assumptions on transmitter EIRP (equivalent, or effective, isotropic radiated power), PLT market penetration and duty cycle. The full report, "HF Interference, Procedures and Tools," can be downloaded in pdf format <http://www.rta.nato.int/>. *The ARRL Letter* © 2007 ARRL

**FCC Citations for Power Line Noise.** The Federal Communication Commission's Dallas Field Office issued Citations on July 25 to two utilities in a longstanding power line noise case in Lubbock, Texas. Bryan Edwards, W5KFT, of Lubbock, first reported the interference concerning the two involved utilities, Lubbock Power & Light (LP&L) and Xcel Energy, as early as 1994. The record shows that the FCC Dallas Field Office clarified the FCC rules with regard to power line noise for LP&L as early as 1998, and issued three letters to LP&L in 2003 and 2004. Xcel Energy was first issued an FCC letter in 2004. The Citations to the Lubbock utilities said that due to an investigation conducted by the FCC's Dallas office on May 22-25, 2007, they found that both LP&L and Xcel "caused harmful interference to the reception of amateur communications to amateur licensee W5KFT in Lubbock, Texas." The FCC directed both LP&L and Xcel, pursuant to the Commission's Rules, to provide documents and information within 10 days of their respective Citations. In its undated Response to the FCC's Citation, LP&L stated that it "does not admit to and specifically denies any violation of the [Communications] Act [of 1934] or any rule pertaining thereto," but "in order to comply with the...Citation, the City of Lubbock files this response." As a result of the Citations issued by the FCC, LP&L's Response stated that representatives from "Lubbock Power Light met with Paul Leonard, P.E., Area Engineer with Xcel Energy to discuss the alleged findings regarding harmful interference to the reception of amateur communications by amateur licensee W5KFT in Lubbock, Texas."

Xcel's Response, submitted via their attorney, pointed out that the Citation acknowledges "that the source of harmful interference to amateur licensee W5KFT is emanating from more than one power company." Xcel also alleges that it "has been working with amateur W5KFT for a number of years in an effort to identify the source of, and a possible resolution for, the harmful interference he is experiencing. Xcel Energy has a good working relationship with the licensee and has coordinated with him on numerous occasions in attempting to resolve his interference problems." Xcel goes on to assure the FCC that it will "retain an outside technical consultant to provide an unbiased assessment of whether the harmful interference to W5KFT is attributable to Xcel Energy's power system and if so, what corrective measures would be required." *The ARRL Letter* © 2007 ARRL

**Nationwide Emergency Exercise.** The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is a nationwide exercise in emergency communications, administered by ARRL Field Organization Leaders including Emergency Coordinators, District Emergency Coordinators, Section Emergency Coordinators and Net Managers. Many other Section Leaders like the Section Manager and the Section Traffic Manager may have a hand in planning the exercises and/or reviewing the results. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), National Traffic System (NTS), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and other public-service oriented groups can be involved. The SET weekend gives communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency-communications capability within your community while interacting with NTS nets. Although the main SET weekend this year is October 6 -7, local and section-wide exercises may be held throughout the fall season. *ARRL PR Email Reflector*

**Michigan Hams Respond to Storms.** On Friday, August 24 at 5:15 PM (EDT), the National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm warning for Genesee County. This storm produced two tornados in the mid-Michigan area that caused severe damage to several towns. The greatest damage occurred in the City of Fenton located just south of Flint. The NWS confirmed that an EF2 tornado had touched down and had torn a path 26 miles long and up to 0.5 miles wide through Livingston, Oakland, Genesee and Lapeer County,

damaging at least 250 homes and businesses. An EF2 tornado, using the Enhanced Fujita scale, is a wind estimate of 110-135 MPH in a three-second gust. More than 12,000 people lost power due to the storms. Before the tornado hit, Michigan's Genesee County ARES and SKYWARN were activated due to a severe thunderstorm watch. The storm moved into the county with such heavy rain that visibility dropped down to zero at several points. Funnel clouds were seen in the western part of the county, but these could not be confirmed. The NWS issued a Tornado Warning based on confirmed sightings in the adjacent counties to the west, as well as reports from their Doppler radar. As spotters continued to watch the storm, Randy Bond, N8VDS, spotted the funnel heading for Fenton and reported it to the NWS via his ham radio; Fred Moses Jr., W8FSM, confirmed the sighting. Moments later, the Genesee County 911 central dispatch center received a call that the roof on the brand new Tractor Supply Company store in Fenton had caved in and that the tornado had touched down. About half of the Fenton Community Center's roof was blown off, and debris from the building blew across the road to Fenton United Methodist Church. *The ARRL Letter* © 2007 ARRL

**Ham Invents RF Cancer Treatment.** John Kanzius, K3TUP, developed a prototype device to kill cancer cells with RF emission. Kanzius, of Erie PA, also has leukemia so his pursuit is more than academic. He is now working with Jim and Charlie Rutkowski to bring his device from the lab to the clinic. So far the tests suggest that cancer cells can be destroyed without harming healthy tissue. According to Kanzius "If this ends up working the way it looks, it really could be the holy grail of cancer research." The Kanzius device works by using RF to target nanoparticles in cancer cells. The use of RF and Kanzius' device has caught the attention of the highly regarded M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. According to Dr. Steven Curley, a researcher at the center, "If we can come up with ways of delivering these [nano]particles to the cancer cells, but not to normal cells this treatment will work. There's not a doubt in my mind. Any kind of cancer, anywhere in the body!" Curley's research team soon will be publishing its first findings using the Kanzius' invention with lab animals. The initial findings are very encouraging. *Reported by Mike O'Mara WKYC-TV Online*

## 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.

## FOR SALE:

TOWER – Nine Foot, Heavy Duty Roof Mount with 4 Legs + 10 Foot Mast. \$100.00  
Items are on the ground.

Contact: Dave Selbert, KA2BOK, (585) 334-9736

## Oct. Calendar of events

- 5 - RaRa Club Roundup – 7:30 PM –  
RIT, Bldg-9 XEROX Auditorium
- 12 - RVHFG – 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at  
Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.
- 14 – Greater Buffalo “Harvest” Hamfest  
Ismailia Shrine Ctr., 1600 Southwestern  
Blvd., West Seneca, NY
- 16- RDXA – 7:30 PM, Monthly meeting at  
Gander Mountain, Jay Scutti Blvd,  
Near Marketplace Mall, Henrietta  
(see article on page 5)
- 19 - RRRRA – 8:00 PM, Monthly meeting  
Pittsford Town Hall, basement.
- 25– ARES Meeting – 7:00 PM Red Cross Hdqt.  
50 Prince St, Rochester.

**Rochester Hamfest**  
**May 30-31, 2008**

## Radio Club Contacts

### Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)

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### Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

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### Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)

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### Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

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### Monroe County ARES

Jeff Wigal, WY7Q  
[wy7q@arrl.net](mailto:wy7q@arrl.net)

### RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

All Elements needed  
to complete a license class.

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each  
Month, September – April

Registration – 10:00AM

Testing – 10:15AM

Room 3139, Building 9  
(Park in Lot J)

Rochester Institute of Technology  
1 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, NY 14623

Contact Raj Dewan, N2RD  
to reserve space.

Call (585) 703-4003 or e-mail  
[n2rd@arrl.net](mailto:n2rd@arrl.net)

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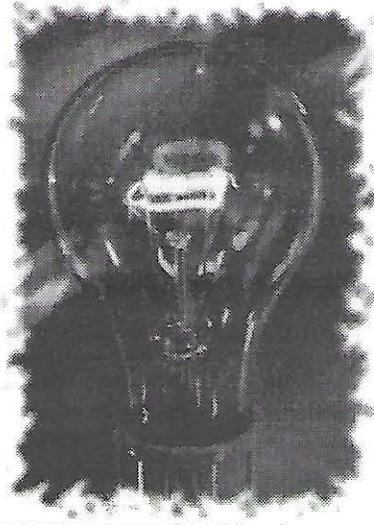
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