



# *the* RARA RAG

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NO. 7

## Slam, Bam! Thank you, WHAM!

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
Vice-President, RARA

Anyone and everyone who has ever been in the Rochester area during a severe weather event, wide spread utility failure, or other such situation affecting you and yours, has tuned into WHAM to find out what's going on. There have always been alternate sources for gleaning the news, but WHAM has always been known as the definitive source that can be heard anywhere! Back in the late 1970's I had a stereo that received their signal loud and clear. While it was powered off!

We are fortunate to have this resource, accessible twenty-four seven, as a beacon of information, news and entertainment. Not to mention low band receiver dial calibration. It is very historical being the first such resource in the Rochester area. We're going to visit the history of WHAM: From a humble start-up in 1922 that only lasted a few months, to the giant clear channel station of today. Our tour guide, the ever-popular Ed Gable, K2MP, will take us on a stroll down memory lane via photographic essay. We will trace the early history of this grand old station using some of the over one-thousand historical photos housed at the AWA Museum Library.

So I'll see you all on Friday, March 7th at the Henrietta Fire Station #1!

## **RaRa MEETING** **"Old Timers Night"**

**March 7, 2008 7:30 P.M.**

Henrietta Fire Hall #1  
3129 East Henrietta Road  
**The history of WHAM**  
By Ed Gable, K2MP

## Happy Birthday!

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
Vice-President, RARA

Come one, come ALL! Let's all join together and wish David Melman, KA2UBJ a Happy Birthday! At **100 years young**, David is our most Senior Member. So come to the March meeting and have a slice of Cake and wish David a Happy Birthday.



# RaRa Resource Library

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
Vice-President, RARA

As yet another value of your RaRa membership we are pleased to announce the formation of the RaRa Resource Library! The library will facilitate and coordinate the loaning of test equipment, radios, antennas, books, and manuals to RaRa members in good standing from the Library or between RaRa members. Watch this space for further details as the list of usable resources becomes available. If you have any equipment that you would like to either donate to the library, or merely make available for the library to loan, please contact the Librarian: [WB2PYD@ARRL.net](mailto:WB2PYD@ARRL.net)

## SILENT KEY

Robert E. Kesel, W2GIM

January 22, 2008

### *the* **RARA RAG**

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P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333

RaRa Hotline (585) 671-2424

Website: [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org)

Editor.....Dick Goslee, KG2I  
24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (585) 334-1762  
Internet: [rgoslee@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rgoslee@rochester.rr.com)

Managing Editor.....Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY  
742 Stone Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534 (585) 389-1926  
Internet: [contax2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:contax2@rochester.rr.com)

Advertising Manager.....Dick Goslee, KG2I  
24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (585) 334-1762  
Internet: [rgoslee@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rgoslee@rochester.rr.com)

Internet: [wb2sxy@arrl.net](mailto:wb2sxy@arrl.net)  
Treasurer: Dick Goslee, KG2I.....334-1762  
Internet: [rgoslee@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rgoslee@rochester.rr.com)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Raj Dewan, N2RD.....586-4003  
Internet: [n2rd@arrl.net](mailto:n2rd@arrl.net)  
Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY.....389-1926  
Internet: [contax2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:contax2@rochester.rr.com)  
Jim Stefano, W2COP.....346-4378  
Internet: [w2cop@arrl.net](mailto:w2cop@arrl.net)  
Duane Fregoe, K2SI .....594-4945  
Internet: [kc2pcg@arrl.net](mailto:kc2pcg@arrl.net)  
Gary Perkins, K2OU.....621-4554  
Internet: [k2ou@frontiernet.net](mailto:k2ou@frontiernet.net)  
Ross Mazzola, KC2LOC.....247-8323  
Internet: [rmazzola@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rmazzola@rochester.rr.com)  
Keith Freeberg, N2BEL.....(607) 734-6209  
Internet: [n2bel@arrl.net](mailto:n2bel@arrl.net)

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#### OFFICERS:

President: Jim DiTucci, N2IXD.....426-7956  
Internet: [jim.n2ixd@gmail.com](mailto:jim.n2ixd@gmail.com)  
Vice-President: Frank Schramm, WB2PYD.....267-9278  
Internet: [wb2pyd@arrl.net](mailto:wb2pyd@arrl.net)  
Secretary: Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY.....381-6553  
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## The Prez Sez

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD  
President, RARA

January 9, 2008

Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

President, Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Dear Jim,

Thanks for meeting with me to begin talking about a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Monroe County ARES and RARA. I finally have a draft put together, and I would like for you and the RARA Board of Directors to review it and offer feedback. My hope is to have a signed agreement between our organizations by March.

In a post 9/11 era, training and skill development of ham radio operators responding in a disaster has become critically important. RACES members have training requirements that coincide with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and stronger requirements for ARES members are on the way. It is no longer sufficient for amateur radio operators to just “show up” during a disaster with an amateur radio license and a radio and expect to be fully utilized.

Some general purpose amateur radio clubs serve “dual purpose”, especially when the ARES organization in a given area is small or not well organized. When ARES is not well organized, or otherwise unable to exist on its own, it makes sense for an amateur radio club to serve both the needs of its members and the needs of the public during a disaster. When ARES is a strong, viable organization on its own, amateur radio emergency communications should be coordinated and organized by the local ARES and RACES organizations.

ARES has been active for a long time in Monroe County, but it has grown and organized significantly since 2003. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to identify areas of cooperation, and define where each organization should have primary responsibility within the amateur radio community in Monroe County.

I look forward to your thoughts and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Wigal, WY7Q

Emergency Coordinator, Monroe Cty. ARES

Excerpts from the MOU:

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to affirm and restate the terms of an ongoing working relationship between the Rochester Amateur Radio Association (hereinafter referred to as RARA), and the Monroe County (New York) Amateur Radio Emergency Service (hereinafter known as Monroe County ARES), a program of the American Radio Relay League,

Inc. (hereinafter referred to as ARRL). This agreement provides the broad framework for cooperation between the two organizations.

### **Concept of Operations**

Each party to this MOU is a separate and independent organization...

### **ARES Organization**

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service of Monroe County, NY (ARES) is an amateur radio organization consisting of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in service to the public when disaster strikes. ARES is a program of the ARRL, is a part of the ARRL Field Organization, and is accountable to the WNY Section Emergency Coordinator, Western District Emergency Coordinator, and the WNY Section Manager.

**Areas of Cooperation** (Partial list. See details on RARA website)

1. **Coordination of EmComm activities.** All amateur radio emergency communication (EmComm) activities should be coordinated by ARES or RACES as appropriate.
2. **RARA member involvement in disasters.** If the EmComm requirements during a disaster exceed the capacity of ARES, ARES may request assistance from RARA members not currently on the ARES active roster. RARA members participating in this capacity may be required to go through a “crash course” training session.
3. **Public Service Events.** ARES encourages member involvement in public service events, and will coordinate one public service event per year. For events coordinated by RARA, RARA will share names and call signs of ARES members working each event.
4. **Autonomous Organizations.** Each organization maintains close liaison with the other, but operates independently of each other.
5. **Newsletter & Meetings.** ARES may submit articles and calendar events for the RARA newsletter, and will be allowed to give a brief update of activities at monthly RARA meetings.
6. **RARA Member Involvement in EmComm.** ...When describing organizational involvement in EmComm, RARA will endeavor to refer to ARES where appropriate...

END of Excerpts.

Your Board of Directors was involved in the final discussions of the MOU and has voted to solidly stand behind a memorandum of understanding between RARA and Monroe County ARES. What do you think? The complete MOU will be posted on the RARA website for your review: <http://www.rochesterham.org> . Also visit the Monroe County ARES website: <http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org> . We want your feedback. Please email your comments to me (n2ixd@arrl.net) or any officer or director before the March general meeting. I cannot think of a reason why we should not formalize the relationship between our organizations. I believe the MOU is good for RARA. I believe it is good for Monroe County ARES. I believe it is good for our community.

**See you on Friday, March 7.**

**April Rag Deadline  
March 12, 2008**

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

## RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, March, 1988

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RARA Historian

*Rewarding DX* was the opening headline for this issue and announced the program for the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The presenter, a DX-man himself, was Andy Burns, GW0ECO/W5, from Wales and temporarily located in Texas with British Petroleum. Andy spoke of DX'ing across the pond and how to work and apply for RSGB awards.

RaRa President Bud Young, WA2UGE, wrote asking for volunteers to perform the annual Hamfest mailing. This yearly peel and stick event saw a dozen or more RaRa members addressing Hamfest brochures and getting a little eye-ball QSO time as well.

A favorable ruling was reported that changed the telephone line status for repeater auto-patches from commercial to residential rates. That saved several repeater owners almost one-thousand dollars a year.

Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ, writing for the STPR Road Rally, urged people to start planning for this year's dash in the Pennsylvania woods. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, continued part 2 of a two-part article describing the 1988 RaRa Hamfest. Ed reported that Jim Mozely, W2BCH, assisted by Bill Thompson, W2MTA, would be in charge of programming. Stepping up again would be John Schooley, K2NC, heading the license exam committee for this popular event. Bill Shaw, N2EKR, is readying for what is an intensive eight week stint of processing advance ticket sales.

With regret it was reported that John Everson, KA2SCJ, and Charles Planert, W2YPR, were reported as silent keys. Charlie Planert was an active and well liked local amateur and a professional photographer who worked for many area media outlets.

A new advertiser was Tony Musero, K3UKW, selling ham gear by mail order. From the Want Ads you could buy a mint Kenwood TS-530-S from Herb, WA2MST.

**RaRa Hotline  
NEW NUMBER  
(585) 671-2424  
24 Hours a Day**

**Public Service**

By Keith Freeberg, N2BEL  
Public Service Coordinator, RARA

Thank You!

Simple words we use all the time, sometimes just automatically as waiter pours us more coffee at a restaurant, sometimes more deeply when we realize we have been given a 'real' gift. I'd like to thank the members of RaRa for just such a real gift.

I have had the pleasure of serving the membership, as a Director, Secretary, Vice President and President as well as my roll in Public Service and Education. What incredible faith and trust you have placed with me over the nearly 30 years I have been with RaRa.

I'd love to say we have made incredible strides over the years but I can only say that I have done the very best job I was capable at each moment, each decision point, and each allocation of business that you had entrusted to the Board of Directors. I absolutely enjoyed every minute, even when decisions became difficult as they some times do.

I must admit that the greatest joys I experienced were with the Radio Coaches Program that many of you made special donations to keep going. (No membership money was ever spent to support the program.) Well, perhaps the same sentiment is true of the Public Service program. Watching the many, many volunteers selflessly give of their time and talents for their community or a charitable cause (we have served the American Diabetes Association for more than 15 years.) was a high point in all the things I might have done to serve the club. In addition, I feel that you brave folks that volunteered your time have made 'Ham Radio' a term used by many in the public for 'helpful' and 'community minded.' The positive press these volunteers have helped generate is phenomenal!

I hope even more of you will consider volunteering just a few hours for even just one of the more than 16 various events each year. These events span a variety of charitable agencies and types of event that is sure to be one or more that touch your family or friends.

Why this lengthy note? It is time for me to step down as a Director and Public Service Coordinator due to stage 4 terminal cancer. I'm not so concerned with how long the doctors say I have-we all know the weather forecasters are much better at predictions. I am concerned with making as much time available as possible to visit with family and friends. Yes, I still want to make a RaRa meeting or so but that depends on me having a day with lots of energy. Remember, every day is a 'good day.' It all depends on how you look at it.

If any of you would like to contact me, please do! I love keeping touch with people, especially other Hams. You can reach me at [N2BEL@ARRL.NET](mailto:N2BEL@ARRL.NET) or 607-734-6209 and, of course, you can leave a message.

## Shorts & Sparks

By I. M. Zapped, ZZ2OUCH

**Open Source Clock – No Winding Necessary:** W0ZW recently added a real-time world sun clock to his local club's Web site <http://sbarcnm.org>. Go to

<http://www.brunchboy.com/sunclock.shtml> for technical information and an applet that you can link to your own site. It is open source so you can customize it. Not only is it a useful tool for watching the gray line, it will make your site look great. The clock has distinctive day/night graphics including points of lights to show major cities at night. Java programmers can customize the map images, too. Another nice feature is the ability to run the model faster than real-time. You can clearly see seasonal changes in the day/night regions with this mode – go for it!

**Windstorms and the Window Line Blues:** During both January windstorms, perhaps you had problems with twin-lead or window line vibrating wildly in the wind – kind of like a Labrador RaRa Rag 6

retriever's long ruby tongue flapping in the breeze when he hangs out a car window. At 50–75 mph the wind can put sizeable loads on these transmission lines – something your dipole does not need. It has its own issues with strong wind – like the swaying trees that hold it up. There is a simple solution for reducing the load on window line. Try twisting the line once every 12 to 18 inches. This helps keep the line from acting like an air foil and wanting to take off like an F-18 from the deck of an aircraft carrier. This will not prevent the entire line from moving around in the wind – but it will reduce the excessive flutter. **Do not** twist the line too much to the point that it collapses the conductors together! Make each twist gradual and sweeping. If the copper-clad conductors in the line are too stiff for this remedy, or if you have problems with the cladding, try ladder-line with all-copper conductors.

## Say Cheese!

by Len Crellin, KC2PCD

You may have noticed me taking photos at the meetings this year. Before I became a ham two years ago, I was a photo instructor for 35 years. I am trying to document all the activities that RARA has hosted. You may see some of them on the screen during the break at our meetings! I will also be helping to organize a photo archive on our soon to be "remodeled" web site. If you have any photos (old or new) of your shack, field day events, Hamfests, mobile setups, towers and creative antenna solutions or any ham related activities...please forward them to me through my e-mail

[KC2PCD@rochester.rr.com](mailto:KC2PCD@rochester.rr.com)

Please include any captions that you would like to include to help me when I create the different albums. No camera? Let me know and I will come down to your shack and take a shot of you proudly displaying all your gear! (Good to have for insurance purposes too). Thanks in advance for your cooperation and help with this new venture!

## March Calendar of Events

- 2 - RaRa General Meeting – 7:30 PM –  
Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Rd
  
- 3 - Greater Buffalo Hamfest, Ismailia Shrine  
Center, West Seneca, NY
  
- 12 - RaRa Board of Directors – 5:30PM - RIT  
Bldg-17, Room 2110
  
- 14 - RVHFG – 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at  
Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.
  
- 15 - RaRa VE Testing session – 10:00AM  
Bldg-9, Rm-3139 RIT Campus, Henrietta
  
- 18 - RDXA – 5:30 PM, Dinner, 7:30 Meeting

NapaGino's Restaurant, 2200 Penfield Rd.  
Rtes 250 and 441

21 - RRRRA – 8:00PM, Annual Auction at  
Pittsford Town Hall, downstairs room.

## Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

Note: “\*See my website” indicates that more detailed information is at:

<http://www.geocities.com/navstation49/hamradio.html>. Select the Sideband References for links.

**Exaggerated Claims in BPL Report.** The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) released its report *Networked Nation: Broadband in America 2007*. [\*See my website.] The NTIA is part of the Department of Commerce its report is supports that President Bush's goal of “universal, affordable access” to BPL is being met. Page 5 of the report notes “removing barriers to innovative new applications such as...BPL” is mentioned as one of “...a number of targeted pro-growth telecommunications policies that have also contributed to robust technological development in the broadband sector.” However on page 26 the NTIA admits that “BPL has yet to make significant inroads in the broadband marketplace.” It seems to be a strong and definitive statement but next paragraph states: “Reliable BPL subscribership [*sic*] figures are difficult to find. The FCC's most recent data identify fewer than 5,000 BPL customers as of year end 2006. That figure appears low, however. TIA [Telecommunications Industry Association] estimates 200,000 current BPL subscribers, increasing to 700,000 by 2010. Another source forecast about 400,000 customers by the end of 2007, growing to 2.5 million by year end 2011...” The irony is that despite the promotion of BPL by the FCC, its own data show that BPL has failed to catch on. Source: *The ARRL Letter*

**New Job for ARISS Chief.** Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, the international chair for the ARISS program [\*See my website] has accepted an appointment as NASA Headquarters Chief Engineer. His work will focus on the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate (ESMD). The ESMD program's goal is to develop the technology for long-term presence and exploration on the moon. Mars would be the next step in the program. Bauer was honored with NASA's 2002 Outstanding Leadership Medal. It would be interesting to know how many NASA employees are Hams. Source: **NASA**

**Video Conferencing Ham Classes.** Many colleges, for example SUNY Brockport, have offered courses via video conferencing for years. Why use the same offsite technology for Ham licensing classes? Some institutions are catching on. The Arkansas Health Department offered Amateur Radio training via video conferencing to 13 hospital classrooms across the state. According to John Nordlund, AD5FU, tactical communications assistant coordinator for the Arkansas Health Department, about 30 Northwest Arkansas residents participated in this year's training. The program, offered to participants at no cost, was sponsored by the Arkansas Health Department in cooperation with the Arkansas Amateur Radio Emergency Service. After completing the two-day training course, more than 180 students across the state earned their Technician class license. Source: *The ARRL Letter*



**New Station for Charter School.** A Palm Bay Community Charter School now has a new Ham Radio station. Besides making QSOs worldwide, the learning about technology, communications, propagation, and all the areas we work with and study, the students have incorporated their experiences with their class work. Police officer, charter school parent, and Ham Dan Fisher, AI4GK, has headed up the club. [\*See my website.] Source: *My Hometown News*, Brevard County, FL

**Ham Murder Mystery.** Author Tina Dirmann's *Vanished At Sea: The True Story of a Child TV Actor and Double Murder* was recently published [St. Martins, softbound, 256 pp. \$6.95]. The book chronicles the murders of radio amateurs Tom and Jackie Hawkes, KA7VWJ and KA7VWK. The crimes were allegedly done by former child actor Skylar Deleon and his friends. [\*See my website.] I do not know if the book mentions anything about the victims being active Hams or the efforts of 80 southern California hams to locate them after their disappearance.

**Ham Story on NBC Affiliate.** After 24 tornadoes touched down in the Springfield, MO area, Hams participated in reports of damage. The morning newscast of NBC affiliate covered their efforts. [\*See my website.]

## ARES and RACES: Providing Essential Communications for Emergency Response

By Ross Mazzola, KC2LOC  
Assistant Emergency Coordinator,  
Logistics, Monroe County (ARES)

If you've ever attended a RARA meeting, chances are you've heard about the activities of ARES and RACES. Hams that are not involved in emergency communications, however, are often confused about the difference between these two organizations. In this article, I'll try to explain some of the things that make each organization unique. Let's begin with the basics.

ARES stands for Amateur Radio Emergency Service and is part of the Amateur Radio Relay League's (ARRL) extensive volunteer field organization dedicated to public service. ARES is comprised of amateur radio operators who volunteer to provide a resource of trained operators for reliable primary or secondary communications links for governmental agencies and non-profit organizations. Here in Monroe County, ARES has a formal (written) understanding with the Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross to provide communications in times of local disaster or emergency. Just recently, Monroe County ARES members provided communications between shelters and Red Cross headquarters during the January 2008 windstorm that knocked out power to several areas of the city and county. Walks, bike and running marathons also frequently utilize ARES communications teams which give valuable non-emergency practice to the group. Monroe County ARES conducts a monthly on-air training net and in addition to participating in many of the local public service events, meets one evening a month (except during the summer) at the American Red Cross offices on Prince Street in Rochester.

RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service ) on the other hand is the emergency communications and disaster preparedness arm of the US Government. In Monroe County, RACES is sponsored by Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) and regulated by FCC Part 97.407. Like ARES, RACES is made up of amateur volunteers, but its scope is more narrowly defined because it's limited to providing government-to-government communications for state

and local civil defense organizations and government emergency preparedness agencies. RACES groups are activated only as needed by the local Emergency Manager. In Monroe County, Mary Louise (Muffy) Meisenzahl, Administrator for the OEP, executes the County plan for civil defense and disaster relief before, during and after any type of natural or man-made disaster or during a wartime situation. Her staff also develops, maintains, and practices an emergency response plan in case of an accident at the Ginna nuclear power plant in neighboring Wayne County. This past year, RACES was activated to provide communications for a radiological monitoring drill, a pandemic flu exercise and the “Pumpkin Patrol.” When a RACES group is activated, the member volunteers will be under the authority and jurisdiction of the local Emergency Manager. Amateurs must also be registered with the local Emergency authority and have the proper credentials before they can participate in RACES drills and operations. When the RACES group is activated, the member/volunteer RACES amateur operator falls under special rules. For example, his amateur station suddenly becomes a RACES station and he may not communicate with any non-RACES station (on designated RACES frequencies) during the activation. One advantage of RACES is that it may be the only form of radio available to hams during a national wartime emergency, when presidential orders will cancel all non-official radio communications.

As you can see, ARES is a *bottom-up*, grassroots organization, and as such is much more flexible. RACES is an official, *top-down* emergency radio service, which, in a major emergency will be tightly controlled by FCC and local Emergency Manager. When an emergency begins to unfold, the ARES group activates and implements predetermined plans to assist local organizations and agencies. If the situation escalates and the Emergency Manager needs to activate RACES, the same people, already operating in ARES, simply switch hats (and maybe frequencies) and begin official operations in RACES. Each has its place, and the ARRL recommends that local hams form both ARES and RACES organizations.

*(ARES-RACES continued on page 8)*

### **ARES-RACES continued from page 7**

Since RACES and ARES are both vital organizations that need your participation to make them effective, you should consider registering with both. In Monroe County, hams are able to meet any emergency communications need by having dual membership in ARES and RACES. You'll need to register with each separately because registration in one does NOT automatically register you with the other, but in Monroe County it's easy to do. All you have to do is go to <http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org> and select “How to Join ARES” from the side menu then click on the “Fill out an Application” link. You'll be able to download applications for both ARES and RACES at the same time. When you submit your applications to ARES, they will forward your RACES application to the Monroe County RACES Officer. Reliable communication is essential to emergency response and ARES and RACES can make the difference between life and death. Why not take a moment to learn how you, as an FCC licensed Amateur Radio operator can help save lives?

For more information about RACES, contact Lloyd Caves, N2PU, Monroe County RACES Officer at [n2pu@arrl.net](mailto:n2pu@arrl.net) . To learn more about ARES, go to the Monroe County ARES website at <http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org> or contact Jeff Wygal, WY7Q, Emergency Coordinator at [wy7q@arrl.net](mailto:wy7q@arrl.net) .

**FOR SALE:**

SB220 in very good condition for sale. I've not had it on air but the HV is correct on all bands. Currently wired for 110v. Includes original manual. Asking \$550, will deliver in Rochester area. Ken Hall, W2KRH (585) 289-3801.

**FOR SALE:**

VHF power amp new in the box. It is 5 watts in and 250 watts out 100% duty cycle. Runs on 12 VDC, Freq range 134 to 174 MHz. \$800. Marv McIntyre, K2ZAA (585) 342-1899

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

**Memorial Scholarship is now \$1000**

The deadline for submitting applications for the 8th annual RaRa Memorial Scholarship is April 15, 2008. The "Rochester Amateur Radio Association Memorial Scholarship" has been established with generous donations made in memory of A. Leland Zwack, W2WPF; William Buchan, W2OMV; William Resch, K4VOS and David Stewart, K2ZCD. The scholarship is available to any licensed Amateur Radio operator who is or will be pursuing any degree of Associate level or higher in any accredited school beyond high school. The individual must be a member of RaRa and a resident of New York State. The scholarship is for one individual for one year, but the recipient may reapply for subsequent years.

Applications for the scholarship may be obtained at RaRa general meetings, by mail at P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RaRa phone at (585) 671-2424. Additional information and a copy of the application are available on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association web site at <http://www.rochesterham.org/> or from one of the officers.

**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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Richard R. Jamison, M.D.  
WA2QDP

Michele A. Jamison, M.D.

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