



THE RARA E-RAG

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Fox Hunting 101

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
Vice President, RARA

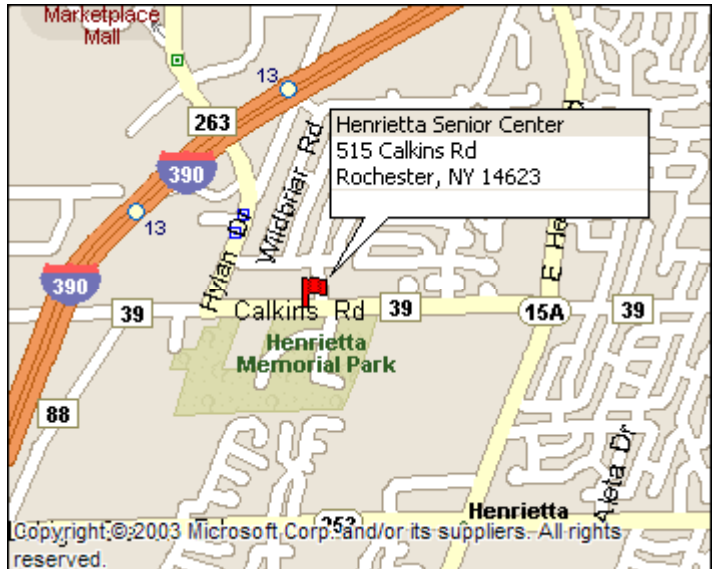


"Catch me if you can"

Bugs Bunny: "It's duck season"
Daffy Duck: "It's rabbit season"
Bugs Bunny: "duck season"
Daffy Duck: "rabbit season"
N2JAC: "Hold your fire, it is fox hunting season"

That's right everyone, **August 1st** will be the opening day of RARA's Fox Hunting Season. For those of you who do not know what fox hunting is let me clarify by stating that you can leave the guns and ammunition home and New York State will not be there trying to sell you a fox hunting license. This is the ham radio version of fox hunting.

On **Friday August 1st** we will be meeting in the parking lot at the Henrietta Senior Center at 515 Calkins Road. We will be starting at **6:30 PM** to take full advantage of maximum sunlight. Jon Dickason, N2JAC will be explaining all the finer points on how to find a hidden transmitter. This fun and exciting sport is great practice for finding real life sources of interference to wireless communications. After the presentation and instruction we will have a real fox hunt as we all try to find the hidden transmitter in the park. Bring your 2M handhelds with the rubber duck antennas or your handheld directional antennas. This promises to be an entertaining and educational evening.



Henrietta Senior Center at the Henrietta Town Park

[Google Map](#)

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The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RARA

For those of you who didn't make it to "Cruise Nite" let me just say you missed a great outing. We had our share of cool vehicles ranging from a vintage Mercedes, to a spankin' new Vette and something I'm still not sure what it was. But it looked like it would be a lot of fun to drive! It was fun to check out some of our members' collectible cars as well as the mobile radio installations others had on display. As promised, judging was held for the best non-commercial Ham installation. The winner was Jay Hamill, KC2TCM. For his prize, he selected the ARRL Repeater Directory. Congratulations Jay! After the judging, we moved things indoors to indulge in Bill Grays famous Hots, Hamburgers, Ice Cream, and lots of socializing. Due to the positive feedback, we'll have to see if we can do that again before the snow flies.

Teaching an old dog a new trick...

Here's the dilemma: Fewer people are attending our Hamfest, so fewer vendors are showing up, this causes even fewer people to attend, and the cycle continues. Compound that with the rising costs for people to attend and then sprinkle in an exaggerated weather forecast and we have a problem. While we have been reducing expenses, both in the past and even more in the future, the bottom line is we need to increase attendance. Greater attendance will attract more vendors, and the cycle reverses, growing the event. Stop and pause here to recollect what the computer boom did to the Hamfest in the 80's and 90's... To achieve this, we are evaluating a two prong approach consisting of a) Making the event more compelling to attend (picture Hooters Girls as Valet Parking attendants), and b) Broadening the scope of the event to increase the potential audience. So, in the spring of 2009, we will be sponsoring the Rochester Hamfest and Technical Hobby Expo! Now, here's where I want your help - I'm sure Ham Radio is not your only technical hobby. I'd like to know what other technical passions share your free time with Ham Radio. And, if you belong to a technical hobby club, please let me know because I'd like to contact them and offer them a free booth at the event!

Remember: RaRa produces the Hamfest for you, the RaRa members. So, tell us what you'd like to see and experience. If we don't hear from you, you're telling us you don't care. If you don't care, you loose the right to complain. And there's nothing saying that you won't lose your Hamfest.

– So talk to me! WB2PYD@ARRL.net

73 – Frank

Public Service & Part 97

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
RARA Public Service Coordinator

Public Service has been quiet for most of July except for one weekend. The weekend of July 12th and 13th was busy with 3 events. There was the ITU Pan America Cup and Musselman Triathlon in Geneva along with the Air Show in Geneseo. Thank you to all that participated in these July events.

One of the reasons why we participate in public service events has to do with the first item in the Part 97 Rules from the FCC and it states:

“The rules and regulations in this Part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.”

Not only are we helping charitable organizations we are also gaining valuable experience in working with a directed net. Please think about an event you would like to help with. There is a very active calendar in September and October and we could use your assistance. All you need to do is go to www.rochesterham.org and click on “Public Service” to sign-up.

I am still in need of event captains for two events. One is the “MS Pedal to the Park Bike Tour” and the other is the “Hike for Haccamo”. The event captain will be the direct contact with the organization and attend a few meetings. Please call or email me (k2si@arrl.net) if you would be interested.

Upcoming Public Service Events

- **Walnut Hill Driving Competition** – Aug 13 – 17
- **Labor Day Parade** – Sept 1
- **Multiple Sclerosis Pedal to the Park Bike Tour** - Sept 6 & 7 (Needs Event Captain)
- **Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon** – Sept 14
- **Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta** – Sept 21
- **Finger Lakes Triathlon** – Sept 21
- **Barktoberfest: Lollypop Farm** – Sept 27
- **America’s Walk for Diabetes** – Oct 4
- **Wine Glass Marathon** – Oct 5
- **Hike for Haccamo** – Oct 12 (Needs Event Captain)
- **Jamboree on the Air (BSA)** – Oct 18 & 19
- **NYS Thruway Pumpkin Patrol** – Oct 30 & 31
- **Special Olympics, Winter Games** – Feb 7, 2009

NOTICES:

#1: Don't forget to vote:

Those of you who are ARRL members should have received your ballot for Western New York Section Manager by now. This year we have Kevin Romer, KC2MLC running against the incumbent Scott Bauer, W2LC. Be sure to cast your vote, it has to be in no later than August 15TH 2008! If you haven't received your ballot, contact [ARRL HQ](mailto:ARRLHQ), ASAP.

#2: Help wanted:

Webmaster - Our new RaRa website will be online in a few weeks and we need an experienced person to maintain it.

Sales / Marketing - We need a person, or two, to help promote our Hamfest event.

Research Assistant – Do you have good communications skills and 2 or 3 hours a week to help us compile market research data?

Interested parties can contact me directly. If you know someone who may fit the bill, ask them to drop me a note for more details. WB2PYD@ARRL.net

Home Again...

Hiram Percy Maxim's Telegraph Key Returns to ARRL HQ

At the ARRL Board of Director's meeting this past weekend, the telegraph key that once belonged to Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, was returned to ARRL Headquarters. According to ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, the key had been in the collection of the Antique Wireless Association's Electronic Communication Museum near Rochester, New York for more than 20 years.



Ed Gable, K2MP, presents H. P. Maxim's, W1AW, personal straight key to ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN at the RaRa Hamfest Banquet. [Len Crellin, KC2PCD, photo]

Craigie said that the AWA decided to return Maxim's key to the organization he co-founded almost 100 years ago. At the ARRL Atlantic Division Convention in May 2008, the museum's former curator, Ed Gable, K2MP, presented the key to Craigie and Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar,

N3LLR. Craigie and Edgar then presented the key to ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, and ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, on Friday, July 18.

"The key will find a prominent place in the League's collection of historical artifacts," Craigie said. "The Old Man's key has come home!"



ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR (far right), present Hiram Percy Maxim's, W1AW, personal straight key to ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, and Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ (far left). [S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, Photo]

RARA logo Items!

By Jeff Miller, N2AWA

QST: Don't get caught at the next RARA event without your RARA Regalia! The club has set up an easy way for you to display your favorite Amateur Radio Club's Official Logo on your chest, head, coffee mug, mouse pad, etc. These items are custom printed and make great gifts for yourself or everyone! You may have noticed a few of us wearing the T-shirts at the Picnic and Cruise Nite. Samples can be seen at any RaRa activity. We still have our embroidered patches and we're still working on making the selection larger.

Patches are available from the club at most meetings.

Prices start at less than \$2.50! You can place your RARA Regalia orders directly with the manufacturer here:

<http://www.cafepress.com/rochesterham>



Just a few of the many logo items available!

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing



All Elements needed to complete a license class.

3rd 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

2009 RaRa Hamfest

May 29-30

September Rag Deadline
August 6, 2008

RARA's Cleanest Shack Contest

By George Masny, KA2GPJ

Having just visited the homes of several hams, and not being very impressed with some of those shacks, I'm thinking that there must be some RARA Members who are proud of their "den of pleasures", sometimes called the "dog house". But rather than feature the messiest shack, why not reward those that have taken the time and effort to spruce up the place and take a nice picture of it. So we are having this 'CLEANEST SHACK CONTEST'. To enter, all you have to do is send in a picture and a short description of your shack. The type of **Ham** equipment doesn't matter, but the more buttons, bells and whistles, the better. If the picture includes the operator – it will go to the top of the pile! It also must be a shack belonging to an individual and not a club or group shack.

We will get a team of trained professionals to judge these photos and announce the winner and two runners-up in both the RARA Rag and on the RochesterHams.org Web Page. You can enter the picture of your shack on either a QSL card, a real photo print or in digital form attached to an email. **The deadline will be midnight, August 15th**, and the winners will be announced at the General Meeting in September, so you have plenty of time to clean up and enter the contest.

You may e-mail your submission to KA2GPJ@yahoo.com, or if you would like to use the USPS, please send your submission to: George Masny, KA2GPJ, 83 Phaeton Dr, Penfield, NY 14526, or just hand it in to one of the club officers – they'll know what to do with your entry.

There will be a special prize as well as having your shack featured in the October issue of the RARA Rag and on the Web Page.

RaRa Memorial Scholarship Application Deadline March 15, 2009

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

Calendar of Events

- 8-1 RARA Fox Hunt - 6:30PM, Henrietta Town Park, Calkins Rd.
- 8-6 RARA Board of Directors Meeting - RIT
- 9-5 RARA meeting -7:30PM, Henrietta FD #1

Upcoming Hamfests

- Aug 2** Tompkins County Amateur Radio Club Ithaca, NY <http://tcarc.compcenter.com>
- Aug 9** **NEW:** Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association Howard (Hornell), NY <http://www.klara.us>
- Aug 16** Rome Radio Club, Westmoreland, NY <http://pages.prodigy.net/romeradioclub>
- Sept 13** Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse Pompey, NY <http://ragsinreview.com>
- Sept 20** Monroe County ARES - EmComm East Conference at St. John Fisher College <http://www.emcommeast.org>

Radio Club Contacts

Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)
Jim Collinsworth, N2JC jcollinsw@aol.com

Monroe County ARES
Jeff Wigal, WY7Q..... wy7q@arrl.net

Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)
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Rochester DX Association (RDXA)
Paul Mackanos, K2DB k2db@arrl.net

Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)
Brad Allen, KB2CHY..... kb2chy@frontiernet.net

Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)
Andy Flowers, K0SM aflowers@frontiernet.net

XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)
Ned Asam, W2NED w2ned@frontiernet.net

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