



# THE RARRA E-RAG

Published by  
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 61

September 2008

NO. 1

## Sept. Meeting – RF Safety

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI  
Vice President, RARA

Another exciting year of programs is about to begin on **Friday September 5, 2008** at the Henrietta Fire Hall #1, 3129 East Henrietta Road near the intersection of Lehigh Station Road. The meeting will begin at **7:30 pm**. Our first topic for the new year will be **RF Safety** presented by Raj Dewan, N2RD. Ten years have past since the FCC put into effect the new radio frequency safety rules. When you sign up for that new license or renewal you are certifying that you are familiar with RF safety rules. There will be a short quiz before the presentation begins so please bring a #2 pencil. Only kidding!!

With reports swirling about cell phone safety, have you wondered if your hobby is safe for you? When will they market a 100 watt cell phone? There are a lot of junk reports that claim to be scientific on RF safety. Raj will start out with exploring the basics of RF safety, effect of frequency and intensity, standards on limits of exposure, and how to stay safe. This will be followed up with a discussion of FCC limits on RF exposure from amateur radio. Raj will also explore tools to evaluate your home station.

- **Meet your friends at RARA.**
  - **Make new friends at RARA.**
    - **Always be RF Safe!!**



## CAUTION



**Beyond this point:  
Radio frequency fields at this site  
may exceed FCC rules for human  
exposure.**

**For your safety, obey all posted signs and  
site guidelines for working in radio  
frequency environments.**

In accordance with Federal Communications Commission rules on radio  
frequency emissions 47 CFR 1.1307(b)

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## SILENT KEY



William G. "Bill" McDonnell, KG2F

August 1, 2008

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

**Managing Editor: Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY**

742 Stone Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534 (585) 389-1926  
[contax2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:contax2@rochester.rr.com)

**Advertising Manager: Dick Goslee, KG2I**

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

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## OFFICERS:

President: Frank Schramm, WB2PYD ..... 267-9278  
[wb2pyd@arrl.net](mailto:wb2pyd@arrl.net)  
Vice-President: Duane Fregoe, K2SI ..... 594-4945  
[k2si@arrl.net](mailto:k2si@arrl.net)  
Secretary: Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY ..... 381-6553  
[wb2sxy@arrl.net](mailto:wb2sxy@arrl.net)  
Treasurer: Dick Goslee, KG2I ..... 334-1762  
[rgoslee@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rgoslee@rochester.rr.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Ken Hall, W2KRH ..... 289-3801  
[ken@w2krh.com](mailto:ken@w2krh.com)  
Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY ..... 389-1926  
[contax2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:contax2@rochester.rr.com)  
Jeff Miller, N2AWA ..... 924-4919  
[n2awa@arrl.net](mailto:n2awa@arrl.net)  
John Stanton, KO2I ..... 533-1821  
[jostanton@gmail.com](mailto:jostanton@gmail.com)  
Larry Safford, AB2OY ..... 576-3977  
[ab2oy@yahoo.com](mailto:ab2oy@yahoo.com)  
Len Crellin, KC2PCD ..... 425-1076  
[kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com)  
Jim DiTucci, N2IXD ..... 426-7956  
[n2ixd@arrl.net](mailto:n2ixd@arrl.net)

---

Club Historian..... Ed Gable, K2MP  
Public Service Coordinator..... Duane Fregoe, K2SI  
License Testing Coordinator ..... Raj Dewan, N2RD  
Membership Secretary ..... Sue Goslee, N2HKA  
Hamfest Committee Chairman..... Harold Smith, K2HC  
Media Communications..... Len Crellin, KC2PCD  
License Class Administrator..... Brad Armstrong, W1YX  
Awards / Raffle Administrator..... Dan Waterstraat, W2DEW  
Webmaster..... TBA  
RARA Directory Editor..... Dick Goslee, KG2I  
Refreshments Coordinator ..... Tom Austin, KA2GXX  
Club Station Trustees..... Jim DiTucci, N2IXD



## The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
President, RARA

For I should be sitting here, 10 days into the month of August 2008 waxing nostalgically on the passing of the “dog days of summer”. Instead it’s a brisk 61 degrees outside and I feel like I should be curled up in front of the fireplace.

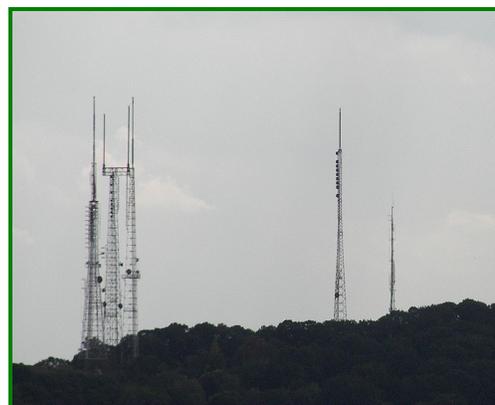
On August 1<sup>st</sup> we met at the Henrietta Town Park Senior Center for a lesson in Fox hunting aka radio direction finding. A fantastic program / lesson was provided by Jon Dickason, N2JAC and a great time was had by all. The “fox” was hidden and then everyone was out on the hunt. The person or team that found the “fox” won the honor of hiding it for the next round. I was disappointed the next day when I learned that there were a number of attendees who didn’t find the meeting venue. I wonder if it could have been an application for those direction finding skills...

By the time you read this, your new RaRa WWW site will be published at [www.RochesterHam.org](http://www.RochesterHam.org). We hope you find it crisp, clean, and easy to navigate. There you will find back issues of the e-RAG, and new photo galleries. For inclusion, send your shack photos to the club photographer Len Crellin, KC2PCD. If you have any comments, corrections, or suggestions for content you would like to see there, send a note to the e-mail at the bottom of any page. The re-design service was donated by Axiom Interactive Corp. and now we are looking for an able bodied soul to take over as the Webmaster to keep the site up-to-date. Interested parties can contact me directly or any member of the Board.

As you will read elsewhere herein, your Board of Directors has been busy this summer, and one of our tasks was a thorough review of the clubs by-laws. Can you believe they have not been updated since they were adopted back in 1969!? That’s a sign of a well written document. However, driven by necessity, we identified 3 items that we recommend be amended to accommodate modern technology and society.

I’ll see you back at the firehouse on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>.

73 – Frank



Pinnacle Hill antennas – A good source of RF!

## Thank you!

To The Club

It feels difficult to express in words how grateful and touched I am by all the kindness and support shown me over these past few months. Your actions and words are a profound tribute and deeply honor Keith, N2BEL and what he meant to each of you in the club.

Let me thank you for the generosity of your donation to the Memorial Scholarship Fund and for the many ways you have honored, and will continue to honor Keith's memory, contributions and friendship.

Sincerely,

*Judy Freeberg*

## Public Service Is Heating Up

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI  
RARA Public Service Coordinator

August was a quiet month for Public Service with only one event over multiple days. This is the Walnut Hill Driving Competition. Many thanks to all that participated in this very exciting event.

September and October are going to be the big months for Public Service this year with many events as noted in the schedule below. We are going to need many volunteers to cover all these events. The biggest of the events is going to be the MS Bike Ride – “Pedal to the Park”. So far there are 6 people signed up and we will need a minimum of 20 hams to cover this large event. I also have a need for someone to take the lead on this event and a net control station. Please contact me if you can help.

All you need to do is go to [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org) and click on “Public Service” to sign-up.

## Upcoming Public Service Events

- **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

## Calendar of Events

- Sept 5** RARA meeting – 7:30PM, Henrietta FD #1
- Sept 10** RARA Board of Directors Meeting – 5:30PM RIT Bldg-17, Room 2110
- Sept 16** RDXA – Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM EOC, 1190 Scottsville Rd.
- Sept 19** RARRA – 8:00PM, Monthly Meeting at Pittsford Town Hall, downstairs room.

## Upcoming Hamfests

- 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>
- Sept 27** Elmira Hamfest

## Elmira Hamfest

The Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier (Elmira) announces the 33rd annual Hamfest/Computerfest Saturday the 27th day of September 2008 at the Chemung County Fairgrounds located in Horseheads New York.

We feature:

A large outdoor flea market (one free spot per admission ticket); Lots of free parking; FCC exams (if you haven't upgraded yet now is the time. No Morse Code required.

Dealer displays and a whole lot more.

Advanced Sale tickets are \$5.00( \$6.00 at the gate). Tickets and indoor vendor tables are available through the website [www.arast.org](http://www.arast.org) or by contacting :

ARAST, Inc.-Tickets

P.O. Box 614

Horseheads NY 14845-0614

Advanced tickets requests will be available via the web and /or US Mail until September 19, 2008 for mailing. Any prepaid orders received after that time will not be mailed, but will be available at the vendors/flea market gate at the Fairview Road entrance the morning of the event.

Talk-In is on the N3AQ repeater: 147.36(+) no pl tone required.

Any additional information and directions may be obtained by visiting our website at [www.arast.org](http://www.arast.org).

So remember to mark your calendars for Saturday September 27, 2008 for the 33rd annual Elmira Hamfest and computer fest. It will be a great time for one and all. See you down here!

# NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE in By-Laws

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD  
Director, RARA

The 2nd proposed amendment is Article V Paragraph A:

## ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

### A. Officers, Election and Term

#### **ORIGINAL:**

There shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The membership shall elect, at their Annual Meeting, the vice president who will succeed to the presidency at the next Annual Meeting, the secretary, and the treasurer. In the event the elected vice president is unable to succeed to the presidency at the Annual Meeting, then the membership shall also elect a president. Each officer shall be a full member of the corporation and shall be elected to hold office for one year, or until his successor has been elected or appointed and qualified.

#### **PROPOSED:**

There shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The membership shall elect these officers at their Annual Meeting. The president shall be nominated from the ranks of the existing board of directors as defined in Article III-A. Each officer shall be a full member of the corporation and shall be elected to hold office for a term of one year, or until his successor has been elected or appointed and qualified.

#### **COMMENTS:**

The Board feels that by electing all 4 officers each year, and eliminating the expected ascension of the Vice-President to the President, it will not only be easier to find interested parties to fill the Vice-President position, it will allow someone doing a good job to continue beyond the 1-year term should the General Membership decide to re-elect that person. The Vice-President to President ascension policy was most likely adopted to insure that the President had at least one year of experience on the Board before assuming Chairing the Board of Directors. To maintain that minimum level of experience, we recommend that the candidate for President be nominated from the seated Board of Directors.

The 3rd proposed amendment is document wide:

We felt that since we need to update the document, it would be a good time to bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and make it gender neutral.

An example would be to change: "... evidence of his license..." to "... evidence of a valid license..."

#### **COMMENTS:**

Well, it's about time!

So, what do you think?

Please send your comments to the club Secretary before October 1. Our wishes are to put the proposed changes to a vote by the membership at the October 3, 2008 general meeting.

You have often heard me say that your officers and directors diligently perform the day-to-day tasks associated with running a 500+ member organization. While you were basking in the sun that briefly appeared from time-to-time through the raindrops this summer, your Board has been busy fine-tuning many of the operations that are so important to the lifeblood of our club. One of the most important things on their agenda requires your attention and careful consideration. Did you know that the club by-laws have not been reviewed and updated since they were adopted in 1969? Well, it's true. But to the rescue, your Board has spent in excess of 100 man-hours pouring through wordage that in many cases is simply dated. In order to bring the by-laws and how it affects our membership and governs our operation into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, your Board of Directors has proposed three changes:

- #1 to accommodate the remote control of our new club station.
- #2 to modernize our electoral procedure.
- #3 to modernize the document in general.

The 1<sup>st</sup> proposed amendment is Article VII Paragraph A:

## ARTICLE VII – AMATEUR RADIO STATION

### A. Rules and Regulations

#### **ORIGINAL:**

The Board of Directors shall make such rules and regulations as become necessary for the operation of a radio station. A copy of such rules and regulation shall be available at the station location at all times. The Board of Directors shall empower the Trustee to take whatever action is necessary to enforce such rules and regulations.

#### **PROPOSED:**

The Board of Directors shall make such rules and regulations as become necessary for the operation of a radio station. A copy of such rules and regulation shall be available at the station control point at all times. The Board of Directors shall empower the Trustee to take whatever action is necessary to enforce such rules and regulations.

#### **COMMENTS:**

Since our new club station will be remotely controlled, this change is necessary to address the availability of the station operating rules and regulations.

## Breaking News: 2010 Rochester Hamfest Cancelled

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
President, RARA

I hope that you, like many others, felt a chill run up your spine as you read those words. And while planning for the 2009 Rochester Hamfest is in full swing, the truth of the matter is that plans for the 2010 Hamfest may never get off the ground. Why? Read on.

Over the last two months, I have been actively soliciting comments and ideas about the state of our Hamfest. I have received many valuable replies, and I'm very appreciative of them all.

First, let me state the obvious: Our Hamfest is in a state of decline. Why you ask? Well it's actually very simple math. Fewer people attending cause fewer vendors to participate. Fewer vendors draw fewer people to attend. Do you see how this works? Every year is another cycle in the decline of the Hamfest.

There are a number of influences causing this to happen. The state of the economy is causing both attendees and vendors to tighten their purse strings, the cost of travel (fuel and lodging) is an impediment to some, and the Hamfests' compelling shopping experience has been all but replaced by online shopping and the virtual flea-market called e-Bay.

So, can we revive the Hamfest to the event it once was? If so, how? Well we won't really know until we try. So that brings us to the how. Looking back, the Hamfest was never more popular than when it was infiltrated by computers. Remember the "Rochester Hamfest and Computer Show"? We were bursting at the seams! Vendors and attendees flocked to the Hamfest to see and touch the latest and greatest, and buy and sell computer parts. Computers became commodities available at the likes of Wal-Mart and obscure parts are readily available for a few dollars on e-Bay. So the draw of computers has left the Hamfest.

We believe that what we need to identify and pursue is something that can cause an effect similar to what the computers did. Something appealing to Hams and can draw non-ham attendees and vendors. Take the Radios away from Hams and what commonality do you have? People interested in technology. There are a lot of people interested in technologies that are not hams. What hobbies do they enjoy? Those are what we think can rekindle widespread interest in the Hamfest: Technological hobbies. Hobbies like radio controlled (R/C) vehicles, model cars and railroads, etc.

That, of course, is where YOU come in (You knew that was coming, didn't you.) With the knowledge that we will plan the 2010 Hamfest from the ground floor up with new and fresh ideas (your ideas), now is the time for a Call to Action.

To ensure the future of the Rochester Hamfest we need YOU to attend a special meeting where we will discuss the mechanics of delivering a top-notch engagement worthy of its reputation as one of the best Hamfests in the Northeast US.

Topics for discussion:

- "Save the Hamfest" campaign.
- Learn about roles needed for successful planning and execution.
- Discuss on-the-job training working with the 2009 Hamfest crew.
- Your ideas and contributions

Please plan on attending this special meeting: Tuesday October 7<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the Xerox Auditorium at RIT.

Our goal for a successful meeting is to identify and recruit Team Leaders who can enthusiastically tackle the challenges of critical rolls such as:

- General Business Manager
- Vendor Relations Manager
- Marketing Manager (Attendance)
- Banquet Chairman
- Facilities Manager

We know that we have the talent within RARA membership. This is a Call to Action for past presidents and officers, Board directors, former committee chairs, previous and current Hamfest committee members and most importantly, **YOU**. Experience the satisfaction of seeing "your baby" take its first steps as the "new" Rochester Hamfest in 2010.

Breaking News: 2010 Rochester Hamfest Cancelled.

That depends on you. Please join us.

## From the President's Desk of RRRRA

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY  
President, RRRRA

Can you believe it! Summer 2008 is almost over. The summer has brought some behind the scenes improvements to 88. We have changed out the controller at Cobb's hill and the operation compared to Westfall will be identical. You will hear the same voice and ID's. This is when it is put in place as a backup. That is because they are the same controllers with the same features. We also welcome an off site connection to echolink provided by N2QDK who lives in Albany. His connection also provides a full weather service from his dad's place in Webster. You may have heard the weather alerts as we had quite a few storms recently. We have affectionately dubbed it "The Mouth" as it gives a lot of extra info that does not mean much to the average listener. That part is being tweaked and hopefully eliminated. There are codes that will get you into all these features and as soon as we have a command set that will not interfere with regular operation of 88; I will place them on the club's website <http://www.rrra.us>.

We are still in the planning stages for a mini swap meet sponsored by RRRRA. More details will be on the website as we get closer. Keep an eye on your email box for the date/time/location to be announced.

Meetings are still held at the Pittsford Town Hall at 8:00PM on the third Friday of each month. You will find a list of meetings posted in the RAG each month.

The Ray Pickens's Memorial Newbie Net has come a long way since its beginning days. Paul K2FX is the net control. This net comes up each Sunday right after the MCFM Net on the 88 Repeater. Each week there is a topic to discuss and checkins have hit an all time high of close to 50 hams in one evening. WE have also provided a connection to TARA and their local repeater in the Albany, NY area. Their club "TARA" is very active in emergency preparedness and I am happy to be a member. To join the Newbie Net via echolink, connect to **node number 217959 or to callsign KB2CHY-L**. We are working on changing it to **K2RRA-L**.

This months meeting will be held on the 19th of September at 8:00PM at the Pittsford Town Hall on Main St. in Pittsford, NY. The presentation for the meeting will be by RRRRA's VEEP Bob Shewell N2HJD on "The parts that make up FM Repeaters". This was a successful presentation put on by Bob at RARA a while back. It packed the firehouse to standing room only. So come join us for the fun and face to face meetings. All Hams and perspective hams are invited to come. Thanks and see you there! Refreshments will be served.

**RDXA September Meeting**  
By Ken Boasi, N2ZN  
Vice-President, RDXA

For September, RDXA will be having a program on Logbook of the World. There will be a real time demonstration of the software and the Web interface, and members who are not signed up will have the opportunity to get signed up and get started with Logbook.

The **new RDXA meeting location** is at the EOC center, 1190 Scottsville Road, 2nd floor in the front of the building (closest to Scottsville Road). It is located just to the east of the Burger King. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Sept 16<sup>th</sup>.

**RDXA Field Day 2008**

RaRa would like to congratulate the members of the Rochester DX Association for their outstanding 2008 Field Day effort. The final score was just barely light of 19k points in a scoring scheme where 12k points is considered world-class. This put RDXA's class 3A result number one in the country. This certainly did not happen by accident. Careful planning, headed by FD Chairman Vic Gauvin, K1PY, and flawless execution by the team of operators and set-up people, is what it takes. RDXA has been in the top ten for the last eleven years and has mostly been in the first, second or third position. With big targets on their backs, RDXA will be working extra hard to defend their title in this hotly contested Field Day category. Congratulations again to RDXA, Number 1, 3A, World!

**October Rag Deadline  
September 10, 2008**

**Editor's Note:**

Here is a note received by Vic Gauvin, congratulating RDXA on their 2008 Field Day efforts:

Vic,

*Please extend our congratulations to everyone involved in achieving recognition as #1 in the Nation for Class 3A, at the June 28th Amateur Radio Field Days! We also understand that your activity during this event places you in the Country's Top 10, most probably at #5.*

*This recognition and achievement is no small task and speaks volumes about the dedication of our local Amateur Radio Operators. Your commitment to community Public Safety enhances our communication capacity during emergencies and ensures continuity of business for many emergency service providers. Your effort and cooperation with the County Public Safety Communications Division (Radio Center) ensures we maintain multiple and redundant communication pathways.*

*This truly is a winning combination - for all of us in Public Safety and for Amateurs who participate in demonstrations of individual skill sets and collective communications capacity.*

*We know you can provide this #1 capability and quality any day that it's needed! This is most impressive. Again, congratulations and thank you for your good work!*

Muffy

Muffy Meisenzahl, Administrator  
Monroe County Office of Emergency Management.

**Radio Club Contacts**

**Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)**  
Jim Collinsworth, N2JC ..... [icollinsw@aol.com](mailto:icollinsw@aol.com)

**Monroe County ARES**  
Jeff Wigal, WY7Q..... [wy7q@arrl.net](mailto:wy7q@arrl.net)

**Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)**  
Frank Schramm, WB2PYD ..... [wb2pyd@arrl.net](mailto:wb2pyd@arrl.net)

**Rochester DX Association (RDXA)**  
Paul Mackanos, K2DB ..... [k2db@arrl.net](mailto:k2db@arrl.net)

**Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)**  
Brad Allen, KB2CHY..... [kb2chy@frontiernet.net](mailto:kb2chy@frontiernet.net)

**Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)**  
Andy Flowers, K0SM ..... [aflowers@frontiernet.net](mailto:aflowers@frontiernet.net)

**XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)**  
Ned Asam, W2NED ..... [w2ned@frontiernet.net](mailto:w2ned@frontiernet.net)

## RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: June, 1988

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RARA Historian



Recent elections brought a host of new officers and board members to serve you. The new officers were President Dave Bernheisel N2DPF, V-P Bob Hobday N2EVG, Secretary Pete Secrist WB2SUN and Dick Goslee K2VCZ was elected treasurer. To the Board of Directors were Chet WB2MDO, Lloyd WB2EFU, Neal WB2EKP, Irv AF2K, Ed N2EH, Bill N2EKR and Bud WA2UGE.

As vice-president and program chairman Bob Hobday, N2EVG, announced the first program of the year to be a guest speaker from the ARRL, Mr. Phil Sagar, WB4FDT. Phil's job at the League is the Manager of Regulatory and Information Branch and he spoke of ARRL matters and new happenings within the Amateur Radio Service. The venue for this meeting was the Eisenhart Auditorium at the museum complex at 657 East Avenue.

At this time the staff of the RaRa Rag consisted of co-editors Neal Eckhardt WB2EKP and Jack Dempsey KA2PJN, with Dwight Hill as Contributing Editor. It was noted that this issue of the Rag was sent to all known Amateur Radio operators in the greater Rochester area, by way of FCC records, to introduce RaRa and encourage new members. Called "The Great 220 Robbery," a long, detailed and upsetting article chronicled the loss of the 220-222 Mhz band to the United Parcel Post for a "much needed" Land Mobile Use." Some may note that now, 20 years later, the stolen 2 Mhz of that popular VHF ham band is still unused as intended. A nice write up (author unknown) told of the successful 1988 RaRa Field Day operating out of Mendon Park. K2JD, in class 2A, was augmented by Novice station KA2PJN, who took advantage of the new ten meter phone privilege

Writing for Greece Repeater, WA2MXL/R, J.D. (Van) Griethuysen, N2BNE, told of the frequency shift of the repeater to 147.18(+) where it remains today. With regret the following Silent Keys were reported: Gerald Ideman W2TOE, Herb Louder WB2TJY and Dr. Sidney Feyder KA2LFR. From the Want Ads you could buy a complete Heathkit station from Ron, KB2KZ. Heath/Zenith on Jefferson Road was the only advertiser in this issue.

### Help Wanted:

*Interested parties may contact any club officer.*

**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?

## 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)**

## RARA VE Testing in September

By Raj Dewan, N2RD

The testing in September will be at Emcomm East. Details of Emcomm East:

<http://emcommeast.org/content/view/7/7/>

Where: St. John Fisher College, Basil Hall. Park in lot A/B, follow the signs to the EmComm East registration desk.

When: September 20, 2008 10:30AM

Registration as an EmComm East conference participant is not required to participate in the VE testing. More information can be found on the EmComm East website:

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

Campus map and directions can be found here:

[http://www.sjfc.edu/maps/campus\\_map.asp](http://www.sjfc.edu/maps/campus_map.asp)

## 2009 RaRa Hamfest & Technical Hobby Expo

**May 29-30**

**RaRa Memorial Scholarship  
Application Deadline  
March 15, 2009**

## Local Area Nets

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI  
Vice President RARA

I recently read an ARRL email that was commenting on local club newsletters. One of the items noted was to include a listing of local nets which got me to wondering why I did not think of this sooner. I have maintained a list of local nets for as long as I have had my license. It has been updated over the years and continues to hang on my wall.

Local nets are an easy non-threatening way to get on the air. It is where I stated with my dual band HT. I have included a list of local nets that I know of and will update the list in future months after I confirm their existence. If you know of any other nets that are within range of the Monroe County area please email me the information and I will add them to the list.

**Monroe County FM Net** ----- Sun, 9:00PM  
146.880(-600) (PL 110.9) K2RRA

**WA2MYG Newbie Net**----- Sun, 9:20PM  
146.880(-600) (PL 110.9) K2RRA

**Monroe County ARES Net** -----2<sup>nd</sup> Thur 9:00PM  
146.880(-600) (PL 110.9) K2RRA

**Ontario Cty. ARES/RACES**----- Sun, 8:00PM  
145.110(-600) PL 110.9 WR2AHL

**Wyoming Cty. ARES Net**-----Sat, 12:00PM  
147.315(+600) (PL 141.3) WA2CAM

**Western District Net** ----- Daily, 9:30PM  
146.640(-600) (PL 141.3) WA2CAM

**Central NY Traffic Net** ----- Daily, 9:00PM  
147.000(-600) (PL 71.9) W2QYT

**RVHFG 2M Net**-----Mon, 9:00PM  
144.260 Simplex

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*24 Hours a Day*

**October Rag Deadline**  
**September 10, 2008**

## Assistance Needed:

By Jim Sutton, N2OPS

We need help assembling an MFJ-1792.

<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/man/pdf/MFJ-1796.pdf>

The antenna was donated to our youth Amateur Radio club, KC2RHY in Mount Morris. We would appreciate some help to assemble the antenna.

Thanks.

[jim@otrym.org](mailto:jim@otrym.org)

[jim@otrym.org](mailto:jim@otrym.org)

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

[www.whenlifelhurts.com](http://www.whenlifelhurts.com)

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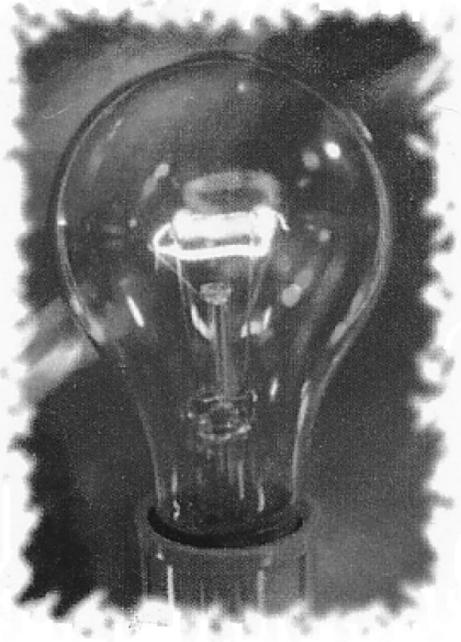
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