



THE RARRA E-RAG

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NO. 4

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

December at RARA Remote HF Operation

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
Vice President, RARA

What is one to do if they are an avid ham radio operator that loves to chase DX and work the contest but find themselves in an apartment, on a small city type lot with no room for big wires and towers, having nosy neighbors, and a spouse that does not want to live with the visuals that sometimes come with this hobby? One could move to a house in a more rural setting that sits on a larger lot. This could cut down on the number of nosy neighbors and give you room to stretch out some wires. The spouse is your call. I will not propose options for that one.

Our presenter for December has probably faced many of these obstacles and has come up with his own solution. Paul Mackanos, K2DB, has put together a remote operated station at his camp in south-central St. Lawrence County. It is called the Hickory Lake Contest Club with its own call sign of K2NNY. He can operate this station from anywhere there is internet access by wire, Wi-Fi, or cellular. Paul will explain the radio equipment, computer hardware, and software that make this possible. He will also have a live demonstration from the fire house of this fascinating set up. As the software improves, remote operation of a ham station is becoming more popular. If you like the mix of ham radio and computers this is one presentation you will not want to miss.

The meeting is Friday, December 5, 2008 at the Henrietta Fire Hall #1, 3129 East Henrietta Road near the intersection of Lehigh Station Road. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and is followed with refreshments, socializing, and a raffle. The presentation will follow the raffle.

Looking ahead to the April 2009 meeting I am looking for hams that like to take old ham equipment that looked pretty rough when they got it and restore it to the masterpiece that it once was. I would like to put together a show- and-tell night for these masterpieces. If you have an interest in showing off your hard work to your fellow club members

and explaining what went into the project, please give me a call or email me and we can discuss some ideas for the April meeting.

Meet your friends at RARA - Make new friends at RARA.

Hamfest News FLASH

RARA Board of Directors

Your Board of Directors is excited to announce that The Rochester Hamfest for 2009 will be Saturday May 30th! Located at the Barnard Fire Department Banquet Hall and Carnival Field, situated just minutes from I-390 at 380 Maiden Lane Rochester, NY 14616. This all new and exciting show will feature new commercial vendors, indoor flea market space, nearly unlimited tailgating and outdoor flea market space, new programs, an unparalleled menu of great food and drink, all at a NEW LOW ADMISSION fee!!!

-Stay tuned for breaking news and more details as this exciting new event evolves!

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The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RARA

Happy Holidays!

Can you believe it's that time again? Thanksgiving is just around the corner and then it's a quick sleigh ride to Hanukkah, Christmas and the New Year.

Christmas came early for some at our annual November auction. The bargains were fantastic and new "toys" were had by many. For those of you who missed it, the auction was as exciting as ever with heated bidding wars interlaced with humor, fun and trivia. We had well over 100 people in attendance! I'd like to thank everyone who came and participated especially our Auctioneers Dick and Ed, Cashiers Irv and Bob, George for Policing the door and renewing memberships, Tom for keeping us well fed, and our beloved "DJ wannabe" Brad. And a super special thanks to everyone else who helped setup, cleanup, and schlep equipment around.

If you haven't heard, there's a group trip to the Dayton Hamvention being coordinated by Jeff Miller, N2AWA. This is a great opportunity to go to Dayton without all the hassle and expense of driving there yourself. A chauffeur driven luxury motor coach will transport you there and back. Hotel accommodations and on-site transportation are also provided. All you have to do is show up and follow the crowd. So get a few of your friends together: It's time for a road trip! Details can be found on the RaRa website in the documents archive, or you can contact Jeff directly at: n2awa@arrl.net.

Between Christmas and New Years we are activating a Ham Radio station at the Rochester Museum and Science Center as part of their Annual Holiday Science and Technology Fair. This is a great opportunity to bring the kids and/or grandkids to the RMSC. We also need you to operate the station for an hour or two. It's a great excuse to pawn the kids off on someone else while you get some air time {wink-wink}. The Fair is Saturday December 27th through Tuesday the 30th. If you'd like to participate, you can contact either me or Paul Mackanos, K2DB k2db@k2db.org for more information and scheduling.

73 – Frank

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

Public Service

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
RARA Public Service Coordinator

As another season of public service comes to a close we can all look back with mixed emotions. We had some very good events this year and we also had some very challenging events this year. It is the challenging events that will drive us to make changes and make us better able to serve the organizations that really appreciate our help.

Many thanks to all that have participated in many of the public service events this year. I would like to share a note that was sent to the RIT radio club via their web site. The RIT group tied their repeater into the repeater being used for the Tour de Cure via Echolink.

"If this could be passed along to the proper person in charge of the event, it would be greatly appreciated. I am a visitor to the Rochester area, and this past Sunday, 6/8/08, there was a charity bike ride net being run on your K2GXT 147.075 repeater. I just want to say that as I listened throughout the day, I was very impressed by all the participants on the air as to their professional sounding activity and the way the net was conducted. The net control station maintained order, and the other stations on the route did a wonderful job with their transmissions as well.

As a retired public safety communications supervisor with 34 years experience in police/fire/EMS/911 dispatching, I can say that any of those operators could have done an excellent job in my dispatch center! Fine job by all! I just wanted to pass this along to those fine folks. All the best and keep up the good work."

73

Ken Riley N8UO n8uo@wowway.com

The net control operator for much of the event was our 2008 RARA scholarship winner. It also proves another point that you never know who is listening when you key up the microphone. A big thank you goes to Ken Riley for taking the time to recognize all the people involved with this event.

We have one event on our 2009 calendar. It is the Special Olympics, Winter Games – Sat, February 7, 2009. Sign-up is available on the www.rochesterham.org web site.

Next month I will share with all a recap of the local events we covered in 2008.

Dayton Hamvention 2009

By Jeff Miller, N2AWA

RARA is trying to arrange a bus/hotel package trip to Dayton for 2009. Flyers with all the information will be available at the auction on November 7th and the information is also posted on the RARA Yahoo Group site. Questions can be directed to Jeff Miller n2awa@arrl.net.

The time to make your choice is coming soon as we need to have a deposit in to the travel agent by early December. The final payment is due in early Spring 2009.

RDXA News

By Ken Boasi, N2ZN
Vice-President, RDXA

The December RDXA meeting will also be the annual RDXA Holiday Party. Come out to celebrate the holidays and the New Year with the RDXA gang on Tuesday, December 16, 2008. The location will be Napagino's Restaurant, located at 2200 Penfield Rd, Penfield NY (at the corner of Rts. 250 and 441).

RDXA will resume meeting at the EOC in January.

Awards Thoughts

By Dan & Sue, Waterstraat, W2DEW & KC2SUE
RARA Awards Chairpersons

With it getting into prime antenna weather, we'll be raffling off 150 feet of Flexweave, 14 gauge, 168 strand, copper antenna wire perfect for that new dipole, loop, or other antenna. Next up we have a Two Tinned Tunas kit. This is a 40 meter QRP transmitter originally published in QST. This kit comes COMPLETE with all PCB mounted parts: transistors, capacitors, resistors, toroids, magnet wire, crystal, crystal socket and key jack. Also includes a new tuna can (without fishy smell), printed circuit board, and crystals for 7.030 and 7.040 MHz. Finally, we have the ARRL book "GPS and Amateur Radio". So come on out to the meeting, have fun, and try your luck at the raffle.

January Rag Deadline

December 1, 2008

(The editor is going on vacation.)

Calendar of Events

- Dec 5** RARA meeting – 7:30PM, Henrietta FD #1
- Dec 10** RARA Board of Directors Meeting – 5:30PM
RIT Bldg-17, Room 2110
- Dec 16** RDXA – Dinner Meeting - Napagino's
2200 Penfield Rd., Penfield.
- Dec 19** RARRA – 7:00PM, Holiday Dinner at
MacGregor's, 300 Jefferson Rd.
- Dec 20** RARA VE Testing Testing session – 10:00AM
RIT, Bldg. 9, Rm. 3139

From the VP of RRRR

By Bob Shewell, N2HJD
Vice President, RRRR

If you missed RRRR's November meeting you missed watching Bob, N2HJD and his assistant Brad, W1YX work their magic performing RRRR's annual tune up clinic. We hope you were able to take advantage of this service provided by your club.

The month of December will be RRRR's annual dinner / get together. We will not be holding a general meeting or presentation. All local HAMS are invited to attend our Christmas dinner /get together Friday December 19th. The location will be MacGregor's Bar and Grill located at 300 Jefferson Rd. and the order taking will begin at 7 pm. Family members and friends are all welcome to attend. This is a family event and no radios are allowed at the table and radio talk will be kept to a minimum. Everyone pays for their own meal. Mark your calendar and hope to see you there!

From the President of RRRR

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY

It's already starting to get cold. Last month brought us our annual tune-up clinic for that used radio purchased at the RARA auction. We still hold meetings every month on the third Friday except for December and July to August.

We still need all members to sign in on the website and provide us with a valid email address. Our website is <http://www.rrra.us> . Please go to this site to keep up to date of activities of the club. I also would like to ask that anyone who has not renewed their membership that they do so soon. Please understand that the club relies on your membership dues to pay its expenses. We are also looking for "quiet" donations to complete the purchase of the north site radio. People work hard and put in many hours to provide the best and most reliable system possible for your use. If you have any questions, be sure to contact any officer from the club.

December is the time of the month for family. RRRR has always had a family night of some sort as long as I can remember. We used to meet at the planetarium and watch the presentation at the time. We also would frequent "Home-style Buffet" for a number of years. Due to health concerns for our membership and cost, we tried our hand at a restaurant such as MacGregor's. This will be our fourth year and they look forward to seeing us every year. We always have a great time and you can eat as much or as little as you like. For more info, see the note from our VP.

The idea for a Hamfest/Flea market sponsored by RRRR will finally take shape this winter. We are planning on holding a get-together sometime in the spring. Further details will be passed along as we move forward and help will be needed. Please contact me and I will let you know any details I may know at the time. That's all for now.

I support ARES/RACES... I think?

By Jeff Wigal, WY7Q
Monroe County ARES/RACES

Back in May of this year, I had the great opportunity to talk to all of you about emergency preparedness. One of the questions I asked everyone in the room is "how many of you are involved in ARES/RACES?" I was pleasantly surprised to see a forest of arms raised in the room, which was terrific. Quite a few of you are involved in ARES/RACES, and I see you on a regular basis at our meetings. However, some of the "raised hands" belonged to people I've never seen before! If you believe you are a member of ARES/RACES, and you are not hearing from me via email on a regular basis, it means you've dropped off our list. Either 1) you are not on our active roster anymore, or 2) we do not have a correct email address from you. If that is the case, I need to hear from you! Please drop me a line at WY7Q@arrl.net so we can get you back in the fold.

Our current ARES/RACES roster is made up of people who have been active within the organization in 2004 or later. If you have not done anything with the organization in the last four years, it's safe to assume you may no longer be on our roster.

Thanks to all RARA members who have contributed their time and expertise to help out the community in a disaster. If you are not a member and you are interested in joining, ARES/RACES meets at 7:00PM on the 4th Thursday of the month with a few exceptions. We do not meet in December, July or August. Also, we meet the 3rd Thursday of the month in November.

We generally meet at Red Cross Headquarters, 50 Prince Street in Rochester. This is occasionally subject to change. If you are not on our e-mail distribution lists, check the ARES/RACES website before you come to the meeting.

We do not use RARA mailing lists to make announcements about meetings, disaster activations, or other ARES/RACES business. If you want to stay informed, drop me a line and we can add you to our e-mail distribution list.

SKYWARN Recognition Day

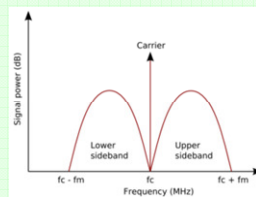
By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
Vice President. RARA

SKYWARN Recognition Day will be December 6, 2008 (0000 – 2400 UTC). In local terms it is Friday December 5th, 7:00 PM till Saturday December 6th, 7:00 PM. National Weather Service offices across the country will be on the air for 24 hours. The goal is to contact as many offices as possible using repeaters, IRLP, Echolink, and HF. This is a fun event for new hams that may only have a technician license. Many of the weather service offices will be on Echolink and IRLP. The Buffalo office will be participating again this year. I have participated in this event the last two years using mostly Echolink and IRLP. Submit your total number of weather service office contacts for a certificate from the National Weather Service. More information is available from

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/hamradio/index.php>

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: December, 1988

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian



Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

The Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club was the host of the December joint meeting with RaRa. Curiously, the RaRa Rag did not mention the date, place or time of the meeting. It did describe what was a nice informative gathering presented by Craig Kincaid, Director of Engineering for WVOR and WHAM. Craig spoke of the excitement and problems of working with a 50,000 watt transmitter.

The familiar RaRa green jackets are being offered again in two styles for \$37.50. You were encouraged to contact Irv Goodman, AF2K, with questions on options and how to order.

December 16, 1988, was proclaimed to be the annual RRRR Family Night. This year the event was held at the Strassenburgh Planetarium where the show ZAP, with one million volts of man made lightning, was ready to thrill all attendees. Those with heart pacemakers were urged to stay away.

Ken, WA2ALW, (sk) of Churchville, wrote encouraging people to sign into the Medicare Net each weekday morning at 10:00 a.m. on 50.4 Mcs, AM, with Chet, W2VVG, as net control. Ken said that this was one of the oldest continuously operating nets in the area and we should keep it going.

“Ask Elmer” was a new program initiated by your RaRa officials. The term Elmer is generally accepted as being an experienced Ham who is willing to help out newcomers with problems associated with getting on-the-air. As a start, new hams can write to “Ask Elmer” care of the RaRa box number with their questions. “Elmer” will try to find an answer and get back to them. The article didn’t reveal who the RaRa Elmer was.

In a large full page article local contester and VHF enthusiast Wayne King, N2WK, wrote on VHF contesting. Wayne’s excellent tutorial explained how all local Amateurs with FM equipment can operate the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes contest and help the Rochester VHF Group’s contest effort at the same time.

In an unusual move for the RAG, a large section was devoted to a purely technical article on the effect of the recent change in FCC power limit rules. A masterfully written article by Dave Payne, KA2J, describes the changes from quantifying power input (old rules) to power output (new rules), complete with formulas and definitions..

From the Want Ads you could buy a Heathkit HW-101, with power supply and mic, from Scotty, KZ2U. Heath/Zenith, at 937 Jefferson Road, remained a long term commercial advertiser.

Yagis, Quads and... Fractals? Fractal geometry has been used to understand chaos, rainforests, physiology and weather. PBS recently aired a show Hunting the Hidden Dimension in which these unconventional geometric shapes were described. Of special note is the show briefly featured Nathan Cohen, W1YW, founder and Chief Technical Officer of Fractal Antenna Systems, Inc. Cohen developed small antennas based on fractal geometry for a variety of commercial applications. Long before founding the company, he experimented with antennas for ham radio use. His company is now using fractal geometry to create RLC-like circuits that have no capacitors or coils. If you are curious, explore <http://www.fractalantenna.com/>.

The Big Shakeout. A massive public service drill occurred in California on November 13. At 10 AM local time the Great Southern Californian Shakeout began with the simulation of a massive earthquake. Details are posted online. Visit the impressive website for the event at <http://www.shakeout.org/>.

The FCC Taketh Away, Then Giveth Back. It started when the FCC granted an experimental license to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies (DART). The license would have allowed experimental digital transmissions from Delta Junction, Alaska within, among other bands, 7100 to 7600 KHz. Of course, our 20 meter band falls in this range.

As if that is not bad enough, the news got much worse. The license granted permission for DART to use a power output of 100 KW and up to 660 KW ERP! Try competing against that with your QRP rig on 20 meters. Or any legal rig for that matter. On October 20, the ARRL filed a petition with the FCC noting that this surely must have been a mistake because the commission would not knowingly grant such a license that would surely cause harmful interference with operations on a band devoted to the Amateur Radio Service. In short order the FCC responded to the petition and amended the DART license, now limiting experimental transmissions to a smaller slice of frequencies above the 40 meter ham band, from 7300 to 7600 KHz.

Double Jeopardy! If you watch game shows you might have caught a ham radio theme on the popular show Jeopardy in late October. John Myers, KD8MQ and a Jeopardy enthusiast, reported to me that a category appeared on the board headed by “Morse Code” and indeed there were questions related to one of the passions of our hobby. During Double Jeopardy there was a category called “Remorse Code” but alas it had nothing to do with CW.

New Rochester Hamfest
May 30, 2009
Barnard Party House

(Sidebands Continued...)

Midland's 60th. The Midland Amateur Radio Club [Michigan] recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. The club has had long associations with public service agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army. Local NBC affiliate Channel 25 picked up the story and published photos of President Lee Hodges, KC8ITI, operating his Collins S-Line station. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/5zw6ck> to view the photos.

Pumpkin Patrol. Once again, the New York State Police sponsored Pumpkin Patrol at the end of October. It relies on volunteers to monitor NYS thruway overpasses on the evening before and the evening of Halloween for dangerous and mischievous activities – such as youth throwing objects from the overpasses onto the cars of passing motorists. Many of our local hams participated in the program as they have done so for years. NBC-TV in New York published a brief online report by the Associated Press about the event and did contain the words “amateur radio operators”. See it at <http://tinyurl.com/6rcoh7>.



Shorts & Sparks

By I. M. Zapped, FZZ1POP
Reporting From the Geek Isles

Newcomer to HF? The site *Antennas 101* provides 10 tips and truisms for building an HF antenna that really works. If you are new to HF, you might find some useful advice here. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/55kpcq> for more information.

Ham Radio Show. Ted Randall's *QSO Radio Show* is broadcast from Monticello Maine on WBCQ. The show airs on Saturdays on 7415 KHz at 0100 and 0300 UTC and on Sundays on 9330 KHz at 1800 UTC and 2000 UTC. Its programming can be found on <http://www.tedrandall.com>. To give you an example of a recent guest, Phineas J. Icenbice W6BF was interviewed in late October. According to Randall, Icenbice is credited with building the first ham radio transceiver for Collins Radio, which later developed it into the KWM1.

Feed Line Calculator. Need to make calculations of loss and SWR for a wide variety of Belden, Davis RF, Times Microwave, and Wireman coax and ladder line? Go to <http://www.ocarc.ca/coax.htm>. There is also a dipole calculator there too.

Field Day Urban Legends. Now here is a fun site. It lists and dispels some of the myths that are abound about Field Day. Are there participants who really think they “inherit” the operating privileges of the Field Day call sign trustee or licensee? Go to <http://tinyurl.com/6zgvj3> for more fascinating myths and legends.

RaRa Memorial Scholarship Application Deadline March 15, 2009

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

Radio Club Contacts

Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

Jim Collinworth, N2JC.....jcollinsw@aol.com

Monroe County ARES

Jeff Wigal, WY7Q.....wy7q@arrl.net

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Frank Schramm, WB2PYD.....wb2pyd@arrl.net

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

W1AW 2008/2009 Winter Operating Schedule

(TNX to ARRL Bulletin)

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)
(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675
28.0675 147.555
RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095
147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390
28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM

CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM

CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC

(100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 100 in the November 2008 issue of QST or on the web at,

<http://www.arrrl.org/w1aw.html> .

Remember: Support the
People That Advertise in the
"RaRa Rag"

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

All elements needed to
complete a license class.
3rd Saturday of each
month, September – April

Registration – 10:00 a.m.
Testing – 10:15 a.m.

Room 3139, Building 9
(park in Lot J)

Rochester Institute of Technology
1 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, New York 14623
Contact Raj Dewan, N2RD
to reserve space.

Call (585) 703-4003
or e-mail
n2rd@arrl.net

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