



# THE RARA E-RAG

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MAY 2009

NO. 9

## “Radio Restorers’ Night”

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI  
Vice President, RARA

## Nominating Committee Report

By Jim Stefano, W2COP  
Chairman

Don't miss the Annual Membership meeting, the last of this season at the firehouse. Last month we got a glimpse into the AWA museum. This month the Museum is coming to us. There are many local amateurs that enjoy finding an old piece of radio equipment and bringing it back to life with that showroom look. We will have Bill Hopkins (AA2YV), Dave Payne (KA2J), Kevin Carey (WB2QMY), Jeff Miller (N2AWA), and Dan Waterstraat (W2DEW) bringing in some of their special restoration pieces and the invitation is still open for other restorers to join in the fun.

This is some of the equipment you could see at the meeting: a Multi Elmac AF-67 transceiver, a PMR-6A receiver, an M1070 power supply, a BC-348, a Hallicrafters S40A, a Lafayette HA-350 receiver, a Heathkit HW22 transceiver, a Heathkit HW32 transceiver, a Hallicrafters S-40, Simpson meters, and a Zenith Trans-Oceanic 600 in the restoration process. There will be plenty of time to view the equipment and talk to the restorers of this equipment or talk about the restoration process in general. A few of the participants will have a short slide show presentation for the group showing other projects they have worked on.

This is also going to be “QSL Card Night”.

Please bring in the odd, unique, favorite, or special QSL cards. With the increasing cost of postage and the increasing use of LoTW and eQSL, the use of paper QSL cards is decreasing. Club members would love to see your special cards. This promises to be a great night of show and tell.

The meeting is **Friday, May 1, 2009** at the Henrietta Fire Hall #1, 3129 East Henrietta Road near the intersection of Lehigh Station Road. The business meeting begins at 7:30 PM and is followed with refreshments, socializing, and a raffle. The presentation will follow the raffle. Please note that this raffle will not include any of the items noted above. Maybe the presenters can be encouraged to bring the items back for the November meeting (Auction).

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

April 1, 2009

Mr. William Kasperkoski, WB2SXY,  
Secretary, Rochester Amateur Radio Assn., Inc.  
P.O. Box 93333  
Rochester, NY 14692-8333

Dear Bill and members of RaRa,

On behalf of the members of the Nominating Committee I am pleased to place the following names in nomination as Officers and Directors of the corporation for the 2009-2010 term.

- President:** Duane Fregoe, K2SI
- Vice-Pres:** Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
- Secretary:** Kenneth Hall, W2KRH
- Treasurer:** Richard Goslee, KG2I
- Directors:** Kevin Carey, WB2QMY  
Leonard Crellin, KC2PCD  
James DiTucci, N2IXD  
Jeffrey Miller, N2AWA  
Thomas Morse, KC2TDR  
William Kasperkoski, WB2SXY  
Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

This completes the work of the Nominating Committee and I wish to thank Lloyd Caves, N2PU and Frank Schramm, WB2PYD for their work on the committee and their help in preparing this report. Sincerely,

James Stefano, Jr. W2COP  
Chairman, 2009-2010 Nominating Committee  
Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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## SILENT KEYS



**Charles F. Gramm, KB4ZB (W2WSC)**  
February 2, 2009

**Joyce S. Verstreet, KB2OAH**  
February 9, 2009

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..... Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE  
Club Historian ..... Ed Gable, K2MP  
Club Station Trustee ..... Jim DiTucci, N2IXD  
Education Coordinator ..... Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY  
Hamfest Producer ..... RARA BoD  
Public Service Coordinator ..... Duane Fregoe, K2SI  
License Testing Coordinators ..... Raj Dewan, N2RD  
..... Ken Hall, W2KRH  
Membership Secretary ..... Sue Goslee, N2HKA  
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RARA Directory Editor ..... Dick Goslee, KG2I  
Refreshments Coordinator ..... Tom Austin, KA2GXX  
Webmaster ..... Frank Schramm, WB2PYD



## The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
President, RARA

Minnesota may not be able to vote for a Senator, but the upcoming RaRa election should be much less confusing. You'll find the biographies of the candidates elsewhere in this issue of the Rag. In retrospect, I can't believe a whole year has passed since I took office as President. A lot has transpired and we still have a lot to look forward to.

This summer alone; on May 30th the RaRa Hamfest, YOUR Hamfest, is going to be a premiere flea market and social gathering. On July 25th we have our family Picnic in Ellison Park to look forward to and in August you won't want to miss the 2nd Annual RaRa cruise night. Watch for details in upcoming issues of the e-RAG. If you don't get the RaRa e-RAG delivered to your e-mail box, you'll miss last minute news and all the summer activities because we don't mail paper RAGs in the summer. To subscribe to the e-RAG visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RARA-Rag/> and click "Join this Group". That will put you on the mailing list.

This wraps up my last "Prez Sez" column and I hope you've enjoyed reading them as much as I've enjoyed writing them.

73,  
– Frank

## Awards Thoughts

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

At the May RARA meeting we'll be raffling our yearly grand prize of a large, executive office chair perfect for those long sessions at your ham rig listening for signals with no sun spots. Up second, we have a Tenergy model 2833 NiMH / NiCAD charger donated by Don Dunn, AB2NM. Thanks, Don! This will charge up to 4 AA or AAA batteries at a time. We're throwing in 4 NiMH AA batteries to get you started. The third prize will be a Softrock Lite Software Defined Radio kit generously donated by Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY. This kit is version 6.2, for 20 meters. These kits use your PC sound card to process the audio. See you at the May meeting for fun and friendship.

**All New RaRa Hamfest**  
*75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition*  
**Saturday May 30, 2009**  
**At the Barnard Carnival Grounds**

**June Rag Deadline**  
**May 6, 2009**

## Lucille M. Briemer, W2SCI SK

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RARA Historian

A long time RaRa member, Lucille had not been active on-the-air for many years. She was introduced to ham radio through marriage to her husband who had been licensed pre-war. Being a blind person, it was thought that ham radio would help her reach out and meet people she would otherwise not be able to come in contact with. It worked. Lucille became very active, first on AM phone and then HF SSB and finally she was often heard on 2 meter FM. She enjoyed FM repeater operation and operating in VHF FM contests during the heyday of that era.

Lucille's greatest contribution came in the 1950's and 1960's when she ran across, on 20 meter SSB, some Navy personnel trying to establish phone patch contacts from the Antarctica to their stateside homes. "I can do this," she declared. Soon she had a phone patch hooked up, with the help of her long time friend and technical support guy, Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, and she was in business. It was like she was born to do this. Night after night she spent hours, especially at holiday times, running phone patches from the Antarctica to the homes of many lonely GI's. Soon she added a large linear amplifier and finally a 4 element 20 meter mono-bander was installed to assure the GI's got telephone quality connections via ham radio.

As technology changed and stranded Navy personnel got use of satellite phones and the like, the need for phone patching fell off. Lucille was not forgotten however. In an official proclamation the Navy Department made her an official member of the Task Force she served so well; she was given an official Navy leather flight jacket, just like the men wore and her walls were covered with letters of thanks and commendation.

Some years ago it was this writer who received a call from Lucille stating she had to have a new roof installed and would I take down her antennas. It was a sad day when the big yagi came down, the faithful but tired Drake equipment was retired and W2SCI went QRT. Lucille passed away, suddenly, quietly and in peace, February 21, 2009.

## Election Nominations

The following RARA members have been nominated for election at the annual meeting. Biographies of each of the candidates are shown below.

### **President: Duane Fregoe, K2SI**

When I wrote my bio last year at this time for the opportunity to be Vice President of the club I started with the sentence "What a difference a year can make". This past year's Officers and Board of Directors have made a huge difference in the shaping of this club. The first change is evident with the writing of my bio for the seat of President. No longer does the Vice President automatically move up to the seat of President. The current President could stay for another term. Updating our by-laws for the 21<sup>st</sup> century was a good thing.

The addition of the "e-RAG" in the past year has been a good change that will only get better as more color graphics and photos are added. Other clubs have been using electronic newsletters for many years now. I would encourage all members to get on the distribution list for the color "e-RAG".

The RARA web page has been redone and is growing with new content on a regular basis. One of the pages I was personally involved with was the creation of the "Ham Radio 101" page. The inspiration for this page came from a new ham who asked me why RARA did not have a collection of new ham information on our web site. In my 3 short years as a licensed ham I have collected a large amount of information that was of interest to me as a new ham and never gave it a thought on how best to share it until asked by a fellow new ham. I would encourage all new hams to join a club and never be afraid to ask a club officer or member a question.

The biggest move that the Officers and Board of Directors made this year was the changes to the Hamfest for 2009. The new Hamfest Committee has encountered some interesting hurdles along the way but has never wavered from the goal of putting on the best Hamfest possible while being financially responsible. The excitement is building as we approach May 30<sup>th</sup>.

On the hobby side of things I enjoy contesting as a "little pistol" using SSB and RTTY. Contests are a great way to fatten the logbook and measure the capabilities of your station. I am an active user of both LoTW and eQSL. I recently got my WAS RTTY using LoTW. I am also an active member of the VE testing team and belong to RDXA and the ARES/RACES group.

Outside of Ham Radio I am a Senior Project Manager for LeChase Construction and have been there 24 years. My wife and my 2 young boys enjoy camping during the summer in our 25' condo on wheels. In 1997 I was appointed to the Town of Ogden Zoning Board and have been Chairman since 2000. I also coach Special Olympics with the Westside Training Club and have been active for the past 4 years. We are a parent run club with about 20 athletes and participate in 6 sports through the year.

I have enjoyed my term as Vice President and I hope you have enjoyed the programs that have been presented. There is still some unfinished business that will need to be addressed in the coming year and that is why I am running for President of the club and would like your vote and support.

### **Vice-President: Frank Schramm, WB2PYD**

For those of you who attend the monthly RaRa meetings, you know me as the guy with the microphone doing 10 minutes of stand-up for the past 9 months. My objective was to host a social gathering of friends, not conduct a business meeting. I hope that turned out to your satisfaction. For the rest of you, you've read my bio here before so I won't bore you with how my interest in radio communications began when I was 7 or 8 with some walkie-talkies, or how when I was 14, I attended the RaRa licensing class and got my Novice ticket. Nor shall I tire you with my professional career in computer electronics and business management.

I think what you need to know is what I have done with the time you have already entrusted me with for the last three years on your Board of Directors. So far, I can be blamed for: Initiating changes in printing and mailing the RaRa RAG, resulting in lower production costs and eliminating the USPS restrictions and accountability requirements; Instigating a By-laws review that revealed a need for three modernization amendments, the first amendments ever adopted; motivating the membership and the BoD to reassess the Hamfest operations, financial, and business models resulting in a complete renovation and new management of the event.

In addition to my responsibilities as your President during this past year, I created and continue to produce the monthly e-RAG – the electronic and color version of the RaRa RAG distributed as a .PDF along with the "v-RAG" a text-to-speech version for our visually impaired members. I redesigned, and continue to maintain the new RaRa website including homogenous integration of the Hamfest website. I am also currently coordinating the efforts of the New Hamfest Committee, charged with producing the 2009 Hamfest. Lastly, a situation arose where RaRa was not going to hold licensing classes until the spring of 2010. I strongly felt that

was inexcusable and accepted the challenge to teach the spring 2009 General class.

I hope my actions speak louder than words, and convey that my sole interests as an administrator in RaRa are for the health and well being of the organization. I desire to bring you more benefits of being a member of RaRa, while fostering an active, productive and healthy organization.

In 2007-2008 I enjoyed being your Vice-President and program manager. With your permission, I would like to do that again in 2009-2010. I'm here to serve you, by your will, in whatever position you deem necessary. Please feel free to contact me at any time: [WB2PYD@ARRL.net](mailto:WB2PYD@ARRL.net)

### **Secretary: Ken Hall, W2KRH**

Born in Buffalo and raised in Orchard Park I joined the Army in 1963 was trained in electronics, served in Turkey, Japan, Vietnam and CONUS. I was discharged in 1970 with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer.

I began working for a small systems company, STA, Inc., in 1970 working on an automated order wire ground station system for the Intelsat Telecommunications satellite system. In 1971 I went to work for Xerox Corporation where for the next 35 years I held a number of positions beginning as a Technical Representative and ending as a Technical Specialist Product Manager.

I have had a lifelong interest in Amateur Radio and was finally licensed in 1998 as KC2DTT and joined the Xerox Amateur Radio Club where I was elected President. In 2007 I upgraded to General and then Extra and became a VE with Raj Dewan, N2RD and am now the co-leader of the RARA VE Team. I am also a member of TAPR, AMSAT, SIARC and Ontario County RACES. I am interested in Software Defined Radios and digital modes of communication.

As Secretary I will represent the members of the club to the best of my ability and will seek input from its members. Thank you for your vote.

### **Treasurer: Dick Goslee, KG2I**

I have been a Ham for 52 years now. I received my Novice call KN2VCZ in April of 1957 and advanced to Technician (K2VCZ) and then General in 1958. It took a while (I was busy) till I received my Advanced license in 1977 and finally my Extra license in 2001. After defeating cancer in late 2003 I decided it was time for a new call and in January of 2004 I received my current call, KG2I. Along the way I served on the BOD of the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association and as President of my High School radio club and my college club at RIT. While in college at RIT I also served as President of the National Professional Photographic Fraternity, Delta Lambda Epsilon.

I have been a member of RARA since 1983. I was elected to the BOD in 1984 and I was appointed as Chairman of the Finance Committee. In 1985 I was elected Vice-President and then became President in 1986. Following my term as President I was elected as Treasurer in 1987 and served in that capacity until 2004 when I retired from the office. In 2005 I was elected President for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time.

Among my other jobs in RARA were a 6 year stint teaching the Technician class (I am doing it again this Spring) and a couple of years teaching the Advanced class. In 1986 I took over the operation of the RARA membership/directory and moved it from a TRS-80 to a modern IBM style PC. I have maintained the database since that time and have also served as the Editor of the RARA Directory since 1986. During the early 90's I worked with Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP on the RARA RAG. When Ray Pickens, WA2MYG passed away in 2004 I became the Editor of the RARA RAG and continue in that capacity today. I also spent many years working with the famous "K2JD Engraving Team", and as a member of the RARA VE Team.

I have worked on various committees of the Rochester Hamfest since joining RARA in 1983 and in 2006 I became the Assistant General Chairman for the Hamfest. With my love of finance and in working for RARA I had decided to run again for Treasurer in 2007 and I have been nominated again for the 2009-2010 year.

I am involved in many activities with RARA because I believe in my heart that you only get out of an organization what you put in. To truly enjoy an organization you must get involved in the day to day operations.

My wife of 44 years, Sue is licensed as N2HKA and my daughters Karen, KB2CHE and Cathie, KB2ESZ are also licensed hams.

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Kevin Carey, WB2QMY**

My first introduction to RARA was at the Monroe County Fair in the mid-1970s. The club had a booth set up there with an HF radio and several telephone handsets for visitors to listen on. Already bitten by the radio bug, and eager to go beyond what CB could offer, I soon enrolled in RARA licensing classes with my best friend from school. We graduated in the spring of 1977 as Novice operators, and I've been active ever since with the same callsign.

Through the years I have taken part in many facets of ham radio, with a focus on HF CW/SSB operation, QRP, vintage gear, traffic handling, project/kits building, and teaching of Morse Code to RARA students. Currently, I am exploring PSK31 mode, and I also enjoy the 6 meter band with its varied modes of propagation. About the only thing I've never been too big on is contesting, but I do support those who pursue the activity in keeping with good amateur practice. With so many things under one umbrella, I don't see how anyone could ever run out of things to do in amateur radio!

I feel privileged to have known many of the senior members of our club going back to my earliest days as a member, and also to see the influx of new hams with the recent changes in licensing requirements. This has allowed me to interact with hams who began with homebrew spark transmitters, as well as those who entered the hobby primarily for local VHF operation. This wide range of members, I believe, is what strengthens our club, and makes us the "hub" organization for all hams in the Rochester area.

If elected to serve on the Board, my priorities for the club are to: 1) Represent the interests of the membership to club officers; 2) Reach out to the youth and newcomers of our hobby, while continuing to meet the needs and interests of our established members; 3) Promote public service operating as a way of training and giving something back to our community; 4) Recognize the rich history of amateur radio in Rochester and appreciate the work of those who came before us.

In addition to RARA, I am a Life Member of the ARRL, a Life Member of the Antique Wireless Association, an active shortwave/longwave listener, and a regular columnist for *Monitoring Times* Magazine. Besides amateur radio, I also enjoy motorcycling, fishing, birdwatching, and learning about local history. I reside in Bloomfield with my wife Kirsten (KC2LLQ), and two sons—Bryan, age 15 (KC2MRD) and Jordan, age 11. Professionally, I work as a technical writer for a manufacturer of wireless telemetry gear, and I also do some freelance writing. Please feel free to contact me if there are any other questions I can answer. I may be reached at 585-242-8394, or via e-mail at:

[WB2QMY@ARRL.net](mailto:WB2QMY@ARRL.net)

#### **Len Crellin, KC2PCD**

My name is Len Crellin, KC2PCD and I became a ham in January 2006. I used the license classes presented by our club and worked my way up to Extra class. Just like the classes, this hobby provides each member with the chance to be a RARA member at

different levels. Some are happy to come to meetings and enjoy the presentations and socialize with friends. Some are involved with Public Service. Some take on the role of coordinator or chairperson of various committees. Some become directors or officers of the club.

I decided to help out the club and take over for Larry Wallnau as Media Communications Coordinator last year and have continued in that role to the present. I decided last year to also take on another position as a Director. You supported this decision and I have served all year representing your interests. We have had some very tough decisions to make this year with amendments to our by-laws and the decision to move the Hamfest to Barnard Carnival Grounds. In addition, I agreed to serve on the new Hamfest committee and have acted as the Hamfest Contact Coordinator making sure vendors and clubs are given applications in a timely manner. I also did the final layout work and got the flyer printed so you may have copies to take to hamfests or post in your town to help us promote the event to others. Finally, I continue to use my 35 years of Photo instruction experience to record many images that happen at RARA activities for our website photo gallery which I also manage. It has been my pleasure serving in these positions and with your support, I would enjoy continuing on into 2010.

### **James DiTucci, N2IXD**

In the last few years I have been involved in many facets of Amateur Radio. They include: APRS, SKYWARN, ARRL DXCC, National Traffic System—Western District Net, Wi-Fi, PSK-31, Field Day, VoIP, AMSAT, TinyTrak, ARISS, ARES/RACES, EMCOMM, WinLink-2000, ICS, InfraGard, Wireless Literacy, etc. Above all, I have never lost my passion for experimenting. Corner me on any of these topics and I will be more than eager to talk your ear off.

This past year your officers and directors made some hard decisions, decisions to protect the integrity, rich heritage and future of our club. They are a hard working group of dedicated and passionate Hams who have given many hours in service to our club. I am proud to have served with them and stand with them in support of their efforts.

What will the future bring? It's clear to me that the future of our hobby rests in our hands and that it hinges on increasing participation and growing our membership – in Amateur Radio, in RARA and especially in growing youth membership. While other clubs in communities our size struggle to exist, struggle to preserve their shrinking membership, RARA is strong and viable and positioned to continue to be a flagship club, leading the way for amateur radio in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As a Past President, life member and sitting director of RARA, I would like to think that I had a small part in that.

### **Jeffrey Miller, N2AWA**

My exploration of amateur radio began in September 2005 with a visit to the RARA web site. It was a lifelong aspiration to get involved with the hobby, so I began studying the licensing materials immediately. Over the next five months, I worked up to Extra Class. I enjoy using the local repeaters, as well as rag chewing, and DX-ing on the HF bands. I am an active NCS for the Monroe County FM Net, and participate in various Nets (V/U/HF/SSB/AM) throughout the week. I enjoy maintaining and restoring vacuum tube radios, and have a workbench, modest library, and web site dedicated to the endeavors. I also volunteer with the Antique Wireless Association (AWA) throughout the year. I worked as an electronic technician for about 10 years, and eventually morphed into the IT field. RARA is a great resource. From the interesting monthly programs to the "RAG" publication, I believe RARA serves a vital role keeping the local ham community united and focused. I hope to continue serving the club in my capacity as a director to help steer it into the future.

### **Thomas Morse, KC2TDR**

My name is Tom Morse and I am running for the Board of Directors for the upcoming year. I have been a ham since 1994, but have been involved in electronics and radio since the '50's. My father owned a radio and TV repair business which he used to work his way through college. I spent a great deal of time in that shop when I was not in school and that experience led to my interest in radio and electronics. I have been an active SW listener for over 50 years and that interest finally led me to becoming an amateur radio operator. I received my Technician Class license in 1994 and my General Class license last year. My wife Anita (KC2TDQ) and I joined RaRa a couple of years ago and have attended meetings as often as we could.

I served eight years in the US Air Force and then began working in the electronics industry. The bulk of my time in the industry was spent with the Ford Aerospace Corporation, which most of you know as Philco. I am currently employed by General Electric in the airline transportation security business.

I thank you all for making this such a great organization and I would welcome the opportunity to do my part in contributing to the continued excellence of the club.

### **William Kasperkoski, WB2SXY**

After several years as a Short Wave Listener, I earned WN2SXY, my first amateur radio license in 1964, and currently hold an old Amateur Extra Class license, DXCC, WAS and WAC.

I used my FCC First Phone (now a GROL) Commercial License with a Ship's Radar Endorsement, in commercial TV and radio broadcast stations in the Rochester (NY) area. In the military I was stationed at a state-side Military Educational TV facility, and then overseas as the Training NCO for my USARV unit.

At Kodak's Elmgrove Plant, I ran the commercial 2-way radio, repeater and pager facility for several years and taught others to troubleshoot broadband and computer network plants. I also worked at that facility's network operations control center and high voltage welding laser production areas, in addition to copier and special electronics servicing. I hold a CET rating. In other companies, I worked as a network and microwave engineer for a wireless ISP, and in long distance telephone Unix computer systems administration and programming.

I have already served RARA as a license class theory instructor, Secretary, Vice-President and President. I hold a management BS degree from Roberts Wesleyan College. I have worked many years as a control station on the Monroe County FM Net and an operator in the Thruway Pumpkin Patrol. I have volunteered for over a year in WDN traffic handling, the K2RRA-Hamfest Talk-in station, public service walk-a-thons, Scout JOTAs, Skywarn and other on-the-air Special Event stations and contests.

I volunteered for about 15 years as an Assistant Cub master and Scoutmaster and a trainer for adult scout leaders at district and council sessions. As an adult, I earned Scouting's Wood badge and Order of the Arrow. I belong to the ARRL, FISTS, other local ARC's, RACES, and serve on the ARES Board of Directors. I have experimented in digital modes: APRS, WL2K, PSK and RTTY. I also built up emergency experience by volunteering several years locally as an ambulance radio dispatcher and hold a basic EMT rating.

### **Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY**

I retired from SUNY-Brockport, where I held the rank of Professor in the Department of Psychology. My area of specialization is the biological basis of behavior, and my research spanned several areas including predator-prey adaptations, inhibitory neurochemical effects on motor responses, and the biological basis of social bonding in early development. I also co-authored college textbooks on data analysis and statistical methods.

My father, who was an electrical engineer, was responsible for developing my interest in radios and electronics. We spent many hours in the basement workshop repairing radios, working on science projects, or building kits. I still enjoy working on "boat anchors" – especially National receivers. I decided to take up ham radio when I retired and began showing up at club meetings. At the urging of my first Elmer, Ray Pickens, WA2MYG/SK, I got licensed soon after attending my first meeting. I currently hold a general class license and my interests include PSK31, working on antennas, and building homebrew projects.

My club activities have included the following: [1] Managing Editor of the **RaRa Rag** with the responsibility of contributing 2 monthly columns "Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News" and "Shorts & Sparks". [2] Member of the Board of Directors for the past 3 years (I took a medical leave of absence this past fall and was reinstated in February). [3] Formerly the RaRa Media Communications Coordinator for 3 years. [4] Formerly the Public Information Officer for the ARRL Western New York Section for 1 year. [5] Currently the Education Coordinator for RaRa. [6] Hamfest set up and club table volunteer for the past several years.

I would be grateful for, and it would be a privilege to have, the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors again. I am interested in hearing your ideas on how to make your experience with RaRa a more rewarding one.

WB2EKP, Treasurer Dick Goslee K2VCZ, and for Secretary Pete Secrist WB2SUN. To the Board; Dave N2DPF, Ed N2EH, Bud WA2UGE, Irv AF2K, Keith N2BEL, Mike NO2Z and Bob NF2Z. Each had a biography published in this issue.

From the Want Ads you could buy a Yaesu FT-901DM with a slew of accessories for \$650.00, from Kevin Carey WB2QMY.

## Public Service

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI  
RARA Public Service Coordinator

One of the largest events of the year is just around the corner. The Tour de Cure is a fundraiser for the American Diabetes Association. They really appreciate the ham radio effort and take good care of us. In past years we have received a tee shirt, plenty to snack on, and a very nice post-race cook-out catered by Outback Steakhouse. This event is big and needs lots of ham radio support. I hope you can help this year.

Below is the list of events that are being coordinated by local hams. The RARA web site is fully updated for 2009.

Go to [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org) and click on "Public Service". A complete listing of events and details on each event are there. Click on the "Sign Up" button and fill in the boxes. Highlight the events you like and click on "Submit". I will receive an email with your information and will reply to you.

**Tour de Cure** – Sun, June 7, 2009

**Greece Soccer Tournament** – Fri thru Sun, July 10 - 12, 2009

**Walnut Hill Driving Competition** – Wed thru Sun, August 12 - 16, 2009

**Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon** – Sun, September 13, 2009

**Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta** – Sun, September 20, 2009

**Bike MS 2009 Pedal to the Park** – Sat, September 26, 2009

**Barktoberfest: Lollypop Farm** – Sat, September 26, 2009

**America's Walk for Diabetes** – Sat, October 3, 2009

**Jamboree on the Air (BSA)** – Sat & Sun, October 17 & 18, 2009

**NYS Thruway Pumpkin Patrol** – Fri & Sat, October 30 & 31, 2009

## RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: May, 1989

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RARA Historian



A very interesting meeting was arranged by Vice President Bob Hobday, N2EVG. Bob made it possible to bring an esoteric amateur topic front and center by inviting Bill McDonnell, KG2F, and Peter Neenos, K2EXN, to speak on amateur television. Aiding in the presentation was a video tape of the repeater, the repeater site and various off-air signals showing the capabilities. Also that night was the RaRa Annual meeting with elections.

Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, penned an article on the pending Rochester Hamfest scheduled for May 19-21, and promised a bigger and improved event.

The only cable television network then operating was *Greater Rochester Cablevision*, or GRC. GRC wrote an article in this issue stating that they were initiating a large scale program to reduce cable leakage in the Rochester area. Cable leakage was of particular interest to amateurs as our signals could gain access to the cable and signals leaking out of the cable were often causing interference to VHF operations. The article went on to offer a telephone number to call to report cable leakage problems and to expect a fast response.

Ed Gable, writing for the Rochester VHF Group, reported on their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and awards banquet. Group Chairman Tom Hodge, WA2YTM, welcomed five of the original members; Dick W2OWF, Chet W2VVG, Ken W2UAD, Harriett K2KLP and Sam W2RSL. At the same function, the VHF Group celebrated their first place in the nation finish for limited clubs in the recent ARRL VHF Contest.

A modern threat to the familiar paper *Callbook* was announced by BuckMaster Publishing. If you had a computer terminal and modem you could dial a long distance number in Virginia, and look up any one of 494,115 call signs on file. That service was offered at \$29.95 a year.

The Nominating Committee; David Bernheisel N2DPF, Chairman, with Bill March WA2CER and Rich Koehn, K2UW, offered the following into nomination: Bob Hobday N2EVG to President (automatically IAW By-Laws) VP Neal Eckhardt

## Calendar of Events

**May 1** RARA meeting – 7:30PM, Henrietta FD #1

**May 2** AWA Spring Meet – 8:00AM Bloomfield Elementary School, 45 Maple Ave (Rt 444)

**May 8** RVHFG Monthly Meeting – Spencerport Wesleyan Church 2353 Nichols St., Spencerport

**May 15** RRRRA – 8:00PM, Pittsford Town Hall Downstairs room

**May 19** RDXA – Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM EOC, Rm 200, 1190 Scottsville Rd

**May 30** **75<sup>th</sup> Rochester Hamfest!** 8:00AM – 4:00PM Barnard Carnival Grounds - 360 Maiden Ln. [www.RochesterHamfest.com](http://www.RochesterHamfest.com)

## RVHFG News

By Bill Rogers, K2TER

The general meeting will be May 8th at 7:30PM. The group will continue the celebration of our 60th year and will hold general elections for board of director positions.

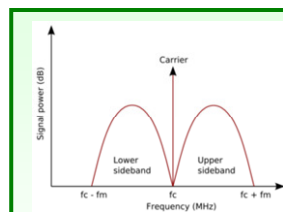
The club meeting is held at Spencerport Wesleyan Church - 2653 Nichols Street (Hwy 31). We hope to see you there.

## AWA Spring Meet, Sale and Auction

By Ed Gable, K2MP/W2AN

Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, is the date to save for the 2009 annual Antique Wireless Association Spring Meet. Open to everyone, this popular event features a flea market and this year an expanded auction of both AWA goodies and items brought in to be auctioned by attendees. This event is popular with vintage amateur and audio collectors as well as early radio enthusiasts.

The doors open at 7:00 am for vendors and flea market sellers and at 8:00 am for attendees. The venue is the Bloomfield, NY, Elementary school at 45 Maple Avenue (Route 444). Admission is \$5.00 at the door and an additional \$7.00 for an indoor table or outdoor flea market space. The indoor site assures a nice event rain or shine. For further information contact the AWA Spring Meet Coordinator, Ron Roach W2FUI, at (585) 526-5487. Visit the AWA web site at [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org)



## Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

**HAM Radio on Rebound.** The total number of licensed amateur radio operators has been inching up the past few years and getting closer to the number of hams ten years ago. The data are as follows: (Month/Total) March 2009/666,919; March 2008/656,752; March 2007/655,048; March 2006/660,089; and ten years ago in March 1999 the total was 674,719. The largest total for U.S. hams was in April 2003 at 687,860. For a complete breakdown by month, year, and license class go to: <http://tinyurl.com/cpj8bm>.

**A "Who Dunit?"** We've heard arguments on both sides of the Tesla vs. Marconi controversy of who should get credit for inventing the radio. Enter a third contestant. A recent *Russia Today* article states, "Americans are convinced it was Nikola Tesla who invented radio. Italians claim it was Marconi, but for Russians it was Aleksandr Popov who gave radio to the people. Russians are marking the 150th birthday anniversary of Aleksandr Popov – the man who they believe invented the radio." It is claimed that Popov was the first to use a receiver with a wireless telegraph – in 1894. Read about it at <http://tinyurl.com/d8daff>, *Russia Today*, 16 March, 2009, 10:34.

**Ham Camp.** How might hams introduce youth to our hobby? Have them build their own telegraph keys and hook up buzzers so they can practice code, of course. Out in California the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon developed a project for kids – clever wooden CW keys. The ingredients for fun included some wood from paint stirrers, a roll of foil flashing tape, and a bag of rubber bands. The children took an interest in making and using these keys. And who said kids will only communicate by text messaging? Now, if you are a real fist test your skills at the

wooden key. Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/dzqmhy> for photos and construction details.

**Score One More for Skywarn.** The Springfield, MO ABC affiliate, KSPR 33, did a great feature on two Skywarn volunteers. It described the activities of Jeff Morrissey, KB0WVT, and Jim Sellers (call sign unavailable) and how ham radio is central to their work for Skywarn. Jim, who is disabled, has found that he can serve the public from home via ham radio. Furthermore, the reporter questioned Jeff how much he gets paid for tracking storms and the reply was emphatic – it is done as his own expense – one of the hallmarks of the dedicated public service done by ham radio operators. By the way, the reporter was Kevin Lighty, the station meteorologist. He is a ham as well and his call sign is KC9BVA. You can view the video at <http://tinyurl.com/cbd5nu>. It's worth viewing.

**HWN Needs New Members.** With hurricane season approaching, the various organizations that assist the National Hurricane Center (NHC) <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> in Miami are gearing up for what could be a very active storm season. One organization that assists the NHC is the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) <http://www.hwn.org/>. To better assist the NHC, HWN Manager Dave Lefavour, W7GOX, told the ARRL that the HWN is looking for new members. "The Hurricane Watch Net relies on volunteer operators – our members – who serve as our net control stations," he said. "HWN members are hams who have above-average stations, are capable of effectively conducting HF net operations and are willing to commit their time to operating in support of the HWN's mission during Net activations. The Net sessions can be long, and, in the recent absence of sunspots, pretty grueling." Lefavour said that the HWN is looking for new members with stations that can effectively communicate with Central America and the Caribbean, Mexico and South Texas on the 20 meter band. *The ARRL Letter*

## RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing



**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  
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**Contact Raj Dewan, N2RD  
to reserve space.**

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

## From the President of RRRRA

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY

It is that time of year for RRRRA to nominate officers of our Club. We really need your input and help to become a part of this group. I will not candy coat anything. The membership is down 50% from last year. The worse part of that is this group can not survive a long time without the membership.

I want to mention to you what membership into this group means. It is NOT for the social aspect, the meetings or the programs. Although this is a very important part, the real reason to belong to RRRRA is because of the 146.880 repeater. This is the MAIN reason for your membership dollars. We have the phone lines and the insurance that are our major bills to be handled each and every year. It is because of the drop of membership that we have to dip into our savings to cover these expenses. I understand the economy is not good. We all feel the pinch, but as a Radio Society we need to find a way.

The repeater is always on the air. We try hard to keep it at its peak performance. This takes time and any replacements cost money. The reason that most joined was the use of the autopatch. This has dwindled in use and requirement. Please remember the real reason to be a part of RRRRA, it's the repeater. The meetings and all the rest is just icing on the cake. We ask for your monetary support and to please find a way to make it to the meetings. We still wish to replace the North site with a new radio at a cost of \$800.00. This was researched and found to be the most economical way to go. This decision was made to keep the equipment from the same local manufacturer, Hamtronics.

At our next board meeting, we will be discussing the advantages/disadvantages of changing our start time to 7:30PM. If you have any comments on this, please feel free to email me at any time. This change will only take place if the membership actually wants it. It will be brought before the membership at the May meeting.

On a lighter note, I have not received any help for the RRRRA talk-in booth as yet. We certainly need your help for this. It will not be anywhere near the scale of the past, but is still an important part of what we do for the Hamfest. We will also have a handout on the background and changes in the Ray Pickens-Leon Ingerick Jr. Memorial Newbie Net. This handout will be available at the RRRRA booth at the Hamfest

## From the VP of RRRRA

By Bob Shewell, N2HJD

It's that time of year again when your club is looking for officers. If you think that you want to be part of RRRRA's Board, the positions for Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President are open for nominations. Be part of the inner workings and offer your expertise and help to your club.

Besides the nomination of Officers, there will be a show and tell/gadget night for the membership. You have seen throughout the year much of my equipment and projects. This time it's your turn to show everyone what you've done. Bring your project or piece of equipment that you want to show to the membership. If you built one of my antenna ideas let's see it. This is your time to show off.

**All New RaRa Hamfest**  
*75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition*  
**Saturday May 30, 2009**  
**At the Barnard Carnival Grounds**

## Radio Club Contacts

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

Jim Collinsworth, N2JC.....[jcollinsw@aol.com](mailto:jcollinsw@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)

### **Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)**

Dave Foster, .....[D1161F@aol.com](mailto:D1161F@aol.com)

### **XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)**

Ned Asam, W2NED .....[w2ned@frontiernet.net](mailto:w2ned@frontiernet.net)

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## RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

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complete a license class.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each  
month, September – April

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Testing – 10:15 a.m.

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