



# THE RARA E-RAG

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**SOLD!**

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
Vice President, RaRa

You'll hear that a lot when you come to the **Annual RaRa Auction on Friday November 6<sup>th</sup>**. If you're lucky, when the gavel falls you'll be the happy owner of a highly cherished new toy, tool, collectible, or unidentifiable oddity. The auctioneers, and entertainment, for the evening are our own beloved Dynamic Duo of Ed Gable, K2MP, and Dick Goslee, KG2I.

I have a challenge for you: I'll give \$5.00 to the first person that brings a piece of Amateur Radio equipment, that neither Dick nor Ed can identify! There's just one stipulation; the object must have been manufactured after the Bronze Age because Dick's memory is getting a little fuzzy from his earlier years.

This is the perfect opportunity to turn some of your decommissioned equipment into ca\$h. Please only bring Amateur Radio related items; leave your junk and computer fodder at home, because we don't want it either! If we sell your gear, the club will collect its usual 10% seller's premium. If you don't find something else to buy with your windfall, put it in a sock for safe keeping until the Hamfest coming up on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget that RaRa members get FREE admission... so keep track of your membership card; you're going to need it!



Remember the Auction is a RaRa member's only event, so make sure your membership is current. If it's not, we can bring you up to date at the meeting before the auction starts. If you're unsure, we can tell you at the meeting, or write to: [Treasurer@RochesterHam.org](mailto:Treasurer@RochesterHam.org) and we'll let you know. Each member is allowed to bring one guest; additional guests will be converted into members or disposed of properly.

**Remember:** Sellers need to have their items clearly labeled with your identification and sale price **BEFORE** the auction starts.

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## Next Meeting:

Nov 6, 2009 7:30PM

## Annual Auction

With Ed Gable, K2MP  
and  
Dick Goslee, KG2I



## The Prez Sez

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI  
President, RaRa

I hope everyone enjoyed their October copy of the "e-RAG". A mass emailing to all the email addresses that we had on file for our members was done. In the email was a link to the "e-RAG" file. Those of you that got the email and downloaded the file already know this. For those members that did not receive an email from [President@rochesterham.org](mailto:President@rochesterham.org) with the "e-RAG" link it is because we did not have a current email address on file or it may have ended up in your spam folder. If you did not get the "e-RAG" then please send me an email with your current email address and we will make sure that you get future issues.

With the October "e-RAG" I asked for your feedback and comments on the new format. Everyone that responded was very happy with the new format. We even received some very good constructive comments on the font, number of columns, and the placement of advertisements to mention a few. The club Officers and Board of Directors will be reviewing all comments received and I thank you for taking the time to respond.

Our Webmaster and Vice President, Frank Schramm, has set up a program to make the emailing of future "e-RAG" notifications much easier for the members. The Yahoo Group that was set up for the mass emailing will be going away. We heard from members that had trouble setting up a Yahoo account or did not want a Yahoo account. All email addresses that we currently have will be entered in the new mail list program. All members will have to do is make sure that the club has your email address.

Last month I received a call from a person who needed to update an amateur radio license. The daughter of this person was already in the two year grace period with about 60 days left before losing everything. They called hoping the president of the local ham club could get them past the difficulties they were having with the FCC web site. Since my license is less than 10 years old what would I know about renewing a license? After about 10 minutes at my computer to find the correct web site and confirm her FRN number we were able to get her logged into the site for the renewal. The next morning it showed she was good for another 10 years.



After navigating the FCC web site for someone else I decided to check my own account with the FCC. What I found was an old email address so I made the change. Two weeks later I get an envelope in the mail from the FCC. What did I do now? All I did was change my email address. In the envelope was a new copy of my FCC license with the same expiration date. I never thought the FCC would print and send another copy of my license over an email address change which does not even appear on the license. Fortunately it was not a letter from Laura Smith.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Annual Auction on November 6, 2009. As always the coffee will be hot, the soda will be cold, and the donuts will be good!

## Calendar of Events

- Nov 6** RaRa meeting  
7:30 PM, Henrietta FD #1
- Nov 11** RaRa Board of Directors  
5:30 PM RIT, Bldg-17, Room 2110
- Nov 13** RVHFG  
7:30 PM, Spencerport  
Wesleyan Church
- Nov 17** RDXA  
7:30 PM, 1190 Scottsville Rd  
Rm 200
- Nov 19** ARES/RACES  
7:00 PM, 50 Prince Street
- Nov 20** RRRRA  
8:00 PM, Pittsford Town Hall
- Nov 21** VE Testing  
10:00 AM, RIT, Bldg 9,  
Rm 3139



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

## Is This Your Last Issue Of The RAG?

By Sue Goslee, N2HKA  
Membership Secretary, RaRa

The membership period for RaRa starts the first of September each year and continues through the end of August the following year. The final membership expiration each year is October 31, which includes the 2 month grace period for payment of your dues. If your dues have not yet been received for the year 2009-2010 this will be your last issue of the RAG. You must be a current member of RaRa to participate in the auction at the November meeting so now is a good time to send in your payment.

You may pay your dues at the November Auction, pay on-line at our web site: [www.RochesterHam.org](http://www.RochesterHam.org) or mail them to RaRa, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester. NY 14692-8333.

## 2010 RaRa Directory

By Dick Goslee, KG2I  
Editor, RaRa Directory

The 2010 edition of the RaRa Directory will be the most up to date one we have had in a number of years. How up to date you ask?

Well it is impossible to verify every entry in the directory each year to be sure the call is still current or the person is still licensed. We do include address updates/deletions we receive from the Post Office, new hams from the FCC database and any other updates we receive from the members themselves.

This year Lynn Bisha, W2BSN took it upon himself to go through the entire Directory and verify each and every call/name with the FCC database. This was a monumental task and I would like to thank him for his effort. It was unexpected but very welcome indeed. This job normally takes a number of people to but he did it all alone. His detective work allowed us to remove 487 names from the list and update a number of call signs as well.

The next time you see Lynn give him a well deserved "Thank You".

## Monroe County LEPC

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

The next meeting of the Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday morning November 18, 2009. LEPC meetings are federally mandated to prepare for and respond to hazardous material spills and related emergencies. The LEPC meetings are held at the Public Safety Training Facility, 1190 Scottsville Road, Suite 200 at 8:30 AM. The LEPC is open to the public and all are welcome. Please sign in as an amateur radio guest; coffee and doughnuts are available.

## VE NEWS

Congratulations to these new Technicians:

Cameron Bosnic JR, KC2VVF  
Brian Boucheron, KC2VVD  
Sam Hertica, KJ6CHM  
Alvaro Prieto, KC2VVE  
Christopher Spiller, KE7ETA  
Nathan Winemiller, KE7ESZ

And a new General:  
Michael O'Dea, KC2TIQ



**RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each Month, September through April.**

**Registration begins at 10:00AM in RIT Building 9, Room 3139**  
[\(click for map\)](#)

**Contact Ken Hall, W2KRH for space reservations.**

## SILENT KEYS

**Gail W. Heinzman, K2BCL**  
September 17, 2009

**Russell M. McKay, W2RMM**  
September 17, 2009



## Back in Scotland as GM3PSP

By Alan J. Masson, GM3PSP / K6PSP

After 20 wonderful years in the U.S. - Rochester (1989-95), Hollywood (1995-2005) and then Rochester again (2005-09), my wife Alison and I returned to our native Scotland on July 1st. In the beautiful and historical capital city of Edinburgh we are now somewhat closer (400 miles rather than 3,000) to our grandchildren in London. Uncle George had brought me over from London to work in Kodak Office, Kodak Park and then the Hollywood motion picture office where I was the technical manager until I retired in 2005. Amateur radio was a major activity during those years, with callsigns W2/G3PSP, W6/G3PSP, AD6XA and K6PSP as I moved around and my immigration status changed. A few years ago we became naturalized U.S. citizens and I was unable to continue using a reciprocal callsign. So about 40 years after I took my first ham exam, I had to start studying again. Having enjoyed Extra Class privileges for many years with my reciprocal licenses, I decided to take all the exam elements, including the 5-wpm code test at that time, in one sitting in Santa Monica CA and fortunately was successful.

I have so many memories of radio events – operating a RARA Field Day demo station in Mendon Ponds Park with Keith Freeberg N2BEL, watching Bruce Kelley W2ICE adjust the gap timing of a high-power spark Tx at the AWA museum in Bloomfield NY, participating in a 21-station Field Day entry by the Conejo Valley ARC in Thousand Oaks CA, operating in the Rochester DX Association's winning Section 3A station in Field Day 2008, and watching a 2-meter moonbounce demo at the Rochester VHF Group where the long yagi was optically aimed at the full moon! Oh – I almost forgot (and how could I) – many convivial Friday afternoons of Happy Hours organized by Irv Goodman AF2K at the Scotch & Sirloin with RDXA, RARA, RVHFG and RRRRA members.

My own operating experiences included the usual Dx-chasing on the HF bands using a Kenwood TS-850. This activity was not particularly successful initially due to a limited antenna – the Cushcraft R-7000 vertical, although its performance was probably enhanced in California by its location right beside a swimming pool about 33 feet long! The big boost came when I got interested in the PSK31 digital mode and also had the benefit of a rhombic antenna after moving back to a 5-acre lot in Honeoye Falls. Amazing results can be obtained on PSK31 with quite low power – typically about 35W - necessary to ensure absolute linearity of the transmission and to avoid any spreading of the narrow (~31 Hz) signal. Such a narrow bandwidth allows many stations (dozens) to operate very close together without interference within a single SSB channel. Ultimately I achieved DXCC on this mode (although the certificate says "RTTY").

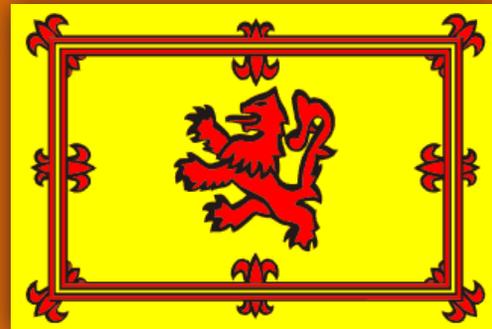


(Back in Scotland Continued)

When I retired in 2005 and moved back to Rochester, I treated myself to a present of a Kenwood TS-2000X, and got very interested in the "Magic Band" – 6 meters. With a 4-element yagi at 25 feet and 100W output, every spring and summer brought periods of wonderful propagation to grid squares all over the country including the west coast, and to Caribbean, South American and European stations. Occasional auroral openings were a big thrill. As with HF-PSK31 operating, I spent a small fortune (remember I am a Scot!) in direct QSLing and achieved VUCC on 6m before I left Rochester. My thanks again to that amazing stalwart of almost every aspect of ham radio in Rochester, Ed Gable K2MP, for checking my cards. It was also Ed who persuaded me to get more involved in the AWA in the last few years by becoming a museum guide, a very rewarding experience.

Back in Scotland I am again using the call GM3PSP which I obtained in 1962 when at high school. I have re-joined the club that I was chairman of, over 40 years ago – the Lothians Radio Society. It is quite a small club, founded in 1947. They have a particular interest in VHF/UHF operation. The club holds the distinctive callsign GM3HAM. They have got me involved right away – at the last meeting I presented my PowerPoint talk "Ham Radio in Rochester NY" which includes photographs of many Rochester hams, and also showed my QuickTime video of RDXA Field Day 2007.

I am putting my station together again in Edinburgh. HF is going to be limited, with a very small yard and space only for the R-7000 vertical and possibly some short wires. On the other hand, I chose what I hope is the best VHF/UHF location in the area, on top of a hill at 600 ft asl and clear in almost all directions. Having been very impressed by the 50-1300 MHz log periodic antenna used by Bill Rogers K2TER at Field Day this year, I am planning to put up a similar one and take advantage of the outstanding location. The path to the NW to Rochester is completely clear, so listen out for GM3PSP on 6 meters next spring!



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## Elmira Hamfest review.

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD

For those of you who didn't venture down to the Elmira Hamfest on September 26th, it began as a picturesque fall morning with a great deal of misty fog and a most colorful sunrise as we traversed the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of the Southern Tier of New York. As the sun rose and the purple sky turned blue we arrived at the fairgrounds to find a healthy attendance. As indicated by the number of RaRa members in attendance, the drive from Rochester seemed to have been made by many.

For me, catching up with all my radio friends and acquaintances is the best "deal of the day". It was nice to see young and old alike already milling about the flea market. There were also a few commercial vendors, and as things started to wind down after noon, we got to chat with our friends from Battery Tech, QuickSilver Radio, Satellite Headquarters, Sauder Electronics, and VIS Amateur Supply. All of which have enthusiastically expressed interest in coming to our Hamfest in June. Yes, VIS will be returning to Rochester in 2010. We have also received word from other vendors who heard how good our Hamfest was in 2009 and are eager to return; details will follow as events develop.



Jeff, N2AWA; Kevin, WB2QMY; Frank, WB2PYD and Jim, N2VX sharing a chuckle at the 2009 Elmira Hamfest.

Photo Credit: George, WA2IEO

## Distracted Driving Law for Ontario



Be forewarned if you plan to visit Ontario. There is a new driving while distracted law in Ontario Canada that takes effect on October 26, 2009. Peter West, VE3HG, the Vice President for Public Relations for Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) said that the new law forbids drivers to talk, text, type, dial or e-mail using handheld cell phones and other handheld communications and entertainment equipment. This law also applies to all mobile two-way radios, with the exception of emergency responding vehicles. There will be a three month education period during which drivers will be given warnings. However as of February 1, 2010 tickets will be issued to those who are not using hands-free devices, **including amateur**, CB, or commercial radios, while the vehicle is moving.



## RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: November, 1989

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RaRa Historian



This November meeting carried on a long tradition of RaRa hosting its annual ham radio auction. In earlier days, the 1960's, it would have been Cappy Capauldy, K2UXF, banging the gavel at the Monroe County Farm and Home Center, but the 1989 duo was Dick Goslee K2VCZ and Ed Gable K2MP, continuing the tradition, but then at the Police and Fire Training Academy on Scottsville Road.

Writing for the heretofore unknown Greece Repeater Group was Bob Phillips, WA2MXL. Bob reported many upgrades to his 147.18/78, repeater including an all new microprocessor controlled Hamtronics model REP-200 repeater. Bob offered the repeater for free use by all, although the auto-patch was by request only.

Irv Goodman, AF2K, wrote in this issue offering five different styles of RaRa jackets ranging from twenty to forty-two dollars. The Rochester DX Association announced their meeting, then held at 111 Westfall Road, as being a program by the Greater Rochester Cablevision people who explained how they maintained a clean and well contained signal.

Ed Gable, K2MP, Chairman of the Hamlin Beach Triathlon event, then in its sixth year, wrote describing the challenging public service event that took bikers 12 miles west out of the park. Event director Gary Austin reported "we could not have put on this event without the help of the radio guys." Gary emphasized his point by making a cash donation to RaRa for each of the six years.

Wayne King, N2WK, penned the second of two long and well written articles urging participation in the Rochester VHF Group's Rochester Cup competition, as part of the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes contest. Wayne described past winners of the Cup and how local participation caused the RVHFG to a record high 1.3 million points in the most recent contest.

With regret it was reported that Arlo C. (Gus) Bacon, W2SOV, was listed as a Silent Key. This writer remembers that Gus ran a gin mill at the corner of Ridge Road West and Rte 259 in Parma. The establishment featured at large HF yagi sticking out the top and a shack warmed with a glowing BC-610 transmitter.

From the Want Ads you could buy a Gotham tri-band aluminum quad from Earl Holtz, W2WQV, for \$30.00. Michael G. Rice, KB2SG, Attorney At Law, remained a long term advertiser.



## New Directory Binders Available

(The Directory won't  
fit your old one)

**\$3.00** at Meetings  
**\$8.00** via Priority Mail

For mail: Send check to  
PO Box 93333, Rochester, NY  
14692

Ed Gable, K2MP, Auctioneer  
Extraordinaire circa 1997

## Webster Central Amateur Radio Club

By Norm Turner, W2NWT

Activities have begun at Webster Thomas and the Amateur Radio Club as well. On September 25, we recruited three new members at the annual Activity Fair. We had an HF setup on 20 meters for all to see. Thanks to Bill Rogers, K2TER, for loaning the club a Cushcraft R-5 antenna which performed beautifully. We made contacts in Washington State, Bulgaria, and the Czech Republic as well as a 40 dB over S9 signal report from AF2K (hi hi).

On October 17, 2009, our club will be participating in the New York QSO Party. We will have two HF rigs set up, a Yaesu FT-757-GX will be running barefoot into the R-5, and a Kenwood TS-520 with a Heathkit SB-221 amplifier running into a G5RV up on the roof. The Kenwood and Heathkit are loaned equipment from RaRa as well. Listen for us on 20, 40 and 80 meters. I have commissioned the graphic communications department to design QSL cards for W2WHS. Hopefully they will be done by contest time.

We are still recycling used/broken cell phones as a fund raiser for the club. If any members have old cell phones that they would like to donate, I will be in attendance at the November meeting and can collect them at that time. Thanks from our club to yours for all of the support that we have received over the years.

## RDXA News

By Paul Kolacki, K2FX

Before I talk about the upcoming program for the November Meeting of the RDXA Group, I'd like to first take a moment to offer my apologies for not having any agenda information submitted for the September or October edition of the RAG. As the new Vice President of the club, it was only recently brought to my attention that this important task fell to me. I feel bad, but that is now RF that has dissipated in the Coaxial Cable, so let's push on.

The November meeting should prove to be very informational and a whole lot of fun. I am organizing a Radio Station tour. Several years ago while working for WHAM-1180, I brought RDXA into the studios for a look around, as well as a trip to the transmitter and tower site. It was received so well that I still get occasional requests for another such event. This time, the tour will take us to the studios of Legends 102.7FM, WLGZ, and WDCX, Life-AM 990. I am one of the On-Air personalities at WLGZ, so who better to conduct that tour? WLGZ programs Oldies Rock-N-Roll from the 1950-80's, and our AM counterpart is the Christian Rock station in the market. Both broadcast in HD, and are nicely equipped with some of the best toys available.

If you would like to join the tour, I'll need to know in advance, as space will be limited. Contact me at: [usafpilot@rochester.rr.com](mailto:usafpilot@rochester.rr.com), or by phone at (585) 764-1189 to get on the guest list. We will be meeting in the parking lot of the station at 7:00pm, which is located at 2494 Browncroft Boulevard, Rochester, NY 14625.

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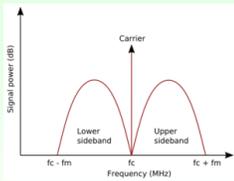
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## Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

**BEARs and Hams.** What do bears and hams have in common? Plenty if you are talking about BEAR which stands for Balloon Experiments with Amateur Radio. The BEAR group of hams in Edmonton Alberta is trying to set a world record by sending a balloon to an altitude of 130,000 feet. The group's highest flight so far was on August 11, which reached over 117,000 feet. Their website at <http://bear.sbszoo.com/> shows the data from all the flights and describes the construction of the capsule, its instrumentation and the payload, including a cross-band repeater, APRS, antennas, and the parachute (follow the links). The exploits of the "virtual astronauts" have been reported on the *Daily Planet*, which is shown on the *Discovery Channel* in Canada. They were recently covered by a feature story in *Mail Online World News*. [See <http://tinyurl.com/yee6b7b> ]

**Westford Hams Assist Police.** Sixty-five hams from the Police Amateur Radio Team (PART) in Westford, MA to assist first responders during times of emergency when normal communications are impaired. The group of hams was especially helpful as recently as December 2008 when an ice storm hit the region. Bo Budinger, WB1GOF, who is the president of PART, was recently interviewed by the *Westford Eagle* and noted that hams have the right equipment and know-how to assist during times of crisis. For more on the interview, see <http://tinyurl.com/yduhgvk>.

**Shortwave at Your Local Library.** The Norwalk (CT) public library has teamed up with the Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club (GNARC) to give visitors a taste of ham radio. GNARC members put a 66-foot inverted-V on the roof and placed a shortwave receiver in the library. The receiver is available for use by the public and a headset can be checked out at the information desk by library users for listening. See <http://tinyurl.com/ycxayhn> for details of the article from *ConnecticutPlus.com News*.

**HR2160 Picks Up More Sponsors.** The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 has picked up more sponsors, bringing the total number of cosponsors to 24. Geoff Davis (R-KY-4), Bill Posey (R-FL-15) and Michael Turner (R-OH-3) have pledged support of the bill along with the original sponsor, Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX-18). You can read the actual bill at <http://tinyurl.com/dkdagv>. Write or email your representative and encourage him or her to support HR2160.

**CERT and Ham Radio Team Up.** In Summerfield FL, volunteer members of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and area ham radio operators have teamed up to prepare for emergencies. As a part of their training, they perform disaster drills with mock victims. There is considerable division of labor in the drills – those trained in first aid and CPR, those who handle storm damage assessment, and those involved in radio communications, to name a few. Much of the training is geared toward storms and hurricanes. The local CERT club offers training that consists of 10 sessions. *The Daily Sun*

**New CubeSats.** An Indian PSLV-C14 rocket lifted several satellites into orbit. Among them were some CubeSats. These very small satellites are becoming popular for university research because of their low cost. Many CubeSats use ham radio frequencies for the downlink of telemetry, which is true of this current group of satellites. As of this writing, all were working. See <http://tinyurl.com/y9xa7kh> for the frequencies and follow the links for more information. Source: **ARRL**

## RaRa Memorial Scholarship

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**(Sidebands Continued)**

**Hams Will Use Old Fed Tower.** Jackson County, Mississippi, Board of Supervisors decided to assist the county's ham radio association by letting its members use an old Federal radio tower – a 320-foot tower – for their activities. According to the supervisors, the old Corps of Engineers tower will be useful because it also will enable area hams to get on the air during emergencies when other forms of communication fail. People in the area remember how helpful amateur radio operators were when Hurricane Katrina struck. The hams will be allowed to take over a storage building at the base of the tower and the state will provide funds for improvement on the site, which includes a cottage. The tower is located in Vancleave, Mississippi. **Biloxi-Gulfport Sun Herald**

**Bletchley Park Honor to UK Ham.** Ham radio enthusiast, Albert Garforth, G3IGC, was recently honored with the Bletchley Park Commemorative Badge. Garforth, 83, assisted the wartime code breakers at the famed Bletchley Park who worked on cracking German messages encoded by the Enigma machine. The work by the code breakers allowed the Allied forces to get information about the location and movement of German troops and played an important role in leading the Allies to victory in Europe. The honor included a citation from UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown that expressed the country's gratitude for Garforth's contribution. Garforth was responsible for intercepting encoded German radio messages for the Bletchley Park group. After World War II, he worked on radar and guided missile sites. He retired from Manchester University where he was a technician. **BBC News**

**G5RV Logbook on eBay.** You may have missed it. The 1932 logbook of the well-known Louis Varney, G5RV, SK was put on the auction block on eBay. It turned out to be a sought after piece of amateur radio memorabilia. According to reports, within a couple of days the price reached £77 (approximately \$125 US). On the final day the bidding got very brisk and continued that way up to the close of the auction. The winning bid was £227, or about \$365 US. **Southgate (UK) Amateur Radio Club website**

**RaRa Club LOGO Items**



The Holidays are just around the corner; RaRa logo items are as great to give as they are to receive!

<http://www.rochesterham.org/logo.htm>

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## Shorts & Sparks

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

**Noise Reduction on the PC.** Spectran is handy software that uses your PC sound card to do A/D conversion of audio signals. This digital conversion allows the software to do a host of filtering functions, including band pass, noise reduction, and CW peaking. These functions can be done real time or from a WAV file. The software also features spectral analysis and a waterfall display. You can download it from <http://tinyurl.com/33co2h>. The instructions are available at <http://tinyurl.com/y9z2vbo>.

**A Code Rodent?** No, this does not mean squirrels have invaded your shack and chewed the insulation off the cables. What else would you call a mouse that has been converted into a keyer? K5LXP describes how he built a keyer from the lowly computer mouse, and wired it up so that he could still use his favorite keyer with it. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/yep2zgk> for the details.

**Another Spud Gun.** You've seen these in ham radio magazines but this one is more like a howitzer! K5LXP shows us a tried and true method of launching a projectile over the tallest trees in your neighborhood. His "cannon" is so effective it would even please the Myth Busters. But be careful – make sure you read the caveat at the end of his instructions. The plans are at <http://tinyurl.com/ydmvl44>.

**Measuring SSB PEP.** Retired telecommunications engineer Adam Farson, VA7OJ/AB4OJ, outlines a procedure for making accurate measurements of PEP for SSB mode. The method is described at <http://www.ab4oj.com/test/peptest.html>. Adam's homepage is worth some exploring too. [See <http://www.ab4oj.com/>]

### Visit the RaRa photo gallery



Pictures of you and your friends "Hamming it up".

If you have photos to share, send them to KC2PCD; Len will add them to the galleries.



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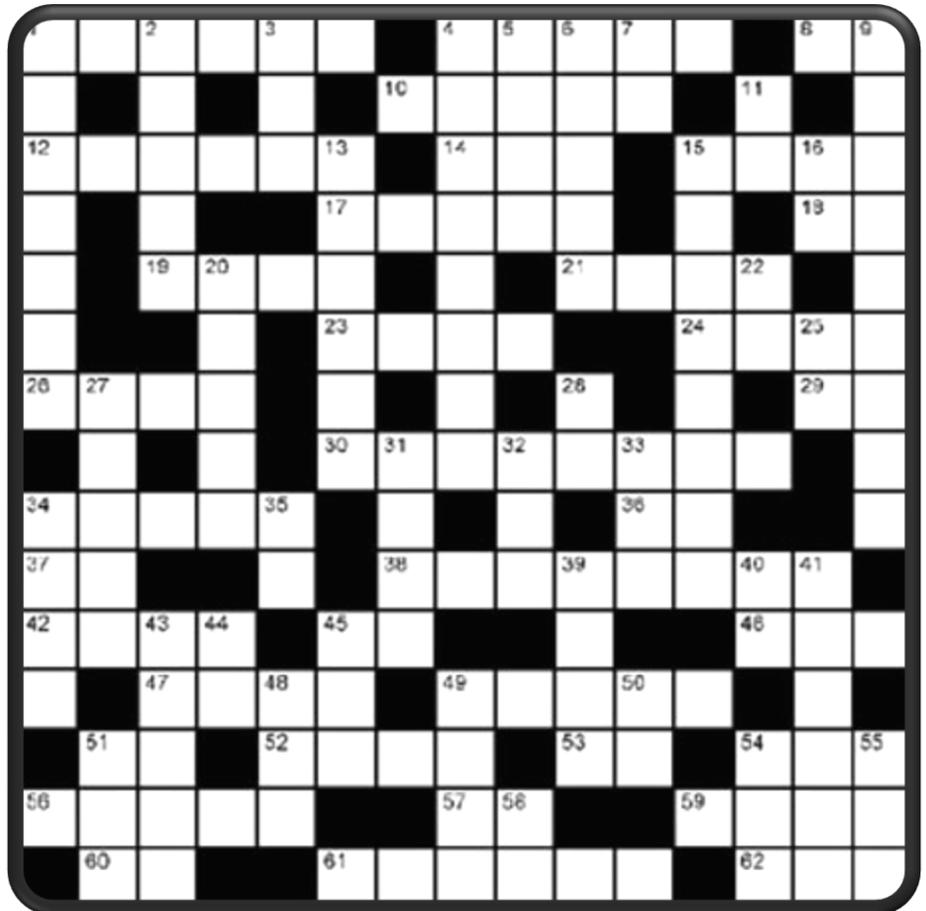
# The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX

My goodness! You can't hardly turn around without another eruption from sunwards. The bands are miserable, so what's a ham to do? How about a crossword puzzle with a solar theme? Dig in while you're waiting for long path to open up!

## Across

1. Highly ionized gas
4. Splits light into colors
8. Sporadic VHF propagation mode (abbr.)
10. Practical joke (like the sun plays on us)
12. Lights in the sky
14. Assist
15. Where the asteroids hang out
17. Lasts for eleven years on the sun
18. Magnetic metal (Chemical symbol)
19. Active region on the sun's surface
21. Almost a gamma ray
23. To start (abbr.)
24. Wind (v.)
26. Propelled by solar light
29. Smallest of the contiguous 48 states
30. Coronal Mass .....
34. Major and minor
36. Most common conductive metal (Chemical symbol)
37. Complement to AND
38. Complementary to electric
42. Lets mass escape from the sun
45. Series of orbiting Russian translators
46. Is too! Is ...!
47. As well
49. Large and sudden release of energy
51. Prefix for WRTC-2006 host
52. The graven image of a sun god
53. What you get when you're fired
54. Not either
56. Forces in space
57. Just beyond violet
59. Blows from the sun
60. Number (abbr.)
61. Peaks (plural)
62. Exchange money for goods



See next month's *RaRa e-RAG* for the solution.

## Down

1. They go around the sun
2. Light surrounding an object or star
3. Russian space station
4. Makes perfect
5. Metal guide
6. A and K are this type of number
7. End of contact (prosign)
9. Orbits the earth
11. Propagation across the equator (abbr.)
13. When the field's not quiet
15. Loss of propagation
16. Below MF
20. DX path easiest to disturb
22. Beam optimizer program
25. Heat light
27. Physics of space
28. Just less than a liter (abbr.)
31. Prevents reception
32. Calling (abbr.)
33. Frozen liquid
34. Solar observatory in space (acronym)
35. Propagation off of ionized trails (acronym)
39. Agency who watches Earth
40. Not out
41. Sun's outer atmosphere
43. Region of the ionosphere
44. Complementary axis to az
45. Retinal cell that detects light
48. Abrupt radio shutdown (acronym)
49. Solar energy reported by WWV
50. Receive (abbr.)
51. Maximum meter deflection
54. Cut off or pinch
55. Ready (abbr.)
58. Half dozen Romans

# THE RARA E-RAG

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**December e-Rag Deadline**  
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