



# THE RARA RAG

Published by  
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 63

April 2011

NO. 8

## April Meeting: *Spring... Time to Think Antennas!*

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC

This winter has seemed long and somewhat harder than usual; plenty of snow, and many days of high winds. The combination of snow and wind often means damage... damage to our antennas! That means some repair work is in order. Then there is that burning desire for a better signal, or working a new band, or the fun of experimenting with different antenna designs. I know that I get that 'itch' just as spring is about to arrive. I have my wish list of antenna projects, and am always looking for different antenna designs that might be worth trying. It is very common to tune across the bands right now and hear many QSO's about the antenna season being upon us.

This month's RARA presentation is about antennas, including some theory around practical applications and comparisons. Our presenters are Wayne Freiert - WB2LYL, and Joe Hood - K2YA, both from Light Beam Antenna and Apparatus, LLC. Their presentation is titled "HF Antenna Modeling and Construction". Wayne holds an Amateur Extra class license and has been a ham since 1963. He is a retired electrical engineer and manager. Joe is also an Amateur Extra class licensee, first licensed in 1955. He is a retired electronics and project engineer. Together, they will present information on antenna modeling software, the basic inputs required, present several examples, and review antenna construction suggestions.

Bring your questions! Here's an opportunity to get some great information about antenna design from the experts. Some good pre-planning, armed with knowledge, will certainly aid in your antenna adventures. Remember, be safe.... Antennas are good radiators, but they are also great conductors; use proper precautions when putting your antennas up.

Summer is coming and that can only mean... RARA Hamfest! As stated on RARA's website home page: "Rochester Hamfest 2011: The New Legacy Continues" best describes it. The hamfest has been a great success over the past few years, and this one promises to once again be awesome. Watch for more information, and remember, RARA members attend FREE. A new perk this year for RARA members is that of FREE Flea Market space. Also new this year is the "Last Chance Auction"! At 2 PM, flea market vendors are invited to bring their unsold items to this last chance auction. So, plan on sticking around and getting some real bargains. More information is available at [www.rochesterham.org/Hamfest.htm](http://www.rochesterham.org/Hamfest.htm). Keep Saturday, June 04, 2011 open, it's hamfest day.

## This month in the RaRa RAG...

Meeting Topic .....	1
Prez Sez .....	2
Calendar of Events .....	2
Letter from the Editor .....	3
VE News .....	3
Ham Tech: Vanity Call Signs	4
Public Service 2011 .....	5
Hamfest memories.....	5
April Prizes!.....	6
Memorial Scholarship 2011 ..	6
Member Spotlight.....	7
Picture Puzzler.....	10
MC Comms Exercise .....	11
Scanner Listening .....	12
RRRA News .....	14
MC RACES / ARES News ....	15
RDXA News .....	15
RaRa on the Web .....	15
RaRa 20 Years Ago.....	16
RaRa 40 Years Ago.....	16
RaRa Officers .....	17
Area Club Contacts.....	17
Directions to Meeting .....	17

## Drumlins Hamfest April 16

For more information visit:

[www.drumlinsarc.org/hamfest.htm](http://www.drumlinsarc.org/hamfest.htm)

## RARA Meeting Apr. 1st, 2011 7:30PM

Henrietta Fire Co. #1  
3129 East Henrietta Rd. (15A)



## The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
President, RaRa

A few weeks ago I was talking to my friend Paul, K2DB, on the air. You may recall Paul as the homeless guy introduced to the crowd at the RaRa meeting a few months back by our beloved VP Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC. Many of you know Paul and those of you who don't would certainly recognize his shopping cart, often seen under overpasses throughout the city. It's bright blue with a hamstick antenna, towing a skateboard with a car battery on it. As Bill mentioned back in February, donations for Paul are still being accepted; you can call 1- 800-Feed-Paul, operators are standing by. In lieu of cash donations coffee and donuts may be sent to his QRZ address or via the Buro.



Paul and I were having a nice QSO on 29.185 MHz one lazy Sunday afternoon. I don't recall what bridge he setup camp under but his reception was a little spotty; so I turned on the "foot warmer". After a bit there was a knock at my door. When I answered, I was shocked to find representatives from the FCC, IRS, and Child Services! Apparently my attempt to be heard by Paul was causing interference with truckers throughout the Northeast US and Canada. It turned out I was on 27.185 (I must remember to get that digital readout fixed) so the FCC took issue with my ERP – they have no sense of humor. Meanwhile The IRS, who made the FCC seem quite jovial, didn't appreciate my claiming radios as dependants - even after explaining how they're like my children in so many ways. Then the Child Services lady, who must have flown in on a broom, chimed in with her objection to how I treat my children like radios. She was quite set on removing all my radios from the residence and placing them in foster homes. Fortunately my wife is a duly licensed ham and the County decided to leave them in her custody; providing she repairs the frequency readout.

So I was arrested for "Endangering the Welfare of a Radio" shackled, and sentenced to weekends at the Antique Wireless Museum sorting vacuum tubes. Every time I think I'm done, Lynn Bisha, W2BSN sneaks in at night



and mixes them all up again. When questioned, he just smiles like the Cheshire Cat and walks away. Trying to make sense of all this led me to seek the wisdom of my elders. So I climbed the highest peaks of Henrietta NY to consult with the "Oracle of Goslee" (AKA KG2I). I explained my circumstances and after a few puffs of his pipe he said: "Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again." Now that that's cleared up... Happy **APRIL FOOLS DAY!**

The story is fictitious, but the names have NOT been changed to protect the innocent. I'll see you all at the next RaRa meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

73,  
Frank  
WB2PYD

## Calendar of Events

- Apr 1** RaRa General Meeting – 7:30 PM  
Henrietta Fire Hall,  
3129 E. Henrietta Rd
- Apr 6** RaRa Board of Directors  
5:30 PM, Northside Inn,  
East Rochester
- Apr 16** RaRa VE Testing sessions  
10:00 AM, RIT  
Bldg-9, Room 3139

### Not a RARA member yet?

There is still plenty of time to join and take advantage of all our membership perks (like FREE Hamfest admission and flea market space). You can join in person at the April meeting, or on our website at <http://www.rochesterham.org> and even by 'snail' mail.



## Silent Keys

George W. Mitchell, WB2FRG  
January 27, 2011

Robert Stevenson, KC2BT  
(ex-WB2PYI)  
February 17, 2011

Sidney "Sid" Schwab, KD2WV  
March 3, 2011

John D. Hellems, WA2PYH  
March 16, 2011

## Rag-Chew

Editor's Thoughts & Comments  
By Kevin Carey, WB2QMY  
[Editor@RochesterHam.org](mailto:Editor@RochesterHam.org)

As I write this on the first day of spring, my thoughts are indeed on antennas, just as our meeting announcement says. I hope to see you at our next meeting! We are looking for more mystery photos for our *Picture Puzzler* column. I have just about run dry on my own photos, which have been used for all of these columns so far. What images do you have that would provide an interesting challenge? It needn't be an antique or vintage item, just something radio-related that is not commonly known. Please e-mail your photos or ideas to: [Editor@RochesterHam.org](mailto:Editor@RochesterHam.org).



It has been seven months since I came on board as your Editor of the *e-Rag* newsletter. I want to thank all of you for your comments, ideas, and contributions. They are what keep me going, and I look forward to putting out more exciting issues. As the warmer months arrive, please don't slow down! In years past, the club has gone on a bit of a hiatus during the summer, but that has changed recently, and I intend to keep the *Rag* going as long as there is news to print. To all of our columnists, contributors, and *potential* contributors, I say: Keep it coming!

I want to urge everyone to get involved with the effort to prevent the loss of UHF spectrum represented by HR607. This Bill, in its present form could have dire consequences for the use of spectrum that is heavily used by amateurs, including for emergency communication purposes. Visit <http://www.arri.org/hr-607> to see a short video, and learn how you can help defeat this ill-conceived bill.

Are you looking for a way to benefit amateur radio with your United Way donation this year? Jim Sutton, N2OPS, works with the On The Road Youth Ministry program in Mount Morris, which sponsors the Fishermen's Net Amateur Radio Club, KC2RHY. The club website can be found at [www.kc2rhy.com](http://www.kc2rhy.com) and the youth ministry site is at [www.otrym.org](http://www.otrym.org). Check these websites to learn more about the work these groups are doing. Greater Rochester United Way Donors interested in supporting their efforts may choose Donor Option 1903.

*73, and best DX!*

## VE News

By Ken Hall, W2KRH  
VE Team Leader

At our March 19<sup>th</sup> VE session we had seven Technicians and two upgrades to General. This may have been the worst weather for a VE session all winter!

Lauren Cabrera, KC2ZTT	Technician
Jan Dvorak, KC2ZTU	Technician
Miyo Kanazawa, KC2ZTV	Technician
Joseph Mauceri, KC2ZTW	Technician
Michael McShane, KC2ZTX	Technician
Allyson Sadwin, KC2ZTY	Technician
Kayla Sandoval, KC2ZTZ	Technician
Steve Armstrong, KC2URC	General
Michael O'Neill, KD4SFA	General

The next exam session will be held at RIT on **April 16, 2011** at 10 AM in RIT Building 9, Room 3139.

[\(click for map\)](#)

Registration starts at 10:00AM. Check the [RARA website](#) for additional information.



# Ham Tech: Vanity Call Signs

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

Are you tired of the current sign that you have had for 35 years or is it a call sign that is only a year old and you have done some upgrading of your license? It is possible to purchase a new call sign that is shorter or easier to say from the FCC. The cost today for a new vanity call sign is \$13.30 and will need to be renewed after 10 years. The FCC changes the cost of vanity call signs each year in order to balance their operating budget.

Where does one go to find out which call signs are available? You could go to the FCC ULS database and enter call signs until you find one that is not active. If you are looking for a 1x2 or a 2x1 this will be very time consuming.

There are at least 3 web sites available to make this search for a new call sign a much easier task.

The first site is "N4MC's Vanity HQ" at <http://www.vanityhq.com>. On the left side of the screen click on Call Availability. Under the Date Controlled list you can select the format of the call sign and sort by district or suffix.

**FCC Database 1x2's by Suffix**

The call signs on this page are active, cancelled or expired. They are in the FCC's database and are in, or have satisfied, the two year waiting period. The color codes show which call signs are immediately available. The dates shown are the *beginning* of the two year wait. The following table shows the distribution of these 1x2 call signs alphabetically by suffix. Last updated: Sat Mar 12 10:38:26 2011 (Eastern)  
1x2's by district

Prefix	District									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
K	6	9	13	19	17	9	19	11	8	10
N	14	24	14	22	15	20	19	16	14	19
W	14	19	19	11	21	12	12	13	11	20
Totals	34	52	46	52	53	41	50	40	33	49

Call Sign / Start of 2-Year Wait      Call Sign / Start of 2-Year Wait      Call Sign / Start of 2-Year Wait

GREEN(\*\*) = Immediately available      BLACK(\*) = Available this month      BLUE(+) = Predicted to be granted.

RED = Don't bother, guaranteed dismissal

K1AA	11/28/09	N1JH	03/16/10	N6SH	06/22/09
N7AD	06/02/10	N4JH	09/15/09	N8SK	01/05/10

The second site is "Amateur Extra 7 Query tools" at <http://www.ae7q.com>. This site is good for amateurs with an Extra class license as it will show available 1x2 and 2x1 call signs.

The third site is "Radio QTH" at <http://www.radioqth.net>. You will have to wait for this site to come back online. The note on the first page says the site was hacked and is being rebuilt. I spent most of my time on this site and Vanity HQ when I was shopping for my call sign.

After putting together your list of possible call signs it would be a good idea to double check those call signs with the FCC ULS database to confirm that they are still available. You can apply for a vanity call sign from the FCC website using the online forms. It is a good idea to list multiple call signs on the form just in case your first few selections get taken before your application makes it through the system. Good luck if you are in the market for a new call sign.

Next month: Internet Ham Radio

1x2 & 2x1 callsign availability summary, by callsign region							
Callsign region	Currently available	Pending application	Expired < 2 yr	Canceled < 2 yr	Active		Total
					Normal	Vanity	
1	59	6	70	55	1859	2033	4082
2	104	5	57	59	2010	1847	4082
3	119	5	76	51	1893	1938	4082
4	2	2	28	73	1779	2198	4082
5	3	5	42	55	1827	2150	4082

## Public Service 2011

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

Public Service events for 2011 are just around the corner. Below is a list of events for this year and you can sign up online at:  
[http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/public\\_service.htm](http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/public_service.htm)

**Tour de Cure** – Sun, June 12, 2011 (Mendon Ponds Park)

**Genesee Valley Hunt Horse Trials** – Sun, July 10, 2011 (Geneseo)

**MS Bike Ride** – Sat & Sun, July 30 & 31, 2011 (Keuka Park)

**Walnut Hill Driving Competition** – Wed thru Sun, August 10 - 14, 2011

**Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon** – Sun, September 18, 2011

**Barktoberfest: Lollypop Farm** – Sat, September 24, 2011

**Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta** – Sun, September 25, 2011

**Jamboree on the Air (BSA)** – Sat & Sun, October 15 & 16, 2011 (Babcock-Hovey)

**NYS Thruway Pumpkin Patrol** – Sun & Mon, October 30 & 31, 2011

## Hamfest Memories...

*Readers are invited to share their favorite hamfest memories in the RARA Rag. Perhaps you recall a favorite rig you bought at the fest, or met a ham friend there for the first time in person. Maybe you passed a license test with flying colors and got on 2 meters for the first time on the way home. Whether recent or many years ago, we welcome your recollections for future articles in the Rag. No experience in writing articles? Don't worry; we're here to help you get it ready for publication!*

Kathy Bookmiller, WB2AIO, sent in some very interesting literature from past hamfests. We'll be sharing some of these in upcoming issues. This month we have a ticket she sent from the 1963 Hamfest, which was held at the Doud Post—American Legion. Note that the price at that time was just \$4.75, and that included dinner!



## RaRa Hamfest Update:

The Hamfest committee is busy with “behind the scenes” jobs which will make this year’s Hamfest even better than last year’s.

However, we can’t do this alone! Each year we ask you to take ownership of YOUR Hamfest and help out with some of the jobs. Some are before the fest starts such as lining the flea market and setting up tables and signs, while others are on the day of the event (between 6AM & 2PM) like ticket sellers and flea market organizers. If you can just give 60 minutes it would really help YOUR club’s major event of the year to be even more successful and carry on the tradition of being one of the finest Hamfests around.

There will be signup sheets at the April meeting, or contact Peter Fournia at:  
pfournia@rochester.rr.com

He will be coordinating a list of jobs and times needed. Let’s work together since “Many hands make light work.”

**See you at the 2011 Rochester Hamfest on June 4th.**

## April Prizes!

By Dan Waterstraat, W2DEW  
Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE

If you've ever wanted to have an HF rig in the living room or kitchen to monitor radio conditions but your spouse objected, (all those ugly wires) we've got just the radio kit as a raffle prize for April. This is the N3ZI beacon monitor receiver kit for 20 meters, 14.100 MHz. The size is approximately 2" x 2.5" (fits anywhere). In a few minutes time you can know the current condition of the ionosphere in 18 worldwide locations on 20 meters. For more information on the beacon system visit:

<http://www.ncdxf.org/pages/beacons.html>.

You can see all of the receiver specs at the N3ZI website:

<http://www.pongrance.com/gcrx-14100.html>.

Our second raffle prize will help keep you organized. This is the Brother P-Touch PT-1290BT2 Label Maker. This makes labels which have a clear, plastic top film that prevents label damage. From Brother:

The Brother P-Touch PT-1290BT2 lets you create stylish labels for the home or office. It has 15 Deco mode and 7 Framing mode patterns provide great-looking options for labels. It also features 2 font styles as well as professional-looking 1- and 2-label layouts. It features an easy-to-view 15-character LCD to preview labels and auto tape detection automatically adjusts the text size based on the tape size. The built-in memory stores up to 9 of your most frequently used labels. The labeler uses durable laminated "TZ" series tapes up to 0.5" wide and operates on 6 AAA batteries (included). It includes one 1/2" black on white tape and one 1/2" white on berry pink tape.

So come on out, meet your friends, grab a doughnut, and have a good time. Get your Raffle tickets from Sue and myself for 1 for a \$1, 3 for \$2, and 10 for \$5.

## Memorial Scholarship for 2011

By Dick Goslee, KG2I  
Treasurer, RARA

The deadline for submitting applications for the 11th annual RaRa Memorial Scholarship is April 15, 2011. The "Rochester Amateur Radio Association Memorial Scholarship" has been established with generous donations made in memory of A. Leland Zwack, W2WPF; William Buchan, W2OMV; William Resch, K4VOS; David Stewart, K2ZCD and John Levis, KB2FXI. The scholarship is available to any licensed Amateur Radio operator who is or will be pursuing any degree of Associate level or higher in any accredited school beyond high school. The individual **must** be a member of RaRa and a resident of New York State. The scholarship is for one individual for one year, but the recipient may reapply for subsequent years.

Applications for the scholarship may be obtained at RaRa general meetings, by mail at P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RaRa phone at (585) 210-8910. Additional information and a copy of the application are available on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association web site at: <http://www.rochesterham.org/>, or from one of the club officers.

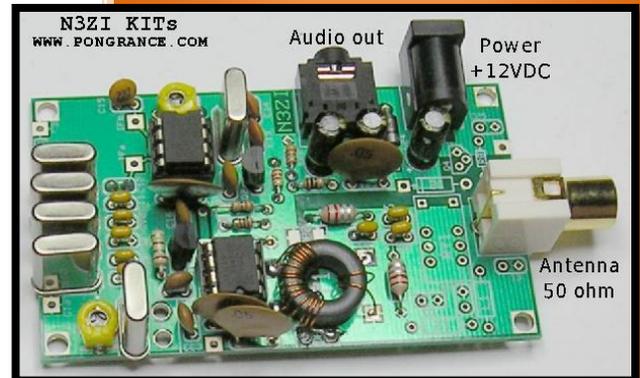
Additional "tax exempt donations" in memory W2WPF, W2OMV, K4VOS, K2ZCD, KB2FXI or any other silent key may be sent to: Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Memorial Scholarship, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333.

## RaRa Club LOGO Items

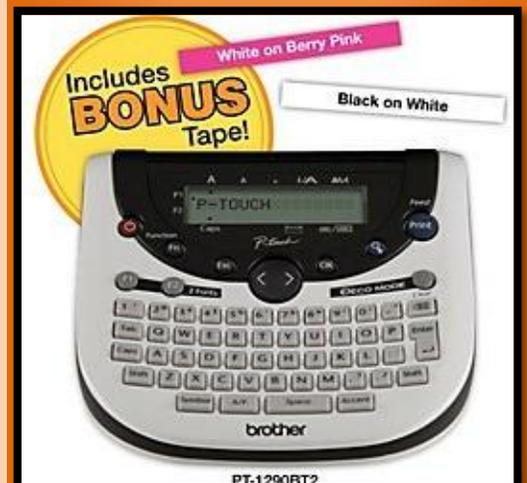


Don't feel left out- get your RaRa logo items today!

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



N3ZI Beacon Kit



Brother PT-1290BT2

## Member Spotlight: Peter Fournia, W2SKY

By Len Crellin, KC2PCD

Welcome to another edition of Member Spotlight. Each month we try to present a new RARA member to highlight. If you have someone you think would be interesting for us to interview, please send me, Len Crellin (kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com), his or her name with a short introduction that we can include in the interview. Any photos or stories we can use will be appreciated too!

Our Ham of the Month for April is Peter Fournia, W2SKY. Pete has been very active in our club, but newer members may only know him as the Flea Market coordinator for our annual Hamfest. But I find the most interesting things he has done are outside of the realm of ham radio! I hope you too will enjoy learning about some very interesting ways that Pete has filled his life. So, to borrow the catch phrase from an old TV show in the 50s...it's a bird, no it's a plane, no it's Super Pete flying in the skies with the greatest of ease!

### 1. What got you interested in ham radio?

Boy Scouts. I enjoyed working on the signaling and radio merit badges. That got me connected to hams in Massena, NY. There were about 10 of us working on the merit badges. Three of us got our Novice licenses and created a path for younger scouts to get licensed in later years. The hams in Massena were very supportive. As the number of young hams grew, we formed a ham radio club at the high school.

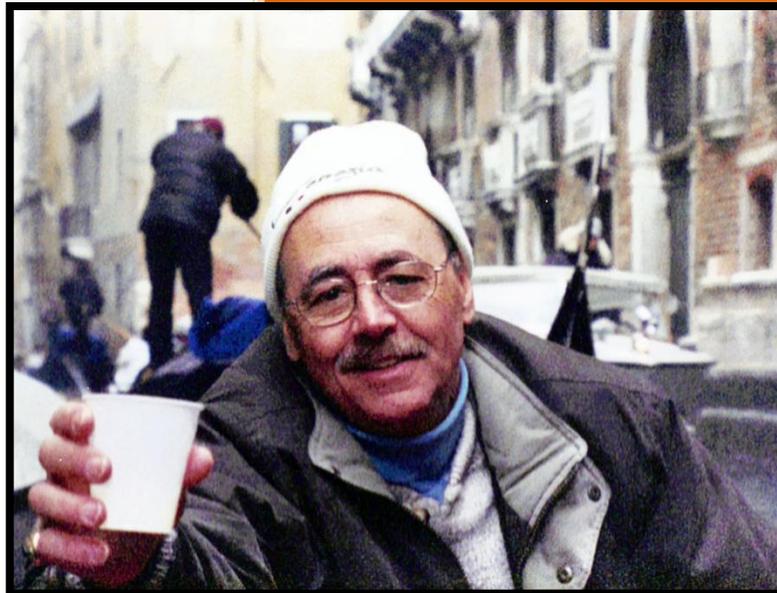
### 2. What have been your favorite activities within the hobby?

I've enjoyed exploring many of the diverse ham radio activities over the years. It started with DX on CW but shifted to experimenting with electronics and antennas. Before college I participated in field days, some contests, civil defense and ARMY MARS. During my college years (1964-1969) I participated in the Mohawk Valley CC ARC in Utica and later the RIT club. I also did some rag chewing using my 500 watt home brew AM station. I did not become active again until 1989 when I joined a group of Canadian hang glider pilots to fly in the Argentina Andes. We bought twelve IC-2GAT handhelds for flying and sold them in Argentina before returning. That exposed me to repeaters for the first time and got me back into the hobby. From there I started collecting WAS awards, operated field days, packet radio, 10-10 club, county hunting, most of the HF digital modes, instruction, license upgrade, ARES/RACES events and ISS contacts.

My main interest these days is helping out with public service events and participation in ARES/RACES. I also enjoy operating field day with the Xerox ARC where I operate CW during the overnight shift. When I'm driving my truck you can track my APRS reports using W2SKY-9.

### 3. How long have you been licensed?

I was first licensed in 1958 at age 15 as a Novice (WV2BPQ) and upgraded to Conditional class within a year as WA2BPQ. I changed my call to W2SKY on the first day that vanity calls became available.



**3a. How long have you been in RARA? What offices / positions / committees, etc. have you served on?**

I joined RARA in the early 1990's but didn't get involved until 1997 when I volunteered to create the RARA webpage. Of course the BOD took full advantage of fresh blood and put me under Keith Freeberg's wing. From there I participated in an intense eight year progression of RARA offices and duties. It started with two years on the BOD, then VP, then president in 2001. I continued participating at BOD meetings holding education committee titles and taking on specific tasks through 2006. I was very involved with the Radio Coach program during its seven year life. I was also a leader in the RARA explorer posts during its three year term (2003-2006). I took on flea market duties at the RARA hamfest in 2003 for a year but continued doing it because I couldn't find a replacement.

**4. Did you grow up in Rochester, or are you a "transplant" ham?**

I grew up in Massena, NY and on the St. Lawrence River. I came to Rochester in 1966 to complete my BS in EE.

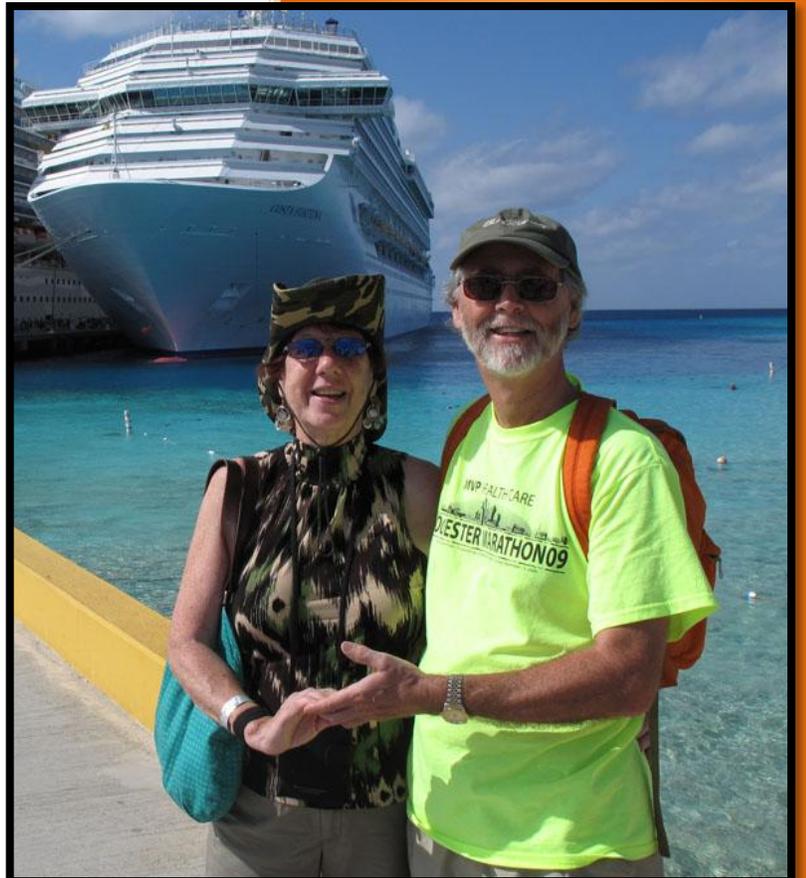
**5. What is / was your career? Did it involve radio/technology?**

I was employed at Xerox Corporation from 1967 to retirement in 2002. My entire career was involved with the xerographic sciences particularly the photoreceptors and corona devices. I moved with the technologies through research, development, engineering, manufacturing field monitor and then back to an upstream technology. It was very rewarding. I hold 4 patents.

Hams familiar with the triode vacuum tube would be interested in the Xerox discorotron that I developed for the iGen3 production color printer. That device is like an open air triode with a corona emitter and screen grid. In this case the plate is a 17" wide revolving capacitor (photoreceptor) that is charged uniformly to 600 +/- 2 volts. Unfortunately, it generates a fantastic amount of ozone and nitrous oxides that are costly and difficult to manage.

**6. What modes/activities haven't you tried yet, which you would like to?**

I am the sys op for the W2EOC packet node on 145.010. It has RF links to Ontario County and Fairport, which in turn, gives packet connectivity to the world. I would like to add a mailbox for message storage and forward and encourage usage of the 9600 port to enable faster messages. Privately, I am trying to work all states on packet via the ISS digi repeater. Hawaii and Alaska are a big challenge but not impossible.



## 7. What other hobbies/activities are you involved with?

I have been extremely active in skiing. This included being a director at Frost Ridge Ski Area, ski instructor for 20 years holding full PSIA certification, officer at Frost Ridge Ski Club and president of the Genesee Valley Ski Council. I dropped all skiing activity in 1987 but returned to the sport in 2005 and have been teaching ever since at Bristol Mountain.

Hang gliding was my focus in the 1980's and 90's. Although I had a private airplane license I have more time soaring hang gliders than flying a plane. I was an advanced pilot and taught hang gliding locally for 15 years holding advanced instructor certification. I was an officer in the Rochester and the Finger Lakes hang gliding organizations and a director of the national association (USHGA). When my daughters were young we frequently went camping in our VW Vanagon Camper. We were always camping in close proximity to a soarable hang gliding site whether in the Finger Lakes or some western US state.

These days my wife and I are active with ballroom dancing. I also bicycle weekly with my son-in-law and have biked around Lake Ontario and most of Lake Erie. I am a volunteer with the Rochester Red Cross chapter and have served on two national assignments. Finally, I volunteer at Wallace Elementary School on Thursdays with the Xerox Science Consultant Program and with the science club.

## 8. Tell us about your family:

I'm fortunate to have my two daughters and their families here in Rochester. We are close and get together frequently. My three grandchildren range in age from 6 months to 10 years. I have two additional grandchildren (16 and 18 years) via my previous marriage. Those children live in NM and we enjoyed a week with them last May. I have two brothers and a sister (Naples, FL, Richmond, VA and Albuquerque, NM) that I see almost annually. My wife, Carol has her license (KC2FUJ). We occasionally use ham radio when we travel.

## 9. What repeaters do you frequent?

I do not use repeaters very often. The repeaters are programmed into my radios for emergency preparedness purposes. This includes Finger Lakes repeaters that are used for public services events.

## 10. Any other info you'd like to share?

Ham radio has had a profound impact on my professional career. It affected my academic progression from AAS in electrical technology to BS in EE. Technical knowledge from ham radio made my scholastic studies easier and more meaningful. Ham licenses helped with college admissions and employment. Ham experience enhanced my professional deliveries particularly with circuit design, photoreceptor physics and development of corona devices. My Advanced class license opened the door to an interesting satellite communications task as a Red Cross volunteer shortly after hurricane Katrina.

*I would like to thank Peter for sharing with us a fascinating story of his life. He has done so much to make the club better and affected so many young people during his times working with the Radio Coaches program and still at our annual RMSC display table in December. The flea market at Barnard is successful because Pete volunteers so much time to get there days before and layout the entire field. Without his efforts, it certainly would not be as smooth an operation as we have now. I hope his story will perhaps convince some of you who have yet to take an active role in the club, that there are many ways to make a difference. Please consider helping out in some way to make your club better! –Len*



## ~~Picture~~ Puzzler

By Kevin Carey, WB2QMY

*It was not a Swan!* My thanks to everyone for their guesses on a very tough puzzler in last month's issue. The photo actually showed a **Siltronix Model 1011D Transceiver**, so the correct answer to the company name was "Siltronix." Many, many people guessed "Swan" and I can't blame them, as it does look similar to many of the rigs made by Swan. The key here was the lack of a full bandswitch (ours only had two positions), the lack of a darker band in the middle of the frequency dial, and the slide switch located below the meter to control its functions. (Swans typically employed a knob for this function.)

While it's true Swan made the very first 1011s, they quickly spun it off as a separate company (Siltronix) after getting into hot water with hams and the ARRL over what they saw as a disguised CB rig. The 1011D looked significantly different from those earliest models. Contrary to what some guessers thought, the unit was indeed a *ham radio*. It did not transmit on CB as shipped from the factory; only the 10-meter amateur band. The radio did have receive-only coverage of the CB band as a convenience feature. (Of course, many owners quickly modified them for full CB operation!) For a great website on these radios and clear images, visit: <http://www.radiowrench.com/siltronix/rs00004.html>

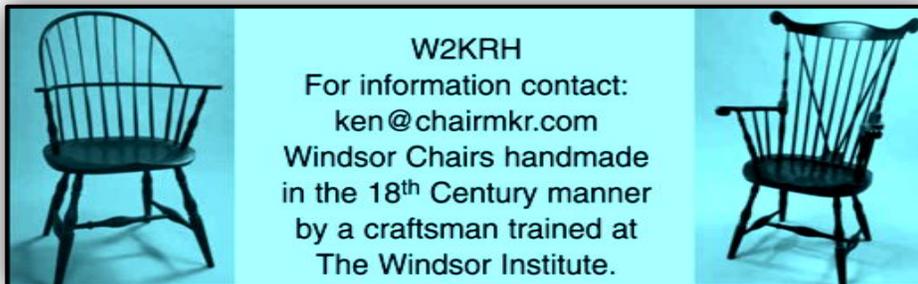
A sizeable number of guessers thought it might be an Atlas, a Drake, or a Signal One radio. There were 35 total guesses to this mystery photo, which far exceeded any previous *Picture Puzzler* we have had. Five people came in with the correct answer on the first try.

Bill Magliocco, WA2QKO (First to reply!)  
Brad Allen, KB2CHY  
Jim Sweet, KB2MJE  
Tom Austin, KA2GXX  
Bill Lazure, W2EB

**April Mystery:** This month's mystery is actually not a photo, but rather a question. *What local manufacturer of radio equipment began operations in 1969, and what large contract did they secure in the 1970s that served the American public? As a bonus question, what street was this firm located on in the 1980s? Please send your answers to me at [Editor@RochesterHam.org](mailto:Editor@RochesterHam.org). All correct guessers will be recognized in the next issue of the *RARA Rag*.*



*This photo shown last month was a real puzzler! It was a Siltronix 1011D 10-meter Transceiver, with 11-meter receive capability.*



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## Monroe County Citizen Preparedness Initiative Communication Exercise 2011

Ross Mazzola, KC2LOC

"Getting pills to the people." That's the easiest way to describe the latest event in which more than 23 members of Monroe County ARES/RACES recently played a major role. CPI CommEx 2011, a communications exercise managed by the Monroe County Department of Public Health, took place on Wednesday February 23rd and was designed to test equipment and procedures for deploying volunteer amateur communicators to as many as 36 Points Of Distribution (POD) sites scattered throughout the County.

At around 0930 hours, members were notified of the simulated emergency via email, text message and recorded voice and instructed to immediately monitor the local ARES repeater frequency for more information. Soon afterwards Monroe County RACES Radio Officer Jim DiTucci arrived on scene at the County's state of the art Emergency Operation Center with several other ARES team members and an emergency net was established. The call-up began by asking those stations that had participated in the month-long training leading up to the event to report to the EOC with their go-kits for an incident briefing. Check-ins were also received from RACES members in nearby Wayne and Ontario Counties.

At approximately 1100 hours, volunteers were paired-up and given assignments, then provided with county-owned commercial radios to deploy to their assigned POD along with their own personal amateur radio equipment. Upon arrival at the PODs, the volunteers proceeded to the designated "radio room" where coaxial cable feed lines had been pre-installed and ready for them to connect radios to roof mounted antennas for access to amateur and government frequencies. By around 1200 hours, operators began checking-in and passing traffic using standard ICS 213 message forms on both government and amateur VHF frequencies while being challenged with an actual unplanned power outage that affected a few of the PODs on the West side of the county. Besides voice, various other modes of communications were utilized during the exercise including APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) to send short one line messages between PODs and the EOC and VHF packet using the Airmail program to send email to county officials over the Winlink system. APRS was also used to track the movement of volunteer vehicles as they traveled. The exercise concluded with the "all clear" message going out over the air at around 1330 hours asking all volunteers to demobilize and return to the EOC for a debriefing.

The following evening, at the monthly Monroe County ARES meeting, volunteers who participated in the exercise shared their experiences by discussing what went well and making suggestions for additional training and how the response plan can be improved in future. Monroe County ARES wishes to thank Mr. Ralph Dutcher, Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Office of Public Health Preparedness, for his continued support and involvement of amateur radio in emergency response planning.

If you'd like to learn more about this exercise or about the Monroe County ARES/RACES, please contact Jim DiTucci at [N2IXD@arrl.net](mailto:N2IXD@arrl.net) or Ross Mazzola at [KC2LOC@arrl.net](mailto:KC2LOC@arrl.net).



*Lee Morelli, WB2JOR on the air for the ARES/RACES Exercise  
Photo Courtesy of Tim Brown, WB2PAY*

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# Scanner Listening on Your Ham Transceiver

Jim Sutton, N2OPS

Many hams never get to know their next-door neighbors they can listen to on their VHF/UHF transceivers. The chart below will introduce the ham to the neighbors beside each of our bands.

## FREQUENCY COVERAGE

Ham Band	Frequencies	Neighboring Band	Frequencies
6 meter	50-54	low vhf band	30-50
2 meter	144-148	high vhf band	148-174
2 meter	144-148	AM aircraft band	108-137
70 cm	420-450	UHF	450-470

The 6-meter band on many rigs sometimes offers low vhf band receive coverage. Some that do offer adjacent receive only offer partial low vhf band coverage. This coverage is necessary for most fire communications in Western New York.

All but a few 2-meter rigs offer high vhf band coverage. Many 2-meter rigs also offer AM aircraft band coverage, and nearly all 70 CM transceivers cover the UHF band.

## SENSITIVITY

Ham radios feature sensitivity and selectivity superior to nearly all scanners.

## CTCSS/DCS

Also known as PL and DPL nearly all ham radios allow channels to receive only one user eliminating reception of other users on the same frequency.

## SCAN SPEED AND BANKS

Often ham radios will scan at a slower rate than the newer scanners. Some ham radios offer limited bank capability which allows the user to divide frequencies into scan groups.

## DELAY

Some ham radios resume scanning after a few seconds which will find interruption of a conversation being monitored on a scanner frequency.

## MARS/CAP MODS

Great care must be taken to not transmit on scanner frequencies on ham radios that have had the MARS/CAP mod which extends transmit capability to equal the receive range.

## NARROW BAND

By 2013 land mobile communications must migrate to narrow band, 25 KHz to 12.5 KHz bandwidth or digital technology.

Newer ham radios may have the narrow band or NFM receive capability and frequency steps.

## P25 DIGITAL

Sadly, even though some ham repeaters use P25 digital standards, no ham transceivers have this capability. P25 ham requires commercial equipment. Thus no ham radios are able to receive law enforcement communications in Monroe County.

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## **TRUNK TRACKING**

No ham radios are able to follow trunked communications. Almost no ham radios have 800 MHz receive capability. Thus hams in Genesee and Orleans Counties will not be able to use their rigs to scan communications.

## **SCANNER LEGALITIES**

Section 397 of the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law reads as follows:

§ 397. Equipping motor vehicles with radio receiving sets capable of receiving signals on the frequencies allocated for police use. A person, not a police officer or peace officer, acting pursuant to his special duties, who equips a motor vehicle with a radio receiving set capable of receiving signals on the frequencies allocated for police use or knowingly uses a motor vehicle so equipped or who in any way knowingly interferes with the transmission of radio messages by the police without having first secured a permit so to do from the person authorized to issue such a permit by the local governing body or board of the city, town or village in which such person resides, or where such person resides outside of a city or village in a county having a county police department by the board of supervisors of such county, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both. Nothing in this section contained shall be construed to apply to any person who holds a valid amateur radio operator's license issued by the federal communications commission and who operates a duly licensed portable mobile transmitter and in connection therewith a receiver or receiving set on frequencies exclusively allocated by the federal communications commission to duly licensed radio amateurs.

PR Docket 91-36 is the federal preemption of state and local laws concerning amateur use of transceivers capable of reception beyond amateur allocations. This preemption allows amateurs to possess a transceiver capable of reception (but not transmission) on frequencies adjoining the amateur VHF/UHF bands. It does not apply to scanners which are separate from an amateur transceiver.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

13. We hold that state and local laws that preclude the possession in vehicles or elsewhere of amateur radio service transceivers by amateur operators merely on the basis that the transceivers are capable of the reception of public safety, special emergency, or other radio service frequencies, the reception of which is not prohibited by federal law, are inconsistent with the federal objectives of facilitating and promoting the amateur radio service and, more fundamentally, with the federal interest in amateur operators being able to transmit and receive on authorized amateur service frequencies. We therefore hold that such state and local laws are preempted by federal law.

PR Docket 91-36 in its entirety:

[http://www.hamisland.net/FCC\\_SLP.pdf](http://www.hamisland.net/FCC_SLP.pdf)

Hams using their rigs as scanners are exempt from scanner laws. This is a bonus over scanners which are subject to scanning laws even though used by licensed hams.

## THE BOTTOM LINE

We in the ham community have commercial grade receive capability for the maximum experience in scanner listening.

Local scanner frequencies online:

<http://n2ops.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=nYA0a3GGqAw%3d&tabid=38&mid=373>

Having our rigs loaded with local public safety scanner frequencies will find us ready to listen to communications that may pertain to situations where hams are called to provide communications.

Please share your questions and story ideas. [jim@n2ops.net](mailto:jim@n2ops.net)

Until next month, 73 to thee.

## RRRA News

Brad Allen, KB2CHY

April is upon us, and it is time for election of new officers at RRRA! If you are interested in being a part of the RRRA, please make it known to any board member. April will bring us a meeting I think most will enjoy. We are still in the early stages of working around schedules and such, but the topic will be Amateur Television.

The EchoLink node was moved to the Westfall Road site, and I have provided a more powerful computer as I use remote access for any control needed. I am also using my Verizon wireless card to provide Internet access, although that is not working too well at present. I am also looking into an issue of digital noise on the receive channel through the controller. It may just be a mismatch or a need for isolation and I just have to determine that. I like to visit the site with a plan of attack and with the proper equipment. I have provided on-site a scope, a signal generator and other tools to make the trip easier. I will be going to the site again within the next week or so.

We are also up against the loss of 430-440 MHz to the government. We use this area for links to the repeater voter and to other sites. At the moment, our North site is in this area. We will need to re-crystal the transmitter and retune the voting receiver at Westfall. We are thinking ahead so if we do suffer this loss, we are not scrambling to get it done. **I urge everyone to visit the QRZ.com website and follow the link about the loss of this spectrum and ask our reps to reject HR607 in its present form. The loss can only be stopped if we band together with the ARRL to block it.**

This is all for now, keep an ear on the 146.88 repeater for any and all announcements. Visit our website at <http://www.rrra.us> for further information on anything going on at RRRA.

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## Monroe County ARES / RACES News

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. All ARES / RACES members and non-member Amateur Radio Operators are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, April 28, 2011, at 7:00 PM.**

Meetings are held at the **Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.** (Located behind the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 Main St. E.)



## RDXA News

By Scott Hoag, K2ZS

Have you ever wondered what it may be like to go on a DX-pedition or operate in a major contest as a DX entity? This month's RDXA program will feature a discussion by Ken Boasi, N2ZS who recently went to Belize to operate in this year's ARRL DX SSB contest as V31AM. Join us and see what it's like to experience a pile up from the other end.

The meeting starts at 7:30 PM, and will be at the Monroe County EOC, 1190 Scottsville Road, Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14624. Hope to see you there!

## Visit the RaRa website

Did you know that your club's website at [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org) offers these features and more?...

- ✓ Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- ✓ Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- ✓ Rochester Hamfest information!
- ✓ Online membership & renewal
- ✓ Public service info & sign-up
- ✓ VE testing info
- ✓ Back issues of the *Rag* in PDF
- ✓ Officer contact info
- ✓ List of past presidents (how many do you remember?)
- ✓ Order RARA logo products (hats, shirts, mugs)
- ✓ Useful Internet links
- ✓ Ham Radio 101—tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings



## RaRa Rag 20 (and 40!) Years Ago, April 1991 and 1971

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RaRa Historian



### 20 Years Ago, April, 1991

The April meeting brought the popular and entertaining Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, RaRa Historian, and the annual old timer's night. Bruce had an interesting topic titled "Bootleggers and the Titanic." And that, was the total local news content in the entire RaRa Rag, the rest was copy from other newsletters and news services that, as policy, I don't report on. From the Want Ads you could buy a military BC-348 receiver from Tink, K2VMC. Martin Ippolito, N2HEG, Master Electrician, remained a commercial advertiser.

### 40 Years Ago, April, 1971

This issue proudly presented Volume three of the *Hamfest Times*, where Harold Smith, K2HC, reported on plans for the new and much larger Monroe County Fairgrounds venue for the Rochester Hamfest. Joe Marsey, W2EMX, promoted the flea market arena by naming the rows: Bargain Blvd, Transceiver Street, VHF Row, MARS Way, etc. The Rochester VHF Group reported that they came up with 315,000 points in the January SS Contest, good for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the nation. Ed Gable, W2MPM, writing for the Rochester Radio Repeater Association, posted a plea by 28/88 repeater trustee Charlie Mills, K2LDU, who was seeking a replacement reel-to-reel tape recorder for logging. Charlie says they just keep wearing out. (Note: at that time all repeater transmissions had to be logged and the easiest method was just to record every transmission (Ed). The just-completed RaRa Dinner Dance was a great success and had a surprise drop in guest, Congressman Frank Horton, who was a good friend and supporter of Amateur Radio. From the Want Ads you could buy a complete 75m mobile rig, antenna and power supply from Cliff, K2SKO.

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# THE RARA RAG

PUBLISHED BY

**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSN., INC.**

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RaRa meets on the first Friday of each month from September through May. Come join us at:

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**May Rag Deadline  
April 17, 2011**

