



THE RARA RAG

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April Meeting: 100 Years of SSB

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC

I vividly remember tuning across the amateur bands when I was a 12-year old boy and encountering a strange sound. It reminded me of a deep-voiced duck chatting across a pond. I actually found it to be very annoying, often covering up an enjoyable AM conversation. I did not know at that time what it actually was... the mode was referred to as SSB, or Single Side Band. Quite by accident and with the receiver in CW mode, I found that I could understand those quacking ducks. I also listened to conversation after conversation of the pros and cons of SSB. Wow, talk about controversy, nothing like it until the discussion of a no-code license years later. Many of the old timers were dead set against it, while others welcomed the new mode and were delighted with the fact that there was no selective fading on an SSB signal, like on AM. Others loved the idea of getting two SSB conversations within the bandwidth of one AM signal. Still others realized the impact it would have on DX as well.

The May meeting program brings the popular RaRa Old Timers' Night back to center stage. This year our presenter, RaRa's Historian and Curator Emeritus of the Antique Wireless Museum, Ed Gable K2MP, does another of his own original historical projects. Ed has been a real hit over the past several years doing Old Timers' Night. His topic this year deals with the History of SSB, which happens to be closing in on its 100th year. Ed will present information on the early years of SSB development, but will focus on amateur radio involvement and the transition from AM to SSB.

But let me set the record straight... although SSB is nearly 100 years old, I assure you that I am not! Discovering SSB at age 12, if I were here at the onset of the mode, would make me about 112 years old. Though I sometime feel it, I am not even close! Be sure to come early to get a good seat, because history shows that Ed is always a sellout!

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RARA Meeting
May 6th, 2011 7:30PM

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



The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RaRa

This month at RaRa has been quite active and we're going to get even busier as we gear up for the Hamfest to be held on June 4th. We began the month by setting a date for the club's Fall Banquet on September 23rd at the Burgundy Basin Inn. A menu and details will be forthcoming, but mark your calendars now to keep the date open. Over the next few months there will be many opportunities to volunteer for Public Service events and the Hamfest to earn RaRa Rewards Points. Remember points can be redeemed to pay for dues and even a ticket to the Fall Banquet. Now, who doesn't like a free banquet? More information on points can be gleaned at (<http://www.rochesterham.org/Rewards.htm>) or ask any club officer.

On April 6th, the current Board of Directors held its last meeting. It was a notable event in that it was the last BoD meeting after over 30 years of service for Dick Goslee, KG2I. Dick is taking a well-deserved retirement after holding many positions in the club such as President, Vice-President, Director, Treasurer, instructor, and too many more to list here. We all owe a big thank-you to Dick for all he has done for the club throughout the years. TNX OM!

Here we are looking at May straight in the face and **we are T-minus 5 weeks and counting down to Hamfest 2011!** Admission is still only \$5.00 (free for 16 and under), and flea market parking is only \$5.00 per vehicle. Friday evening arrivals, whether you stay overnight or not, will be considered camping onsite and that is... you guessed it \$5.00... we like to keep the math simple. The cost for current RaRa members is: **FREE**. If you're not a member, or need to renew, sign up online at: (<http://www.rochesterham.org/Membership.htm>). Don't wait for the last minute, do it today so the Membership Secretary has time to get your membership card out to you in the mail. You'll need it to get in to the Hamfest – no exceptions. With memberships starting at only \$8.00, free access to the Hamfest, and all the other benefits of membership (like the Free Picnic and Cabin Party) you'd have to be "operating out of the band" to not join.

Have I mentioned volunteering yet? We need some helpers to direct traffic and staff the ticket gates. In addition to a hearty "Thank-you!" all volunteers will receive a free breakfast and/or lunch. In addition volunteers will earn 5 membership points for every ½ hour of service. Remember points are like money... use them to pay your dues, dinner, etc! Anyone interested in volunteering please contact Peter Fournia, WB2SKY at: (pfournia@rochester.rr.com).

73,
Frank
WB2PYD

Calendar of Events

May 6 RaRa General Meeting – 7:30 PM
Henrietta Fire Hall,
3129 E. Henrietta Rd

May 11 RaRa Board of Directors
5:30 PM, RIT
Bldg-17, Room 2110

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 May meeting, or on our website at <http://www.rochesterham.org>.



Silent Keys

Charles Willson, K2GMZ
March 26, 2011

Cecilia Zwack, WA2NFY
April 13, 2011

Rag-Chew

Editor's Thoughts & Comments
By Kevin Carey, WB2QMY
Editor@RochesterHam.org

As I edit this issue of the *Rag*, I am several hundred miles south of Rochester in sunny South Carolina. This is a part work/part vacation trip, as my XYL and I serve as "House Parents" for my son's varsity baseball team playing in a tournament. It occurred to me that doing my editing job remotely is only possible through the use of a laptop PC, the Internet, and a wireless connection. Additionally, it is aided by the fact that the club chose to go with a PDF-based newsletter late last year.



We knew the switch to an electronic-only newsletter would be a hurdle for some readers, but it was also felt that it brought many benefits, including full color imaging, no postage, paper, printing, or envelope costs, rapid delivery, and fewer limits on article length. Many organizations, including mainline newspapers, talk about going all-electronic, but RARA took the bold step of actually doing so. The results have been very encouraging.

If you know of anyone experiencing trouble in getting the *Rag* electronically, please contact us with the details, and we will try to help. The troubles experienced so far have been extremely minor, and easily corrected. In one case, a reader chose to disallow an e-mail client from opening up web links, and there's not much we can do to help in that situation. We deliver the notification link in an e-mail to subscribers, and this is how the *Rag* needs to be accessed. Back issues are also posted on the club's website and freely available to all.

As I prepare to leave 4-land and return to (hopefully) sunny Rochester, I bid everyone 73, and best DX!

Rochester Hamfest & Technology Expo

ARRL Atlantic Div. Convention
Sat. June 4th, 2011 8 am-4 pm



Barnard Hamfest Grounds
360 Maiden Lane
Rochester, NY 14616
\$5 Admission
(Flea market space \$5)



Door prizes — Great food!
"Last Chance Auction" at 2:00 PM!

More info & directions at:
www.rochesterham.org



Ham Tech: Internet Ham Radio

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

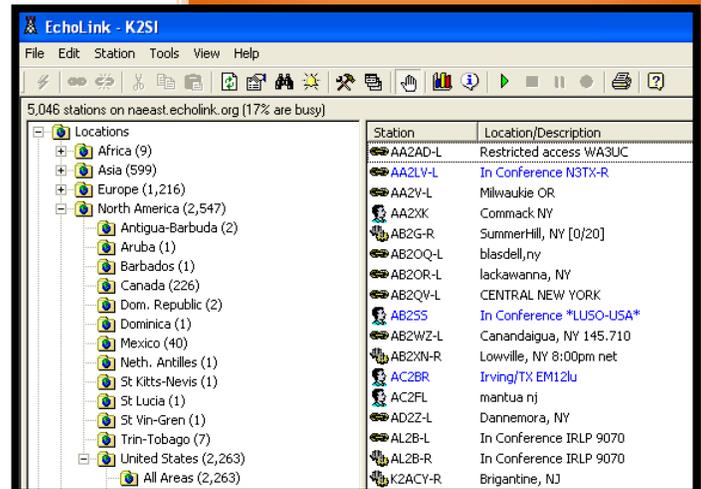
Do you currently live in an area that restricts antennas? This is not good if you are a ham radio operator and you enjoy talking shop with your fellow hams outside of your local area. There are options available for communicating with the other side of the world and HF antennas are not required to do it. If you have an HT or a computer with an Internet connection you are in luck as I will share five programs that will keep you in touch with the ham community.

The **Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP)** requires at least an HT and a local repeater that is connected to the IRLP network. All repeaters that are connected to the IRLP network have a four-digit code known as a node number. All you have to do is key up a local IRLP repeater and enter a four-digit code tied to any repeater in the world. Un-key and it will tell you if you are connected. When you are done you key-up and enter 73 to disconnect the link. More information is available at: <http://www.irlp.net/>

EchoLink is typically run from a computer. Download the EchoLink software and install it. You will need to email a scanned copy of your license to the EchoLink administrators as only licensed hams are allowed on the system. In the running software you will see all the individuals and repeaters that are currently on the network. Double-click on a call sign and wait for the connection to happen. I noted that EchoLink is typically run on a computer but you can also use an HT to key-up a local repeater that may be on the EchoLink system. Each call sign in EchoLink is assigned a unique node number that is four to six digits long and you can enter the digits in a similar fashion to IRLP. It is best to check with the repeater owner to inquire about any special keystrokes required prior to entering the EchoLink node number. Get the program and more info at: <http://www.echolink.org/>

Yet another method for getting in contact with fellow hams is with **QsoNet**. Again you must be a licensed ham to use this program and you will need to email a scanned copy of your license for verification. The software puts the CQ100 HF Transceiver on your screen. You can spin the knobs with your mouse and click on the screen where you see a conversation happening. You can download it and play for the first 90 days free. After the free trial it is \$32 per year. More information is available at: <http://www.qsonet.com/>

Another program that is similar to the previous one is called **Hamsphere**. This software also places a radio-looking graphic on your screen. Hamsphere is open to licensed amateurs and unlicensed radio enthusiasts. On most of the bands you will have to deal with static and changing conditions which attempts to give the program a real radio feel. There is also a free trial period with this software and if you like it a one year subscription is \$35. More information is available at: <http://www.hamsphere.com/>



Finally, the last program you may want to try is the Internet SSTV Transceiver called **InterACE**. If you want to swap pictures with other hams around the world this is a nice program. It can auto-save incoming photos and allows you to add your call sign or other text to photos before sending them. This program is free and more information is at: <http://www.g4xgt.co.uk/interace-sstv.htm>

It is tough to beat the magic of real radio, but if you are unable to put up antennas or you have only a Technician license, these programs can help add to the enjoyment of the hobby. Watch the Rochester Hamfest schedule for a demonstration of all of these programs.

Next month: Radio Control & Logging Software



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

- 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
- A popular event that is not local but many local hams like to attend is the **Susquehannock Trail Performance Rally (STPR)**. STPR is June 3-4, 2011 and more information is available at <http://www.stpr.org> . If you are interested you can sign up on their website.

May Prizes!

By Dan Waterstraat, W2DEW
Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE



Our main prize for the May meeting is the perennially favorite office chair! Don't need a chair for your shack? There will also be a bonus prize of a choice of books. See you at the meeting on May 6th!

A deluxe office chair could be yours at the next RARA meeting!
(Actual style may vary)

RaRa Club LOGO Items



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

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

RARA Election Candidates

The following are biographies from candidates for election at RARA's May 2011 meeting. Please review these submissions so that you have the most complete information available when choosing your club's leaders for the coming year.

William Kasperkoski, WB2SXY (Candidate for: Director)

After several years as a Short Wave Listener (WPE2MRL), I earned my first amateur radio license (WN2SXY) in 1964, and currently hold an old Amateur Extra Class license, (CW, RTTY, SSB) DXCC, (TPA) WAS and WAC.

I used my FCC First Phone (now a GROL) Commercial License with a Ship's Radar Endorsement, at commercial TV and radio broadcast stations in the Rochester, NY area. In the military I was stationed at a stateside 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 over ten years as a control station on the Monroe County FM Net and an operator in the Thruway Pumpkin Patrol. I have volunteered for over two years in WDN traffic handling, the K2RRA Hamfest Talk-in station, public service walk-a-thons, Scout JOTAs and Merit Badge counselor, 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, RTTY and PSK. I also built up emergency experience by volunteering several years locally as an ambulance radio dispatcher and held a basic EMT rating.

Duane Fregoe, K2SI (Candidate for: Director)

Over the past four years it has been fun helping to shape the club as a Director, Vice-President, and President. During this past year I started the RARA Academy which offers presentations geared towards the new hams and those hams with Technician privileges. The presenters are the people that keep this program going and I look forward to starting up again this fall. I also started the RARA Facebook page which currently has over 130 friends. Suggestions on what to add to the Facebook page are always welcome. As with any term in office there is always some unfinished business hence the reason I still wish to continue as a Director.

On the hobby side of things I enjoy casual contesting 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 Ham Radio Deluxe, N1MM, LoTW and eQSL. In 2009 got my WAS RTTY using LoTW. In January 2010 I achieved DXCC mixed. I am an active member of the VE testing team and also the Public Service Coordinator for the club.

Outside of Ham Radio I am a Senior Project Manager for LeChase Construction and have been there 26 years. My wife and my two boys enjoy camping during the summer. In 1997 I was appointed to the Town of Ogden Zoning Board and have been Chairman since 2000.

I have enjoyed my time on the Board helping to shape the direction of the club and would like to stay involved as a Director and ask for your support.

Ross Mazzola, KC2LOC (Candidate for: Director)

I was first introduced to ham radio as a Boy Scout by Frank Lisuzzo, WA2NQS. Then in 2003, Bob Fox KB2XI showed me his shack while visiting with his family in North Carolina and I was hooked! With the help of Elmers like Ray Pickens, WA2MYG (SK), and his "Newbie Net," I earned my Technician Class license in 2003 and quickly progressed to earning my Extra Class license just one year later in 2004. Since then I've earned both the WAS and DXCC awards and have been active in many facets of the hobby. My current passion is emergency service where I am an active member of Monroe County ARES/RACES and Army MARS. I've also had the opportunity to share what I've learned on weekly ARES training nets and by giving presentations at RARA meetings and at EmComm East. Between my job at a local tactical communications company, my involvement in ARES and serving as a member of your Board of Directors, radio is a big part of my life!

Gary R. Skuse, KA1NJL (Candidate for: Director)

I was born in Irondequoit and earned a BA in Biology from the University of Rochester before continuing my education in Syracuse and Boston. I returned to Rochester in the mid 1980's to raise my family and I am currently a Professor of Biological Sciences at RIT. At the age of 10 my dad and I built an Eico Space Ranger shortwave receiver (which I still own) that ignited an interest in radio that persists to this day.

After years of trying to learn the code by reading it on paper, I started listening instead and learned it in two weeks. With the help of a Heath licensing course I earned my Novice ticket in 1985, and over the next year I upgraded to General and Advanced and retained that license class for more than 20 years. In 2009 I upgraded to Extra and have been a member of the RARA VE team since.

My broad interests in radio range from HF to VHF and UHF and, as a past member of AMSAT, extend into space. Due to an intense interest in many things digital, I served as chair of the Rochester Amateur Packet Society, I am the founder of the Digital Communications Association of Perinton, the trustee of the KA2AIR club station and I am getting ready to put the KB2VZS UHF repeater on the air with my IRLP node. I am an avid SWL and I voraciously monitor airband communications and ADS-B transmissions. In my spare time I provide radio and data telecommunications support for Airsupport, LLC, a local company involved with air shows nationwide.

Len Crellin, KC2PCD (Candidate for: Secretary)

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 three years ago and have continued in that role to the present insuring that broadcast, print and Internet sites are given copies of my Press Releases announcing our license classes, testing, meetings and other events we participate in. I decided that year to also take on another position as a Director. You supported this decision and I have served three years representing your interests.

In addition, I agreed to serve on the Hamfest committee since 2009, and have acted as the Hamfest Exhibitor Relations Manager in 2009 and 2010. I share these duties with Kevin Carey for the 2011 Hamfest.

I participated in four public service events last year and strongly advise all members to help out with at least one. It gives us a chance to shine in our talents as radio operators and provides the chance to discuss the hobby with non-hams that you may meet at these events! I have also taken over the duties of managing the RARA Hotline from Irv, AF2K who did such a fine job managing it for many years. Additionally, I continue to use my 35 years of photography instruction experience to record many images that happen at RARA, and also manage the website photo gallery for our club.

For the 2011-2012 election, I have agreed to run for the position of Secretary. During my three years on the Board of Directors, I have had the occasion to fill in as acting Secretary and am familiar with the duties needed to fill this role. It has been my pleasure serving in these positions and with your support, I would enjoy continuing on into 2010-2011 only this time as an officer in our club. 73.

Kenneth R. Hall, W2KRH (Candidate for: Treasurer)

I was born in Buffalo, NY and raised in Orchard Park. I joined the Army in 1963 and was trained in electronics, serving in Turkey, Japan, Vietnam and the Continental US. 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 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 later elected President. In 2007, I upgraded to General and then Extra, and became a VE with Raj Dewan. I am now the VE team leader. 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 Treasurer I will carefully account for the club's funds and represent the members of the club to the best of my ability. Thank you for your vote.

William L. Marinucci, WB2GHC (Candidate for: Vice President)

My name is Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC, and I am seeking reelection to the position of Vice President of RARA for the 2011-12 year. Ham radio is both a hobby and a passion for me, and being of service to the Ham community is truly an honor. RARA is on the move and continues to grow. It is my desire to see this continue.

I was first licensed as a ham radio operator in 1963 at the age of 12. I became interested in ham radio after building my first crystal radio and hearing neighborhood hams operating AM on 160 meters. I soon became an SWL, and then earned my novice call, WN2GHC, some 48 years ago.

During these 48 years of operating, I have used a variety of amateur radio modes, including AM, CW, DSB, SSB, FM, RTTY, PSK31, OLIVIA, etc. My ham radio activities include being an active member of RARA, ARES/RACES, S.A.T.E.R.N., ARMY MARS (AAR2BO), SKYWARN, FISTS, SKCC, QCWA, NAQCC, QRP, ARRL, RRRRA, WDN, ECARS, and others. I enjoy operating CW, SSB, DXing, operating digital modes, and performing ham radio public service activities, volunteering for Pumpkin Patrol, Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon, AIDS Rochester Red Ribbon Ride, Tour de Cure, etc.

I would be deeply honored to once again serve you as your Vice President of RARA in the upcoming year.

Frank Schramm, WB2PYD (Candidate for: President)

I think many of you could write this as well as, if not better than, I can. I would be tempted to spare us all, but considering there are over 100 new members since last year who may not yet know me, a brief background is in order. For the other 500 of you I will keep this short.

I have been licensed since 1977 and I'm an active HF DX chaser. I enjoy operating both voice and digital modes; especially when my wife Lisa, KC2VHT, and/or daughter Jen, KD2JEN, are in the shack with me.

To-date, I have served you as your Vice-President, and President; I'm responsible for redesigning and maintaining the club website; I am the graphic and layout editor for the new *Rag*; I teach the General Class licensing course; with great assistance from my wife, I've facilitated the club cabin party and summer picnic for the past four years; and last but by no means least, I lead the very talented team that produces your annual Hamfest.

As I hope I have proven by my actions, my philosophy towards this club is "just do it." I'm here to serve you, the members of RaRa, by your will in whatever position you deem necessary. In my previous capacity as club Executive I have leveraged my business experience and focused on streamlining corporate operations and bringing greater value to RaRa membership. I look forward to continuing my efforts to entertain, educate, and enlighten as well as bringing you even more benefits to being a member of RaRa. Please feel free to contact me at any time: WB2PYD@ARRL.net

Picture Puzzler

By Kevin Carey, WB2QMY

Last month's puzzler had an excellent turnout. We asked what Rochester communications company was founded in 1969, and what contract they secured which directly benefited the American public. The answer we were looking for was **Scientific Radio Systems (SRS)** located at **367 Orchard Street**. The contract was for National Weather Service transmitters, which were made by the company. Did you realize that fact when you pressed down the button on your Weather Cube receiver? Most users probably did not. Rochester gave a voice to the Weather Service so that countless people could be warned of life-threatening weather conditions. By the way, you'll find an article in this issue about the NOAA weather radio alert system.

I have a personal connection to SRS, which caused me to choose this trivia question in the first place. My college Meteorology class took a field trip to the National Weather Service office at the Airport in the early 1980s. I'd been a listener to NOAA's broadcasts for years, and while the transmitter itself was not located at the airport, the studio was. One piece of equipment they had there was a VHF Monitor Receiver for checking the transmitted signal from Pinnacle Hill. This unit had a nomenclature tag that read "Scientific Radio Systems, Inc., Rochester, NY."

I stored this information away in my head, intrigued with the thought that such things were made right here in Rochester. (This was well before public access to the Internet, so I had no easy way to learn more about the company.) A short time later, an issue of the *RARA Rag* announced a job opening at SRS for a *Technical Writer Trainee*. Although still in college, I applied for the position, and it led to a very interesting interview and tour of the company. Following another round of interviews, I was hired by the firm, and spent three years there learning the basics of technical writing.

24 years later, I am still writing for the communications/electronics industry, although SRS has long since ceased operation. I cannot imagine a better "training ground" to launch a career, and I also had the pleasure of meeting many interesting people there—many of them hams. You never know where the combination of a college weather class, an interest in writing, and a ham ticket will take you!

The correct guessers for last month's SRS question were:

Paul Jacobs, W2IOG; Mark Hoffman, K2AXX; Dick Kessler W7SV; Dave Hallidy, K2DH; Ronald Jakubowski, K2RJ; Bob Carson, K2VEC; Frank Pollino, K2OS; Steve Sykes, KD2OM; Mike McHugh, W2AV; Tom Bavis (SWL)

This month, we are back to having a picture item for guessing. It is a photo of a vintage ham item, submitted by Rich Place, WB2JLR. Some front panel "giveaway" information has been airbrushed out for obvious reasons! We would like to know what the item is (including the band of operation), and who manufactured it. Please send your answers to Editor@RochesterHam.org. Have another item of interest that we could show in a future *Puzzler* column? Please let us know!



Do you know what this is and who made it?

Take a guess and you could be recognized in the next RARA Rag!



RaRa Hotline
(585) 210-8910
24 Hours a Day

NOAA Weather Radio S.A.M.E. Alerts

Jim Sutton, N2OPS
jim@n2ops.net

S.A.M.E. WEATHER ALERTS

Tornadoes, flash floods, severe thunderstorms, blizzards, and hurricanes are examples of severe weather that can impact our lives and our property. We now have the ultimate in advance alerting capability compliments of weather radio. This capability is known as S.A.M.E. (Specific Area Message Encoding). Alerts are also issued for non-weather emergencies such as chemical or oil spills, 911 telephone outages, and Amber Alert or CAE Child Abduction Emergencies. Below is a chart of SAME codes for our part of New York State:

WHICH WEATHER RADIO FREQUENCY?

It is essential that the listener do careful research as to the choice. Both NOAA Weather Radio and Environment Canada websites give details as to alerts issued by each station.

It is vital to note that the station with the strongest signal may not actually issue information for your location! The Rochester station which does have my forecasts barely comes in here. The Call Hill station originates in Binghamton whose territory does not include Livingston County. Repeated attempts to get the Binghamton Office to include forecasts for Livingston County have been unsuccessful. They do, however, issue alerts for Livingston County. NOAA Weather Radio websites have excellent maps that show reception areas and shading to indicate which counties and/or areas receive alerts via that station.

S.A.M.E. CODES

6-digit codes can be entered for one or as many as several counties or areas. Listings of S.A.M.E codes are available on NOAA Weather Radio and Environment Canada websites, usually alongside the frequency and station information. Many, but not all weather radios have S.A.M.E. alert capability. Older weather alert radios worked with a 1050 Hz tone which was used for all alerts and all areas. S.A.M.E. alerts sound like a brief raspy burst of signal.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Alarm Output for External Devices: These include visual and audible devices. Great for hearing-impaired individuals.
- Antenna jack: most weather radios have RCA jacks. Special external and outside antennas are available. This is a must in weak signal locations.
- Backup power: Battery backup keeps the weather radio running during a power outage. Some weather radios have circuits that trickle charge rechargeable batteries. Be careful not to use alkaline batteries in these units.
- Event lockout: This allows the user to choose which events to be alerted to.
- Reviews: Spend some careful time reading the reviews. Two excellent sources of reviews are Consumer Search.com and Eham.Net
- S.A.M.E.: Does the receiver allow for multiple S.A.M.E. codes or only one. Some S.A.M.E radios can be programmed to respond to all alerts sent by that weather station.
- Sensitivity: Weather radios vary greatly in receive sensitivity. Good sensitivity is vital if you are in a weak signal or fringe area.



County	S.A.M.E Code
Allegany	036003
Cattaraugus	036009
Genesee	036037
Livingston	036051
Monroe	036055
Ontario	036069
Orleans	036073
Seneca	036099
Steuben	036101
Wayne	036117
Wyoming	036121
Yates	036123

The Tropical Bands

By Jay Golden, K2JSG

The Tropical Bands include the 60, 90, and 120-meter bands. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has allocated these bands for domestic broadcasts to countries located in the tropical zone between the Tropic of Cancer at 23 degrees north and the Tropic of Capricorn at 23 degrees south. International broadcasters operate in these bands as well as domestic broadcasters, and between 2.2 MHz and 5.8 MHz one can hear utility stations often using RTTY, military communications, and others.

Poorly maintained equipment has been a perennial problem in many of the countries in the tropical zone, which is understandable when one considers that underdeveloped countries lie within that zone; DXers with digital-readout receivers often report stations off-frequency, but hum, drifting, and over-modulation also mark the small broadcasters. Nevertheless, these broadcasters are perhaps more interesting, because one hears indigenous music, native speakers and, occasionally, advertisements (years ago on a Guatemalan station I heard an advertisement for diapers addressed to "Senora Momma"). The domestic broadcasters' audience is not the United States or any other country, but rather the population within their borders and for this reason they are not generally supportive of our requests for QSL cards.

Propagation on the Tropical Bands is essentially what we'd expect of the 160 and 80-meter bands. Nights during our winter is a better time for DXing the Tropical Bands and even in good periods of the sunspot cycle there is usually a generous helping of QRN and QSB, and during our summer, a time of frequent thunderstorm activity north of the Tropic of Cancer, is often a wasted time for DXing.

Tropical Bands stations generally "fade in" an hour or so before sunset, and by midnight (our time) most have signed off. In Brazil, which has many broadcasters on shortwave, their stations fade in around 11:00 PM and can be heard clearly until after 2:00 AM. And of course, Radio Havana Cuba can be found nearly around the clock broadcasting their anti-American stuff to whoever tunes in.

Suggested frequencies for the 120-meter band are 2.3 MHz to 2.5 MHz; for the 90-meter band 3.2 MHz to 3.4 MHz; and for the 60-meter band 4.75 MHz to 5.1 MHz. Try them out!

Visit the RARA Website!

Did you know that your club's website at 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

Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

RARA **Rochester HAMFEST**

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RARA HOME Welcome to RARA

Rochester Hamfest

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (RARA) is a widely diversified, highly active amateur radio club centered in the Rochester, NY area. We were founded in 1930, and incorporated in September of 1960. Currently with over 575 active members, we are one of the largest Amateur Radio clubs in North America, attracting international members from near and far.

We are an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) affiliated club since 1991, and a charter Special Service Organization. RARA provides an unifying focal point for much of the amateur radio activity in Western New York.

New at RARA on the web:

- RARA Academy - Download the flyer and RSVP TODAY!
- New, Updated Rochester area Repeater Listing
- Fall program listing updated
- Fall Licensing courses - Register now!
- Newest photo gallery posted. Have some fun! Make your own comments and captions!

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

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RaRa Historian



20 Years Ago, May, 1991

The May meeting then, as now, was RaRa's annual business meeting plus a normal program. The program side brought an interesting program featuring Dr. Thomas Bohley of the University of Rochester. Dr. Bohley selected the topic of laser fusion, which could be a sleepy-eyed experience, but in fact, this writer recalls it as being a very interesting and understandable talk.

The business side brought the nominating committee consisting of: Chet Albrecht WB2MDO, Lloyd Caves WB2EFU and Irv Goodman AF2K, presenting their slate of candidates. The election results will be reported in the next issue of the *RaRa Rag*. Dick Goslee, K2VCZ, reporting as Treasurer, notified the membership of a one dollar increase in dues to cover the increasing cost of producing and mailing the *Rag*. Reporting on the VHF side, the RVHFG reported that two new categories were approved for the locally active ARRL January VHF Contest. The new categories are a *Rover* class and an *Unlimited Multioperator* class.

Remember the 1991 ice storm? Who could forget all of the personal property damage as well as the tons of amateur aluminum that hit the earth? Making the best of the situation, our own *RaRa Rag* Editor, Kevin Carey, WB2QMY, wrote an interesting article on how to use parts from a broken Yagi to make a multiband vertical antenna. From the Want Ads you could buy a Heath SB-220 Linear for \$400.00 from Tom, N2TF. A new advertiser was *Snyder and Snyder Attorneys at Law* of East Main Street, Rochester.

40 Years Ago, May 1971

This issue announced a meeting that changed the operating habits of not only RaRa members but amateurs worldwide. Just getting on-the-air in Rochester, and introduced by speaker Charlie Mills, K2LDU, was something called two meter FM and FM repeaters. Charlie built the first practical and truly functional repeater in the area and brought it up on 146.88 MHz. Assisting in the demonstration was Tom Ball, WA2THS. You could buy hamfest tickets from ticket chairman Bob Lozen, WB2ERE, or from Pat Hoke, W2CYG, at his familiar and popular Amateur Radio section of Rochester Radio Supply on East Main Street. The Rochester VHF group elected the following officers: Otto Bluntzer WB2RJB Chairman, Haywood Parker K2YMM Vice-Chair and Ed Kessler W2EQW as Secretary/Treasurer. Sadly, it was reported that one of the area's most popular hams, Bill Kirkbright, WA2HWC, passed away. Bill's daughter, Joan, WA2YTK, married Gerry Vogt WA2GCF, who formed the popular and successful *Hamtronics* company. From the Want Ads you could buy a Heathkit Apache and SB-10 sideband adaptor from Joe, WB2HLL.

Monroe County ARES / RACES News

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, May 27, 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.)

ARES NET: Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 9:00 pm, on the 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

RRRA News

Our meeting for the month of April was great with an Amateur TV talk by George Lloyd, N2UIO. We had a slide presentation as well as a live demo of the mode. For the month of May, we are working on a Satellite demo so stay tuned to the 146.88 repeater for more information on that. The meeting will be at the Pittsford Town Hall at 8:00 PM on May 20, 2011. Hope to see you there! We also have to start looking for officers of the club. At this time the VP, Secretary, and Treasurer positions are open. We will be taking nominations at the meeting. The issue with Echolink on the '88 repeater has been hashed out and a fix will be in place soon. I am just trying to find enough time to go up and do some testing and such. I have been sick the last couple of weekends, and training on my day off at work. That is it for now, please become a part of the RRRA. Without your membership support, the '88 repeater's existence becomes an issue. This is a club-owned repeater and it is different than any other repeater in the area because of that fact. We always appreciate your support.

Antique Wireless Association

The annual AWA Spring Meet will be held May 7th at the Bloomfield Elementary School beginning at 7:00 a.m. for Sellers, and 8:00 a.m. for the general public.

The day is devoted to communications themes, a screening of vintage films, AWA equipment sales and a large auction. Bruce Roloson, Museum Curator, will present an overview of the projected new museum. The present Museum and the future AWA Museum and Research campus will be open for tours in the afternoon. Refreshments will be available in the school auditorium during the morning. Indoor Flea market tables and outdoor parking spaces remain at \$7, but the usual registration charge has been waived in lieu of a free will donation for the new museum development fund.

At the conclusion of the auction, drawings will be held for a selected AWA artifact and a year's membership in the AWA. The indoor venue guarantees a good time, rain or shine.

Call Spring Meet Coordinator Ron Roach at (585) 750-5451 for further information.



Antique Wireless Association

SPRING MEET

Vintage Radio Auction
Flea Market
Tours of Museum Campus

Saturday, May 7, 2011

Bloomfield Elementary School
45 Maple Avenue (Route 444)
Bloomfield, NY

N1MM Presenter Needed

Can you help the **Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Association** (www.lafireline.net/lwara.html)? The group is looking for a presenter to give a demonstration of the N1MM Logging program at our May 22nd meeting. We meet at 6:30 PM with the presentation to follow.

If you can help, please email President Billy Boyd @ N3DSP@lafireline.net or call his cell at 585-315-6607.

For Sale:

HF all band transceiver. 1.8 - 30 MHz with WARC bands included. 100 watts output (SSB & CW) general coverage receiver SSB, CW, RTTY & AM triple conversion superhet. Dual VFOs and 16 memories. 117 Vac power supply built-in but can also be operated from a 12 Vdc supply. Unit has been tested and aligned by Malcom Technical Support in Toledo, WA. This radio is in near mint condition with no visible wear and always used in a non-smoking environment. Icom HM-37 hand microphone included as well as the original instruction manual. An on air demonstration can be arranged. Contact Lou Kohnen, K2ANC, at 585-249-5009, or lkohnen1@rochester.rr.com.



For Sale:

Collins 51J4 Receiver, Serial #4552. PTO reworked and RF/IF stages aligned in July, 2010 by W3HM. Have all documentation. \$850, local pickup. Jay K2JSG, 585-766-8872 or jgolden577@rochester.rr.com.

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.

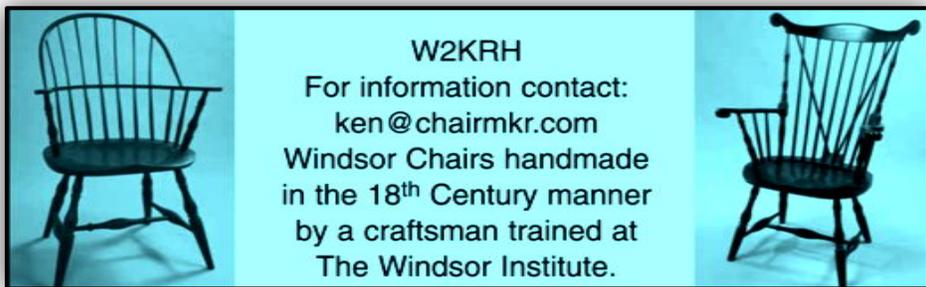
However, we can’t do this alone! Each year we ask you to take ownership of YOUR Hamfest and help out with some of the jobs. Some are before the fest starts such as lining the flea market and setting up tables and signs, while others are on the day of the event (between 6AM & 2PM) like ticket sellers 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 May 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.

THE RARA MARKET PLACE

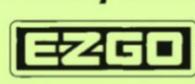


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THE RARA RAG

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..... Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE
Club Historian Ed Gable, K2MP
Club Station Trustee Jim DiTucci, N2IXD
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RaRa RAG Layout Editor Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
Refreshments Coordinator Tom Austin, KA2GXX
Webmaster Frank Schramm, WB2PYD

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

Henrietta Fire Company No.1
3129 East Henrietta Rd.
Henrietta, NY 14467

[Get Directions](#)

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XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)

Ned Asam, W2NED w2ned@frontiernet.net

June Rag Deadline
May 17, 2011

