



THE RARA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

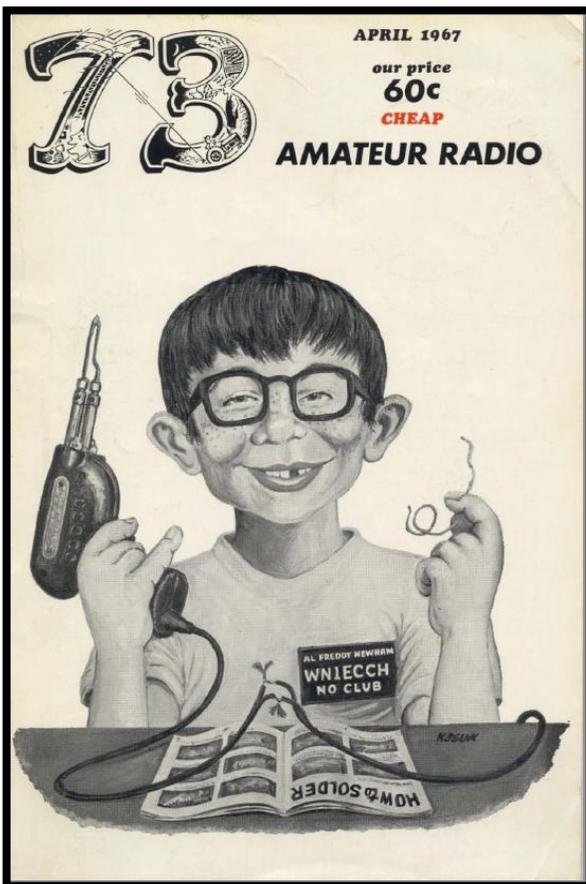
VOL. 64

September 2011

NO. 1

September Meeting - The Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Radiation: What, Me Worry?

It seems that every month we hear about another study of the effects of electromagnetic radiation—what we call RF—on human health. Not only are we inundated with regular reports, it seems that the reports disagree with each other, an oscillation of sorts that has nothing to do with RF. This confusion is confounded by the suspicion that cell phone companies are trying to downplay any harmful effects of RF and therefore that some scientists may be biased in favor of the companies that support their research. Public concern about the risks of RF exposure has prompted the FCC to publish a policy on human exposure to RF energy that we are expected to understand. From a ham's perspective I am not only concerned about any harm I may be doing to myself and my family but, more importantly, any harm that may be perceived by my neighbors as they look at those beautiful aluminum structures in my backyard and on my house (and my car and my garage, etc.).



This month Gary Skuse, KA1NJL, a Professor of Biological Sciences at RIT, will lead a discussion on the potential effects of RF on humans. He will present some actual data, provide his professional interpretation and proffer his opinions. Together we can learn more about the risks of RF exposure and ensure that we operate our radios safely.

This month in the RaRa RAG...

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RARA Meeting Sept. 2nd, 2011 7:30PM

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



The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RaRa

It's time to muster back at the firehouse... where has the summer gone? It seems like the Hamfest was just yesterday. Speaking of the Hamfest: I have some radical news about the 2012 Hamfest! But I can't tell you yet - you'll have to wait until next month's RAG (insert evil laugh here).

The big news for this issue is our NEW membership renewal process. We've made it as easy as 1, 2, 3 and that's about how long it takes too! There are no more forms to fill out, no envelopes to lick, and no stamps to buy (Sorry USPS). All you have to do is:

1. Go to the RaRa website.
2. Click on Membership Data Access ([or just click here](#)).
 - a. The very first time you access the database you'll need to request your access code.
 - b. Click the link under the box for your last name ([or click here](#)).
 - c. Enter your last name and click "Search".
 - d. Find yourself in the list and click "Request Code". The system will e-mail you your access code and return you to the login page.
3. Enter your Access Code and Last Name then click "Look-up".
4. Your demographic information will appear including any Membership Rewards Points listed below.
5. Click on "Renew Today" and you can complete your renewal with PayPal, or look-up family members and renew them too— all at the same time.

Check the [Membership FAQ](#) if you have any questions; we're working to make it as efficient as possible.

Speaking of point redemption... the RaRa Banquet on Friday September 23rd is where you'll want to be. Our Master of Ceremony is none other than our beloved VP Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC (aka "Good Hard Candy"). As many of you already know, Bill is sure to keep the crowd in stitches! The Banquet was created for you, as an opportunity to socialize, and give back through RaRa Rewards Points. There are lots of people who work long and hard to keep the club running and meet all our Public Service obligations. Many of those "jobs" are listed on [club officers' page](#) on the website, but there are many more not listed who perform tirelessly at every beck and call. So, the Board of Directors thought the Banquet was a good platform to recognize a few of those persons each year.

The BoD has created three Awards of recognition: The Public Service Award – Presented to an individual who has performed above and beyond providing Public Service communications. The Club Service Award – Presented to an individual who performs, or has performed, outstanding service to RaRa. Lastly, and by no means least is our version of "Ham of the Year". I like mine with pineapple and raisins please. Oh, the Award... that will be awarded to a person who has by means of many examples, fostered and promoted the overall goodwill and technical advancement of Amateur Radio within the footprint of RaRa.

(Continued on page 3)

SPECIAL OFFER:
Everyone who renews via PayPal
before September 15th will get
20% off their dues!!!

The
Burgundy Basin

(Prez Sez Continued)

Since this is the first Banquet, and time was of the essence, the BoD nominated nine individuals for the three Awards. No, we didn't nominate each other... although the thought had crossed our minds. It was difficult to whittle the nine down to three so we used a Magic 8 Ball; which is how the BoD makes all its important decisions, because let's be honest – voting is just plain boring. And who doesn't like the Magic 8 Ball? In the future, nominees will be sought from the membership. Now put your thinking caps on and pay attention to “who does what” so you can nominate those people for recognition at the 2012 Banquet. A full menu and reservations instructions is elsewhere in this issue of the RAG.

73 and Happy DXing!
Frank
WB2PYD

RaRa Members Banquet
September 23rd 6:30 – The Burgundy Basin Inn
([1361 Marsh Road Pittsford, New York 14534](http://www.rochesterham.org/Membership-EventSignup.aspx))

The RaRa Members Banquet was created for you; and through Membership Rewards Points redemption we hope the cost to each member is as close to zero as possible! This is also a great opportunity to bring your YL (or XYL) out for a nice dinner and show her that not all Hams are Dweebs; most of us are actually quite normal looking and acting.

Yes, the evening will be fun and entertaining guaranteed by our resident clown Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC. The fun and merriment begins with cocktails at 6:30 at the cash bar followed by a full buffet dinner. The menu includes: Sirloin of beef, baked ham (I assume from a pig and not one of us), chicken marsala, penne rigate, rice florentine, mixed vegetables, tossed green salad (yup, you've got to catch it), fruit (I dunno... it just says “fruit”), zesty southwest bean salad (insert your own joke about illegal aliens from the southwest here), Italian olive salad (that's mine and I'm so not sharing), dinner rolls and butter, cottage cheese, Jello, coffee, tea, or milk.

The manufacturer's suggested retail price for this sumptuous spread is in excess of twenty-five dollars. The way things are going that may be equal to eight hundred-fifty post-Obama dollars so get yours while the getting is good. Because the Hamfest had another very good year we're going to put some of the proceeds towards your dinner, reducing the cost to only \$20.00 per person!!

If you have Rewards Points now is your chance to redeem them!

40 points = Banquet is **Free**
30 points = \$5.00
20 points = \$10.00
10 points = \$15.00
0 points = \$20.00

Don't wait - Register Today at: (<http://www.rochesterham.org/Membership-EventSignup.aspx>)



The OFFICIAL RARA BoD Decision
maker – Magic 8 Ball by Mattel
(Ages 6 and up)

Silent Keys

Jeffrey D. Lynch, W3JEF
July 31, 2011

Norman E. Friedman, W6ORD
(ex-K2BDG)
August 5, 2011



Rag-Chew

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

Welcome to a new season at RARA! I would especially like to welcome our newest members who are reading the *Rag* for the first time, and perhaps beginning license classes with RARA in September. Feel free to tell us what you'd like to see in the *Rag* to help you get the most from your new hobby. I can be reached at the e-mail address above.

Our VHF Scanning guru, Jim Sutton, N2OPS is taking a break from this issue while he recovers from an illness, but he's planning an exciting new article on aviation monitoring for next month. Best wishes Jim, and get well soon!

On Saturday, September 10th we will hold our **Fall Fest & Tailgate Party** at 979 Bay Road in Webster. This will be your last opportunity to attend a local swap meet in 2011, so dust off that old gear and consider adding some new goodies to your shack. Mark your calendar now for September 10th!

73, and best DX.

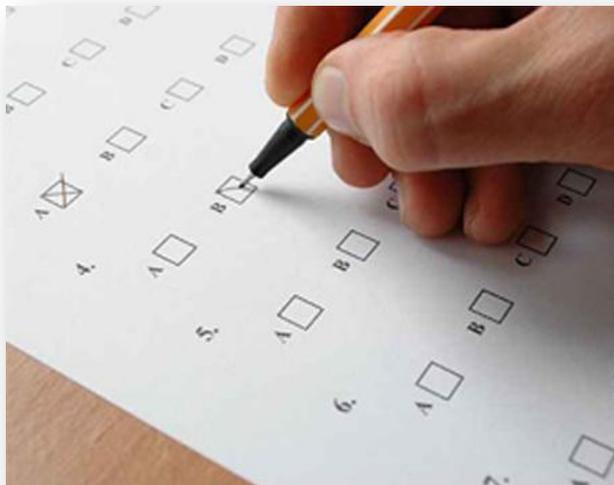
Calendar of Events

- Sept 2** RaRa General Meeting – 7:30
Henrietta Fire Hall,
3129 E. Henrietta Rd
- Sept 7** RaRa Board of Directors
5:30 PM, RIT
Bldg-17, Room 2110
- Sept 10** RaRa / Shriners Fall Fest
8:00 AM, 979 Bay Rd.,
Webster
- Sept 17** RaRa VE Testing sessions
10:00 AM, RIT
Bldg-9, Room 3139
- Sept 23** RaRa Members Banquet
6:30 PM, Burgundy Basin Inn
1361 Marsh Rd, Pittsford

RaRa VE Sessions

By Ken Hall, W2KRH

A new season of VE testing will begin on **September 17th**. This year we begin with a new General question pool which became effective in July. As in past years we will have sessions on the third Saturday of each month September to April, in Room 9-3139 at RIT. The final session will be at the 2012 Hamfest, date & location to be determined. Welcome back to the members of the VE team and all of you whether seeking your first license or upgrading your current ticket. Should you have any questions please contact me at ken@w2krh.com.



September Prizes!

By Jay Hamill, KC2TCM
Sabrina Hamill, WD2STK

This is WD2STK's and KC2TCM's first month doing the RARA raffle prizes. We hope you like what we've picked out! (If not, there's always next month, right?) This month we have a pair of LED Torch Lights, a Photo Alarm Clock with memory card storage, and a Digital Multimeter.

The LED Torch Lights feature orange and white wands that attach to the end, useful for directing traffic, or signaling. The Alarm Clock features a calendar and 18 time zones and can store two SD cards inside. The Digital Multimeter measures DC voltage, AC voltage, resistance, and up to 10A of DC current. It also has transistor and diode measurement functions as well as a flip-out stand. Hope to see you at the meeting on Friday, September 2nd!

Fall Fest September 10th!

RARA has joined efforts with the Damascus Shriners to produce our very first **Fall Fest and Tailgate Party**. The Shriners will be providing a first class location with ample parking, indoor bathroom facilities, separate area for larger vehicles and RVs, a large covered picnic area to eat in and a large deck to rest after all that radio shopping.

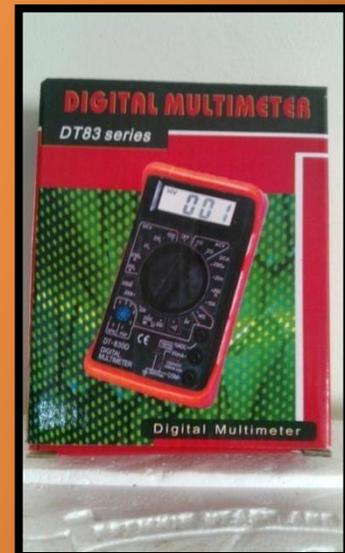
They have an excellent reputation for serving fresh food at reasonable prices. Plan to enjoy a fish fry, Italian sausage, hamburgers, hot dogs, salt potatoes and fries. Then walk it off and buy some more gear!

This event will be on **Saturday, September 10, 2011** and will open at 8 AM and go to 4 PM. It is conveniently located at 979 Bay Rd., Webster, N.Y. 14580. This is just off Rt.104.

Upon entering, the staff will ask for a \$5 donation that will all go to help fund the Shriners Hospital for Children. So, spread the word and **don't miss your last local flea market for buying and selling ham radio supplies in 2011**. Hope to see you all there!



*You never know what you'll find at a radio flea market.
Join us on September 10th to find out!*



Ham Tech: DX Spotting

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

Are you tired of spinning the big knob looking for DX that may be on the bands? That last sentence does not make sense; we are ham radio operators and we *like* spinning big knobs. Work with me here and let's assume the big knob is depressing you lately. There is another way to find that DX. Believe it or not some ham radio operators like to brag to the world about their most recent DX conquest. No, they do not send it to Facebook or Twitter (maybe some do) but most conquests are sent to the *DX Cluster*. The cluster records the bragger's (spotter's) call sign and the DX station's call sign along with the frequency they did their business on.

The trick now is to find some software that will let us read all this important information. If you are using some of the rig control and logbook software that I mentioned in a previous article you will find that DX spotting software is built right in. The beauty of this setup is you can click or double-click on the DX spot that interests you and it will tune your radio to the frequency.

Another very nice spotting program can be found at <http://www.ve7cc.net/>. You can download the VE7CC program and install it on your computer (see sample screen). This program has all the bells and whistles when it comes to DX spotting. You can view all spots or just spots on a selected band. You can set filters to show only certain countries or show only spots from the United States. This is a good program to have on the shack computer. VE7CC also has a web cluster if you are just looking to see what the latest spots are. Other web viewing options can be found by doing a Google search for DX clusters.

RaRa Club LOGO Items



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

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

| Spotter | Freq | DX | Time |
|---------|---------|------------|-----------------------------|
| W0BON | 14260.0 | 3Q40 | 22232 14 TXK JOHN |
| NC2N | 14060.6 | OK1UD | 22232 14 WRE |
| WTRU | 14246.0 | VT3PL | 22242 14 |
| K7GSE | 14282.5 | OE9HON | 22242 14 |
| KB3LIX | 14040.5 | UA2FZ | 22232 14 wae |
| NC2N | 14062.3 | S57DX | 22252 14 WRE |
| NC2N | 14063.7 | 9A6XX | 22262 14 WRE |
| K64W | 14057.2 | NJ0BSP | 22262 14 |
| WB5HWS | 14246.0 | VT3PL | 22262 14 5/9 same Frequency |
| NC2N | 14087.9 | HG4F | 22272 14 WRE |
| NC2N | 14013.1 | HB9CUQ | 22282 14 WRE |
| NC2N | 14016.9 | EA4KD | 22292 14 WRE |
| N1RPI | 14032.5 | SU1RP/1 | 22302 14 |
| K64W | 14058.2 | SP9XCN | 22302 14 |
| A10H | 14190.0 | EA9/EC7D22 | 22322 14 |
| NC2N | 14025.6 | S512 | 22322 14 WRE |
| W4EE | 14060.6 | OK1UD | 22342 14 |
| N1RPI | 14030.0 | RN70 | 22352 14 |
| AB6QM | 14260.0 | K1KJC | 22342 14 NA-055 Maine |

Sample VE7CC program screen

Public Service Events

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

We have four public service events in September and they all could use some more support. If you can help us out please go to the website to sign up.

Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon – Sun, September 18, 2011
AIDS Rochester Red Ribbon Ride – Sun, September 18, 2011 (4 hams)
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

Signing up for an event is very easy. Just go to our website at:
http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/public_service.htm . You can sign up for one or multiple events at the same time.



RaRa Hotline
(585) 210-8910



RARA Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable, K2MP
Club Historian

20 Years Ago, September, 1991

Typical for this issue of the September *Rag* found the incoming president, Peter Secrist WB2SUN, announcing club news, appointments and a welcoming message. Peter thanked retiring License Testing Director John Schooley K2NC, for his ten years of service. It was announced that Robert Fortman WE2T, was the new testing Director. In a similar fashion, Peter recognized and thanked Ed Gable K2MP, for his thirty years of service as RaRa's Tech and General class instructor and more recently for his work as Licensing Class Director.

The new Vice-President, Lloyd Caves WB2EFU, wrote an additional welcoming message and told a bit about future meetings and topics. The meeting venue then was the Farm and Home Center on Highland Avenue. In a fine example of pre-planning, Bob Fortman WE2T, printed in this issue the entire testing schedule for the 1991/92 season. RaRa was using the W5YI-VEC at the time. Test sessions, with a fee of \$5.25, were on Saturdays in the Cafeteria at 111 Westfall Road.

Anyone not remember the morning of March 4, 1991? That was the morning of the famous Rochester Ice Storm. Telling the story was RACES/ARES radio officer Ed Holdsworth, N2EH. In a two-page article, Ed chronicled the exciting build up, the call to arms, the opening of shelters and many statistics including the 1500 man hours put in by radio amateurs. The storm, 17 hours in duration, had people without power for up to two weeks. Ed cited fifty-one local amateurs, too large of a list to repeat here, for their tireless duty. RDXA members (Rochester DX Association) were all getting ready for a new DXCC country being activated in the name of Penguin Islands with a ZS1 prefix.

40 Years Ago, September, 1971

A popular local radio personality heard on WHAM and a very active radio amateur, Eddie Dunn, W2ECH, was the guest writer for the traditional welcome to members of yet another RaRa season. Also sitting in for the traditional VP job was Joe Hood, K2YAH, who introduced the program for the evening. Speaking on new solid state advances in RTTY was Paul Evans, W2YYW, from the Xerox development group. Paul demonstrated a suitcase sized terminal that could send and receive RTTY as well as Morse up to 100 wpm. The venue then was the Farm and Home Center on Highland Avenue. Identifying herself and the membership chairman, Joan Vogt, WA2YTK, reminded that your five dollars dues payment should be in the mail now. Pay your dues and the updated RaRa Directory is yours for the asking. Writing for the Rochester VHF Group was John Lucas, WA2BEH, who thanked Ed Gable, W2MPM, the outgoing VHF Newsletter Editor, for his years at the keyboard. John reports little summertime VHF/UHF activity, however Chuck, K2YCO contacted Montreal on 1296 MHz and Hank, W2UTH, had a nice QSO with Washington state on six meters. Writing for the Rochester Radio Repeater Association was Ed Gable, W2MPM, who reported that RRRRA, now in its second year, just elected Russ Schroeder W2DYY as Chairman, Jerry Vogt WA2GCF, as Vice-Chair, Dave O'Brien WA2YFL as Secretary and Ed Gable W2MPM as Activities Chairman.

Charlie Mills, K2LDU, remains as custodian of 28/88 repeater, WA2UWQ. With regret it was reported that Herb Wescott, K2BBJ, became a silent key. From the Want Ads you could buy a 2-meter Yagi antenna from Marv, K2DPW. Glenwood Sales, a popular surplus parts dealer on Hague Street, remained a popular commercial advertiser and gathering spot.

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, September 22, 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. East.)

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.

News Flash: Volunteers Needed

We are looking for approximately 20-25 volunteers for the MVP Health Care Rochester Marathon. It will be held on Sunday, September 18th, from roughly 6:30am to 3pm. Both full day and half-day volunteers are welcome. Positions include water stops, and mobile bike/scooter with APRS.

Volunteers at water stops are responsible for providing communications from the rest stop to net control. If you've worked a stop before and would like to work it again, please request to be placed at a specific stop. If you need to arrive late or leave early, please request that as well.

Mobile volunteers are also needed.

Last year we had two hams on the route, a bike and a motorized scooter. Both vehicles had APRS. Rochester Marathon coordinators were very impressed with this, and have requested this service again. If you're interested, please contact me and request this position and what your setup will be. My contact information:

Dave Snyder KC2REO
Phone: 585.210.3280
email: kc2reo@arrl.net

Thanks to everyone for their valued assistance in advance!

As always, stay in touch with Monroe County ARES/RACES ---
www.monroecountyemcomm.org



RDXA News

Rochester DX Association will kick off the 2011-12 season with an interesting presentation by Andy Flowers, KØSM on *"The Ionosphere: What, Why and How?"*

What makes up the ionosphere? Why is the ionosphere divided into regions and why do they have different effects on radio waves? Why do we have a MUF? What does the E-layer have in common with my big-screen television? To answer these questions and more, we will take a deep dive into the ionosphere, and examine it from both theoretical and practical viewpoints. We will explore differences in day/night propagation, how gray line propagation works, and how to find and capitalize on the more unusual and less-understood propagation mechanisms found in the HF spectrum. Finally, we will apply this knowledge toward operating practices, with a focus on HF DXing and contesting.

The meeting is Tuesday evening, September 20th starting at 7:30 PM. Location is the Emergency Operations Center at 1190 Scottsville Road, 2nd floor. Mark your calendar now - See you there!

RRRA News

Brad Allen, KB2CHY

As I sit here at the AWA Convention doing sound, video, and pictures, I decided to get this out as I have promised Kevin for the last couple days. Days have been very long. We are ready to start our 2011-2012 year, and once again we have our first meeting on September 16 at 8:00PM.

Our talk for the evening will be by VP Robert Shewell, N2HJD on "Antennas you can build". He will feature the antennas made a few years ago for the Empire State Games. Refreshments will be served. On another note, the club STILL needs your help to keep the 146.88 repeater on the air. Our expenses consist of Insurance, and very low phone bills for autopatch/remote access. Please renew your membership as the club simply cannot survive without it. I know the club does not have a lot to offer other than the 88 repeater which is ALWAYS online no matter what.

We had failures of two modems at the same time and with the same problem. This is being addressed. I have been quite busy this summer and have not had much time to reprogram a couple of modems and test them out to take to the sites. Echolink is still in the works for the same issue, but time has not cooperated. I donated a Dell computer to handle the node as well as the cables to do so. Unfortunately we are still waiting for Internet service at the site. Without service, Echolink is not going to work. Ok, well I hope to see a good turnout at the meeting. Please listen to 88 or visit the website at <http://www.rrra.us>

Elmira Hamfest

The amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier is proud to announce their 36th annual hamfest to be held **Saturday September 24, 2011**. Doors open for the Flea Market at 6:00 AM. Looking to buy from one of our vendors? The doors open for the inside vendors at 8:00 AM. As usual everything you've come to expect from our hamfest is included: Free parking, one flea market slot per admission ticket, a fox hunt is planned, FCC Exams (Walk-ins accepted) and a great time to be had by all. Admission is still \$5.00 in advance and \$6.00 at the gate the day of the event. More details are on our website: www.arast.org. Click on the fall hamfest link. Camping is available for a small fee (County Regulations and we have no control on that). Advance tickets are available from any board member or by sending \$5.00 with \$.60 S&H per order to:

Elmira Hamfest
P.O. Box 614
Horseheads NY 14845-0614



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



RARA Classifieds

For Sale

- Rohn 45G foldover section. Four ¼" EHS guy cables attached at hinge assembly; \$300
- Wilson SY-1 System One 5-ele 20/15/10m Yagi w/ Telrex balun. Refurbished with stainless hardware then up 7 years. Also another nearly complete set of parts, boom, elements, traps, etc., for spares or will sell this separately for antenna projects; \$300
- Mosley TA-33 3-element 20/15/10m Yagi w/ Hy-Gain balun; \$200
- Boom section from 15 element 2m Yagi, some broken elements, use for a project. \$25
- Icom IC-2100 2m mobile; \$100
- Kenwood TR2500 2m handheld with 120V AC power base and 12V DC mobile base. \$40
- Two Digital 19" RM model 874-D power distribution units 120V 24A input, eight NEMA 5-15 (standard duplex receptacle) outputs; \$25/ea
- Motorola rpb50 commercial UHF multi-tone pager base; \$20
- 500 ft. box 14AWG TW stranded for HF dipoles; 50% market price
- TASCAM model PE-150 electret condenser studio mic; \$35
- Weller No. TC202 small soldering station; \$25

Contact Rick Wells, W2RW at W2RW@frontiernet.net, or 585-621-7583

For Sale

Ten-Tec 238 Antenna Tuner, mint condition, \$280.
Contact Dave Selbert, KA2BOK at **585-334-9736**



(Photo provided for model reference; not actual unit for sale)

THE RARA MARKET PLACE



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A Light Beam Antenna can help. At about half the size of a Quad antenna for the same frequency, without a closed loop, and with 3 wire folded dipoles that are uniquely configured, we think everyone will be happier ... including you.

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Education Coordinator Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE
Hamfest Producer Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
Public Service Coordinator Duane Fregoe, K2SI
License Testing Coordinator Ken Hall, W2KRH
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RaRa RAG Managing Editor Kevin Carey, WB2QMY
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
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