



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
Founded in 1930

VOL. 64

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NO. 12

Hamfest 2012, Some Personal Reflections

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC
Vice President, RARA

Our annual Hamfest, Hamfest 2012, has come and gone already! This year's fest celebrated a new venue, one that is larger, easy to get to from any direction, and has fantastic amenities for such an event. Indoor and outdoor flea markets were available just in case the rains came. The rains were nowhere in sight and the outdoor flea market a huge success, according to its participants. Some that had experienced a rainy fest in the past decided to take advantage of an indoor flea market, one free from weather concerns, and one that was much cooler than the outside. We also had a fantastic vendor turnout this year, many more than last year. VE testing yielded our community many new hams and several current hams upgraded. Congratulations to all of you, and a word of gratitude to the VE Testing Coordinators...job well done. All in all, based on a great deal of feedback, Hamfest 2012 was highly successful.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that there were a few glitches as well. There were, and they have been noted by the Hamfest Committee and the RaRa Board of Directors. The first step in solving a problem is to have the problem(s) defined. There are things that could be improved upon, and corrective actions will be implemented wherever possible and where they make sense. Again, a word of thanks for those of you who offered suggestions, your input is always welcome. This was the first year at RIT, so there is an expected learning curve that has to take place. Kudos and thanks to the RIT staff and K2GXT RIT Amateur Radio club for all that they did.

Some further thoughts on obtaining and providing feedback... There is a proper way and a wrong way to do so. Constructive criticism, done in a courteous manner where the recipients are treated with dignity and respect, is always welcome and the way to go. Thank you to those that did so in this manner.

However, there were a handful of people who chose to be rude, insulting, degrading, and even launch personal attacks against the Hamfest Committee and the RaRa Board members because of something that didn't exactly go their way. This kind of behavior is totally unacceptable and should not be tolerated. Where does anyone think they have the right to act in this manner? If one can't offer feedback with dignity and respect, then one's feedback is not welcome. Those of you who took this route should be ashamed of yourselves. I suggest that you take this negative energy and turn it around to positive energy by getting more involved. I am very sure that you would not tolerate someone treating you in the manner you treated the Hamfest organizers. Thank goodness that there was only a handful of you. Do you want to know where our young people get their bad habits, look in the mirror! It's time for you offenders to act like responsible adults in this fraternal organization of ham radio. Your actions were disgusting!

Let's remember that those who put on the Hamfest are volunteers, most with full time jobs, families to care for, and a load of other responsibilities. They have spent countless hours of their time, for no compensation other than putting on the best Hamfest that they can because of their love for ham radio. I have witnessed their hard work and dedication to this cause. Without their work and extreme dedication, there would not be a hamfest. They deserve better, they deserve your thanks and praise!

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RARA Picnic July 28th, 2012 - Noon

Hazelwood Lodge in Ellison Park
([click here for a map](#))

"Members and their guests only"



The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RaRa

Hamfest # 89: Done! That puts another great Rochester Hamfest in the history books. I hope you were in the record-breaking crowd at RIT on June 30th. It was a beautiful venue; the RIT staff was the most gracious of hosts and really pulled out all the stops for us – that pool sure looked inviting! The weather was excellent and attendance was up by more than 50% over the past three years. But it was no problem for RIT; there was plenty of room to spare, inside and out! Needless to say it was a huge success for the club's treasury as well, ensuring a healthy future for member benefits, and programs like our annual Scholarship. Detailed financial reports for the Hamfest will be available at the annual business meeting in September. Speaking of scholarships; Max Kelley, KC2SPY, is the 2012 recipient of the RaRa Memorial Scholarship and received his award at the Hamfest. Congratulations Max. Please join the Board of Directors in our appreciation to the 2012 Hamfest Committee members: Kevin Carey, Len Crellin, Peter Fournia, Lisa Schramm, and Jim Stefano! Of course the event would not be possible without the small army of volunteers on the day of the event – far too numerous to list here but all of whom receive our sincerest gratitude along with their membership rewards points! If you missed it, you can view the collection of event photos posted by our own Len Crellin in our photo gallery at:

<http://s531.photobucket.com/albums/dd359/RochesterHam/Hamfest%202012/>

And whether you were there or not you'll want to review our favorite VP, Bill Marinucci, on TV! Check the link at:

http://rochester.ynn.com/content/all_news/590034/hamming-it-up-at-rit/

Our next club social is our Family Picnic! On July 28th, noon – 'til, we are gathering at Hazelwood Lodge in Ellison Park ([click here for a map](#)). We will have all your summertime favorites hot off the grill, with plenty of cold drinks and salty snacks! All members are encouraged to bring the family out for an afternoon of fun. Remember to bring your favorite outdoor game and start an impromptu competition of Frisbee, horseshoes, or toss across... if nothing else; bring your appetite!

The next issue of the *Rag* will contain the agenda for our annual business meeting and the nominees for next year's club officers and Directors. If you, or someone you know, is interested in leading the club into the future; please contact a current officer to submit your nomination!

73 and happy DXing.
Frank
WB2PYD



The annual RaRa member's picnic: A Family Affair!

Calendar of Events

Aug 8 RaRa Board of Directors
5:30 PM, RIT
Engineering Hall, Room 2110



Rag-Chew

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

Welcome to the August issue of the *RARA Rag*! We will resume our "normal season" beginning with the next issue (September), but now that we've gone electronic, we're able to deliver the *RARA Rag* to you 12 months of the year. Our summer issues may be a bit smaller than you're used to seeing, but we hope you'll still find many items of interest in these pages. Suggestions for improvement are always welcome!

Last month we received a note from a reader who made the valid point that FCC Type Acceptance is not a requirement for a ham to use equipment on the air. Type acceptance only impacts the manufacturer and commercial seller of such gear (see *Scanning News*, July 2012 issue). The point is well received. It's worth noting however, that a user *would* be responsible for any interference caused by the operation of a faulty transmitter (i.e., spurious or harmonic emissions), and as such, I would feel uncomfortable operating a VHF/UHF radio on bands adjacent to public service frequencies if that unit had not been FCC approved. This is just my opinion. At a minimum, I would want to evaluate the signal on a spectrum analyzer. For those lacking access to spectrum measurement equipment, FCC Type Acceptance seems to be a pretty decent alternative. I believe this was the overall intent of the author's comments in his article. The fine point has been noted though, and FCC Type Acceptance is *not* a requirement placed on the ham engaged in non-commercial pursuits.

We're pleased to present an article this month from the immediate past editor of the *RARA Rag*, Dick Goslee, KG2I. Dick graciously agreed to write this article on the many and long-lasting contributions of Don A. Ray, WA2PKS (SK). Dick was able to fill in many of the details that I was lacking in last month's brief comments. Another past editor, Harold Smith, K2HC contacted me to correct some of the preliminary information given in the last issue. Specifically, Don was not a past editor of the *Rag*. He did, however, lay out the copy to prepare it for printing, and it's fair to say that he had a lot to do with the look and feel of the *Rag* over a period of many years. Dick's article will fill in many of the details.

73, and best DX!



Questions,
Comments?
Call the

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



Donald A. Ray, WA2PKS (SK)

By Dick Goslee, KG2I
Past President, RaRa, former editor of "The RaRa RAG"

RaRa lost a long time member and a close friend of mine on June 13, 2012 with the passing of Donald A. Ray, WA2PKS. Those of you that knew Don were aware of the phonetics that are associated with his call. They were "Printers Kant Spell." Yes, Don was the printer for many years of all things for RaRa and the AWA.

I am not sure when Don first started printing for RaRa. Harold Smith, K2HC said Don was printing the RARA *Rag* when he took over as the Editor in 1962. Harold would do the writing for the *Rag* and then Don's wife Joyce would type it all out on an IBM Selectric typewriter. She would type the copy twice then manually justify the second copy. When she was done it was back to Harold to paste it up using a "Waxer Tool". After the copy was all pasted up it was back to Don to shoot the negatives and make the plates for the printing press. Prior to computers, it sure was a lot harder and more time consuming to produce the finished product.

As the 90's rolled around and computers were available Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP, who was the Editor at that time, would produce the finished copy directly on his computer and then send the *Rag* to Don via E-Mail. Don would print it out on his laser printer and then shoot the negatives and make the plates for the press.

The print shop in Don's basement was a sight to behold. When you look at the small home on Glenthorne Rd. you would never guess there was a complete printing shop in the basement. He had two offset presses, an electric folding machine, large paper shear, camera to shoot the negatives and of course a darkroom for the processing of the negatives. Having been down the narrow stairs to the basement print shop I can only imagine how difficult it was to get all this equipment down there.

In addition to printing the *Rag* Don also printed all the envelopes, membership cards, and the annual dues bills for RaRa. His printing of the Annual Directory was a major project each January. Considering the number of pages in the Directory it was a lot of negatives and a lot of plates for the press. After it was all printed and cut to size the manual collating of all the pages was a sight to see. Don would lay out the stacks of all the pages around his Dining Room table and he and Joyce would walk around the table picking up one page from each pile until they had a complete Directory in hand. With over 600 copies each year it was definitely a "labor of love" for the project.

Don was also the printer of all the material for the Hamfest including the Flyers that were mailed out to over 15,000 Hams around the country as well as the tickets. In 1961 Don was the printer for the first offset printed "AWA OTB," a Quarterly publication. He also printed all of the other material for the AWA. Don and his wife Joyce were Honorary members of the AWA.

Needless to say that if you saw anything printed involving Amateur Radio in the Rochester area for many years it probably came from that small shop on Glenthorne Rd. Don's talents and friendly smile will be missed by all of us in RaRa.

R.I.P. my friend. Don you will be missed.



Licensing Classes Coming Up!

By Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE
RARA Education Coordinator

Would you like to get your ham license or upgrade to the next level but aren't sure you can pass the exam without help? You can bet you aren't alone; and RARA is ready to meet your needs!

We have instructors standing by! Let us know you are interested, and we will hold all three class level courses (Technician, General, and Extra) this coming fall. But, we need to hear from you soon. If there is sufficient interest (a minimum of five students per course), we will schedule 10 week courses at RIT beginning on Tuesday, September 13th. Class space is limited and reservations are highly recommended.

Licensing courses are FREE to current members and only \$15.00 for non-members. Not a current RARA member? Membership is free for students and only \$8.00 for others without a ham license!

Click here for details <http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/Membership.htm>

RIT ARC Facilitates ARISS Contact for WE

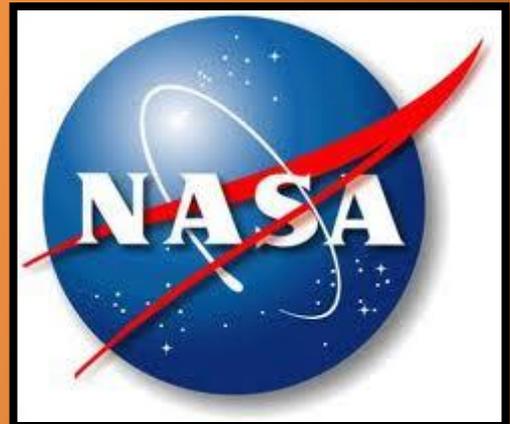
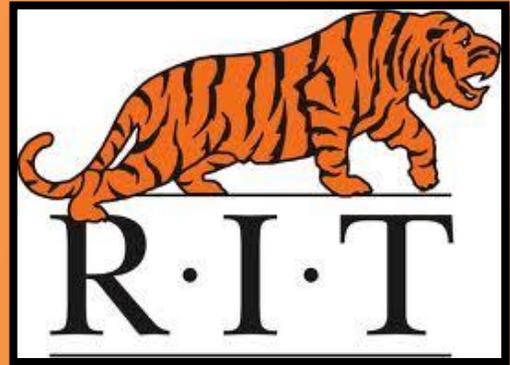
By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD

On the morning of July 23rd, I had the privilege to work with the RIT ARC to facilitate an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact for the Women in Engineering (WE) association at RIT. The WE filled the Xerox auditorium with grade school kids from their summer camp as well as a robotics camp and other youth groups on campus. The RIT ARC spent months planning and dozens of hours the week of the event facilitating the contact with the ISS – needless to say everything went like clockwork!

The event began at approximately 13:30 UTC with a duration of nearly 9 minutes and 30 seconds. Using a complex and sophisticated audio interface, the children in the Xerox Auditorium were able to hear and speak with Astronaut Suni Williams aboard the International Space Station as she passed overhead via one of two well equipped Amateur Radio stations located in other buildings on campus. Click the image below to see a 14 minute video presentation of the event.

The Women in Engineering Program at Rochester Institute of Technology (WE@RIT) is dedicated to increasing the representation of women engineers and women leaders within the engineering profession. Founded in 2003, WE@RIT strives towards achieving gender parity within the Kate Gleason College of Engineering and hosts a comprehensive series of pre-engineering outreach, recruitment, and community building programs in support of this vision.

Kudos to the RIT ARC and WE@RIT!



Amateur Radio onboard the International Space Station
LIVE CONTACT WITH THE ISS ASTRONAUTS
July 23rd, 2012 0931 HRS
Women in Engineering @ RIT Summer Camp

ISS orbiting speed
17,000 MPH

Control Room
XEROX Auditorium
Student Questions

W2RIT - Primary

MISSION CONTROL

HAM RADIO OPERATORS
James Stefano - W2RIT
Aaron Herting - K2BEC
Connor Carey - K2BOT
Ian Mac Kenzie - KB3OC
William Springer - N2HYQ
Jason Fautring - K2W1K

Roch. Amateur Radio Assn.
Frank Schramm - WB2PYD
Lisa Schramm - K2BGR
Jeannette Schramm - KD2JEN

RIT STAFF
David Scheidrich-Video
Emilio Del Plato-Skype
Rick Wyflich - Audio

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Backup
K2GXT
RIT Amateur Radio Club

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Electronic Communications: Some Things to Remember

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

About every other year or so, I feel compelled to remind our club members about some email and electronic communications issues...

1. Emails never go away; blogs and posts never go away; they continue to live somewhere on someone's hard drive and could someday be revived. I did a web search on myself, and some Cub Scout Pinewood Derby end-gate electronics articles showed up from nearly 30 years ago—before most people knew what email was. The moral: *Do not* put anything in an email or a post that you don't want your kids (or grand-kids?) to see in the headlines on the front page of tomorrow's newspaper. When I worked in the broadcast industry, whenever there was even a *remote* possibility of an open mike, the catch phrase was: "Speaketh as a Nun."
2. We're hams, at least put your call sign and name *inside* your post; if you expect people to contact you, put your email-address or phone number inside too. I am getting older; I may remember your call and your face but not much more.
3. Speaking of phones (and this is one of my *biggest* pet-peeves) when calling on the phone, ALWAYS leave a message when possible. (He may really want to know that you found his RG-58.)
4. When informing people via email that a fellow ham has passed away, use only the following as a "Code-Phrase" in the subject line: "Sad News." This helps prepare us older guys for the SK notice.
5. When quoting an email from someone else, include only the salient portion from the original; put your reply at the beginning of the message, so it will be read first; remember that nobody likes "Me Too" messages, so go ahead and add some thoughtful comments.
6. Repetitive emails, cross-posts (the same message sent to many lists) and emotional "cross posts" (which I will get to in a moment) are really a form of the above "Me Too," and additionally "Ain't it Awful" messages, that are real turn-offs, especially to the newer operators that we are trying very hard to get into the ham radio fold.

Which brings me to...

7. Do what you can in recruiting other hams, even if it means keeping your mouth shut. Let's go with the positive. We know that three-out-of-three hams grow older each year, and we have very active recruitment endeavors in our community. Please do not EVER, EVER use the following by phrase or intent, about ham radio: old guy's hobby; is still alive or active; "Yes, they still do that", etc., etc. My mother said, "If you can't say something good, then don't say anything at all" which is still excellent advice.

Which brings me to...

8. On-the-air and email courtesy. If you are angry when you write an email, (and very likely, you have a right to be) let it rest a day before hitting the Send key. Just like on the air, if you think it may not be appropriate, you're right, it's not appropriate. See #1 above.
9. Abbreviations, pro-words, Q-signals, and smileys are just fine when used to help improve clarity in our messages. Just like on the air, they are a part of our original data-compression that we have used for many, many years.

10.

I am sure that others have comments, thoughts and suggestions that are welcome. BTW, IMHO, I am ROTFLMHO, so CUL, LOL, HI HI es 73 de Bill WB2SXY, dit dit.

Scanning VHF/UHF News: Wouxun KG UV6D Review

By Jim Sutton, N2OPS

Here we go with a look at yet another great Wouxun handheld. The KG UV6D is a dual-band VHF UHF with lots of features at a great price of around \$150. With commercial capability the KC UV6D is a great choice for ARES and RACES work as well as many commercial applications.

Features of the KG UV6D include:

- 199 channels
- FCC Part 90 acceptance for commercial users, with true narrowband capability for 2013.
- 136-174 and 420-520 MHz RX and TX.
- Dual band monitor V-U, U-V, V-V, U-U
- Programmable by keypad or computer
- Free programming software
- IP 55 Waterproof rating
- Clean 500 mw audio
- Heavy-duty IP55 waterproof speaker mic available
- Channels can be set for receive-only, as desired
- No price gouging on accessories
- RX performance that rivals my Motorola commercial radios
- Solidly constructed unit as compared with some other Chinese imports
- Channels can be programmed TX U / RX V or TX V / RX U
- Selectable voice prompt

Some disadvantages of the KG-UV6D:

- Scanning stops even if the signal is carrier squelch (CSQ) or a different PL
- Channels cannot be divided into banks
- FM BCB listening feature is quite complicated and disables scanning ability via the side button.

Note that some versions of Wouxun radios have amateur TX only. If the price is very low this may be the case. Be sure to check before purchasing to know the capabilities of the unit you are interested in. KC8UNJ has produced outstanding KG-UV6 *Commander* programming software. It has several features that are not found in the Wouxun software. Wouxun radios are available from [Main Trading Company](#). I highly recommend this company with nothing but the best of experience in dealing with them. Other links of interest:

- [Powerwerx Website](#) is another Wouxun supplier.
- [Yahoo Group](#)
- [Wouxun Owners Manual](#)
- [This is an alternative Wouxun Owners Manual](#)
- [A nifty Ham Radio Guide for the Wouxun KG-UV6D](#)
- [KG-UV6D Service Manual:](#)
- [KC8UNJ KG-UV6 Commander programming software](#)
- KG-UV6D Video Review:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qou03EYA9wQ>

Wouxun radios are now my personal favorite. At THE BRIDGE youth program, we are replacing all of the radios carried by our outreach team with Wouxun handhelds. If you would like to see the KC-UV6D or the KG-UVA1 firsthand you are invited to visit THE BRIDGE youth center in Mount Morris www.otrym.org Just email me in advance to confirm that I will be there (jim@otrym.org).

Until next time 73 to thee.

RaRa Club LOGO Items



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

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



News from our friends at other area clubs...

Editor's Note: Free press is available for your club! We welcome brief updates and meeting notices from all area ham clubs. Just send your input to editor@rochesterham.org. When preparing your article, please remember to keep it short, and assume that readers know nothing about your club. The article should be focused toward non-members, and not your own current members... that's what your own newsletter is for! We hope all area clubs will take advantage of this opportunity to interest new members in joining their ranks. 73, -Kevin

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. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend.

REMINDER: We do not meet during the months of July or August.

The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, September 27, 2012, 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.

WEB: www.monroecountyemcomm.org

NBEMS: Want to learn about Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS)? It's the latest and easiest way to "Go Digital!" Bring your laptop computer and 2-M handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2014.



RARA Classifieds

Help Wanted:

Looking for Managers and Staff for a Flea Market operation...

Did you know that RARA offers outstanding job and management training, in real-life situations, as one of the many benefits to its members? How would, "Worked several years on the Board of Directors of a 700 member Non-Profit," or, "Served as an Elected Officer of a 700 member Non-Profit" look on your resume? RARA is looking for instructors, coordinators and shadows/apprentices to learn every Club officer, position, coordinator, public service, and other Club functions. What better way to hone your management and operating skills, at the same time, especially for our younger members who have everything to gain from these experiences in critically important jobs with plenty of training and support in a non-threatening environment. Leave your name, callsign and contact info at 210-8910.

For Sale:

Tubes, Tube Testers, and Electronic Components

3200+ vacuum tubes, several tube testers, electronic components, and digital readouts. For more information, or to view these items, [please contact Enzo at 370-4774 or vra1970@gmail.com](mailto:vra1970@gmail.com). Too many items to list individually, but should be of interest to anyone involved in vintage radio/electronics and restoration activities. Photos show a small portion of what is available.



The Amateur's Code

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

- CONSIDERATE** Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
- LOYAL** Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
- PROGRESSIVE** With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.
- FRIENDLY** With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
- BALANCED** Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
- PATRIOTIC** With station and skill always ready for service to country and community



Visit the RARA Website!

Did you know that your club's website (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
- ✓ Track and redeem your Reward points
- ✓ 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?)
- ✓ Online membership directory
- ✓ Order RARA logo products (hats, shirts, and mugs)
- ✓ Useful Internet links
- ✓ Ham Radio 101—tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings

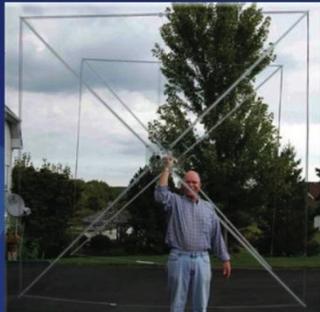


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THE RARA RAG

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P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333

RaRa Hotline (585) 210-8910

Website: www.rochesterham.org

OFFICERS:

President: Frank Schramm, WB2PYD 270-1045
wb2pyd@arrl.net
Vice-President: Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC 889-9008
wb2ghc@arrl.net
Secretary: Len Crellin, KC2PCD 267-9805
kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com
Treasurer: Ken Hall, W2KRH 289-3801
ken@w2krh.com

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Jim DiTucci, N2IXD 426-7956
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wb2sxy@arrl.net
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DEPARTMENT HEADS:

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..... Sabrina Hamill, WD2STK
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License Testing Coordinator Ken Hall, W2KRH
Membership Secretary Lisa Schramm, K2BGR
Media Communications Len Crellin, KC2PCD
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
3129 East Henrietta Rd.
Henrietta, NY 14467

[Get Directions](#)

Rochester Area Radio Club Contacts

Antique Wireless Association (AWA)

Lynn Bisha, W2BSN lbisha@rochester.rr.com

Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

Rich Hamill, KC2TNJ tinker@rochester.rr.com

Fisherman's Net Amateur Radio Club

Jim Sutton, N2OPS jim@otrym.org

Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn

Bill Boyd, N3DSP N3DSP@lafireline.net

Monroe County ARES

Jim DiTucci, N2IXD n2ixd@arrl.net

Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RaRa)

Frank Schramm, WB2PYD wb2pyd@arrl.net

Rochester DX Association (RDXA)

Paul Kolacki, K2FX usafpilot@rochester.rr.com

Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

Brad Allen, KB2CHY kb2chy@frontiernet.net

Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)

John Stevens, WB2BYP wb2byp@arrl.net

Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)

Steve Benton, WB2VMR sbenton2@rochester.rr.com

XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)

Ned Asam, W2NED w2ned@frontiernet.net

September Rag Deadline
August 15, 2012

