



# THE RARA RAG

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

VOL. 65

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NO. 1

## It's in D-STARs!

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC  
Vice President, RARA

It's hard to believe that the Summer quickly blew by us and that Fall is just a few weeks away. Our Summer hiatus comes to an end, and our RaRa meetings begin again. Several of you have asked for a presentation on D-STAR since there are some new D-STAR repeaters in the area. September's guest speakers have been actively involved with the planning, purchasing, setup, and debugging the newest D-STAR repeater to go on the air here. So what exactly is D-STAR? D-STAR stands for Digital Smart Technologies for



Amateur Radio, and is a proprietary system of Icom. Simply stated, D-STAR is a digital voice and data protocol specification developed as the result of research by the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) to investigate digital technologies for amateur radio. For voice conversations, D-

STAR repeaters act just like our familiar analog repeaters. One of the pluses of D-STAR is that it connects repeater sites over microwave links and the Internet and forms a wide area amateur radio network. The D-Star system provides a new capability and functionality to amateur radio and increases the efficiency of emergency communications as well. We'll gain more insight on September 7<sup>th</sup>!

Our guest presenters are Dr. Gary Skuse, KA1NJL, and Mr. Mike Moore, KC2MN. Gary is a Professor of Biological Sciences at RIT, and is also on the RaRa Board of Directors. He earned a BA in Biology from the University of Rochester before continuing his education in Syracuse and Boston. He returned to Rochester in the mid 1980's to raise his family. He served as chair of the Rochester Amateur Packet Society, is the founder of the Digital Communications Association of Perinton, and the trustee of the KA2AIR club station.



Mike, a resident of Pittsford, NY is a test engineer for ITT Industries Space Systems Division and earned his MSEE at RIT. He was first licensed circa 1967 as WN8ZPY. Talk about a ham family, Mike's XYL, Laura (N2ILN), and children Pat (N1RRK) and Laura (KC2HFE) are all hams as well! Mike enjoys biking and sailing in addition to his ham radio hobby.

See you in September! Hey, isn't there a song with that same title?

["See you in September" – The Tempos 1959](#)  
[\(Slideshow: Scenes from the movie "American Graffiti\)](#)

## This month in the RaRa RAG...

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Meeting Program.....         | 1  |
| Prez Sez.....                | 2  |
| Calendar of Events.....      | 2  |
| Annual Banquet.....          | 2  |
| Letter from the Editor.....  | 3  |
| Membership Renewal.....      | 3  |
| Hamfest – What's Next?.....  | 3  |
| Proposed Dues Changes.....   | 4  |
| Officer Nominees.....        | 4  |
| Candidate Biographies.....   | 5  |
| Licensing Classes.....       | 9  |
| Public Service.....          | 9  |
| Tailgate Party!.....         | 10 |
| Candid Camera.....           | 10 |
| Accentuate the Positive..... | 11 |
| RaRa Club Historian.....     | 13 |
| Area Club News.....          | 14 |
| RaRa Classifieds.....        | 15 |
| RaRa Market Place.....       | 17 |
| RaRa Officers.....           | 18 |
| Area Club Contacts.....      | 18 |
| Directions to Meeting.....   | 18 |

### RARA Meeting

September 7th, 2012 7:00PM

**Note: New start time!**  
**7:00**

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



## The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
President, RaRa

After reading 58 consecutive columns of mine in the *RaRa RAG*, as either your Vice-President or President, you may be relieved to know this is my last one. Beginning next month you will have both a new President, and Vice-President. During my term in office these past five years we've seen a lot of change; and there's so much more to be done for the club and the Ham community. I have every confidence in our incoming Officers and Directors to perpetuate our growth and program initiatives.

On that note: I want to make a special point to express my wholehearted endorsement of Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC, for President and Gary Skuse for Vice-President. As the Vice-President for these past two years Bill is on point, and ready to lead the club into the future without skipping a beat. I can think of no one else I would rather pass the torch to than Bill and Gary. I also want to express not only great pleasure, but a strong endorsement for Connor Carey, K2BOT, and Ian MacKenzie, KB3OCF, as Directors. I'm thrilled to see young people on the RaRa Board. We need more people in the younger demographic to take ownership of the club. Have we ever had young people on the BoD before? I can't say, but I suspect there have been very few. I'm also very excited that Kim Hollingsworth, KC2QLV, has also accepted nomination as a Director. Having a ladies perspective will be instrumental in identifying programming and social interests.

With a younger, broader, perspective, and Directors with their finger on the pulse of modern society, RaRa will continue to evolve and serve the up and coming Amateur Radio community. We have all heard the naysayers claim the hobby is dying; well it's not, because the number of licensees is actually increasing. We've also heard the claim that it's an old person's hobby; and by appearance that's not an incorrect assumption, because that's the majority of who come to most meetings. The Amateur population is full of young people but we don't often see them. Why? Because we're not making the meetings and programs appealing to them; we need to identify and address their needs, and as much as we might like to think we're omnipotent, we must realize we're out of touch. We must empower them to enlighten us and in return teach them how to lead.

73 and happy DXing.

Frank  
WB2PYD

## Calendar of Events

- Sept 7** **RaRa General Meeting** – 7:00  
Henrietta Fire Hall,  
3129 E. Henrietta Rd
- Sept 12** RaRa **Board of Directors**  
5:30 PM, RIT  
Engineering Hall, Room 2110
- Sept 15** RaRa **VE Testing** sessions  
10:00 AM, RIT  
Gleason Hall, Room 3139
- Sept 16** RaRa / Shriners Fall **Tailgate Party!** – 979 Bay Rd Webster  
(Details on Page 10)
- Sept 29** RaRa **Annual Banquet** – Food,  
Fun, Live music – only \$15.00!  
(Details below)

### RaRa Annual Banquet

**September 29th 6:00**

**The Burgundy Basin Inn**

[1361 Marsh Road Pittsford, New York 14534](http://www.burgundybasininn.com)

*The  
Burgundy Basin*

Everyone is welcome at the annual RaRa banquet - Cocktails (cash bar) are at 6:00 and dinner will be served at 7:00. ([View the menu](#))

Our Master of Ceremonies for the evening is our very own Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC; a comic in his own right, who is sure to make it a memorable evening! **Live music** will be provided by "Men Behaving Badly" playing your favorite hits of the 60's, 70's and 80's!

Tickets are only **\$15.00 for members** and their guests (\$20.00 for non-members) > Just click [this link](#) to make your reservation (before 9/27/12) pay with PayPal or redeem your Membership Points – only 30 points is a FREE dinner!



## Rag-Chew

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

Welcome to a new season at RARA, and a full issue of your *RARA Rag*! We have one correction to pass along from last month: The correct day/time for the beginning of the Tech and General classes is Tuesday, September 11, 6:30-8:30 PM. The Extra class is planned to start on September 18th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. You'll find more details on license classes elsewhere in this issue.

Several members alerted me to an interesting audio interview done by Tim Magee, WB2KAO for the *ViewPoints* radio show (<http://viewpointsplus.net/>). The show explored Tim's experiences as a visually-impaired radio amateur. The interview/podcast is available at: [http://viewpointsplus.net/vp\\_1231\\_podcast.mp3](http://viewpointsplus.net/vp_1231_podcast.mp3) and is well worth listening to. Many thanks, Tim, for promoting Amateur Radio in such a positive way!

One of our flagship advertisers, Light Beam Antenna & Apparatus, LLC, has announced the addition of a new section on its website at <http://www.lightbeamantenna.com/>. Just click the News tab at the top of the page for the latest happenings at Light Beam, and be sure to read the August installment for a report of their enjoyable experience at the 2012 Rochester Hamfest.

73, and best DX!

## The RARA Hamfest: Where To From Here?

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC

This year's Hamfest was held at a brand new venue, and at a different timeframe from previous years. The reality is that appropriate venues are very difficult to find, especially if we want to lock in a specific slot (end of May for example), somewhat expensive, and not always available. Based on some of the suggestions we received, we are asking you, the membership, to respond to a very brief survey. The RaRa Hamfest is for YOU, RaRa's members, so your input is important to us.

[Here's the survey: Do you want an 'Indoor Only' Hamfest, or an 'Outdoor Only' Hamfest. Click here to vote for your preference. Thanks for your input.](#)



### Membership Renewal SPECIAL OFFER:

Renew today via PayPal and get **20% off** your dues!!!

Don't let your membership lapse – you'll lose all your points and pay more. Nobody wants to pay more...

[Don't wait, save 20%.  
Click here and renew  
now!](#)

# Proposed Dues Changes

By RARA Rag Staff

The Board of Directors is recommending the following changes in the dues structure to be effective October 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. The purpose of these changes is to make membership more attractive to some, and reduce lapses at renewal time.

As you can see by the chart at the right, the dues to initially join the club will remain the same for Regular and Senior members; dues are *eliminated* for Students, whether they are licensed or not; and there is a slight increase for Associates to join and Family members.

| Membership Level       | Current  |          | Proposed |          |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                        | New      | Renewal  | New      | Renewal  |
| Regular (Licensed)     | \$ 15.00 | \$ 15.00 | \$ 15.00 | \$ 12.00 |
| Senior (65+)           | \$ 10.00 | \$ 10.00 | \$ 10.00 | \$ 8.00  |
| Student (-22)          | \$ 10.00 | \$ 10.00 | FREE     | FREE     |
| Associate (unlicensed) | \$ 8.00  | \$ 8.00  | \$ 10.00 | \$ 8.00  |
| Family                 | \$ 1.00  | \$ 1.00  | \$ 5.00  | \$ 4.00  |
| Life                   | 20 x     |          | 20 x     |          |

The Board feels that programs in place for Associate members such as free licensing classes, discounted ARRL course materials, and subsidized portable radios easily makes up for the \$2.00 increase and will not deter prospective members. It also believes that increasing family member dues is more accurately in line with the costs of servicing the membership. Please note that statistically, the majority of family members are students and would qualify for free dues.

Any current member who renews before their membership expires (lapses) will receive discounted dues! As you can see, Regular, Senior, and Student members will see lower dues rates. Associates dues will be at the same rate they are currently, and Family members will still experience a slight increase. Any membership that lapses, regardless of the duration, will have to pay the full dues price to be re-instated.

The Board of Directors is confident you will support these efforts to increase the value of your membership dollar, and make membership more appealing, by voting to approve this recommendation at the September 7<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting.

August 21, 2012

Mr. Kenneth Hall  
Secretary, Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 93333  
Rochester, NY 14692-8333

Dear Ken and members of RaRa,

As the Nominating Committee; Jim Stefano, W2COP and Kevin Carey, WB2QMY, we are pleased to present to you the slate of nominated Officers and Directors for election to the 2012-2013 season of RaRa. They are:

President: Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC  
Vice Pres: Gary Skuse, KA1NJL  
Secretary: Leonard Crellin, KC2PCD  
Treasurer: Kenneth Hall, W2KRH  
Directors: Connor Carey, K2BOT  
James DiTucci, N2IXD  
Kim Hollingsworth, KC2ZLV  
William Kasperkoski, WB2SXY  
Ian MacKenzie, KB3OCF  
Rosario Mazzola, KC2LOC  
Frank Schramm, WB2PYD

This completes the work of the Nominating Committee. We would like to thank all of the candidates for allowing us to place their names in the running for office.

73,  
Jim Stefano and Kevin Carey

**Note:** Additional nominations for Officers and Directors may be made from the floor at the annual meeting on September 7, 2012.

## 2012-13 Candidate Biographies

### **William L. Marinucci, WB2GHC**

*Candidate for President*

My name is Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC, and I am seeking the position of President of RaRa! I am currently the Vice-President and my term is nearing completion. I very much have enjoyed serving at this capacity and look forward to continuing my Board involvement with RaRa.

I am now retired from GM/Delphi after 36 years of service with them. Most of my career has centered on Supervision and Management in both the production and quality arenas. My career also included assignments in Human Resources, Divisional Training, Employee Assistance Programs, and Industrial Engineering.

I was first licensed as a ham radio operator at the age of 12 and am approaching 50 years of being a ham!. I became interested in ham radio after building my first crystal radio and hearing neighborhood hams operating AM on 160 meters. Prior to that, my hobby was AM DXing. I vividly remember getting up in the middle of the night to log those "far away" AM stations from the central and western states. There were times that I went outside in the dark to re-orient my antenna for better reception. Yes, my parents thought I was bordering on being nuts! I soon became an SWL, and then earned my novice call, WN2GHC, some 50 years ago.

During all these years of operating, I have used a variety of amateur radio modes, including AM, CW, DSB, SSB, FM, RTTY, PSK31, etc. My ham radio activities include being a member of RaRa, ARES/RACES (currently a Board member, Treasurer, and Net Director), S.A.T.E.R.N., ARMY MARS (AAR2BO), SKYWARN, FISTS, SKCC, QCWA, NAQCC, QRP, ARRL, RRRRA, ECARS, RDXA, and many others. I enjoy operating CW, SSB, DXing, operating digital modes, and performing ham radio public service activities. I have been an active volunteer for such activities as Pumpkin Patrol, Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon, AIDS Rochester Red Ribbon Ride, Tour de Cure, ARES / RACES drills, etc. Non-ham radio activities include Mankind Project, Spirit One, Native American Cultural Center, etc.

I would be deeply honored to serve you as a President of RaRa and member of its Board of Directors.

### **Gary R. Skuse, KA1NJL**

*Candidate for Vice President*

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 1980s 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, this continues to be a remarkably rewarding experience. During the past year I also served on the RARA Board of Directors.

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 (DCAP), the trustee of the KA2AIR club station, and I am a member of the team who recently put the KB2VZS D-STAR UHF repeater on the air. 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 ensuring 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 Mgr. in 2009 through 2012.

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 assumed the duties of managing the RARA Hotline from Irv, AF2K who did such a fine job with it for many years. Additionally, I continue to use my 35 years of Photo instruction experience to record many images that happen at RARA activities for our website photo gallery which I also manage.

For the 2012-2013 election, I have agreed to run for a second term for the position of Secretary. During my first term I have kept the minutes for all meetings of the Board of Directors and reported all SK notices to the ARRL. It has been my pleasure serving in these positions and with your support; I would enjoy continuing on into 2012-2013 as your club's Secretary. 73.

## **Kenneth R. Hall, W2KRH**

*Candidate for Treasurer*

Born in Buffalo and raised in Orchard Park, I joined the Army in 1963 and was trained in electronics, serving in Turkey, Japan, Vietnam and CONUS. 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 systems for the Intelsat Telecommunications satellite system. In 1971, I 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 elected President. In 2007 I upgraded to General, then Extra, and became a VE with Raj Dewan. I now serve as the team leader. I am also a member of 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.

## **Frank Schramm, WB2PYD**

*Candidate for Board of Directors*

I have been licensed since 1977 and as an Extra class licensee, when time permits; I enjoy logging HF DX contacts, especially when my wife Lisa, K2BGR, and/or daughter Jen, KD2JEN, are in the shack with me.

To-date, I have served as your Vice-President, twice, and President, three times; I currently maintain the club website; I am the graphic and layout editor for the *Rag*; when needed, I teach the General Class licensing course, and with great assistance from my wife, we produced the summer picnic for the past five years. Last but by no means least, I have had the pleasure of leading the very talented team that produces your annual Hamfest these past four years.

In my previous capacity as club Executive I have employed my business experience and marketing abilities to focus on streamlining corporate operations, rejuvenating the club image, and bringing greater value to being a member of RaRa. As a Director-at-Large, I promise to be a responsible steward of the Corporation and support programs to perpetuate the growth of the club by broadening its target demographic as well as bringing increased benefits to being a member of RaRa. Please feel free to contact me at any time: [WB2PYD@ARRL.net](mailto:WB2PYD@ARRL.net)

## **James DiTucci, N2IXD**

*Candidate for Board of Directors*

In the last few years I have been involved in many facets of Amateur Radio. They include: APRS, SKYWARN, ARRL DXCC, National Traffic System, Western District Net, Wi-Fi, PSK-31, VoIP, AMSAT, ARISS, Field Day, Official Emergency Station, ARES/RACES, EmComm, WinLink-2000, ICS, InfraGard, Wireless Literacy, etc. Above all, I have never lost my passion for experimenting.

This past year your officers and directors made some hard decisions, decisions to protect the integrity, rich heritage and future of our club. They are a hard working group of dedicated and passionate hams who have given many hours in service to our club. I am proud to have served with them and stand with them in support of their efforts.

What will the future bring? It's clear to me that the future of our hobby rests in our hands and that it hinges on increasing participation and growing our membership – in Amateur Radio, in RARA and especially in growing youth membership. In the last year we have made noteworthy progress in these areas. While other clubs in communities our size struggle to exist, struggle to preserve their shrinking membership, RARA is strong and viable and positioned to continue to be a flagship club, leading the way for amateur radio in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As past president, life member, and sitting director of RARA, I would like to think that I had a small part in that.

## **Ian MacKenzie, KB3OCF**

*Candidate for Board of Directors*

My name is Ian MacKenzie, and I am running to be a Director of RARA for the upcoming year. I am currently 21 years of age, and a fourth year Electrical Engineering student at the Rochester Institute of Technology. I hold strong interests in ham radio, programming, embedded systems, and foreign culture.

I've been lucky to be exposed to ham radio my entire life as both of my parents are licensed (Scott MacKenzie, KB0FHP, and Patricia MacKenzie, N0URV), who have been taking me to hamfests since before I could walk. In 2006, at the age of 15, I became licensed and upgraded to General the following year. I have been getting more and more involved with the hobby since entering college, and have been heavily involved with the RIT Amateur Radio Club (K2GXT) for a few years. I currently hold the position of President for the RIT Club for this upcoming academic year, and have many goals for the club to be successful in the long-term.

I believe that RARA is a fantastic organization with many great things to offer, and I would be extremely grateful to have the opportunity to serve as a member on the Board of Directors. I hope I can bring a new perspective to the RARA community, and can bring RARA and the RIT Amateur Radio Club closer together.

## **William Connor Carey, K2BOT**

*Candidate for Board of Directors*

My name is William Connor Carey; although, I prefer to go by my middle name, Connor. I'm currently a 3rd-year student at the Rochester Institute of Technology, seeking a degree in Applied Networking and Systems Administration. Although I'm originally from Boston, I lived in Georgia for 10 years prior to attending college.

I received my amateur radio license in 2009, largely with the help of everyone at RIT's Amateur Radio Club, K2GXT. This last year, I served as the club's secretary. I was recently elected as the club's Vice President for 2012-2013.

My interests include HF digital, antenna building, Skywarn, emergency communications, and public service. I am also a member of Monroe County ARES. I hold my VE accreditation with the ARRL. I have volunteered for numerous public service events and even organized communications for the 2010 Tour de Cure in Atlanta.

I look forward to serving RaRa's mission in furthering amateur radio throughout the Rochester area. In addition, I look forward to strengthening RaRa's ties with RIT's Amateur Radio Club in an effort to attract more students into the hobby. With such a large pool of technically-minded people, we should be able to attract many more people. If you have any questions, please feel free to send me an email: [wcc5661@rit.edu](mailto:wcc5661@rit.edu)

## **William Kasperkoski, WB2SXY**

*Candidate for Board of Directors*

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, WAS and WAC.

I used my FCC First Phone (now a GROL) Commercial License with a Ship's Radar Endorsement, in commercial TV and radiobroadcast stations in the Rochester, NY area. In the military I was stationed at a state-side 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 three 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 ARCs, RACES, and served 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.

## 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 the minimum number of students registered for the Technician course; and we will begin on Tuesday, September 11th, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the James E. Gleason Building #9. There will be 10 sessions and the completion of the course will coordinate with RARA's November 17th testing date. There is still room, but contact Sue Waterstraat at

[suewater@rochester.rr.com](mailto:suewater@rochester.rr.com) soon if you would like to register for the Technician course. If an unlicensed RARA member takes our licensing course and passes the Technician class exam they are eligible to purchase a dual band hand-held radio from RARA for \$25.00.

We have instructors standing by to hold the General and Extra courses, but time is running out; contact Sue soon if you want to register. If there is sufficient interest (a minimum of five students per course), we will schedule 10 week courses, with the General course beginning on September 11th; and the Extra course is beginning on September 18th.

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.rochesterham.org/Membership.htm>

## Meeting Prizes

By Jav KC2TCM & Sabrina WD2STK

This month we've got something for the upcoming cooler months. First up is a nice Yaesu shirt compliments of Universal Radio, Inc. ([www.universal-radio.com](http://www.universal-radio.com)). Next we have a Yaesu hat, with a clip-on light! I personally use one of these, and they're really handy! The final sets of prizes are "classics"! The General Class license manual may not be the latest one, but it is still loaded with great information. The repeater directory is from 2011, but still has many of the currently used repeaters listed.

## Public Service

By Dave Snyder, KC2REO

The 2012 Public Service season has passed the half way point, with six events down and five remaining! I'd like to personally thank the 40+ volunteers who have spent over 600 man-hours to make each event so far a real success. Looking forward to the end of September, we've got a very busy weekend with three events scheduled for September 22 and 23. Barktoberfest and the Fairport Liftbridge Regatta are both Saturday, September 22, and the Rochester Marathon is Sunday, September 23. All three events are in need of many more volunteers—so we need your help! Public Service events are always a lot of fun, and they're a great way to showcase ham radio to the community. For more details and to sign up, visit [http://rochesterham.org/public\\_service.htm](http://rochesterham.org/public_service.htm).

Questions,  
Comments?  
Call the

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



## The Thrill Before the Chill

By Len Crellin, KC2PCD

Did you join us at the Hamfest this year but just couldn't find that special part you've been looking for? Perhaps you couldn't make it this year, but you know you have been promising yourself to move some things to a new home! This is the place where buyers and sellers can meet and work out better deals than Monty Hall!

Well, I think this may be right up your alley. RARA has once again joined with the Damascus Shriners to produce our second annual Fall Fest and Tailgate Party. The Shriners will provide a first class location with ample parking, indoor bathroom facilities, a separate area for larger vehicles and RVs, a large covered picnic area to eat in, and a large deck to rest after all that shopping.

The Shriners have built an excellent reputation for serving fresh food at reasonable prices. Plan to enjoy a late breakfast or early lunch around 9:30 AM, then walk it off and buy some more gear!

This event will be on **Sunday, September 16, 2012** and will open at 7 AM. It will go to around Noon. It is conveniently located off Rt.104 at 979 Bay Rd., Webster, N.Y. 14580.

Upon entering, the staff will ask for a **\$5 donation** that will all go to help fund the Shriners Hospital for Children. Please spread the word and don't miss your last local flea market for buying and selling ham radio supplies in 2012.

**Come have fun and Help the Kids!!!**

Hope to see you all there! 73.

You never know what you'll find at a radio  
Flea market - Join us on 9/16<sup>th</sup> and see!



## Smile! – You're on Candid Camera...

By Len Crellin, KC2PCD

Well, it's that that time of year again when you all find out if you survived the final editing and made it into my photo albums. It has been another busy year following you all around and giving your wife or husband real proof of where you were when you told them you went out to the meeting or Hamfest or flea market or... well, you get the picture! The new albums are as follows: *Flea Market September 2011*, *RARA Banquet September 2011*, *Rochester Museum and Science Center December 2011*, *RARA Activities 2011-2012* (mostly meetings and public service events and the July picnic), and the *Rochester Hamfest June 2012*. Whew, we've been a busy group haven't we?

Just go to the RARA website and click on the [photo galleries link](#) on the left to find all these photos and see if you too were on my "candid camera" for 2011-2012.

Of course, I can't be at all events, so if you have some good photos you want me to include that you took, please send them. Please use the jpeg format at around 600 KB in size. If you have only a few just email them to me at [kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com) or burn a disc and give them to me at a meeting. 73.

## Accentuate the Positive? Yes, But What Else?

By Bill Hopkins, AA2YV

Did I ever tell you about the shiny orange Sierra Cutlass I bought for \$18 because the head gasket had a water leak on the aluminum block and the coolant was lost? (It's a long story.) That was in my college days when money was non-existent. I replaced a head gasket and screwed everything down. The car ran great - for a couple of months. Then it stopped. Months passed. The car ran. The car didn't. I ended up taking apart the entire wiring harness under the dashboard to find the problem. That solved nothing. One night, just before nightfall, dejected I was, I peered deep under the hood, between the engine and the firewall - looking at nothing. Then, I saw it! I hadn't reattached the wide grounding braid back onto a rear header bolt. The braid had dropped out of sight at the firewall. Who'd a thunk-it?

This brings us to ham radio repair. I like older Ten Tec rigs. They have great reception and are a CW operator's dream. Late last year I purchased the Omni D/C and the Corsair, both Ten Tec rigs from the 1980's. Also, I picked up the 252MO power supply. I would need a second PS, so at Dayton this past May I got a 262 PS. The TT power supplies of this vintage have the crowbar circuit in them to shut down the transceiver, should the current draw hit 20 amps. This was Ten Tec's early method to protect a transceiver's final amplifier transistors from overload.

First, I tore into the 252MO and learned what the crowbar circuit was all about. This PS was getting 13.1 volts DC out, but one of the two indicator lights, the one for "Line" monitoring AC power shut-off, almost cooked when I powered it up with the variac. Someone had put in a new bulb before selling it to me. It wasn't necessarily the wrong 12V bulb, but something else seemed faulty with the circuit. One of the two 1N4002 diodes feeding the crowbar circuit was all but cooked. I also immediately replaced the four 1000 Mfd/25V electrolytics, leaving the 18,000 Mfd main filter cap in place. Since I had the other PS AND a reliable PS (262G) powering my trusty Triton IV, I compared circuits. It seems that Ten Tec took the voltage for the Line light from various points. In the two "new" PS's there is a 2W 450 ohm resistor in series with the light. After trying all sorts of bulbs and voltages, I couldn't get a 12 volt drop with a properly lit bulb. So, I took a look at the other, the good light (the "Output" bulb), which is a small thing, like the precursor to an LED, and I inserted a green LED as the Line light. Its voltage drop is 1.9 volts, and it works well through another series resistor. I simply left the 2W resistor out of the circuit, similar to my reference PS. Now I get 13.7 VDC output and the lights are working well. The supply easily delivers 18 amps and doesn't skip a beat. The heat sinked transistor on the back remains its steady warmish temperature over a long period.

I was now ready to try out either the Omni D or the Corsair. I'll try the Omni first, I thought. It's older, and I have a mind to replace the Permeability Tuned Oscillator with a new digital VFO. The radio fired right up, but I didn't get all bands. To make sure about the rest of the radio, I made several QSOs on the good bands. The frequency counter simply gave me a readout of "1.000.0" on 1.8, 3.5, 28.5 and 29 (28 was OK). These bands were essentially "dead." Twas a puzzlement. I suspected the local oscillator crystals. The Ten Tec service department told me that the crystals could indeed go bad in these rigs, so I was tempted to buy four new ones. But my miserly self held off. I did buy the crystal for the 12-meter band, since it was

### RaRa Club LOGO Items



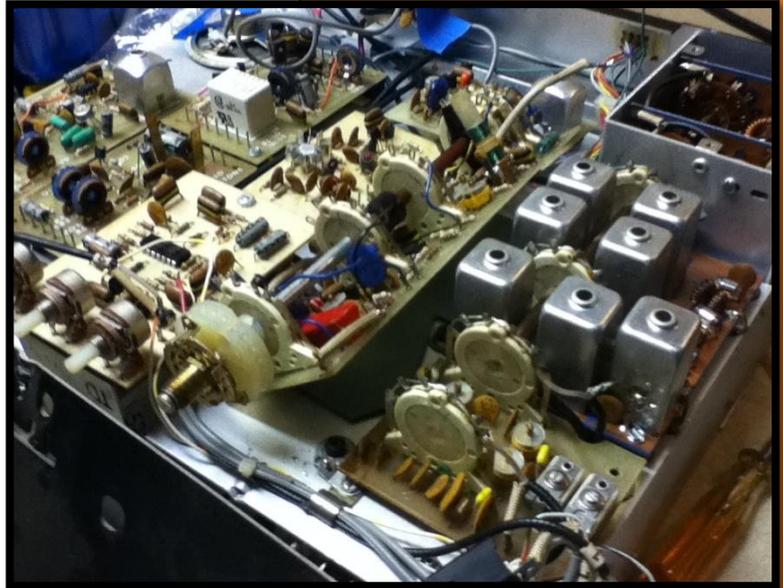
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originally missing from the board (also a new AC Pwr/AF gain pot). I then did what all tinkerers should do: "Don't just do something, stand there" (wisdom from Kevin Carey, WB2QMY). I followed Ned Asam's (W2NED) RARA presentation advice and studied the schematic like crazy to find commonalities to these frequencies. There were none (I thought). So, the only thing to do was the simple stuff, before doing anything serious or irreversible. I took out the nine crystals and tested to see if I could get some reasonable resistance through the band switch, going in turn to each band. Each switched-in band gave a uniform high resistance - not infinity - telling me that each was probably OK through the bandswitch. I stood and looked, looked and stood. Ah, hah! Why not check out the ground side; each crystal goes to ground (remember the orange Cutlass?). It turned out that the crystal holder for those defective bands had NO continuity to ground. Who'd a thunk-it?

Here's the deal. These crystals are all in a row on a red holder soldered down to the board, with the bad bands at each extremity of the holder. It was a physical thing! It had nothing to do with electronics *per se* but purely with a physical condition. (Enter here a lengthy take-down of the radio to get at the underside of that LO board. Not a pretty procedure, but necessary.) And right there, the solder connection to each of the "bad" crystals had a hairline crack. I could only see them using magnification. The ground plane is super-thin and the crystal socket pins had just punched too far downward, separating the light solder joints from the foil. Had someone pressed too hard, too many times on the crystals, or was it a design flaw? I resoldered with large, orderly dollops to guard against future finger pressure and then touched up the hot side of each crystal socket for good measure. Now, after testing for continuity, it's mostly ready to go back together. I'll wait for the combo AC switch/AF volume pot before I finish the job.



Closer scrutiny revealed that this crystal holder strip itself was originally soldered onto the board with a hairline of space left between the two. It sort of see-sawed both ways, leaving the center portion closest to the circuit board. Two set-ups for the perfect storm: thin ground plane film; and a loosely seated crystal mounting block with minimal solder on the joints. Last, I saw that next to the LO board a major ground bus connecting it and two other nearby boards had never been soldered! There was probably continuity, but barely. Now, that's corrected as well.

This OMNI D will soon be back on the air and ready for another 30 years of enjoyable hamming. Maybe I should buy an old Cutlass and go mobile.

# RaRa Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable K2MP, RaRa Club Historian

## 20 Years Ago, September, 1992

Many changes awaited RaRa members this month, not the least of which was a crew of new officers and Board members. Heading the gang was President Lloyd Caves WB2EFU with Keith Freeberg N2BEL as VP. Secretary was Alex Piccirilli NV2Y and as Treasurer the old money man Dick Goslee K2VCZ.

On the Board you elected: Peter Secrist WB2SUN, Irv Goodman AF2K, Roger Harnaart WB2BWQ, Ed Holdsworth N2EH, George Muller WA2IEO, Neal Eckhardt WB2EKP and Bob Hobday N2EVG. Also new this season was the venue for club meetings which were now at the Henrietta Fire Hall. The program for the evening was a Mr. John Gilly, WD4RDZ, an expert on optical communications as used by NASA, speaking of the light wave devices used on the Challenger program. RaRa's 36th annual code and theory classes were announced with spaces for Novice, Technician, General and Advanced license seekers. Then, at the other end of the classes, George Platteter AA2FO, announced a full year of testing schedules for RaRa's VE team. Testing fees at that time were \$5.40 and the VEC used then was W5YI-VEC.

Celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a picnic at Churchville's Cottonwood Lodge, was the 146.79 Genesee Repeater gang. Ed Holdsworth N2EH, wrote a long article reporting on the just-completed 1992 RaRa Hamfest. Ed reported it to be the best ever in terms of attendance, number of commercial vendors and the number of flea market sellers. With regret it was announced that George Herkert W2LLS, Nelson Nail WA2ZPE, Peter Fucile N2EQQ, Arthur Howell W2BJH, Harold DuBoise W2ULA, Alan King N2JRY and Bernard Michaels WB2WYO were reported as Silent Keys. From the Want Ads you could buy a Heath 100% IBM compatible PC, normally listed at \$2200, for \$350 from Jim KA2FFE. A new commercial advertiser was The Com Center, 300 White Spruce Blvd, offering data entry and other similar services.

## 40 Years Ago, September 1972

This was a very special issue that many of you may remember. It was supposed to be a fun Field Day weekend, but instead it was the terrible flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes that made headlines. Chronicled in this special 16 page issue, was a report on the heroic ham radio efforts written by Emergency Coordinator Jim Collinworth WB2EDT. Jim wrote of the dedication of the many hams who went to the affected areas of Corning, Painted Post, Montour Falls and many other towns, to provide both local communications as well as long haul messages to CD HQ at Rochester. Rochester's CD Headquarters was brimming with activity including the first use of RTTY provided by Harold Smith, WA2KND, and the local WU office. Newsworthy was also the unprecedented declaration by the FCC to assign the frequencies of 3815 and 7215 kcs to the exclusive use of Rochester's emergency coordination efforts. There were far too many local amateurs involved to attempt to list here, but understand this was a shining moment for RaRa's ability to respond to a real emergency. The report is good reading for even today's new breed of emergency communicators.

## 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](mailto: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, is welcome to attend.

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](http://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-meter handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2014.

### ARAST News

The Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier is proud to announce their **37th annual Hamfest Saturday September 29, 2011.** Doors open for the Flea Market at 6:00 AM. Looking to buy from one of our indoor vendors? The doors open for the inside 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](http://www.arast.org) 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

Need more information? Visit our website at [www.arast.org](http://www.arast.org). Click on the fall hamfest link. See you down here.



# RRRA News

By Bob Shewell, N2HJD

RRRA would like to announce another season of meetings and presentations. The meetings will be held on the third Friday of the month beginning September 21. The location is still the Pittsford Town Hall basement and the start time is 8 PM. The September meeting is about a local hackerspace called "Interlock." There will be a video tour of the facility and a 3D printer demonstration.

Even if this meeting doesn't interest you, RRRA still values your support by joining the club. RRRA is the oldest amateur community-supported, not for profit incorporated organization supporting and maintaining Amateur repeaters in this area. RRRA and its affiliates provide 15 Amateur repeaters covering 6 amateur bands with IRLP and Echolink capability. RRRA has the only Rochester repeater with a hot stand-by backup and incorporates multiple repeaters with remote receivers and remote bases. It is also the only repeater club to offer linked connectivity between multiple Amateur bands and locations. Although cell phones are popular, RRRA still offers autopatch and 911 accessibility. RRRA also provides a "tune up clinic" for its membership to check and adjust your radios to keep them in good working order.

All these benefits and repeaters could go away if RRRA lacks support from area amateurs, so please help keep this valuable service alive. Membership has been dropping over the years as has been the activity on the local repeaters, including RRRA's repeaters. If something isn't done to support the local repeaters you could turn on your radio one day to find some of your local repeaters off the air. That definitely wouldn't be good if there was an emergency and the community's other forms of communications were unusable. For more information on RRRA, please visit our website at <http://www.rrra.us/>.

## 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.

# 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](http://www.rochesterham.org)) offers these features and more?

- ✓ Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- ✓ Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- ✓ Rochester Hamfest information!
- ✓ Online membership & renewal
- ✓ 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



# THE RARA MARKET PLACE

Your commercial ad could be here! The RARA Rag can help spread the word on your business at very reasonable rates. Contact us for details at [editor@rochesterham.org](mailto:editor@rochesterham.org).

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# THE RARA RAG

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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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**Henrietta, NY 14467**

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## October Rag Deadline September 15, 2012

