



# THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
Founded in 1931

VOL. 65

October 2012

NO. 2

## Are we ready?

By Gary Skuse, KA1NJL  
Vice President, RaRa

This past weekend I was watching television in disbelief as I saw videos of the tornados near New York City. The one I saw was off shore but the thought of the devastation that it would have caused upon landfall was chilling. Several days later, on Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup>, my memories of that horrible day 11 years ago were intensified as I was reminded of the terror wreaked upon us on that day. On both occasions I thought about the role amateur radio plays in times of disaster, whether they arise from natural or human causes, and I was proud of my involvement in this wonderful hobby.

Despite countless assaults on the radio spectrum by commercial interests, amateur radio continues to exist, after more than 100 years, because we serve as a pool of trained radio operators who provide a number of public services. Most importantly we provide reliable communications when other means fail.

One of the many facets of this wonderful and diverse hobby is our role in emergency preparedness. ARES, the Amateur Radio Emergency Services and RACES, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, are the organizations who purposefully train to provide communications during times of need. While they have always served a critical role when their skills were needed, that role and the training and expertise that members of these organizations bring with them are especially important in today's unpredictable world.

At the next RARA meeting we will have a presentation by local ARES/RACES members who will tell you what they do, how they prepare and how you can get involved if you are interested. It is not an exaggeration to say that our role, as amateur radio operators, in emergency communications plays a significant part in justifying the existence of amateur radio. Please be sure to join us for this interesting and important presentation on October 5th.



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**RARA Meeting**  
**October 5th, 7PM**  
 Henrietta Fire Co. #1  
 3129 East Henrietta Rd. (15A)



## The Prez Sez

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC  
President, RaRa

Greetings and Salutations to all! October 1, 2012 begins the RaRa new calendar year, filled with lofty goals, aspirations, and expectations for our Club going forward. A new Board of Directors is in place with three new members: Kimberly Hollingsworth, KC2ZLV, Connor Carey, K2BOT, and Ian MacKenzie, KB3OCF. Ian is the President of RIT's K2GXT Amateur Radio Club, while Connor serves as its Vice President. Kim brings to the Board the YL/XYL perspectives. Returning Directors include Jim DiTucci, N2IXD, Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY, Ross Mazzola, KC2LOC, and Frank Schramm, WB2PYD. Frank has served as our President, and we offer him our sincerest gratitude for his service, a job well done. I am most grateful for Frank that he has chosen to remain on the Board as a Director.

The Club new officers include Gary Skuse, KA1NJL as Vice President and yours truly as President. Gary served as a Director and I have served as your Vice President. Len Crellin, KC2PCD, and Ken Hall, W2KRH have been re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Both of these gentlemen have done a great job in these positions.

Leaving the Board are Duane Fregoe, K2SI, and Dave Snyder, KC2REO, both due to job responsibilities. Thank you gentlemen for all you have contributed to our Club, your services are most appreciated. We wish you the best of luck for continued success going forward.

RaRa continues to grow, with membership approaching 750 members! This makes us one of the largest ham radio clubs in the U.S., and is well known for its many services that it provides its membership. Remember, this is YOUR Club, and it is YOU that make this the outstanding Club that it is. I encourage you to get involved, to volunteer your time in service, and to provide suggestions and ideas to make this an even stronger club. Please note that I did not mention "complaints." Instead of complaining about things that you are not happy about, I strongly encourage you to take a positive approach in stating your concerns and offering potential changes and solutions. Your Board members will graciously receive them, investigate and evaluate your ideas, and implement them if feasible. Remember, these folks are all volunteers who devote countless hours of service to the Club; they are not a paid professional production company. There are no CEO's, no stock options, no exorbitant salaries, and no 'perks'. Give them a hand... no, not applause but rather, roll up your sleeves and get involved.

73!



## Calendar of Events

- Oct 5** **RaRa General Meeting**  
7:00 PM - Henrietta FD #1  
3129 E. Henrietta Rd
- Oct 10** **RaRa Board of Directors**  
5:30 PM, RIT Engineering  
Hall, Room 2110
- Oct 20** **RaRa VE Testing** sessions  
10:00 AM, RIT Gleason  
Hall, Room 3139

### Save the date:

**Nov 2** is the ever popular **RaRa Auction!** Its members only and you will need to scan your new membership card to get in.

Make sure your membership is current and you have your new card with the magnetic strip on the back. If you need to renew or pick up your new card, the Membership Secretary will be at the October meeting.



## Rag-Chew

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

Not much to pass along this time from the editor's desk. I trust with the arrival of fall and reduced need for grass-cutting, many of you will have more time for on-air activities. We have plenty in this issue to keep you busy! One item that was passed along just before press time is the Union Pacific Railroad Special Event Station <http://www.pocatelloarc.org/uprr/>. If you enjoy trains (and who doesn't?), be sure to put this one on your advance calendar for December 1.

Just a reminder that we are always on the lookout for more interesting articles for the *RARA Rag*. Do you have a project, activity, or other topic you think others would find interesting? All you need to do is get in touch with me and we can discuss getting your article into print. You need not be a professional writer to do this, and we will help with the layout and editing of your work. It has been great seeing the variety of articles in recent issues of the *Rag* and we want to keep this up.

Speaking of variety, is anyone interested in folk art from hams? Jeff Miller, N2AWA, sent the photo below, which he took while on vacation over the summer. Can anyone guess where this building is, and what, if any, connection there is with ham radio? We'll give the answer next month, and recognize any successful guessers.

Hope to see you on the low bands. 73, and best DX!



**Mystery photo:**  
*Where is this place, and what is the connection to ham radio?*

If you've got  
questions or  
comments, call:

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



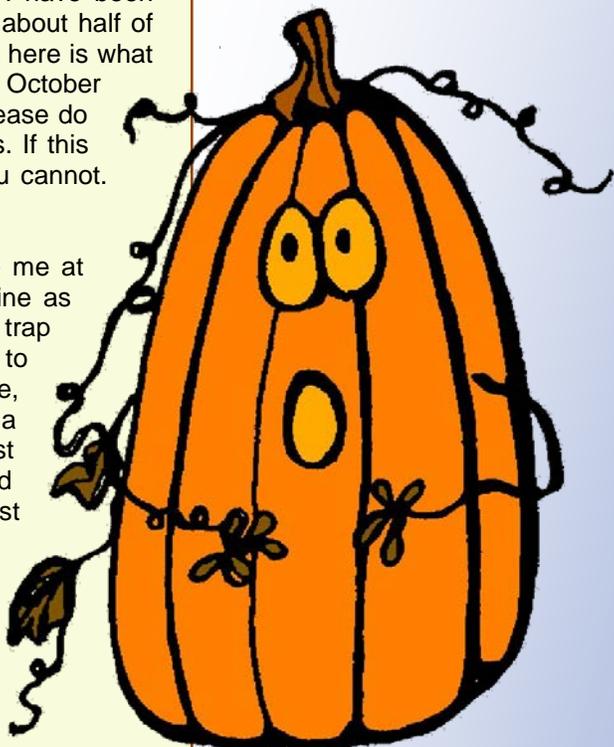
## Pumpkin Patrol 2012

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY

Yep, it's that time again. The New York State Police have asked once again for our help in bridge-watching over Halloween. I have already sent emails to those who worked this event last year. Keep in mind that this year, Halloween falls on a Tuesday and Wednesday so I understand the staying up late bit. I have been called back to my employer, so time is even shorter for me. I have about half of the schedule made up, and have not heard from everyone as yet, so here is what you do to get on board. You can sign up at the RARA meeting on October 5th. I will get that list following the meeting. To save time though, please do the following... I am asking that if possible, that you take *two* nights. If this cannot be done, try to find someone who can handle one night you cannot. This will be extremely helpful to me.

So here is the procedure for immediate sign-up: Send an email to me at [kb2chy@frontiernet.net](mailto:kb2chy@frontiernet.net) or [ballen@frontiernet.net](mailto:ballen@frontiernet.net) with the Subject line as follows in capital letters: PUMPKIN PATROL 2012. My email will trap these for immediate attention. In that email, if you are brand new to Pumpkin Patrol, I will need your license plate number, your name, address, which night or nights you can work, email address and a contact number. If you have done this in the last year (2011) I just need an email from you confirming all info given to me last year and which nights you wish to help out. If you were assigned a bridge last year, it's a good chance you will get the same one this year.

We need a couple extra people for "goodie patrol" as well. This has proven very popular and fun for those who participate. Again, if one can do both nights that would be great. Remember too that you earn RARA Reward points for working this detail, pursuant to RARA's participation rules. Of course you can always call me on my cell phone at 585-216-5066 if you have any questions at all.



## NY QSO Party

By Brent Hungate, KC2QLJ

The Rochester DX Association is again sponsoring the NY QSO Party for 2012. This is the fourth year of the event after a 25+ year hiatus. The 2012 NYQP kicks off on October 20th (third Saturday) 1400 UTC thru 0200 UTC for twelve hours. Here is your chance to be the "chased" in a contest. Whether you are a serious or casual contester, or looking to add to your County Awards total, the NYQP has something for you. All modes including SSB, CW and RTTY/Digital will be activated. There are certificates and over 40 plaques sponsored for participants. Full information on Rules, County Maps, Logging Software, and much more is available at: [www.NYQP.org](http://www.NYQP.org). Be sure to check out the "FAQ" section



You can sign up for the Pumpkin Patrol at the RARA meeting on October 5th.

## Ham Tech – A Cheap and Easy HDTV Antenna

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

In the old days the only way to watch television was with an antenna. I have always had an antenna for receiving my Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse, and Canada stations, and it was a 14-foot long Radio Shack model with a 20 dB booster. It worked well in the analog days, but digital shortened my reach. The big benefit of receiving over-the-air high definition signals is they are uncompressed and free. There are many more over-the-air stations today than 30 years ago.

I found this design <http://www.wa5vjb.com/references/CheapYagi4HDTV.pdf> a few years ago and filed the article in case I might have a need for a new antenna. The need came and I recently built this antenna. I had all the parts in the shack so it took about an hour to build. The wooden beam is only 14" long and the longest element is 12". As a quick test I pulled the rabbit ears off a 13" color TV and connected this new antenna. All the Rochester stations were solid, so for a 2<sup>nd</sup> test I



for the elements. In an hour we were receiving all the digital TV that Fort Myers had to offer from a first floor bedroom.

This antenna is small enough to spin on a rotor in my attic which the 14-foot antenna currently in the attic cannot do.



pointed the antenna toward Buffalo and had a good signal on many of the Buffalo stations.

While in Florida recently I built a second antenna of this same design. We had the wood and the coax and only had to purchase two 3-foot long by 1/8" brass rods



### For Sale

- Universal Aluminum Antenna Tower, 40-foot, tilt base, rotor plate, 7sq foot wind loading, \$200
- Force 12 12/17 Meter, 2 element Yagi Antenna, \$60
- Force 12 10 Meter, 8 element Yagi Antenna, 30 ft boom, \$75
- Yaesu G800S Rotator, \$125
- Yaesu G800SA Rotator, \$125
- Create 15 ft Aluminum Roof Tower, \$125

Contact Dan Waterstraat, W2DEW in Honeoye Falls at (585) 582-1149 or via e-mail at [higreen@rochester.rr.com](mailto:higreen@rochester.rr.com). Prices are as listed above or best offer

# RaRa Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RaRa Historian

## 20 Years Ago, October 1992

RaRa Vice President and program chairman Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, wrote that the speaker for this month's meeting was a familiar one to all. Mr. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, our local wearer of many hats, spoke on RaRa's public service, RACES and AREC activities and how you should be involved. Keith also announced that the meeting next month would be the annual auction and for folks to get their goodies ready for that. The venue was the same as the current Henrietta Fire Hall location now over 20 years in use.

President Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU, wrote an interesting article on the benefits of RaRa being an ARRL Special Service Club. Ed Gable, K2MP, had his usual 20 year article. The rest of this issue's eight pages were filled with trivia from news services having nothing to do with RaRa. 800 members and only three contributors! (Support your club and newsletter, both are great – Ed) From the Want Ads you could buy an entire ham shack from Len, WA2ZNC. Marc Ornstein, WB2YYB, General Contractor and roofing services remained a commercial advertiser.

## 40 Years Ago, October 1972

Secretary Joe Hood, K2YAH, introduced the speaker as Mr. Richard Scott of Stromberg-Carlson's Digital/Analog Electronics Group. Scott's talk and slide program introduced Stromberg's new Vista-phone featuring two-way video as well as audio. (Note, this phone is now on display at the AWA Museum) The location for this meeting was also changed as RaRa was hosted by the Kodak Office Radio Club (KORC) on State Street.

This month saw many changes in FCC rules regarding Amateur Radio. Changes in licensing classes, structure, privileges, portable and mobile operations and notifications, repeater use and licensing and much more were upgraded. A well written article by Ray De Mers, W2KVP, for the RRRA, introduces readers to the basics of repeater usage. Jim Collinworth, WB2EDT, wrote to introduce the use of RTTY on 146.70 MHz. Jim is planning to build a Civil Defense and AREC alerting and bulletin network using the ever increasing amount of teletype machines becoming available from surplus houses.

This writer found it interesting that in reading this issue, which was filled with commercial advertisers such as: Rochester Radio Supply, Adirondack Radio Supply, Harry's Amateur Radio Sales, Allied TV and Radio, JC Sales Company and CFP Enterprises, that all six companies featured FM radios as their featured products. FM was king of the hill, the latest craze, be there or miss out! Say good bye to 6 meter AM.

## RaRa LOGO Items



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

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

# Scanning Report: NYS Police

By Jim Sutton, N2OPS

New York State Police just completed their move to narrow band FM. Now they operate on VHF high band with 800 MHz vehicle repeaters. In addition, they are licensed for VHF and UHF interoperability frequencies. However, the infamous "Line A" may have restricted use of some or all of the interoperable frequencies.

Frequency	PL	Designator	Use	Notes
154.905	110.9	Tr E base-to-car	Base	
154.770	110.9	Tr E car-to-base	Troop wide	
154.770	127.3	Tr E car-to-base	Zone 1	
154.770	146.2	Tr E car-to-base	Zone 2	
154.770	167.9	Tr E car-to-base	Zone 3	
155.505	110.9	Tr A base-to-car	Troop wide	
155.535	127.3	Tr A car-to-base	Zone 1	
155.535	146.2	Tr A car-to-base	Zone 2	
155.535	167.9	Tr A car-to-base	Zone 3	
155.535	192.8	Tr A car-to-base	Zone 4	
154.695	CSQ	State Frequency	Alerts/Searches	Alt troop-wide message
154.665	110.9	Car to car		
155.625	110.9	Tr E data	Also alerts	Alt troop-wide message
155.565	110.9	BCI		
155.565	71.9	Air to car	Traffic enforcement	
155.370	CSQ	Interagency	Interop	Also called point-to-point
155.475	CSQ	Interagency	Interop	

Under the new lineup all zones have 110.9 Hz PL for base-to-car with the former individual PLs for car-to-base. When a troop-wide message goes out the signal alternates between the troop and state frequency in Troop A and the troop frequency, state frequency and the data frequency in Troop E. In the event of a search or an escape the event take place on the State Frequency. The car-to-car frequency is essentially a "party line" frequency where various conversations of every type can be heard. Dispatching of State Police cars often takes place on the respective county sheriff frequencies. Since this change took place there has been less radio traffic on the state police frequencies. Reports from other parts of the state report surveillance on the 800 MHz frequencies. I have had counts, but have not actually heard any communications on the 800 MHz frequencies in spite of being a few miles from the barracks. The primary state police transmitters in the Rochester area are on Xerox Tower, Gannett Hill and Scipio Road at 436 in Nunda.

Now you have some basic scanner listening for your two meter rig that's not going to P25 or encrypted status anytime soon. In the next *RARA Rag* we will look at monitoring college security.

Until next time 73 to thee.

## V TAC Channels

151.13750  
154.45250  
155.75250  
158.73750  
159.47250

## U TAC Channels

453.21250  
453.46250  
453.71250  
453.86250

## NYSP 800 Frequencies

851.0125  
851.5125  
852.0125  
852.5125  
852.6250  
852.6500  
852.6750  
852.7000  
852.7125  
852.7250  
852.7375  
852.7500  
853.0125  
853.8625  
853.8875  
853.9125  
853.9375  
853.9500  
853.9625  
853.9750  
853.9875



## News from our friends at other area clubs...

### RRRA News

By Bob Shewell, N2HJD

I hope those who attended RRRA's September meeting enjoyed the program. October's meeting is gadget night. If you want to show off your latest project or acquisition bring it to the October meeting. If there are any suggestions for meeting topics please contact RRRA's VP Max, N2MXD. Remember, membership not only helps the club but gives you a voice as to how you want to see the club run. Even though RRRA just had elections back in June, you can make a difference if you want to become an officer of the club. RRRA, like other clubs, gains its strength through its members. Hope to see you at the Pittsford Town Hall basement at 8 PM October 19 for gadget night.

### RDXA News

By Brent Hungate, KC2QLJ

The next meeting of RDXA is on Tuesday October 16th at the Public Safety Training Facility, 1190 Scottsville Road Rochester, NY. Meetings begin at 7:30 and are open to all radio amateurs. You don't have to be a member of the club. This month's topic will be a presentation provided by our very own Ed Gable on the 2012 HKONA DXpedition to Malpelo Island. To complement Ed's presentation he will also be showing a video of the event. RDXA had the distinct pleasure of being a sponsor of the HKONA DXpedition. Please come out and join us for a great night of fellowship. There will be a pre-meeting get together for food and an 807 at MicGinny's on East River Road starting around 6:00 pm. I would like to remind everyone to visit the new RDXA website where you can find out more about RDXA and what the club is up to. Check us out at [www.rdxa.org](http://www.rdxa.org). 73 for now, and hope to work you on the bands.

### 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. The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, October 25, 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-M handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2014.

#### 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 newsletter is for! We hope all area clubs will take advantage of this opportunity to interest new members in joining their ranks.*

73, -Kevin

# XARC Foxhunt a Big Success!

By Jon Dickason, N2JAC

Saturday, 9/1, XARC, the Xerox Amateur Radio Club, had an informal transmitter hunt. Huntmasters were myself, my friend Bob, and his daughter Nicole, 2010 foxhunt winner and student physics teacher. The day was warm and sunny.

We began the hunt differently than past hunts, without knowing the starting location. I told the hunters I would give them the start location by radio. At 8:30 I told them to head for Brighton, still without an exact start because we hadn't hidden the practice fox yet. But soon I was able to tell them to come to the 12 Corners Middle School. They all arrived before 9.

Two teams participated, Fred, WO2P, and Judy N2KXS, and Ned W2NED and Vince W2VAB. The main fox is a new arduino-based design by Ned and Vince, and they were so busy checking out their new circuit board for a future fox, that they didn't get much time with the practice fox. About 9:45 the main fox began transmitting after its programmed delay, and the hunt was on! This new fox is less than 1 watt output, and was very weak at the start, but both teams had a good bearing, and headed southwest.



They spent a lot of time around MCC and the canal path off Clinton Ave. but after almost 3 hours, Ned and Fred and Judy close nature trail, east of around MCC, canal, 390 and course just north is visible from transmitter was camo cloth but the design by W2NED, was stand out too much I had a 3rd transmitter getting late, so we headed for the meeting at Five Guys in burgers and too many received custom shirts Nicole at one of her summer jobs.



Vince finally found it, with behind. It was near the the road that loops surrounded by the the Frisbee golf of the ice rink that 390. The hidden under some antenna, a simple coax not disguised, yet didn't from the tree it was in. hidden, but it was skipped that one and mandatory lunch Henrietta for good fries. All the hunters designed and produced by

W2NED and W2VAB will be hosting the official XARC Fall hunt in late October, so watch the email list and I'll see you soon on the hunt!

# 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, cooperation 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



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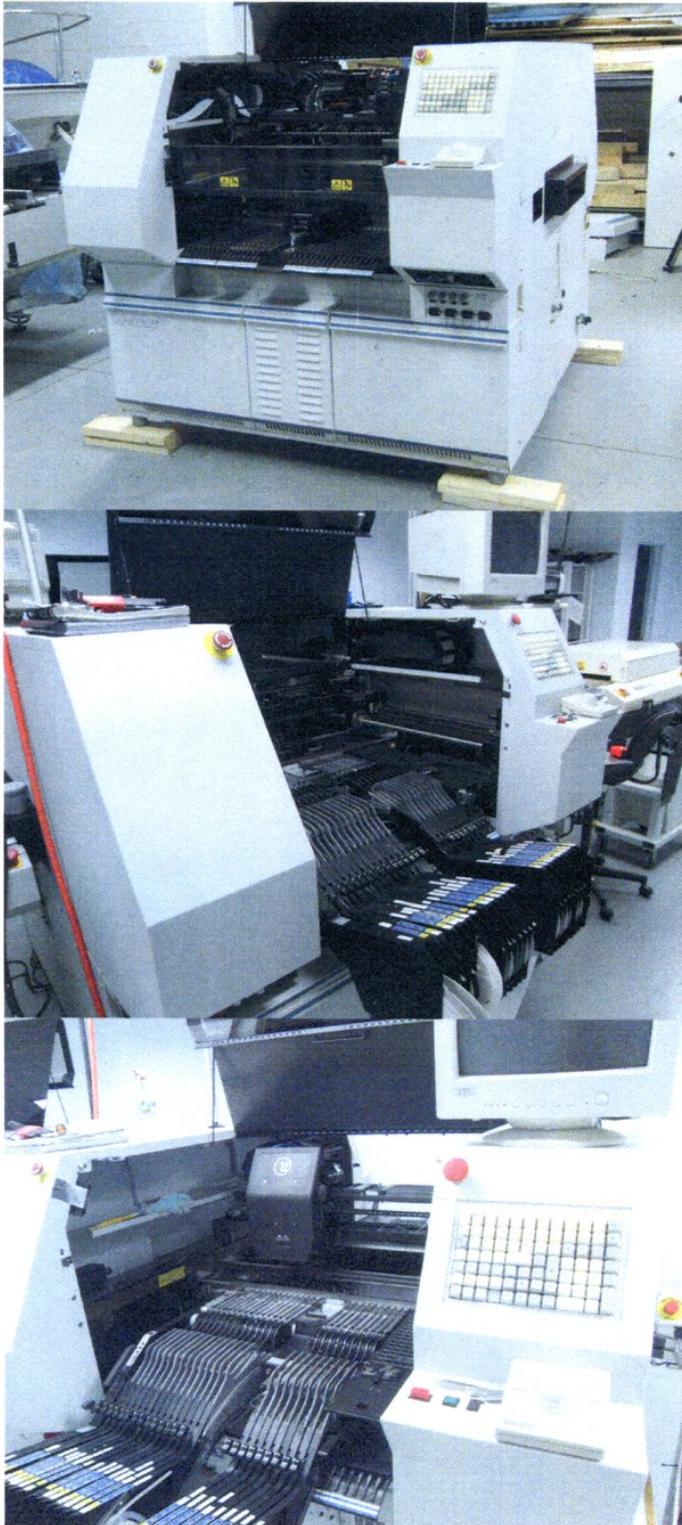
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# THE RARA RAG

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## **DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

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..... Sabrina Hamill, WD2STK  
Club Historian ..... Ed Gable, K2MP  
Club Station Trustee ..... Jim DiTucci, N2IXD  
Education Coordinator ..... Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE  
Hamfest Producer .....  
Public Service Coordinator .....  
License Testing Coordinator ..... Ken Hall, W2KRH  
Membership Secretary ..... Lisa Schramm, K2BGR  
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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 at 7pm. come join us at:

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

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## Rochester Area Radio Club Contacts

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### **Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn**

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### **Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RaRa)**

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### **Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)**

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### **Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)**

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### **Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)**

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**November Rag Deadline**  
**October 15, 2012**

