



# THE RARA RAG

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

VOL. 65

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NO. 4

## InfraGard: Standing Guard and Keeping Us Safe Through Technological Vigilance

By Gary Skuse, KA1NJL  
Vice President, RaRa

At the December RARA meeting (Friday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm) we will hear from Mr. Todd Colvin, KCØQAH, President of the Rochester InfraGard Member Alliance. Todd will tell us about the role InfraGard plays at the local and national levels. In addition to a thoroughly engaging talk, he has promised to bring along some pretty neat hardware for a show and tell which will include a spectrum analyzer, non-linear junction detector and perhaps a counter probe monitor. These are some of the tools he and his fellow InfraGard members use to keep us safe.



InfraGard is a partnership between the information technology industry and the FBI that is charged with the responsibility of sharing information and intelligence to prevent hostile acts against the United States. It is an association of businesses, academic institutions, state and local law

enforcement agencies and other participants like you and me. If you are interested you can become a member and help in the effort to protect our infrastructure against hostile attacks.

Within InfraGard there are a number of special interest groups (SIGs) that are likely to appeal to many of your interests. They include groups dedicated to Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP), Food and Agriculture, Research and Technology Protection, and Chemicals. If you are interested in learning more you can visit their website at [www.infragard.net](http://www.infragard.net).

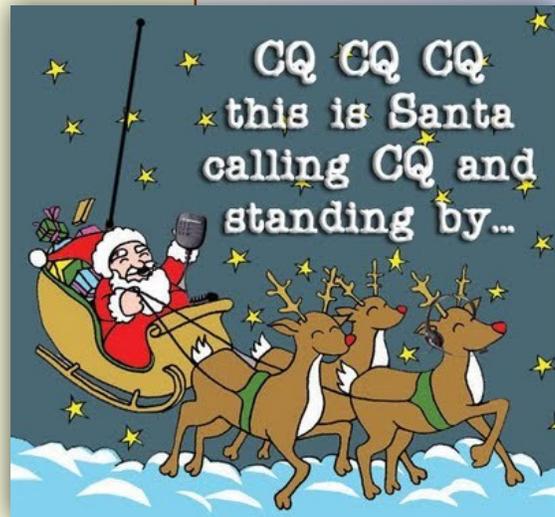
As we look forward to the New Year be sure join us at the January RARA meeting when Jim Stefano, W2COP, will tell us about his experiences communicating with the International Space Station.

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### RARA Meeting December 7th, 7PM

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





## The Prez Sez

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC  
President, RaRa

Greetings and Salutations to All! December is once again upon us, and we all know what that means. December is a bitter-sweet time of the year. The bitter includes the stress of shopping, finding a place to park at the malls, putting up decorations, and the kids asking how many more days until Santa comes? Then there is the chance of a snowstorm or two. And don't forget the baking of cookies! The sweet part of December is that it is a festive time of year, with holiday joys, a special time for family, and a time to drive around looking at all of the lights and decorations. One other benefit is that the elections are over... No more bombardment of those constant, most annoying, and very negative political ads... no more 'robo-calls' either. I wanted to put my foot through the TV when on the Wednesday morning following the elections, the news channels were speculating on who was going to run for President in 2016! Are you kidding me?

Another sweet thing about December is how good the HF ham bands have become... no to low noise levels on 160 through 40 meters, awesome DX on the higher frequency bands, and you can hide in your ham shack to get away from it all. Since our evenings seem longer, it might also be a good time to try CW again if you haven't operated this mode in a while. Haven't learned Morse code yet? This just might be the time to get started. It is a very fun mode to operate, though sometimes a bit challenging.

By now, your antennas should be up, tuned, and ready for action. However, there are those hams who truly believe that the best time to put up an antenna is during adverse weather conditions! I hate to admit it, but I have done exactly that, and low and behold, the antenna turned out to be a real winner! Perhaps there is some truth in this philosophy. Just remember to be careful... we want you around for next December!

Enjoy the Holidays, stay safe, RELAX, and get on the air! 73!



## Calendar of Events

- Dec 7** **RaRa General Meeting**  
7:00 PM - Henrietta FD #1  
3129 E. Henrietta Rd
- Dec 12** **RaRa Board of Directors**  
5:30 PM, RIT Engineering  
Hall, Room 2110
- Dec 15** **RaRa VE Testing** sessions  
10:00 AM, RIT Gleason  
Hall, Room 3139



## Rag-Chew

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

Season's greetings, and welcome to the December issue of the *RARA Rag*! We are pleased to have the return of *Scanning News* this month after a short break, this time covering the interesting security communications that can be heard at area colleges. We also have an article from the Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science on an exciting new telescope project. This is a friendly group of volunteers who operate the Planetarium telescope. They welcome beginners at public star parties and other events throughout the year.

Looking to put some new fun into your hobby? How about getting back to basics with a low power or homebrew rig? I recently put such a transmitter on the air for a trial run, and I've been having a ball with it. While I have built some of my own transmitting gear over the years, this particular unit was made by Jerry Svoboda, KB2QIU, and I obtained it at the 2006 Rochester Hamfest. Online plans for the original version of the rig can be found online at [www.qsl.net/wd4nka/TEXTS/50c5f.HTM](http://www.qsl.net/wd4nka/TEXTS/50c5f.HTM). Perhaps some of you remember the original article penned by W5LET, which appeared in the March 1968 issue of *Electronics Illustrated* magazine. An updated article also appeared in the February 2006 issue of *CQ Magazine*. This is truly a no-frills rig built on a breadboard chassis, but almost every time I work someone on the air they want more information on how to build one for themselves. It really works!

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all *RARA Rag* readers. I hope you are able to log some special times with family and friends at this time of the year. 73, and best DX.



***My one-tube (50C5)  
"rockbound" transmitter ready  
for action on 40m CW***



## VE News

By Ken Hall, W2KRH  
VE Coordinator

The October VE session had seven successful candidates who earned three Technician and four Extra class licenses:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Call sign</u>	<u>Class</u>
Alexander Buie	KD2CYF	Tech
James Sanchez	KD2CYG	Tech
Austin Slydel	KD2CYH	Tech
William Furman	KD2CLR	Extra
Brian Higberg	KD2CUA	Extra
Katherine Knowles	N2YD	Extra
Vincent Montalto	WB2IUU	Extra

Congratulations to all the new and upgraded license holders. The next test session will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> in Room 9-3139 at RIT, and will begin at 10AM.

## RMSC Science & Technology Fair

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Ham radio will be on exhibit for three days, December 27, 28 and 29 (Thursday through Saturday) during the Rochester Museum and Science Center Science and Technology Fair. The Rochester DX association will be managing the HF station led by Dave Wright, N2CK. RARA will supply some hands-on exhibits led by Peter Fournia, W2SKY. We need your help with the hands-on exhibits. Look for a volunteer schedule with 3 hour time slots at our December 7th meeting and on the RARA website at [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org). For further information contact Peter Fournia, W2SKY at 377-0535.

## Licensing Classes

By Sue Waterstraat KC2SUE  
RARA Education Coordinator

Get your Ham license or upgrade to the next level in time for Field Day 2013! Interested in getting your ham license or upgrading 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 help with instructors standing by. We need to hear from you soon, however. If there is sufficient interest (a minimum of five students per course), the 10-week sessions will take place during the winter. 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 \$10.00 for others without a ham license! Click here for details or to become a member: [www.rochesterham.org/Membership.htm](http://www.rochesterham.org/Membership.htm). As an added bonus, if an unlicensed RARA member takes our licensing course and passes the Technician class exam, he or she is eligible to purchase a dual band hand-held radio from RARA for \$25.00. What better way to use that new license?



October 6, 2012–January 6, 2013



This exhibit was created by The Field Museum, Chicago, USA, and made possible through the generosity of McDonald's Corporation.



## Ham Tech: Ham Podcasts (Audio & Video)

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

There are many ham radio-related audio and video podcasts. Most are available as downloads from the Internet while a few must be streamed via the Internet. I always have an MP3 player in my vehicle and listen to the audio podcasts anytime I am driving. My tablet comes in handy when watching the video podcasts (not while driving). A good way to keep track of these podcasts is to set up a RSS feed in a program such as Google Reader. It keeps a list of the podcasts you like and updates the list as each new one is uploaded to the web. Many of the podcasts have a feed to iTunes for you Apple users. Some of the sites listed below will have a longer list of other ham radio shows. Dust off that old MP3 player and load some ham radio podcasts on it!

<http://twit.tv/hn> Ham Nation is available in an audio and video format. I recommend the video format. Hosts are Bob Heil (K9EID), Gordon West (WB6NOA), and George Thomas (W5JDX).

<http://www.hqaradio.com> HQA Radio does a number of video podcasts on different ham radio topics. Tom Samacicio (KB4HQA) is the host for these various shows.

<http://www.amateurlogic.tv/blog> AmateurLogic TV is hosted by George Thomas (W5JDX) and friends. This is a video podcast and has been around long before George joined the Ham Nation group.

<http://arvideonews.com/hrn> Ham Radio Now is a video podcast hosted by Gary Pearce (KN4AQ). Gary was a substitute host for some of the early Ham Nation episodes. This one must be streamed unless you have a program that will copy YouTube videos for your own personal use.

<http://myamateurradio.com> Practical Amateur Radio podcast is an audio podcast hosted by Jerry Taylor (KDØBIK). He does a short weekly show on the weeks contests and special events. There is also a monthly show on a specific topic.

<http://www.arnewline.org> Amateur Radio Newline was co-founded by Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) way back in 1976. It is a weekly audio podcast of the latest ham radio news with over 1,800 episodes.

[www.therainreport.com](http://www.therainreport.com) The Rain Report is produced by Hap Holly (KC9RP) and is a short weekly audio podcast. It consist of an interview with a ham doing something special or clips from many of the Dayton Hamvention forums.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-audio-news> ARRL Audio News is a weekly audio podcast with the latest ham radio news. The report is compiled and read by Khrystyne Keane (K1SFA).



## Meeting Prizes

By Jay KC2TCM & Sabrina WD2STK

December's main raffle prize is a personal computer! It will be a Pentium 4 class computer running Windows XP, and will come with a monitor, keyboard, and mouse. The 2nd and 3rd prizes will be a neat roll-up keyboard, and a \$25 gift certificate to the ARRL Store. See you on December 7<sup>th</sup>!

## SKYWARN Recognition Day 2012

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI



SKYWARN Recognition Day will be December 1, 2012 (0000 – 2400 UTC). In local terms it is Friday November 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM till Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 PM. National Weather Service offices across the country will be on the air for 24 hours. The goal is to contact as many weather service offices as possible using repeaters, IRLP, Echolink, and HF. This is a fun event for new hams that may only have a Technician class license. Many of the weather service offices will be on Echolink and IRLP. The National Weather Service office in Buffalo will be participating again this year. Look for WX2BUF on Echolink and you can also check in on the 145.110 repeater. Submit your total number of weather service office contacts for a certificate from the National Weather Service. More information is available from:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/>



## RF Solar Spectrograph

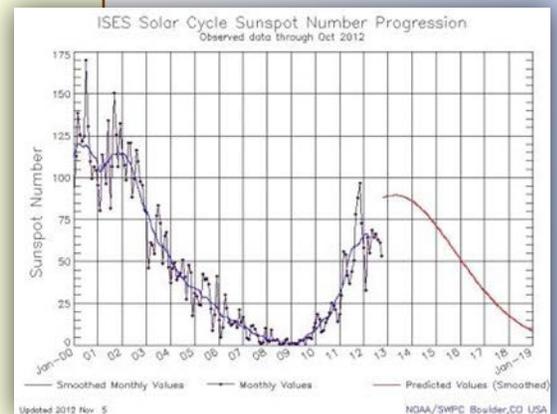
By Martin Pepe [mjpastro@aol.com](mailto:mjpastro@aol.com)

Astronomy Section, Rochester Academy of Science

You've probably heard some buzz about building a Radio Telescope to study the Sun. Why? Most Hams are into point-to-point (personal) talk and data, maybe at the most "bounce" communications. Bounce? Off what? The upper layer of the atmosphere, you say. How can that be? Air does not affect RF energy. What makes that upper layer so special? Why does the baseline of this 'bounce' layer seem to rise & fall every 11 years? Just what is the connection to the Solar Sunspot Cycle? This is a good thing for bounce communications, is it bad for anything else?

Sunspots are back on the rise, (see graph) driven by incredibly large magnetic fields on our nearest star, the Sun. That magnificent evening overhead light, the Aurora, is really a result of a high energy stream of charged particles called the Solar Wind emanating from these dark spotty regions on the Sun. Large quantities of these particles are called Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) pushed by the above 'twisted' magnetics.

It's hard to believe the Sun loses 10M tons of these particles per year. They're no slouches on speed either, traveling at 300 - 800 km/sec (186 – 497 mi/sec) and if it happens they're pointed at us, it still takes them 2 – 4 days to get here! Earth's magnetic poles, trap them and you see them (and hear them) when they run into the upper air molecules (O<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, etc.). This hyper energy can wreak havoc knocking out power lines, DBS and weather satellites, etc. Wouldn't it be nice if we could better understand this invisible (to our eyes) RF engine that drives this phenomenon?



**A new solar telescope has been brought online at the ASRAS Observatory in West Bloomfield, NY—Hamlet of Ionia**

The ASRAS (Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science) has just brought on line a Solar Telescope, in Ionia, N.Y., for looking at visible sunspots. A Sun Radio Telescope might enable us to complement this study. If there is a visible and RF connection to these "dark side" spots, a working RF Solar system attached to the Internet might act as an early warning indicator for Aurora and HF communications "windows."

Enter the RF Solar Spectrograph (eCallisto) project. It's a 7 ft. surplus downlink dish (see photo), a low noise amplifier (LNA), and modified DTV tuner for the front end. All of this is controlled by a regular PC or laptop that controls and manages data rate speed, frequency, and bandwidth. Just imagine a 45 to 870 MHz frequency-agile receiver with a bandwidth of ~ 300 kHz, taking 800 samples per second! Sort of like a "celestial" software-defined radio.

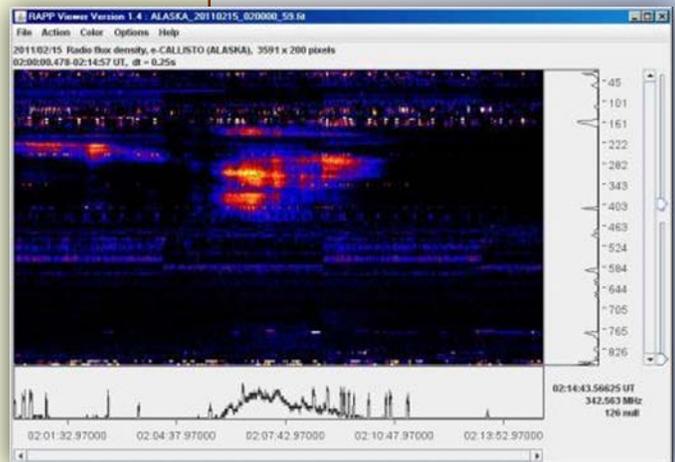
Ok, so once you get this data in the computer, what do you do with it next? For one, if you can identify an offending (TV) emitter, you can drop that 'slice' of data 'on the floor', a rather interesting digital approach to a noise filter, rather than the traditional LC trap (with marginal Q).

What do you do with this huge tsunami of data bits in the computer, and how do you manage and display the things you're interested in? There isn't an optical image to display (like a CCD camera file - .jpeg or .gif). You have to resort to 3D methods to show a "pseudo" (false color) image. One method is a waterfall image like in the newer Navy sonar displays (X-axis is time → and Y-axis is Frequency↓). Or perhaps a wireframe plot. There's even the possibility of an electronic chart recorder called SkyPipe that acts like the old (hardcopy) paper strip charts that some of you may remember.

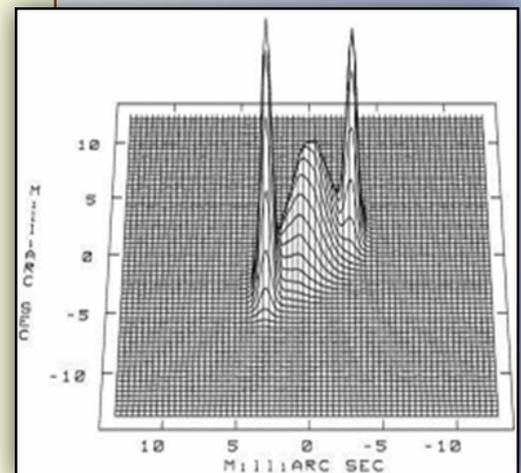
Whatever the final configuration, we are poised to grow into a whole new field combining the best of both worlds, Astronomy and Ham radio. This Solar RT will be the first of its kind in North America (US and Canada) as part of a worldwide eCallisto radio telescope network.

If you think you're interested in working on this project, be it systems, hardware, software, Labview controls, or even mentoring young engineering students that only have "book learning" and need some "real world" experience to ground them, please let me know. Drop me a line and tell me what you'd be interested in and some of your background experiences. We have three major phases of increasing capabilities and have passed our first two hurdles 1) A build site, and 2) grant funding. Our short-term plans are to get us on the air with a basic "first light" condition (an RF site survey, systems engineering, controls, etc.) and acquisition of the front end receiver hardware. Look for future articles and periodic talks on our progress.

For further reading and an introduction into Radio Astronomy, check out the Radio Telescope section of the ASRAS website:  
<http://www.RochesterAstronomy.org>



**Waterfall Display**



**Wireframe Plot**

# Scanning Report: Area Colleges

By Jim Sutton, N2OPS

Do you miss law enforcement scanning now that your local PD has gone digital? Are you looking for some variety in your scanner listening? Check out your local college or university for a change of pace. There's interesting listening to be had, especially on Friday and Saturday nights and during special events.

All colleges in the Rochester area transmit in the clear. That is, they use analog systems so they can be heard with any common scanner. One very active user is the University of Rochester, which includes Strong Memorial Hospital and the Eastman School of Music. Their Ch 1 frequencies are patched together.

<u>CH</u>	<u>MHz</u>	<u>PL (Hz)</u>	<u>Usage</u>
Ch 1	461.375	123.0	U of R Security Operations
--	464.250	123.0	Eastman School Security
Ch 3	464.700	123.0	U of R MERT Fire Response
Ch 5	462.675	123.0	U of R Schools
Ch 7	464.600	123.0	U of R Security Car to Car
Ch 9	461.775	D411	Medical Center Parking

Even-number U of R channels are talkaround (direct). For example, Ch 1 talkaround is Ch 2 simplex (461.375 MHz) direct rather than through a repeater. This allows communications between units that are close to each other without tying up the repeater. Ch 1 (461.375 MHz) actually carries further than the Rochester Police Department's signal. A lengthy ID is heard at the beginning of each shift on 461.375 MHz and 464.700 MHz.

Here are some other area college frequencies to try for:

## Genesee Community College

Security	154.515	151.4
	154.540	151.4

## Houghton College

Security and Facilities	151.805	CSQ
	151.835	CSQ

## Monroe Community College

Security	453.200	D466
Maintenance	453.675	D263

## Nazareth

Security	153.005	D346
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## Roberts Wesleyan

Security	154.4825	118.8
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## RIT

Ambulance	Ch 1	151.715	82.5
	Ch 2	155.265	D346
Security		864.2125	D031

## St John Fisher

Security	452.125	110.9
Facilities	452.200	100.0

## SUNY Alfred

Police	453.050	88.5
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## SUNY Brockport

Police	453.350	88.5
Maintenance	151.715	94.8

## SUNY Genesee

Police	155.745	107.2
Facilities	464.825	D743

Until next month, 73 to thee.

*Most colleges have additional frequencies licensed to them. Go to the FCC listings online and then enter them in your scanner. You will find them used for many purposes including maintenance, special events, and student activities. Please forward your finds with frequencies and PL's to me so I can share them in future stories.*

For a complete list of all local scanner frequencies log on to <http://n2ops.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=nYA0a3GGqAw%3d&tabid=38&mid=373>



# RaRa Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RaRa Historian

## 20 Years Ago, December, 1992

Last month we reported on a very long tradition of November—set your watch by it—as being the annual RaRa Auction. This month, 20 years ago, also followed a long tradition, but unfortunately one most likely never to happen again. It was the Annual RaRa/Kodak amateur radio club joint meeting, this time held at the Kodak Camera Club Theater at 200 Ridge Road West. The speaker for the evening promised to translate a new language being bantered about that sounded a bit like “I’ve got a 386-33 with 32k of RAM Cache and 32 Mb of DRAM..... etc.” Helping us to figure all of that out was Curtis Braun, N2HKD, who asked people to ask questions in advance of the meeting via something called packet radio by addressing N2HKD@WB2PSI. If you could do that you probably didn’t have to go to the meeting!

Dominic (no last name given) KB2NCM, wrote to acknowledge the just-completed Pumpkin Patrol where 36 local amateurs participated. President Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU, wrote an article describing RaRa’s participation in ARRL’s Special Service Club program. Within that article was the League’s announcement that they were thinking of a name change to *American Amateur Radio League* (AARL) and asked members to inform their Director how they felt. I think we know the result! Ed Gable, K2MP, writing for the Rochester VHF Group, reported on the recently completed Microwave Update ‘92 conference. Ninety seven attendees from all U.S. call areas, Canada and England enjoyed the three-day conference held at the Holidome in Henrietta. This conference is the mecca for the seriously dedicated microwave enthusiast and is held in various cities across the country, this year in Rochester and sponsored by the RVHFG. Dave Hallidy, KD5RO/2, and Frank Polino, K2OS, were co-chairs.

With regret it was announced that Charles Witman WB2FZB, was a Silent Key. From the Want Ads you could buy a Ten-Tec Argosy transceiver from Bernie Agins, KD2CU. Ramsey’s Surplus Outlet Store in Victor, NY, was a new advertiser.

## 40 Years Ago, December, 1972

Joe Hood, K2YAH, announced that the meeting would be a technical one, and a rather advanced one as well, where the somewhat controversial subject of machine-copied code for amateur use would be discussed and demonstrated. The decoder, built by Paul Evans, W2YYW, is reported to copy 100 wpm. You saw it at 249 Highland Avenue, in Rochester. Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, reported that the 1972 RaRa Auction netted the club a record amount of income. A rare photo was published of the auction, revealing the inside of 249 Highland Avenue, a very popular meeting venue. Today, 40 years later, the attendees, mostly in shirt, tie and a jacket, have a quaint look.

Local Insurance Agent and very active ham, Ash Palmer, K2EAW, penned an article on auto insurance and how you may or may not be covered for your mobile equipment loss. The just-completed RaRa Code and Theory class, as reported by Ditson Dawes, started out with a staggering 128 students spread around the Novice, General, Advanced and Morse code classes. The venue for the classes was McCurdy’s downtown location with host Bob Lauzon, WB2NSD, assisted by Dave Hassett K2SQI and Joe Hood, K2YAH. From the Want Ads you could buy a Johnson Viking Thunderbolt from Sherwood Snyder, W2KFU. Tire World of Rochester, Ray Roberts WA2SSU, proprietor, remained a long time advertiser.

## RaRa 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...

### Monroe County ARES / RACES News

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

The 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.

NOTE: Because of the holidays, we will *not* meet in December. The next ARES Meeting will be held on: Thursday, January 24, 2013, 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 2m handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2013.

### RDXA News

By Brent Hungate, KC2QLJ

Another month has gone by and what a busy one it has been. In the month of December RDXA does not hold a general membership meeting, but instead we have our annual holiday banquet. The banquet will be held on December 11th at Rick's Prime Rib House, 898 Buffalo Road Rochester New York 14624. RSVP's can be made to Paul (K2FX).

On another note the New York QSO Party (NYQP) was held on October 20<sup>th</sup>, and it was a great success once again. Due to the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, the NYQP team decided to extend the log deadline until November 15<sup>th</sup> at midnight. We haven't reached the deadline at the time of this writing, but it looks like we have once again surpassed the amount of logs submitted from last year. On behalf of RDXA and the NYQP team, we would like to thank all the amateurs who participated in the event. On behalf of RDXA we would like to wish all amateurs and their families a Happy Holiday season.

### RRRA News

By Bob Shewell, N2HJD  
RRRA President

RRRA will be having its annual Christmas dinner Friday December 14th at 7PM. The location will be MacGregors' Grill & Tap Room located at 300 Jefferson Rd. We hope you can join us!

#### 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: Another Success!

By Ned Asam, W2NED, [W2NED@frontiernet.net](mailto:W2NED@frontiernet.net), and  
Vince Burolla, W2VAB, [yburoll1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:yburoll1@rochester.rr.com)

Twice a year, the Xerox Amateur Radio Club, XARC, sponsors a hidden transmitter hunt, commonly referred to as a fox hunt. These events are open to anyone one interested—not just licensed radio amateurs. The hunts are a great way to introduce young folks to our great hobby. If they like orienteering, they will love the challenge of finding the fox!

The 2012 XARC Fall Fox Hunt was held on the last Saturday in October, and proved to be a fun time for all. We were especially delighted that representatives from the Webster High School radio club were able to join us. The pre-hunt practice and registration began at 9:00 AM at North Ponds Park in Webster with a practice fox hidden in a tree on the small peninsula across from the main parking area. The official hunt began shortly after 9:30 AM and ran until about 1PM. We met for the awards lunch at the Monroe Wegman's in Pittsford Plaza.

This hunt was also the official debut for the FOXmitter -- a new "fox" transmitter designed and built especially for our hunts by Ned, W2NED and Vince, W2VAB who had won the Spring FOX Hunt and, consequently, earned the duty to host the Fall Fox Hunt. The FOXmitters were used in two configurations for this hunt; the basic, half-watt version (shown in photo), and the amplified, six-watt version. The FOXmitter was designed for ease of use and flexibility for the hunt masters, while making the hunts more interesting and less frustrating for the hunters.

Before the hunt, each FOXmitter was pre-configured via an asynchronous terminal emulator to have a specific audio tone, Morse message, Morse rate (wpm) and four selectable transmit frequencies. The actual transmit delay and frequency selection is set in the field by the potentiometer and DIP switches, respectively.

By the start of the fox hunt each FOXmitter was QRV at various locations around the area. The FOXmitters were hidden so that they could be easily accessed from a hiking trail or foot path, but they were not so easy to locate without good fox hunting skills!

We had five teams participating. Each team found at least one FOXmitter and the three winning teams found all three FOXmitters. Upon finding a FOXmitter, the team had been instructed to take a card with the lowest sequence number. This established the scores for the certificates. A score of 10 was entered if the FOXmitter was not found. Brian Donovan, K2AS, is our Hunt Master for the 2013 Spring Fox hunt. Thanks to everyone who participated, and we look forward seeing many more hunters at the Spring Fox Hunt. Remember, fox hunts are a great way to introduce friends to amateur radio! If you have any questions or want to duplicate the FOXmitter, you can contact me (Ned) by email at [W2NED@frontiernet.net](mailto:W2NED@frontiernet.net).



**After the hunt: The XARC foxhunt crew gathers for lunch & awards**



**Half-watt FOXmitter used in the hidden transmitter 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.
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# THE RARA RAG

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**January Rag Deadline**  
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