



THE RARA RAG

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

VOL. 65

February 2013

NO. 6

RF Solar Spectrography:

By Gary Skuse, KA1NJL
Vice President, RaRa

“Don’t look directly at the sun, son”

The program for our February RARA meeting features Martin Pepe from the Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science (ASRAS, <http://www.rochesterastronomy.org/>). In the December 2012 issue of this newsletter Marty described their efforts to construct an RF Solar Spectrograph to complement the solar telescope currently installed at the ASRAS site in Ionia, NY and at our February meeting he will give us an opportunity to learn more about this fascinating project.

Ever since I was young I was intrigued by the night sky. I have built several telescopes and I take advantage of every opportunity to gaze into the night, awestruck by the infinite expanse of the universe. For just about that long I have also been keenly aware of the dangers of improperly observing our closest star through traditional optics. When I got my first telescope as a child I was repeatedly warned by my parents to never look directly at the sun or I would do irreparable damage to my eyes. On a couple of occasions I have had the opportunity to observe the sun through optical telescopes fitted with appropriate filters and the experiences were amazing.

In order to “see” other aspects of solar activity Marty and his fellow enthusiasts will use a type of astronomy that employs regions of the electromagnetic spectrum that we cannot see, i.e. radio astronomy. The ASRAS is building a solar spectrograph that is comprised of a 7 foot dish, something we used to call a BUD for those of you who remember that term (Big Ugly Dish), a low noise amplifier and a modified digital TV tuner. The digital signal is fed into a laptop that captures the remarkably large amount of data produced by this system. From there the data can be visualized and analyzed in a number of ways. Of course none of them produce an optical image of the sun because this is a radio spectrograph, not an optical telescope.

At the February meeting, scheduled for Friday February 1st at 7:00pm, Marty will provide the background underlying his interests in radio telescopes, he will inform us about this interesting project and he will tell us about opportunities for you to get involved. Because of its very nature, there are opportunities to contribute to systems integration, hardware fabrication and installation, writing and integrating software and Labview controls. Just like ham radio in general, there is something there for everyone and I suspect that Marty and the folks at the ASRAS will welcome your participation. Please join us for this interesting look at another way to enjoy the electromagnetic spectrum.

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RARA Meeting February 1st, 7PM

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



The Prez Sez

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC
President, RaRa

As I write this, winter has returned to upstate NY, with about 25 inches of the 'white stuff' blanketing the region. But after all, it *is* winter and we had our spoiler last year. Skiers are in their glory, and those of us who aren't exactly excited about the snow are already looking forward to spring. So why not make the best of it? Here's something we all can enjoy... Attend the RaRa Winterfest 2013! This year's cabin party will be held on February 23rd, 2013 at the Pavilion Lodge in Ellison Park. The cost to you as a RaRa member is zero, nada, a benefit for our membership. We all had a great time last year at this event and I am sure that this year will be the same. There's free food and non-alcoholic beverages, an opportunity to operate stations using the special events call K2R (you can even bring your own rig to operate), and great conversation.

RaRa is also offering license courses again this winter for the Technician, General, and Amateur Extra licenses. They will be taught at RIT beginning on Tuesday, March 5th, 2013, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. There is a more detailed article elsewhere in this issue. VE testing will be made available at the end of the course. This is a good opportunity to get your license or to upgrade! Remember, if you are a RaRa member, take RaRa's Technician course and pass the Technician exam, you can purchase a dual band VHF/UHF handheld for \$25.00! Several new Techs from our last class have already taken advantage of this benefit and got on the air right away. We are so repeater-rich in this area... repeater after repeater, both VHF and UHF. Most of these repeaters are very much underutilized! Perhaps the advent of the 'throw away' handhelds will generate more interest in using our repeaters and making a tighter knit local ham radio community. You know the old saying: "Use It or Lose It". Significant time and money goes into keeping these repeaters up and running, and they are important assets for both public service and for emergency communications. I encourage you to rediscover the VHF/UHF repeaters and get on the air!

Some of you have been inquiring about the Hamfest this year. It is premature to give out any details at this time since they have not been finalized. What I can tell you however is that plans have been made, tentative dates and a venue have also been selected. Once negotiations have been finalized, I will make this information available to you ASAP. Volunteers are the backbone of any hamfest, and I encourage you to make yourself available to give some of your time to make the RaRa Hamfest 2013 a huge success. More on this will be coming up in the near future.

See you at the RaRa Winterfest!
73!



Calendar of Events

- Feb 1** **RaRa General Meeting**
7:00 PM - Henrietta FD #1
3129 E. Henrietta Rd
- Feb 6** **RaRa Board of Directors**
5:30 PM, RIT Engineering
Hall, Room 2110
- Feb 16** **RaRa VE Testing** sessions
10:00 AM, RIT Gleason
Hall, Room 3139
- Feb 23** **RARA Winterfest**
Pavilion Lodge in Ellison
Park



Rag-Chew

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

Thinking of submitting an article for the *RARA Rag*? We'd love to hear from you! I don't want to set a lot of complicated rules for submissions, as I believe the process should be as easy as possible. Our staff will work with you to get an article ready for publication, so you need not be a professional writer. Here are a few guidelines to keep in mind which will make things easier for the Editor's office...

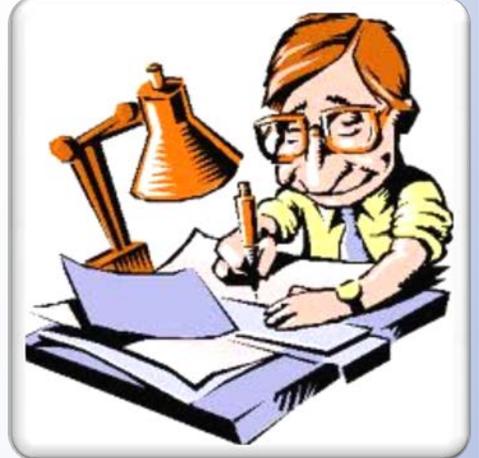
- Send your article as an e-mail attachment to editor@rochesterham.org. The preferred file type for articles is Microsoft Word. (Exception: Very short submittals, such as club news or other articles/notices of three paragraphs or less may be sent directly in an e-mail if you wish.)
- Compose your text in 10 point Arial font.
- Use *one* space after a period, not two. (Two spaces is a throwback to the typewriter days when users were limited to a mono-spaced font. Professional publishing, such as books and magazines has always used single spacing.)
- Keep special formatting to a minimum, such as bolding, italics, and underlining, etc.
- Ensure that any material you submit is not copyright-protected, and give credit for artwork that was provided to you by another source.
- It's OK to embed artwork and photos right in your article if you wish, but please do not wrap text around it. Just place graphics on a line of their own.

That's about it. We welcome club news, construction projects, or a tutorial on some aspect of ham radio operating. If you have an idea that you're unsure of, just drop me a line at the e-mail address above and we can discuss it.

73, & best DX!
--Kevin

ARAST Winterfest

The ARAST Winterfest will be February 23rd at the Armory in Horseheads, NY. Doors open at 6am for vendors, breakfast at 7am, and doors open to the public at 8am. License testing will begin at 9am. KC2SYA and KA2BED are the co-chairman. ARAST hopes to have its website (<http://www.arast.org/>) updated soon with more complete information on this event. –*Tnx Jim, W2RFM for forwarding this info.*



RARA Winterfest—It's Baaack...

By Gary Skuse, KA1NJL

After months of planning it is hard to believe that the RARA Winterfest is just around the corner. We are again planning to have several operating positions activated. If you would like to bring a rig and share your favorite operating mode with your friends please let me know so we can be sure to accommodate you.

Of course we will have a reprise of our crowd pleasing crockpot cook-off. Just like last year, everyone is invited to bring their favorite crockpot creations to share. The array of creative and delicious dishes we had last year was nothing short of amazing. The positive comments we received from those of us who enjoyed the Winterfest, and ate the delectable food, were overwhelming. Again we will be awarding prizes of RARA membership points to the top three entrants. The first place winner will receive 50 points, second place will get 30 points and the third place winner will receive 10 points. These points can be redeemed when you renew your RARA membership or they can be applied toward the purchase fashionable RARA apparel, destined to be the envy of your friends.

While everything I have described so far sounds like reason enough to attend the Winterfest, we are also inviting everyone to bring a dessert to share. To make this invitation even sweeter, we will also be judging dessert creations and awarding 25 RARA membership points for the best dessert. We encourage you to put on your chefs' hats and impress us with your sweet culinary creativity used to construct choice consumable confections. Of course there is no entry fee for these cook-offs so if you eat you win, if you are judged to be the best in a category, you win, if you operate on the air, you win, if you enjoy each other's company, you win. Are you seeing a trend here?

The 'fest will be held on Saturday February 23rd in the Pavilion Lodge in Ellison Park. This is a new location chosen to accommodate the large crowd expected to enjoy a day of food, operating and camaraderie. You can find the Pavilion near the top center of this [map](#). We will be there around 10am to set up radios and antennas, of course help will be greatly appreciated, and we encourage everyone to plan to get there around 11:30am when the eating and operating will be in full swing.

If you plan to bring something delightful to share please let me know by e-mail, at ka1nj1@arrl.net, or by phone at 585-223-1511 so we can keep track of the wonderful food we can look forward to. RARA will provide non-alcoholic beverages and together we will provide the fun.



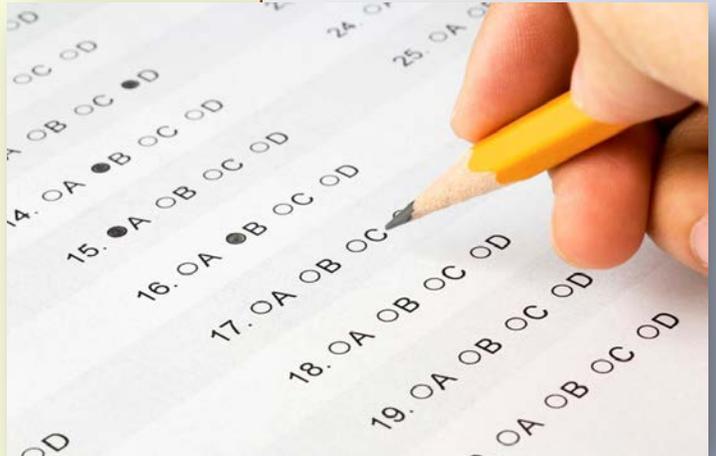
VE News

By Ken Hall, W2KRH
VE Coordinator

A Happy New Year to all. We had five candidates in December, all of whom passed their respective tests; three General and two Extra class. Congratulations to all of our December candidates.

Marisa Ashour, KC2VMM (General)
Alexander Buie, K2FUR (General)
Joseph Moreyn, KB1ZAG (General)
Stephen Fleming, N2VTC (Extra)
Albert Nitto, KD2CQQ (Extra)

Our next test session will be held on January 19th at RIT.



Licensing Classes

By Sue Waterstraat KC2SUE
RARA Education Coordinator

Get your Ham license or upgrade to the next license class! RARA is sponsoring training at all three levels: Technician, General and Extra beginning on **March 5th**. (Please note: the original start date of February 5th had to be changed to March 5th due to scheduling conflicts.) The 10-week sessions will be held Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the James E. Gleason Building #9 at RIT. There is still room, but contact Sue Waterstraat at suewater@rochester.rr.com soon if you would like to register. If an unlicensed RARA member takes our licensing course and passes the Technician class exam, they are eligible to purchase a dual-band handheld radio from RARA for \$25.00.

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>

Silent Key

Robert C. Corbin, N2RSM
January 1, 2013

Scanning Report: Listen to the Chatter

By Jim Sutton, N2OPS

It's a cold winter night. Your scanner just goes round and round. What else is there to hear? How about some plain old chat? Here are some frequencies to listen to...

Air-to-Air 123.450 AM

Pilots often yak back and forth on this frequency. You will hear all about what's happening in their families as well as their businesses and other tidbits of their lives.

CB Channel 19 27.185 AM

While not found in all scanners, this frequency provides much activity along interstate highways. Virtually every kind of conversation can be found at every hour of the day. The traveler can often gain valuable information about road conditions avoiding trouble and saving time. Some newer scanners even have CB search capability.

VHF Marine 156.425, 156.475, 156.575, 156.625, 156.925, 156.975
FM

Of course there will be no activity during the winter months, but it won't be long until these channels come alive with chat between fishermen and other boaters.

New York State Police Car-to-Car 154.665 110.9 NFM

This is champion of chat channels. Common to every law enforcement unit, there is nearly constant activity on this frequency.

Monroe County Police Departments 460.3250 TAC1, 460.2500 TAC2,
460.3750 TAC3 P25

For those of us that have P25 digital capable scanners these channels have behind the scenes chat between law enforcement units in Monroe County. Plus they come alive when crisis scenes demand a designated channel.

Still looking for more chat? Then check out other frequencies from my online list:
<http://n2ops.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=nYA0a3GGqAw%3d&tabid=38&mid=373>

Until next time, 73 to thee.



Click to listen:



RadioReference.com
Live Scanner feeds

RMSC Event - Another Success!

By Dave Wright, N2CK

Once again, another successful operation was enjoyed at the Rochester Museum and Science Center during their annual Science and Technology days. As in the past, RDXA partnered with RARA to staff an exhibit to educate and enlighten the young and old with hands-on displays and, as usual, an HF station. As we've done before, RDXA was primarily responsible for the HF station – with an Icom IC-746 and power supply provided by the Xerox Amateur radio club. The G5RV antenna was supplied by N2BEG. The operation this year, as in years past, was a team effort from start to finish. And, without mentioning anyone in particular (because I invariably forget to mention someone!) I would like to offer a gracious and profound THANK YOU to any of you who participated. This blanket thank you extends not only to the intrepid crew who gathered on short notice to put the antenna up before the snow came, to the folks who volunteered their time manning the display, to those who worked us during the duration of the event, and those who gathered this past weekend to remove the antenna. I know that the museum staff appreciated our efforts. It did seem like there were less displays than normal this year – which makes me wonder if that was a side-effect of the weather.

As in the past we operated primarily SSB and 40M is where we were found most of the time. The special event callsign of W2R was procured for the weekend (Tnx K2DB) and our intrepid QSL crew of AF2K and N1OKL are readying for the next stage of the event – the receiving and sending of cards. We finished the event with 177 QSOs (172 SSB and 5 CW) and on Monday following the event, Irv already had 9 QSL requests.

Perhaps the most memorable events happened on Saturday, the last day of our operation. One family stopped by a little before noon, and it was obvious that Zeke – their 12 year old son was quite interested in our display. K1PY spent quite a bit of time talking to Zeke – answering questions on licensing, call signs – and how they are assigned, different license privileges, and various facets of the hobby. I could tell that Vic had something up his sleeve. That something was the suggestion of putting Zeke at the helm of the HF station. Vic spent some time explaining what he wanted Zeke to do, and then coached him through a number of contacts. As I logged for them, I noticed that folks seemed to be lining up to work Zeke. All too soon, Zeke's family wanted to move on – but Jonah, a 7 year old from Maryland, in town visiting his grandparents was observing Zeke. Zeke relinquished the operating seat to continue exploration of the museum with his parents and Jonah took over.

Again, with some coaching from Vic (and later Ben, KC2JXP) Jonah operated the station for the last two hours. Once again, it seemed that folks were standing by to work Jonah. As Jonah operated, his Grandfather Winston came over to me and mentioned that he had never seen Jonah so focused and captivated by what was happening. Unknown to us, is that Jonah's great Uncle is a ham in Nova Scotia and that Winston got in touch with his brother and informed him where we were operating. If you haven't checked out the video of Jonah, point your browser to http://nyqp.org/wordpress/?page_id=1117. As Jonah was working Jeff, NJ5R – I heard VE1BMJ calling us. I quickly grabbed the mike and cleared with NJ5R (not even giving a signal report – sorry if I messed up the log, Irv) and called VE1BMJ – Jonas's great Uncle Dan. How amazing it was to hear Jonah talk to his great uncle on 40M!

Thanks again to all who contributed to the continued success of this event.

N2CK Note: In an effort to recognize the combined efforts of RDXA and RARA, our contact at the Rochester Museum and Science center sent me a number of free admission passes to the museum, the planetarium, and Cumming Nature center in Naples. RARA will be receiving half to share with their members. If you are interested in one, drop me an email at N2CK@arrl.net. They are good until January, 2014. Given the educational nature of the event our groups supported, I would prefer that our share of tickets is claimed by member(s) who intend to bring children. Let me know if you're interested and I'll set one aside for you. You'll need to claim your ticket at a meeting (or send me an SASE!).

RaRa Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RaRa Historian

20 Years Ago, February, 1993

RaRa VP and program chairman Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, introduced the monthly meeting that had a foreign sounding topic as well as a DX presenter. The February 5th meeting at the Henrietta Fire Hall brought Hans-Peter Baumeister, DF1SP, who spoke on the topic of Radio Direction Finding (RDF) with an emphasis on amateur radio fox hunting. The RaRa Spring Code and Theory classes were announced with sign ups available for Novice, Technician, General and Advanced courses. President Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU, reported that RaRa's first ever Bowling event was a huge success with 22 teams formed. Planned and executed by Chris Reich, WB2DYJ, and Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, and held at Terrace Gardens, the evening of bowling also included pizza and beverages for all.

In the same *President's Corner* article Lloyd went on to encourage members to attend this year's Winter Funfest at Hopkins Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park. With regret it was reported that Lyman Harrison, W2DYD, and Charles Stewart, KA2MIR, were reported as Silent keys. Rarely are there no Want Ads published but this was the case for this issue. Ramsey Electronics of Canning Parkway in Victor announced in their commercial ad the opening of a Surplus Outlet Store with Saturday hours from 10:00 a.m. 'til noon.

40 Years Ago, February, 1973

The always popular topic of antennas, presented by an equally popular and well respected expert in the field, Mr. Gordon Wendall, W2FDI, are the makings for an unbeatable combination, was the promise of VP and program chairman Bob Lauzon, WB2NSD. Further details of this year's RaRa Valentine Dinner-Dance were announced with instructions to order tickets from Helen Smith, WA2YRH (Young Red Head). President Ed Holdsworth wrote in his monthly column reporting on activities of the RaRa Board and the numerous planned events for the year including the Dinner-Dance, the Hamfest, a road rally in Pennsylvania, a simulated emergency test and plans for the first RaRa Campout, being planned by Rich Koehn, WB2SNA.

Ed also reported that the RaRa K2JD van, a now-rare 1962 Chevrolet CorVan (yes, a Corvair with a van body) was sporting a new 2-meter FM rig donated by Charlie Mills, K2LDU. Writing for the Rochester VHF Group was Ed Mahar, WB2ZJY, who reported that the just completed January VHF contest was very active and that the club should turn in a very good score. Details to follow. From the Want Ads you could buy a Lafayette HA-460 6 meter AM rig from Bob Bubeck, WB2HOI. A brand new advertiser with brand new amateur radio offerings was Jerry Fink, Inc., with Drake, Hy-Gain and other familiar brands.

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. The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, February 28, 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

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 2013.

RDXA News

By Brent Hungate, KC2QLJ

The next meeting of RDXA is Tuesday February 19th at 7:30 PM at the Public Safety Training Facility, 1190 Scottsville Road, Rochester. Meetings are open to all, and you don't need to be a member to attend. The winter months are upon us, and many of us are taking advantage of the good band conditions and the numerous contests. This month we will be doing a round table discussion on confirming these contacts. Do you have a neat QSL card and possibly a story to go along with it? Are you using QSL cards? Do you mail them yourself or possibly use the bureau, or are you using LOTW?

Come join us and share your experience of that great contact you have made and what it took to do it. 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 McGinny's, 2246 East River Road starting around 6 PM. I would like to remind everyone to visit the new RDXA website at RDXA.com where you can learn more about what the club is up to. 73, and hope to work you on the bands.

Editor's Note:

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

73, -Kevin



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) 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.

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THE RARA RAG

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Club Station Trustee Jim DiTucci, N2IXD
Education Coordinator Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE
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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

[Get Directions](#)

Rochester Area Radio Club Contacts

Antique Wireless Association (AWA)

Lynn Bisha, W2BSN lbisha@rochester.rr.com

Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

Glen Bruemmer, KC2YGH kc2ygh@yahoo.com

Fisherman's Net Amateur Radio Club

Jim Sutton, N2OPS jim@otrym.org

Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn

Bill Boyd, N3DSP N3DSP@lafireline.net

Monroe County ARES

Jim DiTucci, N2IXD n2ixd@arri.net

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February Rag Deadline February 15, 2013

