



THE RARA RAG

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

VOL. 66

September 2013

NO. 1

Public Service

By Gary Skuse, KA1NJL
Vice President, RaRa

Have you ever wondered why hams get involved with providing communications for public events? There are actually many reasons extending well beyond just helping out, although that alone is a particularly good one. At the September RARA meeting Joe Walker KA8WJH, our Public Service Coordinator, will talk about the many other benefits of becoming involved with public service communications.

There are a surprising number of local events that are enhanced by amateur radio. We provide communications supporting not only "health and welfare" traffic but also participant status updates, location updates via APRS and other forms of information that make the events safer and help them run more smoothly. While doing this we also gain practice operating in a controlled environment, away from the comfort of our home radio shacks. A list of events for this year can be found on the RARA website (http://rochesterham.org/public_service.htm).

It should come as no surprise that modern communications support involves multiple types of services including amateur radio, computer data communications, voice over IP (and then over the public telephone system), cell phones, video, and others. At the recent Tour de Cure, an event that supports the American Diabetes Association, RARA had a state-of-the-art communications center set up at MCC that integrated these services. At the control center, each volunteer sat at a workstation located in a climate controlled room that was in turn connected to a communications trailer in the parking lot via RF. Hams not only got the opportunity to operate in this exciting environment, they likely learned a thing or two about modern integrated communications.

On the other side of things, participating means that you will gain "backstage" access to a number of unique events, such as the Walnut Carriage Driving Competition, and in many instances you will be provided with food and beverages to help you get through the day or to celebrate a successful event afterwards.

Please join us at the September RARA meeting to learn more about the exciting opportunities to support local public service events and to explore technologies that you may otherwise not have access to. We will meet on Friday September 6th at 7:00pm at the usual location, the Henrietta Fire Company #1, located at 3129 East Henrietta Road near Lehigh Station Road.

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RARA Meeting September 6th, 7PM

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



The Prez Sez

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC
President, RaRa

RaRa held its annual picnic last month, and a great time was had by all. The one exception to that might be for those brave souls who did the cooking outside in the pouring rain! Starting the fire was a formidable task during the deluge, but with team work, umbrellas, ponchos, and patience, the charcoal finally responded. I offer my gratitude to all those who made the day a lot of fun, and especially to Frank and Lisa Schramm. They shopped for all of the food, prepared it, and did it all on a shoe string budget. Kudos!

September will be an active month for RaRa. A new year begins on October 1, 2013, which will usher in a new Board of Directors, and plenty of activities. Our elections will be held at the September meeting, and a short business meeting will take place to review the financials of the previous fiscal year. Nominations to the Board may be made at the September meeting, as stated in our bylaws. You will find in this edition of the *Rag* brief bios of declared candidates, some are previous Board members, and a few new club members have chosen to serve if elected.

September also brings two RaRa events that I strongly encourage our Club members to take part in. The first of the events is the **“Thrill Before the Chill Tailgate Party”**, which will be held on Saturday, September 14, at the Shriners Damascus Center, 979 Bay Road, in Webster. Sellers will be able to set up at 7 AM, and the event will be open at 8 AM. Admission is \$5 per person, and there is no additional charge to tailgate. Both breakfast and lunch will be available as well. 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the Shriners Children’s Hospitals. This is the opportunity for us to “give back” to this most worthy cause. Put the date on your calendar, and join in on the festivities!

The other RaRa event being held in September is the **Annual RaRa Banquet**, to be held on Friday evening, September 27, at the Burgundy Basin Inn, 1361 Marsh Road, in Pittsford. The menu will include the "Classic" roast sirloin, baked ham, chicken masala, mixed veggies, rice Florentine, penne rigate, tossed salads, fresh fruit salad, asst. seasonal salads, rolls and butter, coffee-tea-milk, and dessert. The social hour with a cash bar will begin at 6 PM, and dinner will be served promptly at 7 PM. The cost for this banquet is a very reasonable \$15 per person. However, if you have been of service to the club this year and earned points, you may use your points to cover the cost! The total amount of points needed per person is 30, just a small ‘thank you’ gesture for your service. Be sure to make your reservations because no tickets will be available at the door. Simply [click here](#) to make your banquet reservations. We had a great time last year... good food and plenty of good socializing. The new Board for the 2013-14 term will also be introduced. Please join us, I assure you that you will really have a good time and enjoy yourself.

Your current RaRa membership expires on September 30, 2013, so be sure to renew your membership before then. You will find a link on the RaRa website which will take you to the membership page (or just click the link in the blue side bar to the right of this article). There you will find a listing of all of the benefits you receive as a RaRa member and you will be able to renew right on line. Remember, membership has its privileges!

Calendar of Events

- Sept 6 RaRa General Meeting**
7:00 PM - Henrietta FD #1
3129 E. Henrietta Rd
- Sept 11 RaRa Board of Directors**
5:30 PM, RIT Engineering
Hall, Room 2110
- Sept 14 Fall Tailgate Party**
Benefit for the Shriners
Children’s Hospitals.
979 Bay Rd Webster
- Sept 27 Annual Banquet**
Burgundy Basin Inn
1361 Marsh Rd Pittsford
[Click here to RSVP!](#)
- Sept 30 Memberships lapse**
[Renew today: Click here](#)





Rag-Chew

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

As always, September is a busy time at RARA, and we have another full slate of articles in this issue for your enjoyment and planning. In preparing the issue, it was evident to me that there will be no shortage of things to do this season at RARA!

Since October 2010, I have served as your editor at the *RARA Rag*. The time has passed quickly, and it continues to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. Along with my duties at the *RARA Rag*, I juggle a number of other responsibilities involving family demands, freelance writing projects, a career, and volunteer work in other organizations. Several of these responsibilities have been growing in both scope and intensity, and I feel the time has come to rebalance my load. I need to devote time in the areas where it is needed most. For this reason, I have decided to step down from the editor's post by October 1st 2013. I shared this decision with our club's leadership in June, and the search for a replacement is currently underway. I have agreed to stay on the job until a replacement is found, or until after the release of the October issue, as required.

While it is time to move on from the editor's desk, I plan to remain active in our club and other amateur radio activities to the extent possible. I would like to thank everyone for the support and encouragement shown to me during my tenure as editor, and I look forward to seeing you around at club events. We've covered a lot of ground together at the *RARA Rag*, and while change is never easy, I hope that I have left the newsletter in solid shape for the future. Any success I have achieved along the way has been made possible by an excellent team of dedicated writers and support staff.

73, & best DX,

--Kevin



Silent Key

William J. Empey
WA2GLN
August 24, 2013

License Classes: There's Still Time!

Pam Kasperkoski W2PHK
RARA Education Coordinator

License classes for all levels will be starting September 10th. The courses will be held on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 PM on the RIT campus in Henrietta. They are FREE to RARA members and students, and only \$15.00 for non-members.

We've had a lot of interest so far, but there is still space available. In addition to learning the basic information required to pass the exams, classes offer you the opportunity to get tips from the pros, ask questions, and make friends in the ham community.

Additional benefits of enrolling include the opportunity for Tech graduates to purchase a small two-way radio for a greatly reduced price, and a discount on ARRL License Manuals for class members at all levels.

Please contact Pam Kasperkoski (W2PHK) at pamelakasper@frontiernet.net for more details.

RaRa LOGO Items



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

[\(Click here to shop now!\)](#)

Fall Swap Meet: *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 third 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.

If you're running late, there will be some breakfast food to fill up on. Then use that energy to walk around and buy some more gear!

This event will be on **Saturday, September 14th**, and will open at 7 AM for vendors and 8 AM for all others. 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 2013. Come have fun and Help the Kids! Hope to see you there!



Shriners Hospitals
for Children™

Membership Renewal

By Lisa Schramm K2BGR
Membership Secretary

It's that time of the year again... time to renew your membership in RaRa. Memberships expire on September 30th 2013! Don't let yours expire; if you do, all your Membership Rewards points will be lost on October 1st.

Benefits of RaRa Membership:

- FREE** admission to the Rochester Hamfest
- FREE** admission to our exclusive member's only auction in November
- FREE** admission, food, and drink for you and your family at our Summer Picnic
- FREE** admission, food, and drink for you and your family at our Winter Cabin Party
- FREE** amateur radio licensing courses—upgrade or a use as a refresher
- FREE** amateur radio license testing
- FREE** classified advertising in our newsletter—the *RaRa Rag* with over 8,000 readers!
- 25% Discount** on our Fall Banquet (September 27th)—make reservations TODAY, just [click here](#).
- 50% Discount** on radios for new licensees – to get you on the air ASAP.

Monthly meetings—featuring an educational and entertaining presentation by guest speakers with refreshments and a great opportunity to meet your friends and make new ones!

Earn points for volunteering—redeemable towards dues, dinners, and other club items.

Renewal is fast and easy! Just point and click! No forms to fill out - Remit via PayPal / Credit Card or redeem your Membership Points. Just [click here](#) to renew. Not a member? Join now! Just [click here](#) to join. It's as easy as 1-2-3 and you too can be the recipient of all the benefits listed above.

Don't wait... click NOW!



Ham Radio: The Original Social Media

By Bill Kasperkoski WB2SXY

Electronic social media keeps amateur radio members informed of general and specific radio related events in our community. Some would argue that Ham Radio was a social media before anyone knew that social media existed! In addition to listing the on-the-air-nets, RARA's "Ham Radio 101" web page at <http://www.rochesterham.org/HamRadio101.htm> lists many items of interest to new hams. RARA also sponsors several email reflectors that are free to use and are served by the Yahoo groups listed below. Most are low volume; some have peaks in seasonal usage and others were designed for a specific purpose. All hams are invited to sign up as needed for them.

Announcements to the RARA ham community, operating questions and Buy-Sell-Trade.
rara-general-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Rochester Special Events: Announcements of local special events stations, operations and contests.
RochesterSpecialEvents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Scout Jamboree-On-The-Air: Our local Scout JOTA teams, operations, equipment and planning.
SenecaWaterways_JOTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

RARA License Course Information/Announcements:
Ham-Radio-License-Class-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

RARA Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/rochesterham?v=wall>

In addition, Andy K3UK, also hailing from Western NY, hosts a site that helps you chase down those last several DXCC countries, that state that keeps eluding your WAS, or that last contact for your CW club or Triple-Play-Award. Check out the following Schedule (Sked) web page:
<http://www.obriensweb.com/sked/index.php?board=lotw>

Many other Yahoo groups, Facebook, and YouTube outlets exist for specialized groups, training and functions for the ham radio community. If you need help in finding, creating or signing up for them, contact any RARA officer.



The 56th JOTA 2013

The 56th Jamboree On The Air will take place on 19 and 20 October 2013.

This year's theme is: Let's Share!

RaRa Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RaRa Historian

20 Years Ago, September, 1993

The September RaRa meeting was back to its normal Henrietta Fire Hall venue after a Summer at Powder Mills Park and other community service event locations. The meeting was presented by RG&E's David Shields, a Power Quality Engineer, who told of his world in the area of finding and removing "glitches" from your power source. This issue detailed the formation of the 37th annual RaRa code and theory class sessions with plans to offer Novice, Technician and General instructions. The twelve week course cost \$14.00 plus the price of ARRL License Manuals.

Chris Reich, WB2DYJ, wrote a long and detailed report on this Summer's just completed Empire State Games where ham radio, and RaRa in particular, played an important role. With sporting events at the campuses of RIT, U of R, SUNY Brockport, Genesee Valley Park, Pittsford-Mendon High School and SUNY Geneseo, the need for communications for both administration and safety was paramount. Amateur radio came through and 35 RaRa members made it happen. Writing on the topic of the June VHF Contest was Fred Gern, KB2SE, who painted a clear picture of the Gannett Hill Gang using the call N2WK. The large effort turned out to be highly successful as the final score was good for second place in the nation.

With regret it was announced that Victor DiStefano WA2LWZ, Herbert Crumrine WA2DFF, Leigh Robartes, Jr. W2EHA and Art Kelly W2ROB, were listed as Silent Keys. From the Want Ads you could buy a Uniden HR-2510 10-meter transceiver from Irv Goodman AF2K. Sherwood Snyder W2KFU (SK) Attorney at Law, was a commercial advertiser.

40 Years Ago, September, 1973

The cover of this *RaRa Rag* featured Bruce Kelley W2ICE, co-founder and Curator of the AWA Museum, pictured with framed enlargements of the just-issued USPS "Progress in Electronics" postage stamps. Bruce was selected to give the Dedicatory Lecture in Washington and covered the period from Hertz's experiments to modern radio astronomy. RaRa VP Joe Hood, K2YAH, introduced the next meeting of the group to be a documentary called "All About RaRa." This slide program was the effort of a newly formed public relations committee consisting of George Negus K2OIU, Ernie Crewdson WA2FVG, Ed Holdsworth WA2EKR and Dave Hasset K2SQI. RaRa President Bob Lauzon WB2NSD, announced his newly formed committee appointments for the year. Although too long to print here, the committees then were: Refreshment, Programs, Membership, Awards, CD, PR, K2JD, TVI, Budget, Code and Theory and more. A busy organization. The code and theory committee announced that the next sessions would be held at the RIT campus in downtown Rochester.

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association announced their new officers; Bob K2LZG Chairman, Randy WA2AGE Vice Chairman, John W2BLU Secretary-Treasurer, Joe K2YAH and David WB2HTH committeemen. The issue announced the opening of the new 19/79 repeater operated by the Genesee Repeater Association. The GRA was formed with the following officers; Dick Hilsinger WA2ATV, Harold Hay WA2ABQ, Rick Booth WA2GCX and Joe Calzaretta K2ZCU. From the Want-Ads you could buy a National HRO-500 receiver for \$1200, from Mel K2AOQ.

QRV/QRP at Mendon Ponds

By Ned Asam W2NED

Every year the Adventure Radio Society, ARS ^[1] sponsors the Flight of the BumbleBees, FOBB, a contest where enthusiasts sign up to operate QRP at a “remote” site, and are pre-assigned a BumbleBee number. Anyone can participate and the goal is to work as many BumbleBees as possible.

The degree of “remoteness” is left to the discretion of the individual participant. As you can see on the ARS blog, some folks take the idea of being remote very seriously and the outing becomes a genuine adventure. Others (like the author) were content just to get out and operate QRP in a portable setting.

This year, Bob Karz K2OID, and I hiked about 100 feet from our car to a beautifully shaded grove of trees overlooking one of the larger ponds at the North end of Mendon Ponds Park. We used my Elecraft K2 in its QRP configuration, which includes an internal, 5 AH gel cell battery. We also brought along a couple fully charged Lithium Polymer batteries to use when the internal battery had discharged below 9 volts. As disclosed in the picture we also brought a few creature comforts like a beach umbrella and a cooler containing snacks and drinks.

The FOBB contest lasts for 4 hours starting at 1PM EDT. The “BumbleBees” may operate around the QRP calling frequencies on 40, 20, 15 and 10-meter bands. From our QTH, only 40 meters had any activity.

During the contest, we tried out three different portable antennas—a Hamstick mounted on my Tahoe, a Buddipole dipole on a portable mast at about 20 feet, and an off-center fed dipole (OCFD) with the feed point suspended from a tree branch at about 40 feet. The Buddipole outperformed the Hamstick, and we made a number of QSOs with it. But when we finally got the OCFD up, it was hearing signals a good 2 s-units better than the Buddipole. As expected, this also allowed us to be heard a lot better, and we were able to call CQ and get a few extra QSOs at the end of our session. The OCFD is also very convenient in that it resonates on all four of the bands being used in this contest.

This is a fairly relaxed contest, and the top entries tend to comprise only dozens of QSOs. At about 4:00 PM we declared success and packed up, since we had worked every station that we could hear. In the end we had worked 13 stations—11 of which were other BumbleBees. Geographically, the QSOs spanned New England, the Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, and Midwest. It was great fun and we learned a lot about what it takes to have an effective, portable QRP station. Next year we will definitely start with the OCFD.

^[1] Contest details are on the Adventure Radio Society blog—
<http://arsqrp.blogspot.com/>



**W2NED/K2OID Contest
Operation at
Mendon Ponds Park**
(Photo by Jon Dickason N2JAC)

Ham Tech – License Testing

By Duane Fregoe K2SI

Are you busy recruiting your friends into the hobby or perhaps considering an upgrade for yourself? There are many websites available to make studying for that test session a lot easier. If you sign up for a RARA Licensing Class you will be using the ARRL books. I used the Gordon West study books. Either set of books will get the job done. You can also download the entire question pool at <http://ncvec.org/> for all three test levels. As an additional study tool, after I understood the material in the books, I would download the question pool as a Word document and delete all the wrong answers, keeping just the question and the correct answer. Makes for a quick read just before your test date.

The web is full of practice exams. Below is a list of some sites that I have found. They are in no particular order so look around and find a site that you like.

<http://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com/>

<http://hamradionation.com/content.php?page=practice-tests>

<https://hamstudy.org/>

<http://www.qrz.com/hamtest/>

<http://www.eham.net/exams/>

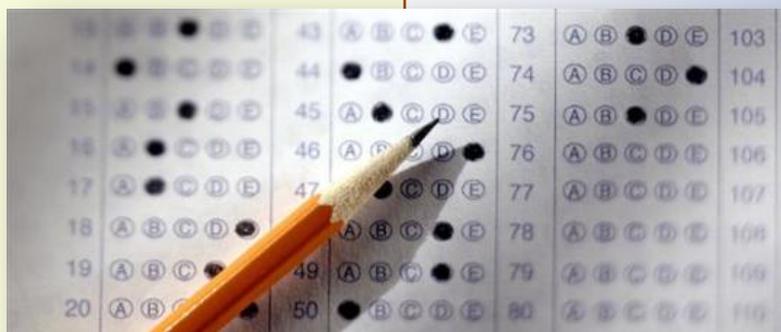
<http://aa9pw.com/>

<http://hamexam.org/>

<http://www.hamexam.com/>

<http://copaseticflows.appspot.com/hamtest>

<http://www.n3fjp.com/amateurstudy.html>



RaRa Annual Banquet

September 27th 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.

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!

55 Years Ago: A New Dawn for 11 Meters

By Kevin Carey WB2QMY

Love it or hate it, 11 meters (27 MHz) is the place where many of us got our start in 2-way radio. This is particularly true if we entered the ham radio hobby from the 1970s through 1980s. The Class D Citizen's Radio Service marks 55 years this month after its official opening on September 11th 1958. (An earlier UHF system existed, but did not see widespread use due to cost and technology limitations).

Lately, I've been speaking with a few local hams who recall their start on 11 meters, and the idea was brought up to dust off our old rigs and try some on-air operation. To be clear: No one is suggesting a preference for CB over ham radio; The benefits of amateur radio are abundantly clear! What we are interested in doing is reliving a bit of our communications past by taking old equipment out of "mothball" status.

The Citizen's Radio Service is now "licensed by rule," meaning that individual FCC licenses are no longer issued or required. Those desiring a quick overview of current-day FCC requirements may want to review the material posted online at <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/citizens-band-cb-service>.

Interested in joining us for some on-air activity? To commemorate 55 years of the Citizen's Radio Service, operators are encouraged to gather on **Channel 11, Wednesday, September 11th at 7 PM** (AM mode). Who has the oldest working radio? Will any tube-type radios be heard? Come and join the fun, or just tune into this frequency with your receiver (27.085 MHz AM) to see what can be heard. All operators are welcome for this informal gathering.

If you plan to participate—even just as a listener—please drop me an e-mail at wb2qmy@arrl.net. This will allow future updates to be sent for other on-air events. When e-mailing, please indicate your location, what you plan to use for equipment, and what your identifier will be (former CB call letters, "handle" or other identifier). Any "pseudonym" or identifier may be used, per the FCC information given above, but call letters from another radio service should not be used. If there is enough interest, operation may continue at future times. I hope to hear from you!



Remember these rigs? How many can still be put on the air?



Scanning the Lower Adirondacks

By Jim Sutton N2OPS jim@otrym.org

I just returned from a great week at the Camp of the Woods in Speculator in the Adirondacks. It was nice to be able to search with no paging interference. In the evening the calls dwindle to almost none. During the day the 159.435 MHz Forestry frequency is quite active.

Gore Mountain weather on 162.450 is the prominent weather station. "Picket fencing" of signals is quite common as you drive along. It is not unusual to be able to hit only one ham repeater as you get into the interior of the Adirondacks. The AM and FM search on your car radio will keep going through its range without stopping.

SOUTHWEST ADIRONDACKS SCANNER FREQUENCIES

<u>MHz</u>	<u>PL</u>	<u>User/Service</u>
45.16	--	Hamilton Fire/EMS
147.165+	No PL	Speculator 2 meter
151.565	85.4	Enchanted Forest
151.670	85.4	Enchanted Forest
151.715	85.4	Enchanted Forest
151.790	85.4	Enchanted Forest
151.925	85.4	Enchanted Forest
152.065	85.4	Enchanted Forest
152.885	85.4	Enchanted Forest
153.680	206.5	Camp of the Woods
154.205	210.8	Inlet/Old Forge FD
154.665	110.9	NYSP C2C
154.680	--	NYSP G C2B
154.695	CSQ	NYSP State Frequency
154.0475	D523	Speculator Amb
154.0875	--	Indian Lake Amb
154.905	110.9	NYSP B B2C
155.115	D503	Piseco Amb
155.175	CSQ	Hamilton EMS
155.445	110.9	NYSP G B2C
155.595	--	NYSP B C2B
155.610	131.8	Webb PD
155.655	131.8	Webb PD
155.955	--	Indian Lake FD
156.210	131.8	Hamilton Sheriff
158.175	206.5	Camp of the Woods
159.210	131.8	Hamilton Sheriff C2C
159.225	--	Region ENCON Officers
159.435	131.8	Forest Fire Control
160.440	CSQ	ADK RR

Sources of more Adirondack scanner Information:

- Radio Reference
<http://www.radioreference.com/apps/db/>
- Speculator ARC <http://www.qsl.net/sparc/>
- Northern NY Amateur Radio Association
<http://www.nnyara.net/>
- News Story
http://www.adirondackdailyenterprise.com/page/content_detail/id/521009.html

Until next time, 73 to thee.



**Hamilton County Sheriff's
Office, Lake Pleasant**



Lake Pleasant, NY



Downtown Speculator, NY

August 27, 2013

Mr. Leonard Crellin, KC2PCD
Secretary, Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 93333
Rochester, NY 14692-8333

Dear Len and members of RaRa,

On behalf of the members of the Nominating Committee I am pleased to place the following names in nomination as Officers and Directors of the corporation for the 2013-2014 term.

President	William Marinucci, Wb2GHC
Vice-President:	Gary Skuse, KA1NJL
Secretary:	Leonard Crellin, KC2PCD
Treasurer:	Kenneth, Hall, W2KRH
Directors:	Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
	James DiTucci, N2IXD
	William Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
	Rosario Mazzola, KC2LOC
	Forest Schick, WA2MZG
	Matthew Smicinski, KC2TNR
	Kenneth Hall, W2KRH
	Marisa Shour, KC2VMM

This completes the work of the Nominating Committee and I wish to thank Duane Fregoe, K2SI and Daniel Waterstraat, W2DEW for their work on the committee and their help in preparing this report.

Sincerely,

James Stefano, Jr. W2COP
Chairman, 2013-2014 Nominating Committee
Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

William L. Marinucci WB2GHC
Candidate for President

My name is Bill Marinucci WB2GHC, and I am seeking a second term as the President of RaRa. I very much have enjoyed serving at this capacity over this year, and look forward to continuing my Board involvement with RaRa. During this year, besides serving as President, I taught a General License class at RIT, and chaired the Ham-O-Rama 2013 event. Some things about me... I have retired from GM/Delphi after 36 years of service with them. Most of my career has centered in Supervision and Management in both the production and quality arenas. My career also included assignments in Human Resources, Divisional Training, Employee Assistance Program and Industrial Engineering.

I was first licensed as a ham radio operator at the age of 13 and I now have 50 years of being a ham radio operator. 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. Then I earned my Novice call, WN2GHC. 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, RRRR, 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, and ARES / RACES drills. 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 for another year.

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 1980's 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 a passion for 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 ever since, a remarkably rewarding experience. After serving one year on the RARA Board of Directors, I spent the last year as Vice President.

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 put the KB2VZS Dstar UHF repeater on the air. I am an avid SWL and I voraciously monitor airband communications, off the air at home and via liveatc.net while at work, and I monitor ADS-B transmissions no matter where I am. In my spare time I provide radio and data telecommunications support for Airsupport, LLC, a local company that is involved with air shows nationwide.

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 twice served as your Vice-President, and three terms as your President; I currently maintain the RaRa website, and provide graphic and layout services for the *RaRa Rag*. I am once again looking forward to teaching the General Class licensing course this fall. Many of you will also recognize me from my grill duties at the annual summer picnic.

As a Director-at-Large, my objectives are to perpetuate the changes instilled during my time in office, and to continue RaRa's efforts serving the community as well as the individual member. Please feel free to contact me at any time: WB2PYD@ARRL.net

Len Crellin KC2PCD
Candidate for Board of Directors

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 four 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 in 2009, and have acted as the Hamfest Exhibitor Relations Mgr. in 2009 through 2012.

I participated in three 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 taken over the duties of managing the RARA Hotline from Irv, AF2K who did such a fine job managing 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 2013-2014 election, I have agreed to run for a third term for the position of Secretary. During my first two terms 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 2013-2014 as your club's Secretary.

Marisa Ashour KC2VMM
Candidate for Board of Directors

My name is Marisa Ashour, and my call is KC2VMM. I'm 19 years old, and I will be going into my third year of Electrical Engineering this fall at RIT. I am originally from Staten Island, NY, which is also where I was first licensed in 2009, after being encouraged to by a mentor of my FIRST robotics team.

The aspect of amateur radio that I most enjoy is contesting, but I also like foxhunting and antenna design. Since coming to Rochester, I've become more active in amateur radio through my participation in K2GXT, The RIT Amateur Radio Club. This past academic year, I served as the club's Treasurer, and I am the President for the 2013-2014 academic year. I would greatly enjoy bringing my experience to the RaRa Board of Directors.

Matt Smicinski KC2TNR
Candidate for Board of Directors

My name is Matt Smicinski KC2TNR. I'm currently 20 years old and a third year Software Engineering Student at the Rochester Institute of Technology. I am originally from Johnstown, NY, a town about an hour west of Albany. I received my amateur radio license in 2008 when I was a freshman in high school after being encouraged to do so by my grandfather, Robert Smicinski WA2GDG. My father, Bob Smicinski KC2TNL, received his license the same time I did.

My interests in ham radio include contesting, antenna building, fox hunting, as well as software defined radio. I've been heavily involved with the RIT Amateur Radio Club (K2GXT) ever since I came to RIT. This past year I served as the Secretary of the club and this academic year I'll be serving as the Vice President. In the past year we have seen our membership double and we hope this trend continues into this upcoming year! RARA has been a fantastic resource for the RIT Amateur Radio club and this upcoming year we hope to continue and strengthen our relationship.

I would be extremely grateful to have the opportunity to serve as a member on the Board of Directors. With my youthful enthusiasm I hope I can bring in new perspectives to the RARA community and attract more students into this exciting hobby!

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 21st century. As past president, life member, and sitting director of RARA, I would like to think that I had a small part in that.

Kenneth 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 KC2DDT and joined the Xerox Amateur Radio Club where I was elected President. In 2007 I upgraded to General and then Extra and became a VE with Raj Dewan and am now 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.

Ross Mazzola KC2LOC
Candidate for Board of Directors

I want to thank the members of RARA for considering me to serve another term on your Board of Directors. It has truly been an honor to have been a part of this very worthwhile organization for the past several years, and I hope you will give me the opportunity to continue to do so.

I have been licensed as an Amateur Extra for about 10 years now. During that time, I've gotten to know a lot of members who have helped me in one way or another to learn and grow in this great hobby of ours. I have had a chance to try packet and other digital modes, as well as DXing, and I've had the pleasure to serve as a volunteer at numerous public service events. It's the excitement and service aspect of these events that have led to my primary interest in Emergency Communications.

In addition to my membership in RARA, I am also a member of Monroe County ARES and Monroe County RACES. I really enjoy using the skills and knowledge that I've acquired in amateur radio to help our community by providing contingency communications in the event of a disaster or emergency. I have even expanded my participation in EmComm activities by joining US Army Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS) where I currently serve as the New York State Emergency Operations Officer. If you're interested in learning more about either one of these organizations, feel free to send me a message or stop and see me during one of our monthly meetings.

My most important job, however, is representing you, the members of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association. Please don't hesitate to let me or any other Board member know what you're thinking and how you think we're doing. Constructive criticism is always welcome but for what I get paid as a Board member (hi hi) I'm willing to listen to any kind of criticism! Seriously though, I've learned much, met some terrific people and had a lot of fun being a member of RARA. Won't you please allow me to be your voice and help RARA continue to its long tradition of being one of the best amateur radio clubs in the country?

Forest Shick WA2MZG
Candidate for Board of Directors

I have been interested in electronics since I was 12 years old, and have been a ham for over 40 years. I have a BSEE from Indiana Institute of Technology in Fort Wayne, IN. My electronics career started at Motorola Communications Division where I worked on UHF & VHF land mobile and rail transit radios. Next, I worked at Harris RF Communications in the VHF/UHF land mobile radio group, finally ending up at a small company designing battery operated, microprocessor-controlled instruments for monitoring: power, toxic gas, air quality, and other parameters. I am now working at Impact Technologies and I have my own electronics design consulting business.

It was during my first year at IIT that I became a ham. First I passed the Technician test so I was able to operate the club station while improving my code speed to pass the Advanced license test. I held an Advanced class license until I recently passed my Extra class exam.

My ham radio interests lean more towards building and experimenting than rag chewing, although I would really like to build up my code skills to operate CW once more. I have not been on CW since college.

I offer my technical background to help further RaRa's goals of expanding amateur radio in the Rochester area. I believe our hobby / passion has drifted away from the hands-on operating. As a member of the Board of Directors I hope to inspire more people to "get their hands dirty" and build and experiment.

William Kasperkoski WB2SXY
Candidate for Board of Directors

Note: This candidate did not submit a biography, so please enjoy this excerpt from last year's RaRa Rag:

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 stateside 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.

**Your vote counts: Choose your club
officers on September 6th!**



News from our friends at other area clubs...

Monroe County ARES / RACES News

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, September 26, 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.monroecountymcomm.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 2013.

EmComm East Conference

By Jeff Wigal WY7Q

Registration is now open for *EmComm East*, an ARRL-sanctioned Amateur Radio emergency communications conference where amateur operators involved in emergency, disaster response and recovery communications can attend training sessions on technical topics, learn from served agencies, and interact with other operators from all over the area.

EmComm East will be held again this year in Rochester, New York, on **Sunday, September 29, 2013**. The featured speaker this year will be Harold Kramer, WJ1B, ARRL Chief Operating Officer, who was working the Boston Marathon Finish Line operation as a radio operator when the bombs exploded. Most presentation slots have been filled but a few are still available. If you are interested, please contact info@emcommeast.org or visit the conference website at www.emcommeast.org.

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



Elmira Hamfest

By Tom English N2YJY

The Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier is proud to announce their 38th annual hamfest on **Saturday September 28th, 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 area 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, 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

Camping is available for a small fee (County regulations and we have no control on that).

Advance tickets are available from any board member and should be available at the September RARA meeting. Prizes haven't been announced as of this writing, so go to the website for all the updated information.

Save the date for the Elmira Hamfest at the usual location: The Chemung County Fairgrounds in Horseheads NY!

Wanted: Citizen's Radio Callbook

Seeking a copy of this 1960s directory of Citizen's radio operators in the Rochester area (title may differ slightly from that shown). Not to be confused with 1920s-30s broadcast radio magazine of the same name. This smaller comb-bound directory included advertisements for Rochester-area businesses, such as Don & Bob's, Vic & Irv's and other service establishments. To be used as reference for a writing project chronicling early citizen's radio history and culture. Also interested in other 11m printed material such as old QSL cards, club newsletters, vintage photos, logs, etc. If you can help, please contact Kevin Carey WB2QMY at wb2qmy@arrl.net.

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

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THE RARA RAG

PUBLISHED BY
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSN., INC.
P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333
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RaRa meets at 7pm on the first Friday of each month;
come join us at:

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

[Get Directions](#)

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October Rag Deadline September 15, 2013

