



# THE RARA RAG

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

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NO. 3a

## Going once, going twice... SOLD to a happy bidder!!

By Garv Skuse, KA1NJL - Vice President, RaRa

The annual RARA auction is something I look forward to each year for a number of reasons. The attendance is usually very good so I get to see friends I seldom get to see and I have opportunities to buy all sorts of stuff that I can actually touch and handle before bidding, unlike the many online auction sites. It is also an opportunity to unload, er uh, pass on some of the ham radio treasures I no longer use.

This year the auction is scheduled for November 1st and once again the long running tradition will continue with our hosts and auctioneers extraordinaire Dick Goslee, KG2I and Ed Gable, K2MP. These two not only entertain us but they educate us with their inestimable knowledge of all things radio, old and new. They have been graciously hosting the RARA auction for so long there is a rumor that they actually sold Marconi his first transmitter. While that rumor may not be true, and actually may have arisen while this was being written, I will venture to say that they know more about Marconi's first transmitter than I do. I for one am grateful for their help with this event and realize that it wouldn't be the same without them.

Please plan to join us with anything radio-related that you would like to sell. Search your attic, basement, garage, beneath your bed, in your closet, the trunk of your car, your neighbor's garage or anywhere else you might be keeping something you no longer use that may become someone else's treasure. Be sure to clearly label all items with your name and sale price, we wouldn't want to give your money to someone else once your items sell. Not only will you be able to unload that potential treasure but the buyer will get something he or she needs or wants and the club will benefit from 10% of the sale price. Of course, if you do not have anything to sell you should come and look over the treasures that will be for sale, you might find something you cannot live without.

Keep in mind that this is a RARA member only event so bring your membership card with you or be prepared to renew your membership at the door if it has lapsed. The entertainment value of the Dick and Ed show alone is worth the price of an annual RARA membership. Of course each member is welcome to bring one guest to the auction; it is a great opportunity to introduce someone to the hobby and watch as their eyes glow with desire for the really cool radio-related items that sell each year. The auction will be held at the usual meeting venue, the Henrietta Fire Company #1 located at 3129 East Henrietta Road near Lehigh Station Road. The auction will start at 700pm but the doors will be open at 6:30 so you can set up the items you have for sale and check out the things you may want to bring home. Since this is a member's only function we ask that everyone enters the building from the door on the west side of the building. I hope to see you there!  
Going once, going twice... SOLD to a happy bidder!!

## This month in the RaRa RAG...

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## RARA Meeting November 1st, 7PM

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



## The Prez Sez

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC  
President, RaRa

We held our 3rd Annual RaRa Banquet on September 29 at the Burgundy Basin Inn once again and what a great time was had by all! There was plenty of good food on a buffet that included something for everyone's taste. It was a time for hams, their significant others, and friends to get together, 'rag chew', and enjoy each other's company. This event continues to grow and this year was no exception. We had more attendees at this banquet than we have had in previous years, and I know that next year's banquet will continue grow even larger. I had the distinct honor of presenting the RaRa awards in various categories to those most deserving winners in each category. This year's recipients are: Ham of the Year, Michael Rink, W2HYP; Club Service Award: Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE, and Public Service Award: Aaron Herting, KD2BEC. Please join me in congratulating these folks for all they have done and continue to do for amateur radio and RaRa. I also wish to express my sincerest gratitude to all of the RaRa volunteers who have contributed to our club's success, thank you for your service.

Traditionally, RaRa's November meeting has always been the night that our annual Auction is held, and the tradition continues again this year. Like many of you, I am especially looking forward to enjoying the shenanigans of our two great auctioneers, Ed Gable (K2MP) and Dick Goslee (KG2I). Thanks guys for making this such an enjoyable event as you always do. Remember, this is another benefit of your RaRa membership. The doors will open at 6 PM to allow ample time for both sellers and potential bidders to set up and examine the items for auction.

Our Board of Directors is very committed to providing significant benefits to our RaRa members and solicits your input of ideas for us to consider. There has been some interest expressed by several RaRa members to have a basic electronics course offered by RaRa to help better understand some of the basic electronics principles. The RaRa Board strongly supports such a course if there are enough interested folks who will participate in the class. Further information can be found in this month's RAG as to how to let us know that you are interested.

The RaRa License Classes are well underway, and they are all very well attended. Who said that ham radio is dying? Well not in our geographical area! Kudos to those taking the classes, and thank you to the instructors (Technician Class: Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY; General Class: Frank Schramm, WB2PYD; and Extra Class: Joe Hood, K2YA.

Just a reminder to the few members who have not yet renewed their RaRa membership.... your membership expires on 10/31/2013. If you do let your membership lapse, all your Membership Rewards Points will be lost. So renew today! Go to the RaRa website (rochesterham.org) and click "Membership Renewal" on the Membership page. There are no forms to fill out, sign, or mail in – just point, click, and renew. You can pay online or mail in a check if you prefer— but do it soon, and remember you'll need a valid membership card to attend the RaRa Auction! Your membership card will be scanned upon entry to the auction, so please be sure to bring it.

Looking ahead to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, I will reflect on how much I have to be thankful for. This holiday is also a special time to spend with family and friends. Most folks enjoy this day off, and some even get a four day weekend out of it. Whatever the case, enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday, stay safe, and get on the air!

Best 73!

## Calendar of Events

- Nov 1** **RaRa General Meeting**  
7:00 PM - Henrietta FD #1  
3129 E. Henrietta Rd
- Nov 6** **RaRa Board of Directors**  
5:30 PM, RIT Engineering  
Hall, Room 2110
- Nov 16** **RaRa VE Testing** sessions  
10:00 AM, RIT Gleason  
Hall, Room 3139

## RaRa LOGO Items



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

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

## Very Basic Electronics

You have studied the license manual and learned and / or memorized all the material. You've have finally passed your test. Now what do you do?

The goal of these sessions is to provide you with the background to take what you have learned in your license classes and apply it. For example, perhaps you just want to better understand technical articles in magazines. Maybe you are thinking about trying your hand at building a project. These classes are for you!

Our goal for these sessions is to provide you with a better understanding of basic electronics. The purposed sessions for the basic electronics course is having eight - two hour classes, which will meet once weekly. Look for more details forthcoming.

If you are interested please provide your name, call and email address to:  
Pam Kasperkoski - [pamelakasper@frontiernet.net](mailto:pamelakasper@frontiernet.net). Pam is the RARA Education Coordinator.

## VE Team Input

We held our first session on Saturday, September 21st. We had 10 candidates attend, and 6 were successful! The breakdown of licenses achieved includes two Technicians, one General and three Extra. We had one candidate J. Viggiano who passed all three elements only missing 7 questions across all of the elements and is now AC2LQ. Congratulations to John for this effort. We had one Administrative action for KC2JQ which involved reinstating his license within the two year grace period.

The November session will be held on Saturday November 16.

Results of the September session:

Herzog K2ZOG E  
Miller KD7LTN E  
Viggiano AC2LQ E  
Fredrickson K2ROC G  
Evans KC2JQL T (Admin)  
Maenza KD2ESQ T  
Towns KD2ESR T

# Ham Tech: Free DV!

By Duane Fregoe K2SI

Most people are familiar with digital voice on VHF or D-Star, which is the more recognized name. Digital voice has now come to HF via a free open source program called FreeDV. FreeDV can be downloaded at <http://freedv.org/tiki-index.php>, and will run on Windows, Mac, and Linux. With your radio connected to the sound card on your computer and this software, you can listen to digital voice. If you want to join the fun and transmit, you will need a second sound card. The second sound card can be a USB headset and microphone or a small USB sound card with two 1/8" sockets and a computer head set with a boom microphone.



Finding some digital voice on the HF band could be quite a challenge, but the community of experimenters has established some frequencies on the various ham bands. Go to <http://qso.k7ve.org/>, to find the list of frequencies. You can log into the site with your call sign to let others know what frequency you are on.

As mentioned in prior articles, if your radio is connected to a computer and you are already set up for other digital modes, then this setup will be fairly easy. Under the *Tools* menu, you will want to setup *Audio Config*, *PTT Config*, and *Options*. The *PTT Config* should put your radio in transmit when you click the PTT button on the main screen. The PTT configuration is not working correctly with my setup but am still able to transmit by clicking the PTT button on the screen to put the software in transmit mode and using a foot switch to put the radio in transmit mode. Just reverse the steps when done transmitting. Much like digital TV, you will have a good signal or you will hear nothing. There is no gray area that we call static.

FreeDV CODEC

### QSO Finder

Login, then put your frequency in the 'Your Frequency (MHz)' block, and press Up  
Click on callsign the buttons for operator name and OTH. If this data is not present, or incorrect, the affected stat

Your Callsign  Login

Chat

Your Frequency (MHz)  Update  Clear

28.7200	24.9330	21.3130	18.1190	14.240	14.2360	7.1900	7.1770	5.4035	3.8170	3.7320	1.9970
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Links

- [About Codec 2](#)
- [About FreeDV](#)
- [HamGith.com](#)
- [DV Test Video](#)
- [K7VE Blog](#)

On a follow-up to last month's article on where to upload your logbook, I found another site called Hamlog.eu with its website at: <http://www.hamlog.eu/>.

# RaRa Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RaRa Historian

## 20 Years Ago, November, 1993

Back then, as now, the much anticipated annual RaRa Auction was the program not to be missed. Dick Goslee, K2VCZ, and Ed Gable, K2MP, were the auctioneers at this time. The venue was the much liked Fire Truck bay and training facility on Scottsville Road. Membership Secretary Irv Goodman, AF2K, reported that RaRa Membership stood at 927, with 21 new members. Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ, wrote a short note regarding the passing of Sam Fegadel. Most people said "who?" Only when described as Sam from Glenwood Sales did most local amateurs know exactly who Roger was speaking about? Unfortunately, when Sam died, so did Glenwood sales, which was a popular surplus electronics dealer. With just a few coins from the pocket, you could refill that pocket parts for your new project. In a slightly larger half-page article, Ed Gable, K2MP, wrote an obituary for Rochester's oldest OM operator, George Batterson, W2GB, ex-8TC, ex-GB. Ed told of George's getting on-the-air in 1912, after getting interested in this "wireless stuff" by listening to Titanic traffic. George was an officer the Rochester Radio Club in 1921, was a co-founder of the Antique Wireless Association, and could be found on 40 meters clicking along at fifty words per minute. George was 99 years old at his passing. RaRa License Testing Team, Barbara AA2CX and George, AA2FO, reported that ten locals upgraded or got new tickets at the last monthly testing session. With regret it was announced that Paul Lawrence, WB2HLU, and George Batterson, W2GB, were listed as Silent Keys. From the Want Ads you could buy a Kenwood TS-450, used only once, from Wes Jackling, W2YUT. Chuck Vorndran, WB2OZS, from Vorndran Marine Canvas, was one of the then current commercial advertisers.

## 40 Years Ago, November, 1973

President Bob Lauzon, WB2NSD, reported that the new Novice Code and Theory class was off to a great start with 59 eager students. The new class venue at RIT's 50 W. Main Street facility is working well, too, said Lauzon. VP and program Chairman Joe Hood, K2YAH, invited all to attend the next meeting, the popular RaRa Auction, at the normal Farm and Home Center location on Highland Avenue. New to this issue of the Rag is the column "Novice News" written by Bob VanEpps, KN2CBJ. Also new is the Broadcast Operators Net (BON) started by local broadcaster Ed Graf, W2SJV. Ed was looking for joiners from those working at BC stations. The RDXA meeting featured two speakers; Sax Ringler, W2SAW, speaking on DX QSL'ing, and Bob Haner, W2FBA, who chatted with the group on DX antennas. From the Want Ads you could buy a Collins 75A-4 from Don Breamer, W2ISP. A relatively new commercial advertiser was RamComm Communications of North Chili, NY, featuring Regency 2 meter FM equipment.

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

I would like to thank RARA for asking their members to participate in the NY State Police sponsored Operation Pumpkin Patrol. Also many thanks go out to Brad, KB2CHY, for his efforts in coordinating this important event. K2RRA/R was used for this Pumpkin Patrol Net. I would like to remind everybody that K2RRA/R is the only repeater system with full coverage of Monroe County that has a hot standby backup repeater. This is obviously a good thing, but the system requires money to operate. RRA is the organization that funds this repeater system. I would encourage everybody who uses the '88' system or who believes in reliable emergency communications to join or renew membership. You will find info on our website: <http://www.rrra.us/>. RRA has the longest running repeater system in Monroe County (albeit with hardware, software, and callsign changes over the last 40+ years). The only reliable way to keep it going is through maintaining and expanding our membership. Our November meeting will be on the 15th at 19:30 HRS in the basement of the Pittsford Town Hall. The November meeting is traditionally our Tune-Up Clinic and RRA members can bring in their VHF/UHF gear for minor tweaks and adjustments. Depending on the number of volunteers and people requesting tune ups, we reserve the right to limit the number of radios per person. One final reminder is that we host our weekly Ray Pickens and Leon Ingrick Jr. Memorial Newbie Net every Sunday at 16:00 HRS on 146.88(-) and the PL is 110.9 Hz. This net is newbie focused, but all hams are welcome to check-in and lend their experience.

73, N2MXD

### 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.*

# The Amateur's Code

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

## The Radio Amateur is:

- CONSIDERATE** Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
- LOYAL** Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
- PROGRESSIVE** With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
- FRIENDLY** With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
- BALANCED** Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
- PATRIOTIC** With station and skill always ready for service to country and community

Visit the RARA Website!

Did you know that your club's website ([www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org)) offers these features and more?

- ✓ Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- ✓ Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- ✓ Rochester Hamfest information!
- ✓ Online membership & renewal
- ✓ Track and redeem your Reward points
- ✓ Public service info & sign-up
- ✓ VE testing info
- ✓ Back issues of the *Rag* in PDF
- ✓ Officer contact info
- ✓ List of past presidents (how many do you remember?)
- ✓ Online membership directory
- ✓ Order RARA logo products (hats, shirts, and mugs)
- ✓ Useful Internet links
- ✓ Ham Radio 101—tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings



## Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



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Club Officers

The **Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (RARA)** is a widely diversified, highly active amateur radio club centered in the Rochester, NY area. We were founded in 1930, and incorporated in September of 1960. Currently with over 575 active members, we are one of the largest Amateur Radio clubs in North America, attracting international members from near and far.

We are an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) affiliated club since 1931, and a charter Special Service Organization. **RARA** provides a unifying focal point for much of the amateur radio activity in Western New York.

### New at RARA on the web:

- RARA Academy - Download the flyer and RSVP TODAY!
- New: Updated Rochester area Repeater Listing
- Fall program listing updated.
- Fall Licensing courses - Register now!
- Newest photo gallery posted. Have some fun: Make your own comments and captions!

# THE RARA MARKET PLACE

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# THE RARA RAG

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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](#)

## Rochester Area Radio Club Contacts

### Antique Wireless Association (AWA)

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Jim Sutton, N2OPS .....[jim@otrym.org](mailto:jim@otrym.org)

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### Rochester DX Association (RDXA)

Mark Hazel, K2MTH .....[mthazel2151@yahoo.com](mailto:mthazel2151@yahoo.com)

### Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

Bob Shewell, N2HJD

### Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)

John Stevens, WB2BYP .....[wb2byp@arrl.net](mailto:wb2byp@arrl.net)

### Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)

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## December Rag Deadline November 15, 2013

