



# THE RARA RAG

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

OCTOBER, 2021  
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## ASTRONOMY, THE ANNOTATED YEAR IN REVIEW

SCOTT THEIS, W2LW, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

We are finally back in-person at the Seneca Waterways Council, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in Brighton. In addition, we will be performing a live broadcast of the meeting via GoToWebinar. However, this will be our first attempt at managing both the in-person meeting and the online meeting with video and audio, so we will be working out the bugs.

Please read the Boardz Buzz on the next page for COVID information and other notes about attending in person.

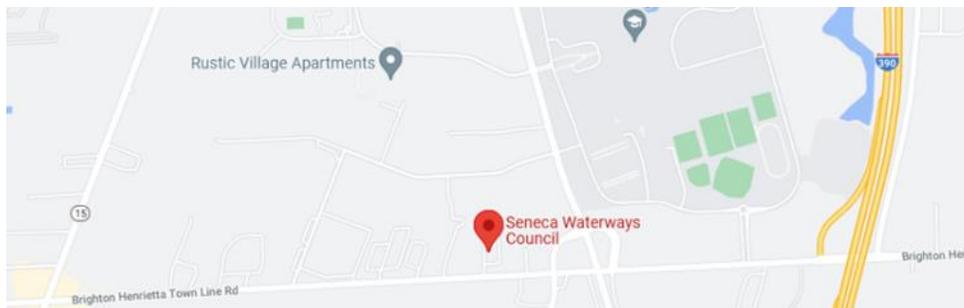
David Bishop returns to RARA for a presentation on astronomy news and events. He will be reviewing significant events from the last year mixed with plenty of high-resolution pictures and perhaps some video.



David is an FPGA designer at L3Harris who is very active in the Rochester Astronomy club. He runs a web page which keeps track of supernova. Asteroid 70401 has been named David Bishop in his honor.

Please join us on Wednesday, October 6th, 2021, 7:00PM either at the Boy Scouts Headquarters at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, New York 14623 or online by registering at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2185443605161000975>



K2JD

N2EH

W2EOC

# BOARDZ BUZZ

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA PRESIDENT

## Thanks!

First, I'd like to thank the outgoing board for their hard work over the past year. There were many challenges, but we have come out of them in a stronger position, I believe.

Thanks for re-electing me as president, it is a great privilege to be part of this club!

Thanks also to the membership who attended last month's annual business meeting for helping to make it run smoothly and also to the Nominating Committee for their work in the background that made it a success. And welcome to our new members of the board, Paul Conaway, KD2DO and Mike Kennerknecht, N2MAK.

Thanks also to members who have helped the club in any way during the past year, whether it was presenting, administration or event support, all this helps us to make the club the success that it is.

I'd also like to personally thank our Rag Editor, Forest Shick, WA2MZG and his team of proofreaders who make the Rag one of the best ham radio newsletters around.

## Our Monthly Meetings

The exciting news is that we are moving back to in-person meetings, starting with our next meeting on October 6th, but also continuing our on-line presence. That way we will be able to include as many members as possible. As our VP has said in his introduction to this Rag, we have to work out a few wrinkles so please be patient!

We are back at the BSA and there are some ground rules we need to set. Please follow these and be considerate of the BSA and our members when attending the meetings.

- If you have not been vaccinated, we look forward to welcoming you online.
- Masks must be worn in all public areas, whether you are vaccinated or not.
- Please do not drag tables across the lobby floors, they all have unlockable wheels on each leg
- After use we are required to sanitize the tables and chairs in the meeting rooms. Your help with this is appreciated.

Next month, in November our meeting will be our annual auction. We will circulate information about that next month. That will be an in-person event only since managing an on-line auction is not really practical. Start looking around your radio shack, what have you accumulated that you don't really need?

## Other Club Activities

Our Elmer Sessions are resuming on October 2nd, online. If you are new to the hobby or just have some questions do consider joining the meetings!

We are looking for somebody to help organize our Academy Sessions, if you think you can help, please contact me at the email address below.

## Membership

There is an article further down about membership, if you are not yet a member, or your membership has lapsed, please read it and consider renewing / joining. Your membership matters to us, the more members we have, the stronger we are as a club!

Finally, it's your club – let us know how we are doing and if you have suggestions let us hear them! You can always contact me or another board member via email.

Tim Barrett, K9VB, [president@rochesterham.org](mailto:president@rochesterham.org)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 6, 2021** - RARA General Meeting  
7:00 PM - AT THIS LINK or IN-PERSON

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2185443605161000975>

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 7, 2021** - RARA Board of Directors Meeting  
6:30PM ON LINE  
Email request for link to [secretary@rochesterham.org](mailto:secretary@rochesterham.org)

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 16, 2021** - VE TESTING  
10:00AM Rochester Institute of Technology, Bldg 16  
Schmitt Interfaith Center, Skalny Room  
See page 17 for details



## EDUCATION

### RARA LICENSE COURSES

**Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, License Class Coordinator**

License classes have started for the fall session. We have ten students in the Technician class, and seven in the General class. As during the last two sessions, we are conducting the classes online via Zoom, which allows us to draw students from a slightly larger area.

Both classes are scheduled so that they finish just before the November license testing session.

### RARA ELMERS CORNER

**Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ  
Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ  
Elmers Corner Coordinators**

Welcome back to the Elmer's Corner! The first Saturday of every month, we will hold a Zoom Elmer's corner to answer any questions you may have. Our first meeting of the fall will be on October 2nd 10am-12pm.

This first meeting we will have a basic presentation by Mike Moore – KC2NM, on Ham Radio Community Service events. This will be your opportunity to ask specific questions on this topic and learn how to join other hams and give back to our community. We will also open up the meeting for general Q&A. If you have any questions you would like to submit early so that our Elmer's can be prepared, please send them to [Elmerscorner@rochesterham.org](mailto:Elmerscorner@rochesterham.org).

Elmer's Corner is for ALL hams! Beginners like me, W2SUZ, and for hams that have years of experience. Sometimes we all have questions that need answers.

If you have a specific topic you would like to learn more about, please let us know. We will do our best to find the right Elmer to present on the topic and answer your questions.

Thanks, and see you at the October Elmer's Corner!

### **OCTOBER ELMERS CORNER**

Saturday, October 2nd from 10AM – 12PM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)

[pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)

Meeting ID: 834 8467 4667

Passcode: 786545

### RARA ACADEMY WORKSHOPS

We are still looking for somebody to coordinate our RARA Academy sessions. If you are a happy participant of any previous sessions (either as a presenter, or as an attendee), and you want these sessions to continue, please consider volunteering your time.

The RARA Academy coordinator's responsibility is to pick a topic (hopefully with the help of our membership, by consulting the list of previous successful sessions, and by listening to what skills and techniques our members can talk about), to pick a venue (again, we have a list of previously used venues that will be helpful in moving the sessions around the county), and to advertise the session. If you like organizing things, this would be a great role for you. You do not have to bring technical skills to the job, we don't expect you to be presenting.

Having said that, here is an appeal to our general membership:

Please let us know what you are interested in. Do you have any ideas for new sessions? Should any of the sessions we had over the last few years be revisited (either because you missed it, or because you want more or different topics to be covered)? You can find out what sessions we ran in the past by going to the RARA Academy page on the RARA web site: [https://rochesterham.org/rara\\_academy.htm](https://rochesterham.org/rara_academy.htm) - this list goes back to 2018, plus one session from 2014. Is there something you've always wanted to learn, but never got over that initial learning curve speed bump? Here is your chance – just let us know: [education@rochesterham.org](mailto:education@rochesterham.org)

Do you have experience in a certain field that our membership would benefit from? Please also get in touch with us, we would love to have you present at an upcoming RARA Academy session. If you have an idea but are afraid that you cannot fill a whole session, we can team you up with somebody else. Just talk

to us and let us know what you can offer.

Did you already present at an Academy session? Please consider doing it again, either by refining what you've done before and adding more in-depth information, or by talking about something different.

**MORSE CODE TRAINING**  
**DAVE WILSON, WA2HOY, RXCWG COORDINATOR**

Welcome our new RXCWG coordinator Dave Wilson, WA2HOY. Everyone, please thank Dave for volunteering.

The RXCW Group assists Hams wanting to learn Morse Code or to develop their CW skills.

**BEGINNERS MORSE CODE ZOOM CLASSES**

Peter Fournia, W2SKY, hosts Morse Code classes on Thursday evenings 7pm. No experience required.

Join the group at any session.

Register at: [pfournia@gmail.com](mailto:pfournia@gmail.com)

**MORSE PRACTICE FOR ALL LEVELS ON ZOOM**

Tim Brown, WB2PAY, hosts code practice for all levels on Wednesday evenings at 7pm.

Register at: [tjbrown@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tjbrown@rochester.rr.com)

**MORSE PRACTICE ON AIR**

**W1AW** - <http://www.arri.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>9 AM</b>		Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
<b>4 PM</b>	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast
<b>7 PM</b>	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
<b>10 PM</b>	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast

SLOW - 5, 7 1/2, 10, 13 and 15 wpm

FAST - 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm

FREQ(MHz) - 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, 147.555

**RXCWG** - Tuesday 4pm

50.250 MHz

W1AW Code Practice MP3 Files: <http://www.arri.org/code-practice-files>

To set up a cw sked, contact Peter at [pfournia@gmail.com](mailto:pfournia@gmail.com) or Tim at [tjbrown@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tjbrown@rochester.rr.com)

# PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

**MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR**

**Pumpkin Patrol:** October 30-31 Bridges of the New York State Thruway



This event contributes to the safety of travelers on the New York State Thruway. It is a statewide event and is held in cooperation with the New York State Troopers. Hams are assigned a post at each of the Thruway bridges in Monroe County. They will observe activity on the bridges and report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement. These actions are repeated by ham clubs all along the thruway for statewide coverage. The event began several years ago when some untoward individuals were found to have dropped pumpkins from the bridges down onto passing trucks and cars. Our efforts have put a stop to the actions of these vandals but, more importantly, the resources of local law enforcement agencies have been put to more valuable use because we are there watching the bridges. The time commitment is from just after dark until just before midnight on Saturday, Oct. 30 and Sunday, Oct. 31. To participate, you will want to have a mobile radio or you could request to ride along with someone that does. Operations will use the N2NPE ARES repeater 146.61 -600 Khz and 444.45 + 5 Mhz PL 110.9.

This repeater has good coverage across the county and this event will serve as a way to assess the ARES communication capability.

Assignments will be provided by Ed Wilkonski K1EM, event captain.

Bridge Number	Mile Post	Description
1	352.36	Log Cabin
2	353.11	Mile Square Road
3	355.25	Pittsford-Mendon Road Route 64
4	355.7	West Bloomfield Road
5	358.25	Clover Street Route 65
6	359.79	Pinnacle Road
7	360.78	East Henrietta Road Route 15A
8	362.12	Middle Road
9	362.77	West Henrietta Road Route 15
9	362.77	West Henrietta Road Route 15-2
10	364.74	East River Road
11	368.99	Scottsville-Chili Road Route 386
12	369.85	Union Street
13	370.79	Wheatland Center Road
14	372.41	Winslow Road
15	374.13	Riga-Mumford Road Route 36
16	375.03	Beulah Road

## Support and Logistics

Net Control
Net Control
Goodie Patrol /Rovers/Admin

Thanks to all of you who have volunteered so far! There are still some available slots to help out. This event employs a "roll call" style net and our net control operators, Tim WB2KAO and Lynn N2IZX will provide an excellent introduction to this style of ham net. I learn something every year! If you have any questions or to sign up for a remaining slot please contact Ed Wilkonski K1EM, event captain at [wingstwofly@rochester.rr.com](mailto:wingstwofly@rochester.rr.com). You may also register at [the Public Service Section of the RARA website](#) and click on the Pumpkin Patrol sign-up link.

### Scouts Ham Radio Demonstration: October 23 Camp Babcock Hovey

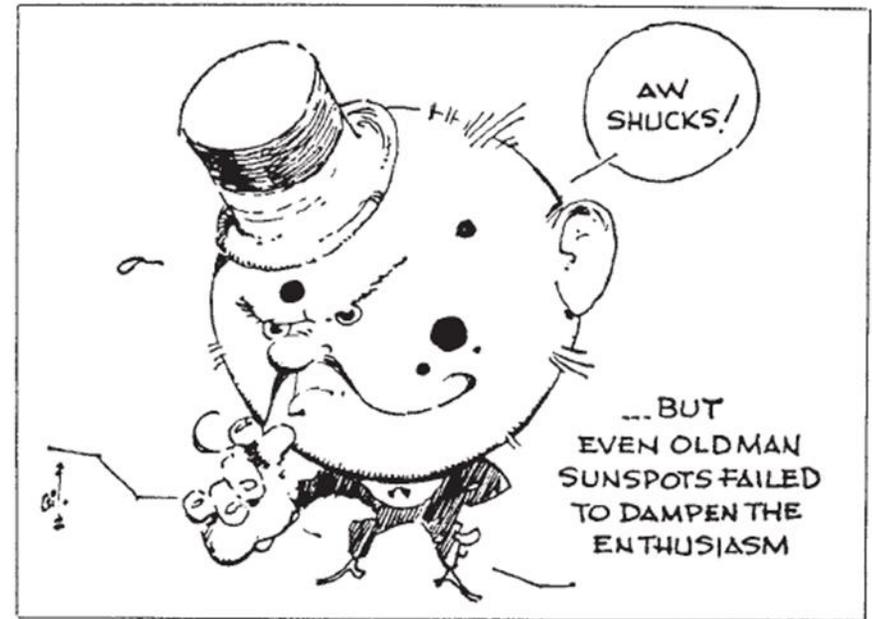


RARA, in conjunction with our sister clubs SIARC and Drumlines ARC have participated in the Scouts BSA Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). This year, there are no local group scouting activities held on that weekend. However, Steve Fell, K2SRF has volunteered to coordinate a ham radio demonstration at the BSA Challenge Trophy Camporee (CTC) which will be held Saturday October 23 at Camp Babcock Hovey. This event has many times coincided with JOTA and has been part of our history with JOTA. Steve is planning to set up radios and antennas on the event midway. This would be a great activity for a new ham or someone without a low band set-up to help out and to "get your feet wet" on the low bands. Please contact Steve Fell K2SRF for more information [K2SRF@ROCHESTER.RR.COM](mailto:K2SRF@ROCHESTER.RR.COM)

We are working with the Rochester Museum and Science Center to determine if the Holiday Science and Technology program will be held this year.

### Please mark your calendars for our upcoming RARA Public Service Events

Ham Radio Demonstration - CTC	Camp Babcock Hovey	Saturday	Oct. 23, 2021
Pumpkin Patrol	Overpasses of the New York State Thruway	Saturday & Sunday	Oct. 30-31, 2021
Holiday Science & Technology Days	Rochester Museum & Science Center	Monday - Wednesday	Dec. 27-29, 2021
2022 ADA Tour de Cure	Xerox Campus, Webster	Saturday	June 11, 2022



Courtesy October, 1963 QST

# ORIGIN OF THE TERM "ELMER"

COPIED FROM: [HTTP://WWW.ARRL.ORG/ELMER-AWARD](http://www.arrl.org/elmer-award)

The term "Elmer"--meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams--first appeared in QST in a March 1971 "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (now also VA3ZBB). Newkirk called them "the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio." While he probably was not trying to coin a term at the time, here's how Newkirk introduced "Elmer" in his column and, as it turned out, to the rest of the Amateur Radio world:

"Too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.'"

Newkirk went on to say, "We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give you a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh."--Rick Lindquist, N1RL

As you can see, the term is not very old. Prior to the first use of Elmer as the one who guided and encouraged us, what were these folks called? We have received a lot of suggestions; teacher, mentor, tutor, guide, helper, sage? All are appropriate, but first and foremost they are called friend.

## CALLING ALL ELMERS!

Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ  
Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ  
Elmers Corner Coordinators

We need Elmers to present your favorite topic on the Zoom Elmer's Corner meetings. As a newbie, I would love to learn more about emergency services, computers and ham radios, and the different modes of communicating as a ham. If you would like to present on any of these topics, or any other topics... please let us know. We would love to get you on the schedule. Please contact us at [elmerscorner@rochesterham.org](mailto:elmerscorner@rochesterham.org) today! Thanks and 73!

### Silent Key

Susan Copenhagen  
K2SCW  
August 25, 2021

### Silent Key

Robert D. Fox  
KB2XI  
September 3, 2021

## CW ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Ned Asam	W2NED	Pittsford	<a href="mailto:w2ned@frontiernet.net">w2ned@frontiernet.net</a>
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	<a href="mailto:tjbrown@rochester.rr.com">tjbrown@rochester.rr.com</a>
Pete Fournia	W2SKY	Penfield	<a href="mailto:pfournia@gmail.com">pfournia@gmail.com</a>
Bill Hopkins	AA2YV	Brighton	<a href="mailto:whopkin4@naz.edu">whopkin4@naz.edu</a>
Bob Karz	K2OID	Webster	<a href="mailto:rkarz@rochester.rr.com">rkarz@rochester.rr.com</a>
Joe Rowe	AG2Y	Webster	<a href="mailto:ag2y@rochester.rr.com">ag2y@rochester.rr.com</a>
Harry Williams	KF2TV	Webster	<a href="mailto:harryw7872@gmail.com">harryw7872@gmail.com</a>

## RADIO ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	<a href="mailto:tjbrown@rochester.rr.com">tjbrown@rochester.rr.com</a>
Dave Carlson	N2OA	Batavia	<a href="mailto:kdcarlso@gmail.com">kdcarlso@gmail.com</a>
Lawrence Hill	N2AJX	Henrietta	<a href="mailto:lawrence.hill@rit.edu">lawrence.hill@rit.edu</a>
Rich Hoffarth	K2AXP		<a href="mailto:rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com">rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com</a>
Bill Kasperkoski	WB2SXY	Pittsford	<a href="mailto:wb2sxy@gmail.com">wb2sxy@gmail.com</a>
Don Kiser	AC2EV	N Greece	<a href="mailto:dkiser100@gmail.com">dkiser100@gmail.com</a>
Karl Heinz Kremer	K5KHK	Chili	<a href="mailto:k5khk@khk.net">k5khk@khk.net</a>
Tim Magee	WB2KAO	Greece	585-704-5747
Mike Moore	KC2NM		<a href="mailto:mikemoore@ieee.org">mikemoore@ieee.org</a>
Peter Schuch	WB2UAQ	Perinton	<a href="mailto:pschuch@rochester.rr.com">pschuch@rochester.rr.com</a>
Forest Shick	WA2MZG	Webster	<a href="mailto:fshick3@gmail.com">fshick3@gmail.com</a>
Dave Timmons	W2DST	N Greece	<a href="mailto:dstimmons@gmail.com">dstimmons@gmail.com</a>
Steve Verzulli	KA1CNF		<a href="mailto:verzulli@yahoo.com">verzulli@yahoo.com</a>
Dan Waterstraat	W2DEW	Henrietta	<a href="mailto:higreen@rochester.rr.com">higreen@rochester.rr.com</a>

# Membership – Time to Renew!

- Over 570 members at the End of September
- Sixth largest ARRL affiliated club
- Memberships Lapsed on October 1st
- Renew or join now at:  
<https://www.rochesterham.org/>
- If you have a problem renewing, please email us at:  
[membership@rochesterham.org](mailto:membership@rochesterham.org)



## RARA MEMBERSHIP

TIM BARRETT, K9VB. RARA PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY  
[membership@rochesterham.org](mailto:membership@rochesterham.org)

I am pleased to report that we ended the membership year with over 570 fully paid up members.

Having a strong membership is a great help in attracting good speakers and negotiating resources for the club. I will be shortly writing to the ARRL to report our club size as required for all ARRL affiliated clubs. Currently we are in the top 6 of national ARRL affiliated clubs according to ARRL statistics which is quite an achievement. Being part of such a large and successful club should be a source of pride to all our members.

On September 30<sup>th</sup> our membership year ended and so we are now back into

renewals season. Some of you have already renewed for the 2021 / 2022 season, thanks for doing that so promptly.

If you have not renewed yet please take a moment now to go to the [renewals page](#) and get your membership up to date. If you don't recall your access code there is an option on that page to have it emailed to you. You can pay by credit card (you do not need a Paypal account) or there is an option to pay by mailing a check. Those of you reading this who are not members, or have allowed membership to lapse a while ago, please consider joining / rejoining [here](#).

Annual rates are very reasonable, \$15 for a full member (\$10 for Seniors) and \$10 for Associate members without a callsign. Associates get a free upgrade to full member when they get their ticket. Also note that you can join family members living in the same household as you for just \$5 per additional person.

**Don't Delay, Renew Today!**

# INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND RECAP

DAVE TIMMONS, W2DST

On Friday, August 20, the weather was warm, sunny, and perfect for hanging antennas from a lighthouse. This year we opted for an off-center fed dipole as well as a fan dipole to get our two stations on the air. The antennas were supported by trees, a flagpole, fiberglass masts, and of course, a lighthouse. An additional solar power QRP station was set up by Bill, KD2BME, on the north end of the grounds using a home-brew mast setup for his dipole. Thanks to WB2PAY, KD2RHU, K2JSG, WA2MZG and KD2BME for helping on the setup team.



Saturday morning started with cloudy skies and light showers that thankfully dissipated as we set up our EZ-Up tents and stations. In addition to the club radio, some members brought their own equipment to



make a few QSOs. Saturday proved to be the better of our two operating days and we had a constant flow of visitors including several RARA members. Visitors included several local to the area and a group from Alabama on an RV tour of the Great Lakes. Questions ranged from "Why do they call it HAM radio?" (we provided multiple answers) to "What kind of license is needed to be a HAM and how can I get one?" I'm sure we will have a few new RARA members due to the interest level of the visitors. It was great to see several young visitors expressing an

interest in the hobby and we got some of them on the air.

As we packed everything up on Sunday afternoon, the log book showed we had made contacts in 17 states including 6 other lighthouses. We also communicated with a group from Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) working a public service event in Orleans County. The staff of the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse invited us back again next year as they look forward to the collaboration between our two organizations. Thank



you to KD2RHU, KA2CGB, WB2PAY, K4GWA, WA2HOY, N2BNE and KD2QZG for assistance with packing up. Sorry if I missed anyone as I was working off the sign-in sheets. Photo credits to N2BNE, WB2PAY and W2DST.

Mark your calendars for ILLW 2022 on August 20 & 21. See you at the lighthouse!

# THE NEW YORK STATE QSO PARTY (NYQP) IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

It's that time of year: the kids are back at school, the days are getting noticeably shorter, mornings are a bit crisper, and leaves are just starting to turn. This can only mean one thing: contest season is starting and the best contest of the year is right around the corner: The New York State QSO Party (NYQP).

## When is it?

The NYQP occurs on the third weekend in October. Note that the third weekend in October comes early again this year, October 16-17! It's a 12-hour contest, starting at 14:00 UTC the 16th and running to 02:00 UTC the 17th (10:00 AM to 10 PM EDT on the 16th).

## OCTOBER 2021

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 NYQP
17 NYQP	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## Who can participate?

Anyone, anywhere in the world, with a valid amateur radio license. It's not just operators in New York State. Last year (2020) over 500 operators from all over the United States, Canada, and, indeed, all over the world, participated.

## What is it?

First and foremost, it's an opportunity to have fun on the air. Second, it's a chance to catch up with friends here in New York State. Third it's a challenge to work all 62 of New York State's counties. Fourth, it's a chance to win an impressive award plaque similar to this one:



Plaques are awarded in up to 48 categories. There's a category for you! See <http://nyqp.org/wordpress/categories-and-plaque-sponsors/>.

## How do I participate?

Easy. Get on the air on your favorite band/mode (excluding WARC bands) on October 16th and listen for "CQ NYQP <their call>" or call "CQ NYQP <your call>" and make contacts with operators in New York State. Exchange a signal report and three-letter location/county code (see: [http://nyqp.org/wordpress/wp-content/nyqp/2015/NY\\_Counties.pdf](http://nyqp.org/wordpress/wp-content/nyqp/2015/NY_Counties.pdf)), or US state if not in New York. Our Canadian colleagues send their province, and everybody else is "DX." That's it! It just couldn't be easier. If you've never operated in a contest before, this is the one for you.

One more item: If you wish to see how you scored, or if you wish to be considered for an award, you've got to keep a log. The preferred medium is digital and the preferred format is Cabrillo V3.0. Some logging programs e.g., N1MM+, have built-in templates for the NYQP. Others will require some setup. Check the "INFO YOU CAN USE" drop-down at <http://nyqp.org/wordpress/>.

Be aware that there are several other contests that run simultaneously with the NYQP. The Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air (<https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/>) is one. The Worked All Germany (<https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/wag-contest/en/>) contest is another. Be courteous and reply if called. Remember: the goal is for everyone to have fun!

## So, do you want to be popular?

Not all New York State counties are created equal with respect to amateur radio operators. Some are blessed and some are barren. If you really want to be popular during the NYQP, consider becoming a rover or traveling to and activating



# EVOLUTION OF A 3D PRINTED PADDLE

FOREST SHICK, WA2MZG

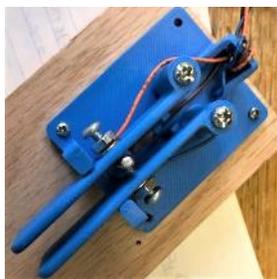
Addressing the question of what 3D printing has to do with Ham Radio – I was searching on Thingiverse <https://www.thingiverse.com/search?q=iambic+paddle&type=things&sort=relevant> for a project relevant to Ham Radio. I searched for Iambic Paddle. I was presented a page with many variations of paddles I might download the files for and then print my own paddle. Here are a few samples.



I selected this paddle and downloaded the appropriate files. Then printed my first plastic paddle. Here is the outcome.



Paddle From Thingiverse



My Printing

The instructions suggest 3 different techniques for a spring to hold the levers:

- The spring from a ball point pen
- A 3D printed spring
- Magnets

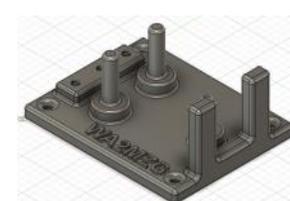
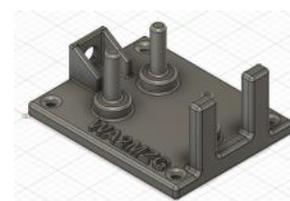
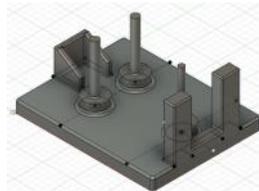
I printed a spring.



This paddle worked nice but I saw room for improvement. The hinge pins for the paddles and the common contact were all screws. These could easily be printed as part of the base.

Time to draw my own version of this paddle and then evolve it into my own printed paddle.

## Base



- Calipers in hand, I copied the original design and added posts to replace the screws.
- The posts snapped off easily. I increased the diameter and added my call.
- Finally adding screw terminals to replace the “flying wires”.

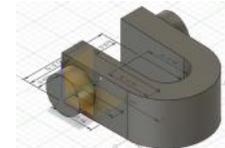
## Levers

Next, I drew the levers and added a bit more plastic to support the contact screws.



## Spring

As downloaded from Thingiverse, the original printed spring was a bit mushy. I copied the spring and then beefed up the body in height and thickness. To my surprise, this only made a small improvement in the feel of the paddle.



## Magnets

The next variation was to add a “pocket” on each lever to locate magnets. I placed the pockets in the finger area – this was definitely the improvement that was needed.

The magnet snaps into the pocket but I added super glue to be sure they do not fall out. Be sure the orientation of the magnets is correct – you want to push the levers apart – not pull them together.



It is not a Bencher - but it works!

I am still a newbie in this 3D printing adventure but I am willing to share what I have learned – email me if you have questions.

[Fshick3@gmail.com](mailto:Fshick3@gmail.com)



## RIT ARC Fox Hunt

JEREMY BROWN, W2JSB, ADVISOR, K2GXT

Come, explore RIT with a fox hunt. No experience necessary! The fox hunt will meet in front of the RIT Student Alumni Union for a hunt starting at 10am on 10/16. Registration begins at 9:30am. Students are free, \$5 donation recommended for others. Parking available in D-Lot.

Event details are as follows:

- Date: 10/16
- Registration starts at 9:30am
- Hunt Starts at 10am
- Parking available in D-Lot at RIT
- Participants will meet at the sentinel statue in front of the Student Alumni Union
- Cost: Free to students, \$5 donation recommended for others
- No license required

### OCTOBER RAFFLE PRIZES

- Logbook
- NANO VNA
- Raspberry Pi 3, 1GBR

**No November Raffle because of the Auction  
Coming in December**

- Soldering Station

## SKCC

### CLIMBING THE LADDER TO THE TOP

KARL HEINZ KREMER, K5KHK

It was a little more than two years ago that I had my first Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) CW QSO. In case you are not familiar with the SKCC, the club is promoting the use of mechanically generated CW (straight keys, bugs and cooties). I built a straight key in 10th grade, back when I had no idea that I would eventually be able to use it – and use it, I did.

Everything on this key is hand made. I started with a bunch of metal, plastic, and wood, and shaped every piece using all sorts of different tools and machinery. That was the key that I used in the beginning for probably my first few hundred contacts. I then used a Chinese key, and eventually a good old German key – the Junker:



Long story short, I had CW QSOs with 100 unique SKCC members to earn my “Centurion” status. After that, I needed 50 more to get to “Tribune Level 1”, 50 more for level 2 and so on until I reached level 8. After that, the slate got cleaned, and I needed 200 more contacts with unique Tribunes and Senators to reach the level to be promoted to Senator. That happened on September 4th. Because not every SKCC CW contact was with a new person, I ended up having 856 QSOs until I reached that mark.



What did I learn during those two years?

I am not breaking out in sweat anymore when somebody answers my CQ. I can handle (small) pileups when I do a POTA activation. I am getting better at copying somebody who does not know how to use a bug properly.

I can change my sending speed and adjust to somebody new to CW (when I started, I had one speed only and that was it).



I learned probably a few more things, but these are the ones most obvious to me.

If you are learning CW, and are willing to consider a straight key (which in my opinion teaches you more about the rhythm of CW than a keyer), give the SKCC a try. I would love to see more local members. To learn more about the SKCC, check out the web site at <https://www.skccgroup.com>

## A NO-CHAFE SOLUTION TO ANTENNA ROPE ACROSS TREE LIMBS

**BILL HOPKINS, AA2YV**

I'm putting up a new antenna to cover 80 and 75 meters. It's a shortened dipole using two loading coils and does the job at about 73 feet length. I asked Hy-Power Antennas to cut for the middle of the band, and I'll use a Pi-network or L-network tuner to handle any SWR issue. The feed point has the BL-HF-25 - choke balun (1:1) and the antenna part is 12 gauge, so there's some weight to go up top. I'll hang it as an inverted Vee - as Hi-Power suggests - so wish me luck to achieve an apex at or above 40ft. A small Ronstan pulley made of stainless steel and neoprene (from West Marine) will provide for hoisting the antenna into position to a messenger line hung between two trees.

Before I get to the rope problem, I should tell you something you already suspect. I cast a (light) 14-20lb. monofilament fishing line - with a heavy-enough rubber stopper as weigh - into my trees of choice and then pull over small, light nylon string. I make the final pull-over with black 3/32" double braided polyester antenna rope. I get mine in 100ft lengths from DX Engineering. (I've stopped using common rope from hardware stores, except for use at Field Day.)

I've done this for years, and for a long time I urged sanguinity on myself every

time a line chafed on wind-fraught branches and finally broke. I'm a patient sorta guy, but finally I had had enough.

Some hams go the Full Monty and put either light chain or a thin steel cable at the point where the rope crosses over the branch/es. Metal at the end of a dipole is not to my liking. It's a dickens to pull chain over, and the steel cable can actually cut branches, sometimes killing them where you need healthy growth. Plus, if you leave the small cable (or even rope or plastic tubing!) up long enough, the branch will grow right around it and you're then stuck with black, useless spaghetti hanging from your tree, and your significant others will call you "slovenly." In short, high branches do your bidding, but they exact a price up there in the wind. What to do?

Here's what I now practice, and I've kept antennas aloft for several years this way. I lace my antenna rope through clear plastic tubing, placing it along the rope just at the point where I calculate the rope will ride over the load-bearing branches. I calculate how much length of tubing is required by having a good look at the branches (up there). Then I buy appropriate tubing lengths for each tree I'm using. This time my lengths are about 7 to 8 feet long each. (If you'll need 15ft for one tree, so be it.) I'm now going to a larger diameter tubing: 5/8" O.D., 1/2" I.D. This makes lacing rope through it much easier, but there's a trade-off.



**Antenna Rope Through Tubing**

Tying off the rope at the tubing ends is important to prevent slippage when everything is hauled aloft and yanked over the load-bearing branches. In the past I have looped several slip knots, one over the other (4 to 6) hard up against each end of the tubing with knots on top of each other to prevent rope movement into the tube ends. This worked with rather small tubing. The knots made for two nice, nasty balls that haven't slipped into the tubing. Was it a bit difficult to get the rope/tubing arrangement past that first, second, third branch? Yes, but that's what my Schwarzen-Edger muscles are for.

Let's get to the topic: rope through our larger tubing. Rope is as stiff as overcooked spaghetti, so you can't lace it through any length of tubing. The solution is to use clean, straight house wiring slightly longer than your longest tubing. Insert the wire through the tubing. Bend one end of the wire over sharply, pull the rope through the bend and crimp tightly, so that the link - with a snug double lace-over - will pull through the tubing nicely. When you secure the rope to the crimped wire end, make two snug lace-overs like when you begin to tie a shoelace. Now you can pull the rope through the tubing, using the wire. But the improved procedure has a new twist; read on.

The tubing, which I'm now using (5/8" OD, 1/2" ID), presents too large an opening for a ball of rope knots to be effective. For this larger gauge, you'll need to

seal off each end of the tubing some way and then make a small slit just behind each sealed end. This is where you will run the house wiring through before attaching the rope for pull-through.

Sealing the ends on this large gauge tubing requires a hot air blowgun approach. Seal one end first and get the rope through before sealing the second end. Heat  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of the end until it's not quite gooey. Quickly mash down on the almost-goo fold-over to make it stick. (If it goes to nothing, you've heated too much.) Cinder block is a good base. Use a metal object (not your hands!) to press the fold closed. Take pliers and bend the still warm end over; heat again and glue by mashing down a second time. (Too much heating weakens the sealed end.) You may need to do this procedure twice to find the heating sweet spot.



**Tube End Heat Sealed w/house wire**



**Rope Ready For Pulling Through**

When you have a strong sealed end, make a small slit on the side of the tubing just behind the sealed end. That's where you'll thread the pulling wire through and bring out the rope. Keep the slit as small as possible, just large enough for the crimped wire and knotted rope arrangement to squeak through. (This tubing can tear, so don't tempt it at this place!)

The first sealed end is relatively easy; there's no rope in the way. The second - spooled rope - end is another matter. Pull the rope through the tubing and remove the wire. You'll now have an almost complete roll of rope at this second end. Make a slightly longer slit (1" but not much longer) in the side of the tubing at this second end and nest the rope at the bottom of the slit. This way you'll keep the rope away from the blowgun heat. Place a piece of wood over the tube where the rope exits the tubing to shield it from the heat when you heat  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of the end. Repeat the fold-over procedure.

Make sure both glued ends are truly secure. If you don't trust yourself on this, try putting a plastic tie or two behind the melted ends. But know that this makes for harder initial pulling over those branches.

Let's review: The use of a vise is very helpful when threading the wire into the tubing and pulling the rope



**Second Tube End Prep**



**Second End Sealed**

back through, holding the tubing horizontal and straight. Poke the wire through the first slit (you've not heated the second end yet). Tie the rope end to the wire as suggested and pull everything back through. Make sure you provide for at least 5 feet or more of rope (not counting knotting) at the tree-top-antenna-end where you'll tie off at the insulator. (I suggest a bow-line sailor's knot with two extra cinches and a plastic tie-wrap.) The rope at the other end of the tubing can be easily knotted up by passing the new spool of rope through the knot each time and cinching each one close to the tube and on top of each other.

Occasionally, I re-situate my antennas over the tree branches to prevent them from growing over the rope-and-tubing arrangement and "locking me out." After all, my tree-climbing days are over.

Winter is coming! Secure your antennas! Hear you on the air!

## EDITORS NOTE

FOREST SHICK, WA2MZG

Thank you for submitting your input and articles by the 15th of the month.

A special THANK YOU to those who submitted early. Ed Gable, K2MP deserves special recognition for being the FIRST almost every month.

Homebrewing the RAG takes time:

- Putting all the articles and updates in the newsletter
- Occasionally contacting authors for clarifications
- Placing and adjusting pictures
- Proofreading and editing
- Sending the second version to the proofreaders and waiting for their feedback
- Making final changes
- Sending the finished RAG to Scott, W2LW for distribution by the 25th of each month

THANK YOU - it is a significant help if the info is in by the 15th of each month.

Finally - To All The Contributors - the RAG would be a bit ordinary without all of your contributions of articles and club info - GREAT WORK!

# RAGS OF THE PAST

ED GABLE, K2MP, RARA HISTORIAN

20 Years Ago, October 2001

A very interesting meeting (defined as turning knobs, seeing flashing lights and meters and hearing needed squeaks and beeps from speakers, in my never to be humble opinion – Ed) was offered by V-P Marykay Vesco, KC2DPG. The speaker for the evening was Walter Obenhofer (sk) NQ2O, who held the title “AMSAT Field Operations Area Coordinator. As such, Walter was a volunteer AMSAT ambassador who served the amateur community with information on Satellite operation, acted as an Elmer and offered technical support to those joining the throng of working the birds. This writer, having been an ARRL Award checker for some 35 years, has personally verified Walter’s satellite operating prowess by verifying ARRL Satellite Awards for DXCC, WAS, WAC and VUCC on three bands, making him one of the most awarded Satellite operators to ever shift the Doppler. (OK, I paraphrased that a bit) Members will recall that meetings then were held at the Henrietta Fire Hall, a popular venue until parking became an issue. RARA President Peter Fournia, W2SKY, wrote a long multipage article he titled Rochester Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness. Within this article Peter reported on a review of our emergency preparedness procedures by the RARA Board of Directors. The Directors were briefed by Ed Holdsworth (sk), N2EH, who was the Radio Officer for Monroe County RACES, ARES, RARA and Trustee of RARA Club station, K2JD, which became the county’s emergency net control station when needed. Call up procedures were reviewed and liaison with hospitals and the American Red Cross were among the topics covered. The date of the briefing was one day after September 11, 2001. Scott Bauer W2LC, ARRL Western New York Section Manager, wrote on the recently completed “Amateur Radio Awareness Day.” Held on September 15th, this day recognized the nation’s 680,000 FCC Licensed Amateur Radio operators and their contributions to technology, education and public service activities. A rare Letter to the Editor was received by Rag Editor Lloyd Caves, N2PU, from a former Rochester ham, 90 year old Roland James K2JWJ. Roland, who maintained his RARA Membership after his move, wrote to say how much he enjoyed participating in RARA activities in the past and how much he looked forward to receiving the Rag each month. “The Art of QSL’ing” was the topic of Chris Shalvoy’s, K2CS, article while writing for the Rochester DX Association. Chris invited RDXA members and guests to their next meeting then held at the Monroe County Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Road. John Van Griethuysen N2BNE, wrote an information-crammed article detailing the pending October JOTA Boy Scout program. JOTA, or Jamboree On the Air, includes not only on-air fun by the scouts but also displays and demonstrations of Boy Scout activities. N2BNE was joined by John Gilly W3OAB in setting up local ventures. From the Want Ads you could buy an Astron 35 Amp power supply from Irv Goodman AF2K, for \$80.00. Glenwood Sales of Hague Street remained a long term commercial advertiser.



## the RARA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL.54

OCTOBER 2001

NO. 2

### AMSAT

Marykay Vesco, KC2DPG

We would like to invite everybody to come down to our second meeting of this season, which is October 5, 2001 at 8:00 PM at the Henrietta Fire Hall on East Henrietta Rd. Our topic will be on AMSAT presented by Walter Obenhofer, NQ2O. Walter is our local AMSAT Field Operations Area Coordinator.

AMSAT is Amateur Radio Operators who share an active interest in building, then launching and communicating with each other thru non-commercial Amateur Radio Satellites. AMSAT groups experiment with new and more sophisticated ways of communicating, which has played a key role in significantly advancing the state of the art in space science, space education and space communications technology.

AMSAT Area Coordinators are volunteers who serve as AMSAT’s ambassadors to the Amateur Radio community. They serve in a variety of roles, like making presentations at local Hamfests and clubs. They also serve as local “Elmers”, providing technical and operational help to hams in the area.

Don’t forget, it’s October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Henrietta Fire Hall, 8 PM. I’ll see you there!

### RARA Meeting

October 5, 2001

8:00 PM

Henrietta Fire Hall,  
3129 E. Henrietta Rd.

AMSAT

Presented by Walter Obenhofer, NQ2O  
AMSAT Field Operations Coordinator

### Rochester Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

A large part of our Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> RARA BOD agenda dealt with Ed Holdsworth (N2EH) reports on the K2JD station and a review of our emergency preparedness procedures. Ed is the amateur radio communications officer for Monroe County, RACES, ARES and RARA. Although he is the expert on the subject, I am paraphrasing the information.

Yes, the EOC had been activated on September 11<sup>th</sup> and amateur radio was ready. Ed, along with Roger Harnaart (WB2BWQ) and Jack Tripp (W2JAT) were on hand to man the station. Others called in but were not needed. The packet station found a path to Albany and the crew was ready to establish communications at the Red Cross building if called on. They were in contact with the HF nets on 75 and 40 meters.

The question of local amateur radio emergency procedures was raised at the meeting. What if we had a local disaster something like an ice storm, flooding, power outage, nuclear power plant event or other. How should amateur radio participate in these events?

The request for local amateur radio emergency services starts with a call-up list. Ed is at the top the list. When called, Ed, or his designee will go to 50 or more RACES/ARES amateur radio operators. These operators are familiar with the K2JD station co-located with the Monroe County EOC. The operators stay current by participating in public service events.

There are several functions that we hams provide. One primary function is to provide a radio link between the EOC and the Rochester

(Continued on page 5)

Vice-President and Program Chairman Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, introduced in this issue the program for RARA's October meeting with title "Fire Safety." Coming to us from the Rochester Fire Department were Captain Gerard McHugh and Lieutenant Jack Murphy, who shared the topics Arson Awareness and Fire Safety using films and demonstrations. At this time RARA meetings were being held in the lower meeting room of the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum and Science Center. A well written article, filled with information, told nothing, and it was designed that way. The article announced the forth coming Simulated Emergency Test (SET) to be held on October 17th. Since the actual test exercise is truly a surprise the time, place and type of emergency are withheld until an on-air call up is initiated. The local repeater used for emergency communications at that time was the N2JC machine on 146.28/88 Mhz located at Cobbs Hill near Brighton. This SET is an annual event incorporating local agencies and several ham radio clubs. Bruce Kelley (sk) W2ICE, RARA Historian and co-founder of the Antique Wireless Association (AWA), wrote to tell of this year's annual AWA Convention to be held at Canandaigua's Sheraton Inn. Bruce anticipated an attendance of over 600 dedicated antique radio enthusiasts from all states, most Canadian Provinces and many foreign countries during the four day event. Representatives from several well-known science museums were participating including the Smithsonian Institution. For a better part of the year the FCC has been working on what was being called the "Plain Language Rules Docket," released for comments as FCC Docket P.R. 80-7290. Your club's Board of Directors formed a committee to study the Docket in detail and to make a formal reply back to the FCC. That well researched and thoughtful response was published in full in this issue with the committee taking issue with several of the concepts brought forward. History reveals the Docket went no further than the comment stage and was never implemented. Rick Berg, WA2RLQ, writing for the Rochester DX Association (RDXA), W2RDX, told of the near future CQ Worldwide Phone contest. He explained that last year the RDXA turned in a club score of over one million points and encouraged DX'ers to beat that this year. RDXA meetings at this time were held at the Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Blvd. Jacket and tie required! Thinking ahead to April of 1982, was Roger Dennis, WB2HWO, who wrote telling of his idea to charter hotel rooms and a bus trip headed for the Dayton Hamvention. Roger already has rooms reserved and bus schedules in-hand, but needs a show of hands as to how many folks are interested and committed. Editor-at-Large Dwight Hill (sk) K2KWK, picked up on this unlikely subject as he wrote about the demise of the rarely entered ARRL Frequency Measuring Tests (FMT). During this test a ham station of very good and known frequency tolerance sent a signal near an announced frequency and participating amateurs used their skills to measure the frequency as close as possible and report to ARRL Headquarters. Perhaps a needed skill during its heyday forty years ago, today's modern transceivers have a frequency read-out accuracy that far exceeds the best of the early days. So, say good-bye to the FMT and the 75 entrants, world-wide, who participated in 1981. From the Want Ads you could buy a Swan 400 HF Transceiver for \$300.00 from Joe Phillips, W2DHFV. Harvey's Ham (KB2LB) a ham sales dealer in Caledonia, NY, featuring Ten-Tec and Dentron brands, remained a commercial advertiser.

# The RARA RAG

Published by  
The Rochester Amateur Radio Association  
INCORPORATED

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VOL 34 OCTOBER 1981 NO. 2

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**OCTOBER PROGRAM: FIRE SAFETY**  
by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The October program will feature Captain Gerard McHugh and Lieutenant Jack Murphy of the Rochester Fire Department. These gentlemen will present a program which should be of interest to everyone and will consist of a movie and demonstration followed by a question and answer period. Captain McHugh will present the portion dealing with Arson Awareness and Lieutenant Murphy will present that portion dealing with Fire Safety.

The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m., Friday, October 2, 1981, in the lower meeting room of the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum and Science Center, North Goodman Street and East Avenue.

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**SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST:  
OCTOBER 17th**

The local S.E.T. occurs Saturday, October 17th. The type of exercise is not yet known, nor is the time that it will happen. The only thing you can count on is that sometime on that day "IT" will happen. "IT" will require two amateur radio operators to be at each local hospital to act as communicators with other operators at other hospitals and other sites involved. Additional ham operators will be needed for test purposes coverage checks the amateur radio emergency communications system and network. All local operation will take place using our 2-Meter "FM" Band. Assistance from mobile and portable stations is desired to aid in the test. The primary frequency used will be 146.28/146.88, the frequency of the N2JC repeater station located at Cobbs Hill near Brighton. Other area repeaters may be used as needed, also some simplex frequencies.

Even if you did not attend the S.E.T. Planning Meeting held September 29th you are asked to participate. Those in that meeting are counting on you, and others, to join in and get prepared.

**National Historical Radio Conference  
OCTOBER 21st - 25th**

Our local AWA will again sponsor the National Conference at the Sheraton Inn, Canandaigua. This is the largest gathering of radio historians in the country with attendance averaging 600 from all United States and Canadian districts.

Well known professional and amateur historians will present historical papers Friday and Saturday followed by an evening dinner. A vacuum tube seminar is scheduled Thursday and a huge equipment auction on Friday. A highlight of the event is the large display of rare receivers and transmitters. Representatives from several well-known science museums including the Smithsonian Institution will participate.

Is interest in old radio confined to past amateur operation? Hardly. A contingent of the Northern New Jersey DX Association including their president, W2GK, will be on hand. Call Linc Cundall, W2LC (663-0856) for information. (Note: AWA has over 200 members in this area.)

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**REPEATER GROUP MEETS**

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association will hold a meeting the third Friday of October, the 16th, in the Pittsford Town Hall starting at 8 p.m. Program details will be announced in the regular monthly notice mailed to each member.

Last month our article in the September *RaRa Rag* gave our new Post Office Box Number, rightfully obtained from the post office. Imagine the consternation suffered by Ray, WA2MYG, who upon visiting the box found that the post office had assigned a new box number. In as much as the new stationery was going to press with the wrong number, he did some mighty fancy scurrying. His good fortune prevailed though and the change was made before the stationery was printed. Therefore the new and correct address is to RRRR, Inc. P.O. Box 92031, Rochester, New York 14692. Notice that the last two digits in the zip code must agree with the first two digits of the box number.

# VE TEAM

**Testing on Saturday October 16, 2021**  
**At a NEW LOCATION**  
**Returning to RIT**  
**ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Building 16 - **Schmitt Interfaith Center**  
 43.08402626755475, -77.6734520379509

Parking: **U-Lot**  
 43.08261562973969, -77.6739921659069  
 It is off Andrews Memorial Drive

Room: **Skalny Room (SMT-A500)** there is an access door by the dock marked by the blue arrow.

<b>Brian Deane</b>	KD2WZQ	T	<b>Joseph DiVincenzo</b>	AD2DB	E
<b>Matthew Ernisse</b>	KD2WZR	T	<b>Mark Farrell Jr</b>	KD2WZS	T
<b>Brett Johnson</b>	KD2WZT	T	Evan Obrien	KD2QYI	G
Andrew Ziogas	KD2SSH	G			

**Pre-registration is required visit:**

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/laurel/14612/inperson> to find the latest session.

**COVID questionnaire and masks required:**

<https://rochesterham.org/documents/education/2020-10-09%20COVID-19%20Questionnaire%20Form.pdf>

More information is available on the RARA website:

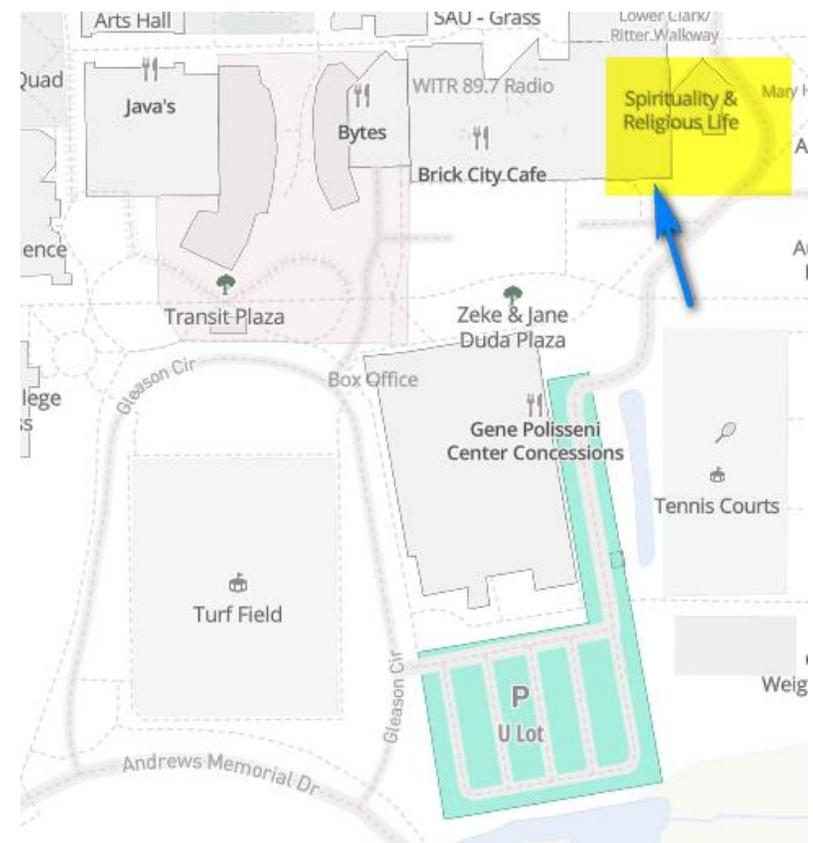
[https://rochesterham.org/license\\_testing.htm](https://rochesterham.org/license_testing.htm)

Applicants must supply their own PPE (Mask is a minimum), pen, pencil, calculator and be COVID negative and symptom free

Testing begins at 10:00AM.

Testing is free!

**New licensees names are in BOLD**



# RARA CALENDAR

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

## October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 7:30p K1USN Slow Speed Test	<b>2</b> Drumlins Hamfest RaRa Elmers Corner 10am TRC DX Contest Oceania DX Contest, Phone Russian WW Digital Contest German Telegraphy Contest IARU UHF Region 1 Contest CA, SKCC QSO Parties Two Meter Classic Sprint International Hell Contest
<b>3</b> TRC DX Contest Oceania DX Contest, Phone Russian WW Digital Contest IARU UHF Region 1 Contest CA QSO Party SKCC QSO Party Two Meter Classic Sprint International Hell Contest	<b>4</b> AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SS WW SSB Activity Contest ARS Spartan Sprint RTTYOPS Weeksprint RSGB 80M CW Contest	<b>5</b> RTTYOPS Weeksprint Phone Weekly Test Fray	<b>6</b> RaRa Monthly Mtg at BSA and ONLINE 7pm ROC City Net 3.810 MHz, 7 pm CW Ops Mini-CWT Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest 432 MHz Fall Sprint UKEICC 80M Contest	<b>7</b> RaRa BoD 6:30pm ONLINE ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.200 USB RTTYOPS Weeksprint NRAU 10M Activity Contest NCCC SKCC Sprints EACW Meeting Walk for the bacon QRP Contest SARL 80M QSO Party	<b>8</b> ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 7:30p K1USN Slow Speed Test	<b>9</b> QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party Makrothen RTTY Contest NV, AZ, PA, SD QSO Parties Cosack's Honor QSO Party Microwave Fall Sprint PODXS 070 Club 160M Pumpkin Sprint
<b>10</b> QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party Makrothen RTTY Contest NV, AZ, PA, SD QSO Parties Cosack's Honor QSO Party Microwave Fall Sprint PODXS 070 160M Pumpkin Sprint	<b>11</b> AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SS WW Sideband Activity Contest	<b>12</b> RTTYOPS Weeksprint Phone Weekly Test Fray	<b>13</b> ROC City Net 3.810 MHz, 7 pm CW Ops Mini-CWT Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest	<b>14</b> ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.200 USB RTTYOPS Weeksprint NCCC Sprints EACW Meeting	<b>15</b> ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 7:30p K1USN Slow Speed Test	<b>16</b> License Testing at RIT JARTS WW RTTY Contest NY QSO Party Worked All Germany Contest Feld Hell Sprint Argentina 7MHz Contest
<b>17</b> JARTS WW RTTY Contest Worked All Germany Contest Feld Hell Sprint Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	<b>18</b> AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SS	<b>19</b> RTTYOPS Weeksprint Phone Weekly Test Fray	<b>20</b> ROC City Net 3.810 MHz, 7 pm CW Ops Mini-CWT Test	<b>21</b> ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.200 USB RTTYOPS Weeksprint NCCC Sprints EACW Meeting	<b>22</b> ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 7:30p K1USN Slow Speed Test	<b>23</b> Scouting Ham Radio, Ovid NY Araucaria WW VHF Contest ARRL EME Contest UK/EI DX Contest SSB Stew Perry Top Band Challenge NA SSB Sprint Contest
<b>24</b> Araucaria WW VHF Contest ARRL EME Contest UK/EI DX Contest SSB Stew Perry Top Band Challenge NA SSB Sprint Contest	<b>25</b> AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SS	<b>26</b> RTTYOPS Weeksprint Phone Weekly Test Fray	<b>27</b> ROC City Net 3.810 MHz, 7 pm CW Ops Mini-CWT Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest	<b>28</b> ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.200 USB RTTYOPS Weeksprint NCCC Sprints EACW Meeting	<b>29</b> ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 7:30p K1USN Slow Speed Test Zombie Shuggle	<b>30</b> Pumpkin Patrol CQ WW DX Contest, SSB
<b>31</b> Pumpkin Patrol CQ WW DX Contest, SSB						

# NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

## MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES NEWS

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)® is an amateur radio public service organization based in Monroe County, New York, and is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. Monroe County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a program of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management. We participate in training and emergency exercises so that we can serve other agencies during times of communication failure.



The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month except in July, August, November and December. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend.

Until further notice, our meetings are via Zoom. Please check our website for any schedule changes. Prospective members can request an invitation by email to: [secretary@monroecountyemcomm.org](mailto:secretary@monroecountyemcomm.org).

Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, on the N2MPE 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL and 444.45 (+) 110.9 Hz PL repeaters. Our club callsign is WB2EOC.

There is no net on nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

WEB: [www.monroecountyemcomm.org](http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org)

Facebook : Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Twitter @MCARESNY

**Severe Weather Alerts:** Winter may bring severe weather in the form of heavy snow storms, strong winds, and flooding. If you experience severe weather, especially when accompanied by damage to property in your area, listen to your local ARES/RACES repeaters for information. While official ARES/RACES activation could be a possibility, it is more important that we open a spontaneous net simply to share information about weather conditions in your immediate area. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Pick up the microphone and start a net. Have each check-in station give you a situational awareness report and emergency power report. If you don't have a copy of the directed net protocol, you can find one at the WEB address listed above. (Activities/ARES Net/ Net Script/ Downloads). We encourage all amateur radio operators to take a free Skywarn TM class offered by the National Weather Service. The schedule of classes can be found at <https://www.weather.gov/buf/skywarn>

Monroe County ARES  
Ralph Dutcher, Net Control - [KD2BDZ@arrl.net](mailto:KD2BDZ@arrl.net)

## ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

In Person Meeting - Tuesday October 19, 2021 at 7:00pm

The next meeting will be at Johnny's Irish Pub, 1382 Culver Road.

NOTE: Earlier start time and new location. Plenty of free parking alongside and behind the pub.

All are welcome.

Check our web site: [www.rdxa.com](http://www.rdxa.com).



## ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association, RRRRA will be having its regular meeting on October 15th at the Pittsford Town Hall's meeting room. We will discontinue Zoom meetings on our regularly scheduled meeting nights. The Covid-19 Delta and Mu Variant emergency seems to be hanging on from un-vaccinated people according to state and local sources. If you're not vaccinated or feel threatened remember masks are always welcome.

Depending on September's participation in the nominations process we may be having an election in October's meeting. If time permits we would all like to hear about everybody's experiences during the long isolation.

Stay tuned to our web site, [www.k2rra.org](http://www.k2rra.org) for current information on any changes to our meeting place. The elected RRRRA officers for 2020 - 2021 are, Bob Shewell, N2HJD, President, Bob ODell, N2BZX, Vice President, ED Wilkon-ski, KC2WM Secretary, and Bob Smith, NS2B-Treasurer / Membership Chair-man. RRRRA also accepts donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRRA, you can join at our monthly meeting or on our web site. [www.k2rra.org](http://www.k2rra.org)

## XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club is not having in-person meetings at this time. We are having online meetings usually on the second Thursday of the months Sept-June. Get the latest updates at <http://xarc.us>

## ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

You are invited to join us on-line & on-the-air! We're here to help you to use the license that you worked so hard to get.



Check out what we do by visiting our website at <http://RVHFG.org> to start.

Join our e-mail group by sending a message to [RVHFG+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:RVHFG+subscribe@groups.io).

Join our weekly on-the-air nets on SSB:  
2 meter band - Monday 9 PM 144.260 USB  
6 meter band - Thursday 9 PM 50.200 USB

No VHF SSB radio (yet) to join the nets?  
Log-in to Echolink ka2ene-L #23426

We can help to answer the question, "What radio should I buy?" Here's a list of HF+++ radios, those with the HF bands and at least three VHF bands, giving you access to all sorts of VHF fun. Research each one to see which serves you best. Ask questions on our email list. We're here to help!

Yaesu FT-100D	Yaesu FT-817	Yaesu FT-818
Yaesu FT-847	Yaesu FT-857	Yaesu FT-897
Icom IC-706MKIIG	Icom IC-7000	Icom IC-7100
Icom IC-9100	Kenwood TS-2000	

Some are older models and some are newer models, but all provide access to the 6 meter, 2 meter, and 70 centimeter bands using both traditional FM and the exciting narrow-band SSB mode that supports unexpectedly long-distance (100's of km's routinely and 1,000's of km occasionally) VHF communication. These are good all-around radios no matter what club you end up affiliating with later. We hope its us.

## AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, ARAST

ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Town and Country Fire Department on Gardner Rd in Horseheads, New York. Our Chemung County ARES (CCARES) organization meets the first Tuesday of the month except February on Harris Hill, next to the National Soaring Museum. Both organizations serve amateurs in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler counties in New York and Bradford and Tioga counties in Pennsylvania. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

NOTE: Both CCARES and ARAST monthly meetings are now being held both in person and online. Check out the Upcoming Events at our website, [www.arast.info](http://www.arast.info), for the latest details.

Our 2021 Hamfest is set to take place at the Chemung County Fairgrounds in Horseheads, New York, on Saturday, September 25, 2021, subject to the then current New York State Department of Health guidelines.

Our premier public service event, the Wineglass Marathon, is scheduled for Sunday, October 3, 2021. The Wineglass committee has now confirmed that this year's Marathon and Half Marathon will be "live" events, ending in the historic downtown of Corning, New York. Thus we are again appealing to hams outside our area to help as communicators for these events. There will be openings for operators with either mobile or handheld 2-meter radios. Please contact N2OJM at [emergencycoordinator@stny.rr.com](mailto:emergencycoordinator@stny.rr.com) if you can help, or if you would like more information.

Don't forget to check out our repeaters when you visit the area. N3AQ 147.36(+) and the W2ZJ 146.70(-) are the principal 2-meter repeaters. The latter can also be accessed via Echolink node 574415 with the call sign KD2QND-R. A full list of repeaters that can be heard in the Twin Tiers area surrounding Chemung County can be found at [http://www.arast.info/arast\\_website/public/repeaters.php](http://www.arast.info/arast_website/public/repeaters.php).

We also invite you to check out our new 6 meter net on Wednesday evenings at 9 p.m. local time on 50.200 MHz USB. The net usually lasts approximately one hour. Operators are encouraged to check in and participate in the round table discussions or simply stop by from time to time. Topics are wide-reaching and are not confined to 6 meters--although discussions tend to center around 6-meter equipment, antennas, propagation, latest band openings and grid squares worked, as well as AM, FM and FT-8 use of the 6-meter band. We would welcome more participation from the western part of our area.

## COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

If you are interested in being a part of this forward thinking and active club, visit us at a meeting or join us on one of our weekly nets. We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7PM. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics includ-

ing: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signaling. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9PM (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30PM on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in!

## DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP members continue to experiment with leading edge digital communication modes. We were formed in 1994 to foster the development of local and regional packet radio networks using AX25 and TCP/IP. Today we have members using the club sponsored DSTAR repeater (KB2VZS on 444.8MHz), several personal and publicly accessible DSTAR hotspots, Yaesu System Fusion systems on non-club repeaters and DMR systems through repeaters and personal hotspots. DCAP members meet for breakfast at 7AM nearly every Saturday morning at Rikki's Family Restaurant in the village of Fairport and everyone is welcome to join us. Talk in is on the KB2VZS analog repeater on 146.715MHz with a PL tone of 110.9Hz.

## DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Wayne County EMO/Sheriff's Office 7376 State Hwy 31 #1000, Lyons, NY 14489. Doors open at 7 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Announcements will be made on the 146.685 repeater. The Drumlins ARC website address is <http://drumlinsarc.us/>

## KEUKA LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, KLARA

Hello everyone. The Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association held their election of officers. They are as follows:

- President Jim Caneen, W2JTC
- VP Preston Skillman, W2CAZ
- Treasurer Jerrilyn Baker, KE2YB
- Secretary Belinda Connor, KD2BPJ
- Trustees John Babbitt, K2GQG  
Harold Schaumberg, N2MFS  
Jonathan Marmor, AD2AE

We are preparing for the Wineglass Marathon Oct. 3rd. A 20 mile marathon that goes from Bath to Corning, NY. Amateur Radio operators are along the entire route calling into net control with first runner and last runners so that the Staff knows where the runners are at all times, We also are there in case of emergencies and if runners have issues and need to be picked up along the route. A fun day of cheering on runners and helping the community.

Our Hamfest went very well. Breakfast was good, a nice number of tailgators, lots of camaraderie and beautiful weather.

Stay safe, be well and hope to talk with you on the radio.

## ORLEANS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Orleans County ARC meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at the Orleans County Emergency Operations Center, 14064 West County House Road, Albion, NY 14411. Doors open at 6:00PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio is welcome. Program topics vary from month to month.

The club has an open two meter net every Tuesday night at 9:00PM local time on the club repeater, WA2DQL/R (145.27 -600KHz offset, 141.3 tone). Everyone is welcome to check in.

See the club website <http://ocarc.us> or contact club Secretary Ron Craig, N5BNO for more information.

## THE AMATEUR'S CODE

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

### THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

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

## SQUAW ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC) meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 13th and will be inside at the Safety Training Facility. We will start the meeting at 7:30 PM. Masks and social distancing will be required even if you are vaccinated. There will not be License Exam Testing. Check the SIARC website for updates. <http://www.siarc.us/>

SIARC is also holding a Health and Welfare NET Monday through Friday each week at 2000 hours on the SIARC 146.820 repeater (located in Canandaigua, NY), Tone 110.9. This net is to pass along general information and keep hams in touch. All hams are invited to participate .

## GENESEE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Email [n3dsp@lafireline.net](mailto:n3dsp@lafireline.net) for details.

## INTERLOCK ROCHESTER - K2HAX - ROCHESTER'S HACKERSPACE

Visit our website at <http://www.interlockroc.org/>, contact us at [info@interlockroc.org](mailto:info@interlockroc.org), or find us in #interlock on Freenode IRC.

## ROCHESTER MAKERSPACE

For more information visit <https://www.makerspacerochester.org/hamradio>

## ASTRONOMY SECTION ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

For more information visit <http://www.rochesterastronomy.org/>

## RAG ARTICLE LAYOUT HINTS

- Orientation - Landscape
- Main Text Box H - 7.7, W - 10.4
- 2 columns, 0.3 spacing between columns
- Font: Arial
- Title: 20 pt, Bold, Small Caps
- Author: 10 pt, Bold, Small Caps
- Main Text: 10 pt
- Single space after periods
- Text Alignment: Justified
- Title & Author Alignment: Centered
- No special formatting
- Try to limit pictures to the width of a column
- Picture Format: jpg or png
- Document format: Microsoft Word compatible or text. No special embedded formatting.

# RARA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

## OFFICERS

<b>President:</b> Tim Barrett, K9VB	(646) 496-5015	<a href="mailto:president@rochesterham.org">president@rochesterham.org</a>	<b>Treasurer:</b> Mike Moore, KC2NM	(585) 721-0011	<a href="mailto:treasurer@rochesterham.org">treasurer@rochesterham.org</a>
<b>Vice-President:</b> Scott Theis, W2LW	(845) 774-9809	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@rochesterham.org">vicepresident@rochesterham.org</a>	<b>Secretary:</b> Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK	(585) 210-0840	<a href="mailto:secretary@rochesterham.org">secretary@rochesterham.org</a>

## DIRECTORS

Paul Conaway, KD2DO	(585) 506-5538	<a href="mailto:ConawayNY@aol.com">ConawayNY@aol.com</a>	Mike Kennerknecht, N2MAK	(585) 754-2444	<a href="mailto:makennerknecht@gmail.com">makennerknecht@gmail.com</a>
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## ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

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<b>Club Station Trustee</b>	Dave Enright, K3WHD	<a href="mailto:denright1228@gmail.com">denright1228@gmail.com</a>	<b>Raffle Administrators</b>	Forest Shick, WA2MZG Jeff Sonstein, KD2RRB	<a href="mailto:wa2mzg@arrl.net">wa2mzg@arrl.net</a>
<b>Education Coordinator</b>	Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK	<a href="mailto:education@rochesterham.org">education@rochesterham.org</a>	<b>RARA Academy</b>	<b>Your Name Here</b>	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
<b>Elmers Corner</b>	Richard Bishopp, KD2UBJ Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ	<a href="mailto:elmerscorner@education.org">elmerscorner@education.org</a>	<b>RARA RAG Editor Proof Readers</b>	Forest Shick, WA2MZG Susan Aiello, W2SBA Dave Wilson, WA2HOY Mark Pedersen, KC2UES	<a href="mailto:editor@rochesterham.org">editor@rochesterham.org</a>
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## ROCHESTER AREA RADIO CLUB CONTACTS

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### Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier (ARAST)

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### Digital Communications Association of Perinton (DCAP)

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### Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

[drumlinsarc@gmail.com](mailto:drumlinsarc@gmail.com)

### Fisherman's Net Amateur Radio Club

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

### Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn.

Bill Boyd, N3DSP: [N3DSP@lafireline.net](mailto:N3DSP@lafireline.net)

### Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association (KLARA)

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### Monroe County ARES / RACES

Dave Timmons, W2DST: [dstimmons@gmail.com](mailto:dstimmons@gmail.com)

### Orleans County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC)

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### Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)

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### Rochester Institute of Technology ARC

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### ROC City Net

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### Rochester DX Association (RDXA)

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### Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

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### Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)

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### Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)

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### XRX Amateur Radio Club

Brian Donovan, K2AS: [k2as@outlook.com](mailto:k2as@outlook.com)

## NOVEMBER RAG DEADLINE OCTOBER 15, 2021

## RARA MEETS AT 7PM ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

JOIN US IN PERSON AT  
SENECA WATERWAYS COUNCIL, BSA HEADQUARTERS  
2320 BRIGHTON HENRIETTA TOWN LINE RD  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14623

### OR ON-LINE AT:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2185443605161000975>

CONTACT [WEBMASTER@ROCHESTERHAM.ORG](mailto:WEBMASTER@ROCHESTERHAM.ORG) FOR SUPPORT

## Rochester Area Repeater Listing *THE RARA RAG*

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