



THE RARA RAG

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

APRIL, 2025
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APRIL MEETING: OLD TIMERS NIGHT PAST PRESIDENTS, PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING!!

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

An annual feature on the RARA Calendar is Old Timers' Night held in either April or May each year. We hope to see many of our long-standing members as well as new members at the meeting. A key event is our annual photograph session of as many past presidents as we can get together in one place. So if you were once a RARA president, please come along if you can. Last year we moved the venue to the AWA's Communication Technology Museum in Bloomfield which was a great success. However, this year the meeting is back at our usual venue: Boy Scouts Headquarters at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, New York 14623

I'm including the Presidents Photo that we took last year, so we have a target number of past presidents to beat!



Past Presidents picture: Back row L to R: Tim Barrett K9VB, Bob Hobday N3EVG, Chris Reich WB2DYJ, Tim Guyot KB1POP. Front Row L to R: Scott Theis W2LW, Alex Picarilli NV2Y (not a past president but our oldest member), Cliff Milner K2SKO and Ed Gable K2MP.



We invite a speaker from the AWA if we can each year and this time I'm very pleased to say that we will have the pleasure of Ed Gable K2MP, Past President of RARA, Curator Emeritus of the Communication Technologies Museum and RARA Historian. Ed is always an entertaining speaker and he has a great subject, the History of the AWA. I'm told that Ed last presented this topic to us in 2014 so I think there will be quite a bit of new news to hear!

Please join us on Wednesday April 2nd, the meeting starts at 7:00PM 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/981333265263163738>. Hope to see you there!

BOARDZ BUZZ

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, SECRETARY

The Hamfest Committee is working to make the June 21, 2025 Hamfest successful. Our Hamfest is a big part of our history as a club and we want to recover from the 2024 and Covid 19 Hamfest cancellations. Now is the time for each of us to think about volunteering to make our Hamfest successful. Hamfest benefits the club in the following ways:

Community Building:

- The Hamfest provides a focal point for the club, strengthening bonds among members.
- Volunteerism fosters a sense of shared purpose.

Membership Benefits:

- Free admission is a tangible perk that incentivizes membership.
- It offers a social gathering for members to connect.

Public Service and Outreach:

- Providing license exams and a platform for equipment sales benefits the broader amateur radio community.
- It raises RARA's profile and attracts potential new members.

Financial Contribution:

- While not always a huge profit maker, it helps with club finances.

Historical Significance:

- The Hamfest is a long-standing tradition for the club.

Venues for the Hamfest have changed over the years.

For 2025, Hamfest is returning to the Barnard Fire Field at 410 Maiden Lane, Rochester, NY. Prior locations were Hilton Exempt Club, Eastman Kodak, Walnut Hill Farm in Pittsford, RIT, and the Dome Arena in Henrietta.

Hamfest Activities include:

- **Flea Market:** This is a central component of the Hamfest, allowing attendees to buy and sell new and used amateur radio equipment, parts, and accessories. RVs are welcome to set up for the flea market the evening before.
- **License Exams:** The Hamfest usually provides free license testing sessions for individuals looking to obtain their first amateur radio license or upgrade their existing one.
- **Raffle and Prizes:** Attendees can participate in a raffle for a chance to win various prizes, which have included items like radios (e.g., Yaesu FT-710, BTECH DMR-6X2 PRO), gift certificates (e.g., Ham Radio Deluxe, DXEngineering, N3FPJ Software).
- **Exhibits:** The Hamfest includes exhibits showcasing different aspects of amateur radio. These could involve demonstrations of equipment, operating modes, or other related technologies.
- **Food:** Hot food is typically available for breakfast and lunch at the Hamfest.
- **Country Store:** RARA often operates a Country Store where the club sells items, and attendees may also be able to consign their items for sale.
- **Talk-in:** A designated simplex frequency is usually announced for attendees to communicate within the Hamfest grounds, and a local repeater is designated for hams traveling to and from the Hamfest.
- **Presentations and Demonstrations:** With enough lead time and volunteer support, RARA aims to arrange presentations and demonstrations on amateur radio topics at the Hamfest. Bring your ideas!

RARA members are the primary group of attendees benefiting from free admission to the Hamfest. The Hamfest serves as an event for the club to engage its membership. The Hamfest is also open to the broader public, with non-members required to pay an admission fee. This is an effort to draw in individuals beyond the club's immediate membership. The flea market attracts vendors selling new and used radio gear, parts, and accessories. Individuals looking to purchase amateur radio equipment and related items attend the Hamfest as buyers in the flea market. The availability of free license testing draws individuals who are either new to amateur radio and seeking their first license or licensed operators looking to upgrade. The Hamfest features a "Country Store" where attendees can consign their items for sale.

Volunteers play a critical role in the success of the Rochester Hamfest, as highlighted in the Hamfest history. Their contributions span various aspects of the event, ensuring it runs smoothly and provides value to attendees. Here are the key roles of volunteers:

Planning and Organization: The Hamfest is primarily organized and produced by a committee of volunteers. This committee is responsible for a wide range of tasks, including negotiating with venues, planning the layout, and coordinating all aspects of the event. The committee typically needs 2-4 people to manage the workload.

Setting Up: Volunteers are needed before the day of the Hamfest to help with setup. This includes setting up the indoor space, arranging the flea market parking layout, and demarcating free parking areas. For the 2025 Hamfest, volunteers will be needed to help set up on the Friday before the Saturday event.

Running the Event on the Day: On the day of the Hamfest, numerous volunteers are essential for its operation. Specific roles include:

- **Ticket Sales:** Volunteers handle the crucial task of selling admission tickets to non-members.
- **Traffic and Parking Guidance:** Volunteers assist with managing the flow of traffic and directing attendees to parking spots.
- **Country Store:** Volunteers staff the Country Store, where RARA sells items and attendees can consign their goods
- **Raffle:** Volunteers will likely assist with the raffle, a popular activity at the Hamfest.
- **Flea Market:** While vendors manage their own spaces, volunteers might help with the overall organization of the flea market area.
- **Facilities:** Volunteers may assist with the upkeep and smooth functioning of the Hamfest facilities.
- **Food:** Although vendors provide hot food, volunteers might be involved in coordinating food services.
- **Talk-in:** While not a direct volunteer role, the presence of a designated talk-in frequency relies on the cooperation of the amateur radio community, including potential volunteers assisting with communications
- **Exams:** Volunteers from the Volunteer Examiner (VE) team conduct the free license testing sessions. Historically, local coordination for VE testing has been a significant volunteer effort.
- **Cleanup:** After the Hamfest concludes, volunteers are needed to help with cleanup efforts.

As plans progress toward the Hamfest, monitor The RARA Rag and website checklists. Look for ways to volunteer to help make the Hamfest a success and sign up for a role!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY APRIL 2, 2025 - RARA Meeting 7:00 PM In Person at
Boy Scouts Headquarters at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline
Road, Rochester, New York 14623
or On Line at this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/981333265263163738>

THURSDAY APRIL 3, 2025 - RARA Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM - Online
Email request for link to secretary@rochesterham.org

Saturday April 19, 2025 - RARA Academy, Parks on the Air (POTA)
Roberts Cabin
Veterans Memorial Park, Henrietta

Saturday May 10, 2025 - RARA Academy, Hands On for Newish Hams
Pathfinder Shelter
Black Creek Park, Chili

Saturday June 21, 2025 - RARA Hamfest,
Barnard Fire Field, 410 Maiden Lane, Rochester, NY 14616

Saturday July 12, 2025 - RARA Summer Picnic
Mendon Ponds Park

MEMBERSHIP NEWS – DUES ARE UNDER REVIEW!

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

RARA membership dues have not changed in over ten years. During that time of course our costs have increased significantly. These include the cost of rental of our meeting space, our storage lock-up rental, the cost of putting on events, IT fees such as web hosting and email service and other costs. In reviewing our finances and planning for the future the board recognizes it is important for the stability of the club that our running costs are covered by our income.

We are thinking of a small increase in September and possibly simplifying the membership tier structure. Currently we have Student (22 or under) FREE, Associate (no callsign yet) \$10, Regular \$15 and Senior \$10 as well as Life and Senior Life membership. We invite comments or suggestions from members so if you have views you would like to share, please email me at the address below or contact any other board member.

Membership currently stands at 437 and we would like to beat our total of 503 at the end of the previous year so please renew or join if you haven't done so yet!

If you are not sure of your membership status please take a moment to go to the [renewal page](#) on our website to check that your membership hasn't lapsed, and if it has done you can renew from there.

I'd like to give a warm welcome to recent new members:

Joshua Ames

Mike Krahe

Craig Oliver, KE2FEJ

Mark Renford

Dennis Rubery, N2DPR

Remember to look for new members at RARA events and make sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club!

A quick reminder that if you are not currently an ARRL member, you can join through RARA and make a saving of \$20. If you want to take advantage of that offer, please email me at the address below.

Tim Barrett, K9VB membership@rochesterham.org.





EDUCATION

Aaron Rombaut, KE2DYI, Academy and Education Coordinator

RARA LICENSE COURSES

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, License Class Coordinator

License Classes

We are done with two out of our three Winter '25 license classes. We are planning on running our next session in the Fall. If you are interested in joining one of our upcoming classes, please let us know. If you would like to get licensed before that, I have some resources for you that might be useful.

Question Pool Updates

Since July 1st 2024, all Amateur Extra license exams are now using the new question pool, which means that you need the 13th edition of the ARRL License Manual to study for the test. Make sure you have the correct edition.

We are not retiring any question pools this year, the next scheduled update is next year, when the Technician question pool will be updated on July 1st. This means that if you have a current version of the Technician License Manual, you should try to take your test before the end of June 2026.

License Manuals

All current editions of the license manuals are available to our members at a discount for \$25. At this discount, we unfortunately cannot deliver, and you would have to pick up the manual. If you are interested, please send an email to education@rochesterham.org

I usually have some license manuals with me at official RaRa events (e.g. the monthly meetings), but just to make sure, please get in touch with me first so that I can bring enough books.

RARA ACADEMY

Aaron Rombaut, KE2DYI, RARA Academy and Education Coordinator

We have a new RARA Academy and Education Coordinator, Aaron Rombaut. A few words from Aaron about himself.

I am a passionate technologist with a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). I'm an Air Force Retiree and I currently work as the global technical lead for the U.S. Army Tiger Team at VMware by Broadcom. I earned my Technician Class license in August 2024 and upgraded to Amateur Extra Class in September 2024. I am now exploring *all* aspects of Amateur Radio while sharing professional and radio-related insights on my website, *Bits, Bytes, & Radio Waves* (www.aaronrombaut.com). I have chosen to deepen my involvement in the Amateur Radio community by serving as the RARA Academy and Education Coordinator.

POTA – April 19th 2025

As in the last couple of years, we have again an Academy session about the POTA program. As we have previously, it will be held at the Roberts Cabin in Veterans Memorial Park in Henrietta (US-6532). Setup will begin around 10-10:30am and we hope to have stations ready to go by 11/11:30am.

Join us if you want to learn more about the POTA program and try your first contacts.

Operating Event for New(ish) Hams – May 10th 2025

We are again working on providing an Operating Event for New(ish) hams in May, as we've done for the last four years. This year, it will be on May 10th, and we have booked the Pathfinder Shelter in Black Creek Park. If you are new to the hobby, or returned to the hobby after many years away, or if you just want to learn a new skill, please put this event on your calendar. More information will follow as we progress with our planning. If you are interested in presenting, teaching or demonstrating the one thing that every new ham should know (according to your own opinion), please let us know.

End-Fed Half-Wave (EFHW) Antenna Build Session

Curious about End-Fed Half-Wave (EFHW) antennas for HF? If you've been considering adding one to your station, now's your chance!

Join us for *one* of the four-hour sessions of RARA's "*Make-It, Take-It, Use-It*" Academy at the Henrietta Library Craft Room, where you'll build an EFHW

antenna for four popular bands—40m, 20m, 15m, and 10m—with guidance on tuning for part of the 80m band.

Participants will assemble a complete antenna system, including:

- ⇒ **Antenna wire** with thimbles, cable clamps, and an end insulator
- ⇒ **Multi-band load coil**
- ⇒ **Transformer box** built on a custom PCB for easy, tidy construction
- ⇒ **Counterpoise wire**

The transformer design uses the highest-performing core, based on real-world loss comparisons, and is built to match or exceed commercial offerings—at a fraction of the cost! Compared to similar models from ARRL (\$80 kit), MyAntennas (\$134 assembled), and Chameleon (\$175 assembled), this kit will likely cost under **\$50**. Use it for portable operations (up to **250W PEP**) or install it permanently with a simple stake and plywood backer.



There will be two sessions, you need attend only one:

- Saturday, April 26 (10 AM - 2 PM)
- Saturday, May 31 (10 AM - 2 PM)

Registration opens after the April Club meeting on April 2nd, or contact Aaron directly at education@rochesterham.org

Editors' Note—See the companion article “Recent Developments in Transformers for End-Fed Half-Wave Antennas” by John Viggiano, NV2K on page 18, of this issue.

RARA ELMERS' CORNER

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

Come and join us at our next Elmers' Corner on April 5th and find out why we have so much fun talking about radio!

We answer any questions you may have, and just generally have a great time talking all things radio, and of course – antennas!

As a member of RARA, you can have a link to the latest Elmers' Corner video, just send me an email at elmerscorner@rochesterham.org.

Our meetings start at 10am on zoom, the link is below, however, if you would like to get on my reminder email list, send me a quick note or find me at our monthly general meeting. I don't send a lot of emails, just one a month reminding you about the zoom meeting, and I always provide the link so you have it one place. If you are a new ham, or just getting back into the hobby, we are here to help. We've even helped experienced hams with questions. ALL are welcome!

Sometimes a question may require some background information, just email those questions to us ahead of the meeting so that we can prepare - elmerscorner@rochesterham.org

ELMERS' CORNER

1st Saturday of the month
September – May

Next Zoom Meetings:

April 5th **10AM-12PM**
May 3rd

AND HANDS ON Elmering on May 10th

Join ELMERS' CORNER 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

One tap mobile
 +16465588656,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (New York)
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Dial by your location
 +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
 +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
 +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
 +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
 +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
 +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kiOoVkcMy>

MORSE CODE TRAINING

Dave Wilson, WA2HOY, RXCWG Coordinator

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

Morse code practice for all levels on Zoom and on the air. TimBrown, WB2PAY, hosts Zoom code practice for all levels on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. For On Air schedules contact Tim at tjbrown@rochester.rr.com.

RXCWG INTERMEDIATE CW PRACTICE- 7:30pm Thursdays
 Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRlYXljc3pOUT09)
[pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRlYXljc3pOUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRlYXljc3pOUT09)
 Meeting ID: 799 6621 2852
 Passcode: tpjz8e

W1AW On The Air CW Practice

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

| Time | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 9 AM | | Fast | Slow | Fast | Slow |
| 4 PM | Fast | Slow | Fast | Slow | Fast |
| 7 PM | Slow | Fast | Slow | Fast | Slow |
| 10 PM | 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

RADIO ELMERS

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

CW ELMERS

| Name | Call | Area | Email |
|----------------|--------|---------------|--|
| Ned Asam | W2NED | Pittsford | w2ned@frontiernet.net |
| Tim Brown | WB2PAY | Ogden | tjbrown@rochester.rr.com |
| Reiner Dieg | N2PEZ | | n2pez@arrl.net |
| Pete Fournia | W2SKY | Penfield | pfournia@gmail.com |
| Bill Hopkins | AA2YV | Brighton | whopkin4@naz.edu |
| Bob Karz | K2OID | Webster | rkarz@rochester.rr.com |
| Joe Rowe | AG2Y | Webster | ag2y@rochester.rr.com |
| Harry Williams | KF2TV | Kingsland, GA | harryw7872@gmail.com |

April Meeting Raffle Prizes

- Electricians Fundamental Kit
- Focusing LED Flashlight
- Multi Color Dimmable Head Lamp
- Infrared Thermometer
- Laser Distance Measure



PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

I have seen an increase in the need for interoperability in our Public Service event communications. Communications interoperability is defined as the ability of emergency response agencies to talk across disciplines and jurisdictions via radio communications systems, exchanging voice and/or data with one another on demand, in real-time, when authorized.

Several events described in past RARA Rag articles have involved communication services other than traditional Amateur Radio. Some examples are:

- During the Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta, FRS (Family Radio Service) radios were used to communicate regarding parking, and a listening watch was maintained on Marine Channel 13 for boats transiting the area and the Monroe County Sheriff's boat.
- For the Wilmot Cancer Center Breakaway Ride, trunked radios loaned by Monroe County were used to communicate in areas with marginal amateur repeater coverage and for direct communication with non-hams. These are likely part of a public safety communication system.
- The Tour de Cure has utilized cell phone numbers and the cellular network for communication with non-ham team members. Rented commercial simplex radios have also been used for communication with non-ham volunteers. In a more recent instance, the Zello Push to Talk APP, which uses the cellular network, was planned as a backup channel and specifically for communication with non-ham drivers from West Herr car dealerships.
- Three Monroe County ARES members participating in the New York State Communications Exercise used a variety of OIEC (Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications) deployable equipment, which included setting up radio consoles, laptops, and phones. W2COP, KD2PTJ, AD2DB, along with another AUXCOMM trainee learned the value of communication beyond just amateur radio.
- During the Pumpkin Patrol, P25 trunked radios and the Zello channel were added to counter interference, indicating the use of these non-ham radio communication methods alongside amateur radio.

These examples highlight the integration of various communication technologies alongside amateur radio to support the needs of public service events and to facilitate communication with non-ham volunteers and agencies. For all of our events, we have utilized wifi or cellular internet connections for public telephone access, weather radar, cloud-based record keeping, and repeater communications via Allstar on the internet.

I subscribe to an email and groups.io list from RATPAC Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee. Their website is <https://www.ratpac.us> and there you will find many articles regarding various Ham Radio presentations

and lists. Of particular interest are articles about the fires in Los Angeles and Hawaii and floods in the Carolinas.

Visit the Public Service Page at <https://rochesterham.org> for more information or to volunteer. The table following summarizes our upcoming Public Service Calendar.

HELP WANTED PUMPKIN PATROL

EDWARD WILKONSKI, K1EM, PUBLIC COORDINATOR

RARA has been engaged in Pumpkin Patrol as a Public Service to assist in New York State Troopers for more than 30 years. This endeavor requires a minimum of one volunteer for four hours of surveillance on each of the 16 New York State Thruway overpasses in Monroe County on October 30th and 31st. Additionally, two volunteers are required to supply refreshments and snacks for 9 bridges each and one more volunteer is required to coordinate the activities. Please, see the display board at the April meeting.

This year, I am putting out an early request for volunteers, not only to cover the bridges but also Goodie Patrol. I am now 85, and perhaps younger than some of the past participants, and have enjoyed my time engaged in Pumpkin Patrol, but I think it is time for some others to consider volunteering for the various positions. I would be happy to mentor anyone who steps up.

2025 RARA Public Service Events April

| Event | Location | Day | Date |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Tour de Cure | Stokoe Farms | Saturday | Jun. 7, 2025 |
| Adirondack Expo | Mendon Ponds | Sunday | Jun. 14, 2025 |
| MS Roc the Ride Great Lakes | Lakeside State Park | Saturday | Aug. 9, 2025 |
| Mammoth March | Letchworth State Park | Saturday | Aug. 9, 2025 |
| ILLW | Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse | Saturday - Sunday | Aug. 16, 17, 2025 |
| Fairport Liftbridge Regatta | Perinton Park | Saturday | Sep. 20, 2025 |
| Wilmot Warrior Weekend | Xerox Webster | Sunday | Sep. 28, 2025 |
| JOTA and/or CTC | Camp Cutler Naples | Saturday | Oct. 18, 2025 |
| Pumpkin Patrol | Overpasses of the New York State Thruway | Thursday - Friday | Oct. 30, 31, 2025 |
| Maker Faire | Gordon Field House RIT? | Saturday | Nov. 15, 2025 |

RARA POTA ACADEMY

MIKE KENNERKNECHT, N2MAK, DIRECTOR

Whether you are new to **Parks on the Air** (POTA), an experienced activator, or regular hunter, the RARA POTA Academy is a great opportunity to get together with other hams to learn about POTA, get expert tips and advice, and most importantly, get on the air! The last two years, we've had more than 30 people attend these events, and given the growth and excitement around POTA, we expect another great turnout this year.

The 3rd RARA POTA Academy will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2025 at the Roberts Cabin in Henrietta's Veterans Memorial Park, located at 595 Calkins Road, Rochester, NY 14623. If you would like to help with setup, meet us there at 10:30 a.m. We'll plan to get going around 11:00 a.m.

Inside, the cabin has restrooms and a full kitchen, so feel free to bring your own lunch or a dish to share with others. As usual, we will have door prizes and RARA will provide soft drinks, some food, and all the cups, plates, napkins and silverware needed. You are more than welcome to bring a dish or refreshments to pass and share, which I'm sure others would appreciate too.

The Roberts Cabin has a covered patio, so we'll be able to operate from picnic tables with cover from the sun or rain. There are plenty of trees and space for antennas to go up too.

RARA will have club radios, antennas, and bandpass filters, but please feel free to bring your own equipment. This is a great opportunity to share and check out each other's gear, and maybe even learn a few tips and tricks.

Topics we plan to cover include: rules for activating a park, modes of operation (voice, CW, FT8); logging contacts; setting up a portable station (masts, throw-line, mag mounts), finding/reading park maps, and more! Plus, this event occurs during the POTA Support Your Parks Spring Event, so anybody who activates the park with us and submits their own log will get a special award certificate from POTA.

If you are not signed up for POTA yet, please go to their website at www.parksontheair.com and click "Help/Getting Started" at the top of the page. This is required for you to submit your logs and the process is quick and easy.

We hope to see you out there. POTA on!



RARA HAMFEST 2025 SPONSORS

FOREST SHICK, WA2MZG, RAFFLE PRIZE COORDINATOR

It is very important to support the companies and organizations that sponsor prizes for our Hamfest Door Prize and Raffle. As of this writing, the following companies, with their years of sponsorship, have indicated that they will provide a prize.

- DX Engineering – 7 years
- Easy Way Ham Books – 3 years
- Elecraft – 5 years
- Heil Sound – 3 years
- PowerWerx – new sponsor
- Radioddity – new sponsor
- RW Antenna – new sponsor
- Tigertronics – 6 years

RARA HAMFEST SPONSORS PLEASE SUPPORT OUR HAMFEST SPONSORS



When you purchase from
one of our sponsors,
PLEASE mention RARA
and **THANK** them for their
support

Coming Soon

DX Engineering
Easy Way Ham Books
Elecraft
Heil Sound
PowerWerx

Riioddity



<https://www.radioddity.com/>

RARA CALENDAR

| April 2025 | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | 1 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt ZL Sprint | 2 RARA Monthly Mtg BSA & ONLINE 7pm ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7pm A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 QRP Foxhunt Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest | 3 RARA BoD Mtg 6:30pm ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB Walk for the Bacon QRP NRAU 10m Activity Contest SKCC Sprint (Europe) NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test QRP Foxhunt SARL 80m QSO Party | 4 K1USN Speed Test | 5 MS, MO, LA QSO Parties PODXS 070 New Member Event FL, GA State Parks on the Air SP DX Contest EA RTTY Contest RSGB FT4 Activity Day YBDXPI SSB Contest George Batterson 1935 QSO Pty |
| 6 MS, MO, LA QSO Parties PODXS 070 New Member Event FL, GA State Parks on the Air SP DX Contest EA RTTY Contest RSGB FT4 Activity Day YBDXPI SSB Contest George Batterson 1935 QSO Pty | 7 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest RSGB 80M Club Contest CW ARS Spartan Sprint | 8 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt ZL Sprint NAQCC CW Sprint DARC RTTY Sprint | 9 A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 | 10 NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint | 11 K1USN Speed Test QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party | 12 George Batterson 1935 QSO Pty DIG QSO Party, CW IG-RY Worldwide RTTY Contest SKCC Sprintathon NM, ND, GA QSO Parties Yuri Gagarin DX Contest OK/OM DX Contest SSB Africa FT4 Contest |
| 13 ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB George Batterson 1935 QSO Pty DIG QSO Party, CW IG-RY Worldwide RTTY Contest SKCC Sprintathon NM, ND, GA QSO Parties Yuri Gagarin DX Contest OK/OM DX Contest SSB | 14 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest 144 MHz Spring Sprint Hungarian Straight Key Contest | 15 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt ZL Sprint | 16 A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 RSGB 80m Club Champ, SSB Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest | 17 NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint QRP Foxhunt | 18 K1USN Speed Test WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY World Wide Holyland Contest ES Open HF Championship | 19 Drumlins Hamfest, Palmyra Holyland DX Contest Worked All China Contest ES, YU, EA-QRP(CW) Contests CQMM DX Contest ON, NE MI QSO Parties Dutch PACCdigi Contest QRP to the Field CQMM DX Contest |
| 20 Worked All China Contest ES, YU, EA-QRP(CW) Contests CQMM DX Contest ON, QE QSO Parties EA-QRP CW Contest CQMM DX Contest International Vintage Contest HF | 21 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest DARC Easter Contest | 22 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt ZL Sprint 222 MHz Spring Sprint SKCC Sprint | 23 A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 | 24 NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint RSGB 80m Club Champ,Data | 25 K1USN Speed Test | 26 Helvetia Contest 10-10 Spring Contest, Digital UK/EI DX Contest CW FL QSO Party SP DX RTTY Contest FL QSO Party |
| 27 Helvetia Contest 10-10 Spring Contest, Digital UK/EI DX Contest CW FL QSO Party SP DX RTTY Contest FL QSO Party UA1DZ Memorial Cup BARTG Sprint 25 | 28 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest QCX Challenge | 29 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt SKCC Sprint ZL Sprint | 30 A1 Club AWT CWOps Test UKEICC 80m Contest Mini Test 40, 80 432 MHz Spring Sprint Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest | | | |

MARCH Meeting Review

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Our president Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ presented the business part of the meeting with contributions from others. Notable was the exciting announcement that our Hamfest is on track for June! As usual the raffle had some great prizes including two that were donations made during the meeting. Thanks to Forest Shick WA2MZG and Jeff Sonstein WA2RRB for doing such a great job organizing that. As always, an important part of the meeting is socializing before it starts or during the break, while enjoying coffee and donuts of course. Thanks to Brian O'Connor KA2CGB for organizing the refreshments.



The presentation was on the general topic of direction finding by radio and our speakers were Jon Dickason N2JAC, George Adams K4GWA and Galen Guyer K9FGT. They covered many aspects of direction finding including Fox Hunting and, of course, ways of tracking down causes of interference, whether that be a faulty power line or an illicit jammer. That started a lot of interesting discussions. They also covered equipment needed including antennas you can build. Turns out even without a directional antenna you can do some tracking using your body as a shield. I had never thought of that.

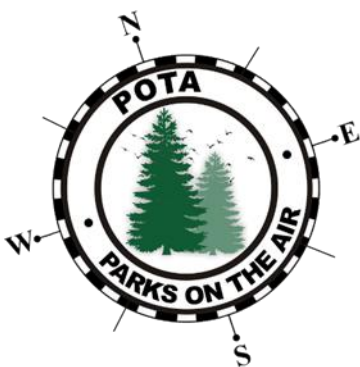
VHF FM ACTIVITY DAY: JUNE 15

EV TUPIS, W2EV, ARRL WESTERN NY ASSISTANT SECTION MANAGER

VHF Activity Days are designed to encourage licensees to power-up their VHF FM home radio, handi-talkie, or mobile, and engage in brief contacts with others on non-repeater (also known as SIMPLEX) frequencies.

If you haven't already, now is the time to mark your calendar for Sunday, June 15th when amateur radio operators across Western New York will be activating non-repeater FM frequencies and making contacts! Plan to join-in on the fun with Parks-on-the-Air, Summits-on-the-Air, and VHF Contest activity on 146.52, 146.55, 146.58, 223.50, and 446.00 MHz.

VHF Activity Day will make it easy to make lots of brief contacts with lots of different stations! So, what can you expect on June 15th? Fun of course, as you exchange simple and short contact information with others.



Let's start with what to expect from Parks-On-The-Air (POTA) activators. The POTA program encourages operators known as "Activators" to set-up stations state in parks and to make as many contacts as possible from them. They will call "CQ POTA" in the hopes that others known as "Hunters" will hear them and respond.

While you will likely hear Activators in our local area, better equipped Hunters may hear stations in Southern Ontario, Canada, too! Stations with outside antennas will hear more stations, but don't be discouraged if you don't have one (yet). Give it a go from a car. Even HT's can make a

few contacts, too.

When hearing an Activator call, "CQ POTA" followed by their call sign, the rest of us simply call them and exchange information. The Activator will provide a signal report and the "designation" for the park they are in. For example, an Activator in the Ganondagan State Historic Site will respond with a signal report and the designator for the site, "US-12183". Here is a typical exchange that could occur between an Activator (N2MAK) and "one of us" (a Hunter) on 146.52 MHz:

CQ POTA, this is N2MAK at the Ganondagan State Historic Site
N2MAK, this is K5KHK
K5KHK, this is N2MAK. You are 59 in park US-12183, QSL?
N2MAK, this is K5KHK. QSL. You are also 59. Thanks for being there!
(N2MAK responds) Roger. QSL the 59 in return and very 73.
This is where N2MAK calls CQ again.

We "Hunters" may log the contact for POTA awards (see POTA.app website), but there is no requirement for us to do so.

The POTA.app website has a map of locations that can be or have been activated. You can see that there are many Park opportunities for us simply by zooming in to our region. Here is a screen-clip showing all of the POTA eligible places in our area. **Let's have fun on June 15th!**



UNDERSTANDING THE S-METER IN HAM RADIO AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO SIGNAL REPORTS

KARL HEINZ KREMER, K5KHK, LICENSE CLASS COORDINATOR

I could not attend the last Elmers Corner, but it came to my attention that there was a brief discussion about the S-meters, their accuracy, and signal reports that did not cover all the aspects.

Let's see if we can fill in some of the gaps.

What is an S-Meter?

The S-meter, short for signal strength meter, is an instrument found in most ham radio transceivers. It provides a visual representation of the strength of received signals on a scale typically ranging from S1 to S9, with additional indicators for signals stronger than S9. The S-meter helps operators assess the quality of incoming signals and make necessary adjustments to enhance communication. S-meters come in both analog and digital variations. My old Yaesu FT-840 has a nice analog meter, whereas my KX3 shows a bar graph to illustrate the strength of a signal.

How Does the S-Meter Work?

The S-meter operates by measuring the voltage of the received signal. When a radio frequency (RF) signal is received by the antenna, it is converted into an electrical signal by the receiver. This electrical signal is then amplified and processed within the receiver circuitry. The S-meter taps into this circuitry and measures the signal's voltage level, displaying it on the meter's scale. This means that the voltage is not measured at the antenna connector, and therefore is already processed by the radio when its amplitude is determined.

The scale of an S-meter is logarithmic, meaning that each increase of one S-unit represents a roughly fourfold increase in signal strength, or power of the received signal. For example, a signal that reads S9 is four times as strong as a signal reading S8 – or an increase in 6dB. For signals stronger than S9, additional decibel (dB) values are often used to indicate the excess strength, such as S9+10dB, S9+20dB, and so on.

At least that is the theory: Different radios may not agree on what the difference between an S8 and S9 is, or if every step in S-meter readings is the same.

To calibrate the S-meter, a signal with voltage of 50 μ V RMS (which means about 141 μ V peak-to-peak) is applied to the 50 Ω antenna input. This should result in an S9 reading. If not, follow the instructions for your radio to calibrate the S-meter. If you have a signal generator that can output signals with levels specified in dBm, this is the same as -73dBm. For example, a TinySA can be used for that.

There are S9 signal generators available for the purpose of calibrating S-meters – either as ready to use devices (see the device from our member Rich Place

WB2JLR) or to build from scratch. This old NorCal QRP Club project has the schematic in the manual that you can find at the bottom of this page:

<https://www.norcalqrp.org/s1s9generator.htm>



When S9 is Not S9

Depending on the overall configuration of the receiver, the S9 signal may not sound any louder than the S8 signal. If the AGC (automatic gain control) is enabled, it will make all reasonably strong signals sound about the same.

As I've mentioned before, the reading of the signal strength is not done at the antenna connector of the radio. There is "stuff" being done to the signal before the meter reading is taken. Some radios compensate for that, others do not: When the attenuator is engaged, or the pre-amp is turned off, the S-meter reading may be off. Let's take my KX3 as an example again: The only time the S-meter reading is accurate, is when no attenuation is taking place and the pre-amp is enabled. A signal that would be reported as an S9 with the pre-amp on is all of a sudden only an S4 when I turn it off, and a signal that can easily be copied may not move the needle (or in this case the bar graph) at all.

The Relationship Between S-Meter Readings and Signal Reports

In ham radio, signal reports are a standardized way for operators to communicate the quality of a received signal to the transmitting station. Signal reports typically consist of the RST system, which stands for Readability, Signal Strength, and Tone. The readability scale ranges from 1 to 5, signal strength from 1 to 9, and tone from 1 to 9 (for Morse code or digital signals).

In theory, there is no relationship between the S-meter and the “S” component of an RST signal report. The signal strength, as used in a signal report is defined as follows (source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R-S-T_system):

1. Faint—signals barely perceptible
2. Very weak signals
3. Weak signals
4. Fair signals
5. Fairly good signals
6. Good signals
7. Moderately strong signals
8. Strong signals
9. Extremely strong signals

The S-meter reading is a quantitative – or measured – assessment of the signal strength, whereas the S in RST is a qualitative – or subjective – assessment. A signal that comes in as an S1 on my radio may be perfectly fine, and I would not have any problems copying it (assuming that there is no QRM or QRN), but that is not what the table above says: An RST S value of 1 would be barely perceptible, which means that I can kind of feel that it's there, but I can very likely not copy it. On the other hand – due to the AGC in our radios – anything above an S5 may be perceived as an “Extremely strong signal”.

Should you rely on the S-meter to hand out a 599 or a 519? I go with how I hear a signal, and if it's strong – regardless of the S-meter reading, it will be a “9”.

The S-meter is an indispensable tool in the realm of ham radio, providing valuable insights into the strength and quality of received signals. It should however not play any role in reporting RST signal reports.

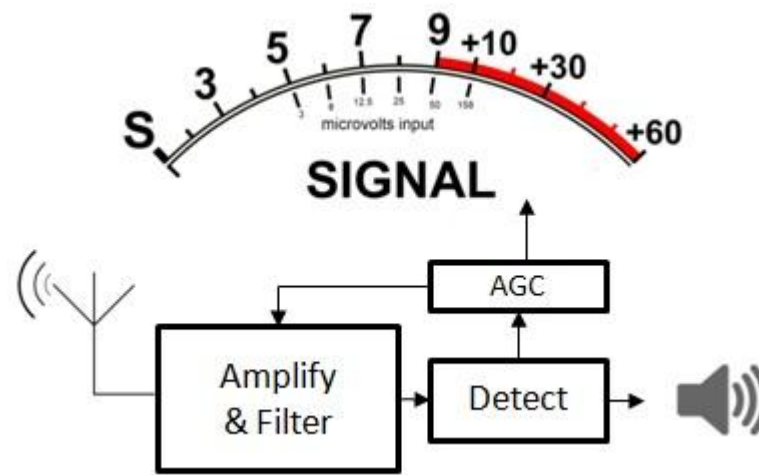


Diagram from <https://play.fallows.ca/wp/radio/shortwave-radio/s-meter-accuracy-not-much/?subscribe=pending#subscribe-blog-1>

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TRANSFORMERS FOR END-FED HALF-WAVE ANTENNAS

JOHN VIGGIANO, NV2K

Editors' Note: This article is a companion to the RARA Academy announcement of the **End-Fed Half-Wave (EFHW) Antenna Build Session**

End-fed half-wave (EFHW) antennas have been quite popular for the past several years. Reasons for their popularity include ease of deployment, and, in some cases, multi-band operation on harmonically-related bands. As voltage-fed antennas, they require some form of matching network to match the low impedance transmitter output to the high impedance at the end of a half-wavelength wire. These matching networks include Zepp-feed, parallel LC tank, L-network, and transformer.

The first three options are tied to a specific frequency. Even though a half-wave wire will exhibit parallel resonance on all of its harmonics, the matching for these options is tied to a single frequency, usually the fundamental. A transformer has a much wider range, and can typically provide a reasonable match over three octaves or more.

In addition, the first three options require tuning to bring the network to resonance. The transformer is inherently resonant, or nearly so, and is not as fussy to align. Small wonder, then, that the transformer match recently seems to have enjoyed the most popularity.

The ARRL has taken the unusual action of offering an EFHW antenna kit based on this type of match, for a cost of \$79.99, plus shipping. It is based on the Fair-Rite 2.4-inch 43-mix material toroid (Fair-Rite part number 5943003801; Amidon designation FT240-43), and uses an inductively-linked input, 1:7 turns ratio¹ (1:49 impedance ratio), with wide-spaced turns.

Core Selection

While the arrangement in the ARRL kit will work, objective measurements by Owen Duffy VK2OMD (ex-VK1OD), and Colin MM0OPX, have shown it to be inefficient. MM0OPX constructed a pair, connected them back-to-back, and measured S_{21} to obtain their efficiency; his measurements are available at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13klmt_tkezngocXQ5tOBDkTscp5F-RFD.

Analysis of their work indicates that cores with larger ratios of height to effective magnetic path length (l_e), i.e., taller, "chunkier" cores, tend to produce lower loss. VK2OMD identified inductance leakage as a bandwidth-limiting factor, and enumerated several strategies to minimize this undesirable factor:



Figure 1: Evil Lair's matching transformer

- Close-winding
- No crossover
- Wire "hugging" core
- Relatively high core permeability
- Autotransformer, rather than distinct primary and secondary

Of several alignments tested by MM0OPX for operation on 100w digital HF, the best was based on a Fair-Rite 2643251002 core (no Amidon designation, but would be FT153-43, or something similar), using 14- or 15-turn close-wound auto-transformer with primary tap at 2 turns, for 1:49 and 1:56.25 impedance ratios. The 15-turn autotransformer, with a 100pF compensation capacitor, showed efficiencies of 89% (at 10m) and better (15m - 160m). MM0OPX's measurements for these two alignments do not appear in the spreadsheet cited earlier, but are shown in one of his videos at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SHvOE8dV3w>.

¹ Convention is to report the turns or impedance ration of a transformer as primary:secondary

A person who chooses to remain anonymous, presumably because of ad-hominem attacks and flame wars directed at him, publishes results under the moniker “Evil Lair Electronics.” He has produced several videos available on YouTube, and has a project at an online repository, <https://github.com/evil-lair/EFHW-antennas/>. An external view of one of his projects appears in Figure 1.

It is likely this core, and ones like it, escaped notice until recently because they are classified by their manufacturer as “Round Cable EMI Supression Cores,” rather than as “Toroids,” and do not appear in the Amidon catalog.

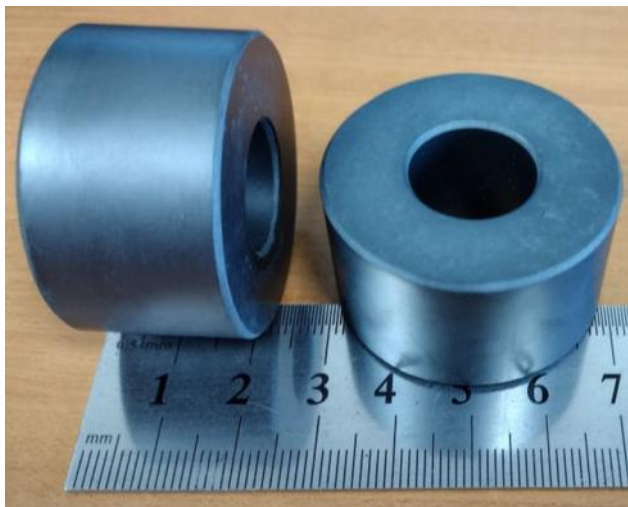


Figure 2: Efficient core, Fair-Rite 2643251002

Photo from SOTABeams

Commercially available alternatives

Listed here are representative samples of commercially-available alternative antennas. Products sold only through sites like ebay and etsy were not considered when assembling this brief list.

The 10m-40m low-power EFHW antenna from Myantennas uses the core shown in Figure 2 Assembled, it sells for \$134, plus shipping.

<https://myantennas.com/wp/product/efhw-4010-lp/>

MFJ 1984MP is similar; rated at 300W PEP; \$89.95, assembled

<https://mfjenterprises.com/products/mfj-1984mp>

Chameleon LEFS-4010 is a lightweight EFHW rated for 100W SSB, 50w CW, 25W digital. They say it can be used for both portable and fixed use. It appears to use a Fair-Rite 59XX002701 (‘XX’ is the material, probably 43; Amidon designation FT140-XX) core, which does not perform as well as the core used in the Myantennas product. \$175, assembled, with carrying pouch

<https://chameleonantenna.com/shop-here/ols/products/cha-lefs-4010>

Compensating capacitor

Reliable sources recommend a 100 to 120 pF compensating capacitor in shunt with the input. The required DC working voltage rating for a capacitor shunting an antenna system is:

$$WV_{\min} = SF \cdot V_{p-p},$$

where SF is the safety factor and V_{p-p} is the peak-to-peak voltage, which may be calculated as:

$$V_{p-p} = \sqrt{8P_{PE} \cdot |Z_0| \cdot SWR_{\max}}$$

P_{PE} is the peak envelope power, Z_0 is the impedance of the feed, and SWR_{\max} is the highest tolerable standing wave ratio.

For CW, RTTY, FM, FT8, and other constant-envelope modes, RMS power and peak envelope power are the same. For SSB, PEP can be as high as 2.5 times RMS power. For a transceiver rated at 100W RMS, P_{PE} may be as high as 250W.

The EFHW antenna is designed to be resonant on all bands of operation. A maximum SWR of 2.5 (2.5:1) should be sufficient. (Note that this is the SWR at the input side of the transformer, the side presented to the transceiver.) If one wishes to operate the antenna on non-resonant bands, a larger maximum SWR may need to be accounted for.

The minimum working voltage, based on a safety factor of 2, input impedance of 50Ω , maximum peak power of 250W, and maximum SWR at transformer input of 2.5, is 1kV. Multi-layer COG/NPO (extremely low thermal coefficient) ceramic capacitors are available at this working voltage.

Summary

End-fed antennas seem to be favored by many HF operators, in part because of their ease of deployment. End-fed half-wave antennas, fed by a transformer, have the additional advantage of operation on harmonically-related bands. Recent studies, based on measurements of actual constructed specimens, show that taller, chunkier ferrite transformer cores perform better than flatter and wider cores.

THE TREE HAD TO GO, WHAT THEN?

BILL HOPKINS, AA2YV

Do you lack one “leg” to hang a dipole or long wire? I may have a solution for you.

Problems many of us have raising an antenna is just one tree to do all the lifting, or maybe no trees. If the tree is in the middle of your lot, you’re in luck; you can put up a true Inverted Vee. If you have two trees but they’re a bit shy in distance for a dipole or a G5RV on 40 meters, what do you do? Or if you have no trees or just one tree on your perimeter, what then?

Here’s what happened to me. I have the luxury of enough room for a ZS6BKW dipole (at 92ft in length) strung at 35-ish feet at the center. I have used two trees on the diagonals of the lot, but I still had to slope one side down to squeeze everything in.

By the way, I use a “messenger line” from tree to tree and hang the center of the antenna right where I can get my 40ft of 450 ohm ladder line to come down at a right angle from the antenna and over to the shack.

The antenna has no tension on it. It looks slightly droopy but the messenger line hangs taught, like a Vee. Thus, both antenna ends sag slightly as they extend toward the trees. That’s a good thing: no snapping during windstorms and no antenna stretching through time.

One antenna end extends slightly upward to the taller tree and parallels the messenger line), ending at about 40ft. At the lower end in the back yard, I brought it down to a branch of an American Chestnut (one of two), squeezing it in at maybe 25 feet. So, I had a sloper, and it’s a keeper for DX.

But then the axman came. We had to cut down the dying American Chestnut, a truly rare tree these days (wet eyes in the house). The twin Chestnut still stands but can’t be used for my 92ft dipole, although I use it for the messenger line. I was “up a gum stump.”

I located my solution at the paint shop, more precisely, at Home Depot. There I saw an extension pole, the Sherlock, made by Wooster, for just under \$40. It extends between 8 and 23 feet. It’s robust enough for the lower side of my antenna (remember, no tension to speak of).

I lashed the pole to the chain link fence on the back corner of the yard, just beyond where the ailing Chestnut stood, and employed a small, no-snap stainless steel marine pulley to haul up the antenna cord. Several large black plastic ties hold the magnificence together. I was back in business. I touch the ionosphere as well as before. On 10meters SSB, I easily work Oceania, and my morning net buddies can’t tell the difference. If you are tree poor, you may need to go painting.



MOST ASTRONAUTS ARE HAMS

JON DICKASON, N2JAC

Sunita 'Suni' Williams has been in the news recently because her planned 8 day trip to the International Space Station has turned into an extended stay because of problems with the spacecraft she was supposed to return in. What you may not know is that some of us hams, led by W2SKY in 2007 helped students at Sherman Elementary in Henrietta talk with Suni on one of her previous space station missions. With a direct VHF radio link to the ISS as it made a 9 minute pass over the US, students asked Suni, KD5PLB, questions and heard her replies. My job in the team was to help the students aim the directional antenna as the station flew overhead 245 miles up. In 2003, at Klem Rd. Elementary in Webster, we enabled students to talk with astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, a former student of that very same school. The ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) program continues to this day, enabling students around the world to talk with ham astronauts. www.ariss.org



Astronaut Sunita Williams. KD5PLB, speaks to students during a school contact

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. The meeting in November is on the third Thursday to avoid interfering with Thanksgiving. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The meetings are in person at 6:00 PM at the county EOC in even months and at the Red Cross in odd months. They are also available via Zoom. Please check our website for any schedule changes. Prospective members can request an invitation by email to: secretary@monroecountyemcomm.org.

Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, on the W2ARM 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL and 444.45 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz PL repeaters. Our club callsign is WB2EOC. On nights when we hold our regular meeting, the net is at 5:30 PM.

Web: www.monroecountyemcomm.org

Facebook: Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc.
Twitter @MCARESNY

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

Please check our website www.rdxa.com for up-to-date information regarding meeting locations and requirements, if any.



XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club is meeting quarterly at the Webster Recreation Center. Dates, time, and Zoom meeting info, when available, is sent out to our mailing list. How to subscribe and up-to-date information is always on our website at <http://xarc.us>. We have a System Fusion repeater south of the city on 145.290, and another on 444.825 west of the city. An XLX reflector, XLX927, and YSF Reflector 00927 are typically bridged to the 145.29 machine, as well as Wires-X Room 21704. The system is DMR capable pointing your hotspot to XLX927.

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, ARAST

ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Emergency Communications Center on Harris Hill in Big Flats, next to the National Soaring Museum. Our Chemung County ARES (CCARES) organization meets the first Tuesday of the month at the same location. Both organizations serve amateurs in Chemung County and the surrounding counties in New York and Pennsylvania. All are welcome to attend our meetings, which begin at 7 p.m. All monthly meetings are held both in person and on Zoom.

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, both with a PL of 123.0. The latter can also be accessed via Echolink node 574415 with the call sign KD2QND-R. A full list of repeaters in the Twin Tiers area can be found at http://www.arast.info/arast_website/public/repeaters.php.

We also invite you to check out our 6-meter net on Wednesday evenings at 9 p.m. local time on 50.200 MHz USB. We welcome participation from RARA members.

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 including: 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!

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/>

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.

KEUKA LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, KLARA

Our meetings are always the 2nd Wednesday. Dish to pass meal at 6pm with meeting at 7pm. All are welcome.

Don't forget our daily Monday thru Friday 75 meter HF net. Check in at 7:45am starts 8:00 am on 3.896. Always a great way to start your day.

73, Belinda KD2BPJ

ORLEANS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Orleans County ARC meets every 2nd 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.

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.

Join our weekly on-the-air nets on SSB:
2 meter band - Monday 9 PM 144.260 USB
6 meter band - Thursday 9 PM 50.205 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.

SKENOH ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club 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 April 9th. There will not be license testing in April.

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.

73's
Steve Benton
WB2VMR
AUXCOMM
Ontario County RACES Radio Officer
ARES Emergency Coordinator

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

The current club officers are Bob Odell, N2BZX - President, Bob Shewell, N2HJD - Vice President, Jay Stewart, W4JPS - Secretary, and Jerry Powell, KC2YSY - Treasurer / Membership Chairman. 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 using PayPal. www.k2rra.org

AWA MUSEUM SPRING MEET MAY 3, 2025 IN BLOOMFIELD, NY

Go to: <http://www.antiquewireless.org/> for details

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 club, 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, co-operation 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. |

RAGS OF THE PAST

ED GABLE, K2MP, RARA HISTORIAN

20 Years Ago – March 2005

Tim Magee WB2KAO, RARA Vice President and Program Manager, wrote to tell of the March 4th meeting to be on the subject of Amateur Radio Television (ATV) operation. Three local ATV enthusiasts will share the spot light for the presentation, those being Bob Erskine (sk) W2NVZ, Bill McDonnell KG2F and George Lloyd N2UIO. The program covered aspects of ATV technical matters and needed equipment as well as plans for the build, installation and usage of an ATV repeater within the Rochester/Monroe County area.

RARA's Public Service Coordinator, Keith Freeberg (sk) N2BEL, inked a page and a half with an amazing list of ham radio communications public service events firmly added to the calendar for 2005. Keith, this early in the year, has firm dates for twenty events. Some sounded familiar: STPR, Stuart Horse Trials, Walnut Hill and others, while many more are first time events. Keith offered the many new activities come from a well earned reputation by ham operators who reliably and professionalism provide unique radio communication services much needed for event coordination and safety.

Pater Fournia W2SKY, RARA Education Chairman, filled a page in this issue focusing on two Explorer Posts this year in cooperation with Eastman Kodak Company. Each post had about 16 active members aged from 14 to 17, where they were exposed to technologies and careers in electronics and telecommunications. Coordination and planning took considerable effort and RARA members Greg Michels KC2GXV, Bill Kraft WB2IHM, Bill Hopkins AA2YV and Jon Dickason N2JAC completed that task well. Kodak not only provided mentors and guidance but also offered the use of their facilities at the Kodak Amateur Radio Club, WB2WXQ. Kodak contributors consisted of George Masny KA2GPJ and Charlie Escriva KB2SGZ. The formal post, aka Explorer Post #621, held twelve, two-hour sessions with emphasis using hands-on training of test equipment and lab work to aid in basic electronic education. The second, Post #622, focused on training for members to obtain an Amateur Radio license. Those sessions were made possible by volunteers from the Xerox ARC and consisted of Mike Ishler KE2LU, Bob Karz K2OID, Larry Lavery WW2J, Chuck Blocker KC2IQV and Peter Fournia W2SKY. The class ending licensing exams were coordinated by RARA's Volunteer Examining team headed by Cheryl Joyce AB2NU.

The news from the Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA) came to this issue via Brad Allen (sk) KB2CHY, who told of plans and requested help from members in two areas. First was their plan to conduct a Hamfest/Flea market in the near future. The location has been determined but a twelve-person committee is needed before commitment to that, so sign up now. Next was the need to continue the Talk-in-Station for the Rochester Hamfest previously coordinated by Ray Pickens (sk) WA2MYG, where volunteers are sought.

Rick Booth K2SA, one of the movers and shakers over at the 19/79 repeater, wrote to inform users that the repeater now has a requirement that your 146.19 transmitter have a 110.9 Hz sub-audible PL tone to key the repeater transmitter. This fairly standard addition is commonly added not to keep out any users but to avoid unintentional repeater key-ups caused by interfering erroneous signals from many sources.

Short and sweet, but important to many area hams and DX enthusiasts, was the report by RDXA President Rick Mintz W1TY, saying that their next meeting would feature Rus Healy K2UA, speaking on happenings at the last meeting of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. Good timing, too, as this is the start of ham band contesting where any mode. frequency and contest criteria awaits.

There were no Silent Keys listed in this issue, nor were there any used equipment offers of the Want Ads. There was a new commercial advertisement where you found a Help Wanted ad from TADA Communications, 202 East Ridge Road, Rochester. They were looking for a two-way radio technician in the field of trouble shooting and installation of new equipment in businesses and vehicles.



the RARA RAG

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NO. 7

Amateur Television at March 4 Meeting

By Tim Magee, WB2KAO
Vice President, RARA

The regular monthly meeting of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association will be held on March 4, 2005 at the Henrietta Fire Company #1 on East Henrietta Rd. at Lehigh Station Rd. Besides the usual business meeting there will be a demonstration and discussion on amateur television (ATV). The presentation will be conducted by a panel of three fellow amateurs, Bill McDonnell (KG2F), Bob Erskine (W2NVZ), and George Lloyd (N2UIO). Bill will provide details on the construction and operation of the ATV repeater, followed by the demonstration.

We appreciate these folks volunteering to present this program. It will be very entertaining and informative. See you there.

Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

The next meeting will beheld Wednesday, March 9, 8:30 AM at the Monroe County PSTC, Suite 200, 1190 Scottsville Road.

This is the county's planning sessions regarding emergency Operations and contingency planning and everyone is invited to attend. If you attend, please sign in as a radio amateur as a show of good faith and interest on our part.

Immediately following at 9:30 and at the same location, will be a meeting of the All Hazard Radio Project Prepare. This is a public alerting and Emergency preparedness initiative of the Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee. Again the public is invited.

Public Service Events On The Rise

By Keith Freeberg, N2BEL
Public Service Coordinator

It seems the great reputation of HAMS capability to perform essential communications has spread far and wide. The list below has been growing rapidly. These events represent a great combination of community interests and needs. The events are varied; some require just a two-meter handheld and other events cover areas that make a mobile rig essential for adequate coverage. And, the frosting on the cake, multiple modes of operation are useful in serving many of these events. This presents the opportunity to learn more about or brush up on Packet, APRS or multi-frequency operation skills.

Certainly there is something for everyone. Endurance events, automobile racing, working with youth, sporting events, walks, bicycle tours and more make up the mix of events. "And yes, there are some that we will be cooperating with other HAM clubs to complete the event."

The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service endorses these events as training events. Participation in these events is reported to the ARRL to verify ongoing training activities. If you are already an ARES member or interested in participating, active participation in two or three of these events will help maintain your trained and ready status.

(Public Service continued on page5)

RaRa MEETING

March 4, 2005

7:30 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall #1
3129 East Henrietta Road

Amateur Television

40 Years Ago – March 1985

The program for March, as listed in this Rag, featured a good friend of RARA and coming to our gathering from the ARRL. He was Bill Thompson W2MTA, the ARRL Western New York Section Manager who presented the latest news on the hottest topic of the day, ARRL restructuring. Bill also talked about the League's ARRL Special Service Club program of which RARA is a participating member.

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA) announced their annual Ham Auction would be held on Friday, March 15th. Not unnoticed was that fact that this date coincided with the then famous and much appreciated Kodak Bonus day placing fresh money in the pockets of many potential bidders. At that time ham auctions were often held at the Police and Fire Academy on Scottsville Road.

OK, it was snowy and cold, but the indoor facility and hot chili made you easily forget all that. The event, you ask? RARA's annual Winter Funfest held at Mendon Ponds Park would be the gleeful answer. Everyone in attendance had a great time despite a typical Rochester Winter storm.

An early ham radio activity each year is the ARRL VHF contest which is eagerly participated in by members and friends of the Rochester VHF Group. This is a serious contest effort locally and it brings out VHF Group'ers (yeh, they like that) as well as many HF guys and gals who light up their VHF/UHF equipment once a year to QSO as may contest stations as possible to bolster the VHF Group contest log entry. This year's single operator high scorer was K8ZES/2, with multi-op honors going to the gang at RF Communications operating their club station WB2PSI. Highest UHF scoring station was Chuck Oneske (sk) K2YCO, who was also awarded a special citation recognizing his twenty-five years of exceptional participation.

Writing for the Antique Wireless Association (AWA) was Steve Sykes KA2KGM (KD2OM), who reported on another early ham event each year, that being the AWA Old Timer's Night where participants need to be on-the-air using CW equipment built (or newly built using old parts) in 1929 or earlier. This is a really fun event and some signals heard were, shall we say, a bit weird. Local participants were Steve KD2OM, Bruce W2ICE, Linc W2LC and Ed K2MP.

A surprise announcement published here by Piedmont Airlines, reported special \$98.00 round trip flights from Rochester to Dayton during the Dayton Hamvention event. Several local hams took part.

A monthly columnist was Howie Davies N2CUN, who was a cop with the Rochester Police Department. This month's column had to do with modern ham VHF/FM transceivers that happen to tune up into the police frequencies. Doing so, Howie reported, is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine or jail sentence. That got our attention. He then explained licensed hams are exempt from this law.

There were no Silent Keys listed in this issue. From the Want Ads you could buy a mint Collins S-line from Ollie Sinclair K2BBK. Don Taylor KB2BU, offered an estate sale of approximately twenty pieces of test equipment and MIL surplus items. Robinson Rochester Cycles offering Triumph, BSA and other fine motorcycles for your riding pleasure from 900 W. Main St. Rochester, popped up again as a periodic commercial advertiser.



the RARA RAG

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MARCH 1st RaRa MEETING FEATURES LEAGUE RESTRUCTURING

The March meeting of RaRa will be Friday the 1st, 8 p.m., at the 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue.

The program this month will feature Mr. William Thompson, W2MTA. Bill is Section Manager for the Western New York Section, ARRL. He will talk on the recent restructuring of the League and how it affects our club. He will also discuss the Special Service Club and how it relates to the League and our section.

I am sure you will find this an interesting and informative meeting so lets have a good turnout.

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP ANNOUNCES VHF SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

| DONOR | TROPHY/AWARD | WINNER |
|-------------------------------|---|---------|
| SINGLE OPERATOR AWARDS | | |
| WB2PSI | HIGHEST SCORE | WB2ES/2 |
| WA2CBU | BEST ALL-AROUND EFFORT | WB2ES/2 |
| K2OS | BEST SCORE/QSO RATIO | WB2ES/2 |
| WB2ODH | BEST SCORE/BAND RATIO | WB2ES/2 |
| KATYE | BEST SCORE/GRID RATIO | WB2ES/2 |
| WA2YTM | HIGHEST UHF SCORE (220MHZ +) | K2YCO |
| WB2ELB | BEST QSO/BAND RATIO | K2AN |
| WB2IEY | LOWEST QSO/GRID RATIO | LZF |
| RVHFG | MOST CONTEST QSO'S | K2AN |
| RVHFG | SMACK-DAB-IN-THE-MIDDLE | WA2ZNC |
| RVHFG | 25 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL PARTICIPATION | K2YCO |
| RVHFG | NEATEST SUBMITTED LOG | K2BCL |
| RVHFG | BRINGING-UP-THE-REAR (LOWEST SUBMITTED SCORE) | WA2SOR |

| DONOR | TROPHY/AWARD | WINNER |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| MULTI-OPERATOR AWARDS | | |
| WB2MKN | HIGHEST SCORE | WB2PSI |
| WA2ZNC | BEST ALL-AROUND EFFORT | WB2PSI |

Rochester HAMFEST

MONROE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
May 17-18-19, 1985

RRRA-VHF GROUP AUCTION AT POLICE AND FIRE ACADEMY – MARCH 15th

Well, its Kodak Bonus time again – so it must be time for the annual RRRA-VHF Group auction.

Divide your excess equipment into the *goodies* the junk, and the *real* good stuff you want to donate to the Controller Fund. Leave the junk at your curbside and bring all the goodies to the Police and Fire Academy on Scottsville Road (next to the Burger King) on Friday, March 15th. Doors will be open at 7 p.m. and the auction will start promptly at 8 p.m.

The auction is open to all area hams and their guests. Sellers will pay 10% of the sale price to be divided between the two clubs. Five percent of the highest bid of donated items will go to the other club.

All items must be marked with the seller's name, a brief description of the item and its condition, and a starting bid.

FIELD DAY DATES

There is some confusion over the dates for Field Day this year. Field Day will be the weekend of June 22 - 23, 1985. Field Day has traditionally been held on the fourth weekend in June – and for the past 11 years, the fourth weekend has coincided with the last weekend in June – this year the fourth weekend is not the last weekend. Field Day will be held, as always, on the fourth weekend in June, the 22nd and 23rd.

Thx ARRL LETTER

DISCOUNT AIR FARES TO DAYTON HAMVENTION

Piedmont Airlines is offering a \$98 round-trip fare from Rochester, New York to Dayton, Ohio for the Dayton Hamvention. This offer is good April 25 to 30, and reservations must be made in advance at 1-800-334-8644. Thanks for this special offer go to Maurice Booth, WD5RGU, of Piedmont Dallas, and Fred Maia, W5YL.

RARA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

OFFICERS

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------|--|--|----------------|--|
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| Vice-President: Tim Barrett, K9VB | (646)496-5015 | vicepresident@rochesterham.org | Secretary: Mike Moore, KC2NM | (585) 721-0011 | secretary@rochesterham.org |

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| | | | | | |
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Community Amateur Radio Club (CARC)

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Digital Communications Association of Perinton (DCAP)

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drumlinsarc@gmail.com

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Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association (KLARA)

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David Duckles: rocmakers@gmail.com

MAY RAG DEADLINE
APRIL 15, 2025

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

JOIN US IN PERSON

Boy Scouts Headquarters at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline
Road, Rochester, New York 14623

OR

ONLINE AT:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/981333265263163738>

CONTACT WEBMASTER@ROCHESTERHAM.ORG FOR SUPPORT

Rochester Area Repeater Listing
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