

THE RARA RAG



February 2026



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- YL POTA



W1AW/2



JUNE 2026

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

Save the Date for the 2026
Rochester Hamfest

14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



THE RARA RAG

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

February 2026
Volume 78, Issue 6

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FEBRUARY PRESENTATION: A MESHTASTIC PRIMER

JEFF FULLER KE2ELI, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

While our January meeting looked at the high-power end of the spectrum, our next meeting turns toward the low-power, "off-grid" world.

Meshtastic is a relatively new communications technology that has been getting a lot of attention from technology hobbyists as well as the amateur radio community. It can be used to build low-cost, reliable, low-bandwidth, and off-grid wireless communications networks for communities, neighborhoods, families, and businesses.

Why It's Gaining Traction

Since Meshtastic uses LoRa (Long Range) radio technology on the license-free 900 MHz band, it allows anyone to get involved. It can optionally leverage the Internet to provide longer-distance communications and is perfect for transmitting simple text messages as well as GPS data and telemetry.

What to Expect

Don will introduce this technology. He will discuss:

- **The Hardware:** Low-cost hardware options to get started.
- **The Network:** How the "mesh" automatically routes messages without a central tower.
- **The Use Cases:** Practical applications for local communication.

Whether you're interested in off-grid communications or just love experimenting with new digital gadgets, you won't want to miss this session.

Please join us on February 4, 2026 at 7:00 PM, at the Boy Scouts Headquarters at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, New York 14623 or online at https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5vRnKIUKTWy63WAXqqHmtw



MADE IN THE USA

BOARDZ BUZZ

MIKE MOORE KC2NM, RARA SECRETARY

I hope everyone is enjoying the winter season and finding plenty of time for radio. It was excellent to see the strong turnout for our January meeting. Michael Walker's (VA3MW) presentation on the FlexRadio Aurora transceiver provided a fascinating look at the future of high-end SDR technology, and it certainly sparked some great conversations during the break.

The start of the year has been incredibly busy for RARA. A major highlight this month was the club's participation in the ARRL "Year of the Club" program. Thanks to the initiative of Ev Tupis, W2EV, and the coordination of Tim Barrett, K9VB, many of our members came together to put W1AW/2 on the air.

I had the opportunity to participate in this event at the Antique Wireless Museum's ham shack in East Bloomfield. My role was operating FT8, which was actually a brand-new experience for me. I was "Elmered" through the setup and operation by Steve Sykes, KD2OM. It was an impressive demonstration of the mode's efficiency; over the course of just three hours, we made contact with 70 stations, spanning nine European countries and all ten US Call Districts. It was a perfect example of why this club exists—to learn new skills from one another while representing the hobby to the wider world.



KC2NM operating W1AW/2 on FT8

As we look toward the spring, the Board is already shifting focus to Hamfest 2026. While June feels like a distant thought, the logistics of the event require months of preparation. We are currently seeking volunteers for the Hamfest Committee, specifically to help with the "Country Store" and raffle logistics. If you've enjoyed the

Hamfest in the past, please consider giving back a few hours of your time to ensure its continued success.

On the administrative side, the Board continues to monitor our financial health. As we've noted in previous issues, our operating expenses are rising while dues have remained unchanged for over a decade. We are working hard to find creative solutions to keep the club sustainable without placing a burden on the membership, and we welcome any suggestions or feedback you may have.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our February meeting. Until then, 73!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday February 4, 2026 - RARA Meeting 7:00 PM. In Person at Boy Scouts Headquarters, 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Rd, Rochester, NY 14623 and Online at this link
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5vRnKIUkTWy63WAXqgHmtw

Thursday February 5, 2026 - RARA Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM - ONLINE
Email request for link to secretary@rochesterham.org

Saturday February 7, 2026 10:00 AM Elmers Corner
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89478401962?pwd=XjgYqZGCihsvu6nERFPbbLuw1qHGnp.1>

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

TIM BARRETT K9VB, RARA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We have one new member this month, welcome to Trevor Smith, KE2GYO. Please look for new members at RARA events and make sure to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome!

Membership is climbing back up in our new membership year and now, as of mid-January we have 358 members, up 7 from a month ago. Thanks to all of you who have renewed or joined recently!

If you haven't renewed it yet or wish to join, please do so as soon as you can so we can get those numbers back up to our end of 2024-25 membership year number of 532!

If you are not sure of your membership status take a moment to go to the [renewal page](#) on our website to check that your membership is up to date, and if necessary you can renew from there.

When an associate member gets their license we upgrade them to full member at no extra cost, but the FCC does not inform us automatically. We often spot an upgrade but not always, so if you are recently licensed, please check that we have your call.

Unfortunately, our email problem is still with us and we apologize for that. It means confirmation of renewals or new member welcome emails appear to go out when I update the database but never actually make it to the outside world. We are working on a solution but in the meantime, if you want to check if your renewal was made please just go to the [renewal page](#) on our website.

Tim Barrett, K9VB membership@rochesterham.org.

JANUARY MEETING REVIEW

JEFF FULLER KE2ELI, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Flex Radio Aurora

Our January meeting was well attended, and for good reason. We were joined via Zoom by Mike Walker (VA3MW) from FlexRadio for an in-depth exploration of the highly anticipated Aurora series.

Mike provided a deep dive into the technical marvels of the Aurora, highlighting its revolutionary integrated design that combines a 500W amplifier, antenna tuner, and power supply into a single, high-efficiency chassis. It was fascinating to see how their "Polar Modulation" technology significantly reduces heat while maintaining a compact footprint.

The session sparked a high level of engagement, with Mike fielding a wide variety of "deep-dive" technical questions from our members. We want to extend a huge thank you to Mike for taking the time to share his expertise with us and for giving us a front-row seat to the next generation of SDR technology.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The RAG has been converted from Microsoft Publisher to Microsoft Word starting with this issue.

If you or your club has repeated input in our newsletter, please verify that it is correct. That email addresses and links are correct or any other "thing" you notice might be a problem.

In the future I will publish a new Formatting and Layout Hints specifically for WORD. Most of the previous hints are valid, especially NO SPECIAL FORMATTING. The first thing I do is to delete all your formatting.

Finally, I would like to thank **Suzanne Bishopp W2SUZ**, for the design of our new front cover – Thank You & Great Work!

PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

MIKE MOORE KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

The February public service articles in *THE RARA RAG* highlight the club's extensive involvement in providing communications for local events, community safety, and emergency preparedness. Here is a look ahead to our 2026 program.

Core Public Service Themes

- **Event Communication Support:** The club provides essential radio communications for numerous local events, including the **Mammoth March**, **Tour de Cure**, **MS ROC the Ride**, and the **Wilmot Warrior Ride**. We record the number of operators deployed and the specific safety roles they fulfilled.
- **Safety and Health Oversight:** Public service events emphasize that amateur radio operators ensure the health and safety of participants at large-scale community events.
- **ARES / RACES Integration:** RARA works closely with **Monroe County ARES / RACES** (Amateur Radio Emergency Service / Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service). This includes training for emergency situations and coordination with local government agencies.
- **Volunteer Recruitment:** For each event, we issue a "Call for Volunteers" to identify upcoming events that need communication support and to encourage members to sign up via the club's website.



Notable Event Highlights (2026)

- **Rochester Hamfest (June 2026):** While a club event, the public service aspect included providing free license exams and technical talks for the community.
- **Regatta Support:** Operators provide critical communication links for youth-focused regattas, ensuring family members and organizers can monitor the events safely.
- **Tour de Cure (June 2026):** A major recurring event requiring dozens of mobile and stationary operators to cover diverse routes. This year, we are requesting admission to the event contractors' radio system to restore a portion of our historical role. We continue at the Stokoe Farms Site.
- **Pumpkin Patrol (October):** In 2025, we used commercial and amateur radio to support our involvement in this statewide safety initiative to monitor highway overpasses. We will continue in this.

Notable Challenges (2026)

- **Recruitment and Retention:** A constant challenge is the need for more volunteers to staff community events. While the club successfully supports many events, the same core group of members often bears the brunt of the workload.
- **Leadership Vacancies:** The club has consistently struggled to recruit members to fill key leadership and coordination roles, such as event captains.
- **Communications Options:** The served agencies have options, including Push-to-Talk over Cellular and FRS Radios. Increasingly, we are asked to work with them on these services. We have extensive expertise to bring to these services.

Our 2026 event schedule is shown below.

Visit https://rochesterham.org/public_service.htm for more information or to sign up.

2026 RARA PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS FEBRUARY

Klondike Derby	Williamson Town Park	Saturday	Feb. 7, 2026
Tour de Cure	Stokoe Farms	Saturday	Jun. 6, 2026
Adirondack Expo	Mendon Ponds	Saturday	Jun. 13, 2026
MS Roc the Ride Great Lakes	Lakeside State Park	Saturday	Aug. 8, 2026
Mammoth March	Letchworth State Park	Saturday	Aug. 8, 2026
ILLW Day 1	Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse	Saturday	Aug. 15, 2026
ILLW Day 2	Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse	Sunday	Aug. 16, 2026
Fairport Liftbridge Regatta	Perinton Park	Saturday	Sep. 26, 2026
Wilmot Warrior Weekend	Xerox Webster	Sunday	Sep. 20, 2026
JOTA and/or CTC	Camp Cutler Naples	Saturday	Oct. 17, 2026
Pumpkin Patrol Oct 30	Overpasses of the New York State Thruway	Friday	Oct. 30, 2026
Pumpkin Patrol Oct 31	Overpasses of the New York State Thruway	Saturday	Oct. 31, 2026
Maker Faire	Gordon Field House RIT?	Saturday	Nov. 14, 2026



**SAVE THE DATE
HAMFEST 2026**

JUNE 2026

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

Save the Date for the 2026 Rochester Hamfest by RARA:
June 20th.

Volunteer opportunities and many, many more details to follow

14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



As an educational non-profit organization, education is a key part of RARA's mission.

A big component of our education program is our RARA Academy, run by Aaron KE2DYI. Check out his exciting ideas in his accompanying column. If you have an idea for a workshop or in-depth discussion of a particular topic, please contact Aaron at academy@rochesterham.org.

Aaron also coordinates our *Elmer's Corner*, a two-hour online forum for questions and answers. Find out more in Aaron's article.

Licensing/Upgrade Courses

RARA holds free, regular courses to assist those seeking their initial license in the Amateur service, as well as courses for licensed amateurs who wish to upgrade their license to General and Amateur Extra. Our licensing and upgrade courses are held using Zoom. Internet connections are more robust with respect to our Western New York winters than the public highways; since we switched to online courses in 2020, we haven't had a single weather-related cancellation!

Our course for the entry-level Technician licensing exam is already underway and will wrap up in mid-March. Our General and Extra upgrade courses are currently on hiatus. We will be offering them in the fall, assuming demand warrants.

Licensing and Upgrade Texts

Technician: *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual*, new edition coming out late spring

General: *The ARRL General Class License Manual*, 10th edition

Amateur Extra: TBD

We offer texts for our courses at discounted prices. We currently have copies of the texts for our General course available for the discounted price of \$25 each (the cost from ARRL is \$38, including shipping). At this price, we can't deliver them, so to get the discounted price, you must acquire them at a monthly RARA meeting or arrange to pick one up. When the new edition of the text for the Technician course becomes available, we shall order a few copies and offer them at the same discounted price. Information regarding the text for the Amateur Extra upgrade course will be provided soon.

RARA ACADEMY
AARON ROMBAUT KE2DYI

LEARNING, BUILDING, AND EXPERIMENTING TOGETHER

RARA Academy exists to support learning and skill-building within Amateur Radio through hands-on workshops, guided discussions, and collaborative projects. Whether you are learning something new, brushing up on an existing skill, or sharing your experience as an Elmer, the Academy provides a space for members to grow together in a practical and welcoming environment.

As we move into the winter months—when outdoor operating becomes more challenging for some—this is an excellent time to focus on **indoor projects, digital modes, station improvements, and technical learning** that can carry into the spring operating season.

AMATEUR RADIO SUBJECTS OF INTEREST



PROGRAMMING RADIOS



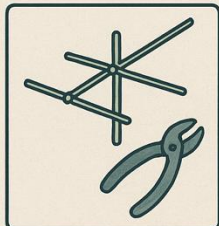
DIGITAL MODES



LOGGING SOFTWARE



APRS BASICS



ANTENNA BUILDING



FOX OPERATING



USING AI ASSISTANTS

ELMER'S CORNER AARON ROMBAUT – KE2DYI

ELMER'S CORNER – ATTENDANCE

The January Elmer's Corner sessions were attended by the following members:

- Aaron (KE2DYI)
- Brian (KA2CGB)
- Chris (WB2DYJ)
- Lee (KD2TXB)
- Tim (WB2PAY)
- Rob (NO CALL)
- Nick (N2ETH)
- John (NV2K)

WHAT IS ELMER'S CORNER?

Elmer's Corner is an informal, discussion-based forum intended to support learning, mentoring, and shared experience within Amateur Radio. In ham radio tradition, an *Elmer* is an experienced operator who helps guide others - whether newcomers or seasoned hams - by sharing practical knowledge, operating techniques, and historical perspective.

The sessions are designed to be conversational rather than instructional, encouraging questions, storytelling, and peer-to-peer learning across all license classes and areas of interest.

Elmer's Corner is hosted and moderated by **Aaron (KE2DYI)** and is open to all members.

JANUARY RECAP

January's Elmer's Corner was a lively and engaging open discussion that reflected exactly what makes these sessions valuable: shared experience, curiosity, and community-driven learning. Members exchanged insights on a wide range of amateur radio topics, blending technical knowledge with personal operating experiences.

Conversation touched on **operating practices**, including differences in on-air styles and habits, as well as **CW (Morse code)** - from learning approaches to its continued relevance in modern amateur radio. Several participants shared perspectives on **radio equipment**, comparing legacy rigs with newer technology, and discussed **antennas and repeater usage** in real-world scenarios. There was also light discussion around **digital modes** and how amateur radio increasingly intersects with broader technology backgrounds many members bring to the hobby.

A highlight of the session was **Tim Brown's (WB2PAY)** reflections on his time in the military, where dependable radio communications were critical to daily operations and mission success. Building on that experience, Tim and **Nick (N2ETH)** described

Spotlight Volunteer Opportunity: Multi-Club ADS-B Antenna Build Collaboration

RARA is planning a multi-club collaboration centered on building ADS-B airplane-tracking antennas, and this effort needs volunteers.

We are trying to work with:

- **University of Rochester Makers Club**, led by Dana Neyman (KE2CMU)
- **Aviation in Rochester (AIR)**, bringing an aviation and STEM perspective
- **K2GXT**, RIT's Amateur Radio Club

This collaboration connects Amateur Radio, aviation monitoring, and hands-on building in a way that is approachable for newcomers and rewarding for experienced operators.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Helping lead or assist with antenna builds
- Mentoring participants during hands-on construction
- Supporting setup, testing, and demonstrations
- Representing RARA and Amateur Radio to partner clubs

The event is targeted for early Spring, allowing ample time for promotion and coordination. If you enjoy mentoring, building, or outreach, this is an excellent opportunity to contribute.

how seasoned operators can often recognize a CW operator without hearing a call sign—simply by the way they send Morse code. The unique rhythm, spacing, and cadence of an operator's CW transmission can become as recognizable as a voice, reinforcing the idea that CW is both a technical skill and a personal signature.

As always, the session maintained a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere, encouraging questions, shared problem-solving, and informal mentoring. Elmer's Corner continues to be a great space for both newer and experienced operators to learn from one another, explore ideas, and stay connected.

ELMER'S CORNER – GOING FORWARD

- **Frequency:** Elmer's Corner will continue on a **monthly basis**.
- **Primary Schedule:** When general club meetings are in session, Elmer's Corner will be held on the **Saturday following the general meeting**.
- **Fallback Schedule:** During months without a general meeting, Elmer's Corner will be held on the **second weekend of the month**.
- **Participation:** All members are encouraged to attend, bring questions or discussion topics, and consider participating as **guest contributors** to help broaden discussion and engagement.

RARA ELMER'S CORNER – MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING



Topic: RARA Elmer's Corner
When: Saturday, February 7, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Join the Zoom Meeting

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89478401962?pwd=XjgYqZGCihsvu6nERFPbbLuw1qHGPNP.1>

Meeting ID: 894 7840 1962
Passcode: 471392

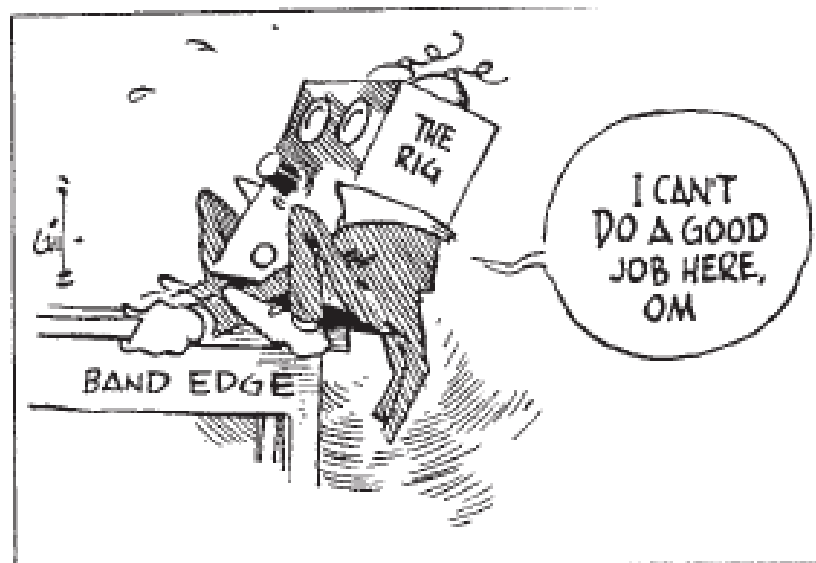
One-Tap Mobile Access

+1 386 347 5053,,89478401962#,,,,*471392# (US)
+1 507 473 4847,,89478401962#,,,,*471392# (US)

Calendar Access

Add this recurring meeting to your calendar using the Zoom iCalendar file:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZ0pcOGsrjojHNZPsBTq1zZ9oXvgIHrFuxaP/ics>



Reprinted Courtesy February 1947 QST

MORSE CODE TRAINING

DAVE WILSON WA2HOY, RXCWG COORDINATOR

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

MORSE PRACTICE FOR ALL LEVELS ON ZOOM

Tim Brown WB2PAY, hosts code practice for all levels on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM.

Register by emailing: tjbrown@rochester.rr.com

Those wanting to start into CW QSOs and Morse Code can schedule coaching sessions on Zoom. Contact Peter Fournia W2SKY for further details.

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

W1AW On The Air CW Practice

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

VE TESTING

DON KISER AC2EV

Our room has been confirmed and we will be testing at our "normal" location this season.

The session will be held in the Skalny room located in the Schmitt Interfaith building.

- Testing starts at 10:00 AM.
- Be sure to bring
 - Photo ID
 - Pen
 - Pencil
 - 4-function calculator (no phones)

You can sign up at Hamstudy.org. This ensures you have a FRN and have a spot reserved. Failing to pre-register may result in not having your exam submitted at the session.

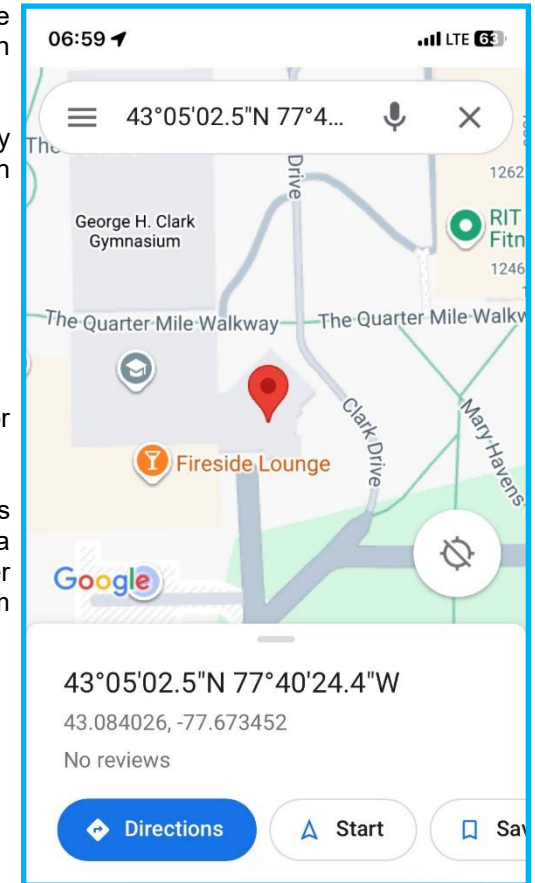
<https://hamstudy.org/sessions>

And search by Zip code 14624

The next testing session is:
February 21, 2026

Sign up for the exam at:

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/68b6d15e3ab72ac0e25bbfd0/1>



WINTERFEST 2026: RETURN TO STEWART LODGE!

It's time to shake off the winter chill and join your fellow amateur radio enthusiasts for our annual **Winterfest!** This year, we are thrilled to return to our traditional home at **Stewart Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park.**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **February 28, 2026.** The cabin is heated and cozy, providing the perfect atmosphere to catch up with friends while enjoying plenty of outdoor space for antenna experimentation.

Food, Fun, and Friendly Competition

As is RARA tradition, we'll have plenty of door prizes and a spread of great food. We are inviting everyone to participate in our **Crockpot Challenge**—bring along a pot of something warm to share, and you might just walk away with a prize for the best contribution!

We also encourage everyone to bring a dessert to share with the group. However, please don't stay away if you don't have time to cook; the more the merrier, and there will be plenty for everyone. RARA will provide all soft drinks, plates, napkins, and silverware.



Get on the Air

The club radio station will be set up and ready for action. Whether you want to test out your own portable gear or use the club's equipment, there is ample room for antennas and operation.

New Hams: If you are newly licensed, this is a fantastic, low-pressure opportunity to meet the local community, ask questions, and get some hands-on experience on the air!



Schedule

- **10:00 AM:** Setup begins (Volunteers welcome!)
- **11:00 AM:** Kick-off for food, friendship, and radio

We look forward to seeing everyone at the lodge for a day of great food and amateur radio. See you there!

LOCAL TIE TO HISTORICAL COMPANY; BLILEY ELECTRIC OF ERIE PENNSYLVANIA

CHRIS REICH WB2DYJ

I'm still amazed at how the internet offers so many rabbit holes to explore. So, there I was, minding my own business doing some research on bourbon (of all things) when a familiar name appeared on the screen. Of course, I clicked.

Charles "Chuck" Bliley K3NAU is a very recent Silent Key and was a memorable co-worker with many of us, particularly at Harris/RF Communications. He was originally from Erie, Pennsylvania where his father was a spark-era ham operator and formed Bliley Electric, which many of us have come to call Bliley Crystal.

Even today you can go to any hamfest and rifle through boxes of obsolete crystals, mostly in FT-243 holders that were common during WWII, and you will certainly find a few crystals carrying the Bliley name. Chuck had the foresight to document a large portion of his father and his father's company's and its role in the war effort. It is freely available online and here is the link:

http://www.bliley.net/XTAL/docs/history-PDF/BEC_History-LR.pdf

I heartily recommend spending an hour or so to appreciate not only his father's legacy, but also Chuck's dedication to preserving its history. For my part, I think I'll pluck a Bliley crystal from the next hamfest junk-box to have a keepsake. Rest In Peace, Chuck.

A green perforated metal chair is shown from a front-three-quarter view. Overlaid on the chair is a list of raffle prizes in green and black text.

**FEBRUARY
RAFFLE PRIZES**

**Heil Ham Radio Handbook
Microscope
Map of North America
Electrical Clip Assortment
88 piece Heat shrink kit**

COMING IN MARCH

LED Ring Light



**January Meeting
Raffle Winners**



UPSTATE NEW YORK POTA (PARKS ON THE AIR) PRESENTS

YL POTA PARTY

Saturday, March 7

All day beginning at 9 AM

Pineway Ponds Park - Owens Lodge

1 PARK ROAD • SPENCERPORT, NY 14559



HOSTS: ANGELA N3ARB & MATT K2EAG

RSVP TO [BROWN@BROWNBUFFALO.COM](mailto:Brown@BrownBuffalo.com)

VISIT UPSTATENYPOTA.COM

Unofficial event • Not sponsored by Parks On The Air

YL POTA PARTY ON MARCH 7

MIKE KENNERKNECHT N2MAK

On Saturday, March 7, females of all ages interested in amateur radio and portable operating are invited to spend the day together at Owens Lodge, Pineway Ponds Park along the Erie Canal in Spencerport, NY for a relaxed YL POTA Party.

Parks On The Air (POTA) is an amateur radio activity that encourages operators to set up portable stations in parks and make contacts from the field. The YL POTA Party is an exciting way for females of all ages to experience portable operating, celebrate the achievements of women in amateur radio, and enjoy time on the air together. You do not need to be licensed to participate.

The day kicks off with setting up portable stations and getting on the air, with plenty of time to operate, chat, and enjoy food throughout the day. Bring your own portable equipment or operate from the stations there.

Here are the details for the event:

Saturday, March 7, 2026

9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Pineway Ponds Park - Owens Lodge

1 Park Road, Spencerport, NY 14559

Amenities include: heat, lights, water, stove/oven, microwave, refrigerator/freezer, indoor bathroom, outdoor charcoal grills, 11 (8ft) tables, 60 folding chairs.

Please RSVP to Angela N3ARB and Matt K2EAG by email at [brown@brownbuffalo.com](mailto:Brown@BrownBuffalo.com). You can learn more at www.upstatenypota.com. This is an unofficial event and is not sponsored by Parks On The Air.

RARA AND AWA GOT TOGETHER TO OPERATE AS W1AW/2 IN JANUARY

TIM BARRETT K9VB



As many of you know, the ARRL has their own amateur radio station callsign W1AW. As part of their celebration of 2026 they are making the callsign available for groups to use state by state throughout the year. January kicked off with New York (W1AW/2) and Nebraska (W1AW/0) having that privilege for one week. This was too good an opportunity to miss so the AWA Communication Technology Museum in Bloomfield and RARA decided to work together.



The AWA opened up their ham radio shack with operators provided by both RARA and AWA. The aim was to put station W1AW/2 on the air on as many bands and modes as possible giving the chance for amateurs around the country and abroad

to work this special event which will count towards the ARRL's America250 WAS Award. In the process our intention was to get some experience of operating multiple stations in the AWA hamshack, learn from the experience and have some fun.



We operated all of Saturday 10th and much of the following Tuesday. I'm pleased to say we met all of our objectives, nearly 300 contacts on the Saturday and more on Tuesday, we are still putting the logs together for final totals. We had three stations on the air at all times and added a fourth to work two meters FM on Saturday afternoon. Contacts were on the 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands in CW, phone and digital (FT8) Our FT8 operators reached around 20 countries, including Iceland causing some excitement!



All in all, everybody seemed to have a good time, it was gratifying to achieve our objectives and a nice opportunity for AWA and RARA members to get together. W1AW/2 will be back in NY in August so if you are interested in doing something similar later in the year let me know!



3Y0K DXPEDITION TO BOUVETOYA IN FEBRUARY

TIM BARRETT K9VB



Bouvetoya or Bouvet Island is a tiny island just above Antarctica in the South Atlantic, owned by Norway and maintained as an uninhabited nature reserve. Until 2023 it was the 3rd most wanted DX entity in the world but thanks to the 2023 expedition it is now in 10th place. Exciting news, a new expedition will be on the island in February so more of us may have a chance to work it.

An expedition to Bouvet is an incredible challenge, not only is it extremely remote and cold but it is subject to near constant windstorms of up to 100mph or more. There are no places to beach a boat or find safe harbor and much of the island is under a glacier. In fact the 2023 expedition was stifled by terrible weather and in the end a few of the operators swam to shore (!) to make as many contacts as possible.



This time they are taking no chances and it will certainly be the most expensive DXpedition put on to date. Its budget is \$1.7 million and they have already almost completely raised that amount. They are using these funds to travel from Cape Town in an Icelandic icebreaker with a helicopter on board to get to land. They have a large team of 24 operators and plan to set up

two camps, one to focus on the higher bands to North America so that is good news for us.

The co-leader Adrian Ciuperca KO8SCA is no newcomer to big Dxpeditions and in fact was part of the 2023 Bouvet team. His home is in Skaneateles NY so this is almost a local event! He says in an interview that typically the breaks in the weather when it is safe to land or return to the ship only last 2 to 8 hours. With a helicopter they can expect to make a couple of trips to unload on land even in the shortest window. The icebreaker will be around Bouvet for three weeks but how much of this can be spent operating on Bouvet will depend on the weather openings.

If you want to see an interview with Adrian about the challenges they face, go to the [DX World Net Bouvet article](#). Even if you have no plans to try and contact the expedition I suggest you monitor their website 3Y0K.com to follow this historic venture and see what some of our fellow hams get up to!



the RARA RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 58

FEBRUARY, 2006

NO. 6

RARA February 3, 2006, General Membership Meeting

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Vice-President, RARA

Spring DX, Contests and Propagation.

In the springtime a young ham's fancy turns to DX and contests. Come to the RARA February General Membership Meeting where Chris Shalvoy, K2CS, will discuss this spring's contests and DX conditions.

We do not have time to work each and every contest, so which ones will give us the best chances to work the stations we need to flesh out our state and country scores? What contest skills do we need to hone? How do we study the DX station's operation so we can get him in our log? Earphones come in pairs, keys and mics are single units, so should we listen twice as much as we transmit? What bands will be best this spring? What times of day? What can we expect from the CW, phone or digital contests? Will our position in the sunspot cycle hurt our propagation? What antennas and power levels will do the job we need for those rare ones? Can logging programs help with the contest operations? Come at 7:30pm February 3, 2006 to the Henrietta Fire Company #1 at Lehigh Station and East Henrietta Roads in Henrietta to find the answers.

RaRa MEETING

February 3, 2006
7:30 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall #1
3129 East Henrietta Road

DX Contests & Propagation
By Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

License Classes Start Feb. 4

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY
RARA Education Chairman

Our RARA amateur radio license courses and registration will start 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 4 and continue for 6 Saturdays ending March 11. The exam will be on March 18. This is a change from the usual Monday evening sessions! Each session will be 2 to 2.5 hours long.

RIT will again graciously provide the classrooms. Registration, and our first session will be at RIT's L. Slaughter CIMS building #78, room 2150. There will be signs posted at the building entrance. Information on costs, instructors and a map to the RIT campus on our website at:

<http://www.rochesterham.org/raclas.htm>. Use the "J" parking lot.

Please spread the word. This is a good opportunity for those who could not attend Monday evenings. We also need more instructors to help share the load. Inquiries should be addressed to Peter Fournia, 585-377-0535 or Brad Armstrong 315-986-8638.

RDXA February Meeting

By Vic Gauvin, K1PY

The February 21st meeting of the RDXA will be about "G-Land & Rhombics". It will be presented by Alan Masson, K6PSP, formerly GM3PSP, G3PSP. He will be talking about operating "over there," and on using his local 20M RHOMBIC!

SILENT KEYS

Allie C. Peed, K2DHA
January 6, 2006

David G. Bruegger, KC2JW
January 9, 2006

Peter P. Pagnattaro, K2MDN
December 14, 2005

Dr. Walter J. "Wedge" Watson, KC2MGJ
January 15, 2006



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FEBRUARY IS HOME BREW NIGHT

The time is growing short for entries in the first annual "Home Brew Contest". The contest will end with the judges selecting the winners in each class, at the February RaRa meeting. The entry list has been growing and at this time we have over a dozen entries.

The prizes for the winners in each class will be a gift certificate for \$30.00 for dinner at a well known restaurant in the Rochester area. If there are enough entries in a class there will also be second and third prizes.

If you wish to enter it would be appreciated if you would let the program chairman (Dick Goslee - K2VCZ) know in advance. He may be reached at work at 424-2560 or at home 334-1762. All entries that are present at the meeting will be judged.

This will be a good opportunity to show off your project to everyone, or to see what others are doing. Come on down and join in the fun, Friday, February 7th, 8 p.m., at the 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue.

RRRA FEBRUARY MEETING TO FEATURE THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

The topic of the February 21st Rochester Radio Repeater Association meeting will be *The Future of Public Service Communications* by Len Gessin, WA2ZNC. Last month, Dave Stark, NF2G, gave a very good presentation on the new 911 system and how the dispatching function is handled. Lenny's program will go into the hardware up on Cobb's Hill and elsewhere throughout the county and how it is changing to keep pace with technology. The meeting starts at 8 p.m., and all area hams are invited.

The new software for the controller has been delivered and should be installed by the time you are reading this. There will be information available at the meeting on any changes or additions of functions.

FEBRUARY RaRa AMATEUR EXAMS

Saturday, February 15, 1986

Write:

A. G. de Blieck, KW2X
59 Knoll Road
Rochester, NY 14622

WINTER FUNFEST FEBRUARY 8th AT MENDON PONDS PARK

by Ed Kohl, WA2UBD

Don't forget! - The second annual RaRa Winter Family Funfest will be held Saturday, February 8th at Mendon Ponds Park (Hopkins Point Lodge). We have reserved a lodge and have planned an enjoyable event for everyone. The fun begins at 12 noon and doesn't stop until 6 p.m. Hot food (hamburgers, hots, chili and soup) will be served all afternoon and hot beverages will be available at all times.

In addition to cross-country skiing, sledding and other outdoor activities, there will be plenty of room inside for visiting with old friends and making new acquaintances by the fire. (Maybe we can even have a re-match at Trivial-Pursuit!)

There will be a dessert-baking contest with prizes awarded to the winning entries. So plan to bring some type of baked 'goodie' (cookies, cakes, pies, rolls, etc.) to enter in the contest and to share with everybody when the judging is over.

The cost for this Funfest is only \$2 per person, up to a maximum of \$5 per family. See you there!

SILENT KEYS

WA2CJL
Linwood F. Stewart
K2INV
Howard A. Parmelee

20 Years Ago February 2006

We again hear from Bill Kasperkoski WB2SXY, as he leads off this issue with yet another announcement of the next RARA program to be enjoyed by all at the February meeting. The speaker's name will be familiar to many of you, especially if you happen to be a Contester and/or DX'er and have been involved in the activities of the Rochester DX Association, RDXA. Our speaker then was Chris Shalvoy K2CS. Chris will speak on the topics of your Amateur Radio station and some tricks and operating techniques that will help you fill your logbook with added States or countries or with the much-needed contacts that enhance your contest entry. Chris may have answered some of your thoughts such as best time of day to seek specific countries and on what bands. Chris is also good at listening to the DX'ers operating habits and will share how to mimic operating behaviors that make a QSO happen. Chris just happens to own a contest station in Northern NY, with the callsign W2CCC which you will hear racking up a good contest on just about any mode or frequency. At this time meetings were held at Henrietta Fire Hall #1 on East Henrietta Road at 7:30 pm.

Writing with information on RARA's Spring 2006 Code and Theory classes was RARA's Education Chairman, Peter Fournia W2SKY. Peter had much needed information on the courses as a major shift in course scheduling was announced that moved class days to six sequential Saturdays starting on February 8, 2026. The location, also new, was at RIT Bldg 7, with parking at lot J. Head Instructor Brad Armstrong W1YX, was also heard from inside Peter's article as he looked for additional instructors.

Public Service Chairman Keith Freeberg (sk) N2BEL, continued his article, last month, where he told of a major event called the Empire State Games, with planning by Keith N2BEL and Ed Turkowski K2KVC, planned for July 26-30, 2026. Since that last article in January Keith and Ed have learned that in the four days of games there have been 6,000 athletes signed up, for twenty-eight different sports. As these events also include athletes trying to win a spot on various U.S. Olympic teams, it is anticipated that over one-hundred radio amateur will be needed to cover the four days of competition. Volunteer hams could sign up on-line using the RARA web site.

Writing for the Rochester DX Association was their Chairman Vic Gauvin K1PY, who told of the speaker for their February meeting as being a real DX'er, a Mr. Alan Masson K6PSP, GM3PSP and G3PSP, now signing as G3PSP/W2 from Victor, NY. Alan will take you over the Atlantic to the U.K. and compare operating experiences from both sides of the Atlantic.

The Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC) wrote for RARA last month telling of plans for their late December annual Science and Technology Fair where RARA has always been an active participant by providing a Ham Radio exhibition with hands-on displays and a working HF ham station for real on-air demonstrations. For this issue the report is on the successful completion of the gathering where 1,000+ visitors enjoyed their visit to the museum. This is typically a multi-club event

and this year the equipment on display and the Docents on duty were from RARA, Xerox ARC and the various Kodak ARC's. RDXA supplied HF equipment, antennas and precious winter WX labor by installing the roof mounted antennas. Plans for next year are already in progress.

RARA's Volunteer Examiner Team Leader Raj Dewan N2RD, wrote an article reporting on their last Ham License testing activity where results of testing is detailed and new hams on the local scene are detailed. Please listen for Shauni KC2PAL or Katy KC2PAK as those calls are brand new. Also congratulations go to Chris Kemp KC2NPI for upgrading to Extra. Volunteer examiners for this session were Bill KB2CHD, Dick KG2I and Allen N2VY.

With regret Allie Peed K2DHA, David Bruegger KC2JW, Peter Pagnattaro K2MDN and Dr. Walter Watson KC2MGJ were listed as silent keys. From the Want Ads you could buy an AOL model 2002 wide band communication receiver from Irv AF2K for \$225.55. Ayers Printing of Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, featuring high quality customized printing, was a new advertiser. OK, I promised last month I would report on how many items sold at \$3.75 each. The answer is none... zero.

40 Years Ago February 1986

The meeting for February was, to the best of my knowledge, a first to recognize the skill of home brewing. Chairman for the "RARA Home Brew Contest" was Dick Goslee (sk) K2VCZ, who set up different classes such as Transceivers, Test Equipment, station accessories and the like. A thirty-dollar gift certificate to a nice local restaurant went to the winner in each class.

Ed Kohl WA2UBD, wrote to remind readers that RARA's 2nd annual Winter Funfest will be held on February 8th in Mendon Ponds Park's Point Lodge. The Noon 'til 6 PM event featured good food and a fun Trivial Pursuit challenge. Hot homemade chili was welcome if the day was low on the temperature scale, but many will remember the dessert baking contest as a culinary delight and well worth the two-dollar admission charge.

Ed Holdsworth (sk) N2EH, Chairman of RARA's Code and Theory classes, wrote on the start of the 1986 licensing classes that were given at the 111 Westfall Road location. Instructors were Ed Gable K2MP for Tech/General theory along with Bud Young (sk) WA2UGE offering the 13 WPM code, while Ed Foster NE2B, cranked out the Novice/Tech five WPM code practice. The cost for books and instruction materials was twelve dollars per student.

Keith Freeberg (sk) N2BEL, an often-read contributor to the pages of the RARA RAG, wrote this time encouraging members to gather to plan a Field Day operation for the popular June event. RARA, in years past, was an eager, willing and quite successful entry into FD, but for some reason activity over the years has diminished even though rigs, tents and other needed items rest in storage waiting to be used once more.

A very well-known and popular local ham, Len Gessin (sk) WA2ZNC, was pulled into action by the Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA) to offer the program for their February meeting. Len, having worked in Public Service Radio Communications for most of his life, selected his topic and presentation title as The Future of Public Service Communications. Upon retirement Len remained active in his lifelong love of radio communications by volunteering at the AWA's Electronic Communications Museum where he was a very capable and sought after museum guide who taught and entertained all visitors.

With regret it was announced that Lin Stewart WA2CJL and Howard Parmalee K2INV were reported as Silent Keys. From the Want Ads you could buy a Collins 75S3-B receiver from Ollie, K2BBK. The Heathkit Center, now adding ICOM, Cushcraft and Ameco to their product lines on Jefferson Road, was a commercial advertiser.

Pass it forward
by donating your radio
or accessory to RARA.



We will make sure it finds a good home.

You will get a tax-deductible receipt
and the satisfaction that comes with
doing good for others.

Call 585-210-8910 or email
Secretary@RochesterHam.org.

RARA is an IRS 501.c.3 non-profit

Consult with your tax advisor.

RARA CALENDAR

TIM BARRETT K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Marconi Club ARI Loano Slow CW QSO Party UBA DX Contest, SSB K1USN Slow Speed Test	2 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest ARS Spartan Sprint RSGB 80m Club Champ, SSB	3 Phone Weekly Test QRP Fox Hunt	4 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	5 RARA BoD Mtg 6:30pm ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest NRAU 10m Activity Contest SKCC Sprint Europe NCCC Sprints UKEICC 80m Contest	6 K1USN Speed Test Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	7 VT, BC, MN QSO Parties LABRE-RS Digi Contest 10-10 Int Winter Contest SSB Euro Union DX Contest F9AA Cup, CW Mexico RTTY Contest FYBO Winter QRP Sprint AGCW Straight Key Party NA Sprint, CW
8 VT, BC QSO Parties LABRE-RS Digi Contest 10-10 Int Winter Contest SSB Euro Union DX Contest F9AA Cup, CW Mexico RTTY Contest	9 ARRL School Club Roundup AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	10 ARRL School Club Roundup QRP Fox Hunt NAQCC CW Sprint Phone Weekly Test DARC FT4 Contest	11 ARRL School Club Roundup A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 RSGB 80m Club Champ, Data	12 ARRL School Club Roundup NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test QRP Fox Hunt	13 ARRL School Club Roundup K1USN Speed Test	14 CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest PODXS 070 Valentine Sprint Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW Dutch PACC Contest SKCC Sprintathon KCJ Topband Contest OMISS QSO Party RSGB Topband Contest Russian PSK WW Contest
15 CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest Dutch PACC Contest SKCC Sprintathon KCJ Topband Contest OMISS QSO Party Russian PSK WW Contest Balkan HF Contest Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	16 WA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest RSGB FT4 Contest	17 QRP Fox Hunt Phone Weekly Test	18 A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80	19 Walk for the Bacon QRP C'test NTC QSO Party NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint QRP Fox Hunt	20 K1USN Speed Test	21 ARRL Int DX Contest, CW REF Contest, SSB Feld Hell Sprint
22 ARRL Int DX Contest, CW REF Contest, SSB Feld Hell Sprint WW Argentina DX Contest	23 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB Classic Exchange, Phone ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest QCX Challenge RSGB FT4 Contest	24 Classic Exchange, Phone QRP Fox Hunt Phone Weekly Test SKCC Sprint	25 Classic Exchange, Phone A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80	26 RSGB 80m Club Champ, CW NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint QRP Fox Hunt	27 K1USN Speed Test	28 CQ 160M Contest, SSB NA Collegiate Contest, RTTY UBA DX Contest, CW SC QSO Party NA QSO Party, RTTY

Print this calendar and leave it by your radio.

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. 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 7:00PM, 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 the nights when we hold our regular meeting, the net is at 5:30PM.

WEB: www.monroecountyemcomm.org

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

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

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

Next meeting:

Tuesday 17 February - 7:00 PM

Johnny's - 1382 Culver Rd, Rochester, NY 14609

Topic - Using AI Agents for RF Hardware Design: Building a Robust Matching Network to Use a 80m Vertical on 160m

Presenter - Raj Dewan N2RD



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 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 7PM. All monthly meetings are held both in person and on Zoom.

Don't forget to check out our repeaters when you visit the area. Currently, N3AQ 147.36(+) and W2ZJ 146.70(-) (both PL 123.0) are our principal 2-meter repeaters. The former 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 https://arasth3.org/arast_website/public/repeaters.php. We also invite you to check out our 6-meter net on Wednesday evenings at 9 PM. local time on 50.200 MHz USB. We would 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 7 PM. 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 8 PM (winter) and 9 PM (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30 PM 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 7:00 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

Just an update on what KLARA is up to:

- KLARA hosts several nets – come join the fun! See KLARA.us for details.
 - The KLARA Weekday daily SSB net – Daily at 8 AM 3.896 MHz.
 - The KLARA CW Practice net – M/Th 7 PM 3.541 MHz.
 - The KLARA Sunday Night 2-m net with Trivia – Every Sunday at 8 PM on the KLARA repeater system.
 - The KLARA 2-meter Wednesday Night Rag Chew Net – Every Wednesday at 8 PM on the KLARA repeater system.
- August 12-15: Bath Fair – KLARA will be hosting an information booth. Stop by for a chat!
- August 16: KLARA Hamfest in Howard. Come get those ham treasures!
- August 23: KLARA End of Summer Picnic, POTA activation, and Fox Hunt at Keuka State Park.
- September 10: Meeting: BoD and KLARA Officer elections.
- October 8: KLARA meeting: (Tentative) Presentation by Joel KC2VAW to present: How to Use USGS Topographic Map
- October 11: Repeater Roundup with the contest scheduled to run from Noon until 4:00 PM. See KLARA.us for details.
- November 12: KLARA meeting: (Tentative) presentation by Ron K2TJW on ARES.
- December: KLARA Christmas Party!



Best 73!
ANDY JACKSON K2CRV
KLARA PRESIDENT

See our website for details KLARA.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.

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](https://www.echolink.com/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.

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 6:00 PM, meeting starts at 7:30 PM. 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 9:00 PM 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.

SKENOH ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Skenoh 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 6:30 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11th. There will not be license testing

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.

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association will be having its next meeting on Friday TBD. It will be held at the Pittsford Town Hall meeting room in the basement at 7:30 PM. The entrance is in the back of the building. If you can't make it in person please plan to attend via zoom.

Current information and zoom login can be found on our RRRRA Club web site. <http://k2rra.org>

Club officers are Bob Odell N2BZX - President, Bob Shewell N2HJD - Vice President, Jay Stewart W4JPS - Secretary, and Jerry Powell KC2YSY - Treasurer / Membership Chairman.

RRRA 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 Join on our <http://k2rra.org> web site using PayPal.

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. |

RARA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

OFFICERS

President Richard Bishopp KD2UBJ (585) 766-5631 president@rochesterham.org	Treasurer George Adams K4GWA (585) 704-8198 treasurer@rochesterham.org
Vice President Jeff Fuller KE2ELI (585) 355-5964 vicepresident@rochesterham.org	Secretary Mike Moore KC2NM (585) 721-0011 secretary@rochesterham.org

DIRECTORS

Tim Guyot KB1POP (585) 406-3163 kb1pop@rochesterham.org	Dave Wilson WA2HOY (585) 200-4447 davidrw@rochester.rr.com
Chris Reich WB2DYJ (585) 507-0956 chrisreich@rocketmail.com	Tim Barrett K9VB (646) 496-5015 k9vb@rochesterham.org
Don Wegeng KD2WWY (585) 775-9556 kd2wwy@rochesterham.org	Brian O'Connor KA2CGB (585) 721-2346 ka2cgb@rochesterham.org

ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

Club Historian Ed Gable K2MP egable@rochester.rr.com	Public Service Mike Moore KC2NM publicservice@rochesterham.org
Club Station Trustee Dave Enright K3WHD denright1228@gmail.com	QSL Manager Dave Enright K3WHD denright1228@gmail.com
Education Coordinator education@rochesterham.org	Raffle Administrators Forest Shick WA2MZG wa2mzg@arri.net Jeff Sonstein WA2RRB
Elmer's Corner Aaron Rombaut KE2DYI elmerscorner@rochesterham.org	RARA Academy Aaron Rombaut KE2DYI academy@rochesterham.org
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MARCH 2026 RAG DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

RARA MEETS AT 7 PM ON THE FIRST

WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

JOIN US IN PERSON

OR

ONLINE AT:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5vRnKIUKTWy63WAxqqHmtw

Contact Webmaster@rochesterham.org for Support

Rochester Area Repeater Listing

THE RARA RAG

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Q Signal	Meaning
QRL	Is the frequency busy? The frequency is busy.
QRM	Interference from other signals.
QRN	Interference from natural or human-made static.
QRP	Shall I decrease power? Decrease power.
QRS	Shall I send more slowly? Send more slowly (_ wpm).
QRT	Shall I stop sending or transmitting? Stop sending or transmitting.
QRZ	Who is calling me?
QSB	Signal fading.
QSL	Did you receive and understand? Received and understood.
QSO	Abbreviation for a contact.
QST	General call preceding a message addressed to all amateurs.
QSY	Change to transmission on another frequency (or to _ kHz).
QTH	What is your location? My location is _ .

International Telecommunications Union Phonetic Alphabet			
A	Alpha	N	November
B	Bravo	O	Oscar
C	Charlie	P	Papa
D	Delta	Q	Quebec
E	Echo	R	Romeo
F	Foxtrot	S	Sierra
G	Golf	T	Tango
H	Hotel	U	Uniform
I	India	V	Victor
J	Juliet	W	Whiskey
K	Kilo	X	X-Ray
L	Lima	Y	Yankee
M	Mike	Z	Zulu

New York is CQ Zone 2
New York is ITU Zone 8
Maidenhead Grid Square Locator
https://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php

RST System			
	Readability	Signal Strength	Tone
1	Unreadable	Faint signals, barely perceptible	Sixty cycle A.C or less, very rough and broad
2	Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable	Very weak signals	Very rough A.C., very harsh and broad
3	Readable with considerable difficulty	Weak signals	Rough A.C. tone, rectified but not filtered
4	Readable with practically no difficulty	Fair signals	Rough note, some trace of filtering
5	Perfectly readable	Fairly good signals	Filtered rectified A.C. but strongly ripple-modulated
6		Good signals	Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation
7		Moderately strong signals	Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation
8		Strong signals	8--Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation
9		Extremely strong signals	Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind

Tone - If the signal has the characteristic steadiness of crystal control, add the letter X to the RST report. If there is a chirp, the letter C may be added to so indicate. Similarly for a click, add K. The above reporting system is used on both CW and voice, leaving out the "tone" report on voice.

Editor's Request:

If you have ideas for this reference page, please send details to editor@rochesterham.org

I hope this page becomes a collection of helpful charts and information for the new and seasoned Ham.

It should be similar to the information presented here.

Your thoughts and idea would be very helpful in creating this page.

Thank You
 Forest
 WA2MZG