



the RARA RAG

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NO. 2

Coming, on October 6, to a club
near you...

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD
Vice-President, RARA

RaRa is pleased to announce that ARRL Atlantic Division Director, Bill Edgar, N3LLR, will address the membership. Please take this opportunity to hear Bill discuss recent League initiatives in support of your hobby. The ARRL is your voice in Washington, your voice to the FCC and the protector of our on-air privileges. Whether or not you agree with the motives or methods of the League, come out to present your stand. Here is your chance to voice your opinion whether you are a member or not. Bill will be here to listen and take your opinions, wants and desires back to League HQ.

RaRa is an ARRL affiliated club with over 70% of our membership who are League members too. If you are not a League member, consider joining thru RARA. As an incentive for new members (and those who have let their League membership lapse for 2 or more years) there is a nice price reduction for the first year. Hams join ARRL for many different reasons. The League benefits individual members as well as the Amateur Radio Service. Besides the obvious ARRL membership benefits and service (*QST*, awards/contents, QSL Bureau, equipment insurance, etc.)

RaRa Regular Meeting

October 6, 2006

7:30 PM

Henrietta Fire Company #1
3129 East Henrietta Rd
Bill Edgar, N3LLR
Director, ARRL
Atlantic Division

WHERE WERE YOU?

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD
Vice-President, RARA

September 8, 2006 marked a very special event in the history of RaRa. At 7:15 pm, as I drove into the rear parking lot of the Henrietta Fire Hall, my first thoughts were, "Where do I park?" Slowly I worked my way past car after car after SUV with Ham Radio license plates and rooftops adorned with HF to Day Light antennae. I walked from the far corner of the lot to find a crowd of new faces and many familiar faces standing outside the entrance and inside the meeting room. HRS – Ham Radio Speak -- buzzed through the air. Handshakes were evident as new friends were introduced and old friends were reacquainted. And when the sound of the gavel called the meeting to order there were 106 RaRa and RVHFG Ham Radio brethren sitting side by side making history in a very crowded room.

I had the pleasure of introducing Andy Flowers, KOSM/2, and Chairman of the Rochester VHF Group. He described some of the activities and projects that are planned for the "Groupers" this season and extended an invitation to RaRa members to attend their meetings. At the conclusion of the joint business meeting refreshments were enjoyed and HRS buzzed again.

The meeting program followed, provided by John Gilly, W3OAB and Ed Gable, K2MP, curator of the A.W.A. Electronic Museum, who collaborated to put together a walk down memory lane with their presentation, Historic Artifacts of VHF.

I can't remember a meeting in recent years when nobody wanted to go home. Small groups gathered throughout the meeting room at the conclusion of the presentation and HRS once again echoed. Many people walked up to me to express their thanks for the opportunity; bringing RaRa and RVHFG members under one roof for an exciting evening. My thanks go out to the many RaRa members and to the members of the RVHFG who joined us. History was made. For those of you who were not there... where were you? We missed you.

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The Prez Sez -

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

President, RARA

There was a great turnout for the joint September RARA/RVHFG meeting. At one point I counted 106 people in the meeting room. Many thanks to John Gilly W3OAB, Andy Flowers K0SM, and Ed Gable K2MP for the walk down VHF's memory lane. This kind of turnout is a tribute to the great quality of the programs that VP Jim DiTucci, N2IXD is coordinating this year for the benefit of the RARA members. RARA members also had a chance to see all the RARA/RRRA picnic pictures on display that Len Gessin WA2ZNC took this summer. Stay tuned for more action photos next summer and see the calendar announcement at the end.

Jim Stefano, has been busy heading up the Marketing Sub-committee and will be presenting some interesting organizational patches in the near future. One project, the RARA Banner, was displayed at the Summer Picnic and at the September General Membership Meeting. Question: Will we have wall mounts ready?

Promoting the projects and the programs that RARA supports (educational, public service, hamfest, public relations, etc.) requires dedication from the members and a vision of what RARA should be, and wants to be in the next year, two years and five years, from the members point of view. Email me (wb2sxy@arrl.net) with your thoughts, comments, and shoulda-woulda-coulda's of RARA's goals and visions as you see them and what you want your organization to be.

Everyone knows that the ham radio environment is threatened; constant change will be the norm for our lifetimes. I am a firm believer that RARA will grow, this also implies change. We will manage that change by meeting and overcoming problems. This also implies that we have to *learn* from our environment: become more educated about ourselves, our talents and capabilities.

A major safety issue both locally and nationally, is preventing needless highway injuries from bridge-dropped objects. This is important enough in the eyes of the New York State Thruway Police and Monroe County to invoke RACES for the upcoming Halloween evenings, Oct 30 and 31. RACES Radio Officer Lloyd Caves, N2PU coordinated a visit from Sgt. Brian Guise of the NYSP Western Thruway division who made the long trip to Henrietta for the Pumpkin Patrol presentation. Thanks to the RACES people for their dedication in making our highways safer by displaying a presence on the Thruway bridges.

Some Long Range Calendar Items:

Nov 3, 2006. Now is the time dust-off and start packaging and tagging your years accumulation of electronic parts and rigs for the November (Nov 9, Friday) Auction. This task always takes me several weeks, and then I still do not have everything ready that I would like to sell.

June 16, 2007. RARA Picnic Creekside Lodge, Ellison Park. Theme: TBD

RDXA Meeting Program-OCTOBER 2006

By Vic Gauvin, K1PY

"Top Band" Time! 3rd Tuesday, Oct 17, 7:30 p.m. Gander Mountain (Jay Scutti Blvd by MarketPlace).

Well, we're there – the BOTTOM of the cycle. It's official since there's indications of the start of the next cycle! And as we know, the bottom is the best time for the top, Top Band, that is!

RDXA has lined up a couple of our recognized top band achievers who have learned the ways of making significant contacts on this challenging and rewarding band. **Chris K2CS** and **Charlie WB2HJV** will be passing along their hard-won secrets of getting those Q's in the log. Many of us know some of the basics, but nothing beats getting the big picture straight from those who have been there, and who are continuing to add to their contact lists.

Forget it, you might say, there's no way I can put up anything for 160 on my property. Ah, but there is. Included in the program will be a report on the **Mystery Antenna!** Yep, that's what it's even called – we didn't make it up to add spice to the program. Once you hear about it and its capabilities, you'll see how it got its name.

How can you resist? Don't! RDXA, 3rd Tuesdays of each month, 7:30 p.m. Gander Mountain (Jay Scutti Blvd by MarketPlace).

For Sale - Ham Gear

Kenwood TS-940 /AT Excellent Cond. Automatic Tuner, MC-60A Desk Mike, and SP-940 Speaker. \$895.

Contact Martin Clasby, KD2NP, (585) 425-8036

Heathkit HW-8. RIT mod board. \$65. All documentation included. Box is not original but very presentable. In working order. Contact Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY, (585) 389-1926.

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, October 1986

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

The meeting for this month was the delayed (due to a snow storm in February) Home Brew Night. Members were encouraged to bring in their best example of home brew radio and computer hardware. No commercial kits were eligible.

Fresh on this RaRa Rag's masthead were the names of two just announced co-editors. They were Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP, and Jack Dempsey, KA2PJN. Dwight Hill, K2KWK remained listed as a contributing editor. Also new was the familiar name of Dick Goslee, K2VCZ, as Advertising Manager. The very active Rochester Area Packet Society (RAPS) announced their just completed elections with Dick Groth WB2NBU, as Chairman, Bob Branch K2YNW as Vice-Chairman and Dudley Pease, N2FQR as Secretary. RAPS further reported that packet routes to the West were now available via Rich, WB2VPH in Brockport and to Lockport via Al, AE2T.

The Rochester DX Association (RDXA) also announced their election results with Fred Groner, W2TZ as President, VP to Fred Gern, KB2SE and Bob Rossi W2HG as Secretary/Treasurer. To the Board were Bruce Sanborn KB2WN, Jeff Ach W2HPF and Walter Obenhofer WA2MRP.

John Schooley, K2NC, announced that the RaRa VE Team would hold tests for all classes on October 18th at 111 Westfall Road. Rich Koehn, K2UW, Assistant Radio Officer and Monroe County EC, reported a Simulated Emergency test was scheduled for October 11th where the County Office of Emergency Planning would generate a surprise scenario.

With regret it was reported that Leonard Corey, K2JOJ, was a Silent Key. There was only one advertiser (and perhaps the reason for the just announced Advertising Manager position) and that was Heath/Zenith of Jefferson Road. There were many Want-Ads and one of those was indeed a wanted advertisement where Bill White, K2KAD, says he'll pay top dollar for a good Heath SB-620.

**November Rag Deadline
October 13, 2006**

RaRa Hotline
(585) 442-0587
24 hours a day

Three new hams join the ranks

By Raj Dewan, N2RD
Team Leader, RARA VE Team

The RARA VE team had their season opener on Saturday 9/16/2006 at their usual location: RIT Building 9, room 3139. This test was made possible by generous volunteers Stan Zack KA2U, Bill Gibson KB2CHD, and Dick Goslee KG2I. It was a successful session with a score of 3-1. Three candidates successfully passed the tests and one other will try again. Jessica, Bill and Matt did well on the Technician exam Element 2.

All the Element 2 exams are new this season. None of them have any figures and we even have some exams use large fonts for test takers who are visually impaired. This should make the Technician exam even more accessible. Bill was brave enough to try the code test and he made it! It was interesting to grade his morse code copy. It started out rough but in the middle he had more than 1 minute of solid copy. He sorta got in the groove! Good for him. We look forward to hearing all of them on the air.

Our next test session is on Saturday, October 21.

Managers Needed for Heart Attack Relief

Which one of us is NOT going to have a heart attack? A little more cheerful: Just a reminder that RARA is looking for backups for all the organization positions. Each and every worker-bee, sub-committee or officer should have someone who can fill in for him or her when absent: succession planning. At this moment RARA is looking for a Secretary, an officer position, and the Hamfest Sub-Committee is looking for a Program Chairperson. Contact WB2SXY or K2HC if you are interested.

New RARA Logo

By Jim Stefano, W2COP
RARA Marketing Committee

The new RARA Logo will be available for purchase on a patch, window decal and selected outerwear. Club members be able to enhance their identity and visibility through a selection of items they can wear anytime or when participating in special events. Patches will be available at the next meeting at a very low cost and soon members will be able to select from a list of available products such as shirts, caps, vests, sun visors and carry bags all in various sizes. Order sheets will be made available at meetings, on the website and in the *RAG*.

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Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
Public Information Officer,
Western NY Section, ARRL

MARS to Support TSA in Emergencies – Amateur Radio operators who are members of the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) will provide back-up communication for the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) under a formal agreement announced in July by Army MARS Chief Kathy Harrison, AAA9A. Protecting airports during the hurricane season will be the immediate focus, she said, adding that the new MARS-TSA collaboration "is likely to expand to other Department of Homeland Security (DHS) areas" in the future. "This is an extensive area and will require member support across the continental United States," Harrison said in a broadcast announcement to Army MARS participants. "We will need many volunteers to man teams assigned to specific geographical areas, starting with airports throughout the hurricane corridor." She called for "physically capable" Amateur Radio operators to volunteer for the assignment.

ISS Ham Radio "Go-To" Guy Earns NASA's Silver Snoopy Award – NASA has honored ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, with its prestigious "Silver Snoopy" Award. For more information go to:

<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/osf/sfa/snoopy.html>

Ransom was tapped to receive the award for his role in helping International Space Station Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, complete and confirm Worked All States (WAS) and Worked All Continents (WAC), including Antarctica, from NA1SS, as well as logging some 130 DXCC entities. McArthur's duty tour ended in April. "I am honored to have received the award and honored again by Bill McArthur's thoughtfulness at selecting such an Amateur Radio-appropriate Silver Snoopy," Ransom told ARRL. He explained that every Silver Snoopy medal has flown on a space mission. "The medal that was awarded to me was flown on STS-58, which was Bill's first shuttle flight." The STS-58 mission, he said, not only was a SAREX (Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment) flight but McArthur's introduction to Amateur Radio from space. SAREX was the predecessor to the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. In his role as ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer, Ransom helps ARISS arrange opportunities for students to speak via Amateur Radio with the space

station crew at NA1SS. He also coordinates with the ISS crew on the configuration and operation of the two ham radio stations aboard the space station. At some point during Expedition 12, Ransom realized that McArthur had already logged 25 states, and he figured, "Why stop there?" Pretty soon, he was lining up contacts for McArthur in the other 25.

New ARRL HQ Tour Guides on the "Bob" – Now when you arrive at the ARRL for a tour, your host will be one of our new Volunteer Tour Guides. It might be Bob, or it could be Bob – depending on the day, you might just luck out and get Bob! No, ARRL is not re-creating The Newhart Show; its first three Volunteer Tour Guides, while not brothers, are all named Bob! On July 28, ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, along with Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, and Sales and Marketing Coordinator Jackie Cornell, presented framed certificates recognizing their volunteerism to the three new Volunteer Tour Guides: Bob Allison, WB1GCM, Bob Burke, KA1KOV, and Bob Stanwood, KB1EYZ. "We are very thankful and appreciative of your enthusiasm for Amateur Radio and the League. I know our guests will enjoy their visit to Headquarters even more now because of you -- thank you!" said Breen.

ICOM To Sponsor 2006 ARRL November Sweepstakes – Icom has generously agreed to serve for a second year as principal awards sponsor for the ARRL November Sweepstakes. The Amateur Radio equipment manufacturer first took on that role for the 2005 events. This week, the company announced it would do the same this year. The 2006 CW Sweeps takes place November 4-5, while the phone Sweeps is November 18-19. Under its agreement with ARRL, Icom will be the principal sponsor for nearly 150 un-sponsored contest plaques that recognize various levels of operating achievement in the popular annual competition. "We are pleased to continue our role as principal awards sponsor for the 2006 November Sweepstakes," said Icom Amateur Radio Products National Sales Manager Ray Novak, N9JA. "It's a mutually beneficial arrangement and enhances the contesting experience for everyone."

"Backward Sunspots" May Herald Start of Solar Cycle 24 – The recent appearance on the sun of two so-called "backward sunspots" may mean solar Cycle 23 is drawing to a close and Cycle 24 now is under way or soon will be. At least that's the thinking of some scientists. "We've been waiting for this," said Solar Physicist David Hathaway of

the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, after the first backward spot showed up. "A backward sunspot is a sign that the next solar cycle is beginning." The term "backward" refers to the sunspots' magnetic polarity. One such sunspot appeared briefly July 31, but its significance was that its magnetic polarity was just the opposite of current Cycle 23 spots. Another more robust backward spot, Sunspot 905, appeared in late August – although it subsequently began to dissipate – and some sun gazers are saying Cycle 24 already has begun. ARRL propagation guru Tad Cook, K7RA, this week called it "the second sunspot of the new Solar Cycle 24." He asserted, "Eventually there will be more of the new reversed sunspots than old ones from Cycle 23, and that occurrence is one way to mark the beginning of the next sunspot cycle." Radio conditions will not improve any time soon, but only after a period of several years of the course of the 11-year cycle, perhaps peaking around 2010.

Remember SuitSat? – SuitSat-1 (AO-54) is history. The surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit turned satellite re-entered and burned up in Earth's atmosphere Thursday, September 7, at 1600 UTC some 1400 km south-southwest of Western Australia. The announcement came September 8 from Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. SuitSat-1 became one of the greatest public relations vehicles for Amateur Radio in years. Bauer expressed thanks to "all who made SuitSat-1 the phenomenal event that it was." Launched February 3 during a space walk from the ISS, SuitSat-1 was heard around the world, although at a much weaker signal strength than anticipated. "Your hard work and dedication paid off," Bauer continued. "In just three weeks the SuitSat team developed and delivered a safe satellite system that has gained the confidence of the international space agencies." Bauer also noted the "unprecedented press coverage" that included more than 9 million hits on the SuitSat-1 Web site, www.suitsat.org, during February alone as well as several prominent mentions in the general news media.

After SuitSat-1's VHF ham radio payload stopped transmitting earlier this year, AMSAT initiated a "Chicken Little Contest," for participants to guess when SuitSat-1 would fall from orbit. Winners and more information are on the AMSAT Web site, www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ariss/suitsatContest.php. Bauer said plans for a potential SuitSat-2 will be a discussion topic at the AMSAT/ARISS joint meeting in October. <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/symposium/>.

From the RRRRA President's desk

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY
President, RRRRA

RRRA held a meeting on Friday 9/15/2006 and we had a good turnout. The programs were an impromptu discussion of the auto patch as well as other features on the repeater. After that talk, Max Kessler told us about email encryption and how to do it. Quite interesting.

October will be on the Pumpkin Patrol and our Gadget night. We move that forward to give Max some time to secure a speaker for January.

RRRA has changed the website domain name. Our website is now <http://www.rrra.us>. By changing providers for hosting, I have acquired many new features I would have had to pay extra for. Keep tuned to the webpage as we will have a secure area for club members only as well as an attempt to make the newsletter electronic. We can also make a few dollars by referring folks to the company. Every person we send to BLUEHOST.com that signs up, we get \$85.00.

November will bring us the tune-up clinic night. December will be dinner out at MacGreggor's on Jefferson road.

Get involved in RRRRA. You will be glad you did. A reminder that dues have gone up. The fee is now \$10 with a \$5.00 expense assessment.

That's all for now, next meeting will be on October 20th, 8:00PM. Hope to see you there...
Brad, KB2CHY

October Calendar of events

- 6 - RaRa Meeting - 7:30 PM - Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 12 - RaRa Board of Directors - 8:00PM-RIT Bldg-9, Room 3119
- 13 - RVHFG - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.
- 17 - RDXA - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Gander Mountain, Jay Scutti Blvd, Henrietta
- 20 - RRRRA - 8:00PM, monthly meeting at Pittsford Town Hall, basement meeting room.
- 21 - RaRa VE Testing session - 10:00AM Bldg-9 Room-3139 RIT Campus, Henrietta
- 26 - ARES - 7:00PM, monthly meeting at Red Cross, 50 Prince St., Rochester

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Monroe County LEPC

The upcoming meetings of the Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday mornings October 11 and November 8, 2006. LEPC meetings are federally mandated to prepare for and respond to hazardous material spills and related emergencies. The LEPC meetings are held at the Public Safety Training Facility, 1190 Scottsville Road, Suite 200 at 8:30 AM.

The LEPC is open to the public and all are welcome. Please sign in as an amateur radio guest. Coffee and doughnuts will be available.

ARES News

On Thursday, September 28, Monroe County ARES will be holding our first meeting after the summer break. Everyone is welcome. Our meeting topic this month will be the Monroe County ARES Emergency Response Plan. A small group of ARES members have been working hard to finish this document, and we plan to discuss it at the upcoming meeting. We meet at 7:00pm, at Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street. Specific information can be found on our website, www.monroecountyemcomm.org

If you are not an ARES member, or are not already subscribed to the Monroe County ARES Announcements list, please consider subscribing. Info about subscribing to this list can be found here: <http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org/content/view/178/65/>

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

**All Elements needed
to complete a license class.**

**3rd Saturday of each
Month, Sept. - April**

**Registration - 10:00AM
Testing - 10:15AM**

**Room 3139, Building 9
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