



THE RARA RAG

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November 2010

NO. 3

Going Once, Going Twice...SOLD!!

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC
Vice-President, RARA

Tradition, it's all about tradition. There's the turkey at Thanksgiving, the Trick or Treating at Halloween, the fireworks on the 4th of July, and the RARA Auction on the first Friday of November! In what seems like a blink of an eye, **the RARA Auction is this month, on Friday, November 5, 2010.**

It wouldn't be tradition if we didn't have those two wild and crazy guys, our beloved auctioneers, Ed Gable, K2MP, and Dick Goslee, KG2I, swinging the gavel as your ham radio gear is sold. Even if you don't buy or sell anything, they are very entertaining and make our auction a fun night for all!

So look around your shack, in the attic, and in the basement to find those ham radio treasures you no longer need. Now is the perfect time to bring them to the auction and convert them into CASH. Just a reminder, please only bring Amateur Radio related items; leave your junk and computer fodder at home, because chances are, we have way too much of our own already. Once we sell your gear, the club will collect its usual 10% seller's premium, which also has been part of the tradition of the RARA Auction.

If you don't sell your item, don't despair..... there is the RARA Hamfest coming up in June and your unsold items might make a great Flea Market find. This year's hamfest is on June 4th, 2011, so be sure to mark your calendar.

Remember the Auction is a **RaRa members only** event, so make sure your membership is current. If it's not, we can bring you up to date at the meeting before the auction starts. If you're unsure, we can tell you at the meeting, or write to: Treasurer@RochesterHam.org and we'll let you know. Each member is allowed to bring one guest; additional guests will be converted into members or disposed of appropriately.

Reminder: Sellers must have items clearly labeled with their identification and sale price **BEFORE** the auction starts.



This month in the RaRa RAG...

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RARA Meeting Nov. 5, 2010 7:30PM

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

Item Preview at 7:00PM





The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RaRa

With the fantastic fall weather we're having it's a great time to address that antenna work you have been putting off. The coming winter weather is far more suited to getting on the air than trimming trees and erecting antennas. While I'm not volunteering to come and help, I want to remind you of some safety considerations to keep in mind:

1. **Don't work alone** - An extra pair of hands is always useful. Someone with prior antenna experience is preferred. At the very least have your XYL on hand to dial 911.
2. **Read the manual** – If you read it before starting the job, it will more than likely eliminate the need to take it down and start over when you discover the 80-meter trap goes on the top, not the bottom.
3. **Survey your site** – When choosing a location for your antenna, consider safety as well as performance. Electric power, cable TV, and telephone lines often look alike; but they definitely feel different. Do not place an antenna where it could potentially fall on, or blow into a power line. I guarantee the resulting damage will not be covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Recommendation: Stay away from them all.
4. **Never climb utility poles** – Believe it or not, that's trespassing and RaRa membership does not include a Bail Bonds service. If you do use a utility pole as a support for an antenna, don't be surprised if you come home one day and find it neatly coiled on your front porch. The utility company has every right to remove it, and they get great pleasure with every opportunity.
5. **Watch the weather** – Some say the best antennas are erected in foul weather; but as tempting as it is to muster the assistance of any and all superstitions (after all radio is magic – isn't it?) please don't work on a wet, snowy or windy day.
6. **Height considerations** – No...higher is *not* always better. You can determine the ideal height of your antenna with various charts and software; in reality, it's always a compromise with site limitations. Just be sure it's high enough so people and animals don't walk into it. I don't care how much fun it is to see people get tangled up in a mass of wire. You want your antenna to catch DX, not the neighbor's kids.

Of course, there are many, many more considerations to erecting and maintaining your antennas. I wholeheartedly recommend hiring someone else to do it for you. You should just sit back and "supervise." Enjoy the great fall weather and fill up that log book!

I'll see you on Friday the 5th!

Calendar of Events

- Nov 5** RaRa General Meeting – 7:30 PM
Henrietta Fire Hall,
3129 E. Henrietta Rd
- Nov 10** RaRa Board of Directors
5:30 PM, RIT
Bldg-17, Room 2110
- Nov 12** RVHFG Meeting - 7:30 PM
Spencerport Wesleyan
Church, 2653 Nichols St.
- Nov 16** RDXA Regular Meeting - 7:30 PM
EOC, 1190 Scottsville Rd.
- Nov 18** MC ARES/RACES - 7:30 PM
Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince St.
- Nov 20** RaRa VE Testing sessions
10:00 AM, RIT
Bldg-9, Room 3139

Rag-Chew

Editor's Thoughts & Comments
By Kevin Carey, WB2QMY

Welcome to another issue of the *RARA Rag*! We have a mix of topics this month that I hope will interest you. One new item is our *Picture Puzzler* column, which should provide an interesting challenge. We also have another installment of *Ham Tech* from Duane, K2SI. This time the topic is how to get the most out of QRZ.com. Even some of us who have been on the air a long time may not have explored all that this website has to offer. Duane's article provides a helpful overview.



Our first exclusively electronic edition last month seems to have gone off without a hitch. A few people wrote in to provide their e-mail addresses so we could get the *Rag* to them. The invitation is still open. If you know of a member who is not getting their newsletter, all we need is for them to send an e-mail to Editor@RochesterHam.org and we will add them to the list. I will also have a few printed copies at the next meeting.

To further expand the coverage of the *Rag*, we are looking for someone who would be interested in writing a new column called *Between the Ham Bands*. This feature would discuss how to hear the many interesting signals above and below our allocated amateur bands, including shortwave broadcasters, utility signals, license-free experimenters, and even "mystery" users. It might also include tutorial information on choosing a receiver, how to get better reception, and how to find web-based resources for shortwave listening (SWL).

Most of today's HF rigs sport general coverage receive capability, so this may be a topic of interest to many *Rag* readers. You needn't be a professional or experienced writer to take on this role. We will help with the editing, as always. High enthusiasm is the only essential requirement! The column would not have to appear monthly. Perhaps a quarterly schedule would make the most sense for getting this started. Drop me a line at Editor@RochesterHam.org to discuss this opportunity.

Next month we'll present an article about the history of the Rochester Hamfest. Specifically, how long has this event been going? Conventional thought is that we are headed toward our 77th annual hamfest next June, but compelling new evidence suggests this may not be accurate. If our new findings are true, RARA will hold the distinction of having one of the longest running hamfests in the country.

I would like to wish all readers a Happy Thanksgiving and good DX season as we head into the winter months. The static is low, there's no grass to cut, and the bands are waiting! Be sure to also log some quality, non-radio time with friends and family this holiday season!

VE NEWS

The September VE session saw 3 new Technician, 4 General and 1 Extra licenses/upgrades granted. They are:

Erik	Austin	KC2ZEE (T)
Morgan	Killik	KC2ZEF (T)
Conlan	Wesson	KC2ZEG (T)
Jeffrey	Kemp	KC2YSV (G)
David	Taylor	KC2YTE (G)
Richard	Torrey	W2RMT (G)
Daniel	Wagner	KC2YTI (G)
Christopher	Wood	N2WHH (E)

Congratulations to all! The next session will be November 20th at 10 AM in RIT Building 9, Room 3139.

[\(click for map\)](#)

Registration starts at 10:00AM. Check the [RARA website](#) for additional information.



Silent Keys

William E. Parker, AA2XG
April 29, 2010

James L. Bates, WA2ZKI
October 6, 2010

Charles Truscott, KC2MCC
October 11, 2010

Hey... Don't Go Away!

By Susan Goslee, N2HKA

The membership period for RARA starts the first of September each year and continues through the end of August the following year. The final membership expiration each year is October 31, which includes a 2-month grace period for payment of your dues.

Don't miss out on all the benefits of your RARA membership; check the color of your current membership card and make sure it's PINK. If you only have the older GREEN one it means you need to renew your membership now. This may be done online at <http://www.rochesterham.org/>, in person at the November meeting/auction, or by mail. To pay by mail, simply send your dues with your completed membership application to RARA, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester. NY 14692-8333.

Ham Tech: Using QRZ.com

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

QRZ – Who is calling me? One of the best places to find out who is calling you is by going to www.qrz.com and searching for the callsign. About one day after your new callsign appears in the FCC database it will appear on the QRZ website. Once you create an account in QRZ you have the ability to create your own personal ham radio web page.

To create your account, do a search for your callsign. Click on **Site Menu**, scroll down to **Support** and click on **Registration Desk**. On the next screen click on **Sign up for a new account**. Follow the rest of the screens and you will have your own password-protected page. Once you have an account you can start to add information to your page.

On your QRZ page you will see tabs for Biography, Detail, and Logbook. Click on the **Detail** tab and login, if not already. At the top of the Detail window there is an **Edit Record** button. Click on it. From here you can add or change any data that is not tied to the FCC database, write up a bio about your ham radio experience, and add pictures. Some people will show the recent contacts that they have made and allow access to their complete logbook from the QRZ page. You can also inform your fellow hams how you wish to confirm recent contacts with the options being Logbook of the World, eQSL, direct, or the Bureau.

It's fun to look up a recent contact on QRZ and see some additional information about that person and maybe the equipment they are operating. Spread the fun and excitement by creating your account in QRZ and add some pictures and text for others to enjoy.

Other websites to do callsign lookups are: <http://www.wm7d.net> and <http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>

Next month: *Using the DX QSL Bureau*

RaRa Club LOGO Items



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

<http://www.rochesterham.org/logo.htm>



The screenshot shows the QRZ.COM website interface. At the top, there's a search bar and a site menu. Below that, there are several news items and advertisements. The main content area features a list of items for sale or information, including a satellite demo presentation, a DMR repeater, an AOR Proto AR7070, a job vacancy, and a CQ WW update. On the right side, there's a featured listing for a ham study and a practice tests study guide. The bottom of the page has a footer with contact information and a registration notice.



RaRa Hotline
(585) 210-8910
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ARRL Homebrew Challenge III

From ARRL Letter

The ARRL has sponsored two Homebrew Challenges in the past, designed to test our members' design and construction skills by making useful amateur gear at low cost—and sharing their results with our members. Our first ARRL Homebrew Challenge, announced in *QST* for August 2006, required the construction of a 40-meter, 5-watt voice and CW transceiver built for less than \$50 of new parts. The Second Homebrew Challenge, announced in February 2009, resulted in a number of creative designs of low cost 50-watt linear amplifiers to follow the transceiver—two for about \$30, as well as a multiband amplifier with many features for somewhat more.

This time, we announce a challenge to build a transceiver in celebration of the (slow) return of sunspots. This challenge will be in two parts and readers can enter into either or both:

A single band 25-watt SSB and CW transceiver for 10 or 6 meters (Option 1), with a prize of \$200, and a 25-watt SSB and CW transceiver that can be switched between 10 and 6 meters, using one or two switches (Option 2), with a prize of \$300. Read more online at the ARRL website by clicking [here](#). —TNX ARRL Letter

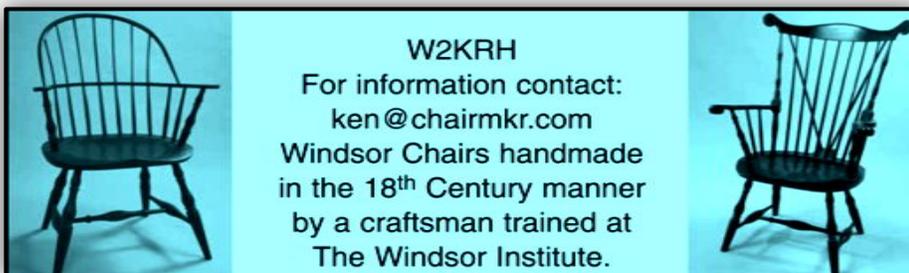


QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B—one of the HBC judges—evaluates transceivers from the first Homebrew Challenge on the air from ARRL club station, W1HQ. (S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, Photo)

Member Spotlight

By Len Crellin, KC2PCD

We are still looking for someone to be nominated for our "Ham of the Month". Each month we will select a RARA member to highlight. If you have someone you think would be interesting for us to interview, please send the editor, Kevin Carey (Editor@RochesterHam.org), his or her name with a short introduction that we can include with the interview. Any photos or stories we can use will be appreciated too! Don't be shy, we know there are many great candidates in our club with an unbelievable collection, unique job, or incredible life experiences that we all would love to read about. You can also nominate yourself, since who knows you better than you!



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June 4th 2011

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and earn "RaRa Rewards" points.

Scout Jamboree on the Air

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association 'JOTA Guys' again this year participated in Scouting's international Jamboree On The Air, a program designed to demonstrate Ham Radio to its youth members.

About 200 Boy and Cub Scouts rotated through the Camp Cutler dining hall, visiting our Jamboree On The Air ham radio activity center. Traveling in patrols of 4 or 5 scouts each, many scouts observed international radio-teletype and Morse code stations communicating during contests, GPS position reporting beacons on local camp maps, and practiced sending their names in Morse code.

Amateur radio operators attending this year's JOTA activity included: Steve K2SRF, John KC2TNO, Zach KC2VCM, Dave KC2YHF, Peter W2SKY, Lee WB2JOR, Bill AA2YV and Bill WB2SXY. Some loaner equipment was provided by Mark K2MTH and John W3OAB.

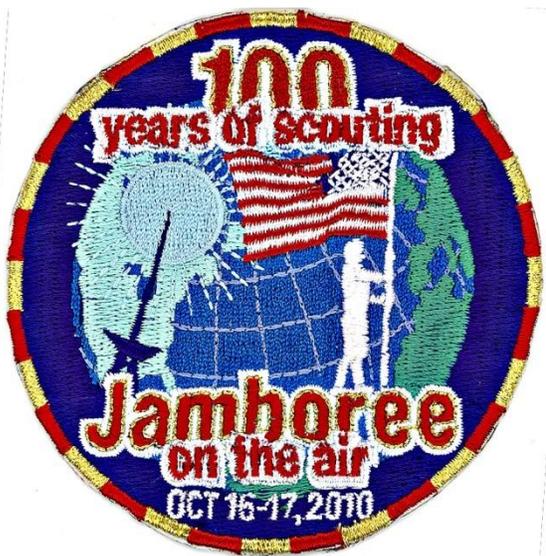
Here are some photos of our JOTA team in action! (Photos courtesy of John Werner, KC2TNO)



Dave, KC2YHF working with Scouts at Jamboree on the Air



Scouts enjoyed sending their names in Morse Code.



Picture Puzzler

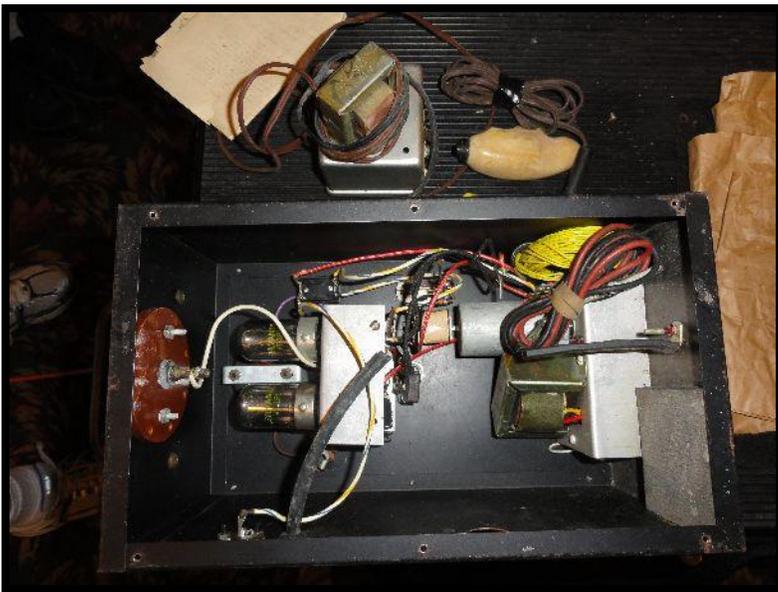
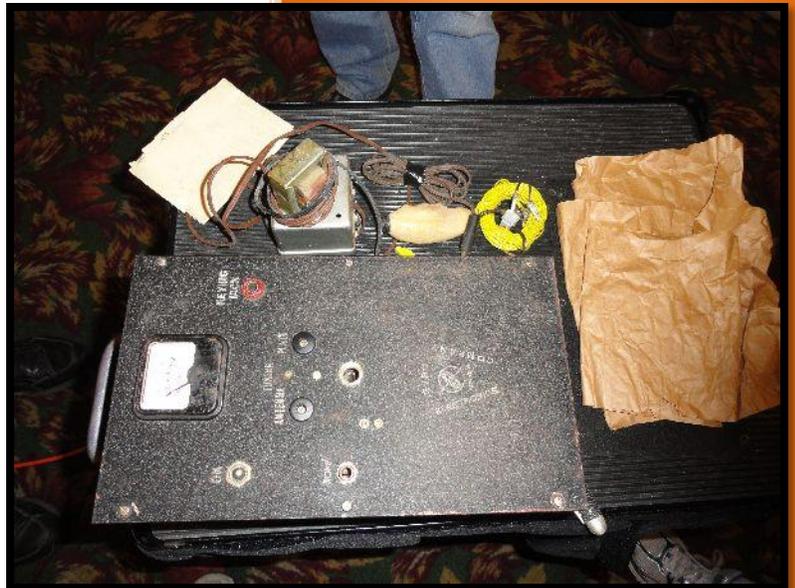
By Kevin Carey, WB2QMY

Welcome to our first *Picture Puzzler* column! This occasional column will feature an obscure or uncommon electronic item for readers to identify. Contributions of photos are always welcome. Either e-mail your photos to me, or catch me at a club meeting.

This month we feature an item, that, although not truly a ham radio, is an RF-based device. It was found at the Elmira Winterfest a few years ago, and appears to be from the 1940s or 1950s. What is it, and what was it used for? Send your guesses to Editor@RochesterHam.org. Correct guessers will be credited in the next issue of the *RARA Rag*. Good luck, and here are some clues to help you along...

1. Top of the box is neatly hand-lettered "Alaskan Snowbirds" (not visible in photos)
2. It has an RF output insulator on the top of the box for attachment of a wire
3. Item was manufactured by the Gyro Electronics Company
4. It can be run on battery or AC power
5. It includes two tubes, and has an oscillator crystal installed
6. Includes a hand-held "key" button, and antenna wire

Photos courtesy of Dr. Tom Perera, W1TP



Science and Technology Fair

Mark Your Calendar...
2010 Holiday Science and Technology Fair at the Rochester Museum & Science Center
- 657 East Ave. -
Monday - Thursday, Dec. 27th - 30th
RDXA will be operating W2RDX



RARA ACADEMY 2010

Open to all – Whether you're new to ham radio or just thinking about joining the fun. Door prizes to be given away.

- DATE:** SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2010
- TIME:** 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Registration: 8:30 AM, Pizza: 12:00 PM)
- LOCATION:** RIT, JEFFERSON ROAD
BUILDING #9, ROOM #3139
- RSVP:** Please send your name, call sign (if you have one) and email address to Duane Fregoe, k2si@arrl.net . Also send an e-mail to be notified of future RaRa Academy events.

SCHEDULE:

9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

“USING REPEATERS”

An introduction to repeaters - How they started and why we have them. Learn everything you need to know to use a repeater including proper etiquette to build your confidence and sound like an old pro. Featuring hands on exercises so bring your handheld (HT) and your manual. If you do not have an HT this presentation could help you choose which features are important to you.

Presenter: Peter Fournia, W2SKY

9:50 AM – 10:00 AM

BREAK

10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

“IRLP”

IRLP stands for the “Internet Radio Linking Project”. After a brief history on IRLP we will show you how to navigate the IRLP web site to find connection points to anywhere in the world. We will cover all facets of IRLP – attendees will leave with a strong ability to use IRLP. Live hands on demonstrations using a handheld will reinforce what you learn.

Presenter: Duane Fregoe, K2SI

10:50 AM – 11:00 AM

BREAK

11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

“Workshop – Antennas for Everyone”

Attendees will be provided with everything needed (including a personal coach) to build (and keep) an efficient and functional 2 meter antenna. For unlicensed attendees, this antenna can be used to receive with a scanner or in amateur radio "fox hunts"; hidden transmitter events that are "receive-only" for the "hunters". If you are bringing a handheld 2 meter radio for the first session and it does not have a female BNC antenna connector, bring an adapter to use your creation right away.

Presenter: Ev Tupis, W2EV and Kevin Carey, WB2QMY

12:00 PM

LUNCH

This event is being hosted by K2GXT, the RIT Amateur Radio Club

Have you visited www.RochesterHam.org lately?

Check out your club's website for these features and more...

- ✓ Photo of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- ✓ Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- ✓ 2011 Hamfest information!
- ✓ Online membership & renewal
- ✓ Public service info & sign-up
- ✓ VE testing info
- ✓ Back issues of the *Rag* in PDF
- ✓ Officer contact info
- ✓ List of past presidents (how many do you remember?)
- ✓ Order RARA logo products (hats, shirts, mugs)
- ✓ Useful Internet links
- ✓ Ham Radio 101—tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings

Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



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RaRa HOME

Rochester Hamfest

Upcoming Meetings

Public Service

Licensing Courses

License Testing

Ham Radio 101

Memorial Scholarship

Membership

Club Officers

Welcome to RARA

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

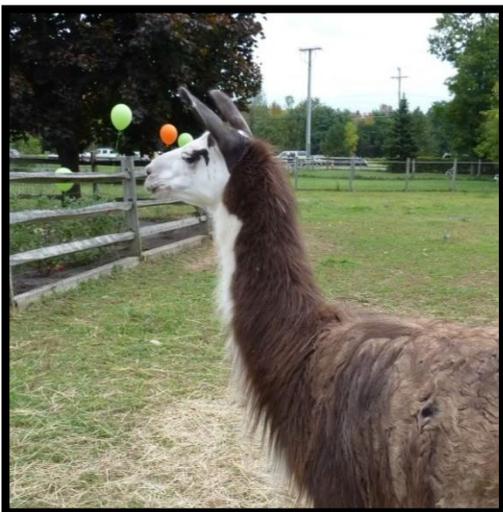
We are an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) affiliated club since 1931, and a charter Special Service Organization, **RARA** provides a unifying focal point for much of the amateur radio activity in Western New York.

New at RARA on the web:

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

Action Shots: Barktoberfest 2010

Running or walking...hams had it covered at the Barktoberfest public service event. This year's event was held on September 25th...



Monroe County ARES / RACES News

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service normally holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross. The exception is this month, November, when we meet one week earlier to account for Thanksgiving Day. This month the ARES Meeting will be held on:



Thursday, November 18, 2010
Time: 7:00 PM

Meetings are held at Red Cross Headquarters, 50 Prince Street, Rochester. Prince Street is just west of the Auditorium Theatre and runs south from East Main St. Although the address of the chapter is on Prince, the parking lot is on College Ave. on the north side of the building. Park in the lot and enter the big building at the main door.

ARES NET: Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 9:00 pm, on the 146.61 MHz. (-) 110.9 Hz pl repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the fourth Thursday of the month.



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RDXA News

By Scott Hoag, K2ZS

This year's NY QSO Party seems to have been another big success. Participation was up a bit from last year and our logging team has already received 25% above last year's total of 210 logs.

Our November meeting will be a mix of a Question & Answer session and Sharing of HF tips. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. The more input from others the better. If there is anything you want to learn about or if you have something of interest to others why not spend the evening discussing these topics with your friends at RDXA.

The Rochester DX Association meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month from September through May at the Monroe County Emergency Operations Center, 1190 Scottsville Rd, Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14624. The November Meeting will be held on the 16th beginning at 7:30PM.

RRRA News

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY

This month is Tune-up clinic month. The regular meeting night will be the 3rd Friday of November and that will be the 19th at 8:00PM. Bring your handheld, mobile or other item, please no basket cases, and our techs will adjust the deviation, frequency, tone level and such. It would be helpful to bring the manual for your radio, as well. This is also a good evening to renew your RRRA membership. All memberships expire on the 31st of October, unless otherwise noted.

The month of December brings us Family Night Out. Again the 17th of December will be the night out. At this time, our pick is once again Macgregor's on Jefferson Rd near the RIT campus. Time to show will be around 6:00 PM. No radios allowed and conversation should be on any subject OTHER than radio!



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RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, November 1990

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RaRa Historian



The November, 1990, meeting was a familiar one, but the location was not. Then, as now, each November meeting features the popular RaRa Auction. Over the years this writer remembers auctions held at the old Rochester Museum, the Monroe County Farm and Home Center, The Fire Training Academy and in this 1990 gathering, a one-time only visit to the Sea Breeze Fireman's Hall on Culver Road. The auctioneers were (who else) K2VCZ and K2MP.

Licensing Course Director Ed Gable, K2MP, reported that there were some 40 people signed up for the code and theory classes. Instructors this season were Bob NF2Z, Joe W2DHV, Joe K2YA, Ed K2MP, Brad KB2CHY and Dave N2DPF. Writing for the Rochester DX Association (RDXA) was Bob, WE2T, who reported that the speaker for their next meeting would be Art Hubert, N2AV, publisher of "Inside DX" a once very popular DX newsletter of the pre-internet days.

This issue reported that the Genesee Repeater Group's (19/79) annual picnic was rainy and cool, but the 75 in attendance didn't seem to care. A roaring fire inside the lodge added to the already warm friendships in the group. The familiar pen of Fred Gern, KB2SE, was found in this issue where he wrote a tribute to one of Rochester's premier Contesters, Fred Groner, W2TZ. 'TZ was cited for achieving the World High Score, QRP, for the 1989 CQWW CW contest.

The Rochester Amateur Packet Society, RAPS, reported the results of their elections with Chairman Jim Centanni W2IMK, Vice Chairman was Fred Cupp W2DUC, Roger Harnaart WB2BWQ as Secretary and Jon Dickason N2JAC doing Treasurer duties. With regret it was reported that William J. Galland, WB2GHB, was reported a Silent Key. From the Want Ads you could buy a Timex Sinclair computer, completely loaded with 16k of memory, for \$25.00, from Len Gessin, WA2ZNC. Patrick Moyer (sk) N2AIW, Attorney at Law, remained a long time advertiser.

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THE RARA RAG

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DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Awards / Raffle Administrators Dan Waterstraat, W2DEW
..... Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE
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Club Station Trustee Jim DiTucci, N2IXD
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RaRa RAG Managing Editor Kevin Carey, WB2QMY
RaRa RAG Layout Editor Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
Refreshments Coordinator Tom Austin, KA2GXX
Webmaster Frank Schramm, WB2PYD

RaRa meets on the first Friday of each month from September through May. Come join us at:

**Henrietta Fire Company No.1
3129 East Henrietta Rd.
Henrietta, NY 14467**

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**December Rag Deadline
November 17, 2010**

