



# THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
Founded in 1930

VOL. 64

May 2012

NO. 9

## Look, Up In The Sky! It's...

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC

It's that time again, time for SKYWARN Training.

Our May meeting will feature meteorologists from Buffalo's NOAA National Weather Service. They will be conducting a 2-hour course for SKYWARN certification. SKYWARN is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters.

These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.



Topics to be covered include: the basics of thunderstorm development, fundamentals of storm structure, identifying potential severe weather features, information to report, how to report it, and basic severe weather safety. As a trained weather spotter, you will be able to take a position near your community and report wind gusts, hail size, rainfall, and cloud formations that could signal a developing tornado or other severe weather phenomena.

Fortunately, this area is not prone to tornadoes; however, they can and do happen here occasionally. For example, there was a tornado in Wayne County just last summer. Ham radio operators across the country who are also SKYWARN weather spotters have assisted in early warning alerts being issued by the National Weather Service. No, we are not "storm chasers", but rather the eyes and ears for the NWS in various geographical locations when severe weather is approaching. Our success is based on both a working knowledge of radio communications, and knowing what and when to report on weather criteria. This training deals with the latter: what, how, and when to report information to the NWS.



The class will begin at precisely 7:30 PM on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. This training is open to the public and always "picks 'em in." Plan on arriving early to get a good seat! This is our last meeting before the summer break, and our next RaRa meeting will be in September. Enjoy the summer, but see you at the Hamfest!

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### RARA Meeting May 4th, 2012 7:30PM

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



## The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
President, RaRa

In case you haven't heard, the RaRa club station has overcome its last facilities hurdle and should be operational in just a few weeks. This has been a work in progress for quite some time by our Station Trustee Jim DiTucci, N2IXD, and RaRa members Jim Stefano, W2COP, and Jim Herbst, KC2KNJ. Jim, Jim and Jim (aka "The J-Team") have been toiling with policies, procedures, budgets, scheduling, and technology issues to put this station on the air for longer than any of them want to think about. The system is currently undergoing testing and configuration; the next step will be implementing member access and controls.

This is a virtual station – meaning that you won't sit in front of a physical radio to operate it. RaRa members in good standing can access the station with a computer via the internet. You will use a software interface (like Ham Radio Deluxe) to control the radio, perform logging, and even turn the antenna. We feel this will be a tremendous asset for club members who don't have an HF station of their own. When the station is ready, training classes will be announced here in the *RaRa Rag*. Be sure to extend a big hearty "Thanks!" to Jim, Jim and Jim when you see them at a meeting or the upcoming Hamfest.

Speaking of the Hamfest... It's getting close. June 30<sup>th</sup> will be here faster than you can say "Pass the Geritol". Advance ticket sales for the Hamfest are now available on-line at the RaRa website ([www.RochesterHam.org](http://www.RochesterHam.org))! You can purchase admission tickets, indoor flea market spaces, and rent tables and chairs for your indoor flea market spaces. Avoid the lines! Advanced sales for indoor spaces and admission tickets will let you avoid the sales queues and enter through the express lane and/or the will-call window – Just show the guard your PayPal receipt and you're in! Space assignments are made when you arrive – so if you want a table next to your friend, be sure to arrive together.

Please note...

- There are *no advance reservations for outdoor spaces*. Everyone will be inside in the air-conditioning anyway. Late June in Rochester... it will either rain or be 451 degrees – in the shade.
- Tables and Chairs are only available on-line and reservations must be made by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Current RaRa members (as of June 15<sup>th</sup> 2012) receive one free admission, and either an outdoor (subject to availability at the time of arrival) or an indoor flea market space. Members wanting additional tickets, additional indoor spaces, or to rent tables and chairs can make their reservations online and redeem membership points (membership points are only redeemable on-line).

73 and happy DXing.  
Frank  
WB2PYD



### Rochester Hamfest and Technology Expo Features:

- Weatherproof! – 60,000 square feet of air conditioned indoor flea market & vendors
- Tailgating on pavement
- Close to the Thruway with an on-site hotel
- Indoor setup 6-9 am
- Tailgate setup 6:00 am
- Doors open at 9 am!

Visit the website ([www.RochesterHamfest.com](http://www.RochesterHamfest.com)) to get your tickets now!

**Mark your calendars:  
Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup>!**

**FREE Admission for  
RaRa Members!**

**Not a member? [Join today!](#)**



## Rag-Chew

Editor's Thoughts & Comments  
By Kevin Carey, WB2QMY  
[Editor@RochesterHam.org](mailto:Editor@RochesterHam.org)

Welcome to the May issue of the *RARA Rag*. Although snow is falling as I write this, I trust that warmer weather is right around the corner. I find it interesting that I was able to ride my motorcycle to work in mid-March, and now I'm questioning whether I should have taken the snow tires off the car! Despite our changeable weather, one thing is certain: We are on the final stretch leading up to the 89<sup>th</sup> annual Rochester Hamfest, this year to be held at RIT on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you there!

Speaking of the Hamfest, Ken Villone, KU2US, advises that he will conduct a special event operation at this year's show. Ken is event manager for the **13 Colonies Special Event**, held each July since 2009 (see Ken's bio at QRZ.com). Ken states that this event is one of the largest of its kind in North America, with over 40,000 QSOs logged last year alone. He will have a display table at the hamfest this year, located between Light Beam Antennas and the RARA booth on the show floor. In addition, Ken will be operating 1 to 2 hours in the parking lot on 2-meter FM simplex (146.460) to give NY operators a contact for the Colony State of New York. A special event QSL card will be available at the hamfest table on the spot, when he returns to the building. The callsign for this event will be K2A/KU2US, and the on-air operation will begin at 10 AM the day of the Hamfest.

Along the line of achievements, does anyone else wonder what happened to the **2011 Atlantic Division awards**? The Division annually sponsors three awards, one of which is named in memory of past RARA member Keith Freeberg, N2BEL (SK). To date, there has been no announcement of the 2011 recipients, and requests for information from the ARRL and Division leadership have been inconclusive. I'm wondering if anyone else shares a concern about this situation. Please let your thoughts be known on these meaningful awards. As a point of interest, the web site at [www.atldiv.org/AtlAwards.htm](http://www.atldiv.org/AtlAwards.htm) is still calling for 2011 submittals as of this writing. I'm hoping with our wide distribution of over 8,000 hams (many in the Atlantic Division), that we'll be able to get some answers, or at least see an updated status of the awards for 2012.

73, and best DX.

## Calendar of Events

- May 4** RaRa General Meeting – 7:30  
Henrietta Fire Hall,  
3129 E. Henrietta Rd
- May 9** RaRa Board of Directors  
5:30 PM, RIT  
Engineering Hall, Room 2110

THE U.S. ORIGINAL 13 COLONIES SVE GROUP PRESENTS THE 4TH ANNUAL:

### 4th Of July Week - 13 Colonies Special Event

JULY 1ST - JULY 5TH, 2012  
*Colonial Era U.S. Navy Tall Ships*



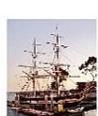
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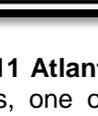
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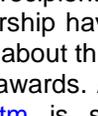
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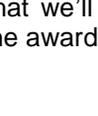
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GOD BLESS AMERICA

OLD IRONSIDES

K2A-NY\* K2B-VA\* K2C-RI\* K2D-CT\* K2E-DE\*  
K2F-MD\* K2G-GA\* K2H-MA\* K2I-NJ\* K2J-NC\*  
K2K-NH\* K2L-SC\* K2M-PA\*

CLEAN SWEEP

IN RECOGNITION FOR PARTICIPATING IN  
THIS SPECIAL EVENT, A SPECIAL QSL CARD IS AWARDED

CONTACTS: \_\_\_\_\_

KU2US-AWARDS MGR: *Ken Villone*

73

## RaRa VE News

By Ken Hall, W2KRH

We had six successful candidates in March, 1 Technician, 2 General and 3 Extra. One of the Extra candidates passed all three exams in one sitting, and a special congratulations goes to **Ming Ying AC2IH**, I had never seen this before in my work as a VE, and Dick Goslee, KG2I, said it was only the second time he had seen it in his 10+ years of VE work. In addition, Laura Enders KD2BEA has volunteered to join the VE team – thank you Laura.

Nicholas	Manuele	KD2BVT	Tech
Richard	Barned	KD2AJM	General
Frederick	Green	KD2BAS	General
Laura	Enders	KD2BEA	Extra
Thomas	Kirchoff	KC2LXX	Extra
Ming	Ying	AC2IH	Extra

Our next test will be at the Hamfest on June 30<sup>th</sup>—see you there.

## Meeting Prizes!

Jay Hamill, KC2TCM  
Sabrina Hamill, WD2STK

Just as we promised at the last meeting, and just in time for good antenna weather, we have a G5RV Jr. antenna for our top prize this month! This antenna is 52 feet long, and works on 40 through 10 meters. I actually have one of these strung between two trees at my QTH.

The next pair of prizes are a desktop "vintage" microphone for your computer, and an external communications speaker. Great size for mobile use! The final pair of prizes are a couple of other "vintage" items; a VHS video cassette titled *Getting Started In Ham Radio* by CQ Magazine, circa 1992, and a book titled *How To Troubleshoot & Repair Amateur Radio Equipment* by Joseph J. Carr, K4IPV circa 1980! This could be helpful if anyone recently picked up some older equipment! I hope the winners find these useful!

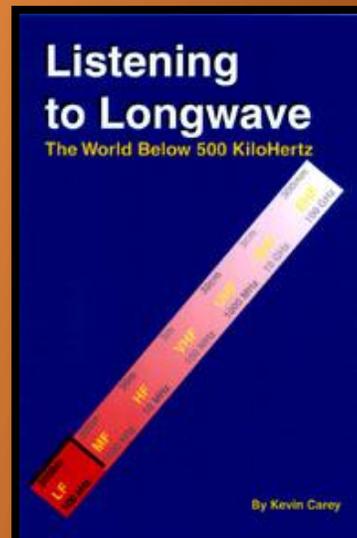
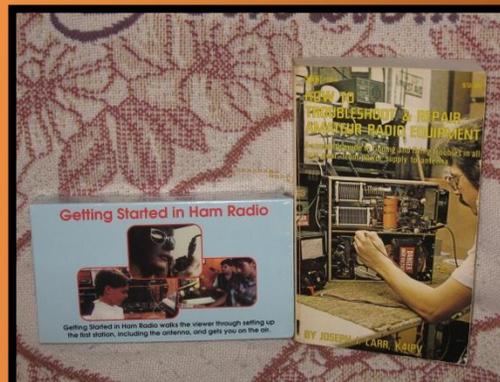
## One of Our Own...

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD

Many of you readers probably don't know our RAG Editor is a published author. His book, *Listening to Longwave*, is a popular selection at [Universal Radio Sales](#), and has been donated as a raffle item a number of times (I hope you lucky recipients got your copy autographed!). The book covers such topics as: Receivers, converters and antennas for effective longwave reception; longwave listening tips; radio atmospherics; and more!

Kevin was recently interviewed by PCJ Media Plus a weekly communications show. You can hear the interview [<here>](#). If you don't want to listen to the whole show, jump to the 13 minute mark for the interview.

*Being modest, Kevin would never allow me to put this in the RAG... I had to sneak it in between edits. Let's hope he doesn't notice... he can hate me later. - FS*



## Ham Tech

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

The program for the April RARA Academy was the building of the tape measure beam antenna commonly seen at fox hunts. As I found out, this is a very simple antenna to build. The main parts are a steel tape measure and PVC pipe. Most projects that involve PVC are usually pretty easy. The goal of the Academy was to provide 30 kits at minimal cost so that each attendee could build his or her own antenna without soldering. The plans that I followed were from Joe Leggio, WB2HOL. The changes I made to Joe's plans were to use  $\frac{3}{4}$ " PVC and I only purchased two clamps for the driven elements so I could clamp the coax and the hairpin to the bare steel end of the tape measure. For the director and reflector I used electrical tape. This gave each participant a working antenna for the fox hunt that was to follow that morning.

The electrical tape was only a cost-effective temporary construction method. For a more durable arrangement, the attachment of the director and reflector could be done with four more clamps, small screws and four small rubber washers, with the washer going between the tape measure and the PVC. I would also recommend soldering the coax, the hairpin and the driven element together and re-clamping them to the PVC. The cost of parts to build one of these antennas was just under \$12.00. The joy of completing a successful project was PRICELESS.

In the Academy there were 22 antennas built and each antenna was connected to an MFJ meter for testing. The class had a 100% success rate. Half of the class was from the RIT Amateur Radio Club which was great to see. The transmitter was hidden three times on the RIT campus and was found twice by a group from Harris and the last hidden fox was found by an RIT student. The next good test for these new antennas will be the Xerox Amateur Radio Club Spring Fox Hunt to be held on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Here are the three links that I gathered for background information before starting this project.

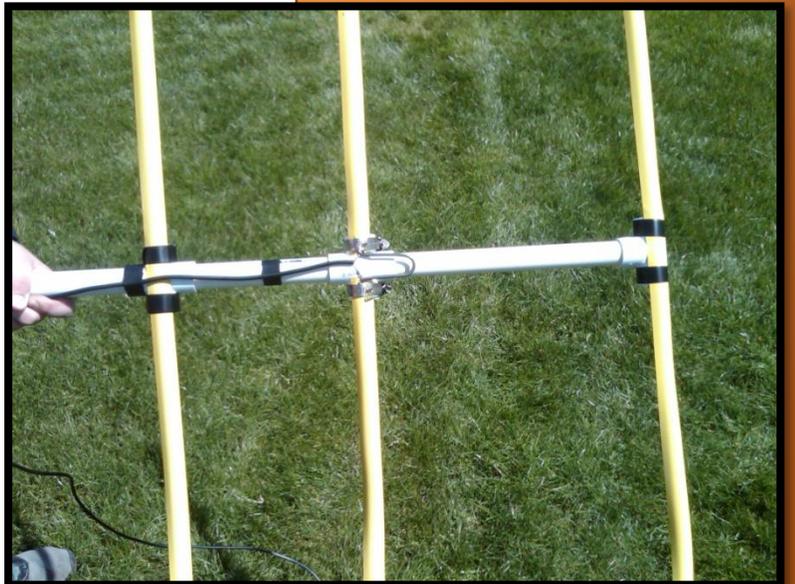
[http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape\\_bm.htm](http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm)

<http://www.west.net/~marvin/wb2hol.htm>

<http://www.qsl.net/na0pw/FoxHunt1.htm>

Additional pictures by Jon Dickason, N2JAC, from the class and the foxhunt that followed can be viewed at:

<http://s234.photobucket.com/albums/ee91/gadgetjon/RARA%20academy%20April%202012%20foxhunt/>.



# Scanning Report: MURS

By Jim Sutton, N2OPS

## WHERE IS MURS?

MURS operates on given VHF high band frequencies located just above the 2-meter band at 151 and 154 MHz.

## WHAT WILL I HEAR?

Two of the MURS frequencies 154.570 and 154.600 will provide more of a potpourri of listening than any of the GMRS or FRS frequencies, Conversations will range from kids to fast food drive-thrus, businesses to telemetry transmission. 154.570 MHz is home to most Wal-Mart stores.

The remaining MURS frequencies 151.820, 151.880 and 151.940 are nearly void of any radio traffic. Unlike FRS and GMRS there are few MURS radios on the market. Most MURS users equip land mobile radios with MURS frequencies.

All five will be active at special events. Use your CTCSS/DCS reader to establish who is using which tones. Then enter them in the scan mode. After you get home from each event take a few minutes to share confirmed frequencies and CTCSS/DCS codes with me. I'll pass them on to others.

## PERSONAL AND BUSINESS

Unlike FRS and GMRS frequencies MURS frequencies allow both business and personal communications with no license. The power limit is one or two watts depending on the frequency.

While repeater use is not allowed, base antennas can be mounted up to 20 feet in height. Not bad for keeping track of activity in the neighborhood, and just maybe getting folks interested in studying for their Tech license.

## CTCSS/DCS

MURS units use CTCSS DCS tones for privacy from listening to other users. Trade names include PL for Private Line and CG for Channel Guard. It is misunderstood by some users to mean that they cannot be heard. It simply means you cannot hear *other* users without the code. They can still hear your communications just fine.

## FREQUENCIES

151.820	1 watt	MURS 1
151.880	1 watt	MURS 2
151.940	1 watt	MURS 3
154.570	2 watts	MURS 4/Blue Dot
154.600	2 watts	MURS 5/Green Dot

## WHERE CAN I GET THEM?

Manufacturers including Dakota Alert and Motorola are two with prices starting at \$75. You will often find these and other models on eBay. Be sure they are narrow band and not over powered.

## RaRa Club LOGO Items



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

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

## LINKS

Dakota Alert MURS Base

<http://shop.murs-radio.com/MURS-Base-M538-BS.htm>

Dakota Alert MURS Handheld

<http://shop.murs-radio.com/MURS-Hand-Held-M538-HT.htm>

FCC on MURS

<http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/multi-use-radio-service-murs-0>

MURS Questions and Answers

[http://home.provide.net/~prsg/murs\\_faq.htm#Q10](http://home.provide.net/~prsg/murs_faq.htm#Q10)

MURS Radio Source

<http://www.intercomsonline.com/MURS-Multi-Mile-Base-Intercomp/murs%20538-base.htm>

## FCC PART 90 APPROVED RADIOS

With the new breed of FCC Part 90 approved two-way handheld radios on the market, MURS provides non-ham communications in one radio.

In the June and July issues I will be reviewing the Wouxun KG-UVA1 and the Wouxun KG-UV6D radios. These outstanding radios combine ham, land mobile and scanner all in one unit with an amazing price tag.

Until then 73 to thee.

**New home of the Rochester Hamfest – The Gordon Field house at RIT!!!  
Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> 2012**

***Tickets on sale now***

**\$5.00 Admission - \$5.00 Indoor flea market spaces  
Avoid the lines – order online at: RochesterHamfest.com**



## “Roll Your Own” Hamshack Table

By Bill Hopkins AA2YV

A couple of years ago I decided I needed a neater environment for my ham station if I intended to keep it “topside” and avoid emigrating to my man cave-of-a-basement. So I set about designing a main and side table arrangement to get the most bang for my buck. The result has become a nice setup that fits into the corner of an 11 X 10 room that doubles as a small library and the family computer hub. I had to construct a table with features I decided I really wanted and tamp down the nerdy side of the hobby – in the interest of family diplomacy.

I rebuilt my original table by adding paneled side legs with caster wheels on them. Now I can roll the table out from the wall and easily work behind it, routing the wires where I want. As for the “back side” of it all, I have attached hooks, loops and other wiring harness helpers so that I keep audio, 12 volt DC, 117 volt AC, coax and other control wiring in discreet lines. Until I wire in a discreet 20 amp line just for the station, I am using two surge-protecting power strips for the electrical. Still, the back side isn't pretty, but now nothing is visible from the front or from beneath the table.

The table top is simply a kitchen counter top with the back splash removed just to leave a ½ inch lip back there to keep things from sliding back too far. I constructed an all-wood “I” beam of 1X6's and 5/4 strips for the top and bottom of the “I”. The beam is secured to the side leg panels by 45 degree strips of 2X4, angled in. The I-beam extends the entire length of the table and is situated about 2/3 back on the 25” distance, to take the weight of the equipment, straight on. The legs are simply 2X4's front and back, each side, with birch veneered ½ inch plywood to connect each side leg (with hard rubber caster wheels on the bottom of each 2X4 upright). A sliding keyboard tray was screwed into the underside at the place where I need to sit. (To strengthen the legs on each side I attached removable diagonal struts, which protect against lateral strain.)

On the top side I have built a two-tiered scaffold rack made of 1X10's and sufficiently bridged in the middle to fit the equipment I originally had in mind. The front edge is angled just a bit to give it that “wrap-around” effect, a very practical nuance. I added a couple of cubbies at the mid-level for general stuff to come along later. I have large bays at the bottom left and right to accommodate almost any larger transceiver or tuner. The rack simply sits on top of the table. On either side it sits about ½ inch in from the right and left edges of the table. It isn't going anywhere. Now, with a “mobile” table I can easily plug and unplug wiring, reroute them or lay new coax runs. On the inside rear verticals of my rack I have fused buss panels for 12 VDC power.

This project is a perfect garage or carport job well suited to the oncoming warm weather. The topside rack can sport your favorite color, and good drying weather will permit the required two or three coats for durability. It has to really dry before accepting heavy ham equipment.

To the left I added a roughly square-ish table originally built for older computers or printers; I picked it up used at a local office furniture outlet. Here I plop down the old repaired gear that makes its way up from the workbench. The first piece was the Hallicrafters S-40A receiver and the latest is my Lindsay-type 80 meter superhet receiver (described elsewhere in this issue) that barely fits into the space. Isn't ham radio a blast?



# A Homebrew 80-Meter Superhet

By Bill Hopkins AA2YV

One day I heard a local ham discussing a receiver he wanted to build—the cardboard box superhet found in the Lindsay book set, Volume 5 (see [www.lindsaybks.com/](http://www.lindsaybks.com/)). I had been looking at the same rig for a year or two and thought I should tackle it before moving on to the HBR super radio from the early 1960's in *QST*. So I bought all six thin booklets from Radio Daze and began reading. This would be a real “Bastelsache,” as we say in German, a real snip and paste job. So I read and read and looked and looked at the pictures. That is, I read the same small book over and over to get down all the passing hints Lindsay crammed in there.

If you've gotten this far, you may want to visit [qrz.com](http://qrz.com) and check out my page at AA2YV. Just look at the photos quickly and come back here, OK? Every time I wanted to shortcut the process I realized I couldn't and shouldn't. Begin at the beginning, I learned. After a trip to Debbie Supply in East Rochester for an aluminum shaft, tightening sleeves and springs, I found a junk piece of 1X6 pine and built the simple apparatus to wind the IF coils. I wound four of them, and two more identical ones with taps at 25%, using discarded Saran Wrap coil forms (doubly painted with shellac). These were for the BFO and the stand-alone alignment AM oscillator at 400 kHz. I didn't really need this last item, but I told myself: If you can't get this first coil wound and running, then just scrap the whole project. But it worked the first time! Uh oh, now I had to build the rest.

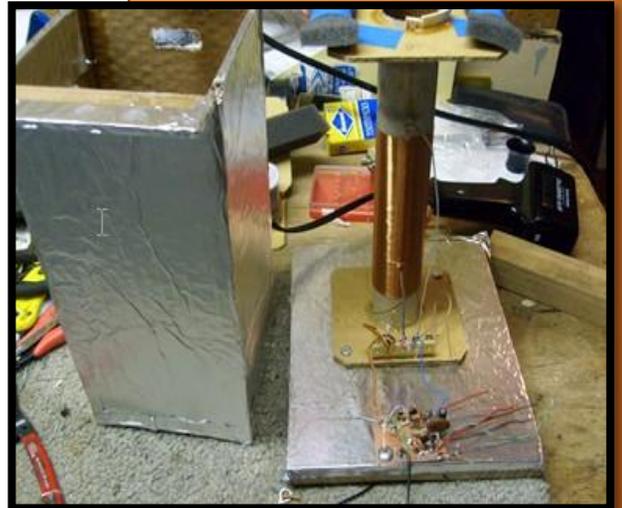
Next, I built the cardboard boxes for the IF's and the BFO, being a real stickler about identical box dimensions. I treated myself like a dunce and copy-catted Lindsay's layout to a tee. Along the way I did my own things here and there (*i.e.*, using wood blocks to mount the variable caps instead of complicating aluminum sheeting). I have to say that this project was really fun.

To power this set, I would need a power supply (found in booklet 1). I had already purchased the two transformers online, but my DC voltage was too low when hooked to the radio, so I fumbled with the voltage dividing resistors and finally got my required 90 volts. Now, the set was ready for alignment. Alignment was very discouraging, but only for about five minutes. I decided to get the alignment oscillator antenna stub close to the tubes and then tune very slowly. UP came the signals!

Now, the radio is so hot that I may try a simple AGC circuit for it. Also, I could do with a nice little audio amplifier to get output to a speaker instead of the crystal earphones. Do you think I should add a Heathkit Q-Multiplier to give me more selectivity, or should I just begin building that HBR?



*A receiver coil under construction*



*Completed coil under alignment*



*The completed Superhet (super-sized?) receiver at AA2YV*

## RARA Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RaRa Historian

### 20 Years Ago, May, 1992

Vice President Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU, wrote announcing the program for the evening that included RaRa's annual business meeting and election of officers and board members. As usual for this May issue, each candidate had a biography published. The program that month took us to the mouth of the Genesee River, and the Rochester Coast Guard station, where Bob O'Connell, NF2Z, described his duties as Communications Officer. Meetings then were held at the 40&8 Club on University Avenue.

Readers also heard from Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, Curator of the AWA Museum, who announced that the museum was now open for the season. Bruce went on to say that the museum was the source of much material seen in Ken Burn's recent documentary *Empire of the Air*. RaRa's public service participants were not lacking for activity as fifteen events were listed for the May to October time frame. Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ, penned a nice article, part of on-going profiles of local radio amateurs, featuring Harold Smith, K2HC, and his many contributions. Gene Parker, KE2T, of Irondequoit, reported on the recently completed hearing by the Town on antenna restrictions. There it was learned that the Commissioners were unaware of FCC Ruling PRB-1 that preempts local regulations pertaining to the Amateur Radio Service.

Writing for the Rochester Area Packet Society (RAPS) was Gary, KA1NJL, who reported that members just finished a group build of packet modems where some 60 units were built and successfully tested. A little different Want Ad found Ed, WA2UBD, offering Horse Boarding services. Master Electrician Martin Ippolito, N2HEG, offering Burglar Alarm Systems, remained a commercial advertiser.

### 40 Years Ago, May, 1972

The interesting meeting for this month was introduced by Joe Hood, K2YAH, where he reported that the subject would be Slow Scan Television (SSTV). The expert presenter was Dave Hallidy, WB2ZEA, of Xerox, who will describe his home-brewed SSTV station. Chuck Brelsford, K2WW, reported on the AWA's Grand Old Man Award that was presented to Clarence E. (Ducky) Dengler, W2LK. Ducky had been an area radio amateur for some 51 years, starting in 1919.

Hamfest ticket chairman Bob Lozen, WB2ERE, said that you could have your Rochester Hamfest ticket for three dollars. Add another four dollars if you want to attend the banquet. Sadly, the loss of one of the area's most active and well liked amateurs was reported, Jim Knapp, W2AFQ. Jim was remembered for his outstanding DX achievements as well as an outstanding public service accomplishment when he logged 31,824 overseas phone patches (yes, look at that number again – Ed) for our military personnel.

Charlie Mills, K2LDU, wrote to announce that the local 28/88, repeater was off the air for a short while as it was converted to the new narrowband (5 kc) deviation standard. He warned users that they needed to narrowband their transmitters as well. From the Want Ads you could buy a SB301 receiver from Elmer Wagner, WB2BNJ. Tire World of Webster, Ray Roberts, WA2SSU, proprietor, was a long term commercial advertiser.

Questions,  
Comments?  
Call the

**RaRa Hotline**  
**(585)**  
**210-8910**  
**24 Hours a Day**



## News from our friends at other area clubs...

*Editor's Note: Free press is available for your club! We welcome brief updates and meeting notices from all area ham clubs. Just send your input to [editor@rochesterham.org](mailto:editor@rochesterham.org). When preparing your article, please remember to keep it short, and assume that readers know nothing about your club. The article should be focused toward non-members, and not your own current members... that's what your own newsletter is for! We hope all area clubs will take advantage of this opportunity to interest new members in joining their ranks. 73, -Kevin*

### Monroe County ARES / RACES News

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. All ARES / RACES members and non-member Amateur Radio Operators are welcome and encouraged to attend. The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, June 28, 2012, at 7:00 PM.** Meetings are held at the **Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.** (Located behind the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 Main St. E.)

**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 4th Thursday of the month.

**NBEMS:** Want to learn about Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS)? It's the latest and easiest way to "Go Digital!" Bring your laptop computer and 2-meter handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2012.

**REMINDER:** We do not meet during the months of July or August. See you on September 27, 2012.

### XARC Fox Hunt

By Paul Austin, N2TAJ

XARC will host a transmitter hunt starting at Egypt park on May 5th. Registration and practice hunts will occur from 9-9:30, with the main fox hunt beginning at 9:30. So dust off and/or build your gear soon. Because of the wide range of advanced hunting abilities among our constituency, we will attempt to make this hunt challenging on a variety of levels. First hint—you might want to dig out your boots. Additional details will follow. Send an email to [N2TAJ@GoSkipper.US](mailto:N2TAJ@GoSkipper.US) to be added to the email distribution list for this hunt. Hope to see you there! See complete rules at <http://qsl.net/n2jac/foxhunts/spring12hunt.txt>.



# VHF Contest

By Ken Kent, KA2LIM

It is time for those of you who have connections with your local clubs, (other than the VHF/UHF clubs and regular operators on these bands) to start talking up the **June VHF contest**. Get the info into the local club newsletters for May and June. Check into the weekly nets and start talking up the contest and encourage those who have FM-only to get on the simplex frequencies to make contacts and find out how far you can communicate with simplex only. (Check the KA2LIM/K2LIM website at [www.ka2lim.com](http://www.ka2lim.com) for the FM simplex frequencies used.)

Encourage others to get together and make contacts during the contest even if they only have one or two bands. (*i.e.*, 6M, and/or 2M and/or 432/440 MHz). Participants can even use a local club station, a friend's home station, or a hilltop portable/mobile setup. Rovers, be sure to invite someone new to go with you to see how it is done and get them started.

If you know someone you want to introduce to VHF/UHF operation, invite them to come and operate with you or just visit your station. Also, you can visit the K2LIM contest station in June, located in FN12mg. We have room for vehicles to park and I think we can even give them something to eat along with an introduction to how far you can reach with a variety of antennas on 6 meters thru 432 MHz. (We might even have the microwave bands operational) Contact me at [ka2lim@arrl.net](mailto:ka2lim@arrl.net) for more info.

For further information on weak signal (VHF/UHF), feel free to contact anyone in the RVHFG via the website [www.rvhfg.org](http://www.rvhfg.org) or email: [ka2lim@arrl.net](mailto:ka2lim@arrl.net) or visit the website [www.ka2lim.com](http://www.ka2lim.com)

## VHF/UHF Events for 2012

9-10 June VHF QSO Party

21-23 July CQWW VHF

4-5 August UHF Contest

8-10 September VHF QSO Party

Details and rules for these events can be found on the ARRL website at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and the CQ Amateur Radio website at [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com).

*Join in the fun on the VHF/ UHF bands!*

## Classified Ads:

### Calculator for Loan

I have a scientific calculator I'll loan to anyone studying for the Amateur Extra exam. It's a Casio fx-300ms. I'll be glad to lend it to someone who needs it for the duration of the class, and for the test itself. Contact Jay Golden, K2JSG at [jgolden577@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jgolden577@rochester.rr.com).

### R-390 Tubes (26Z5W)

Four 26Z5W rectifier tubes for sale, \$20 for the lot. Please contact Jay Golden, K2JSG at [jgolden577@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jgolden577@rochester.rr.com).

# 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 clubs 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



Visit the RARA Website!

Did you know that your club's website ([www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org)) offers these features and more?

- ✓ Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- ✓ Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- ✓ Rochester Hamfest information!
- ✓ Online membership & renewal
- ✓ Track and redeem your Reward points
- ✓ 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?)
- ✓ Online membership directory
- ✓ Order RARA logo products (hats, shirts, and mugs)
- ✓ Useful Internet links
- ✓ Ham Radio 101—tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings



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## DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Awards / Raffle Administrators ..... Jay Hamill, KC2TCM  
..... Sabrina Hamill, WD2STK  
Club Historian ..... Ed Gable, K2MP  
Club Station Trustee ..... Jim DiTucci, N2IXD  
Education Coordinator ..... Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE  
Hamfest Producer ..... Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
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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**

[Get Directions](#)

## Rochester Area Radio Club Contacts

### Antique Wireless Association (AWA)

Lynn Bisha, W2BSN ..... [lbisha@rochester.rr.com](mailto:lbisha@rochester.rr.com)

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

Rich Hamill, KC2TNJ ..... [tinker@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tinker@rochester.rr.com)

### Fisherman's Net Amateur Radio Club

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

### Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn

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

### Monroe County ARES

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### Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RaRa)

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### Rochester DX Association (RDXA)

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### Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

Brad Allen, KB2CHY ..... [kb2chy@frontiernet.net](mailto:kb2chy@frontiernet.net)

### Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)

John Stevens, WB2BYP ..... [wb2byp@arrl.net](mailto:wb2byp@arrl.net)

### Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)

Steve Benton, WB2VMR ..... [sbenton2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:sbenton2@rochester.rr.com)

### XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)

Ned Asam, W2NED ..... [w2ned@frontiernet.net](mailto:w2ned@frontiernet.net)

**June Rag Deadline**  
**May 15, 2012**

