



# THE RARA RAG

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

VOL. 65

November 2012

NO. 3

## Going Once, Going Twice...SOLD!!

By Gary Skuse, KA1NJL  
Vice President, RaRa

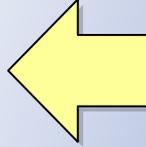
Each year during the 26 or so years that I have been a member of RARA I have looked forward to the annual auction. Once again this year the auction will be held at our November meeting which is scheduled for **Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. In keeping with this long running tradition, Dick Goslee, KG2I and Ed Gable, K2MP have graciously agreed to return as auctioneers extraordinaire. As anyone knows who has attended a RARA auction in the past (and who hasn't?) these two guys bring a unique sense of humor and a limitless wealth of knowledge about all things radio and radio-related to the task. I for one am grateful for their help with this event; it wouldn't be the same without them.

Please plan to join us with anything you would like to sell. Search your attic, basement, garage, the space beneath your bed, your closet or anywhere else you might be hiding something you no longer use that may become someone else's treasure. Tired of looking at that underused tower in your back yard? Someone will certainly be happy to help you take it down and reinstall it in their own yard. Be sure to clearly label all items with your name and sale price, we wouldn't want to give your money to someone else once your items sell. Not only will you be able to unload that potential treasure but the buyer will get something he or she needs or wants and the club will benefit from 10% of the sale price.

However, bring only radio-related items. There are other venues to sell your cast off computer parts or that lawn mower that is cluttering your garage. Keep in mind that this is a **RARA member-only event** so bring your membership card with you or be prepared to renew your membership at the door if it has lapsed. The entertainment value of the Dick and Ed show alone is worth the price of membership. Of course each member is welcome to bring a guest to the auction; it is a great opportunity to introduce someone to the hobby and watch as their eyes glow with desire for the really cool radio-related items that sell each year.

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**RARA Meeting**  
**November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7PM**

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



# The Prez Sez

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC  
President, RaRa

Greetings and Salutations to all! The last event for the 2011-2012 club year was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual RaRa Banquet. It was held at the Burgundy Basin Inn again, and what a great event it was. The night had some good live music, a very tasty buffet dinner, and RaRa awards were handed out. The award winners of this year's awards are: Ham of the Year, **Duane Fregoe**, K2SI; Club Service Award goes to **Kevin Carey**, WB2QMY; and Community Service Award was presented to **Charlie Escriva**, KB2SOZ. Join me in congratulating these folks for all they have done and continue to do for amateur radio.

Can you believe that November is upon us already? November brings plenty of special days of tradition... Thanksgiving Day, Veteran's Day, Election Day, Black Friday, and of course, the RaRa Auction! We all have something that we are thankful for. Our veterans and those who are currently serving in the military deserve our heartfelt thanks as well. Election Day is our opportunity to vote, a right that we should not take for granted. Black Friday is a great day to stay home and chase DX. I'd rather fight a pileup than take on the crowds at the stores! The noise levels should be down, and the sun spot cycle should also be in our favor.

Then there's the RaRa Auction, certainly a RaRa tradition. There's been a RaRa auction as far back as I can remember. The auction is always a special event, and we are certainly entertained by those two fun -loving guys, Ed Gable (K2MP) and Dick Goslee (KG2I). There are plenty of good buys to be had, along with the chance for our members to sell some of the "stuff" we no longer need. I hope to see you there!

Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday, stay safe, and get on the air!

73!



## AUCTION CARD

Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

**Item Description (What is it?):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Condition of Item (Please check one):**

Fully working, no known problems: \_\_\_\_\_

Working with these deficiencies: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-working with following symptom(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Starting Bid \$:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seller's Name, Callsign:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Sale Price (For Auctioneer Use Only) \$:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: 10% of final sale price payable to RARA (paid by seller)**

## Calendar of Events

**Nov 2** **RaRa General Meeting**  
7:00 PM - Henrietta FD #1  
3129 E. Henrietta Rd

**Nov 7** **RaRa Board of Directors**  
5:30 PM, RIT Engineering  
Hall, Room 2110

**Nov 17** **RaRa VE Testing** sessions  
10:00 AM, RIT Gleason  
Hall, Room 3139

## Auction Card

RARA Rag Staff

Printed here is an auction tag that you may use to mark your items for the November 2<sup>nd</sup> auction. Just print out as many copies as you need, fill out the information, and attach it to your item(s) to be sold. Use of the tag is optional, and is being offered as a convenience for our members. These tags were used at our hamfest "Last Chance" auction with great success and are being offered here for the general auction.

73, and see you at the auction!



## Rag-Chew

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

We had quite a response to our picture puzzler in last month's issue! Jeff Miller (N2AWA) submitted a photo he took while on vacation in Wellfleet, MA (see below). Among the first to correctly guess the location of this building were: Brad Allen (KB2CHY), George Masny (KA2GPJ), Duane Fregoe (K2SI), Mark Hazel (K2MTH), Jim DiTucci (N2IXD), and Larry Wallnau (W2ZEY).

The sign in question says "RaRa Folk Arts from Matenwa Haiti," although it appears to say "Folk Arts from Ham" due to the letter spacing in the word "Haiti." And in case you were wondering, RARA in Haiti refers a major, month-long festival filled with fiery music, rhythms, and dance.

What is the radio connection here? None directly related to the building, but the location is right around the corner from the site of the famous Marconi Wireless station "Old CC" where important radio history was made. There is an outdoor display at this site today with a model of the original spark station and other facts posted on a historical sign. Thanks again to Jeff Miller for submitting the photo, and to all who took a guess at the mystery!

Our call last month for new articles has been answered! As a result, we plan to have an upcoming series on the use of common test equipment by a member very familiar with this topic. Stay tuned, and get ready to put that bench gear to its full use!

I'd like to wish all *RARA Rag* readers a great Thanksgiving holiday. In addition to enjoying your radio hobby, be sure to log some special times with family and friends.

73, and best DX!

***This mystery photo caused quite a stir last month! This building, located in Wellfleet, MA, specializes in folk arts from Haiti. The word "Haiti" appears to say "Ham" because of the letter spacing. "RARA" refers to a major festival held in Haiti each year.***



## Stolen Gear!

The following items were recently stolen from a storage facility in Rochester. Anyone with information is asked to contact Linda Fuller at [linda.a.fuller@gmail.com](mailto:linda.a.fuller@gmail.com) so that the authorities can be notified.

- The Hallicrafters Co. - model S-38C
- National NC - model NC-57B
- Triplett - model 327-T
- Heathkit "Sixer" - six meter amateur transceiver
- Multi-products Co - Elmac Trans-citer - model AF-67, Am-NFm-CW, Serial # 752.

## VE News

By Ken Hall, W2KRH  
VE Coordinator

The first test session of new season was held on September 15<sup>th</sup> and we had 7 candidates, all of whom passed at least one test. The results were:

Richard Barned, KD2AJM (Extra)  
Donald Dever, KD2CTZ (General)  
Brian Higberg KD2CUA (General)  
Vincent Montalto Jr, KD2CUB (General)  
Joseph Moreyn KB1YQR (Technician)  
Dean Smith KD2CUC (Technician)  
Robert Wardynski KD2CMA (General)

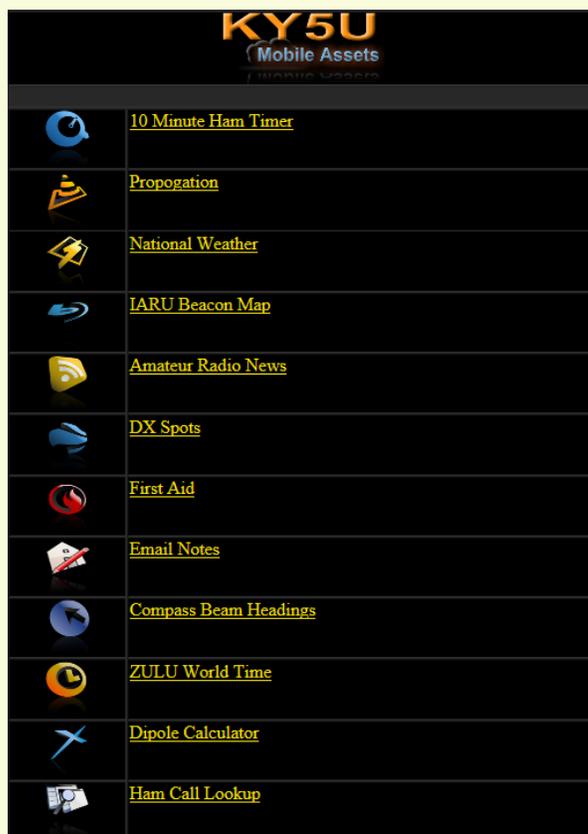
Congratulations to all. Our next session will be on November 17<sup>th</sup> at RIT.

## Ham Tech – Ham Radio Mobile Apps

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

I recently purchased a Google Nexus 7 tablet which is running the latest Android operating system. I am a fan of the 7" tablet and this one works very well. My first task was to start downloading software applications ("apps") from the Google Play Store that I was familiar with from using other tablets. One of my favorite apps is for Echolink. The Echolink app is available for Android phones and tablets. It is also available for the Apple iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPads. Install the app, log in with your with your Echolink account and you are ready to go with your mobile device.

Being a licensed ham operator, I did a search in the app store for "ham radio" and "amateur radio" and discovered many free apps to try. If you try an app and do not like it is very easy to remove the app and try another one. All of the apps that I am using come from the Google Play Store for Android devices but you will find many of the same apps in the Apple iTunes Store. The fun in having a mobile device is playing with the apps that are available. Here is a small sampling of the many apps you will discover. What are your favorite ham radio apps?



## Silent Key

Merlin F. Blakley, KC2NU  
September 28, 2012



**IRLP Finder**  
HAMDRROID  
★★★★★ (85)  
Free



**Ham Radio Tools**  
V FIREFIGHTER  
★★★★★ (134)  
Free



**HamLog**  
PIGNOLDOGY, LLC  
★★★★★ (50)  
\$0.99



**QTH Locator**  
SZEDEL  
★★★★★ (109)  
Free



**EchoLink Finder**  
HAMDRROID  
★★★★★ (102)  
Free



**Amateur Radio Callsign DB**  
INFANTRY COMPANY  
★★★★★ (176)  
Free



**EchoLink**  
SYNERGENICS, LLC  
★★★★★ (1,447)  
Free

# RaRa Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RaRa Historian

## 20 Years Ago, November, 1992

Continuing a long tradition, the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting was the annual RaRa Auction, as announced by VP Keith Freeberg, N2BEL. The auctioneers were Dick Goslee K2VCZ, and Ed Gable K2MP. George Platteter, AA2FO, reported that nine members of the local amateur community took advantage of the most recent RaRa License Testing Session and ended up with new tickets or upgrades. The next testing session was scheduled for November 21 at the 111 Westfall Road facility.

Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ, reminded members that it was time to order RaRa shirts and jackets. A new offering then was the addition of golf shirts with your callsign and RaRa logo embroidered above the shirt pocket. Director Bob Hobday, N2EVG, wrote in this issue to report on this year's Stuart Horse Trials, an annual event requiring significant amateur radio support. Bob reported that in an article published nation-wide by the sponsoring body, that RaRa's communications was of an exceptional stature and that the safety of riders and horses were never in doubt. Fourteen RaRa members took part. With regret it was announced that William Gillete, KB2KIW, was a Silent Key. From the Want Ads you could buy a Commodore 64-128 and CP-1 amateur modem, for \$80.00 from Jack Frank. Ramsey's Surplus Outlet Store in Victor, NY, was a new advertiser.

## 40 Years Ago, November, 1972

The meeting back then was, yes, when you get it right don't change it, the annual RaRa Auction. The auctioneer then was Tom Ball, WA2THS, and the venue was the Farm and Home Center at 249 Highland Avenue, city. "Your dues are due," was the cry of membership chair Joan Vogt, WA2YTK. Joan was especially timely as the auction was for members only. This was a busy time for FCC actions. Of benefit to amateurs everywhere were some of the following changes taking effect: expanded voice bands on 75 and 40 meters, Novices gained ten-meter CW, the use of VFO's, but lost two-meter phone privileges. Extra Class ops gained exclusive use of the bottom end of several bands.

Writing for the Rochester VHF Group was Len McCowan, K2CEH, who reported that the group's next few meetings would focus on improving the Club's score in the January VHF Contest. Ray DeMers, W2KVP, penned an article for the Rochester Radio Repeater Assn. where we learned that a new experimental repeater was on-the-air locally for tests. This independent outfit was headed by Harold Hay WA2ABQ, Dick Hilsinger WA2ATV and Rick Booth WA2GCX. We were told to look for the repeater, signing WA2ABQ/2, on 146.19/79. From the Want Ads was an actual "wanted" plea by Robert Roberts, WA2QAU, looking for a Heath oscilloscope manual. Glenwood Sales, of 594 Hague Street, remained a long time advertiser.

## RaRa LOGO Items



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

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

## For Sale

BuxComm 9:1 current balun, ideal for use with 450-ohm ladder line, rated at 1.0 kW. \$25.00. Contact Jay, K2JSG at: [jgolden577@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jgolden577@rochester.rr.com)

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

### RRRA News

By Bob Shewell, N2HJD  
RRRA President

Let me say thank you to those who were able to attend our annual RRRA gadget night. Let me also thank those who re-upped their membership or joined RRRA for the first time. Your support is greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank Jeff Ach, W2FU for his equipment donation.

RRRA still needs volunteers for pumpkin patrol. Contact Brad, KB2CHY if you want to volunteer for this event. Email Brad at [ballen@frontiernet.net](mailto:ballen@frontiernet.net).

November is going to be RRRA's annual tune-up clinic. I will be bringing my service monitor and Bird watt meter to verify and make adjustments to your radio if needed. No basket cases please and if you know you need an adjustment, please bring the manual or locations of the adjustments. This will allow others to get their radios looked at in a timely manner. I am hoping that Brad, W1YX will be available to help me with the clinic. Hope to see you there!

### Monroe County ARES / RACES News

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend.

**NOTE:** Because the Thanksgiving Holiday falls on the fourth Thursday, the next ARES Meeting will be held one week earlier on: **Thursday, November 15, 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.

**WEB:** [www.monroecountyemcomm.org](http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org)

**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-M handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2014.

### RDXA News

By Brent Hungate, KC2QLJ

The next meeting of RDXA is Tuesday November 20th at 7:30 PM at the Public Safety Training Facility, 1190 Scottsville Road, Rochester. Meetings are open to all amateurs, and you don't need to be a member to attend.

This month's topic will be on the new beacons brought on-line by the Rochester VHF Group and the CW Skimmer now on line by RDXA. Please come out and join us for a great night of fellowship. There will be a pre-meeting get together for food and an 807 at MicGinny's, 2246 East River Road starting around 6 PM. I would like to remind everyone to visit the new RDXA website at [RDXA.org](http://RDXA.org) where you can learn more about what the club is up to. 73, and hope to work you on the bands.

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 newsletter is for! We hope all area clubs will take advantage of this opportunity to interest new members in joining their ranks.

73, -Kevin



# 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, cooperation 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



Your commercial ad could be here! The RARA Rag can help spread the word on your business at very reasonable rates. Contact us for details at [editor@rochesterham.org](mailto:editor@rochesterham.org).

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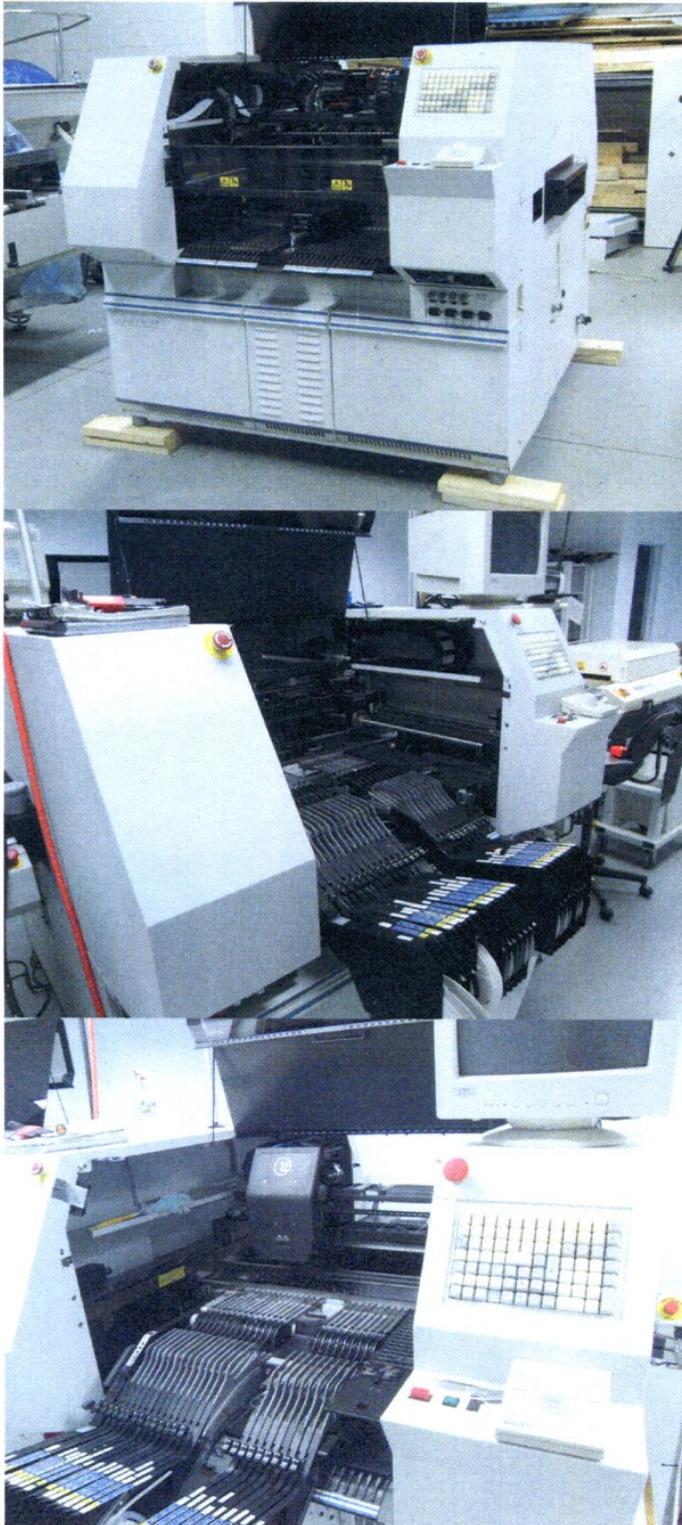
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For more information: [Editor@RochesterHam.org](mailto:Editor@RochesterHam.org)

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# ESTATE AUCTION

The William H. "Bill" Shawver, Sr. Collection  
November 10, 2012 – Walla Walla, WA



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Radiola 25 Superheterodyne; Early Model Grebe Syncrophase AC Six;  
Victor School House Phonograph; Edison "Bergmann" and "Brady" Tin Foil Replicas by  
the late William Ptacek; Edison "Kreusi" Tin Foil Replica by Miroslav Stehlik;  
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# THE RARA RAG

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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 .....  
Public Service Coordinator ..... Joe Walker, KA8WJH  
License Testing Coordinator ..... Ken Hall, W2KRH  
Membership Secretary ..... Lisa Schramm, K2BGR  
Media Communications ..... Len Crellin, KC2PCD  
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 at 7pm. 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**

Jim DiTucci, N2IXD ..... [n2ixd@arrl.net](mailto:n2ixd@arrl.net)

### **Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RaRa)**

Frank Schramm, WB2PYD ..... [wb2pyd@arrl.net](mailto:wb2pyd@arrl.net)

### **Rochester DX Association (RDXA)**

Mark Hazel, K2MTH ..... [mthazel2151@yahoo.com](mailto:mthazel2151@yahoo.com)

### **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)

## December Rag Deadline November 15, 2012

