



THE RARA RAG

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

SKYWARN™

ANAND CHOUDRI, KC2KPG - RARA VICE PRESIDENT

SKYWARN™ is a national effort to save lives during severe weather emergencies with an expanding network of trained weather spotters. The services performed by SKYWARN™ spotters have saved many lives.

The National Weather Service has a number of devices for detecting severe thunderstorms. Included in these are Doppler radar, satellite, and lightning detection networks. However, the most important tool for observing thunderstorms is the trained eye of the storm spotter.

By providing observations, SKYWARN™ spotters assist National Weather Service members in their warning decisions and enable the National Weather Service to fulfill its mission of protecting life and property. Storm spotters are an indispensable part of the severe local warning program.



SKYWARN™ is a nationwide program of spotters that report severe weather to the National Weather Service. Anyone can become a SKYWARN™ spotter for the National Weather Service; all you have to do is attend one of their Spotter Training Sessions.

The basic training session provides a brief overview to the National Weather Service, the equipment they use and basic severe weather meteorology (including how thunderstorms, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes form). The training session will last about two hours.

Attendees are instructed what types of severe weather the National Weather Service is interested in hearing about and are given an 800 telephone number for 24 hour access to make reports directly to the NWS forecasters.

Please join us for SKYWARN™ training on Friday May 6, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Boys' Scouts building at Seneca Waterways Council, 2320 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd, Rochester, NY 14623.

MAY 2016

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PREZ SEZ

WILL MULLANEY, KC2VSJ—RARA PRESIDENT

Welcome to this edition of Prez Sez: the thaw out! Or is it the Greenening??? This would typically be the time of year when the last of snow would be melting away and such, but unfortunately for us outdoor Winter sports types, we're at least a month past that! However, it's certainly starting to warm up and things are starting to become green outdoors. This past Monday, I got a chance to bike up to Hamlin Beach State Park. A man was flying several large kites along the shore and it left me thinking, "If I attached an antenna to that, what kind of coverage could I get?" Perhaps that will be something I will have to try this Spring. What's your radio-related outdoor project going to be???

We're just about one month away from the Rochester Hamfest on May 28th, and less than a month away from Dayton? Have you signed up already and gotten approval from the household boss for your visits??? It's been great to watch (at arm's length) all the different members who have come together to make our Hamfest a reality, adding to almost 90 years of tradition! Our VE team is ready to go for testing, commercial vendors lined up to display their wares, food vendors cleaning up their grills to be ready for breakfast and lunch, and we've even gone on a search for our raffle drum! We'll be adding in some great presentations by some area clubs and groups as well, so it should be a great time.

The Rochester Hamfest is not only fun, but it is a great value too! RARA members and anyone under 18 are admitted free! Taking the test with us could save you \$15 for an exam, as our partnership with Laurel VEC allows us to perform testing for free. QSL checking for ARRL awards is free. General parking is free, and with a paved lot, you won't be stuck in the mud no matter what the weather. Attendees 18 and over even get a free raffle ticket for door prizes! And finally our rates on flea market and indoor space are super reasonable. Be sure to come over to Eastman Business Park and check out the pre-mier Hamfest in the greater Rochester area, the one and only Rochester Hamfest, hosted by RARA.

Don't forget to mark your calendar with other great events! Our friends at XARC will be hosting their Spring Fox Hunt, with a tentative date of May 14th. Our summer picnic will be at West Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park, Saturday, July 9th, free to all members. And I know it's early, but don't forget to pencil in the RARA club banquet, September 23rd at the Burgundy Basin Inn.

Finally, there are two opportunities for you to help and participate in the club. First off, check out our website and sign up for some of the 2016 Public Service Events. This year is kicked off with Tour de Cure, June 11th, and has at least 9 different events. To find out more, just head to our website and click the public service link on the left side. Additionally, it will soon be time to look at new board members, club officers, and coordinators. If you're interested in serving in any of those roles, please shoot me (or any board member) an email or talk to me at one of the upcoming meetings. Enjoy your spring and see you at the Hamfest, May 28th!

Regards,

Will Mullaney, KC2VSJ

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- MAY 6TH** - RARA General Meeting
7:00 PM at BSA Headquarters, 2320 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd
- MAY 12TH** - RARA Board of Directors
5:30 PM RIT Engineering Hall, Room 2110
- MAY 28TH** - RARA VE Testing
10:00 AM RIT Gleason Hall, Room 9-3139



The BIG one!

ROCHESTER HAMFEST 2016

May 28, 6AM - 2PM

RARA

NEW
LOCATION!

**Rochester
HAMFEST**

200 West Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY
Eastman Business Park ("Theater-on-the-Ridge")

Make NO mistake, after 4 years we are NO LONGER at Barnard fireman's field.

UPDATES ON: <http://www.RochesterHamfest.org>

RARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Position	Responsibilities	Term Length and Limit
President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The president is selected from the Board of Directors. • Preside over all meetings of RARA and the Board of Directors. • Appoint committees and sub-committees. • Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees. • Represent RARA in all official capacities. • Assure that all RARA by-laws are adhered to. • Reports membership points to the Membership Secretary for managers and committee members. • The president writes a monthly article for the RARA RAG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One year term • Two consecutive terms
Vice President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize programs for monthly RARA meetings. • Identify, invite, and confirm speakers for the meetings. • Invite Dick Goslee and Ed Gable to run the annual auction in November. • Assist at the annual auction by tracking items sold and prices paid. • Notify the Membership Secretary of membership points earned by monthly program presenters. • Write a monthly article for the RARA Rag describing that month's program. • Organize annual Winterfest and Picnic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One year term • Three consecutive terms
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record all minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors. • Record minutes at the annual membership meeting in September. • Keep physical and electronic records of all meetings during their term. • Retrieve all mail on a bi-weekly basis from the RARA P.O. Box. • Monitor newspapers for recent announcements in obituaries for Silent Keys. • Supervise the annual election. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One year term • Three consecutive terms
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay via check at monthly RARA meetings for costs incurred for that meeting, including costs for refreshments and raffle items. • Collect and count the refreshment collection, as well as raffle ticket sales at the monthly meeting. • Collect any membership dues payments and submit membership information to the Membership Secretary. • Present reports at monthly Board of Directors meeting from bank account and Quick Books Pro account information. • Record all debits and credits executed every month. • File Postcard form 990 with the IRS. • Prepare 'straw man' financial outlook for the next Fiscal Year. • File all paperwork on all financial transactions for the fiscal year. • Present annual financial report to the membership at annual meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One year term • Three consecutive terms

IS YOUR RADIO WORTH \$1.3MILLION DOLLARS?

Jim Stefano, W2COP, Public Service Coordinator

\$1.3M, that's the amount being raised by just three of the many charity events that RARA has an agreement with to provide the primary communications and logistics support for this year! Does this sound like a positive experience for you, for just talking on the radio in most cases? HAMS can help at all levels, whatever is comfortable and suits your ability. We need team captains and co-captains, rest stop operators, route sweep vehicles and sag transport operators, safety operators, etc. The events range from 100 mile cycling routes to 5 mile walks and events on the water, all in the Rochester and Finger Lakes Region, with a chance to meet and work with HAMS from Monroe and surrounding Counties.

Please take a minute to visit our Public Service webpage and sign up for a few of these great events, all meant to benefit the health of the community where we live and work in one form or another. Feel free to bring along a friend or spouse even if they are not a HAM; the more hands on-deck we have the smoother the operation. This is also a great opportunity for new HAMS to sharpen your radio skills. All you need is a mobile and/or portable VHF and/or UHF radio and a desire to get out of the shack and really do something worthwhile to help yourself and others.

Hope to see you out there this year! http://rochesterham.org/public_service.htm



Barktoberfest Is Fun



Hams serving Hams -
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Frank (WB2PYD) or Lisa (K2BGR)

Lisa Schramm
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585.756.3185

Frank Schramm
Realtor - Licensed Real Estate Salesperson - Certified Financing Specialist
FSchramm@KW.com
585.362.8564

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Rochester, NY 14618

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HOW RARE IS YOUR PREFIX?

Donald Dunn, AB2NM

As this is being written, the CQ WPX contest has begun; listen to the bands explode with activity! Like most contests, the objective is to maximize your score, but the WPX has a twist: each new prefix is a score-multiplier! To maximize your score, collect as many new prefixes possible.

Well, you can't play the game if you don't know the rules. So, from the contest site rules, http://www.cqwp.com/rules_2016.pdf, here are a few quick definitions and highlights :

- PREFIX: The letter/numeral combination which forms the first part of the amateur call. Examples: N8, W8, WD8, HG1, HG19, KC2, OE2, OE25, LY1000,etc. Any difference in the numbering, lettering, or order of same shall count as a separate prefix.
- PREFIX MULTIPLIERS: The prefix multiplier is the number of valid prefixes worked. **Each PREFIX is counted only once** regardless of the band or number of times the same prefix is worked.
- SCORING: The final score is the result of the total QSO points multiplied by the number of **different prefixes** worked.

Thus, a unique prefix will add significantly to one's score. Cool. Now how rare is your prefix?

As I listen, a WS7 is holding court on 14.258, and doing a fine job from Colorado - a good op. On a hunch, I tried a search on QRZ.com but the results were a bit confusing. Let's try the FCC's site, instead:

<http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchAdvanced.jsp>

RESET GEOSEARCH SEARCH

*Please be aware that some combinations of search criteria may result in a longer wait.

Exact Matches Only

Exclude Leases

▶ Call Sign & Radio Services

Call Sign

Service Group

Match all radio services within this group

Match only the following radio service(s):

▶ Licensee

Name

FRN

City†

State†

ZIP Code†

†: Matches licensee mailing address, not transmit locations.

▶ License Detail

Status All Active Expired
 Canceled Terminated Termination Pending

The search form is easy. Starting from the top:

(1) Call Sign & Radio Services:

Call sign - enter the prefix of interest - e.g. WS7. No need for 'wildcards' like *, %, or ?

Service Group: From the drop-down menu, select "Amateur"; this includes both standard issue (HA) and vanity (HV) call signs.

(2) Go down the page a bit and find License Detail. Look at the first category, "Status" and select "Active". This will eliminate all cancelled, expired, or other non-active call signs.

(3) Go all the way down to the bottom of the search screen, look to the right corner, and click SEARCH. That's it; your tax dollars at work!

Looks like that op with the WS7 prefix is one of only 36 active US amateur radio operators with that prefix. Remember, a unique prefix is a score-multiplier; his will be popular in this contest!

Specified Search						
Radio Service = HA, HV						
Call Sign like WS7						
Status = Active						
Matches 1- 10 (of 36)						
						PA = Pending Application(s) TP = Termination Pending L = Lease
Page 1 2 3 4						NEXT ▶
Call Sign/Lease ID	Name	FRN	Radio Service	Status	Expiration Date	
1 WS7A	Garrison, Evelyn M	0009985573	HA	Active	04/15/2018	
2 WS7ARC	Sandy Amateur Radio Club	0024402901	HV	Active	05/19/2025	
3 WS7B	FISHER, Harold F	0015521586	HA	Active	05/20/2018	
4 WS7BR	Barker, Justin L	0018215350	HV	Active	07/28/2025	
5 WS7C	HANSEN, ROBERT M	0005070289	HA	Active	05/15/2018	
6 WS7D	SCHERGEN, MARK T	0002878585	HA	Active	04/03/2020	
7 WS7DX	Southern Arizona DX Association	0018652834	HV	Active	04/21/2019	
8 WS7E	WERTZ, ARTHUR W	0003869237	HV	Active	10/11/2020	
9 WS7EOC	Rapp, Jim	0017320607	HV	Active	02/26/2018	
10 WS7ERT	Smith, Norman R	0024582371	HV	Active	02/09/2026	
Call Sign/Lease ID	Name	FRN	Radio Service	Status	Expiration Date	
Page 1 2 3 4						NEXT ▶

OK, so to summarize the main points of the article:

- (1) Contests have different 'objectives' to measure accomplishment; this specific contest adds a bonus multiplier for each unique call sign prefix logged.
- (2) It benefits one to review and carefully read the contest rules to develop a strategy resulting in the maximum score for your effort; specifically, maximize QSOs with unique prefixes not previously logged.
- (3) The FCC search database provides unique information useful and of interest to the radio amateur, and is not difficult to use.

Take a look, poke around, explore & discover what the feds have available, and remember, this database is a result of our tax dollars at work.

Years ago, I held a KA2 prefix. Looks like there are now 2,566 active calls with that prefix, but only 422 with an AB2 prefix.

How rare is your prefix?

73 de AB2NM

RARA'S SUMMER PICNIC – APRIL 2016

As I write this on Tax Day, I can feel Spring in the air. It is time to start getting the grill ready. And before you know it, Summer will be here and we can start thinking of the annual RARA Summer Picnic. The date is set for Saturday July 9, 2016. The place is at the West Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park. Many of you have been at Mendon Ponds for prior years picnics and the recent Winter Cabin Party that was a mild success.

Over the last few years we all have attended these wonderful social events and probably haven't given much thought to how they get organized. Well, we can thank several volunteers (and particularly Lisa & Frank Schramm, who have given so much of their time and energy for several years) who made sure everything was purchased, set up and prepared to make the picnic go smoothly and everyone had enough to eat and drink.

We need someone to take charge of organizing and running the picnic this year. I hope you will volunteer for this fun event. Please contact any Board member or leave a message on our Hotline (585-210- 8910), and let us know you are interested in being on the committee.

2016 XARC ANNUAL SPRING HIDDEN TRANSMITTER FOX HUNT



Please join us in for a fun morning of direction finding with your HT radio! You will learn the tips and tricks on how to find a hidden transmitter in the great outdoors! Please bring your friends and kids. Not everyone needs a radio; once you get close they can help search visually.

Everyone is welcome; an amateur licenses is not required. Please RSVP with your call sign and cell phone number to the hunt masters below so that we can update you in case there's a last minute change. We will meet for lunch to follow the hunt.

When:

Saturday May 14, 2016

Registration: 9:00

Hunt Begins: 9:30

Where:

Webster Town Recreation Center

Chiyoda Dr, Webster, NY 14580

Talk in channel:

145.29 XARC Repeater (110.9PL)

RSVP with Hunt Masters:

Bill Kurrasch, K2WEK, bkurrasch@rochester.rr.com, 585,303,7878

Paul Kurrasch, KC2GTO, pek7826@yahoo.com, 585,645, 2138



BUILD A “RIG RACK”

Bill Hopkins, AA2YV

Wondering what else to do in the ham hobby this summer, other than experiment with another antenna arrangement between the roof and that tree? I suggest a “Rig Rack.” That’s what I call it.

Some years back I wrote a mirror article of this one, when I built my ham-shack table and my first cubby structure to hold the equipment that I wanted to be “front and center.” My goal was to be able to turn on any rig without fiddling with wires and connections. My present rack holds it all: three HF transceivers; three QRP rigs; a huge tuner; a dummy load; a tune-up box to shunt 100 watts to the dummy load and a trace to the antenna; two rig/antenna switches; a 12 volt power supply for peripherals; an 8-position audio break-out box; an 8-position CW routing box; power supplies; and a couple of other small items. Oh yes, and a computer screen, but it has not been well placed.



You can see that I like order; but there’s another reason. I (we) also have limited space in the room that serves as a small library and a separate computer station. It was obvious, then, that having large gaps between rigs on each tier was not an option. I still have my special home-spun table on wheels (made of a kitchen cabinet top) that is 65 inches wide. That’s it. (I do have a small right-angled table to the side that I use when I want to test a piece of equipment I’ve just repaired or type out this article on my laptop. It’s a small space, but it works for me.)

Through the years I have acquired some gear that will be around for a long time, and the old Rig Rack won’t accommodate my present stuff. My rigs are Ten Tec’s (3) and other HF stuff, none of them new-er. I now have them operating the way I want, so they are my keepers. But they are *not* small.

I thought long and hard about building a new Rig Rack. Should I or shouldn’t I? But there was no other way out of it. “So here I go,” I said to myself.

I always like the rigs to face me, so that I don’t have to stretch over too far to see any of the meters, etc. I can’t have it totally “my way,” but the arrangement permits me to bend the Rack around a little bit to accommodate my needs. You can see what I mean by having a look at the photos.

I made very, very sure that my measurements for each rig were correct. I wanted each rig to fit nicely into a cubby with one-half inch to spare on each side. I made sure I measured each rig with its front “legs” fully extended, so that I could correctly measure their heights. (No mistakes here!) The total length of the Rack is 64 inches, giving me one-half inch either side on the table top – not much slack! (It works – nothing’s going to move.) Then I set about acquiring the materials.



The wood is clear pine (no knots!). I purchased two 8-foot lengths of 1-by-12 and one 6-foot long 1-by-10. One of the 12-inch wide boards serves as the top rear backbone, and the 10 inch wide board is cut at angles for the top front “wings” on each side. The three middle levels are from the other 12-inch wide board. First, I screwed everything together except for the side mid-level boards. For those I used a metal plug and screw arrangement – two on each side of each board. You see two of them in the photo.

The front and back outer uprights were beveled on their vertical edges to give a tight fit, and I secured them together with two brass plates each side, which I bent to accommodate the angled-in front sides. I added brass plates along the underneath side of the top deck to join the backbone to the “wings” on each side. Make sure you add $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to your uprights to accommodate the width of the middle levels. (A 1-by-board is usually $\frac{3}{4}$ wide. Always make sure what you have.) My first and second tiers are both 8 inches high, so the upright lengths had to be $16\frac{3}{4}$ inches long each. Be very careful with your measurements, especially on the uprights.



My main two rigs will sit on the “ground floor.” Together with two peripherals, another rig will be on the first level at the right. Above my Ten Tec Omni VI+ (bottom center) will be the computer screen, directly in front of me. (I don’t plan on using two screens). The big tuner will be ground floor, left. The TS-440S will sit above it. On the top deck I will have my antenna switches, and power supplies. Believe me, it will all fit in! I checked my work many times to make sure of that.

This time, I’m not painting it white. Rather, I will keep it the natural wood color. I sealed the wood before staining it *clear*!. (A dark color will make any room look smaller.) Now, if I don’t like the “color,” I can always get a darker stain.

What if I want to change the levels on the left and right? I’ll simply drill new holes. A scaffold I built at the rear of my table will nicely hold the cables. The price for everything: about \$75. You can do it for a lot less, if you decide to be creative. And after I finish this job, I will clean my garage of it’s winter blues – promise.

Do You Need Directions To The Hamfest?



Look for Peter on Saturday morning!!

Brad - Thanks for the picture

CREW 73: INTRODUCING YOUNG PEOPLE TO AMATEUR RADIO

William Kasperkoski, WB2SXY & Forest Shick, WA2MZG

Crew 73, RARA's coed youth endeavor, is recruiting members for an exciting introduction to a science based hobby to learn skills that will last a lifetime.

Are you an adult or young adult looking for ways to introduce Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to youth? Do you know teachers, home-schoolers, scout leaders and other adult leaders who are begging for technical program ideas, material and instructors?

We have the answer and opportunity. Crew 73!

Many local scientists and engineers are members of Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA) and freely share their varied knowledge and experiences while teaching and mentoring.

Do you know people who always wanted to get involved in ham radio, but did not know where to start? Do you know youth looking for something exciting and mind expanding to participate in?

We have the answer and opportunity. Crew 73!

RARA offers free membership to youth and free license training to all.

The foundation of ham radio applies to many, many fields of endeavor. The building blocks of technical careers and personal enrichment can be laid by leveraging the knowledge and experience gained becoming a radio amateur.

If you believe you would like to contribute to this endeavor or know someone we should contact, please send an email with the appropriate information to: WA2MZG@arrl.net

If you know a youth that would benefit from Crew 73, with their parents' permission, forward contact information for the youth and / or parent to: williamkasper@frontiernet.net

Maybe you can participate in Crew 73 by simply answering this call for HELP!

VE Team

April, 2016

James Sytsma	KD2KXF	T	Scott Theis	KD2KRD	G
Kevin Ernst	KD2KXG	T	Christopher Mclouth	KD2KXH	T
Douglas Waller	KD2KXI	T	Christopher Young	KD2INH	G
Anthony Hennig	KM4TKH	T	Glenn Rapp II	KD2KXJ	T
David Pfonner	KD2IVQ	G	Michael Centola	KD2KXK	T
Mark Pedersen	KC2UES	G	Ryan Shon	KD2KXL	T

New licensees names are in BOLD

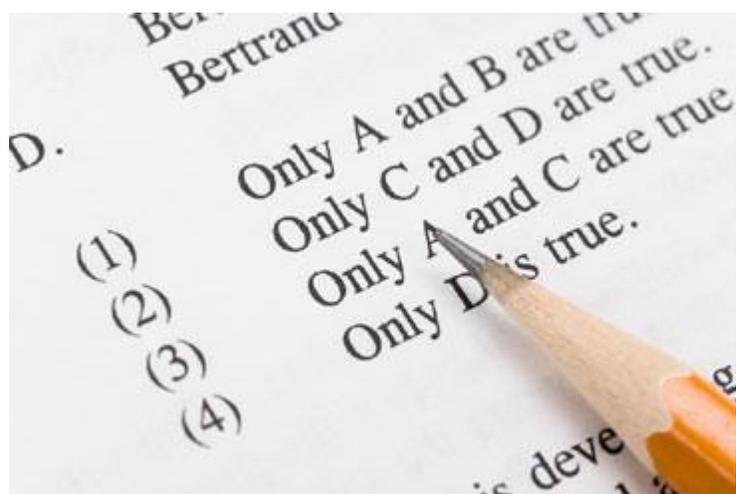
Next session:

Our May session will be at the Hamfest. We will advertise.

Registration at 8:45
Testing starts at 9:00

Due to space constraints we may have to queue applicants.

Don Kiser - AC2EV
RARA Board member
VE Team Leader
585-613-1035



RARA RAGS OF THE PAST

Ed Gable, K2MP – RARA Club Historian

20 YEARS AGO, MAY, 1996



the RARA RAG
Published by
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VOL. 48 May 1996 NO. 9



OLD TIMERS NIGHT

This photograph was taken of former RaRa presidents at an Old Timers Night 20 years ago. How many do you recognize? Several are now Silent Keys while others have changed their call letters.

Seated l. to r.: Wes Jackling (W2YUT), Line Cundall (W2QY), Harold Smith (WA2KND) Eddie Dunn (W2ECH), Bob Lauzon (WB2NSD), Ernie Crewdson (WA2FVG), Bruce Kelley (W2ICE), Dick Fish (W2OWF).

Standing: Bob Wetheral (W2CZT), Dick Koehn (WB2SNA), Stan Hazen (W2SSB), Fred Halik (K2EU), Ed Capauldy (K2UXF), Al Mumby (WB2MCP), Hank Blodgett (W2UTH) Ed Holdsworth (WA2EKR)

Club Historian, Bruce Kelley W2ICE, will entertain us with pictures and commentary covering early Rochester stations and Hamfests, club activities and old time radio stores. Recognition will be given to amateurs who have been licensed 25 years or more. Will there be any pre-War amateurs present?

RaRa MEETING
May 3, 1995
ANNUAL MEETING
8:00 P.M.
Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road
*Old Timers Night
Election of Officers*

SILENT KEY
George B. Ewing
W2YMN
March 16, 1996

This meeting in May brought out the old timers for the traditional Old Timers Night program conducted by Bruce Kelley, W2ICE. Bruce also made things interesting for the new members as well with stories and photos of pioneering RARA members. This issue also saw the front cover plastered with a photo of 16 RARA past presidents. Sadly, only five are still with us today. Alex Piccirilli, NV2Y, Membership Chmn, reported 762 RARA members. Public Service and EC/RO Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, reported that he has scheduled eleven public service events for the year with three of those on hamfest weekend. Also written was a report stating that the K2JD Engraving volunteers brought in \$140.00 to the RARA Treasury from profit at the Newark Hamfest. As is the tradition, this issue had an extra page required to print all of the biographies for officers and board member candidates for 1996-97. New comer Tom Lange, N2VSM, running for Secretary, wrote that his work title was a gizmologist at Peko Products. I think that would be a first for RARA. Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU (N2PU), wrote Part 4 of his multi-part description of events at the three-day Rochester hamfest coming up on May 31 – June. Beside the excellent locally produced programs the ARRL is providing Steve Ford, WB8IMY, who is presenting two programs, one on Amateur Satellites and the other on Packet Radio, both hot topics for this period. Told in this issue was a mostly unnoticed FCC report and order that pulled the plug on the requirement for CW capability on ships at sea if carrying modern GMDSS equipment. And that was the beginning of the end of CW as an Amateur licensing element. With regret it was reported George Ewing, W2YMN, was reported as a Silent Key. M. Ornstein, WB2YYB, Roofing Contractor, remained a long term advertiser.

40 YEARS AGO, MAY, 1976

VP and Program Chairman Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, wrote that there would be a Grand Finale of programs with the first of three events being Fred Cupp, W2DUC, of EDMAC Associates, speaking of the basics of the transistor and how to figure out what those junk box parts are good for. At the same meeting members were asked to vote for their choice of officers and Board members for the following year and finally Lt. John Leszcynski, from the Monroe County Sheriff's department was on-hand to describe the new "Community Radio Watch Program." Also reported by Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, this time as the WNY Section Emergency Coordinator, was a report on local AREC/RACES members, coordinated by George Negus, K2OIU, who promptly went into service when an errant excavating machine tore through telephone cable supplying all of the Blossom Road Nursing home. This issue also had the obligatory biographies of those running for office. If you ever wanted to know the who's who of RARA's mid-years, these make great reading. Alan Komenski, WB2ZFM, writing for the Department of Public Safety Communications, tells of how pleased the department was with the implementing of "Fuzz Buzz" or the Amateur Radio Emergency Alerting System. This system, engineered primarily by Joe Hood, K2YA, allowed Amateurs to go through the .28/.88 repeater and speak directly with a Public Safety Dispatcher to report emergencies. This was HUGE, Rochester readers. Ron Jakubowski, W2HXP, writing for the RRRR, told of their banner year with meeting attendance averaging around sixty FM'ers and a total membership of 120. Summer RRRR plans included running a hospitality suite, along with Spectronics of Chicago, IL., at the hamfest as well improvements to the WR2AEI .28/.88 repeater. From the Want Ads you could buy a Heathkit AR-27 from Jerry Vogt, WA2GCF. A new commercial advertiser was CFP Communications from Horseheads, NY, carrying Cushcraft, Hy-Gain, New-tronics and other fine antennas.

RARA CALENDAR

Tim Barrett, K9VB

May 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 AGCW QRP Party Russia WW Contest FL QSO Party	2	3 Phone Fray	4 MIE 33 Contest CWops Mini-CWT Test	5 NRAU 10m Activity Contest NCCC Sprint	6 RARA Monthly Meeting 7:00pm, BSA HQ, 2320 Brighton Henrietta TL Rd	7 AWA Spring Meet 10-10. CW Contest Microwave Sprint SKCC Sprintathon ARI DX Contest F9AA Cup, PSK 7th Area QSO Party IN/DE QSO Parties New Eng. QSO Pty
8 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW SKCC Sprintathon ARI DX Contest F9AA Cup, PSK 7th Area QSO Party IN/DE QSO Parties New Eng. QSO Party	9	10 Phone Fray	11 SIARC 7.30pm CWops Mini-CWT Test	12 NCCC Sprint	13	14 VOLTA RTTY C'test HPC DX Contest MARAC QSO Party CT Navy Day Contest FISTS Sprint AR QSO Party
15 VOLTA RTTY C'test HPC DX Contest MARAC QSO Party 6M Spring Sprint AR QSO Party UA2 QSO Party WAB 7 MHz Phone	16	17 RDXA 7.30pm Phone Fray	18 CWops Mini-CWT Test	19 NCCC Sprint	20 Dayton Hamfest Slobozhansky Sprint Contest (Ukraine)	21 Dayton Hamfest UN DX Contest NZART CW Contest Aegean RTTY C'test EU PSK DX Contest King of Spain CW Contest Baltic Contest
22 Dayton Hamfest UN DX Contest NZART CW C'test Aegean RTTY C'test EU PSK DX C'test KoS CW Contest Baltic Contest	23	24 Phone Fray	25 CWops Mini-CWT Test	26 NCCC Sprint	27	28 RARA Hamfest CW WW WPX Contest CT Navy Day Contest (Digital) SARL Digi Contest
29 CW WW WPX Contest CT Navy Day Contest (Digital) SARL Digital Contest	30	31 Phone Fray				

Print this calendar and leave it by your radio.

NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES NEWS

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.

The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, May 26, 2016, 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 8:00 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.monroecountiemcomm.org

Severe Weather Alerts:

Winter brings severe weather in the form of heavy snow and strong winds. If you experience severe weather, especially when accompanied by damage to property in your area, listen to your local ARES/RACES repeaters for information. While official ARES/RACES activation could be a possibility, it is more important that we open a spontaneous net simply to share information about weather conditions in your immediate area. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Pick up the microphone and start a net. Have each check-in station give you a situational awareness report and emergency power report. If you don't have a copy of the directed net protocol, you can find one at the WEB address listed above. (Activities/ARES Net/ Net Script/ Downloads)

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 2016.

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION, RRRRA

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association, RRRRA invites you to attend it's May 20th 2016 meeting. Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month in the Pittsford Town Hall Basement starting at 7:30 pm.

The RRRRA officers are Bob Shewell, N2HJD President, Bob Odell, N2BZX Vice President, Ed Wilkonski, KC2WM Secretary, and Joel Rossbach, N2EZV Treasurer.

RRRA also accepts donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRRA, you can join at our monthly meeting or on our web site WWW.K2RRA.ORG

I hope to see everybody there on the 15th. Bob O'Dell, N2BZX, Vice President

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

The Rochester VHF Group holds monthly meetings on the second Friday of the month between September and June. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and are held at the Spencerport Wesleyan Church, 2653 Nichols St. (NY Route 31) in Spencerport. Visit our website www.rvhfg.org for details.

The Rochester VHF Group sponsors an informal On-Air Net every Monday at 2100 local time on 144.260 MHz USB and a 6 Meter Net every Thursday at 2100 local on 50.200 MHz USB.

More club information can be found by visiting www.rvhfg.org or just calling in any Monday or Thursday night. All are welcome to check in to these nets.

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

Raj Dewan, N2RD will be doing a discussion on Time Domain Reflectometry at the RDXA meeting at the Monroe County EOC on Tuesday May 17th at 7:30 pm.

Location: Monroe County EOC Building, upstairs
1190 Scottsville Rd, Rochester, NY 14624
All are welcome



XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The next meeting of the XRX Amateur Radio Club will be 6 PM on Thursday May 12 at the Webster Recreation Center. We are also planning our Spring Fox Hunt, which will be at 9:30 AM on Saturday May 14. Starting place is still TBD, but will be announced on our website <http://xarc.us>

SQUAW ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC) meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM. The May meeting will be on Wednesday, May 11th. Due to a scheduling conflict, we will be meeting at the Ontario County Human Resources Building at the County Complex this month. John, KD2GTA, will be giving a presentation on his storm watchers group. 73's Steve Benton VP SIARC WB2VMR

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER

COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

There is a new 70cm repeater on the air! If you are in the Albion area (the repeater is very low power right now), feel free to hop on 442.875+ (141.3) and let us know you're around. It's also on echolink - just search the club call. For our regular work, we'd like to invite any ham to join us in honing his or her (we have several women in the club) simplex skills (When the repeater goes down, We're already on simplex!). We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7pm - next meeting is May 7, 2016. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics including: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signalling. TESTING SESSION to be held Saturday, April 30, 2016, 6:30pm (Tech-Extra testing available), at the Hoag Library. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9pm (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30pm on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in! Take a look at the club website for more info: www.k2srv.org

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP members continue to experiment with leading edge digital communications modes. We were formed in 1994 to foster the development of local and regional packet radio networks using AX25 and TCP/IP. Today we have members using the club sponsored DSTAR repeater (KB2VZS on 444.8MHz), several personal and public [DSTAR hotspots](#) (using the dvrptr board), Yaesu fusion systems on non-club repeaters and DMR. The last mode is being enjoyed locally through a [DV-Mega-Raspberry Pi](#) combination. DCAP meets for breakfast at 7am nearly every Saturday morning at [Rikki's Family Restaurant](#) in Fairport and everyone is welcome to join us. Talk in is on the KB2VZS analog repeater on 146.715MHz with a PL of 110.9 Hz.

INTERLOCK ROCHESTER - K2HAX - ROCHESTER'S HACKERSPACE

Here's some of our events for the month of May:

- * Tuesday, May 3, 7pm: Monthly Meeting & Member Presentations, open to the public.
- * Friday, May 6, 5:30pm: Cryptoparty! - <http://www.rochester2600.com/pages/cryptoparty.html>
- * Friday, May 6, 8pm: Rochester 2600 Meeting - <http://www.rochester2600.com/>
- * Friday, May 13, 7pm: Software-Defined Radio (SDR) Meetup - <http://www.meetup.com/Interlock-Rochester-Hackerspace/events/fvgqklyvhbrb/>
- * Saturday, May 21, 12pm to 4pm: Linux Workshop - <http://www.meetup.com/Interlock-Rochester-Hackerspace/events/drgbfjyvhbcc/>
- * Saturday, May 28, 2pm: AdaSpace Hack Saturday: Chameleon Scarf - <http://www.meetup.com/AdaSpace/events/228220073/>

Interlock is open most every Tuesday night at 7pm. We're in the Hungerford Building (1115 East Main Street, Rochester NY), just north of Village Gate. Come to Door #7 (next to Comics Etc) and buzz Suite 200. Visit our website at interlockroc.org and contact info@interlockroc.org with any questions, or find us in #interlock on Freenode IRC.

Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Association

Upcoming Events:

April 24th & May 22nd - Testing at 5:30pm. Meeting at 6:30. Livingston Co Gov't Center 2 Court St. Geneseo.

June 25th & 26th - Field Day Event. Location to be announced.

This Spring our Presentations at our meetings have been involving Digital Radios; D-Star, Fusion, DMR, P25...

Hamfests

Dayton Hamvention

May 20 - 22, 2016

<http://hamvention.org>

RARA Rochester Hamfest

May 28, 2016

Rochester, NY

<http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/>

RAGS 2016 Hamfest

July 10, 2016

Cicero, NY

<http://ragsclub.org>

Ithaca Hamfest

August 6, 2016

Trumansburg, NY

<http://tcara-ny.org/hamfest/>

KLARA Hamfest & Campout

August 8, 2016

Hornell, NY

<http://klara.us>



THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

- CONSIDERATE** Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
- LOYAL** Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
- PROGRESSIVE** With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
- FRIENDLY** With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
- BALANCED** Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
- PATRIOTIC** With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

VISIT THE RARA WEBSITE!

Did you know that your club's website (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
- List of past presidents
- Online membership directory
- Order RARA logo products
- Useful Internet links
- Ham Radio 101 – tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings



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	- 8.6 x 3.5	\$600

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Your advertisement will be seen by amateurs in Rochester, Monroe County, New York State, the United States and even the rest of the world. RAG circulation is approx. 8,000.



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Advertise in the RaRa RAG -
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For more information: Editor@RochesterHam.org

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OFFICERS

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JUNE RAG DEADLINE

MAY 15, 2016



**RARA meets at 7PM on the
first Friday of each month;
come join us at:**

Seneca Waterways Council, BSA Headquarters
2320 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd
Rochester, New York 14623

[Get Directions](#)

[Rochester Area Repeater Listing](#)

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THE RARA RAG

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