



THE RARRA E-RAG

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NO. 5

Rovers & the January VHF Sweepstakes

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
Vice President, RARA

Every club has their Super Bowl of contesting. For the Rochester DX Association it is Field Day. For the Rochester VHF Group it has to be the January VHF Sweepstakes. 50 MHz and higher is the playground for this contest. This is a great time to test your VHF and UHF equipment without the use of repeaters. The Rochester VHF Group has a long history of top finishes in this contest and it requires the help of many hams in Western New York. The goal is to not only make contacts but make those contacts in as many grid squares as possible.

One way of doing this is through the use of rovers. Roving is principally for long distance (100 – 400 mile) contacts using hill top locations to nearly equal the reach of well equipped home stations. These are the hams that fill their SUV or van with radio equipment and then try to camouflage it with antennas. Our special guest for the evening is the Chairman of the Rochester VHF Group and a long time rover. Bill Rogers, K2TER, will explain the concept of roving and what it means to the January VHF Sweepstakes (January 17-19, 2009). He will also share his thoughts on rover system design and operation strategy; what it takes to place in the top 5 nationally. Bill's rover currently has 1KW+ ERP on 10 bands from 50 MHz to 10 GHz with a rotating telescopic tower.

In 2008 Bill received national recognition by being the recipient of the W3IY "Rover Recognition Award". Anyone that has visited the RDXA Field Day operation the past few years has probably seen Bill's vehicle and equipment.

The meeting is Friday, January 2, 2009 at the Henrietta Fire Hall #1, 3129 East Henrietta Road near the intersection of Lehigh Station Road. The business meeting begins at 7:30 PM and is followed with refreshments, socializing, and a raffle. The presentation will follow the raffle. Everyone come on out and make this your first meeting of the new calendar year.



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All New RaRa Hamfest
75th Anniversary Edition
Saturday May 30, 2009
At the Barnard Carnival Grounds



SILENT KEYS



Christopher Snelling, WA2WNW

November 11, 2008

H. Hugh Martin, K2SOY

November 23, 2008

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The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RARA

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It seems a little odd to sit here just hours after finishing Thanksgiving dinner, writing about the New Year... But, due to the amount of time it takes to get the paper copy of the RaRa RAG from my word processor to your mailbox, it's not possible to write about events that would be current when you read this. When I received the President's gavel, I was presented with a "Magic 8 Ball" not a crystal ball, so my mystical powers are limited to yes / no situations.

So, for those of you who didn't get the December e-RAG (in late November), or attend the December RaRa meeting (12/5/08), the big news is Hamfest 2009. As you probably already know over the last three years, Hamfest expenses have exceeded its income by about \$25,000.00. At our November meeting, the Board of Directors decided to discontinue producing the Hamfest with that financial model. Welcome the NEW ROCHESTER HAMFEST! Our 75th anniversary Hamfest will be held at a brand new location, with nearly unlimited flea market space, many new vendors, amazing new food offerings for breakfast and lunch, a full bar, and a new LOW admission fee of only \$5.00 including flea market parking! For a small fee you can upgrade your flea market space to a comfortable indoor table! After the Hamfest, stick around for our 1st annual Rochester Hamfest Fish-Fry.

This all new event will be Saturday May 30th, one day only, at the Barnard Fireman's carnival field and banquet hall (380 Maiden Lane in Rochester, NY 14616). In addition to all the new features, look for your favorite vendors from previous Hamfests. I'm sorry to disappoint you but bath tub inserts, automotive windshields, and basement waterproofing will no longer be part of the Rochester Hamfest. The New Hamfest is being produced by an all new Hamfest team and we're counting on club members to donate an hour or two to help setup, sell tickets, or other non-exertive tasks to pull this together without spending a fortune. You will be greatly rewarded!

I'd like to give you more details, but remember as I write this it's all very new. For the most up-to-date information, check the RaRa Website www.RochesterHam.org often. It turns out that RaRa does not possess the old Hamfest web site URL. So you would be well advised to disregard anything you may read there. If we receive control of that other URL it will direct you to the RochesterHam.org page so, save yourself any possible confusion and always reference the RaRa page directly.

73 – Frank

RaRa Hotline
(585) 671-2424
24 Hours a Day

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: January, 1989

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian



The January meeting was an interesting discussion by John Stuck, Air Traffic Manager at the Monroe County Airport. John spoke about the challenges of air traffic control and the coordination of various communications necessary for safe aircraft operation. The venue for RaRa meetings at this time was the 40&8 Club on University Avenue.

February 11th was the date to save for the annual RaRa *Winter Funfest* held at Mendon Ponds park. Sledding, cross country skiing and partaking of good food and fellowship were promised.

In a way of saying thank you and also highlighting the 1988 public service events, Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, wrote a full page article describing sixteen events held that year. The Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA) introduced their January meeting that featured a speaker from the county 911 Communications Center. The focus was on the best way to convey important information to the 911 Operator in the time of an emergency.

In this issue, just in time for the great amount of activity in the ARRL January VHF contest, by the Rochester VHF Group, were not one, but two full length VHF contesting articles. Ev Tupis, WB2ELB, wrote one and one-half pages with detailed descriptions of how to operate the contest and what the exchange had to be, while Wayne King, N2WK, wrote detailing the club's frequencies and operating times. In a similar effort, Tim Stoffel, NS9E, wrote seeking operators for a multi-operator contest effort to be run from the RaRa Club station, K2JD.

The Rochester Area Packet Society (RAPS) invited people to their January meeting that featured an introduction, by way of on-hands demonstrations, to packet radio operations. Meetings were held at the (then) familiar 111 Westfall Road site. Questions were invited by RAPS Chairman Keith Hibbert KE2DI and Vice-Chairman John VanGriethuysen N2BNE.

It was with regret that William P. Riley, W2RLV, was reported as a Silent Key. From the Want Ads was an unusual true "wanted ad" as Peter Fournia, WB2BPQ, was seeking a used hand held radio.

Public Service

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
RARA Public Service Coordinator

Now that the 2008 Public Service season is behind us it would be a good time to share some figures with the club on what we did this year. We participated in 14 events that were coordinated by local hams. There were many other events listed on the web site and run by other clubs or organizations and there may have been some local hams that traveled to these events, which is great, but have not been included in this analysis.

We had 181 hams participate in the local events this year which amounted to 1,407 man-hours. To clarify the ham count, each call sign at each event counted once. If you worked multiple days at an event you still counted as one ham for the event. The good news is you were a ham with many man-hours for that event.

2008 EVENTS	Hams	Hrs.
Special Olympics Winter Games	14	84
MS Walk - Geneseo	4	12
Israel 60th Birthday Parade	10	40
Tour de Cure	32	282
ITU Pan America Cup	7	56
Geneseo Air Show	4	18
Walnut Hill Driving Competition	21	266
MS Bike Tour	16	173
Rochester Marathon	13	65
Fairport Regatta	5	35
Barktoberfest	17	68
America's Walk for Diabetes	5	25
Jamboree on the Air	5	92
Pumpkin Patrol	28	191
TOTAL	181	1407

Many thanks again to all the event captains who took the lead on one or more events. Thanks also are in order to the many hams who set aside the time to help out a worthy organization. I hope to see all of you return for 2009. I am always looking for new hams to give Public Service a try. It can be a lot of fun!

We have one fast approaching event on our 2009 calendar. It is the **Special Olympics, Winter Games** – Sat, February 7, 2009. Sign-up is available on the www.rochesterham.org web site.

**RaRa Memorial Scholarship
Application Deadline
April 15, 2009**

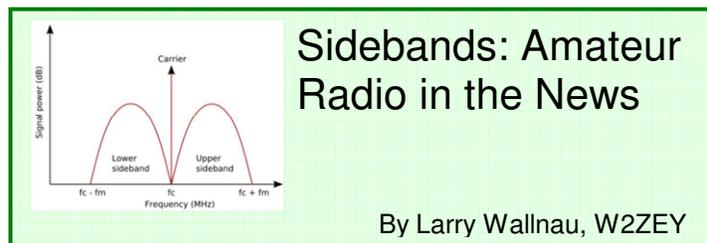
**All New RaRa Hamfest
75th Anniversary Edition
Saturday May 30, 2009
At the Barnard Carnival Grounds**

**February Rag Deadline
January 31, 2008**

Awards Thoughts

By Dan & Sue, Waterstraat, W2DEW & KC2SUE
RARA Awards Chairpersons

January is a great month to get into the workshop and build something. Along that line, we're raffling a Weller 23 watt soldering iron kit with two extra tips and a soldering aid tool. Along with that you also get a Weller 40 watt iron for those bigger connections. The second item is a 305 piece 1/4W carbon film resistor kit. This has five pieces each of 61 values in the series 10, 12, 15, 18, 22, 27 ohms, etc. Each value is individually bagged. And if you just want to jury rig a project without soldering, we have a 830 tie point solder less breadboard with 100 color coded jumper wires of various lengths. So brush off the snow, come on out to the meeting and buy some raffle tickets.



Heard Over the Saskatchewan Skies. *The Lake of the Woods Enterprise* published a story (Visit <http://tinyurl.com/6namtd>) about the activities space tourist Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, aboard the ISS. Also featured in the story is Woody Linton, VE3JJA, of Sioux Narrows, Ontario. A brief description of the QSO between these two hams is provided. Linton is no stranger to space communications. Years ago he had a QSO with the Russian Mir Space Station. Linton estimates that his QSO with the ISS occurred when the space station was passing over Saskatchewan. He has been a ham since 1976. Garriott, a publisher and creator of computer games, is the son of Owen Garriott who was an astronaut for NASA. The father spent two months aboard Sky Lab in 1973.

Ham Radio Assists in 911 Failure. Phone service to the 911 dispatchers went down in the North Fork Valley region in Colorado. According to ***The Delta County Independent*** (Story at <http://tinyurl.com/5jx6ho>) ham radio operators played a role in handling traffic during the outage. ARES was activated during the failure and hams worked in every town within the county to provide support for emergency communications. The 911 outage was caused when a fiber optic cable was cut. The emergency number was out of service for over 5 hours.

Young Local Ham has Wings. *The Daily Messenger* recently reported on the exploits of Raymond Dreimiller, Jr., KC2OHL, of West Bloomfield, NY (Visit <http://tinyurl.com/6727kt>). Raymond, who is only 16, has been soloing out of Canandaigua Airport in his father's 1947 Piper PA-11. Raymond is in a rare group of people, less than 3 percent of aviators, who are only 16 to 19 years old and are flight students or have a pilot license. He represents the third generation in his family to take to the skies – his grandfather was a World War II pilot. The adventures aloft have not kept Raymond from the microphone either. As an Extra Class licensee, he has

achieved WAS and DXCC awards. One of his most memorable QSO's is with a ham in the radio room aboard the battleship U.S.S. Missouri in Pearl Harbor during a special event.

A Bubble in Boatanchor Values? We've heard of the "housing bubble", but now a "boatanchor bubble"? Chuck Hallett, K4SC, discusses this possibility in an interesting article (See <http://www.eham.net/articles/20529>). One of his premises for the inflationary spiral in the price of old classic ham radios is that most hams are now at an age in which their kids are grown and they have more discretionary income – and that extra money is spent on nostalgic ham rigs – the radios they enjoyed or longed for when introduced to the hobby. In the article he sites an example of an eBay auction for a Collins 75-A4 with a KWS-1. The bidding closed at \$3,350 and this price did not meet the seller's reserve!

IARU Region 1 Meets. IARU Region 1 held its triennial meeting on November 16 in Croatia. As part of the opening festivities, a commemorative postage stamp was unveiled for the assembled delegates. One of the important pieces of business was planning for the Region 1 expansion of the 40 meter band, from 7000-7100 to 7000-7200 KHz, which takes effect March 29, 2009. The group agreed on the band plan, which is published in the minutes (Go to <http://tinyurl.com/6pq4ax>).

Canadians Get "Lowfer" Privileges. Industry Canada has accepted a proposal by Radio Amateurs of Canada to open up 500 KHz privileges. The proposed band segment is 504 to 509 KHz and amateurs will be allowed to use a maximum of 20 watts ERP. The bandwidth is limited to 1 KHz. Users of the band will have distinct call signs that are renewable on an annual basis. RAC hopes these privileges will bolster Canada's efforts to propose a 600 meter amateur band at the World Radio Conference in 2011.

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Jan 2 | RARA meeting – 7:30PM, Henrietta FD #1 |
| Jan 7 | RARA Board of Directors Meeting – 5:30PM
RIT Bldg-17, Room 2110 |
| Jan 9 | RVHFG Monthly Meeting – 7: Spencerport
Wesleyan Church 2353 Nichols St.,
Spencerport |
| Jan 16 | RRRA – 8:00PM, Monthly Meeting at
Pittsford Town Hall, downstairs room. |
| Jan 17 | RARA VE Testing session – 10:30AM RIT,
Bldg. 9, Rm. 3139 |
| Jan 20 | RDXA – Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM EOC,
Rm 200, 1190 Scottsville Rd. |
| Dec 20 | RARA VE Testing session – 10:00AM RIT,
Bldg. 9, Rm. 3139 |

From the VP of RRRRA

By Bob Shewell, N2HJD
Vice President, RRRRA

Here it is the end of the year already and the beginning of 2009. The December dinner out at Macgregor's was a success and a fun time had by all.

For this month The RRRRA is having a presentation on Digital Television. Did you know that analog TV will be changing over to digital TV February 19, 2009? The government estimates 15 million people have no clue to what's going to happen or why. RRRRA's January meeting will answer your questions as we welcome Louis Volino, WHAM-TV's Assistant Engineering Manager who will give a presentation on Digital TV along with insight into what's happening at WHAM-TV. Get all the details about Digital TV and what it means to you.

The meeting is held at the basement meeting room at the Pittsford Town Hall on January 16, 2009 at 8:00PM. Hope to see you at the meeting. Refreshments and pastries from the kitchen of our secretary will be available.

RVHFG News

By Bill Rogers, K2TER

The January Club meeting will be held January 9, 2009 at the Spencerport Wesleyan Church, 2353 Nichols St., Spencerport. Presenting the Flex 5000 Software Defined Radio, a Live Demo with Bob Nezelek, W2CNS and Walter Obenhofer, NQ2O as presenters. For a detailed map on the location of the meeting see the "October Journal" which is available on the club web site: www.rvhfg.org.

Have you heard the news? VHF Contesting in January just got a bit hotter in the Rochester Area.

The Rochester VHF Group is pleased to announce a new local contest to kick off the 2009 VHF season. The Rochester VHF Challenge is a contest that runs in tandem with the ARRL January VHF QSO Party to encourage VHF, UHF, and microwave activity in the Rochester and surrounding areas.

Objective: Make as many valid contacts with Rochester VHF Group members and others in the area to obtain the largest score for your station and your club!

Scoring: Scoring is simple. It uses the same formula as the January ARRL QSO Party rules: Compute the product of your January ARRL VHF QSO points and the number of valid contacts in the log made with Rochester VHF Group members.

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for the contest you don't necessarily need to be a member of a club or organization, just a single operator or group operating under a single call sign for the duration of the contest. If you are a member of a club you can also contribute to the aggregate club score.

Awards/Prizes: There will be many activity related awards including a club award. Please see our website for details: www.rvhfg.org

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing



All Elements needed
to complete a license class.

3rd Saturday of each
Month, September – April

Registration – 10:00AM
Testing – 10:15AM

Room 3139, Building 9 (Park in Lot J)
Rochester Institute of Technology
1 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623

Contact Raj Dewan, N2RD
to reserve space.

Call (585) 703-4003 or e-mail n2rd@arri.net

Radio Club Contacts

Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

Jim Collinsworth, N2JC jcollinsw@aol.com

Monroe County ARES

Jeff Wigal, WY7Q..... wy7q@arri.net

Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)

Frank Schramm, WB2PYD wb2pyd@arri.net

Rochester DX Association (RDXA)

Paul Mackanos, K2DB k2db@arri.net

Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

Brad Allen, KB2CHY..... kb2chy@frontiernet.net

Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)

Andy Flowers, K0SM aflowers@frontiernet.net

XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)

Ned Asam, W2NED w2ned@frontiernet.net

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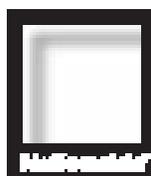
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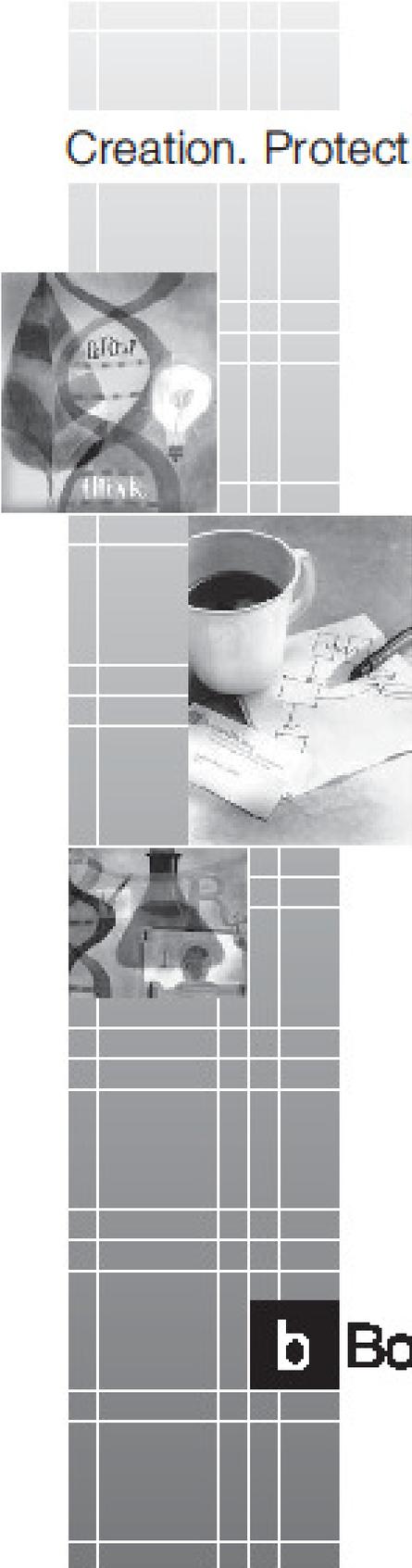
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