



THE RARRA E-RAG

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NO. 7

SKYWARN™ Spotter Training

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
Vice President, RARA

Spring License Classes

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA Education Coordinator

The last time the National Weather Service was at a RARA meeting was March 2006 and it is time to renew our SKYWARN™ training. SKYWARN™ Spotter Training is good for 3 years. The training is not only for amateur radio operators but for anyone with an interest in weather and reporting on severe weather events back to the NWS office in Buffalo. Severe weather events can be reported via designated ham radio repeaters, telephone, or the website. **Judy Levan, N2TEZ**, will be our special guest for this free training. Judy is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Buffalo office. The following information comes directly from the Buffalo NWS web site.

“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, and always will be, an indispensable part of the severe local warning program.”

(SKYWARN cont. on page 6)

The Spring session of the famous RARA License Classes will begin April 6, 2009 and will continue for 7 additional sessions. Classes will be offered for Technician with Dick Goslee, KG2I as the instructor and General with Frank Schramm, WB2PYD as the instructor. Additional instructors will be added as plans progress.

The classes will be held at RIT in Building 9 with registration taking place in room-3139 starting at 6:30PM. After registration the group will go to their respective rooms for instruction. The classes will last for approximately 2 hours each night. Additional information will be given in the April issue of The RARA RAG.

If you are interested in attending these classes please e-mail me a message at:

(contax2@rochester.rr.com) and let me know which class you are interested in attending. This information will allow us to pre-order the manuals so that they are available on the first night of classes

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

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SILENT KEYS



Marlin E. Hazen, WA2RAY
February 6, 2009

Leon Ingerick, N2HLT
February 7, 2009

David S. Mellman, KA2UBJ
February 10, 2009

THE RARA E-RAG

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Webmaster Frank Schramm, WB2PYD



The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RARA

Congratulations to our new "Education Coordinator": Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY. Larry has relieved Brad Armstrong, WY1X. Brad takes with him our deepest gratitude for the years of service he has provided coordinating our licensing classes. Technician and General level license classes will be held on Monday evenings commencing in early April at RIT. See the article on page 1 for more details. I'm also very pleased to announce that, after a brief hiatus, Larry Wallnau has resumed his position as Director. Welcome back Larry!

By the time you read this, RaRa should be the proud holder of the revered call sign: N2EH. This call now belongs to our "Ed Holdsworth Memorial Club Station". The club station construction is coming along nicely. Our Trustee, Jim DiTucci, N2IXD, reports that electricity, data, antenna (A.K.A "aerial" for some) and rotator control lines are all in place. Equipment racks are taking shape, and the new Kenwood TS-2000 is just aching to get on the air. It has been a lot of work for Jim and his team to get this far and there's much more to do but we're that much closer... Remember: "Good things come to those who wait."

Watch your mailbox! No, your neighbor isn't stealing your paper again; your 2009 RaRa Directory is on the way! You'll probably receive it about a week after you read this. Now, who remembers back when we had binders for the directory? I know there are at least a few of you out there wondering why the directory has holes that don't quite fit right in a 2-ring binder. Well, it's because the directory used to have its' very own special binder. Guess what? They're back, in a new style and size, (Time to throw out your old binder). Come to the next 3 general membership meetings and you can pick up your binder for only: \$1.50! The special "introductory" price of \$1.50 is for a limited time only. After May 1st, they will be \$3.00. Need more than one? Additional binders are available for \$3.00. If you're bedridden or out of town and can't make it to one of the next 3 meetings, you can mail order your binder for a \$5.00 shipping and handling fee (that's a total of \$6.50 for you NASA types). Mail your request along with a check or money order payable to "Rochester Amateur Radio Assn." to POB 93333, Rochester, NY 14692.

Following up on last month's column; you'll now find "Ham Radio 101" on our website. This contains a growing list of information, references, and "Elmer's" for aspiring Hams. Some of you "old-timers" may find it interesting too. While we're on the subject of websites: Our efforts to regain control of the RochesterHamfest.com and .org domain names have resulted in judgments in our favor. So there should be no more confusion. Regardless of which domain name you use, RochesterHam or RochesterHamfest, you'll land on the RaRa website.

73,
- Frank

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

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: March, 1989

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian



Electronics in the Telephone industry was the topic of the March meeting with a presentation by Karl Greenhagel. Karl provided a history of Rochester Telephone's electronic revolution and how they recently spent \$200 million to upgrade its switching and transmission systems. The old telephone workers in attendance, the jacks and wires crew, were dazzled by such terms as fiber optics, pulse code modulation, light emitting diodes and other such backgrounds forming the new *intelligent network*.

The March RDXA meeting, using the 111 Westfall Road venue, featured a slide program on the then recently completed VR6HI DX'pedition to Pitcairn Island.

Being March, it must be close to the anticipated first hamfest of the year and that was always the Drumlins Hamfest at the Marbletown Fire Hall. Four dollars got you admission to the March 25th event.

Wayne King, N2WK, writing for the Rochester VHF Group, reported on the results of the January VHF contest and the winners of the *Rochester Cup Award*. This local contest within a contest was devised to promote local activity in the ARRL VHF SS contest and to bolster the RVHFG club contest score. The RDXA won the club category led by Frank, K2OS, and the grid hopping team of KB2WN, K1JUL and N2HKD. Second place club score was taken by the Xerox Club with WB2ELB and WB2SUN leading their effort. In third place was RaRa, turning in the most logs at 21, but not having enough Q's to hold their previous 2nd place spot. The new Rochester Cup challenge proved very successful with over eight local clubs from Batavia to Newark turning in scores.

Awards Thoughts

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

As the March meeting is all about weather, we have a Midland Hand-held Weather Radio with SAME Programming to give away.

Some the features are:

- * Accesses all 7 NOAA Channels * Battery Low Indicator
- * Backlit alphanumeric display denotes type of alert and timestamps it.
- * 12/24 Hour clock * Dual Alarm clock
- * Digital Thermometer (F or C) * Freeze Alert
- * Built-In charger for Ni-Cd or Ni-MH rechargables (requires separate AC adapter) or uses two AA batteries (included)
- * SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding) programming allows you to program up to 9 individual counties and filters alerts that don't affect them.

After all the cold, are you thinking about some portable QRP or field day type operation this summer? Well the second raffle item is a set of fiberglass poles that can be used to support your antennas. This contains a set of 12, 4ft. long fiberglass mast support poles, carry bag, and 2 composite guy rings. These poles are around 1 3/4" OD and 1 1/2" ID and have a 4" ferrule on one end so they can slide together. These are brand new, military grade, in army olive green. From the ARRL book department, we have your choice of the "General Class License Manual" or "Understanding Basic Electronics". Tickets are 1 for a \$1, 3 for \$2, and 10 for \$5. See you there.

Public Service

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
RARA Public Service Coordinator

So far in 2009 we have had two public service events. The first event was assisting WXXI with the phone banks that were set up for a call-in on January 22, 2009. People in the community were able to call in and get their questions answered on the pending digital television switch-over. The ARES/RACES meeting for that night was moved to the WXXI studios. Our second event was the Special Olympics Winter Games for skiing held at Bristol Mountain. The weather was very cooperative with temperatures in the 40's. One of the events that we have covered the last few years has been squeezed by the economic crunch and was cancelled for 2009. It is the ITU Pan America Cup event.

Below is the list of local events that are being coordinated by local hams. The RARA web site should be updated by the end of January. Go to www.rochesterham.org and click on "Public Service". A complete listing of events and details on each event are there. Click on the "Sign Up" button and fill in the boxes. Highlight the events you like and click on "Submit". I will receive an email with your information and will reply to you acknowledging that I have received it.

MS Walk – Geneseo – Sun, May 3, 2009

Tour de Cure – Sun, June 7, 2009

Geneseo Air Show – Sat & Sun, July 11 & 12, 2009

Walnut Hill Driving Competition – Wed thru Sun, August 12 - 16, 2009

Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon – Sun, September 13, 2009

Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta – Sun, September 20, 2009

Bike MS 2009 Pedal to the Park – Sat, September 26, 2009

Barktoberfest: Lollypop Farm – Sat, September 26, 2009

America's Walk for Diabetes – Sat, October 3, 2009

Jamboree on the Air (BSA) – Sat & Sun, October 17 & 18, 2009

NYS Thruway Pumpkin Patrol – Fri & Sat, October 30 & 31, 2009

RVHFG News

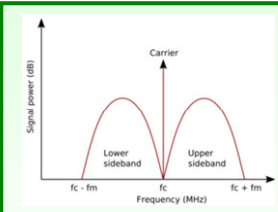
By Bill Rogers, K2TER

The March 13th RVHFG group meeting will be a "Show and Tell" night. Bring your latest creation or best story for the year to share with the group. Directions can be found on the website <http://www.RVHFG.org>

This year's combined RDXA / RVHFG Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for Saturday evening, April 25th, at NapaGino's Restaurant.

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

account, save or renew a certificate and ways to address PC failure. [2] The GET STARTED section (See <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/start.html>) has been simplified with links for each of the four steps in the certificate process. [3] LoTW instructions are now available in nine languages: English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Russian, Slovenian and Spanish. Options to select a language have always been available, but they have now been moved up front to the GET STARTED page. The languages are identified with icons of flags to represent each language. [4] The GET STARTED pdf file has been updated to include new screenshots and refinement of some of the processes. [5] The software download section now consists of only three icons representing the three operating systems for which software is available: Windows, Mac and Linux. The user simply selects their operating system and they are redirected to the download specific to their system. [6] A new link has been added for QSL Manager, Club Calls and DXpeditions. This link gives details on establishing an account for these special operations and includes a section for 1x1 call signs. [7] A new PowerPoint overview is available from the LoTW site. This presentation has also been added to our multimedia library (Go to <http://www.arrl.org/multimedia>). The program is an overview of LoTW and what users can expect from the service. There are screenshots of LoTW pages, as well as a condensed version of the certificate and award application process. [*The ARRL Letter*]



Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

IRC Featured on the News. WFYI-TV of Indianapolis aired a segment on the Indianapolis Radio Club, which dates back to 1914. The clip features recent contesting activities by the group. You are likely to spot one or more of your favorite rigs in operation. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/bvtvlp> to view the video. [*WFYI Indianapolis*]

New FCC Enforcement Chief. Laura L. Smith will replace Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth retired in 2008 after serving more than 10 years in enforcement over the Amateur Radio Service. Smith graduated from Pepperdine University School of Law and is no stranger to the FCC. She previously worked there in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith is no stranger to issues in wireless communication either. In 1998, Smith left the FCC to become Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for the Industrial Telecommunications Association (ITA), now Enterprise Wireless Alliance. In that role, she monitored FCC and legislative proceedings and participated in all regulatory proceedings relevant to the private wireless industry. In 2001, Smith became ITA's President and Chief Executive Officer. While in that position, she was instrumental in the formation of the Consensus Group, a group of public safety and private wireless entities responsible for drafting the "Consensus Plan," a proposed resolution for interference in the 800 MHz band. The plan was adopted by the FCC in 2004. Prior to taking over for Hollingsworth, Smith served Of Counsel with the Maryland law firm of Shulman Rogers. While there her specialization was telecommunications and she worked with clients in the private radio and public safety communities. I should note she is not a licensed ham, but of course that might change as she interacts more with our community. (Source: *The ARRL Letter*).

DTV Delayed. Just as our local hams joined others around the country in a volunteer effort to assist folks with questions about DTV, it looks like the transition to only-digital broadcasting has been delayed. The House of Representatives voted 264-158 in favor of delaying the transition to June 12, 2009. The Senate voted unanimously in favor of the bill.

As of this writing, a White House spokesperson indicated that President Obama will sign the bill into law. The bill was prompted by concerns that millions of Americans with analog TVs who receiver over-the-air signals are not ready for the transition. Funding for discount coupons for digital converter boxes had been exhausted creating somewhat of a bottleneck for people who are not ready to receive over-the-air digital TV signals. The rationale of the bill is that the extra time will allow more public education about DTV and unused coupons will expire which would free up funds to issue new converter coupons. [Source of data: Associated Press]

Logbook of the World Improved. In order to better accommodate new users as well as existing account holders, ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) has been updated (Go to <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>). According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Assistant Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, these improvements were made based LoTW help questions and listening to users. The upgrades include the following: [1] An LoTW User's Corner that includes quick links to log onto your RaRa Rag 4

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing



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@arrl.net**

**April Rag Deadline
March 11, 2009**

From the President of RRRRA

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY

It's that time of year again. RRRRA is having its yearly March auction on March 20th. If you're looking for something or want to sell that old electronic gear, this is the event for you. Even if you don't think you need anything come for the entertainment and visit with fellow Amateurs. Dick and Ed have been entertaining us for years and are the Region's best auctioneer / comedy team. Try to guess how much stuff Ed; K2MP will buy for the museum. The location is the basement of the Pittsford Town Hall which is near the corner of Rt. 31 and Rt. 96. The Auction starts at 8 pm so come early to set up or see the items for auction. Doors open at 7:15PM. Hope to see you there, and as always, no boat anchors please.

I think we can have a little more fun with the auction. WE will have a vote to see who comes the closest to who got the best deal of the evening. Who spent the most on what most people would vote as a useless item. A certificate will be given to the winners above.

Take a guess on the maximum number of times an item is bid on. Guess how many items Ed K2MP will go home with. Guess how many items Dick will take home. The guessing game will cost \$ 1.00 to make a guess on all three. We will split the pot 4 ways. (Ed and Dick are only eligible for the certificates.)

It is also time to think about next year's officer slate. This is YOUR club, so get involved in running it. VP, Secretary and Treasurer are all up for grabs. Nominations will be taken in April, May and election night in June. We will be looking for help at the Talk-in tent this year. If you wish to help out please let me know. I need someone to help setup a Talk-in script for the different ways people may be arriving as well as making scripts for directions to different places, hotels and campgrounds



Shorts & Sparks

By I. M. Zapped, FZZ1POP
Reporting From the Geek Isles

YouTube Ham College. Want some information on ham radio in a video format? Search YouTube. For starters, go to <http://www.youtube.com> and search K7AGE. He has contributed a number of well-crafted videos running about 15 minutes each on PSK31, IMD, Digipan, and soundcard interfaces. There are lots of other ham radio clips by other folks – just search a ham-related keyword. Perhaps it will inspire you to produce your own educational clip.

Roll Your Own Triode. Are tubes getting difficult to find? Why not make your own? Go to <http://tinyurl.com/bhf9p7> to view a high quality video of a triode being made from scratch on the workbench. The captions are in French, but most are easy to decipher, such as "les electrodes." (RaRa member W2ZEY reads French and can translate the rest.) The video also demonstrates the triode being used in homebrew radios. The clip runs 17 minutes in length and is a "must see."

A Salt-Water Dummy Load? Sure, why not? You will need a suitable container with an airtight lid, copper wire electrodes, a UHF connector, some water and some salt. It is highly recommended that an antenna analyzer be used to create the correct concentration of salt for a 1:1 SWR. And you can even be creative about the type of container. How about a Grecian urn? An Egyptian sarcophagus? Or a Corona beer bottle? Skeptical? Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/b4zn8k> to see how it is done. By the way, Professor I. M. Zapped takes no responsibility whatsoever for your transceiver or the results, which depend on how well you follow the instructions. Any questions should be directed to K5LXP, the designer.

W1AW to QSY on 160 Meters. Starting Monday, March 9, Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be using a new 160-meter frequency for its CW transmissions. To accommodate increasing activity near the current bulletin frequency of 1817.5 kHz, W1AW will move to 1802.5 kHz to reduce the possibility of interference.

(Tnx ARRL Bulletins)

Calendar of Events

- Mar 6** RARA meeting – 7:30PM, Henrietta FD #1
- Mar 7** Greater Buffalo Hamfest – Ismalia Shrine Ctr
1600 Southwestern Blvd, West Seneca NY
- Mar 11** RARA Board of Directors Meeting – 5:30PM
RIT Bldg-17, Room 2110
- Mar 13** RVHFG Monthly Meeting – Spencerport
Wesleyan Church 2353 Nichols St.,
Spencerport
- Mar 17** RDXA – Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM EOC,
Rm 200, 1190 Scottsville Rd.
- Mar 20** RRRRA – 8:00PM, Annual Auction
Pittsford Town Hall, downstairs room.
- Mar 21** RaRa VE Testing session – 10:00AM RIT,
Bldg. 9, Rm. 3139

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HOW DOES SKYWARN™ WORK WITH AMATEUR RADIO? “Amateur radio volunteers operate a base station at the Buffalo Weather Service Office during severe weather or other weather disaster emergencies. Through a network of repeater antennas, volunteers at the Buffalo office contact other amateurs -located in communities throughout Western New York. Storm information is collected at the base station for rapid relay by forecasters to the media, Emergency Management and Law Enforcement agencies, and the public.”

WHY DO HAMS MAKE GOOD SKYWARN™ SPOTTERS? “Hams operate on emergency power when commercial power is lost so reports can still be received. Reports are received in a timely, efficient manner. Unlike police, fire, and other government emergency response persons, amateur radio operators have no jurisdictional boundaries. Amateur radio spotters are able and willing to perform their service for extended periods. SKYWARN™ spotters are trained to have knowledge of severe weather characteristics not only to ensure they are able to recognize these, but also to avoid erroneously reporting non-hazardous conditions. In Western New York, any amateur radio operator can become a SKYWARN™ spotter.”

The meeting is Friday, March 6, 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 awards. The presentation will follow the awards.

Meet your friends at RARA. Make new friends at RARA.

Radio Club Contacts

Monroe County ARES/RACES

Jeff Wigal, WY7Q

wy7Q@arrl.net

Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

Jim Collinsworth, N2JC

jcollinsw@aol.com

Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)

Frank Schramm, WB2PYD

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Rochester DX Association (RDXA)

www.rdxa.com

Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

Brad Allen, KB2CHY

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Dave Foster, AB2WZ

d1161f@aol.com

XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)

Ned Asam, W2NED

w2ned@frontiernet.net

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That Advertise in
The “RaRa Rag”

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

All elements needed to
complete a license class.
3rd Saturday of each
month, September – April

Registration – 10:00 a.m.
Testing – 10:15 a.m.

Room 3139, Building 9
(park in Lot J)

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Rochester, New York 14623
Contact Raj Dewan, N2RD
to reserve space.

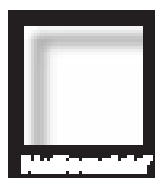
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Robert E. Brown (KBNLV) is a Partner at Boylan Brown and a member of the RARA.

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