



THE RARRA E-RAG

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Going Once, Going Twice, Gone!!

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
Vice President, RARA

November at RARA can only mean one thing, AUCTION!! Bring cash and lots of it. Our auctioneers, Ed Gable, K2MP and Dick Goslee, KG2I will be doing their best to entertain you and separate you from your cash for some incredible bargains. Now that the government has saved the banking industry, loans for this event should be readily available.

The rules of the auction are quite simple. Bid often and bid high. The club keeps 10% of all sales as a commission. Items can be donated to the club and the club will keep 100% of the proceeds for the item.

This is a ham radio auction so we must have a few rules for the sellers. Ham radio goods only. No computers, cameras, Rachael Ray cookware, etc. Please tag all your items with a description of the item, your call sign, and a minimum bid if necessary. Let's all stick to the theme for an enjoyable night that will not last into the next calendar day.

Again the auction is Friday, November 7, 2008 at the Henrietta Fire Hall #1, 3129 East Henrietta Road near the intersection of Lehigh Station Road. This is a "members only" auction but you may bring one guest. The doors will open at 6:30 pm for the sellers to display the goods and the buyers to get a good look. The auction will begin promptly at 7:30 pm.

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

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Is This Your Last Issue Of The RAG?

By Sue Goslee, N2HKA
Membership Secretary, RARA

The membership period for RARA starts the first of September each year and continues through the end of August the following year. The final membership expiration each year is October 31, which includes a 2 month grace period for payment of your dues. Check the address label on your current issue of the RAG for your expiration date. If it shows OCT. 2008, your dues have not yet been received for the year 2008-2009 and this will be your last issue of the RAG. You must be a current member of RARA to participate in the auction at the November meeting so now is a good time to send in your payment.

You may pay your dues at the November Auction or any RARA meeting or send them along with your completed membership application to RARA, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester. NY 14692-8333.

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The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RARA

It's Auction Time! This is my favorite meeting of the year, and have I got a deal for YOU! I have 15 oceanfront acres in Tennessee that's going to sell to the highest bidder – NO reserve!!! If you want to see photos of the parcel before the meeting, drop me an e-mail. Were you at the September meeting? If you were, you saw the awesome TenTec Jupiter HF transceiver and PSU donated to the club. Now's your chance to make it a part of your shack because it's going on the block!

Once again, I want to apologize for the 45 minutes we spent at the October meeting discussing the By-Law amendments. Rest assured there won't be any more business matters until the May meeting. For those of you who didn't attend, all three By-Law amendments were adopted. Proposal number two was appended to provide a limit of two consecutive terms for the office of President.

As you are aware we had a Hamfest special interest meeting. It was disappointing to see that only 15 people, beyond the Board of Directors, have enough interest in perpetuating the Hamfest. I'd like to sincerely thank those 15 people for taking the time to attend and offer such valuable contributions to the task at hand. Since the rest of you didn't show up to voice your opinion, the decision was made for you. That decision is to produce Hamfest 2009, our 75th, in a fashion similar to past Hamfests on the tightest budget possible. In addition we will be attempting to increase attendance by appealing to non-hams. The majority present wanted to complete Hamfest 75 at the smallest possible financial loss and then move on with a completely new style Hamfest in 2010.

If you haven't been to the RaRa website recently, we're taking a poll to gauge your interest in various possible social activities including a group bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention. So take a minute, go vote, and tell us what you're interested in. By the time you receive this, our new "virtual shack" should be available on the website. Since we don't have a physical club station or meeting room to display our "trophies" we've developed the next best thing. Go check it out... www.RochesterHam.org

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the auction. Remember: Leave your junk and computer items at home. The Auction is a "Members Only" event, but members are allowed to bring a guest!

73 – Frank

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Club Station Trustees..... Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

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

November VE Session

By Ken Hall, W2KRH
RARA VE Team

License testing for November will be held on the 15th at RIT Building 9, Room 3-139, registration is at 10:00AM. Due to the confluence of several factors at this time there are only two VE's who have committed to attend. VE's please email me ken@w2krh.com or call 585-289-3801 if you can attend, thank you. I do not want to cancel the session.

Dayton Hamvention 2009

By Jeff Miller, N2AWA

RARA is trying to arrange a bus/hotel package trip to Dayton for 2009. Flyers with all the information will be available at the auction on November 7th and the information is also posted on the RARA Yahoo Group site. Questions can be directed to Jeff Miller n2awa@arrl.net .

The time to make your choice is coming soon as we need to have a deposit in to the travel agent by early December. The final payment is due in early Spring 2009.

Webster Central ARC Update

By Norm Turner, W2NWT
Advisor, Webster Central ARC, W2WHS

We are back in session with the Webster Central Amateur Radio Club. On October 9, the club received three antennas donated by local Webster Ham Joseph Brown, K2KYW, who is leaving the hobby. The antennas are a Gap Vertical for HF, a Cushcraft 4 element Two meter beam, and a two element six meter beam antenna. We would like to thank him for his contribution. We will be installing them soon.

Also, we are having our annual fund raising project. In these tough economic times, we won't be asking for monetary donations, buying dinner at a local restaurant or anything like that. This year, we are recycling old cellular phones. Any old phones are acceptable.

We will have boxes at the November RARA Auction for your convenience. Anyone who has a cell phone or twenty that they would like to recycle, please bring to the auction and we will be glad to recycle them for you. Thanks for your consideration.

December Rag Deadline November 10, 2008

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: November, 1988



By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

That month's program was the ever popular RaRa Auction night with Ed Gable, K2MP and Dick Goslee, K2VCZ, as auctioneers. The venue was the Police and Fire Academy on Scottsville Road.

Bob O'Connell, NF2Z (sk), wrote for the Rochester Radio Repeater Association inviting people to their meeting at the Pittsford Town Hall. The announced speaker was Mr. Karl Emilson, WB2EFV, Division Staff Officer of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, presenting on search and rescue operations.

Walter Obenhoffer, NQ2O, was the guest speaker for The Rochester DX Association meeting with the subject being QSL'ing. Vic, K1JUL, continued his program description by saying Walter will speak on the use of IRC's versus "Green Stamps" and using the bureau as opposed to sending direct.

"Buy your new RaRa clothing" was the cry of Jack Dempsey, KA2PJN, announcing the availability of new RaRa shirts and jackets.

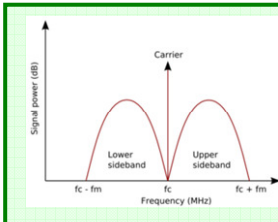
Wayne King, N2WK, wrote for the Rochester VHF Group urging and educating all readers on how to join in on VHF contesting. Wayne, the leader of the successful Not 2 Well Known contest group, was well qualified for the task.

Along the same lines, Ev Tupis, WB2ELB, wrote an extensive article on how to use the now popular MS-DOS PC's, found almost everywhere now for less than one-thousand dollars, for contest logging and as an automatic Dupe Sheet.

With regret it was reported that Blanche Nail, WB2DSR, Bill Landon K2CBD, Merryll Weed AG2A and John March W2SNF, were reported as Silent Keys. John March received a nice eulogy written by Jim Collinsworth, N2JC.

Calendar of Events

- Nov 7** RARA meeting – 7:30PM, Henrietta FD #1
- Nov 12** RARA Board of Directors Meeting – 5:30PM
RIT Bldg-17, Room 2110
- Nov 14** RVHFG Monthly Meeting – 7: Spencerport
Wesleyan Church 2353 Nichols St.,
Spencerport
- Nov 15** RARA VE Testing Testing session – 10:30AM
RIT, Bldg. 9, Rm. 3139
- Nov 18** RDXA – Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM EOC,
Rm 200, 1190 Scottsville Rd.
- Nov 21** RRRR – 8:00PM, Monthly Meeting at
Pittsford Town Hall, downstairs room.



Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

Waiting for the Cycle. NASA has reported that as of September 27, 2008 there were 200 days this year when there were no visible sunspots. This is the most sunspot-free year since 1954 when there were 241 blank days – seems staggering, huh? David Hathaway, a solar physicist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, said we are in a deep minimum in sunspot activity and the outlook for increased activity anytime soon is not good.

Email Scam Targets Hams. Be careful! Hams with call signs in their email addresses have been getting an email that claims to be from American Express. The email is actually a phishing scam – an attempt to get the recipient to provide personal information. Doing so can result in identity theft. Check the origin of the message. It has been reported to be from aaron@digital-glass.com and has an IP address of 82.165.179.193. The best and safest approach is never give any personal information to anyone over the internet.

DX Engineering Acquisition. DX Engineering, which sells antenna systems and accessories among other items, has acquired Comtek Systems. Comtek makes a variety of antenna feed point products such as baluns, phased couplers, switches, and radial accessories. The acquisition is effective immediately and Comtek operations will have been transferred to DX Engineering in Akron by the time this appears in print.

New FCC Chief Technologist. Jon M. Peha, Ph.D., has been named the new FCC chief technologist. He will be a senior advisor in the FCC's Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis for issues involving communications technology. Peha is a professor in the Departments of Engineering and Public Policy, and Electrical and Computer Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. He held positions at Microsoft and Bell Labs prior to joining the faculty at Carnegie Mellon.

Graying of Ham Radio. The Boston Globe had a feature article on the legion of "graying" ham radio operators. [Go to <http://tinyurl.com/4z3r23>.] One of the OMs, Sumner Weisman, W1FY, was covered in the story – including a photograph of him operating. He is a member of the Framingham [MA] Amateur Radio Association which was founded in 1933. The article notes that, on average, hams are in their 60s, but it also underscores attempts to recruit younger devotees through Scouts and the Boys and Girls Club. The article contrasted communicating via web chat rooms versus using ham radio, noting that the latter is more technically challenging and thus more rewarding. Allen Pitts, ARRL PIO, noted that new hams are coming mostly from two groups: Newly retired people who have more free

time to devote to a hobby and younger folks that are interesting in assisting with emergency communication.

Transmission on Anniversary of Sputnik 1. October 4th marked the 51st anniversary of the launch of Sputnik 1, a day in 1957 that sent shudders through the U.S. government and military. It seems that the amateur radio satellite RS-30 made a special transmission to commemorate the event. The satellite, also known as Yubileiny, was launched in May of 2008 and its transmissions have been received on both 435.315 and 435.215 MHz. On October 4th at 1550 UTC, DK3WN recorded the RS-30 signal on 435.315 MHz FM. On this low 200 pass the national anthem of the Russian Federation and sounds from Sputnik-1 were transmitted. The recordings [in .rm files] can be played at the DK3WN SatBlog "RS-30 sent national anthem". Go to:

<http://www.dk3wn.info/p/?p=1415>.

RDXA News

By Ken Boasi, N2ZN
Vice-President, RDXA

The next RDXA meeting on November 18, 2008, will be the first look at the new operating awards that RDXA will be offering during the 2008-2009 contest season. Learn how you can win these new awards (and some old favorites too) by coming down and getting involved. With the new sunspot cycle right around the corner, the time is right to start getting on the air and racking up some points for your favorite local DX club.

Radio Club Contacts

Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

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Andy Flowers, K0SM aflowers@frontiernet.net

XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)

Ned Asam, W2NED w2ned@frontiernet.net



Shorts & Sparks

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

New QRZ Feature: QRZ is offering a new feature – the Callsign Database for PDA's and Smart Phones that have web access. The data are presented in a text format that is compatible with the small screens of these handheld devices. You will need to register with QRZ for this service. I tried it on my Palm TX with a Wi-Fi connection during the initial trial period and it worked well. Go to:

<http://www.qrz.com/pcs> .

A Morse Ringtone for Your Phone: Would you like your cell phone to ring in Morse code? M1RGZ has a free Morse to Midi converter web page. You type in the text and it converts it to a ringtone you can download to your cell phone. Phones that have WAP internet access should allow you to download the ringtone directly from the site. It's a freebie. Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/7ksdh> or

<http://www.planetofnoise.com/midi/morse2mid.php> .

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

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

For Sale:

Cushcraft R7000 Vertical Antenna, 7 bands, 10-12-15-17-20-30-40 meters. New in the box \$379.00. Never Used. Fully assembled Only \$150.00. Call Paul at 585-271-7823.

**2009 RaRa Hamfest
May 29-30**

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

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