



THE HAMSTER

July 2021—Web Version



ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
P.O. BOX 1, ROCHESTER, MN 55903

Next RARC Club Meeting - July 13, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

♦ At RST Fire Station 2 EOC

♦ Optional meet up at Whistle Binkies North at 5:00 PM

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Eric (KFØS) - Vice President kf0s@arri.net

♦ July 13, 2021

Pat (W0BM) 3-D Printers

Join us for a discussion on 3-D printing and its use with Ham Radio, quilting, around the house and other fix it applications. How *Yet Another Hobby* has become integrated into the household far beyond Ham Radio. Pat will bring a number of examples and may print something in real time.

I know I have had an itch to get a printer and use it with several of my hobbies, and looking forward to this presentation. We will have time between the meeting and the presentation to enjoy seeing each other again. Some snacks and beverages will be provided.

♦ **August 10, 2021**

Marion KOA, Summer Picnic

Join us at the KOA in Marion for an evening get together. Bring a chair and we will have time to share, so if you have something you want to show, bring it along. We will discuss how we want to handle the picnic meal during the July meeting. Should the meal be club provided, maybe bring your own meat to grill, or as last year a bring your own. If you won't make the July meeting and have some thoughts, you can send them to Dave or myself.

I have a few more topics in mind for the rest of the year. HF Contesting, maybe some station setup or Elmering sessions, a look back at the history of ARES in Rochester, as well as a meeting where you can get your license laminated. Please let me know if you have a topic you want to share and we can put on the meeting schedule. If you have ideas you don't want to show, but would like to learn about, let me know as well.

FIELD DAY 2021

*** More photos coming this month in a *special edition* of the HAMSTER ***



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dave (KØVH) - President dcnaatz@gmail.com

So, did 2021 Field Day END THE DROUGHT? Not in OLM. While we had scattered showers most of Saturday afternoon other than the 415 downpour without lightning it was tolerable. The rain gradually ended after we all had a **great BBQ smoked pork sandwich dinner (thanks Drew & Kristin)** then Sunday was sunny & nice! Sunday also delivered some incredible 10 meter conditions, pileups on our SSB station which when added to a great showing by the CW crew *we got almost 4000 points on our 2A station and we don't even have Mel's 6 meter run and all the bonus points added.* Pretty good for a casual, fun FD. It was just great to SEE faces including some that hadn't been at FD for over 20 years plus having it at **Pat WOBM's place** we did have some shelter in the farm buildings. Many many thanks to W0STV and the entire K0T crew handling operating, food, setup & takedown. **A great time!!!**

Our **July meeting** is coming up quickly and we are planning to be back **at the Fire Station 2 RST EOC** in NE Rochester. We are **also scheduling an optional Zoom meeting** and will try it from the conference room best-can-do, so plan to attend in-person if you can. We'll have a LONG break and time to visit along with "Elmering" Q&A time. We are going to have some nice raffle prizes the next two months so there are advantages to being AT the meeting too.

Here is the information for the Tuesday July 13 at 630pm meeting to be held at **Fire Station 2, 2185 Wheelock Dr NE, Rochester**. The EOC entrance is around to the left on the lower south parking lot but for backup here is Zoom info.

Topic: Optional RARC ZOOM monthly club meeting (for those unable to attend meeting at RST EOC)

Time: July 13, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/9876548873?pwd=dk1jYWFmT01Qb3pYaXgyUFp0hQQT09>

Meeting ID: 987 654 8873

Passcode: #####

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Check the rarchams.org website, groups.io* or listen to the 146.82 or 147.255 repeaters (including the Sunday 9pm



With the potential for severe weather ARES will once again review **activation SOP for Olmsted County**. The procedure would be similar for **Skywarn operations**. Here are the four levels of activation:

Level Zero (CODE GREEN): NO EMERGENCY This is the level where no perception for emergency radio operations is anticipated.

Level One (CODE YELLOW): AWARENESS AND MONITORING At this level Olmsted ARES/Skywarn should monitor local repeater(s), warning emails, and text messages. You should start your preliminary preparedness actions.

Level Two (CODE ORANGE): STANDING BY TO ACTIVATE At this level an NCS is established for a condition that is likely to happen. Radio check ins are taken for availability, and potential assignments. Active ARES/Skywarn members should be ready. Do not check into the NCS until you are ready to go. Listen and follow NCS instructions for checking in, and for net information requests.

Level Three (CODE RED): ACTIVATION At this level an emergency does exist. Level three check ins that have not been staged, will be deployed. A resource net may be activated for late check ins and outside information for large and long term events. Listen for updates and current net activity before first checking in. Keep the NCS informed of all situations that change. Keep yourself and others safe. When you have lost radio contact with your NCS, use [EchoLink](#), phone, text, or other county repeaters to make contact and relay to your NCS operator.

Level Four (CODE BLUE) DEACTIVATION At this level all active radio operators are checked out by the NCS. If you checked in and do not check out, this a safety concern for the NCS and served agency and waist time.

Final field reports are made to the NCS for the action report to the served agency.



NOTES:

The **147.255**, **146.820**, and **146.625** analog repeaters are used as primary, secondary and contingency use for emergencies in this same order. Do not contact NCS until you are ready to deploy, or effectively report from a stationary position when applicable.

Have all SE Minnesota county repeaters and the Minnesota ARES simplex frequencies programmed in your radios.

Never leave the net without informing NCS the reason and time duration you will be unable to communicate, even for a minute.

For **Skywarn** activity have at least 1/2 tank of gas in your vehicle and "ALWAYS" tell the NCS if you are operating with only an HT.

The use of **EchoLink** on your phone app is a great **Skywarn** back up to contact NCS on the 147.255 repeater when you find yourself out of radio contact.

There is a saying inside **FEMA**, (Federal Emergency Management Agency) that goes: If it was not documented it did not happen. Please keep notes on information that relates to ARES involvement, no matter how unimportant.

Information links for ARES and Skywarn: <https://www.weather.gov/arx/activation>

[Rochester Alert](#)

[Minnesota ARES](#)

[EchoLink](#)

[ARES Field Resources Manual](#)



HAMSTER HINTS

Bob (KEØEXE) gettuit@charter.net

HAMSTER HINTS is on vacation the month of July. Be sure to watch next month for the August edition of the Hamster and a brand new HAMSTER HINTS.

Editors Note: If you would like to submit articles for **Hamster Hints**, please feel free to send them to me at: gmkelm@charter.net I'll put them in the queue for upcoming issues of **THE HAM-STER**.

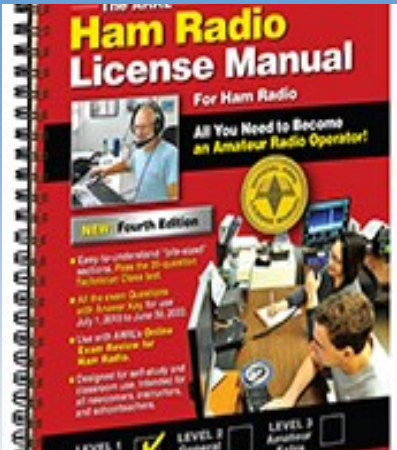


CONTEST CORNER

Fred (K4IU) k4iu@me.com

CONTEST CORNER is on vacation the month of July. Be sure to watch next month for the August edition of the Hamster and a brand new **CONTEST CORNER**.

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EDUCATION

Bill (KØRGR) k0rgr@arrl.net

KØRGR is planning to do another **online class in the near future.**

If you know of any potential new hams out there, please point them in KØRGR's direction.

The book we use for classes is the current ARRL License Manual pictured above and is available for purchase from either the [ARRL](http://www.arrl.org) or [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

KØRGR can be contacted via [email](mailto:k0rgr@arrl.net) or phone (507)251-5921



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

John (KAØMYG) ka0myg@charter.net

Work continues on an **inventory all the RARC owned equipment** to be followed by preventative maintenance. In an effort to ensure a complete inventory,

If you have RARC club equipment in your possession, please contact the committee members at club meetings, after the Sunday night net or post an email to the **RARC email reflector** on rarc.groups.io and let us know what equipment you have.

RARC WEEKLY NETS

- ♦ **Monday 8 p.m.** Elmer's Net 147.255 repeater PL Tone 100 (*on hiatus until after Labor Day*)
- ♦ **Tuesday 7 p.m.** (except on Club Meeting Nights) RARC 10 Meter Net meets on 28.325 Mhz. USB. The Net is cancelled without notice if lightning in the area or SkyWarn activation.
- ♦ **Thursday 6:30 p.m.** 147.255 Repeater. The first Net of each month is a voice net, and it's the SE MN District ARES Digital Net. The other weeks, it is an informal digital net, using MT63/2KL protocol and NBEMS.

Most of us use FLDIGI and the rest of the NBEMS suite of programs, all of which are free. MT63 is a very forgiving mode. You can do MT63 on VHF without a soundcard modem - 'acoustic coupling' works fine. meaning you can hold your HT up to the mic on your computer and copy it very well and do the reverse to transmit.

- ♦ **Thursday 8 p.m.** Hf Digital Net, 3583.5 kHz, Olivia 8/500
- ♦ **Daily M-F about 11:30 a.m.** - 146.625 Repeater (PL100) and EchoLink - Very Informal Morning Net - If you show up and there is no net control, become one! The object of this net is to encourage more on-air activity.
- ♦ **Saturday 8:30 p.m.** Iowa D-Star Net on RARC D-Star Repeater 443.850 or REF 53A
- ♦ **Sunday 7:30 p.m.** Minnesota D-Star Net on RARC D-Star Repeater 443.850 or REF 53A
- ♦ **Sunday 8:30 p.m.** Dodge County ARES Net on the 147.255 repeater at 8:30 p.m.
- ♦ **Sunday 9:00 p.m.** RARC/ARES Net Rotates between the 146.820 machine on even numbered Sundays and the 147.255 repeater on odd numbered Sundays at 9:00 p.m.



- ♦ **Are you a member of the ARRL?**
- ♦ **Are you new to Ham Radio?**
- ♦ **Have you been licensed for a while but not active?**
- ♦ **Are you active but never explored the ARRL?**

Rochester Amateur Radio Club wants local Hams know about the **Amateur Radio Relay League** (ARRL).

You may think, "it's just another group that wants my money because I'm a Ham." But there is much more to it than that, The ARRL truly wants to grow Amateur Radio and represent the best interests of Hams.

So here are two links you can explore to see what the ARRL offers Hams. Please take a look:

ARRL Benefits at: <http://www.arrl.org/membership>

The Value of ARRL membership: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/QST/This%20Month%20in%20QST/October2015/Value.pdf>

CLUB FUNDRAISER

RARC is always in need of funds to operate. We have insurance costs, we have cost involved with running 3 repeaters and putting on a Field Day. Dues cover most of it but we need proximately 100 paid members to break even each year.

RARC now has another way to help bring funds to the club and it's painless and helps greatly.

SmileAmazon: Smile Amazon is a simple and automatic way to **support the RARC** every time you shop at Amazon.com at **no cost to you**. Tens of millions of products are eligible for donations.

Simply follow the link below and every time you purchase an eligible item the RARC will receive .5% of your purchase. There is no cost involved for you!

So, please use the link below, share it with others in your family and your friends. It will help out the RARC:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1491925>



