



THE HAMSTER

June 2021



Next RARC Club ZOOM Meeting - June 8, 2021 @ 6:30 PM
See Page 3 for Log-in Information

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

♦ ***June 8, 2021***
"Field Day Preparation"

♦ ***July 13, 2021***
"Getting started with Fox Hunting"

♦ ***August 10, 2021***
"Summer Picnic"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dave (KØVH) - President dcnaatz@gmail.com

Many positive **RARC summer activities** are re-starting again! Look at the rarchams.org website and see a few public service activities popping up. We've had a bunch of new hams in the past 18 months that have not had a chance to help with these so please sign up. A fairly normal **Field Day** looks possible on June 26-27 but again we need many of you to sign up not just to be there but to help setup and take down (trust me you will learn a LOT about HF hamming, not just operating but helping get antennas up in the air). If we are lucky we'll get a VHF long range setup as well. There is also a mobile 2m fox hunt (find the hidden transmitter) June 6. Read about all of these here in this month's HAMSTER or on the front page of the **RARC website**.

Who do you know that wants to get a ham license but needs a little nudge or would benefit by the Q&As in a class instead of just reading a book? Bill (KØRGR) k0rgr@arri.net is looking for names to schedule a future Zoom based class.

Ten meters did it again. While I was typing this and listening on 28.400 SSB I heard a VE4 Manitoba calling CQ, S9 and I was beaming south after working a guy via eskip in Oklahoma. VE4s are not too common on 10m and when I pointed at him he was +20. After last Tuesday's 28.325 net we had a guy from Ohio check in which is no big deal except he worked **KOGMK** on his indoor antenna. Crazy. Listen on 10m the next 2 months for possible eskip.

If you are reading this on the **RARC website** I'm again making a request that if you are a club member and not reading this via **groups.io** email please join **rarchams on groups.io** for regular club communication emails:

- ♦ **please sign up** for the **RARC official email reflector** or sign up via the **RARC Website**, click the Activities tab then email reflector tab for *MUCH* faster club information. ZOOM meeting login information is not included on the website version of the Hamster for security and privacy of the club and membership.

RARC ZOOM MEETING LOG-IN INFORMATION

Here is the information for the June 8, 2021, 6:30 PM RARC ZOOM monthly club meeting. ZOOM info is posted via the **RARC email reflector** (which is private to the subscribed 120 Rochester area Hams). The remainder of this newsletter will go on a **the RARC website front page** without the passcode. We need to balance open invitations vs having hidden (no ID) attendees on our meetings.

RARC monthly ZOOM club meeting - PLEASE POST TO YOUR CALENDAR

- ◆ **When:** June 8, 2021 @ 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

- ◆ **Join Zoom Meeting (copy & paste the link below in your browser):**
<https://zoom.us/j/9876548873?pwd=dk1jYWFmT01Qb3pYaXgyUFptd0hQQT09>
- ◆ **Meeting ID:** 987 654 8873
- ◆ **Passcode:** : #####

- ◆ **For audio only from a mobile phone:**
Call: (312) 626-6799 US (Chicago) **Meeting ID:** 987 654 8873 **Passcode:** #####

If we have a large internet outage we'll move to the 147.255 repeater. If there are smaller outages just use the dial in number for ZOOM via smartphone.

CONTEST CORNER

Fred (K4IU) k4iu@me.com



Field Day is June's big operating event and while not really a contest it has a lot of similarities to one. Purposes and preparation for the annual Field Day activities were highlighted in this month's QST. This year there will be some of the same COVID **waivers** in place from last year's rule changes. New this year are 150-watt power limits on Class D and E entrants. RARC will hold their Field Day at **WØBM's QTH**. **Sign up information** is **here**. Links to other June contests can be seen on the **DL2NBY** and **WA7BNM calendars**.



Do you use the free contest logger **N1MM+**? Would you like to learn more about its features? If the answer is yes then the upcoming ZOOM webinars, sponsored by the **Deep Dixie Contest Club** (DCC), may be for you. The presentations entitled, **N1MM+ Steps to Ensure Successful Contesting Operation**, will be held on May 27th and June 3rd at 7:00 pm CDT. Here's the link:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9087926776?pwd=bCtQZjNMamxpSmtMNzJpanlqcDJGQT09>

Earlier this month the Elmer's net had a discussion on the recent FCCs RF exposure regulations. This guidance on maximum permissible exposure had not been updated since 1998. The ARRL tells you **what you need to know and how you can conduct tests** to ensure compliance of your station to the new regulations. I conducted tests on my station using this **RF Exposure Calculator** for each of the bands and found that I was well within the limits of the published standard.





ARES

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Steve (WØSTV) w0stv@yahoo.com
Olmsted County ARES-EC**

Field Day (callsign KOT) is coming together, but is constantly changing due to COVID restrictions. The porta-toilets are ordered, the radio equipment is arranged. Sign up sheets will be on the RARC web site soon, and the food is tentatively arranged. Now what will the RARC field day look like? Hopefully similar to the last time we held the event at Pat's. We will be a 2A station, operation on voice, digital, and CW modes. The ARES trailer will be one station and the farm shed the other. We will be using the N1MM logging program. Please review this video **N1MM Contest Logger for the beginner** to be proficient in using it. Each radio operator is requested to bring their own headphones (if needed), and mask (per restrictions). We are still working on the sanitary use of the radio mics and operating areas.

The plan is to go to **Pat's (WOBM) farm** at **69520 270th Avenue Kasson, MN** (Google Maps link) on June 19th (the Saturday before) from Grandma's Kitchen restaurant, around 8:00am to inventory the RARC field day equipment stored there to make sure we have the equipment in working order, and list what we will have to bring. We may not be using the military mast this year. The ARES trailer and one portable tower will be staged at Pat's on Friday (June 25th) before Field Day. Field day setup will start around 8am on June 26th, leaving from Grandma's Kitchen restaurant after breakfast.

As in previous years the **Rochester Fest parade** starts at 2pm on June 26th as well. Some of us will need to leave early for this public service event. The main thing is for people to get to **Field Day** and operate what ever mode you like, for as long as you like by signing up on the activity sheets. The set up and take down will be crucial to have enough people available. Please try to be available! I will be asking for assistance in making this a fun and successful Field Day 2021. We will be announcing **Field day preparation nets by RARC email** in June to work on further details .



Mobile Fox Hunt Details

The mobile fox hunt will be held on **June 6th at around 2 pm**. The event repeater will be the 146.820 pl100. We have 6 people responding. If you would like to join us but have not replied. Please send an email to w0stv@yahoo.com. If you want to do a ride along let me know as well. We will have discussions and a set up net before the event. We will also update on our Sunday evening ARES nets

The fox will transmit and monitor all **APRS traffic** while driving inside the city limits of Rochester. The mobile hounds will only transmit and not monitor any APRS traffic, (using the honor system) They can use a free phone APRS app or their APRS capable radios to transmit.

A **base NCS operator** will monitor all APRS data for changing conditions of the fox and relay this to the hounds by radio to corner and catch the fox. The hunters would be groups of (?) vehicles.

The fox will have a letter taped to the rear of their vehicle that the hounds have to report to capture the fox. For those that have no idea about APRS, the RARC has two portable units to use during your turn as a hound, if you are unable to transmit APRS.



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](#)



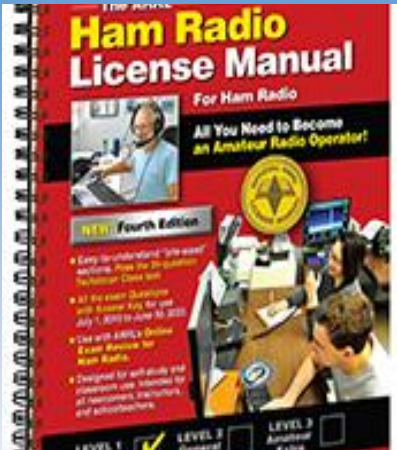
HAMSTER HINTS

Bob (KEØEXE) gettuit@charter.net

I've been cleaning the Shack and streamlining operations. A problem which came up was how to organize all of my paper "reference sheets." One notion was to just put them into 3-ring binders, but I prefer, at any given time, that a selected set of these sheets remains more accessible than that...

I do have lots of old binders, so finding several of the right sizes is never a problem. I also had a full package of transparent, plastic sheet-protectors *and* a stack of old, manilla file-folders. It was obvious to put two, one-sided reference sheets, back-to-back, within each sheet-protector (to use both sides of the sheet-protector). Going a step further, I put two pieces of cut-down (8.5" x 11") file-folder into the middle of this sandwich. This information "package" is now protected from various kinds of damage (rough handling, food & drink, dirt & light rain on **Field Day**, etc.). Equally important, it has enough stiffness to stand up nicely between two binders, on a shelf above the Shack's desk, without curling-over under its own weight. The "thus-packaged" references that I use only rarely, are organized and put into several binders that are used as bookends; the rest of the references "go loose," in-between the binders (where I can quickly find and grab selected individuals). I've found this system works fairly well.

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**.*



EDUCATION

Bill (KØRGR) k0rgr@arrl.net

I'm looking to do another **online class in the near future**. The first one went well, with just one student, but the only difference from the in-person classes was the lack of live demos and the inability to reach anyone on the repeaters.

If you know of any potential new hams out there, please point them in my 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).

I 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?**

John (NØHZN) and **Fred (K4IU)** decided it was time to let other Hams know about the ARRL. Of course, you may think, "it's just another group that wants my money because I'm a Ham." But there is more to it than that, they truly want to grow the hobby.

So here are two links you can explore to see what the ARRL offers Hams. 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 approx. 100 paid members to break even each year.

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

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>



