



# THE HAMSTER

September 2021

*Official Monthly Newsletter of the Rochester Amateur Radio Club*

## MEETING PROGRAMS

Eric (KFØS) - Vice President [kf0s@arrl.net](mailto:kf0s@arrl.net)

*September 14, 2021*

### **ARRL Learning Network-Introduction to Remote HF Operation**

I will play the recently presented ARRL video, **Introduction to remote RF operation**, followed by a **Q&A session**. I hope that some of the club members who have remote setups as well as some other local hams can help answer questions after the video.

*October 12, 2021*

### **Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, Contesting, the next step**

More info to follow, but I hope Gary can join us via Zoom and have a refresher from our last Intro to contesting presentation and take it a step further. Gary recently presented at QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo and has a column in NCJ, Contest Tips, Tricks, and Techniques.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dave (KØVH) - President [dcnaatz@gmail.com](mailto:dcnaatz@gmail.com)

It was great so many members and some families were able to attend our **RARC picnic** at the Mari-on KOA Aug 10. We had over 30 attendees for club provided burgers and `dogs on a gorgeous night. Thanks to all the organizers and cookers. **Many thanks for Roger and Barb** for providing the camp site with plenty of tables and an invite for 2022 as well! There were a few swaps and "toys" shown, but the main fun was plenty of time to ragchew in person. Glad you could make it there!

***Our next meeting is Tuesday September 14 back at the NE fire station EOC conference room.***

**Optional Zoom login info on next page.** That is the plan but we are back to masking in city buildings so unless something changes I'd like to see how it goes. If you are uncomfortable with this please join us on Zoom. Please also stay tuned via [groups.io](https://groups.io), the [rarchhams.org](http://rarchhams.org) website, Sunday 9pm ARES nets and our 82 and 255 repeaters *if we need to make last minute changes to this plan*. If you have opinions on how we should handle future meetings do email me [dcnaatz@gmail.com](mailto:dcnaatz@gmail.com) by September 7 to consider options at an upcoming RARC officers meeting.

We do have upcoming public service events, the big one is the Med City marathon September 11-12 and an airport ARES event as well. More contests fire up in September, let's hope we get more sun-spots as well!

While I'm thinking of it, **Ham Nation** just celebrated their **500th episode** a few weeks ago. There has been some personnel churn this past year but you can still stream it as video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uVC9ue9F04> or an audio only podcast <http://hamradiocrashcourse.com/about-ham-nation/> .

Or go back to the 480 episodes stored on **TwitTV** including excellent info on things like tower safety <https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation/episodes/431?autostart=false> I usually watch this while riding the exercise bike in the winter but it's appropriate for an hour indoors during our endless heatwaves



# OPTIONAL ZOOM

## RARC ZOOM MEETING LOG-IN INFORMATION

Here is the information for the September 14, 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. The passcode is available to members on [rarc.groups.io](#) or by contacting [KOVH](#) prior to the meeting.

- ◆ **When:** September 14, 2021 @ 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
  
- ◆ **Join Zoom Meeting (copy & paste the link below in your browser):**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9876548873?pwd=T0JBWEFzSCtBYzhiazA1NTdDb2Rkdz09>
- ◆ **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:** #####

# CONTEST CORNER

Fred (K4IU) [k4iu@me.com](mailto:k4iu@me.com)



Fall is less than a month away. With fall, a new contest season begins for RARC members who are also members of the [Minnesota Wireless Association](#), (**MWA**). September is packed with a variety of **QSO parties**, **sprints**, and **international contests** like the [Worked All Europe](#) (SSB) and [All Asian](#) (SSB) contest. If you like RTTY then get ready for the [CQWW RTTY DX](#) contest September 25-26. We still have time to finish up those station and antenna projects. Links to the rest of September's fun can be seen on the [DL2NBY](#) and [WA7BNM](#) contest calendars.



**RTTY is one of the oldest digital modes around.** Although used infrequently during the weekday, it's very popular on RTTY contest weekends such as September 25-26 for the [CQWW RTTY DX](#). Many [contemporary radios](#) have built in decoders for this mode. Although RTTY is more efficient with specific software like MMTTY or 2tone, first timers can still have fun and work some new countries during this world wide event. There are some similarities with the FT8/4 modes. More detailed tutorials, especially setting up with [N1MM](#) loggers, are available online.

# ARES



## AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

Steve (WØSTV) [w0stv@yahoo.com](mailto:w0stv@yahoo.com)  
Olmsted County ARES-EC

When people think of [ARES \(amateur radio emergency service\)](#) most think of the American Amateur Relay League, and they are correct on a national level, but the most important level is a personal level. I am not talking about the county ARES. I am talking about your home, and neighborhood. These are important building blocks of any ARES support in a disaster. Let me explain. People feel things happen to others and not to them, and they maybe correct. But how prepared is your home and neighborhood for a minor or major disaster. Think of ideas to better prepare your home and neighborhood for situations. The most probable would be a power outage. The length of time makes a big difference. Time of day more concerning, and the time of year could make it even more a disaster, and how you would deal with this. Think about your heating/cooling, food preservation and cooking. Your neighbors would be dealing with the same issues. Talk to your neighbors about preparation, and communications is the first step. Most everyone has FRS radios, set up a neighbor radio network, so when the S hits the F, you can talk to each other no matter what. Discuss how you may organize area resources to help each other. Let the neighbors know you are a ham and have ways to get and send information. Table top your what if's, to better be prepared and organized for disaster issues. When you are prepared the more you will be able to help others.

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Things our neighborhood has done is set up an FRS radio network on channel 9, they know I am a ham radio operator. We have access to each others homes if needed. We know who has resources to share: fire wood, portable LP heaters/stoves, generators, campers, extra food and water storage, gasoline, LP tanks, etc. We have set up group phone texting, when neighbors are away to stay informed. This did not happen overnight but through national night out events and communicating with each other we organize this piece by piece. Your situation may not become a neighborhood organized, but it should be a minimum home based preparation for your family. Check FEMA, Red Cross, and local government resources for information and ideas for preparing for your family. Sign up for area alert notifications either through city/county apps or other alert services to stay informed.

Do you have the [south east Minnesota district repeaters and state wide simplex frequencies](#) in your radio(s) memories? When is the last time you tested your batteries? Contact me for discussions, information or ideas at 254-3993. I am always happy to talk. Remember there isn't any one person smarter then the group!

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# HAMSTER HINTS

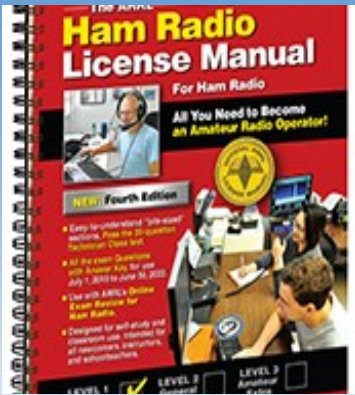


Bob (KEØEXE) [gettuit@charter.net](mailto:gettuit@charter.net)

I'm working on a way to get **power from a portable generator (on my back patio) into my basement**, to run my wood-stove blower, during a winter power emergency.

I didn't want to spend the money for a transfer switch, so my solution uses heavy extension cords, instead, routed directly to the area of the appliance, when needed. Equally, I *did* want something that was "integrated" into the house, rather than the solution of gapping a window and running an extension cord through it. I used a plastic conduit body, mounted to the outside of the house, to contain an anchored plug, which I can then connect to an outside extension cord going to the generator. On the plug is a 2'-long, custom extension cord, which goes through the house-wall, into the basement ceiling area, where I can, in turn, plug-in an indoor extension cord. (All this is weather-proofed, thermally insulated, etc.)

That is what I've built, but I am struck by the idea that it would be even more handy simply to have a somewhat larger, general-purpose "port" going through the house wall, which could be used for any kind of "conduit" (ac power wiring, solar-panel cable, antenna coax, rotor cable, temporary water hoses, etc.). The port could have screw-on covers on both ends, and it could be stuffed with insulating material such as bunched-up rags. Several styles of interchangeable, rain-protective covers might accommodate different-sized cables, and so forth. I have not yet seen such a "port kit" commercially available, but it easily could be made using PVC plumbing pipe and/or electrical conduit-bodies.



# EDUCATION

Bill (KØRGR) [k0rgr@arrl.net](mailto:k0rgr@arrl.net)

Well, it's time I scheduled another class.

I will be doing a **Technician Class starting on Saturday, Sept. 18**, and concluding on October 2. Students will need to contact me, [wfosler@gmail.com](mailto:wfosler@gmail.com), so that I can send them invitations to the Zoom meeting. The book for the class is the [ARRL Ham Radio License Manual](#), and students will need to read the first four chapters prior to class.

I am looking forward to teaching again. The 'classroom' I put together in my basement has now become something else. My radio is out in the garage, remotely operated from my bedroom/home office.

I can be contacted via [email](#) or phone (507) 251-5921



# TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



**John (KAØMYG)** [ka0myg@charter.net](mailto: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](mailto:rarc@groups.io) on [rarc.groups.io](http://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.



- ◆ **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>



# CONTACT RARC



- ♦ **WEB:** <http://www.rarchams.org/>
- ♦ **Mail:** RARC P.O. Box 1 Rochester, MN 55903
- ♦ **Email:** <https://groups.io/g/rarchams> If not a member, register and a Moderator will respond
- ♦ **Weekly Net:** Sunday at 9:00 PM      147.255 repeater Odd numbered Sundays  
146,820 repeater Even Numbered Sundays
- ♦ **Facebook:** [Rochester Amateur Radio Club](#)

**Newsletter articles or questions:** Mark (KØGMK) - Editor [gmkelm@charter.net](mailto:gmkelm@charter.net)