



THE HAMSTER

January 2022

Official Monthly Newsletter of the Rochester Amateur Radio Club

MEETING PROGRAMS

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

Holiday Party, January 11, 2022, Is Postponed

It was voted during the December RARC meeting to postpone the Holiday Party until COVID conditions improve.

**** Regular 6:30 PM RARC Meeting @ EOC Planned ****

The decision to hold an "In-person" meeting at the Rochester EOC will be announced via the RARC email reflector at a later date. Please watch your email for details.

Thanks from your out-going Vice President

I want to take a moment to thank all of you who have helped me in my vice-president role for the last few years. This club has a lot of members, and with everyone's help, the work has been made easier. From stepping up to doing programs, helping with a program panel answering questions, cooking a bunch of burgers, helping me learn the EOC system for the meetings, and many other things, your help was very much appreciated. I'm not going anywhere, will still be at meetings, and looking to spend a little more time in other aspects of the amateur radio hobby.

Thanks again,
Eric, KF0S



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve (W0STV) - President w0stv@yahoo.com

I have been an advocate for the RARC, and anything to do with amateur radio. I have enjoyed the RARC and its activities for decades and I felt it was time to take my turn at doing something for the club and its members. Big changes to make, from needing to learning the EOC multi media system, to talking with 2020/2021 club president Dave for zoom account documents and other information to transition the RARC to 2022, I am reviewing [Robert's Rule of Order](#) and sending out my first president's news letter. Who ever said anything is possible was right! I hope to be proactive and effective in my duties to promote the RARC and its membership. I will always be open to your input to make the best decisions for the RARC. You may contact me via email to w0stv@yahoo.com, or call me at 254-3993 for anything related to the RARC

The hardest part so far will be deciding if to have the next RARC meeting as a hybrid or ZOOM only. I want everyone to be able to attend every meeting that they can, but be safe. For the people we do not see on ZOOM, we may want a hands on club training program to set up your program to attend these ZOOM meetings. That will be **Bob Dupke (KOSIR)** RARC's new Vice President and program director's decision. Bob intends to have club programs that interest all facets of amateur radio and teach you to expand your radio activities and knowledge. We also welcome **Rich Siglow (W0AMB)** voted the clubs new "Member at Large" for 2022. Rich will be a liaison between club officers and RARC members on voting issues, and as needed in administrating the RARC. Please welcome **Eric Van Norman (KFOS)** who accepted the RARC's technical committee coordinating position. He will be director of our analog, APRS, D-star, and Fusion repeaters along with any other current, or future RARC equipment.

I'd like to thank **Collin Howe (AA0CN)** for his time and experience in continuing as the club secretary, and **George Hopkins (N0UM)** for his diligence in keeping the club books, and taking care of the financial administration needs of the RARC. A final reminder that RARC 2022 dues need to be paid. Go to the RARC web site at <http://www.rarchams.org> for all club information and activities. At the bottom of the main page, you can pay your RARC dues by credit card, Pay Pal or snail mail. Remember to add your call sign with your name for all payments.

Thank you **Dave (K0VH)** 2020/2021 President, **Eric (KFOS)** 2020/2021 Vice President, John (KA0MYG) 2021 tech director, Judy (K0UH) 2021 member at large, for your time and commitment in making the RARC for 2021 a success.

Thank you for voting for me as your 2022 RARC President. Remember there is not one person smarter then the group they are in, so let us now what you are thinking. 73



Optional January RARC ZOOM Meeting Info

Here is the information for the January 11, 2022, 6:30 PM **Optional** RARC ZOOM monthly club meeting. ZOOM info is also 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. The passcode is available to members on [rarc.groups.io](#) or by contacting [WOSTV](#) prior to the meeting.

- ◆ **When:** January 11, 2022 @ 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:** #####

ARES



AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

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

Olmsted ARES had good attendance for their December meeting at the Rochester EOC.

We are doing something that started in **Fillmore County** by **EC Jim (KD0ORR)** having monthly ARES meetings. You have noticed that public service event activities have dropped, and SkyWarn call outs have been less than previous years. After talking with other radio clubs, ARES groups, and our own serviced agencies, (both government, and non government), it has become apparent that Olmsted ARES needs hams to train to operate effectively, and be able to use new radio communications tools. This does not mean past modes need to be replaced. We need to expand to accommodate the requirements of standard ARES SOPs, net logging, tracking resources, using ICS forms, and electronically transmitting accurate information.

Every disaster has that constant need to acquire quick and accurate information to effectively mitigate, and respond. This is where Murphy's law is usually paramount. It's where you with your analog mobile, and/or HT radio, have the capability to be a prepared reporting source of information, and updates. The amateur radio digital and technical side of ARES communications comes into operations depending on the scope, area, and type of disaster. Also the needs of the agencies involved. You may train to operate digital and electronic communication modes and programs involving computers, and printers, even if you do not own this equipment. Your ability to operate these at the EOC's and in the field is very important.

New and previous registered Olmsted ARES members need to complete a new registration form that is not on the internet. I will have them at meetings and events. Anyone that has registered over the past years, needs to reapply. One requirement is you attend 50% of the classroom and field trainings, that are held each month during the year. ARES training is held the weekend after the RARC monthly meetings on Saturday starting at 9:00 am. We will train and learn as a group, and operate as team. The more you know.

HAMSTER HINTS



Bob (KEØEXE) gettuit@charter.net

I've decided I'd like to have an attic antenna, for 10 meters. I have yet to build it, but, probably, it will be some sort of horizontal dipole, single-banded. (It might also be the mag-loop I recently acquired, if I can fix it.) This month, I discuss my reasoning process; in a future edition, I hope to discuss the implementation.

The attic of my single-story rambler is between 3.0 and 4.1 meters above outdoor ground-level, so the antenna will be "up" about $3/8\lambda$. For a dipole over imperfect ground, this yields considerable upward radiation, and a little "horizon" radiation, as well, for possible DX'ing. The lobes' elevation angle is not ideal, but I'm not too worried that the antenna might be low, as some NVIS effect is acceptable--and even desirable--for communicating in all directions on the local 10m net (and "we must work with what we have").

The house has a low, hip roof, and contains 1960s-style, "stick-built" bracing. Part of the open, end-area is aligned "over" my basement Shack--a convenience--with Main Floor falling between. There are lengthy, open areas, along the west side of the attic, too, to easily accommodate the five-or-so (total) meters of wire.

With the weather-protection afforded, the antenna can be relatively fragile, mechanically, and, of course, the electrical connections won't need to be sealed. I likely will use insulated, stranded copper wire for the elements, mainly because I've salvaged and stockpiled lots of this over the years, from old extension cords.

Such a dipole will radiate and receive horizontally-polarized signals best. QRN and QRM tend to propagate stronger in VP than in HP, also--a fact that might help this antenna some for DX work.

Very good VSWR, across the entire 1.7-MHz-wide band, is a goal, too, which is why I'd like to find a broad-banded design. The antenna will likely be connected through a choke-balun (1:1 possibly), using 50-ohm coax--another reason to keep the ratio as low as possible, to avoid losing power in the transmission line.

I can tune the element-lengths quite easily, in the accessible attic; however, I am running simulations first, using the free software, MMANA-GAL, to minimize time spent experimenting with fruitless results.

Of course, all standard safety requirements must be met; I can always limit the maximum, transmit power, as needed to conform to emissions-exposure guidelines. Hopefully, lightning is not a concern, within the dry space under the roof.

"Stay tuned" for more details, in an upcoming newsletter!



CONTEST CORNER

Fred (K4IU) k4iu@me.com

Hello 2022! It's a new year of contesting activities. What will Cycle 25 bring? The HF doldrums or new life for the high bands? We can only wait and see. In the meantime, January offers many events for hams shuttered by the winter weather.

- ♦ **January 1,** [Straight Key night](#)
- ♦ **January 8-9,** [ARRL RTTY Round up](#): Please note this also includes popular FT8/FT4/PSK modes (WSJT-X conveniently generates ADIF and Cabrillo files)
- ♦ **16 January,** [North American QSO Party CW](#)
- ♦ **23 January,** [North American QSO Party SSB](#)
- ♦ **January 15-17,** ARRL VHF Contest This is another ARRL-sponsored contest that is designated as an Affiliated Club Competition (ACC) for ARRL and RAC affiliated clubs. After Mel and Dan's presentation we should all give this one a try.
- ♦ **28-30 January,** [CQ 160 meter CW contest](#)

The rest of the schedule for January contests can be seen on the [DL2NBY](#) and [WA7BNM](#) calendars.



CONTEST CORNER (continued)



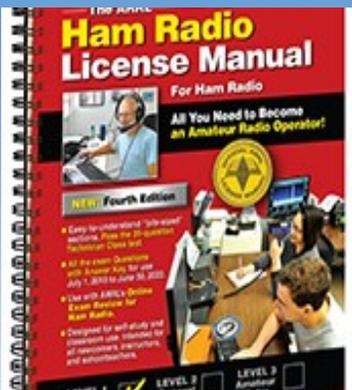
[The North American QSO Party \(NAQP\)](#) is a favorite of mine. The SSB version occurs on the third weekend of the Month. The exchange is simply your name and state. There's going to be a new category for the NAQPs called added Single-Operator Assisted (SOA). If you enjoy using spotting assistance, automated tools, clusters, skimmers or social media this is for you. Previously if you used spotting assistance you would have to be included with the multi-two (M2) entries.



Neil (WØLVZ) brought [Straight Key Night \(SKN\)](#) to our attention at the November RARC. This isn't a contest! Nobody keeps score. But for you brass pounders it'll reunite you with some of your nostalgic past. It starts officially at 0000 hours UTC on the first day of the new year (that's December 31, 6 pm CST) and runs for 24 hours. Just call or listen for **CQ SKN**. Ragchew and just have a nice chat with another ham. Activity tends to be higher in the CW portion of the bands. Slow speed and a rusty style are perfectly OK for SKN.

You can use straight keys as well as sideswipers like the old vibroplex picture on the left along with the venerable J-38. There's also a bench keyer and a WØBM, 3D, printed bug. Have fun!

73 until next month



EDUCATION

Bill (KØRGR) k0rgr@arrl.net

A **RARC Education Committee** has been convened and met to assist in:

- ♦ Technician student class content development (online and/or in-person).
- ♦ Development of High School radio club activities.
- ♦ Assist Melissa (KE0WNH) John Marshall HS educator with the HS program.
- ♦ Assist Bill (KØRGR) with his program if requested.

Members of the Education Committee are:

- ♦ Melissa (KE0WNH)
- ♦ Dave (K0VH)
- ♦ Steve (W0STV)
- ♦ Bob (KE0EXE)
- ♦ Ben (KU0HN)
- ♦ Bill (KØRGR)
- ♦ Colin (AA0CN)
- ♦ Mark (KØGMK)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



Eric (KF0S) kf0s@hotmail.com

(Editor's note) **Eric (KF0S)** is the new Technical Committee chairperson and will be contributing to this column in coming months.

The **Technical Committee** has been meeting to continue the process of planning for a possible **remote HF Ham radio station for the club**. A remote HF station can be operated remotely by computer eliminating the need for an antenna and HF transceiver wherever you are located, have internet access and a computer. This type of station is particularly useful for those Hams living in a location where a HF Ham radio station is not feasible such as an apartment building, HOA or a retirement facility. More information will be published in this column as progress is made.

Work continues on an **inventory all the RARC owned equipment** to be followed by preventative maintenance. In an effort to ensure a complete inventory, we ask if you have any RARC owned equipment please contact one of the club officers and let them know what equipment you have.



PARKS ON THE AIR ® (POTA)

Mark (K0GMK) K0GMK@arrl.net Hamster Editor

Perhaps you've heard talk on the repeaters or on one of the Nets about [Parks On The Air \(POTA\)](#) You might be interested and think that it could be **fun to operate your rig and antenna remotely in a beautiful outdoor setting.**

In a nutshell it's all about operating in a state or national park, state trail, national monument, historical location or battlefield and making at least 10 QSOs to "activate" the entity. It's as simple as that, but there are a few [rules](#).

Take a look at the [Parks On The Air](#) website, view the [FAQ page](#), the [Help/Getting Started](#) section and perhaps view some of the getting started [videos](#) by seasoned POTA operators. If you are interested in becoming an Activator fill out the [sign-up](#) to become a member and get started.

Did you know that there is a [POTA entity in Rochester?](#)

Take a look at the [map of entities](#) to see the wealth of entities to activate close to Rochester as well.

POTA is a great way to enjoy Ham radio and enjoy the bonus of being outdoors!

You won't regret the experience.



RARC WEEKLY NETS

- ♦ **Monday 8 p.m.** Elmer's Net 147.255 repeater (PL Tone 100)
- ♦ **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.** - Repeater Of The Week - 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 Reflector XLS632A
- ♦ **Sunday 7:30 p.m.** Minnesota D-Star Net on RARC D-Star Reflector XLS632A
- ♦ **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 Repeater on even numbered Sundays and the 147.255 Repeater on odd numbered Sundays at 9:00 p.m.



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 approximately 100 paid members to break even each year.

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

[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 click on the [picture](#) below, share it with others in your family and your friends. It will help out the RARC:





- ♦ 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](#)
- ♦ [The Value of ARRL Membership](#)

