



# THE HAMSTER

February 2022

*Official Monthly Newsletter of the Rochester Amateur Radio Club*

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

This is the February **HAMSTER** issue and we are well on our way to Spring Ham radio activities: contesting, QSO parties, POTA activations, picnic table operating in a local park, vacations and the yearly favorite of all Ham's, **Field Day 2022**. If you would like to help out with this years Field Day, please contact [Steve \(W0STV\)](#), RARC President. **Any assistance you can provide** for the event will be much appreciated. Watch the **HAMSTER** for upcoming information and details on **Field Day 2022**.

There is a lot of RARC information in this issue: **KE0EXE's shack cleaning saga, K4IU's on-scene coverage of the January VHF Sweepstakes** and contest listings, **ARES Repeater and Simplex frequencies** and much more!

If you haven't done so already, please [register](#) for the RARC groups.io email reflector so you can keep abreast of club activities, official club notices and of course the monthly **HAMSTER** mailing. Click on [register](#) and you will be taken to the RARC registration page. Once you have [registered](#) go to your account settings and choose how you would like to receive email from the club.

The **February RARC meeting** is **planned for in-person at the Rochester EOC** (Fire Station #2) **and on the optional ZOOM broadcast**. See Page 3 for ZOOM login and connection instructions.

As always if you have any comments, questions, photos or would like to contribute to the Hamster, please feel free to contact [me](#) at my [email address](#) above.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve (W0STV) - President [w0stv@yahoo.com](mailto:w0stv@yahoo.com)

I am on vacation in **Quartzite** in Arizona at this time. I have been visiting other radio club meetings and attending club breakfasts along the way. It's interesting how other clubs operate.

I would like to thank **Pat (W0BM)** for organizing this month's RARC social and **Waldemar (KE0SHQ)** for running the Monday night **Elmer's nets**.

The **RARC is planning a February in-person and an optional ZOOM broadcast of the meeting at the Rochester EOC (Fire Station #2)**. Face masks are required inside the EOC.

There are **club activities that need the attention of the membership: Someone to organize the 2022 RARC Field Day event**, discussion on how to move forward in establish a remote radio base station, review what John Marshall needs to support their high school's amateur radio club and should we apply for an ARRL grant available in April for the RARC club/ARES programs.

**Bob (K0SIR)** will present a **program on antennas** using software to show and explaining how X, Y, and Z adjustments will affect your transmissions.

**Remember to pay your 2022 club dues** at the meetings by check or via PayPal or credit card on the membership page on the [RARC website](#). Include your call sign with your payment.

If you have ham items for sale, bring them to the RARC meeting. There is a for sale table for them. There will be a 50/50 club cash drawing. To stay connected, "ANY HAM" can sign up on the [official RARC groups.io email reflector](#). Go to the [RARCHAMS.ORG web page](http://RARCHAMS.ORG) for this and other club information and find upcoming activities.



## February RARC **ZOOM** Meeting Info

**OPTIONAL FOR THOSE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND IN-PERSON**

Here is the information for the February 8, 2022, 6:30 PM 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:** February 8, 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:** #####



# MEETING PROGRAMS

Bob (K0SIR) - Vice President [red@bdubke.com](mailto:red@bdubke.com)

## February 2022 RARC Meeting Program

RARC monthly meeting starting at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, February 8th, 2022

Rochester EOC (Fire Station #2)

**Bob (K0SIR)** will present a **program on antennas** using software to show and explaining how X, Y, and Z adjustments will affect your transmissions.

**Please watch this space for upcoming programs. For more information please contact Bob (K0SIR) at [red@dubke.com](mailto:red@dubke.com)**

# HAMSTER HINTS



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

**While I finish my 10m-band, attic antenna**, I'm taking a Cleaning Detour, because, after not being able to find some power converters I bought a few years ago, it's time to go through my life-long accumulation of "parts," *this* Winter...

My main action-verbs for this grand undertaking are: motivate (very important!), declutter, throw, donate, dismantle, recycle, plan (for conversions & future projects), prepare, clean, deodorize (if possible--actually, I love that old, musty-electronics smell--but my wife, "not so much"), group, organize, box, label, and stack!

My tools: various sizes of clear-plastic storage boxes I've been saving; one big, black, permanent marker; sticky, white labels; clear packaging tape; and blank, white, 3x5 cards (used as bigger labels). Also, a [de-]soldering iron and a few basic tools are coming in very handy. I've also discovered that cut-down (~2"-tall) cardboard boxes make nice trays, for keeping parts together, inside the larger storage totes.

In times past, I've made a good start, using plastic-bin "organizer cabinets" and cigar boxes full of "like things," such as switches, potentiometers, bulb sockets, power transformers, wire, various ham gadgets, ... (I'll leave the complete list to your own imaginations--many of you, no doubt, don't have far to walk, anyway, to view real-life parallels...) How often has the whole solution simply been to find a slightly larger box? ):

My rules: continue to prefilter (i.e., be very selective now, on purchases); be persistent until it's done; for Conversions, make a written plan, and store it with the items, in a "project box"; and "A place for everything, and everything in it's place" (merely "shuffling" items accomplishes little, long-term). Oh, and, in the words of Marie Kondo, it must "spark joy!" (or at least "spark," in this case).

When I get low on zeal, for the work of decreasing entropy, I consider this: Do I really want to deal with *a real emergency* under the present, chaotic conditions? Not too much. (; Thus, a slogan: "Onward Into Order!"

Bob, KEØEXE



# CONTEST CORNER

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

**February is a short month but there is plenty of contest activity every weekend** to include some really great DX and domestic events. I was delighted to hear and work several of the local Rochester hams on the ARRY RTTY roundup last month. I didn't do any of the FT8/4s but I know several locals who did from their HOA QTHs and found a way to work some new ones. Hope you can repeat your successes this month. Here are some of the February highlights.

**February 5, [Minnesota QSO Party](#)**, This is a big one for us! Don't forget logs are due NLT 14 days after the contest. Follow the link to the web page for more details and resources to make the most of the event. In this contest you will be the "DX" and will have lots of callers.

**February 19-20, [ARRL International DX Contest CW](#)**, The SFIs have been hovering in the 120s so there will be openings on 10 and 15. The DX will be looking for US stations. So even if you're not an avid CW operator you can probably find some new ones especially later in the contest when things start to quiet down.

**February 26-27, [North American QSO Party RTTY](#)**, This contest is sponsored by the National Contest Journal, NCJ. Don't forget that if you're a member of the ARRL the NCJ, QST, QEX and OTA are free! You can download any or all from [here](#).

**March 5-6, [ARRL International DX Contest SSB](#)**, This is the SSB version of the February contest but it's not too early to put on your calendars.

The rest of the schedule for January contests can be seen on the [DL2NBY](#) and [WA7BNM](#) calendars. There are plenty of weekend sprints, and additional QSO parties to choose from.

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**After last month's RARC meeting plus Dan's, NØSPN and Mel's, KCØP, coaching Judy, K0UH, and I, K4IU** got out for the **January VHF Sweepstakes**. Unlike Mel's antennas on the left



**Mel (KCØP) Rover**

we were out there with a base loaded stick! For us it was primarily a 5w QRP FM effort on 144mhz, 432mhz, 1240mhz and 50mhz SSB from a couple of grids. I was interested in how others did but did not see any local scores on the [3830.org](http://3830.org) web site.

I read some of the reports and was surprised by the number of digital QSOs posted. Locally I was impressed by the activity.

Thanks to all the RARC members giving support on FM simplex to the rovers. Next time I'll skip paper logging and use a laptop. Logging is tricky enough because of mode, band and grid changes. There's always something to improve in every aspect of your contesting efforts. Thanks again Mel and Dan!

73 until next month



# ARES

## AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

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

This is the **repeater/frequency list we discussed at the January ARES meeting**. Please try to add these to your radio's memory as recommended. If you can add alpha numeric names to them, it helps knowing what each channel is with a tactical name. Print out and keep copies in your ARES go-kits and in your car for reference if needed. I recommend to put these in your radio memories 1 through 19, leave any open channels at the end for future use

### SE Minnesota repeaters:

| City        | County   | Frequency | PL tone |
|-------------|----------|-----------|---------|
| Rochester   | Olmsted  | 147.255   | 100     |
| Rochester   | Olmsted  | 146.820   | 100     |
| Rochester   | Olmsted  | 146.625   | 100     |
| Red Wing    | Goodue   | 147.300   | 136     |
| Wabasha     | Wabasha  | 146.745   | 136     |
| Winona      | Winona   | 146.640   | 100     |
| Winona      | Winona   | 146.835   | 131     |
| La Crescent | Houston  | 146.970   | 131     |
| Wycoff      | Fillmore | 147.015   | 110     |
| Austin      | Mower    | 145.470   | 100     |
| Austin      | Mower    | 146.730   | 100     |
| Glenville   | Freeborn | 146.685   | 100     |
| Glenville   | Freeborn | 146.880   | 100     |
| Owatonna    | Steele   | 145.490   | 100     |
| Owatonna    | Steele   | 147.105   | 100     |





|           |      |         |     |
|-----------|------|---------|-----|
| Faribault | Rice | 146.655 | 136 |
| Faribault | Rice | 146.790 | 100 |

I Recommend put these in your radio memories 20 through 39, leave any open channels at the end for future use.

**Minnesota 2 meter simplex ARES frequencies:**

| <b>NAME</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PL tone</b> |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| HV-CALL     | 146.520          | NONE           |
| HV-ALPHA    | 147.525          | 203.5          |
| HV-BRAVO    | 146.415          | 203.5          |
| HV-CHARLIE  | 147.435          | 203.5          |
| HV-DELTA    | 146.565          | 203.5          |
| HV-ECHO     | 147.495          | 203.5          |
| HV-FOX      | 146.475          | 203.5          |
| HV-GOLF     | 146.595          | 203.5          |
| HV-HOTEL    | 147.555          | 203.5          |
| HV-INDIA    | 146.445          | 203.5          |



|           |         |       |
|-----------|---------|-------|
| HV-JULIET | 147.465 | 203.5 |
| APRS      | 144.390 | NONE  |
| HV-PACKET | 145.670 | NONE  |
| HV-DATA   | 144.950 | NONE  |

**These can only be used with a UHF/70 cm radio when a cross band radio is set up:**

|                              |        |         |
|------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Crossband on the 255 machine | UDelta | 446.025 |
| Crossband on the 820 machine | UEcho  | 444.725 |
| Crossband on the 625 machine | UFox   | 445.975 |

# TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Eric (KF0S) [kf0s@hotmail.com](mailto:kf0s@hotmail.com)



Hello. I was appointed as the new Technical Committee chair and am working with John to transition the role. Thanks to John for leading the committee but continuing as a committee member. If you have a strong desire to be on this committee, let me know. At this point, I am going to try and determine a meeting time each month for the committee. I suspect it will be on Zoom as the meetings are currently only on Zoom. In the distant past they were held just prior to the normal club meeting, but with people getting on Zoom early for the club meeting, we'd have to set up a different room.

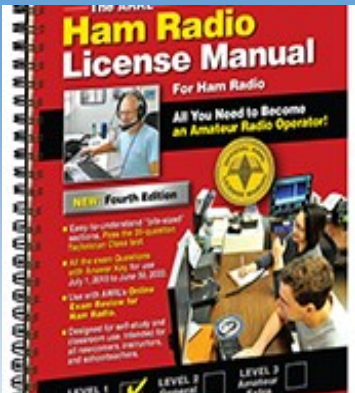
As a small refresher, The **Rochester Amateur Radio Club Technical Committee** shall be a standing committee responsible for the technical aspects of selecting, designing, building and maintaining equipment, and formulating operating procedures for equipment owned and/or operated by the club.

Two ongoing projects are:

The process of planning for a possible **remote HF Ham radio station for the club**. More information will be published in this column as progress is made. Another possible location for the remote station was mentioned during the last club meeting. At this point, I don't believe any legwork has been done on verifying the viability of the new location.

Work continues on an **inventory all the RARC owned equipment** to be followed by preventative maintenance. I'm not sure of the status of the inventory process. More info next month.

As for the rooms on the digital repeaters, that's something I need to better understand so we can finish any remaining work there.



# EDUCATION

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



# PARKS ON THE AIR ® (POTA)

Mark (K0GMK) [K0GMK@arrl.net](mailto: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.



- ♦ 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](#)



# 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:





