



THE HAMSTER

June 2022

Official Monthly Newsletter of the Rochester Amateur Radio Club

Editor: G. Mark Kelm (K0GMK) gmkelm@charter.net

EDITOR'S NOTES

We are in the midst in severe weather season and it is important that all ARES and SkyWarn personnel keep informed during potential forecasted outbreaks by the NWS by keeping your mobile or HT radios tuned to the designated EOC frequency. As of this publication the 147.255 PL tone 100 repeater is the primary SkyWarn repeater. The 146.820 PL tone 100 repeater is backup.

Field Day 2022 is coming up June 25 & 26, 2022, and we need more volunteers! If you can help with this years Field Day, *please* contact Taylor Bauman (WB0RSJ) RARC Field Day Coordinator on the [RARC groups.io email reflector](https://groups.io/g/RARC). Any assistance you can provide for the event will be much appreciated. Taylor's update on Field Day preparations if on page 4 of this issue of the Hamster. Please check it out.

Be sure to check out page 6 with news regarding **our special RARC meeting presenter: Tim Duffy (K3LR), CEO of DX Engineering talking about Grounding and Bonding. Tim will make his presentation on ZOOM both to members in person and online.**

The **June 14th, 6:30 PM RARC meeting is planned for in-person at the Rochester EOC (Fire Station #2) and also on the optional ZOOM broadcast.** See Page 5 for the optional ZOOM login and connection instructions.

Congratulations to Scott Wright (K0MD) for being inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame at this past weekends Dayton Hamfest. See page 3 for more details. Well done Scott!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve (W0STV) - President w0stv@yahoo.com



Things are beginning to happen with the new upcoming RARC programs, public service events, and the biggest one, **FIELD DAY**. I would like to thank **Taylor Bauman (WB0RSJ)** for accepting to organize the RARC 2022 field day. Taylor has a history with past field day operations, and he has already brought our field day activity up to date in a short time. Please plan to be a part of the setting up, operating, and taking down of this years field day at Pat Cahill's farm. Watch the groups.io reflector for up to date information and requests. **The RARC has been donated a complete VHF Motorola repeater system by the Rochester Fire Department.** We will discuss its future as part of the RARC equipment at the next club meeting. If you want to learn how to attend RARC zoom meeting check out YouTube videos using the key word ZOOM.

I wish to thank **Scott Wright (K0MD)** for offering his resources and our vice president **Mellissa Erickson (KE0WNH)** in scheduling new and exciting zoom conference meetings with renowned people active in the amateur radio field today. **I am also glad to announce that Dr. Scott Wright was inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame at Dayton Hamvention 2022.** When someone gives of themselves to advance their medical field, the amateur radio hobby and people in general. It's great to see the pay back for their commitment, time, and efforts. Congratulation Dr. Wright.

I checked and was impressed to discovered the RARC has 111 active members. Thank you for all your money, time and involvement to make the RARC what is is today. The **Parks On The Air** group outdoor event **will be rescheduled for June**. Come out and watch, learn, and operate HF on the Douglas trail in Douglas. Sign up to follow what is happening, even if you are not an RARC member on the rarcgroups.io reflector by registering from the website RARCHAMS.ORG. The More You Know!

The 125 live radio station is slowly moving. The hold up now is a cabinet for the equipment. It will pick up speed when the cabling, and antenna is ordered and installed.



Dr. R. Scott Wright (K0MD) **Inducted Into** **CQ Amateur Radio Hall Of Fame**



Scott is a long-time member of the Rochester Amateur Radio Club, mentor to many young Hams and a former officer in the club was inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame at the recent Dayton Hamvention.

Additionally, Scott is a physician and leader of the Mayo Clinic team developing the use of Convalescent Plasma as one of the first treatments for Covid-19; DXer, contesteer and former editor of the National Contest Journal.

The officers and members of the Rochester Amateur Radio Club would like to extend our thanks to Scott for his continuing contributions to Amateur Radio and the Rochester Amateur Radio Club. Congratulations Scott!



RARC FIELD DAY 2022

JUNE 25 & 26, 2022

Taylor (WB0RSJ) - tbbauman@gmail.com

(507) 923-3387

Field Day is fast approaching again. This year we'll be running as a 2A club, along with the normal bonus points. Also again this year, any club member working Field Day from home can submit their points towards the clubs total. We won't be using a special call this year and run under WOMXW for all stations.

We'll be a Pat Cahill's (W0BM) farm located at [69520 270th Avenue, Kasson, MN 55944](#). Talk in will be on the 146.82 repeater. Thank you Pat for letting us use your QTH again this year.

I've created a spreadsheets on Google Doc's (located here: <https://tinyurl.com/39cbjsxm>) There are 4 spreadsheets; one for operators, one for setup, one for takedown and one for dinner. Dinner this year will be provided by the club with Drew Naatz (KC0CJP) doing the BBQ meat. There will be sides and beverages provided.

I've tentatively scheduled Friday, June 24 around 1 PM for a quick walk around and staging discussion. If you're able to stop by, please do. I'm always looking for input and ideas. Steve will be bringing out his tower and the ARES trailer that afternoon. Full setup for Field Day will start at 8 AM on Saturday, June 25th. Depending on how we set the site up this year and if we have a GOTA station, we may not be using the military masts. Last year we ran on the ARES tower and Steve's tower. If we have the GOTA station, we could use an EFHW strung in the trees, which would make setup easier and show new hams how an inexpensive antenna can work the world. I have a couple that could be used.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 is still around and we'll need to take precautions. Hand sanitizer will be provided and if you feel the need to mask, please do so.

Field Day 2022 should be a great time!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I plan on being at the June RARC meeting to work out any other details.



June 2022 RARC Online Meeting Info

OPTIONAL FOR THOSE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND IN-PERSON



Here is the information for the June 14, 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 [W0STV](#) prior to the meeting.

- ♦ **When:** June 14, 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

Melissa (KE0WNH) - Vice President

June 2022 RARC Meeting Program

RARC monthly meeting starting at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Rochester EOC (Fire Station #2)

Tim Duffy (K3LR) - CEO DX Engineering

Tim Duffy (K3LR), CEO of DX Engineering, will be speaking at 6:30pm via Zoom. **Tim will be speaking on Grounding and Bonding**, which I think is a nice follow up to the fabulous talk on Loop antenna building from last month. I know some hams have recently moved or are expanding their rigs, so I hope you find this as valuable as I expect it will be for me.

Please consider writing down questions you have on the topic so you remember to ask them when we have the chance.

Tim is another speaker that was invited by Scott Wright, K0MD. As a club member, I appreciate the effort Scott has put forth to wrangle some fabulous speakers. As VP of special speakers, I doubly appreciate his efforts! Thank you, Scott.



JM ROCKET RADIO CLUB

Melissa (KE0WNH) - Mentor

I'm happy to announce the inception of the JM Rocket Radio Club! As the home of the JM Rockets, it seemed a fitting name. The 3 students that have been the core group through the year have accepted with great enthusiasm the opportunity to start the radio club officially. Next school year, we will be meeting after school, which opens club participation to all students at JM and potentially other high schools. They have already elected officers for this year : Roarke C. is President, Manal A. Is secretary, and Megan T. Is Vice President / All other offices needed.

Up until this past Thursday, our radio group that meets on Thursdays during 8th period, was an informal get together for students interested in radio. We have a radio room ready for being set up, so first thing for next school year is to get the antenna hung that was planned pre-covid. For now we are using my Compactenna R7 which works well, but not ideal for radiation. This room that they were helping me clean up again has locking doors for securing equipment from unlicensed use.

In preparation for this continued interest, I'm going to Dayton, Ohio with ARRL this summer for a teacher program the third week of July. Stay tuned!





125 LIVE RADIO PROJECT

Steve (W0STV) and I hope to meet at 125 Live the first week of June to look at roof top antenna placement and length of coax(s) needed.

Steve's lead for a cabinet maker didn't work so he's pursuing other options (we must have a ventilated cabinet to secure the radio when not in use).

We could really use a couple existing 125 Live member RARC Ham volunteers to assist us in station setup and eventual recruiting and training new Hams from the membership there.

Dave Naatz KØVH



CONTEST CORNER

Fred (K4IU) k4iu@me.com

Finally some warmer weather. Perfect for those antenna improvements and repairs. June has some really fun activities like the recently announced **ARRL International Digital Contest**, which will run on the first weekend of June. Don't forget the June classics like the VHF contest and of course, Field Day. Here's a preview.

Inaugural Digital Contest, [ARRL International Digital Contest](#). The exchange for this one is a 4-digit grid square. Any station can work any other station. Stations may only be worked once per band from 160 meters-6 meters, regardless of FT4/8 mode. Technicians, you can join in too with your 10 and 6 meter privileges!

You can use **WSJT-X** as a stand alone logger and export the .adi file that it generates into your own favorite logger. WSJT-X author, Joe Taylor, K1JT, recommends using "NA VHF" for the contest setting. The "WW Digi" setting will also work, but it will set your CQ message to "CQ WW" rather than "CQ TEST". You can select this in the advanced tab found in the F2 settings menu.

A future version of WSJT-X will have a specific entry for this new contest, and some related features, but unfortunately not in time to be used in this year's contest. There is a newly updated logging module from **N3FJP**, Scott, if you use his popular **AC Logger**. The contest software is available at [this web link](#).

VHF Fun, The second full weekend in June, (11-12) is for our VHFers with the [June VHF contest](#). There are some rule changes this year. Participants in the Single Operator categories for the June VHF Contest can now enter in All Mode (which includes all digital modes) or Analog-Only (CW and SSB/FM) subcategories. The ARRL Programs and Services Committee, with advice from the Contest Advisory Committee, has approved this rule change in response to the survey that was sent to participants of ARRL VHF contests late last year. For full rules and details, visit www.arrl.org/june-vhf.



Field Day, Each year this widely anticipated event is a RARC Club effort to showcase amateur activities to new and old hams as well as the public. [Taylor](#), WB0RSJ, is leading the RARC efforts.

You can learn more about this event in the June issue of QST. The comprehensive 2022 ARRL Field Day Guide tips for safety, scoring bonus points, simple antennas and ARRL/RAC checklist.

Those are the headliners but there's more and you can see them all on the [DL2NBY](#) and [WA7BNM](#) calendars.



With Field Day just around the corner it might be a good time to review some instructional tips about using the logger [N1MM+](#). One of the classic "how to videos" can be seen [here](#). This 17-minute video is authored by K8UT. Another video for setting up and operating in the N1MM environment is [here](#). The club has

used this logger for many years so there are many RARC hams who can help you learn to use it. But N1MM is not just for Field Day! The program supports all major contests, all modes and is continually updated. It's also free!

73 for now

Fred K4IU

HAMSTER HINTS



Bob (KEØEXE) gettuit@charter.net

Here's a **Preparedness Tip**, which is satisfying to do and enjoyable to use.

I don't have a great memory for procedures that I don't perform frequently, so sometimes I like to make little labels and cheat-sheets that can be attached to my equipment, using double-sided tape and/or transparent tape. For instance, I've put this "strip" on my old, hand-held scanner, **as shown in the photo on the next page**.

I don't use the scanner very often, so when I do, I need the micro cheat-sheet, to remember how to activate some of the radio's functions. For a label like this, I will create it on my PC, as a ".doc" file. I can then adjust the font sizes--and other aspects--to make it fit the available space optimally, before printing and cutting-out with scissors. This label has been taped to the battery compartment's door panel, on the lower, back side of the radio. The packaging tape wraps-around, to the inside surface of the plastic panel, so that at least two of its four edges are not exposed to the destructive effects of handling. I use this technique whenever I can, as it keeps the tape's edges from curling-up and coming undone.

I like the fact that I don't need to grab the radio's manual when I use the radio--only the radio itself--because all the important usage-hints are already on the label. Design your labels so they make sense to you, primarily, and, if possible, to the radio's *next* owner, too. Save the file, to be able to modify and reprint, as needed--this makes improvements easy!

HAMSTER HINTS

Bob (KEØEXE) gettuit@charter.net



ARES

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

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



I apologize for canceling last month's ARES meeting on go kits. This gives you more time to expand, adjust, or think about your kit's items, before the June 18th meeting. A kit should be configured for time. 24 and 72 hours are the most common, and easiest to configure. A kit is more than just a radio, batteries, and an antenna. Look at what you will need for yourself, water, food, sun screen, bug spray, etc. Be sure to include any medication items and just in case put that half used up roll of TP in there. The container should be easy to transport, most use back packs. Make a list of the items you put inside, six months from now you may forget what you have.

The ARES trailer needs to be updated and refurbished. I have reviewed videos showing this same trailer organized to maximize the spaces better. The HF portion needs to work, along with what we have now. We may be installing a VHF repeater system in the trailer. I have been attending Zoom meetings with the North and South Dakota and Minnesota's Red Cross ham radio operators, the Minnesota state VOAD ham radio operators and area radio clubs. I have talked with local agencies that ARES has national MOU's (Memorandum of understanding) as the Salvation Army. Building relationships local and distant before becoming active is the key to efficiency in any disaster. I plan to invite **Kyle Mirehouse, the new Rochester Emergency Management Director** to a future ARES meeting. For Olmsted ARES and anyone interested in emergency communications, there are educational YouTube videos on the RARC Facebook page to review and help you educate yourself. I will poll the Olmsted ARES at the next meeting about taking NIM's (National Incident Management) licensing classes as a group and take the test together for certification this year. This is a preliminary idea at this point. If you want to learn more about Olmsted ARES, you may attend the June 18th meeting at fire station #2 starting at 9:00 AM. The entrance is at the back lowest parking lot area west side. ARES registrations are available at the meeting. 73

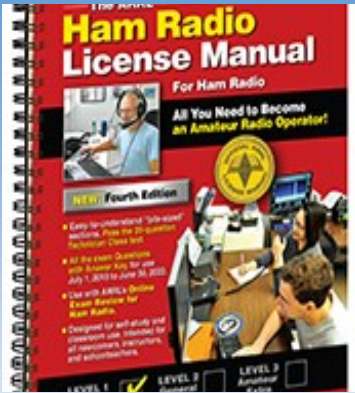


TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Eric (KF0S) kf0s@hotmail.com



- ♦ Weather didn't cooperate of the last Tech committee meeting so our attendance and agenda was a little light.
- ♦ The 147.255 repeater was having some sensitivity issues. The County had it tuned up and it's back in the Sunday night net rotation and the primary SkyWarn net repeater. If you notice any issues with this or the other RARC repeaters, let us know on groups.io or one of the nets.
- ♦ We have picked up a repeater and 3 sets of cans from the Rochester Fire Department. They are being stored at the 82 repeater site.
- ♦ There was some more discussion on an initial HF station setup at 125 Live. A VHF station was also discussed. Look to the upcoming RARC meetings for more info as this work gets underway.
- ♦ We also discussed educational resources for potential new hams we at 125 Live.



EDUCATION

Bill (KØRGR) k0rgr@arrl.net

Dave (KØVH) dcnaatz@gmail.com

A **RARC Education Committee** has been convened and continues with regular meetings to assist in:

- ♦ Technician student class content development (online and/or in-person).
- ♦ Development of a program for 125 Live
- ♦ Development of High School radio club activities.
- ♦ Assist Melissa (KE0WNH) John Marshall HS educator with the HS program.

Members of the RARC Education Committee are:

- ♦ Melissa (KE0WNH)
 - ♦ Dave (K0VH)
 - ♦ Steve (W0STV)
 - ♦ Bob (KE0EXE)
 - ♦ Ben (KU0HN)
 - ♦ Bill (K0RGR)
 - ♦ Colin (AA0CN)
 - ♦ Mark (K0GMK)



RARC BUY OR SELL



Instead of Dayton I went to an antique radio swap meet in the cities. I came home with a 1950 vintage National NC 183. This is a 65 lb behemoth that was designed when "built like a battleship" (grey and heavy) was a sign of quality.

Now I'm **looking for a Heathkit DX35 or 40** to go with it. Do any of you have one squirreled away some where? If so, please email me at the address below.

Niel (W0VLZ) - nielwiegand@aggienetwork.com

If you have any Ham related items that you want to sell or are looking for locally, email the Hamster at [RARC Buy or Sell](#).



PARKS ON THE AIR ® (POTA)

Mark (K0GMK) k0gmk@arri.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 146.820 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 the digital protocol announced for the week on the Net 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 147.255 Repeater (PL tone 100)

147.255 Repeater is primary SkyWarn and 146.820 is backup.



CLUB FUNDRAISER

SMILE.AMAZON.COM

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](https://smile.amazon.com) is a simple and automatic way to [support the RARC](https://smile.amazon.com) every time you shop at [Amazon.com](https://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](#)

- 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.*

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