



THE HAMSTER

December 2022

Official Monthly Newsletter of the Rochester Amateur Radio Club

*Founded In 1932 * 50+ Years Of ARRL Affiliation*

EDITOR'S NOTES

Rochester Amateur Radio Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the EOC of Rochester Fire Station #2 (lower level) at 2185 Wheelock Drive NE, Rochester, MN





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve (W0STV) - President w0stv@yahoo.com

The last RARC meeting for 2022 will need your input to decide several things for 2023.

We have two candidates running for Vice President and Program director. They are Mike Nordstrom KA0RTM and Taylor Bauman WB0RSJ.

Voting will be a hybrid model for the RARC members using ZOOM. RARC members can text the call sign of the candidate you want to a phone number announced at the meeting and have your vote included with the paper votes. All the other club officers will stay in their office for 2023

The RARC Christmas party is scheduled for January 10th at Charlies Eatery in the Hill Crest shopping center.

I have attached the dinner options offered for us to choose from:

1. Menu Option #1 \$30 Inclusive/person

Appetizers – Veggie Tray w/ ranch dip and Bruschetta

Main entrée will be a lettuce salad with sides of dressings w/ breadbasket. Roasted red potatoes and green beans w/ a choice of:

- **Beef Tenderloin Tips in brown gravy sauce over pasta** - No potatoes will be served with meal.
- **Airline Chicken Breast w/ Mushroom sauce.**
- **5 pieces of Batter Fried or Broiled fish** – Will need to select either broiled or batter fried – We cannot do both.
- **Smoked Pork Chop w/ maple pomegranate sauce.**

Dessert will be included - possible options are small dish of Bridgeman's Peppermint Crisp Ice Cream.

Homemade brownie with a small dip of Bridgeman's Vanilla Ice Cream.

We can do some assorted Cheesecakes.

We can do a variety of dessert bars for guest to choose from.

- options continued on page 3 -



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve (W0STV) - President w0stv@yahoo.com

2. Menu Option #2 – \$24/inclusive /person

Lettuce Salad with sides of dressing will be placed on tables with bread baskets before the meal is served.

Main entrée will be a choice of a plate meal with choice of Beef Tenderloin Tips over pasta or Airline Chicken Breast w/either roasted red potatoes or mashed potatoes w/chicken gravy. Green Beans - Green Beans for the beef tips will on a separate plate – Rolls & Butter.

Guests will pay for meals upon arrival - We will have a sign in sheet to indicate choice of meals and also slips of paper to indicated what meal they have decided on to be placed on the table in front of the guest – The committee will handle the sign in and collection of monies - If credit cards are being used Charlies staff will help you to process the card

3. Option #3 – \$15/person plus tax and gratuity. We could do a limited menu with 5 items off of our menu. If the group would be under 25 guests , they could order off of our full menu - Price of the menu plus tax and gratuity. Of course, no room charge for your group for the Event Center.

Charlie's will have staff people there to take drink orders

We will take a vote on the party menu at the December RARC meeting.

The D-star repeater is installed and working locally very well. It has not been connected to the reflector due to some minor issues. This will be corrected ASAP when we can schedule people to access the site. The correction is minor but important to get us on the Minnesota reflector.

**** Please remember to pay your 2023 RARC dues when possible. ****



December 2022 RARC Online Meeting Info

OPTIONAL FOR THOSE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND IN-PERSON



Here is the information for the December 13, 2022, 6:30 PM CST RARC ZOOM monthly club meeting. The ZOOM login info is also posted via the [RARC email reflector](#) prior to the meeting.

- ♦ **When:** December 13, 2022 @ 06:30 PM CST (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

December 2022 Meeting Program

RARC monthly meeting starting at 6:30 PM CST, Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Rochester EOC (Fire Station #2 lower level), 2185 Wheelock Drive NE, Rochester, MN

NanoVNA Network Vector Analyzer Demo

Presented By Mel Larson (KC0P/Rover)



ARES



AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

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

The November ARES simulated emergency test was educational, effective and showed our strengths and weaknesses. I would give it a passing grade. We will review the SET and have some educational videos showing advanced features of the digital modes we used during the event at our next ARES meeting. I want to thank the people that took the time out of their day to test and make ARES a better program.

A reminder that Olmsted ARES has several ways that we can gather large amounts of information in a short time during any disaster large or small. We have the following information channels available outside of our normal radio EM-COMM networks. They are:

1. A general email account that Olmsted ARES, SkyWarn and both EOC's can monitor for information. This is a general email account, with the address of, w0mxw@yahoo.com. This is available for anyone to give us information for a faster more effective response when there is a lot of information that needs to be gathered fast in a short time.

2. WinLink Email for Olmsted ARES, SkyWarn damage information, and for both EOC's to monitor for critical information. This is a computer and a radio email account with the address of: w0mxw@winlink.org.

The Olmsted ARES RF WinLink system has two node systems. One is packet operating at 1200 baud using a TNC or software packet TNC on 145.010 Mhz simplex using the call sign w0stv-10 to send and receive worldwide emails. The other is a faster computer software operating program that uses a sound card program operating up to 9600 baud on 145.710 Mhz simplex using the call sign w0stv-1. These are both licensed and registered for their maximum operating capacity as nodes.

Olmsted ARES will meet on December 17th at 9:00 AM in Fire Station #2 EOC meeting room. If you have something related to ARES you want to learn more about, send an email at w0stv@yahoo.com. with a general description. Include your phone number please. The more you know!

The more preparation, the less confusion.





HAMSTER HINTS

Bob (KEØEXE) gettuit@charter.net

Quite a while ago, I bought and rigged a hinged boom for a station microphone. However, the mic I intend to use is too small for the original, black-plastic "holder-piece," so I never finished installing the mic. It's time to wrap-up another project, and keep the momentum going!

I had an idea to use "door & window sealant" expanding foam, to take up the gap. To do this, I wrapped both the holder and the mic in paper and masking tape, to contain the foam in a "mold" and to protect the mic. I then suspended the mic inside the holder-piece, centered as best I could. Two small holes in the outer shell allowed me to shoot-in the foam; I shot it in one hole until I saw it coming out of the other hole, on the opposite side. Set, trim, and "do it again!" (The first mic-hole was not the right size and was not well-centered.) After building a new mold, injecting again, setting, trimming, and painting the foam Gloss Black (to match



the plastic), I finally had a tapered hole that accepted the mic, "just right." Now I must find the project-kit that allows me to jumper the mic-cable wires to the proper plug for my transceiver, and finish that wiring. Maybe I'll need to add a pre-amp, too, but then I should have a first-class, suspended (i.e., mechanically-isolated) station mic, which can be positioned anywhere over my main operating desk.





CONTEST CORNER

Fred (K4IU) k4iu@me.com

As we head into the holiday season you'll have a chance to try the high and low ends of the amateur HF spectrum. The 160 meter and 10 meter contests are my favorite picks for December's contesting activities. Most of you know ten meters has been hot this last month. Just ask **Stan, AIØM or Dave, KØVH!** I also heard **KBØGT running RTTY on 10 meters** during the WAE RTTY contest.

Contesting on 160 meters is challenging but aficionados of this band are loyal. The antenna requirements can be daunting for us city lot dwellers. A halfwave antenna is about 250 feet long! The most common antenna is a quarter wave inverted-L which is about a 125 feet long. You'll also need a good radial system.

Contesting on 10 meters, on the other hand, can be easily done by suburban DXers with attic antennas or other confining HOA rules. A easy to build half-wave dipole for 10 meters is less than 17 feet long and can be just 10-15 feet off the ground to get some directional characteristics. Higher is better, though! Don't forget that [Techs have SSB, CW and FT8/4 privileges](#) on 10 meters too.

The results for the 2022 Field Day effort have been published in QST and can be seen [here](#). Team RARC scored 5690 points. **Taylor, WBØRSJ, deserves a big round of applause for his leadership role.** Several other local hams also submitted individual scores including **AIØM, KBØGT and KØGMK. Congratulations Stan, Bob and Mark!**

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Here are just some of December's contest events:

- **December 2-4:** [ARRL 160-Meter Contest](#)
- **December 4:** [FT Roundup](#) Note the time for this one, 1900-2359. Contacts can be made on either FT4 or FT8.
- **December 10-11:** [ARRL 10 meter Contest](#) For this contest you can operate CW, phone or both. The exchange W/VE: is an RST and your state or province; DX will send RST and a serial number.
- **December 17:** [RAC Winter Contest](#) In this contest everyone works everyone but you make more points working our Canadian friends on CW and/or phone. There are 13 multipliers which include the 10 provinces and 3 territories. The sponsors have some nice looking plaques and certificates.

QSO parties, and some QRP events round out the last month of 2022. There is a full schedule and you can see it all on the [DL2NBY](#) and [WA7BNM](#) calendars.



Finally, do have some of those little annoying things in your shack that detract from operating enjoyment? These can include:

- Smudged up computer screen, a sticky key or dusty keyboard?
- Keyer paddles that slip around the desk?
- Deteriorating headphone foam?
- Stray RFI getting into your home fire alarm?
- Cable and coax jungle?
- Pulse noise showing up on your spectrum monitor?
- Can't sit in operating chair for extended periods because its uncomfortable?
- Poor station ergonomics like keyer on the wrong side or monitor at wrong height for your sight-line, rotator control box too far away
- You might even need computer glasses!

Some of these may be easier to fix than others. But you know what needs to be done. Take a first step with an easy problem to solve and do it $\sqrt{\sqrt{\sqrt{\quad}}}$

73 for now

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125 LIVE RADIO PROJECT

Dave Naatz (KØVH) dчнаatz@gmail.com

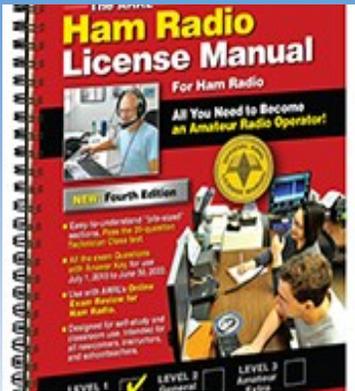
On November 17th four Hams (**WØSTV Steve, WØEJB Eric, KØWOZ AJ and KØVH Dave**) carried sections of our future rooftop HF and VHF vertical antennas for temporary rooftop storage on the 125Live building until our coax gets pulled from the roof to the technology room.

We are hoping to have transceivers in a locked cabinet there for 125Live members and new Ham presentations sometime in early 2023.

See photo at right:

Dave Naatz (KØVH)





EDUCATION

Dave (KØVH) dcnaatz@gmail.com

The New Hams group had a November 15th ZOOM meeting.

Most of the discussion focused on future training for new Hams. **Bill Osler (KORGR)** hopes to be able to do mentor/elmer instruction for new hams in 2023 using internet videos and books.

Eric (WØEJB) is interested in helping with this as well.

73 **Dave Naatz (KØVH)**

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Eric (KF0S) kf0s@yahoo.com



D-Star repeater:

- Obtained, programmed and tested.
- Next step is to install. John Scott and Brian Stockman are working to get access.
- Existing data transferable from old repeater? Brian working with Icom.

147.255 repeater:

- Sensitivity and power output are reduced.
- Reported to county. They will wait until 2023 due to budget constraints.

146.82 repeater:

- Steve is going service the battery.
- Time change. John S may have done already.

EOC computer and laptops:

- EOC Computers are set up in prep for ARES SET on 11/12.
- Steve has put labels on switches, headsets.
- Still need to network printer. Will try and complete on 11/8.
- Steve was looking into disposal of older computers.
- Should we dedicate a non-laptop to HF station? Will assign one of the new laptops to that.
- Trailer use of an older laptop. Stage 3 older ones in the ARES trailer.
- Computer at Mayo is a better computer than EOC, so nothing needed there.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Eric (KF0S) kf0s@yahoo.com



125 Live:

- VHF antenna procured. Sitting in Steve's garage.
- HF Vertical is in Steve's garage. Long piece still with county.
- Radios at EOC.
- Coax obtained.
- Tony was still out/on crouches at last notice. Likely won't return until. Will hopefully run coax soon.
- *Steve mentioned 125 Live may be hiring some runs and may include our coax.*
- Put antenna together on the roof. Leave horizontal on saw horses.
- Retain a 27" monitor for the station. Run advertising when station isn't in use to draw more attention to radio setup/club.

Other Items:

- Drone sale:
Eric to come up with a proposed sale price. DJI Phantom 3.
\$450-540 on eBay for similar packages.

Possible repeater swap:

- Steve mentioned Brian might have a swap of Motorola Fire Department repeater and cans for a smaller Kenwood repeater and cans. This would work better if we wanted to put in the trailer.

ARES trailer - potentially replace the 2 monitors with new monitors plus a 1.2 kw (or maybe 2 smaller) inverter.



RARC BUY OR SELL



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



For Sale: KB9VBR - Copper J-Pole for 2 meters. Well made-heavy duty. Never mounted or used. Can't use it with the mount I have on the house currently. \$40 Taylor (WB0RSJ) - tbbauman@gmail.com



FT-991A ALL-BAND, MULTIMODE PORTABLE TRANSCEIVER The FT-991A is the next generation in all mode, all band MF/HF/VHF/UHF transceiver with C4FM (System Fusion) Digital capability. The FT-991A includes multi-mode operation on CW, AM, FM, SSB, and Digital Modes (Packet, PSK31, RTTY and C4FM), with 100 Watts of HF/50mhz Capability (50 Watts VHF/UHF). This transceiver is owned by a ham radio friend of mine. Please contact me directly. Price: \$975.00

Bob Dubke (K0SIR) red@bobdubke.com (507) 398-5964

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](#) or Trade.



RARC BUY OR SELL



Kenwood D700 2M/440 Will do cross banding Best offer over \$50

Don (KC0TST) dfjung@charter.net



This space is available for you to sell, trade or give away any Ham radio related items. Contact: [RARC Buy or Sell](#)

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](#) or Trade.



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.** 146.820 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 146.820 (PL Tone 100) Repeater at 8:30 p.m.
- ♦ **Sunday 9:00 p.m.** RARC/ARES Net: 147.255 repeater (PL Tone 100) Odd numbered Sundays
146.820 repeater (PL Tone 100) Even Numbered Sundays



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](#)**

