



THE HAMSTER

June 2023

Official Monthly Newsletter of the Rochester Amateur Radio Club

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

RARC Field Day

June 24th & 25th



Chester Woods Park



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve (W0STV) - President w0stv@yahoo.com

The RARC meeting on June 13th, will focus on [RARC Field Day](#) at [Chester Woods Park](#) on June 23, 24, and 25th. The JM radio club is invited to attend and operate.

There is a [signup sheet on the RARC web site](#). This new location requires our members to help make this a success. People at the park will be checking out what we are doing with all the towers, tents, and equipment. Let's use this field day to display our hobby, and get more people interested in Amateur Radio.

The Olmsted VE team licensed 5 new technician class Hams. They were invited to the June RARC meeting and our field day. We need to make them welcomed and supported in their new hobby. If you hear a new call sign, please make an effort to make contact with them and let them know people are on the air.

Any time you are near a Ham radio turn it on and put out our call. Do not be discouraged if you do not get a reply but rather encouraged when you do get a response. When more people do this, the better your chance to have a conversation on the air. There are HF and VHF nets during the week. Go to ARRL.ORG, and RARCHAMS.ORG for information and times. **Nets are also listed on page 3 of this Hamster.**

The 125Live Ham radio station is almost complete with the shelves built, the equipment in the cabinet, and the coax installed. What is left is the connectors to be put on the coax, the computer programed, the antenna assembled, and after the HVAC has been installed the antennas will be go up. We need to discuss how we will allow the station to function once it becomes operational. We may plan to teach ham radio courses there as well. We will schedule the antenna assembly during the June RARC meeting.

With all things there is a beginning and an end. The last Thursday of the month RARC diner socials used to have great attendance. There have been very few people showing up, is it time to end that event? A weekly ham meeting has started up on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 AM. Hams from Rochester, Decorah, Iowa, Mantorville and surrounding areas have been meeting at the north Roosters bar and grill for a coffee chat gathering. They have been averaging about two hours with very good attendance and discussions. Anyone licensed or interested in ham radio is welcome. You can order more than coffee if you wish. Remember RARC has a Saturday morning breakfast at Grandma's Kitchen Restaurant in the Silver Lake Shopping Center. Food ordering starts by 7:00 AM but come later if you want.

Our long-time RARC members and friends Barb and Roger Philip have sold their KOA campgrounds. They will stay here to help the new owners over the summer months but will be moving to their new home in Lakeland Florida this fall. They have informed me that we may have our RARC picnic there for 2023. They will be missed when they leave!



WEEKLY NETS

- ◆ **Monday 8 p.m. Elmers' 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 2 Meter 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 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. ARES 80 Meter 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 D-Star Reflector XLS632A
- ◆ **Sunday 7:30 p.m. Minnesota D-Star Net** on 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



RARC MEETING PROGRAMS

Taylor (WB0RSJ) - Vice President

June 2023 Meeting Program

RARC Field Day Update

Presented by Taylor (WB0RSJ)



Free 10 Meter Dipole Kit For All Who Attend The RARC June Meeting!



June 2023 RARC ZOOM Online Login Info

OPTIONAL FOR THOSE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND IN-PERSON



Here is the ZOOM login information for the June 13, 2023, 6:30 PM CDT RARC ZOOM monthly club meeting. The ZOOM login info is also posted via the [RARC email reflector](#) prior to the meeting.

- ◆ **When:** June 13, 2023 @ 06:30 PM CDT (US and Canada)
- ◆ **Join Zoom Meeting (click on the link below):**
<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

The Filmore and Olmsted County ARES groups jointly operated ham radio communications at the water stops at the medical tent, and on the mobile cart for the Med City Marathon. This year there were no commercial radios used. We had Ham radio, 800 MHz radio dispatch, phone texting, and calls, all working together to get information from and to the people that had it or requested it. We used computer ICS forms to time stamp, log, and organized information in a PDF format. This hybrid network was very effective using location tracking, weather updates, and event LEC and RFD dispatchers in the Comm-Van. The Med City event coordinator was impressed with how well we moved information back and forth. This is what training and teamwork can accomplish working together.

For June Olmsted ARES will use our field day at [Chester Woods Park](#) as a training session. This is a major event that will require coordination, and teamwork setting up and staying operational for 24 hours and then the take down. Please attend the June 13th RARC meeting to begin our organizing and coordinating.

ARES has taken over Olmsted/Rochester public service events. The ARRL Field Day and Rochester Fest parade are on the same day. I do not have the details but keep your field day sign-up schedule open to be available to work the parade that afternoon. This year we need a starting gate radio operator. Let me know if you are interested.

There is a question if the 147.255 repeater has intermittent problems. If you experience ineffective communications, call 254-3993 or email w0stv@yahoo.com with what you experienced, your operating location, your power setting and the ambient weather conditions at the time.

I want ARES to have the training you want to be an effective part of the team. Contact me at 254-3993 with request of what you want to learn. This summer there will be a need for radio operators for other events in Minnesota. I will forward the request for our assistance as I receive them for us to respond as a team for that event. This will be a great opportunity to work outside our county with other hams interacting as a mutual assistance communications group.

Olmsted ARES Mission Statement:

To be so effective that you are able to help others.



ARES COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

- **Rochester Fest parade: June 25th**

[Sign Up Page](#)

- **Scheels Healthy Human Race: August 26th**

[Sign Up Page](#)

** Please sign up to help by clicking the link below an event above **



HAMSTER HINTS

Bob (KEØEXE) gettuit@charter.net

I'm taking a little vacation, so this Hamster "Hint" is very short!

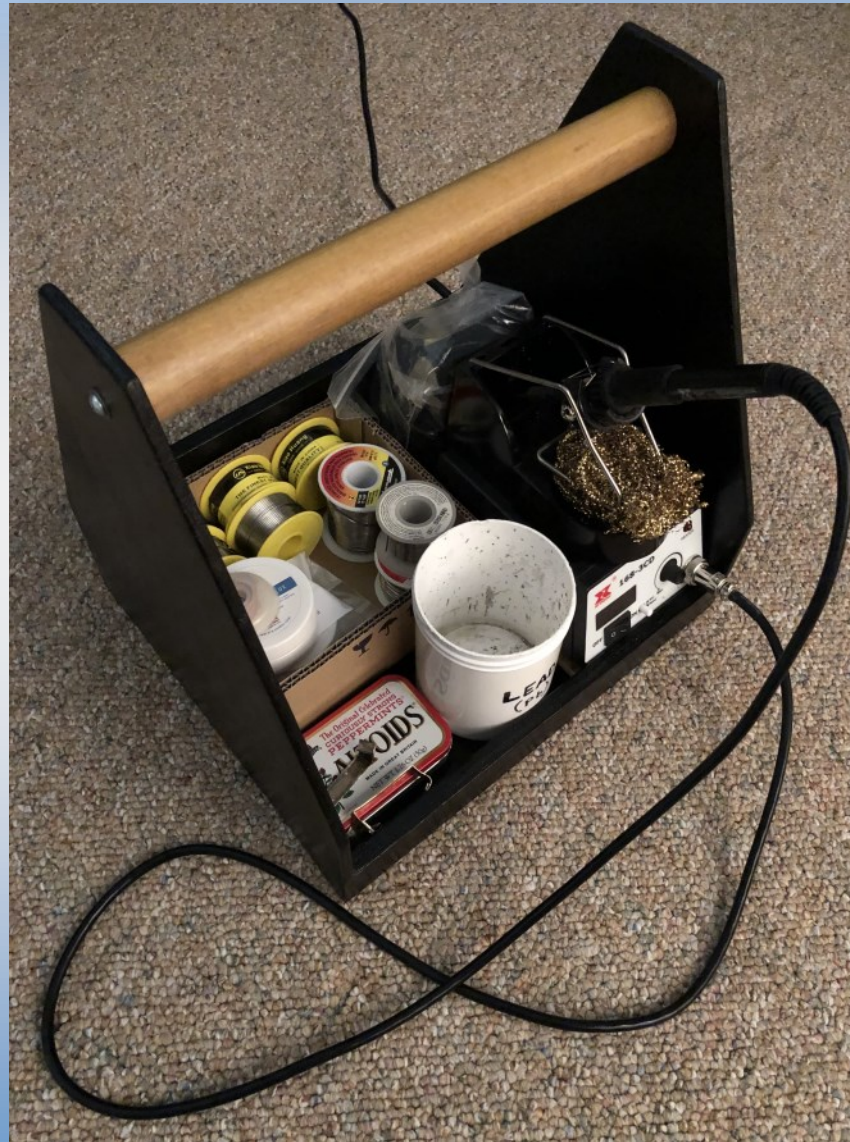
My soldering-iron tool-kit is finished, and I'm pleased (**photo on next page**). I needed a way ensure that the base of the soldering iron, itself, would not move around inside the kit. My solution was the piece shown here, made from one of the more worthless scraps of wood I could find in inventory. Each of the four feet on the base sits in a hole. The rectangle is cut to fit perfectly inside the right-half of the tray, from front to back.





HAMSTER HINTS

Bob (KEØEXE) gettuit@charter.net



The painted, finished kit



CONTEST CORNER

Fred (K4IU) k4iu@me.com

June is a big month for Ham radio fun and includes both the VHF contest and RARC [Field Day](#). If you like the digital modes then there's even something for you starting the first weekend.

- **June 3-4** [ARRL International digital contest](#), this is an affiliated club competition so we need your log to be submitted. Also read the rules on this one especially the **2 break** section. Logs must be submitted within 7 days.
- **June 10-12** [ARRL June VHF](#) contest, there are some changes to the rules for this one including 2 separate entrant classes. Participants can enter in either an all-mode class (including digital FT4/8) or an analog only class (cw/ssb/fm).
- **June 17-18** [All Asian DX Contest](#) CW, this contest is sponsored by the Japanese Amateur Radio League, the ARRL equivalent in Japan.
- **June 24-25** [ARRL Field Day](#), We all familiar with contest/not contest event. **Taylor, WBØRSJ**, is coordinating RARC efforts again this year at [Chester Woods Park](#). Check the [RARC web page](#) for updated information.

It's another full month of radio fun ahead in June. You can find out more about these contests and others on the [ARRL](#) and [WA7BNM](#) calendars.

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CONTEST CORNER

Hams enjoy contesting for a variety of reasons. If you have kids or grandkids, then you know that online video games are very popular or even addictive. Yes, some of our youth seem to be surgically connected to their devices. Radio sport contesting also has many of these addictive elements of competitiveness. There are several web based “tools” that can help ham radio contesters gain a more competitive edge and enhance the thrill of the event.

Most of us are familiar with and use websites such as [DX Summit](#) and the [Reverse Beacon Network](#) (RBN) for spotting assistance or information on how we are being heard as well as evaluating station performance. While these two sites are similar, there are also some unique features that we could look at closer in the future.

Another website that can be used to improve on the performance enhancing elements of motivation, information and real time feedback is the [Contest Online Scoreboard](#). This scoreboard is free to use, supports a wide variety of contests and can be seamlessly integrated with a contest logger such as N1MM. It provides real time ranking and scoring of peer stations. You’ll have to set up an account and use the FAQs to get your logging program set up. If you use N1MM you can go [here](#) for additional help.

There are other scoreboards which offer more features but may also have a subscription fee associated with their service. I have used the Contest Online Scoreboard for more than a year on the weekly CWT mini contests as well as several RTTY contests and can attest to its benefits.



CONTEST CORNER

It is important to choose a scoreboard that meets your needs so you may want to explore them to find the one most suitable for your specific contest of interest.

73
Fred (K4IU)

9 May 2023 16:13 UTC CWops Mini-CWT 1 (17 May 13z - 17 May 14z) SFI:151 Kp:2

Closed: CWops Mini-CWT 1 Select Contest class and power is read from your logger FAQs to help set up with your logger Highest rate: 56 q/10m by AA3B

Home	Login	Filter	Clubs	Teams	Manual post	Help with logger set up	Blog
13		K1EBY	6,319	89	71	Clipper Contest Club	N+
14		W1KM	6,241	79	79	Yankee Clipper Contest Club	N+
15		W1AJT	5,040	72	70	Contest Club Ontario	N+
16		NE5A	4,836	78	62	Deep Dixie Contest Club	N+
17		I2WIJ	4,550	70	65	Italian Contest Club	DX
18		K4HR	4,484	76	59	South East Contest Club	N+
19		K1SM	3,965	65	61	None	N+
20		OZ3SM	3,528	63	56	Chiltern DX Club	N+
21		KT5C	2,970	55	54	DFW Contest Group	N+
22		NN4K	2,401	49	49	South East Contest Club	N+
23		AF5J	2,346	51	46	Texas DX Society	N+
24		VE2FK	1,224	36	34	Contest Group du Quebec	N+
25		K1BZ	1,024	32	32	Potomac Valley Radio Club	N3
26		KU9S	960	32	30	TB-Wires	N3
27		W9ILY	529	23	23	Society of Midwest Contesters	N+
28		AF4T	441	21	21	Tennessee Contest Group	N+
29		K2YR	441	21	21		N+
30		N9TK	289	17	17	Metro DX Club	N+
31		VE2HB (VE2FK)	196	14	14	Contest Group du Quebec	N+
32		W1RM	196	14	14	Yankee Clipper Contest Club	N+
33		NM5M	169	13	13	DFW Contest Group	N+
34		N1RBD	121	11	11	Alford Memorial Radio Club	N+
35		K2SX				South East Contest Club	N+
36		K7RL				Deep Dixie Contest Club	N+
37		K2KW				Potomac Valley Radio Club	N+

SO-ALL LP CW	Score	QSO	Unique Calls	Last	Log	
1	KG9X	21,879	153	143	Society of Midwest Contesters	N+
2	N5EE	13,161	123	107	Deep Dixie Contest Club	N+
3	K9WX	13,098	118	111	Society of Midwest Contesters	N+
4	WN4AFP	9,792	102	96	Swamp Fox Contest Group	N+
5	KK0U	6,561	81	81	Society of Midwest Contesters	N+
6	N4DW	6,396	82	78	Bristol (TN) ARC	N+
7	K4TZ	3,480	60	58	CWops, Tennessee Contest Group	N+
8	K3QP	3,132	58	54	Frankford Radio Club	N+



125 LIVE RADIO PROJECT



Steve Wiebke (W0STV) w0stv@yahoo.com

The 125Live Ham radio station is almost complete with the shelves built, the equipment in the cabinet and the coax installed. What is left is the connectors to be put on the coax, the computer programed and the antenna assembled and after the HVAC has been installed the antennas will be go up. We need to discuss how we will allow the station to function once it becomes operational. We may plan to teach ham radio courses there as well. **We will schedule the antenna assembly during the June RARC meeting.**





TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Eric (KF0S) - kf0s@yahoo.com

Technical Committee Meeting - 5/8/23

Attendees: Eric, Mark, George, John D, Steve, Taylor, Dave N.

Post meeting and RARC meeting comments in italics

443.85 D-Star repeater:

- Power supply fan is what needs to be replaced in current Dell computer.
- John Scott was doing some investigating.
- I found a PS on Amazon for \$44: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08F2CDJ8K>
- *Bob, KE0EXE, found a 265W (original was 300W) Dell power supply. Will replace power supply. Bob, KE0EXE, found a 265W (original was 300W) Dell power supply. Will replace power supply.*
- Researched a refurbished computer. Maybe \$200 with a 3-yr warranty.

Current D-Star machine:

- Dell Vostro 270
- Manufactured 4/22/2013
- i5-3450@3.10 GHZ 4 core
- 6 GB 1600 DDR3
- SanDisk 128 GB SSD
- Samsung 128 GB SSD
- DVD+/-RW
- Mirrored SSD drives



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Eric (KF0S) - kf0s@yahoo.com

User admin instructions post getting D-Star Gateway Server back on the air.

- A lot of clubs use national registry or via HRO-Atlanta.
- Bob to see if he has a replacement. By Thursday. Then order.

146.625 Fusion repeater:

- Wires-X Support?
- Yes

146.82 repeater:

- Comment that net moved from 82 to 255 for better coverage on Monday.

147.255 repeater:

- Last week's digital/voice net with Carl (WA0RLY). Not windy at the time, but was windy 3 days prior. His receive was down as well. Carl's data would come back if Collin tapped the repeater for 10 seconds. Maybe do some testing from edge of the county

Rochester EOC facility and computers:

- Batteries. John will talk with Kyle. John has a bunch of research and questions ready. 4 batteries ordered.
- *John has talked with Kyle and batteries are on order.*
- Using ARES trailer for Med-City Marathon.
- Drive on stands/mast in the trailer.
- *Worked well.*



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Eric (KF0S) - kf0s@yahoo.com

125 Live:

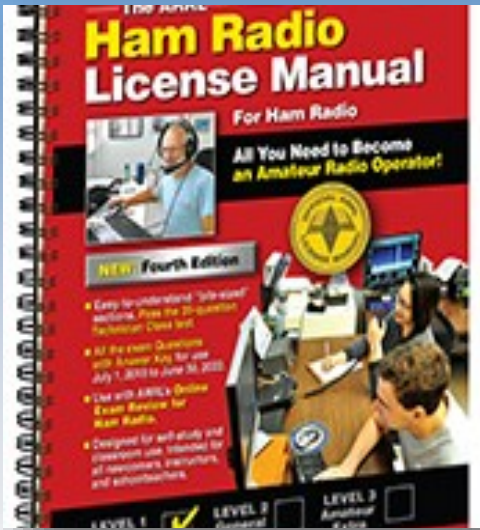
- Cabinet is done. Pictures in Hamster.
- Tony says if we deliver equipment, he will start building shelves.
- Remember cooling.
- *Steve said Kenwood HF and VHF radios, with the 35-amp power supply, and the MFJ automatic antenna tuner have been delivered to 125 Live.*
- Antenna work was waiting on HVAC work to be completed on the roof.
- All part of interior work.
- May do the assembly earlier, and leave on the sawhorses.
- Sounds like work will be completed in August.

Other Items:

- Cans:
- John will take one set of cans, Decibel DB-4048
- Propose \$350, and if after tuning better than 75 db separation, come up to \$450.
- *Proposal accepted*
- That should leave one set of cans remaining. Decibel TDD-7200A-C.

EDUCATION

Dave (KØVH) dcnaatz@gmail.com



- **On Thursday April 27th Dave (KØVH), Steve (WØSTV) and Bill (KØRGR)** presented information on **"What Is Ham Radio"** to a group interested in learning more and possibly becoming licensed Hams in 2023. During the 90 minutes we had a lot of Q & As covering many parts of Ham Radio especially related to emergency services and for communicating in disasters. The meeting was attended by 14 people.
- We have also been requested to repeat our presentation for a **men's group in Pine Island** in May. More later.
- Check out the **YouTube videos** for **new license training** from [ARRL](https://www.arrl.org) and [Dave Casler \(KE0OG\)](#) There are a LOT of videos, but we do have something to point new hams at along with the License Manual. <https://learn.arrl.org/courses/?pathPage=%2Farrl%2Fcourses>

73 **Dave Naatz (KØVH)**



Parks On The Air® (POTA)

Mark (K0GMK) gmkelm@charter.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!



Be sure to watch this page for upcoming spring and summer RARC POTA get-togethers.



JM **ROCKET** RADIO CLUB

Melissa (KE0WNH) - Mentor melissa.ke0wnh@gmail.com





RARC BUY OR SELL



RadioShack PRO-2044 Scanner

80 channels, Frequency Range: 29-54 MHz FM, 108-136 MHz AM, 137-174 MHz FM, 406-512 MHz FM. Good for listening to FM on 10 meters, 6 meters, 2 meters, and 432 MHz bands as well as NOAA weather and aeronautical communications. Complete with users manual on CD, AC adapter, original whip antenna, center loaded low band whip antenna **Price: \$20**

Lynn (WB0U) (507) 358-8459



MFJ-4602 Window Antenna Coax Feed-Thru

Contains three coax, one balanced line, one single wire and one ground feedthrus.

Only used one weekend. Width cut down to 35.5 inches. **Price: \$20**

Lynn (WB0U) (507) 358-8459

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



Icom ic-7410 HF/60 MHz Transceiver

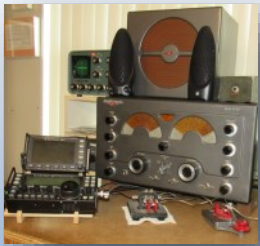
160m-6m. Full power into dummy load. Comes with mic, DC power cord and printed user manual. It does not have either optional roofing filter. Cash only.

Rob (KE0PWN) rgolley2@hotmail.com Price: **\$650.00**



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



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](#) or Trade.



- ♦ **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](#)?**

RARC has been an ARRL affiliated club for the past 50+ years. RARC wants all members to know about the benefit of being a member of the ARRL and how the ARRL promotes amateur radio and represents and supports Hams throughout the year.

Here are two links you can explore to see what the [ARRL](#) offers Hams. Take a look:

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

