



THE HAMSTER

November 2023

Official Monthly Newsletter of the Rochester Amateur Radio Club

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



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve (W0STV) - President w0stv@yahoo.com

Where does the time go? Almost two years ago I accepted the nomination to be the RARC president. It has been a learning curve. I had never held this office before and was scared how to run it. One thing I found was to ask questions, listen to the answers, then make decisions based on that information. If that information changed then so may the decision change. I learned that the only constant thing in this world is change and that time has come again as the club needs a new President and Vice President for 2024. The nominating committee has been asking our members to consider taking the time to give back to the RARC by applying for these positions. Taylor, George, Collin, Eric, and I have worked well together. Any of us will continue to assist the people that are voted in for President and Vice President for 2024 by helping with the zoom set up for the meetings and assisting you when you ask. The hardest thing to remember is Robert's Rules of Order. The rest just happens. You will be surprised how much you did know.

The 125 live ham station is like herding cats. First it was the roof HVAC installation, then it's the weather, then supplies, schedule timing and the list goes on. 125live is a busy place and the management is sometimes hard to contact to schedule installation. It will get done the only thing we need is good weather and scheduling. Will update through the RARC groups io email reflector for help when needed.

The RARC has received Ham gear from the Rochester IBM radio station. The building has been sold and their radio club has disbanded. The equipment is in very good condition and there are many items that would make a great addition to ham stations. We are in the process of listing and pricing these items. They are at Fire Station #2 in storage, this will be a discussed topic at the November RARC meeting. Eric/KF0S RARC technical director, and Dave/K0VH a member of the IBM club are in charge of selling the equipment.

Eric may comment about this further in his section of this newsletter. Keep checking the RARC emails for updates. Bring items you want to sell or give away to any RARC meeting. There will be a table to display on. You must take anything you do not sell back home with you.

What would make amateur radio better, more enjoyable, more interactive for you as a member of the RARC? There are so many facets to this hobby that it makes it easy for us to find something that interests us, but hard to knowing what actually interests you. To make the RARC a club that supports and educates it members, send me an email to w0stv@yahoo.com on what does or would make the RARC a better radio club for you. This will be confidential, and I will take this information to plan future programs and activities.

Thank you for supporting the RARC radio community with your donations and annual dues. Remember you can pay in several ways by going to RARCHAMS.ORG and click on the "Join the RARC" for VE tests, our email reflector (you do not need to be a member) and to pay your 2024 RARC dues. Please check out the other drop downs boxes from the other topic headers on our website for more and updated information.



***The Nominating Committee is
looking for candidates for
RARC President and Vice
President for 2024***

The committee will present candidates at the Nov 14th RARC meeting and the membership will vote on Dec 12th. We can take nominations from the floor but would prefer to have a list before that.

If you are interested in helping out in 2024, please contact (email below) one of us on the committee: [Dave \(K0VH\)](#), [Melissa \(KE0WNH\)](#), [Collin \(AA0CN\)](#), [Mike \(N0MGY\)](#).



RARC TRAINING PROGRAMS

Taylor (WB0RSJ) - Vice President

November 14th 2023 @ 6:30 PM



**“My Experience With CW
Learning And Operation
Throughout My Ham Radio
Career”**

Pat Cahill

W0BM

RARC welcomes and encourages members to present topics like contesting, Kit building, amateur radio software, etc., to the members at RARC monthly meetings. This is your opportunity to share your expertise and help other RARC members grow their Ham radio skills. Please contact any of the club leaders and let them know what topic you would like to present.



November 2023 RARC ZOOM Online Login Info

OPTIONAL FOR THOSE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND IN-PERSON



Below is the ZOOM login information for the **November 14, 2023, 6:30 PM CDT RARC ZOOM** . The ZOOM login info is also posted via the [RARC email reflector](#) prior to the meeting.

- ◆ **When:** November 14, 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:** #####



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



ARES

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

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

Where is the culture and future of ARES heading? This question has different answers depending on the geographic location of your group, the commitment of its members, the connections it has with EOC's, served agencies and the size and number of the activities to name a few. I attended the Minnesota ARRL conference in the Twin Cities area on October 14th. The event was well attended, and the programs were broad in relation to Amateur Radio. I attended these with other presentations, one on go kits, another on ARES EMCOMM operations and a follow up on ARES EMCOMM technical competency. Granted these were in reference to the metro area ARES activities. I took away two main things from these presentations; one you can never plan a response to a disaster. WHAT?? It's like responding to a car accident, they are all accidents, but no two accidents are the same and neither is how they are responded to. Is there an extraction, a hazmat issue, high voltage danger, a fire, how many vehicles involved, etc. It all depends on what is needed, how to do it and what changes to monitor and respond to.

Olmsted ARES has an active group that would do well during a response. The future is to incorporate an AUXCOMM subgroup for a hybrid ARES response team. This makes us a more versatile ARES team to be able to work with Government and public service organizations under the National Incident Management System using the Incident Command Systems. An AUXCOMM trained operator would be able to use an agencies communications equipment, and their information network to interface ARES when activated.

This is where the commitment comes into play, you would need to spend 12 to 15 hours of your time to pass the ICS 100,200,700 and 800 FEMA online computer courses.

The A, and B, team idea evolved from this along with a D quick response unit. Technically these will be called the ARES group, AUXCOMM subgroup, and strike team in the future.

Olmsted ARES Mission Statement:

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



ARES

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

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

The Olmsted SET drill is tentatively scheduled for November 15th.

The focus is on your capability with your equipment and knowing what you are able to do with it. This may be a multi county drill but is not known at this time. The worst enemy for ARES is inactivity that prevents you from keeping your equipment ready. From SkyWarn to other disasters remember you are as effective as you are prepared. A statement I will always remember from this conference was, "If they bring you the coffee you are of value to them. When they ask you to bring them the coffee, not so much."

The more you know.

Steve-WØSTV
Olmsted ARES-EC

The more preparation, the less confusion.

Olmsted ARES Mission Statement:

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



HAMSTER HINTS

Bob (KEØEXE) gettuit@charter.net

Maybe you have an old, rusty, chain link fence. Maybe it is a good counterpoise. On the other hand, maybe you want to get rid of it, or maybe you have an old antenna-post or anchor, buried in the back yard, and "its time has come." You're tired of mowing around it. Removing these is fairly easy. It's just like pulling teeth (ooh--distasteful childhood memory!)...

You will need a sufficient length of heavy chain, hook-ends (and associated "quick links"), and a winch or come-along. When I did this the first time (long ago, when I was not yet an experienced "dentist"), I also put a lot of effort, time, and money into building a double-A-frame contraption, with a big, wooden beam across the top. I could position this over my yard-tooth, and do the extraction with a perfectly vertical force. However, this is not necessary; it can be done much more simply, as follows: Get yourself a heavy-duty piece of wood, about two feet long (a 2x6 or 2x8 works well). Screw a cross-piece 1x2 onto each end of it (high forces will act on the board, and this prevents them from splitting it).



Overall setup, for extracting cavity-containing tooth.



HAMSTER HINTS

Bob (KEØEXE) gettuit@charter.net

Now, you just need another anchor. A tree can work, with protective padding. A vehicle with a trailer hitch or tow-hooks can also work well (set the parking brake). You might not even need the come-along at all, if you can line-up the vehicle and chain well. Anyway, the idea is to use the board to create a resultant force which has a large vertical component, from the "mostly-horizontalish" force of tension in the chain. See the photo's, from my recent set-up for removing a couple of concreted-in, galvanized-steel fence posts. You might need to dig around the concrete a bit, to get the chain onto it tightly. Also--and this is key--soak the dirt around the base the post really well before and during the extraction. (Oh, and I'm pretty sure K4IU, a true dentist, never did *this* to a patient!)



Come-along on minivan trailer hitch. Try to pull straight-back, not side-ways!



Tooth (anchor), showing how to create a vertical force-component.



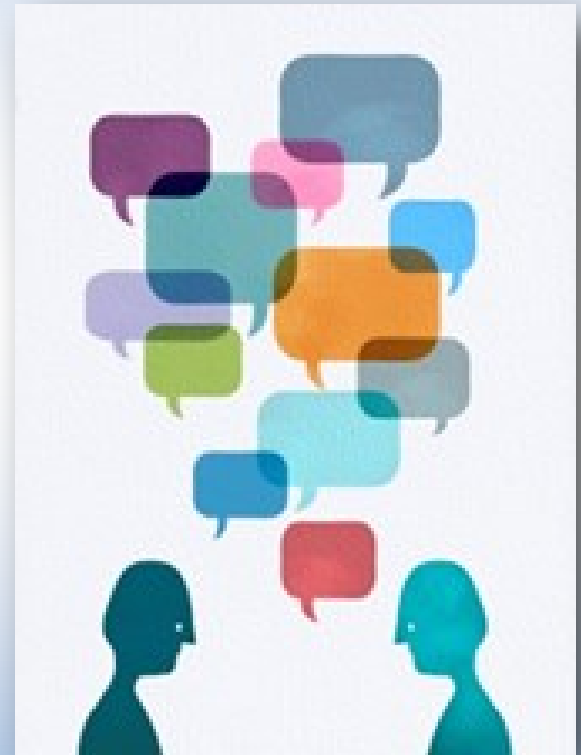
CONTEST CORNER

Fred (K4IU) k4iu@me.com

Contester's corner: November's [QST](#) features a **Contesters** Insert starting on page 64. It includes an annual calendar of the ARRL sponsored events and is a great read on how to get the most from your contesting activities. It's also a good review of some of the topics we have highlighted in this column.

November is the month most testers love but your family might hate because there's activity every weekend! The month kicks off with the [Sweeps Stakes](#) "twins". The CW version is the first full weekend, November 4-6. The phone version is the third full weekend, November 18-20. It would be worth looking at the details for both events. There are 85 sections but some of the Canadian sections have new names like replacing Maritime (MAR) and making New Brunswick (NB) and Nova Scotia (NS) individual sections; Greater Toronto Area (GTA) was renamed to be 'Golden Horseshoe' (GH); and Northern Territories has been renamed just 'Territories' (TER).

Another November favorite is the [CQWW CW](#) held November 25 - 26. Some of you just finished the CQWW SSB in October and know that global participation is huge with as many as 35,000 hams worldwide on the air. If you're not worn out by these contests, then check out the rest of the November calendar. Click here for the [latest](#).



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CONTEST CORNER

Fred (K4IU) k4iu@me.com

There are lots of hardware and software tricks and tips for contesting. Often overlooked are language skills which can help when you're trying to break a pile up or running a frequency. Do you know another language? In international ham radio contests, operators often communicate with participants from around the world. Knowing a foreign language besides English (commonly used in international ham radio communication), can improve your ability to effectively exchange information, making communication smoother and reducing errors. When you know a foreign language, you can participate in contests hosted by non-English speaking countries more easily. This broadens your participation options and allows you to compete in a wider range of contests.

In contests that involve making contacts with stations in other countries, knowing the language of the operator on the other end can be an advantage. It can help you establish rapport, understand their operating conditions, and effectively exchange contest-related information. It also makes ham radio a richer experience. I am far from fluent in Spanish but can give basic contest exchanges in Spanish and you can too. *Para un intercambio básico de QSO en español, aquí hay algunas frases útiles:*

Example of report and state: *CQ CQ CQ Aquí es K4IU. Usted tiene 59 (cinco nueve). En Minnesota. QSL?*

Example of report and zone (MN): *CQ CQ CQ. Aquí es K4IU. Usted tiene 59 (cinco nueve). 04 (cero cuatro). QSL?*

Example of report and serial number: *CQ CQ CQ Aquí es K4IU. Usted tiene 59 (cinco nueve). Su número es 001. QSL?*

So, the next time you're trying to keep a run going on a contest Sunday afternoon when things are slow try these examples on 10 meters phone and I bet you're get some calls from our ham friends in central and south America.

Espero que esto te ayude. ¡Que tengas un buen día! 😊



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Eric (KF0S) - kf0s@yahoo.com

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

Post meeting and RARC meeting comments in italics

Donation of W0IBM equipment:

- We have a spreadsheet of the items several of us made sense to transfer to the RARC. Dave Naatz worked on assigning values to that equipment.
- Steve and Eric delivered some boards and a small table to City EOC for temporary storage.
- Pat H and Eric removed some of the W0IBM equipment and it's already at the EOC.
- *Eric removed the rest of the equipment and that's been delivered to the EOC.*
- IBM has said we can remove antennas from the courtyard at a later date, but not sure of an end date. Beam rotated north-south and tower lowered. Try and remove what we can as soon as possible.
- TA-33 tri-band (with WARC), 6m beam, 2 2m beams (1 each H and V polarization), and 2m vertical. All are old, but the tri-band might be a replacement for the club's other beams for Field Day.
- *IBM seems to have forgotten they said we could remove the items from the tower. Argh. Working to get that permission again from IBM or may pursue the new site owners. If I end of going to the site owners, I may ask about some of the stuff on the roof like the satellite antennas/rotors.*
- Get pictures and list to Mark for a special Hamster issue.
- Steve mentioned tailgate hamfest in Spring Valley.



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Eric (KF0S) - kf0s@yahoo.com

146.625 Fusion repeater:

- Should be operating normally again.
- We now have remote access to the Fusion Windows PC, so may be able to debug remotely next time.
- Some stability changes made.

Repeater has passcode we do not know. Checking with BJ. *He has no idea about the passcode. We may be able to remove it by simply resetting the repeater. I believe there are repeater and HRI-200 updates (plus the Windows software), we could maybe apply at some point.*

443.85 D-Star repeater:

- We still haven't gotten the Gateway Server back at Mayo. Plan is to do that this month. Will take a longer time period onsite to do the actual installation.
- Discussion on main reflector: 30C was decided back in March.

g2_link software to allow access to XRFxxxX and DCSxxxX reflectors was asked. There are no published instructions and there is one person who can install the software after getting access to the machine.

What to do about Mayo repeater site:

- Taylor working on getting a badge and key for access. No change. Andy and Taylor busy.

DSL internet connection from Ozmun building. This will be going away at some point. I've heard as early as 1Q 2024. John Scott says "The latest I've heard is we are out the end of this year. They are already gutting the West building." *Discussion during the meeting, that we are still unsure which building the DSL connection is coming from. May be the Stabile building. Taylor to verify which building it comes from to get a better idea on when it might go away.*



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Eric (KF0S) - kf0s@yahoo.com

- Move to a cellular based internet? Has a monthly cost. Bandwidth would likely be improved. Would prevent us from having to go through the hassle of finding a new site and setting things up, etc.
- T-Mobile Hotspot: 5G-ethernet, \$265 for unit, Data is \$10/month. We lose the Static IP. There are some work arounds, but not necessarily easy/desired options.
- *I talked with Brian Stockman a little about the loss of internet. We discussed some ways to handle the loss of static IPs including moving Fusion to a PDN and using a MMVDM, maybe an original Shark RF openspot 1 (maybe 2) will do duplex mode and support D-star with full room control. Eric thinks this will require education on networks and how this works for much of the tech committee. D-Star is not a simple thing.*

Router may have password we do not know. BJ hadn't found it at last check. New router if we go with 5G.

146.82 repeater:

147.255 repeater:

- Nate Timm, KB0UXV, in Washington County has intermittent issues with 255, but no issues with 82.

125 Live:

- Antenna assembled on roof. Some minor things like new radials needed, and ready to raise. No coax termination yet. Mast pipe needed. Carabiners as some holes were rough. 2 Sandbags for base.

Rochester EOC facility and computers:

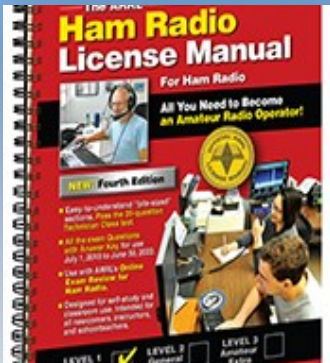
- Collin working on laptop setups for Win-link.

Website:

Other Items:

- Zoom renewal - \$160/yr.
- Equipment insurance renewal due in November.

Control operator for D-Star and Fusion repeaters. Any volunteers? *Bob ended up sending in the MRC updates replacing KCONPF with KF0S for the Fusion and D-Star repeaters.*



EDUCATION

Dave (KØVH) dcnaatz@gmail.com

Bill (KØRGR) k0rgr@arrl.net

One of the first steps needed to really get into Amateur Radio is to get your Amateur Radio License. This license is required in order to transmit on any of the Amateur Radio frequencies – however, listening does not. Listening is only part of the fun, so we encourage you to get your license so you can get the full experience!

Study / Take a Class

There are numerous ways to learn about Amateur Radio. Below are some options, find the best that fit you:

Local/Regional Options – the [Maple Grove, MN Radio Club](#) have classes both in-person and on Zoom for all Amateur License Classes.

Self-learning Options – The ARRL has published books for each license class and can be purchased on their website, Amazon and other Booksellers

- [Ham Radio License Manual](#) (Technician – start here!)
- [General Class License Manual](#)
- [Extra Class License Manual](#)

Take the Exam

The last step is to take the test with a VE (Volunteer Examiner) team. But, before you do that, it is best to take some practice exams first, to ensure that you are ready for it.

Online Practice Exams:

[ARRL Exam Review for Ham Radio](#)
[HamStudy.org](#) (both online and app)

License Exams:

- In-Person Options
- [Rochester Amateur Radio Club](#)
- [ARRL Exam Session Search](#)



JM ROCKET RADIO CLUB

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

**Elmers Needed To Help
with the**

JM Rocket Radio Club

- Kit Building
- Soldering
- Antenna Building
- Radio Operation
 - QSOs
- Mentoring

Contact Melissa (KE0WNH) for more information or to how to volunteer.



125LIVE RADIO PROJECT



Steve Wiebke (W0STV) w0stv@yahoo.com

The 125Live Ham station setup is like herding cats. First it was the roof HVAC installation, then it's the weather, then supplies, schedule timing and the list goes on. 125Live is a busy place and the management is sometimes hard to contact to schedule installation. It will get done the only thing we need is good weather and scheduling. I will update through the RARC groups.io email reflector for help when needed.





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!





RARC BUY OR SELL

Icom ic-756Pro2 HF/60 MHz Transceiver



160m-6m. 100 watts full power. Comes with Icom mic and original printed user manual. **Includes a Signalink USB** (Icom plug 'n play jumper module installed) with cable for digital modes. **Valley Enterprises FTDI CAT cable** and rig power cable. Excellent condition.

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

MFJ-939i Automatic Antenna Tuner Plug and play automatic antenna tuner that includes cable for use with any ICOM radio that supports the ICOM AH-3 or AH-4 tuner. Tunes your coax fed or random wire antennas 1.8-30 MHz from 2 Watts QRP to full 200 Watts SSB/CW. Matches 6-1600 Ohms (SWR up to 32:1). Mark (K0GMK) gmkelm@charter.net (507) 269-5254 Price **\$125.00**
OBO



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](#)**



CONTACT RARC

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

- ◆ **Online** <http://www.rarchams.org/>
- ◆ **Mail:** RARC , P.O. Box 1, Rochester, MN 55903
- ◆ **Email:** If not a member, [register](#) and a Moderator will respond shortly
- ◆ **Weekly Net:** Sundays at 9:00 PM : 147.255 repeater (PL Tone 100) Odd numbered Sundays
146.820 repeater (PL Tone 100) Even Numbered Sundays
- ◆ **Facebook:** [Rochester Amateur Radio Club](#)

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** emailing. 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 RARC.

Newsletter articles or questions: Mark (KØGMK) - Editor gmkelm@charter.net