



THE HAMSTER



♥ February 2026 ♥

Official Monthly Publication of the Rochester Amateur Radio Club





THE HAMSTER

2026 Rochester Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: [Jared Pfaffenbach](#) (KF0PGS)

Vice President: [Eric Kuehn](#) (KF0RHE)

Treasurer: [George Hopkins](#) (N0UM)

Secretary: [Collin Howe](#) (AA0CN)

Member-at-large: [Steve Wiebke](#) (W0STV)

Trustee: [Steve Wiebke](#) (W0STV)

The HAMSTER is the official monthly newsletter publication of the **Rochester (MN) Amateur Radio Club (RARC)**. The HAMSTER is distributed monthly via the official RARC groups.io email reflector free to members and non-members and is also available online in the club website: www.rarchams.org.

Rochester (MN) Amateur Radio Club was founded in 1932 and has been an [ARRL](#) (Amateur Radio Relay League) Affiliated Club for 50+ years.

All members are invited to [contact the Hamster](#) with comments and/or questions. Additionally, members are encouraged to suggest or submit story ideas, photos or content to the HAMSTER via the Editor's email link below.

The HAMSTER has an *outstanding* staff of regular contributors and you are invited to join the team!

[G. Mark Kelm](#) (K0GMK) - Editor

This Month In The Hamster

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The Editor Says...

[G. Mark Kelm](#) (KØGMK)

January 2026 was a busy month for the RARC membership. Many took vacations to much warmer locations, the contest season continued, Winter Field Day 2026 for RARC was held on January 24th at the Rochester EOC and Steve (W0STV) and Eric (KF0S) attended and worked at the 2026 John Beargrease 300 mile dog sled race (see pages 10 and 11 for all the details and photos). Despite the sub zero temperatures ham radio continues with Nets both on FM and HF, SSB, digital modes like PSK31, FT8, CW and my new passion, FreeDV (thanks K0VH). The February Training program is a video shack tour of Stan's (AI0M) shack with Stan presenting. He will be available to answer questions during his presentation.

Soon outdoor ham radio activities will commence and with that thought in mind Field Day 2026 is on the near horizon. More details and discussion will take place at upcoming club meetings and during nets. As always we will be looking for members to help out. If you are a new ham this will be an opportunity to interface with seasoned and experienced operators and learn new ham skills. Please begin to think about how you can get involved and then take advantage of learning new operation skills.

This month marks the start of Jared's (KF0PGS) and Eric's (KF0RHE) club leadership tenure. Please lend them your assistance and advice to make the transition as smooth as possible.

73 de KØGMK (G. Mark Kelm) - Editor



THE HAMSTER

RARC President's Message

Jared Pfaffenbach (KF0PGS)

It's been a good start to the year. We had a great holiday get together/club meeting. It was good to see everyone in a more relaxed setting, which made it easier to conduct my first meeting as President. Everyone enjoyed the event as far as I know or at least no one has complained to me about it. I consider it a success.

We also participated in Winter Field Day as a club. Turn out was rather low. Considering the subzero temperatures, it was understandable. Heck, I even thought it was a tad bit crazy. Luckily the sun was out and the wind was calm. We were able to set up despite the cold and even made a few contacts! It was a good test of our abilities and gave us a list of things we can improve upon.

I hope to see everyone at February's club meeting, which be held on the second Tuesday (the 10th), at Fire Station #2. The program will include a video tour of Stan - AI0M's shack plus an open discussion of what kind of program topics you would like to see in the future. This will be followed by the regular business meeting. Also, if you have not paid your 2026 dues it would be a good time to get that taken care of.

Everyone have a good month and don't forget to use those repeaters!

73

KF0PGS - Jared

President - Rochester Amateur Radio Club



RARC Training

Eric Kuehn (KF0RHE) - Vice-President



2026 Rochester Amateur Radio Club Annual Holiday Party

Held at Rooster's Too on January 13th, 2026





THE HAMSTER

February 2026 RARC ZOOM Online Login Info



Below is the **ZOOM** login information for the 02/10/2026 6:30 PM CDT **RARC** Meeting

- ♦ **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:** #####



RARC Training

Eric Kuehn (KF0RHE) - Vice-President



2026 Rochester Amateur Radio Club Winter Field Day

Held at the Rochester EOC on January 24th, 2026

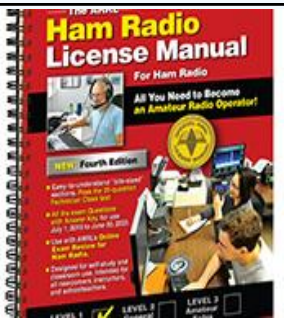




RARC Training

Eric Kuehn (KF0RHE) - Vice-President





Education

Dave (KØVH)

Starting Soon! Technician License Class Online via ZOOM

Presented By: Maple Grove (MN) Radio Club. A new class starts on **February 4th, 2026** on **ZOOM**. Contact the Maple Grove Radio Club for more information or to register ASAP at:

[Technicians License Preparation Class – k0ltc](#)

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY FRIENDS INTERESTED IN GETTING THEIR HAM RADIO LICENSE PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE THIS CLASS.

[2026 Maple Grove Radio Club Online Technician, General & Extra Online Training Class Schedule](#)

The first step 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!

Click on the ARRL link below for more information to get your ham radio hobby started:



[Getting Licensed - Step By Step](#)



125Live

Electronics Communications Group



The **125Live** radio group will no longer be just about amateur radio. The active membership has voted to expand to an all-electronic communications information group.

This is the news release just released to its **125Live** membership:

The 125Live Electronics Communications Group
meets from 2-3 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month

February 17th topic: Starlink

The 125Live Electronics Communications Group is a social gathering for those fascinated by electronics and the science of communication. Topics range from ham radios and signal transmission to satellites and modern communication systems. Whether you're experienced or just curious, this group offers a chance to learn, share, and connect with others who enjoy staying tuned into how the world communicates.

Steve Wiebke (W0STV) - Olmsted/Rochester ARES EC
The more preparation, the less confusion



ARES

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Olmsted ARES Mission Statement:

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

Winter Field Day:

We pulled off another RARC winter field day event thanks to Collin/AA0CN for making it happen. We set up the ARES trailer with a HF inverted V in the parking lot and a 2-meter vertical antenna for talk in and to monitor VHF traffic. This was our first opportunity to operate the RARC's new Yaesu HF radios. We did set up from 9 to 10 AM on Saturday January 24th to begin operating at 10 AM. The group operated until 3 PM then did take down operations. Will have a report from Collin/AA0CN and the other radio operators for a final report. Some take aways from this year's WFD. We need a better space heater in the ARES trailer. The 2 new trailer desks, and the new arrangement worked out very well. We do not know why the outside circuit breaker was tripped off, but there were no issues with the trailer batteries not having power. Will monitor this more frequently in the future. Thanks to the hams that operated and those that took the time to just stop by. Thanks also to George/N0UM for bringing his very good hot soup for us to eat during that day.

Skywarn:

Some of you know that the La Crosse National Weather Service will no longer have in-person Skywarn training. All future Skywarn training sessions will be done on computer every year. I see a problem with Skywarn groups never getting together to see each other or to meet new Skywarn members. After talking with the Olmsted Emergency Manager about what these changes may do to Dodge/Olmsted Skywarn. We have decided that we will have a hybrid training session for 2026. What this means is the EOC will list the 3 NTS training sessions and pick one that that most of us can attend as a group at the new Olmsted EOC training and operations center for virtual training. We will eat at Rooster's Too before the meeting, and go to the NWS meeting as in past years.

Continued On Next Page



ARES

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Steve Wiebke (W0STV) - Olmsted/Rochester ARES EC

The more preparation, the less confusion

Public Service:

Eric/KF0S and Steve/W0STV went to Tofte, Minnesota, as members of the Minnesota 300-mile John Beargrease dog sled race information and statistics BARC radio net control staff. The event started late Saturday morning on January 25th and ran continuous until mid-morning Wednesday January 28th. For me this was an exercise in learning and operating a new network and system in a short time. The 6 hours of operation for each team rotated around the clock when it was your time on the radio. Eric had been a NCS in past years and helped through issues and operations. Due to the buildings around the net control station, BARC operated some communications using a Zello app to connect to the Bay Field 2-meter repeater south of us across Lake Superior. This was a hybrid network of many radios and computers working together. The negative ambient temperatures and high winds of 40mph+ made set up, adjustments, maintenance and repairs a challenge. There were issues that developed over time, from the antenna mast blowing into the building, the vertical antenna SWR going high and becoming unusable at times, and then a section of the Yagi antenna coming off and had to be reinstalled. While on the inside there were computer program data issues and at the end the loss of our Wi-Fi connection to Beargrease. The backup 800 MHz radios were monitored and at times gave us information that we needed. This was an experience in what a real large event with many radio operators spread over 300 miles in weather that can hurt or worse kill you if you're not prepared for it is like. I plan to attend next year as a NCS operator. The BARC (Beargrease Amateur Radio Club) is looking for more radio operators for 2027. Talk to Eric/KF0S or Steve/W0STV, for information and how to join us next year.

Photos On Next Page

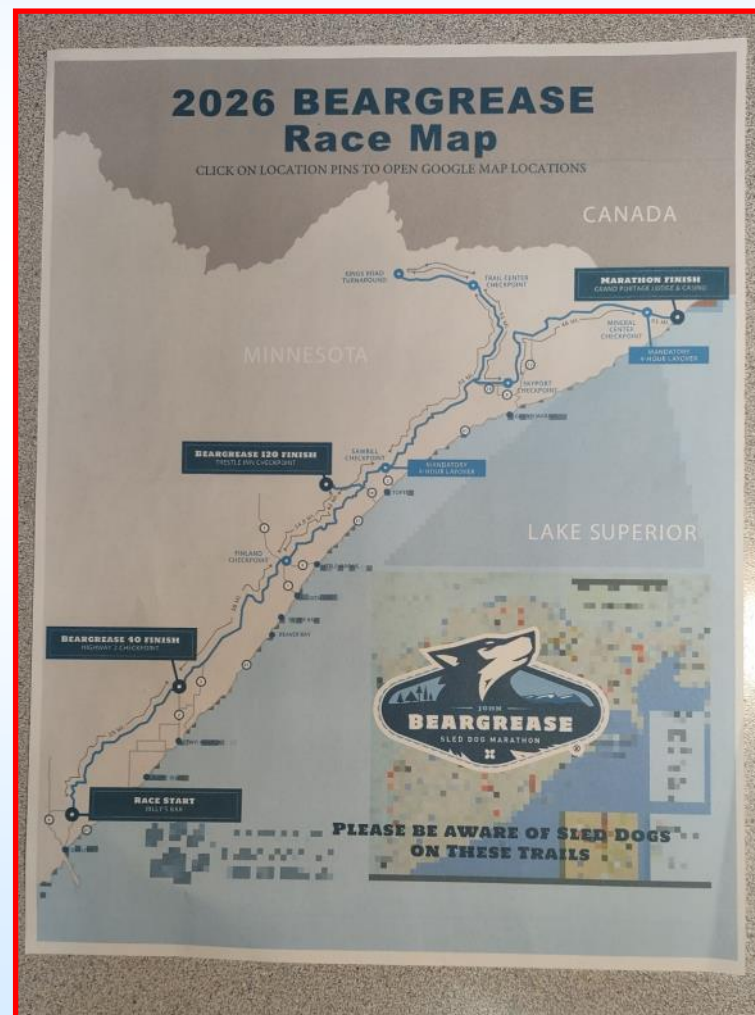


ARES

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Steve Wiebke (W0STV) - Olmsted/Rochester ARES EC

The more preparation, the less confusion





ARES

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

The Next Rochester VE Test Session Is February 12th, 2026

Sponsor: Rochester ARC

Date: February 12th 2026

Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Byron "Pat" Cahill
(507) 358-0936

Email: w0bm@kmtel.com

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: American Red Cross
305 Alliance Place NE, Rochester MN 55906-3975

Steve Wiebke (W0STV) - Olmsted/Rochester ARES EC

The more preparation, the less confusion

Contest Corner

Fred (K4IU)



For a short month February has a lot packed into it. It all starts with the [Minnesota QSO Party, MNQP](#). The MNQP is widely known as one of the most popular QSO parties nationwide. There are prizes for out of state participants plus many awards for all operating categories.

It qualifies for the [State QSO Party Challenge](#). There are also two big RTTY events in February. We have several RARC members who dabble with diddles so don't be afraid to reach out and try something new.



To make it easy to keep tap on this month's big contests here's a printable table highlighting **5 major ham radio contests that take place in February**. Check the [WA7BNM contest calendar](#) and [ARRL contest calendar](#) guides for more.

Popular Ham Radio Contests in February

Contest Name	Dates	Modes	Key Features
Minnesota QSO Party	February 7th	SSB, CW	Put Olmsted county on the map and feel like you're the DX.
ARRL School Club Roundup	February 9-13	SSB, CW, Digital	Encourages school clubs to get on the air; great for youth engagement.
CQ WPX RTTY Contest	February 14-15	RTTY	Huge worldwide contest focused on prefix hunting; very high activity.
ARRL International DX Contest - CW	February 21-22	CW	One of the biggest CW contests of the year; DX stations work U.S./Canada.
North American QSO Party (NAQP) RTTY	February 28	RTTY	Fast-paced, operator-focused contest with 100-watt limit and short exchanges.

Contest Corner



This month, we'll discuss contest preparation. A solid **contest-prep checklist** is one of the best tools a ham can have whether you operate HF, VHF or both. Just like an airline pilot, hams can prepare for a radio contest by preparing in advance. *"The more preparation the less confusion"* as **WØSTV** likes to say!

HAM RADIO CONTEST CHECKLIST

1. STATION HARDWARE

- ☐ Transceiver on & functioning
- ☐ Power supply stable under load
- ☐ Antenna connections tight
- ☐ Coax inspected
- ☐ SWR checked on all bands
- ☐ If you have one, check that amplifier

2. POWER & BACKUP

- ☐ Main power stable
- ☐ Surge protection verified
- ☐ Battery backup charged
- ☐ Power strips & cords checked

3. COMPUTER & LOGGING

- ☐ Logging software configured including super partial check
- ☐ Right category selected, ie assisted un assisted, High or lower power
- ☐ Contest exchange loaded
- ☐ Clock synced to network time
- ☐ CAT control tested
- ☐ Digital/CW/RTTY modes tested (make sure com ports not scrambled by Win update)



Contest Corner



4. AUDIO & ACCESSORIES

- ☐ Headphones & mic working
 - ☐ Mic gain/compression set, check with fellow ham if in doubt
 - ☐ Foot switch/PTT tested
 - ☐ Filters (DSP/IF/NR) set
 - ☐ Voice/CW keyer messages tested
-

5. ANTENNAS & SWITCHING

- ☐ Rotor calibrated & turning
 - ☐ Rotor presets saved
 - ☐ Antenna switch labeled
 - ☐ Stacked/phased systems tested if you have them
 - ☐ Tuners preset per band
-

6. NETWORK & SPOTTING

- ☐ Internet connection stable
 - ☐ Cluster/Skimmer connected (if used)
 - ☐ Remote links tested (if used)
-

7. CONTEST STRATEGY

- ☐ Rules reviewed
- ☐ Band plan & goals set
- ☐ Propagation checked
- ☐ Noise sources mitigated, (break out ferrites!)

Contest Corner



8. OPERATOR READINESS

- ☐ Hydration & snacks ready
 - ☐ Comfortable chair & lighting
 - ☐ Break schedule planned
-

9. FINAL CHECKS

- ☐ Test TX on each band
 - ☐ Logging starts correctly
 - ☐ Confirm contest start time
 - ☐ Get the green light with family/spouse,
 - ☐ Deep breath — have fun
-

Keep this checklist handy to make sure all your bases are covered. *"The more preparation the less confusion"*

CU next month

73

Fred K4IU



Hamster Hints

Bob (KE0EXE)

At Field Day 2025, we had some light rain--not too bad, but definitely not ideal conditions for the power generator. I live close to the F/D site, so I made a quick trip home to grab a large piece of 1/4" OSB. We then propped this up against an outside wall of the fire station, to make a lean-to shelter for the generator. As you remember, the OSB had a hole in its middle, too (which we managed to cover with another scrap of wood), and the whole thing, while effective, was pretty Jerry-rigged (no offense to Jerry)!

This month, I offer a first-pass **List of Requirements**, for a "better" weather-shield. In a subsequent article, this Spring, I might be able to propose a design, once these requirements have been (hopefully) discussed, refined, and agreed-upon, perhaps at a Club meeting.

As I look at the problem-to-be-solved, I'd like a rain-shield which has the following characteristics (in no particular order); it should be:

- (1)** Light-weight, so one person can safely and easily move its individual parts.
- (2)** Designed to be quick and easy to set-up, by only one or two people.
- (3)** Compact, when broken-down, for convenient storage, perhaps inside one of the enclosed trailers.
- (4)** Strong enough to withstand the low-level winds associated with minor and moderate rains (not necessarily *heavy* rains, as we generally take more-extreme precautions for these and try not to operate at all under such conditions--but do remember the surprise Field Day downpour of a few years ago, at the Schaeffer Academy site!!).
- (5)** Waterproof and resistant to damage from sunlight (UV).
- (6)** Nearly completely-open on at least two, *opposite ends*, to ensure adequate air-flow.
- (7)** Made from relatively inexpensive and readily-available materials, both so it is worth the initial, cash outlay, and so it can be repaired easily, if ever damaged.

- Continued on next page -



Hamster Hints

Bob (KE0EXE)

- (8)** Built to last as long as possible, given reasonably-wise usage and care in handling.
- (9)** Large enough so a person can get "under" it, to service the generator (or easily "opened up" to provide such access).
- (10)** Able to be set-up almost anywhere that the generator can be located.
- (11)** Obviously, it must be effective in keeping the equipment *fairly dry*!

Right now, I have several ideas for implementation (but there are no doubt others--please help me brainstorm!): (a) an easy assembly "tarp-over-sticks A-frame" ("inexpensive"), or (b) a rigid, piano-hinged, foldable, *lean-to*-style "roof," made from black, HDPE (mid-priced) or polycarbonate (higher-priced) paneling, or even (c) *a combination of* these designs (more versatile/effective, but costlier). ...Perhaps someone will have a better idea, like just attaching a big tarp to a side of the ARES trailer (but is that too close and too noisy?)--we're just brainstorming here... there are no wrong answers, just options to rank. If you think *this* List of Requirements needs modifying, then please let me know your thoughts on that, also.

I envision this costing between \$100 and \$300, depending on which of the requirements, above, are deemed *critically*-important. We could spend more, and get everything, really nicely-done (a "Cadillac"), but I don't know if a case for it can be made, especially since, sometimes, we experience no precipitation at all, during field-operation events. I feel this should have Club input, if much Club money is spent.

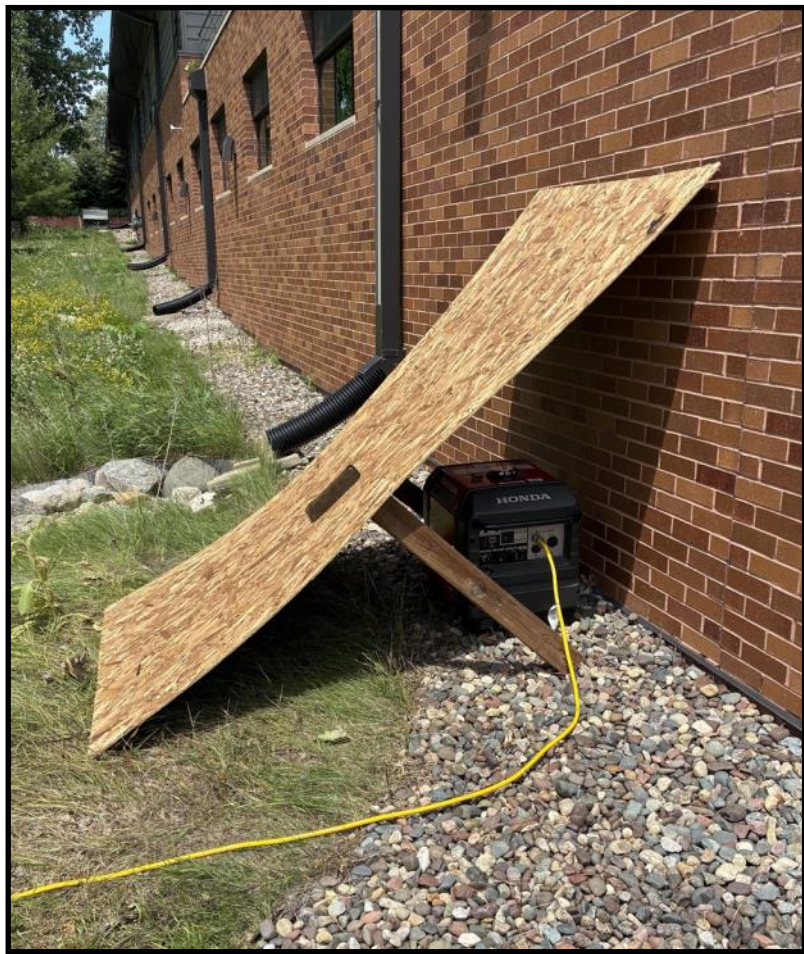
What do you think? Please provide me with feedback, at a Club meeting or in writing, using this email: robertDotAndreAtCharterDotNet (disguised, to thwart the 'bots).

- photo on next page -



Hamster Hints

Bob (KE0EXE)



2025 Field Day's make-shift, generator rain-shield--should we do better?

RARC TECH COMMITTEE

Eric - KF0S

Tech Committee - 1/12/26

Attendees: Eric VN (KF0S), Mark (K0GMK), George (N0UM), Jared (KF0PGS), Taylor (WB0RSJ), Steve (W0STV), John (N0MGY), Colin (AA0CN)

- **Mayo**

- D-Star Gateway server - Pat needs to schedule time w/ Darrell to return the computer.
- Hopefully, Pat can configure power control devices when he is there.
- Fusion repeater - Pat and Eric configured the PC for periodic app and computer restarts to prevent some issues with repeater failing.

- **82 Repeater**

- The reported temperature is now changing. It might be reading a little high. Can we calibrate if it's not accurate?
- Check on cabinet keys. John D, and John S have keys. Eric VN to check if he has one.
- Eric will contact John S to get instructions of changing the battery and resetting the repeater as well as other repeater admin docs.

- **125 Live**

- Still having meetings on the third Tuesday.

- **Digipeater**

- Lease is up for renewal. 10 Yr @ \$1/yr. Will try and get a new set of keys so we have 2 of each (gate and door).

- **Website**

- Repeater page needs updating. BJ is still listed.
- Can we get access to more people for updates and quicker posting of the Hamster? Taylor should know have access.

- **Facebook page**

No current administrator. Can we get a new one assigned? Steve W, can you get us access? Jared would volunteer. May need to be a moderator to get notifications. Also give Mark the ability to post.



RARC MEETING MINUTES

Collin (AA0CN) - RARC Secretary

RARC Held The Annual Holiday Party In January In Lieu Of The Regular Monthly Meeting And No Business Meeting Was Held.

Watch This Page In The March Issue Of The Hamster For The February Meeting



RARC TREASURER'S REPORT

George (N0UM) - RARC Treasurer

January 2026

Checking:	
Opening Balance:	\$1,511.10
Credits:	
Dues:	\$270.00
PayPal Dues:	\$480.00
Equipment Sold:	
Raffle:	
Donation:	
Misc.	
Debits:	
RPU	\$38.95
Meeting Food	
PayPal Charges	\$16.95
Field Day:	
Picnic	
Equipment	
Tower Lease	
Insurance	
Web domain	
Postage	\$210.00
Misc.	
Total:	\$1,995.20
Savings	
Opening Balance	\$8,828.55
Credits:	
Interest:	\$0.38
Closing Balance:	\$8,828.93
Total:	\$10,824.13
CD Matures January 2026	\$4,000.00
CD Matures January 2026	\$4,705.29



Happenings In The Dakota Division

Bill Lippert (AC0W) ARRL Dakota Division Director

First a reminder of the special events taking place in the next few weeks in the Special Event section. One new event that will take place this coming summer is the opening of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora, ND. The Theodore Roosevelt Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a special event station that weekend. I'm sure more information will be available as the date gets closer.

The Minnesota QSO Party is coming up quickly on Saturday February 7th. More details below and on the website.

The item taking most of my time this month has been the Annual ARRL Board Meeting. Most of the key items was covered in the member bulletin. One thing not covered is the consolidation of rules and regulations for Director and Vice Director elections. Those currently in 3 different places. The all have moved to the bylaws, which going forward requires a 2/3 vote to make any changes.

Last item, soon the window will open for the next round of Grants to Amateur Radio Organizations. To learn more about these grants and to apply to go www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-grants. We've had several clubs in the division receive one of the grants in the past. Read more details about the grant on the website and apply.

73

Bill Lippert AC0W
ARRL Director
Dakota Division
ac0w@arrl.org



Happenings In The Dakota Division

Bill Lippert (AC0W) ARRL Dakota Division Director

Division elected leaders:

Director Bill Lippert, AC0W ac0w@arrl.org

Vice Director Vacant

MN Section Manager Bill Mitchell, AE0EE ae0ee@arrl.org

ND Section Manager Ralph Fettig, N0RDF fettigrd@gmail.com

SD Section Manager Chris Stallkamp, KI0D ki0d@arrl.org

Minnesota QSO Party

Saturday February 7, 8:00 AM CT – 6 PM CT

Information: www.w0aa.org/mn-qso-party/

The Minnesota QSO Party kicks off the QSO Party season on the first Saturday in February. This is the time Minnesota stations can be the DX with everyone looking for them. So get on, put the state on the air and have fun. At the start look for stations on 80 & 40. As the day warms up, stations move to 20 and even 15. Then as night fall comes, stations move back to 40 then 80.

Minnesota stations get on the activity map www.w0aa.org/activity-map/ . Send a message to webmaster@w0aa.org listing call sign, county, mode(s), and approximate times you plan to be on.

Hope to hear and work you in the contest.



Happenings In The Dakota Division

Bill Lippert (AC0W) ARRL Dakota Division Director

LICENSING CLASSES

2/4/2026 to 4/8/2026– Technician Class – Online

Maple Grove Radio Club

Wednesdays 6:45 PM – 9:15 PM, 10 weeks

Contact registration@mnyarc.org

https://k0lrc.org/tech_license_class/

3/5/2026 – Technician Class

Stillwater Amateur Radio Association

Thursdays 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, 8 weeks

Contact w0gaf@me.com

Stillwater Public Library, 224 3rd St N, Stillwater, MN

SPECIAL OPERATING EVENTS

Jan 31, 2026, Doors Open 8:30 AM, Sales 9:30 AM

St Paul Radio Club Annual Auction

John R. Albers Center

Cretin-Derham Hall High School

555 Hamline Ave. S

St. Paul MN

<https://stpaulradioclub.org/auction/>

Proceeds donated to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund



Happenings In The Dakota Division

Bill Lippert (AC0W) ARRL Dakota Division Director

Feb 14 – 16, 2026, 1600 – 2300 UTC, W0JH
Ice Station W0JH – Frozen Minnesota Lake Portable
Stillwater Amateur Radio Association
21.360, 14.260, 7.260, 3.860
www.Radioham.org

July 4 – 5, 1500 – 2359 UTC; K0ND
Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Dedication
Theodore Roosevelt Amateur Radio Club
K0ND - 28.430, 21.375, 14.340
QSL – TRARC
PO BOX 1854
Dickinson, ND 58602-1854
www.trlibrary.com

HAMFESTS (all times local time):

2/21 – 8:30 AM Rapid City, SD
Black Hills ARC Hamfest & Spring Auction
Location – Not Confirmed by held there in past years
Faith Lutheran Church, 17 Indiana ST, Rapid City
<http://w0blk.com/upcomingevents.html>

2/28 – 9 AM to 1 PM
Cabin Fever Reliever
St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club
St. Cloud Armory
1710 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud, MN
Contact: wj0l@w0sv.club
<https://w0sv.club/hamfest/>
www.arrl.org/hamfests/st-cloud-amateur-radio-club-s-cabin-fever-reliever-1



Happenings In The Dakota Division

Bill Lippert (AC0W) ARRL Dakota Division Director

VE TEST SESSIONS (all times local times)

VE - South Dakota

2/8 – 2:00 PM Watertown, SD

Contact: gary_mayfield@hotmail.com

Lake Area Radio Klub

Watertown Regional Library

160 6th ST NE

Watertown, SD

www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/watertown-sd-57201-2778-15

2/21 – 9:00 AM Huron, SD;

Contact wb0ulx@arrl.net

Huron ARA

Huron City Hall

239 Wisconsin Ave SW – Use south door

Huron SD

www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/huron-sd-57350-1915-62

3/7 – 10:00 AM Hot Springs, SD; must preregister

contact k0ork@yahoo.com

Hot Springs ARC

Hot Springs Library

2005 Library Dr

Hot Springs SD



Happenings In The Dakota Division

Bill Lippert (AC0W) ARRL Dakota Division Director

VE - North Dakota

01/27 – 6:00 PM Bismarck, ND;

Contact veteam@w0zrt.com

Central Dakota ARC

Bismarck State College, Career Academy RM 230

1221 College Dr, Bismarck ND

<https://w0zrt.com/contact-us/take-an-exam/>

www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/bismarck-nd-58501-1226-12

02/24 – 6:00 PM Bismarck, ND;

Contact veteam@w0zrt.com

Central Dakota ARC

Bismarck State College, Career Academy RM 230

1221 College Dr, Bismarck ND

<https://w0zrt.com/contact-us/take-an-exam/>

www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/bismarck-nd-58501-1226-13

VE - Minnesota

2/6 – 9:00 AM; Roseville, MN; must preregister

Contact: rwbieterbaum@comcast.net

St Paul Radio Club

Galilee Lutheran Church

145 McCarrons BLVD N

Roseville, MN

www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/roseville-mn-55113-6923-36



Happenings In The Dakota Division

Bill Lippert (AC0W) ARRL Dakota Division Director

2/12 – 7:00 PM Rochester, MN

Contact: w0bm@kmtel.com

Rochester Amateur Radio Club

American Red Cross

305 Alliance PL NE

Rochester, MN

www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/rochester-mn-55906-3975-22

2/14 – 9:00 AM; Blaine, MN; must preregister

Contact n0nmz@AnokaRadio.org

Anoka County Radio Club

Blaine City Hall

10801 Town Square Dr NE, Blaine MN

<http://www.anokaradio.org/joomla/ve-testing-sidemenu>

www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/blaine-mn-55449-8100-157

2/17 – 8:30 PM ONLINE; must preregister

Contact: wx0mik@gmail.com

Mankato Area Radio Club

www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/mankato-mn-56001-9999-65

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/MARC/all?includeFull=1>

2/23 – 6:00 PM; Chanhassen, MN; must preregister

Contact: kdzerob@aol.com

Eden Prairie RC & SMARTS

Carver County Library

7711 Kerber Blvd

Chanhassen MN

<https://ham.study/sessions/KD0B>

www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/chanhassen-mn-55317-86



Happenings In The Dakota Division

Bill Lippert (AC0W) ARRL Dakota Division Director

2/28 – 10:00 AM; Saul Rapids, MN; must preregister

Contact: NOJFY@W0SV.Club

St Cloud Amateur Radio Club

1833 Eastern Star Loop

Sauk Rapids MN

www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/sauk-rapids-mn-56379-2558-1

ARRL Dakota Division

Director: Vernon E Lippert, AC0W

ac0w@arrl.org



- 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 benefits 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](#)



Wednesday Morning **RARC** Ham Radio Gathering



**YOU'RE
INVITED**



• **Wednesdays at 9:00 AM (1400 UTC)**
Rooster's (North Location) - 2280 Superior Drive NW



Parks On The Air® (POTA)

It's **Winter POTA** Time!



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.

Do you know that there is a [POTA entity in Rochester?](#)



Weekly Nets

- ♦ **Monday 8 p.m. RARC 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.
- ♦ **Wednesday 7 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 operate 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 7:00 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



Contact **RARC**

RARC meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM (except the August meeting is the Annual RARC Picnic and January is the annual holiday party) in the lower level of Rochester Fire Station #2 in the EOC at 2185 Wheelock Drive NE, Rochester, MN

- ♦ **Website:** <http://www.rarchams.org/>
- ♦ **Snail Mail:** RARC , P.O. Box 1, Rochester, MN 55903
- ♦ **Groups.io:** [Register](#) to post and receive RARC official email, notices and the Hamster
- ♦ **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

*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 this [register](#) link 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.*

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