



# THE HAMSTER



January 2026

*Official Monthly Publication of the Rochester Amateur Radio Club*



**RARC Annual Holiday Party Info On Page 4**



# 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)

## This Month In The Hamster

◆ **Table Of Contents** - page 2

◆ **The Editor Says...** - page 3

◆ **RARC** Annual Holiday Party Info - page 4

◆ **Education** - page 5

◆ **ARES & Community Service** - pages 6-9

◆ **Contest Corner** - pages 10-14

◆ **Hamster Hints** - pages 15-17

◆ **Technical Committee** - page 18

◆ **RARC August Meeting Minutes** - pages 19-21

◆ **ARRL Dakota Division** - pages 22-25

◆ **ARRL Membership Info** - page 26

◆ **RARC Wednesday Breakfast** - page 27

◆ **Winter POTA** - page 28

◆ **Local Ham Radio Nets** - page 29

◆ **RARC Contact Info** - page 30

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](http://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



# THE HAMSTER



## *The Editor Says...*

[G. Mark Kelm \(K0GMK\)](#)

RARC would like to extend our sincere thank you to **Pat Hagge (KE0WWG)** and **Dan Stroh (N0SPN)** for their two years of extraordinary service as President and Vice-President of Rochester Amateur Radio Club. Leadership is the key to success of any volunteer organization and they have completed that two year mission with distinction. Dan has provided RARC with monthly training programs that have given the membership new and provocative insights and tools to use with their hobby. Kudos gentlemen for a job well done.

Now, We want to welcome our new 2026 RARC President and Vice-President as they take the reins for 2026. Our new President is **Jared Pfaffenbach (KF0PGS)** and our new Vice-President is **Eric Kuehn (KF0RHE)**. Please extend your welcome and thank you to Jared and Eric for their commitment to continuing improvement and growth of Rochester Amateur Radio Club.

As we enter 2026, I look forward to the many activities that are available to the membership: ARES & Skywarn, Winter Field Day, storm spotting, Field Day 26, RARC training programs, 125Live, Wednesday breakfast get-together at Rooster's, Saturday breakfast at Grandma's Kitchen and much, much more. As always, club activities are announced on our web site ([rarchams.org](http://rarchams.org)), on the official email reflector (<https://groups.io/g/rarchams>) and of course our own [Hamster](#) the official publication of the Rochester Amateur Radio Club.

73 de KØGMK (G. Mark Kelm) - Editor



# RARC Training

Dan Stroh (N0SPN) - Vice-President

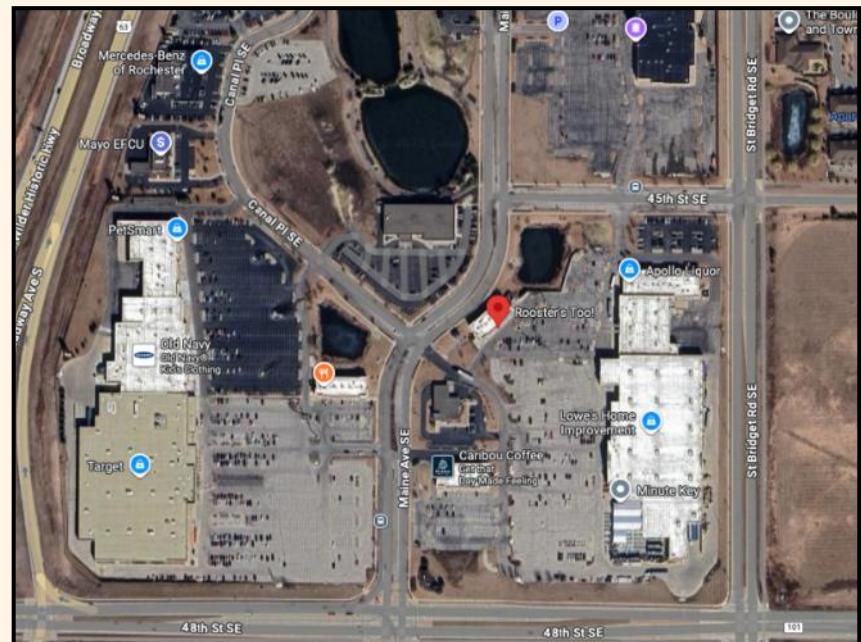
## 2026 Rochester Amateur Radio Club Annual Holiday Party

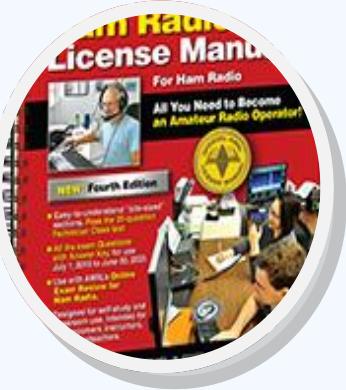
January 13th, 2026 beginning at 6:00 PM

### Rooster's Too

(In the Shops On Maine  
adjacent to Lowes)

*Reservation sign-up instructions will be sent  
via the RARC email reflector on groups.io  
watch your email*





# Education

Dave (KØVH)

*If anyone took or knows someone who took the ARRL Technician Class Dec 20-21 please provide some feedback to [dcnaatz@gmail.com](mailto:dcnaatz@gmail.com) how well you thought it was run and especially if you get your license this way. We want to INVITE YOU TO OUR CLUB meetings and other events.*

## Two upcoming events for license instruction via Zoom

**Technician license:** via Maple Grove MN radio club. They have email confirmed a new class starts in February (their web site hasn't been updated as of mid December). [https://k0ltc.org/tech\\_license\\_class/](https://k0ltc.org/tech_license_class/)

**Extra class license:** This was posted on our [groups.io](#) but relisted here: **Free** Extra Class Course on Zoom starting Thursday, January 15, 2026:

**A ~~free~~, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Extra Class Licensing course on Zoom** will begin on Thursday, January 15, 2026, and will run through Thursday, March 26. There will be 11 sessions. The three-hour sessions will start at 5:30 PM Central Time. Sessions will be recorded. Those attending should hold (or be studying for) the General Class Amateur Radio License. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Please publicize this with anyone that you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email [roland.anders@comcast.net](mailto:roland.anders@comcast.net).



# ARES

## Amateur Radio Emergency Service

### Olmsted ARES Mission Statement:

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

**ARES:** We switched things up from an ARES meeting to a fox hunt activity in December. The fox hunt was the event, but the purpose was to see how well the hunters could coordinate, to establish an effective net, to track information and work to maximize the group's overall effectiveness. The mission was a success even though the fox was not located in the 2-hour time frame. The stationary radio stations logged and coordinated the information, which was a primary function. The mobile radio stations were fair on location information but did excellent in sharing information and establishing a plan for the next fox transmission. We will conduct more of these active sessions to test what we learned in the classroom. The fox (me) was located at St Mary's park with a large water tank to the south, causing massive blockage and reflectivity and St. Mary's hospital to the west blocking any transmission in that direction. The park is elevated above 2nd Street SW, so my signal would disappear when anyone got close to my location due to the elevation. To learn the basics for future fox hunts, check out: [Fox hunting 101 - how to find a hidden radio transmitter in three easy steps #hamradio #foxhunting](#)

**Public Service:** Eric/KF0S and Steve/W0STV will be helping with net control for the John Beargrease dog sled race from Duluth to Grand Marias, Minnesota, from January 25th through the 28th. If anyone wishes to help out with trail crossings or route stops for this event contact Eric or Steve. We will be posting public service events for Olmsted and Southeast Minnesota counties as they become known for 2026.

Check out [Amateur Radio Public Service - Service Opportunities](#) for 2026 events in Minnesota

Continued On Next Page



# ARES

## Amateur Radio Emergency Service

**Olmsted ARES** was invited to participate in a 3-day tabletop event at the Rochester EOC in December. There was no need to include the AECs since this was a simulated construction fire in downtown Rochester that made ARES a minor player. It was an opportunity to meet **Olmsted and Mayo HICS** personal and the **NGO's (non-government organizations)** of Rochester and Olmsted County. **ARES is forming a MED-ARES radio strike team** of current and past employees of both Olmsted and Mayo complexes. If you have not already contacted W0STV with your contact information, and want to be a member of this team, please send an email to [w0stv@yahoo.com](mailto:w0stv@yahoo.com) with your cell number, your employment status. If you have contacts with HICS personal, include their name and phone number if known.

Check out: [2021 0814 Hospital Emergency Communications](#)



**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](mailto: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*



# ARES

## Amateur Radio Emergency Service

**Olmsted SKYWARN held a group get-together at Newts at Crossroads Center in Rochester on December 6th**

This was a social dinner as the NWS cancelled this year's SKYWARN Appreciation Day at La Crosse NWS





# Contest Corner

**Fred (K4IU)**

**Happy 2026 Contesters!** Even though Cycle 25 is showing signs of decline we should still have a year of good propagation before the higher bands like 10 and 15 meters start to snooze! January also is the month for the ARRL VHF contest held the 17-19<sup>th</sup>. This was always one of Mel, KCØP's (SK) favorites. Despite the typical harsh Minnesota winter, he would always get out with his "rovering" truck sprouting all varieties of VHF antennas. He inspired me to go out and try something new. I hope there will be some RARC hams to carry on his legacy this month.

But there's more! Here's a **quick reference table** for more January's contests:

| Contest Name                                   | Date (2026)             | Mode            | Overview  |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------|---|
| <a href="#">ARRL RTTY Roundup</a>              | Jan 3-4 (1800Z-2400Z)   | RTTY            | Amateurs worldwide contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs using only the Radioteletype (RTTY) mode on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. |
| <a href="#">North American QSO Party (CW)</a>  | Jan 10-11 (1800Z-0559Z) | CW (Morse)      | Low-power contest; multipliers per band; great for skill-building.  |
| <a href="#">North American QSO Party (SSB)</a> | Jan 17-18 (1800Z-0559Z) | SSB (Voice)     | Like CW version; friendly competition using voice.  |
| <a href="#">UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest</a>       | Jan 10-11               | Digital (PSK63) | Collect prefixes as multipliers, ideal for digital enthusiasts.   |
| <a href="#">ARRL January VHF Contest</a>       | Jan 17-19               | VHF & above     | Focus on 50 MHz+; grid-based scoring; popular for portable/rover stations.  |



# Contest Corner

I  
**had some questions setting up and using macros in N1MM+ and thought I would continue the topic for this month.**

Setting up macros (Function Keys) in N1MM Logger+ allows you to automate your CW, SSB (voice keyer), or RTTY transmissions. The software uses specific message files which end with a .mc file extension.

Let's assume that you have downloaded and installed N1MM+ following all the caveats in the user's manual regarding directories and OneDrive. [See Installing and Upgrading N1MM Logger+ – N1MM Logger Plus \(hamdocs.com\)](#)

Here is an overview to setting Macros up:

## Understanding the Macro Syntax

The sample macro (.mc) file is divided into two sections: **Run** messages and **Search & Pounce (S&P)** messages.

- **Header:** The lines before the first # or specific label are usually for Run mode with a similar one for S&P.
- **Run and S&P Section:** Look for a line that says **RUN** or **S&P** to differentiate, though N1MM often handles this by position. Standard practice is often just listing F1-F12 for Run, then the second F1-F12 for S&P. F keys 1-5 are usually standardized and keys F 6-12 customized by the user.
- **An example to the right is one I used for the 10-meter contest and is highly customized** with several additional macros found in the N1MM manual in keys F6-F12.

```
File Help
REM, This Function Key File requires N1MM Logger V12.02.00 or newer
#RUN -----, Run Messages begin here -----
F1 Qq,eq test {MYCALL} {MYCALL} test
F2 Exch, {SENTRSTCUT} {EXCH}
F3 Tu,tu {MYCALL} test
F4 {MYCALL},{MYCALL}
F5 His Call,!
F6 Repeat, {SENTRSTCUT} {EXCH} {EXCH}
F7 Empty,
F8 Agn?,agn?
F9 Nr?,nr?
F10 Call?,c1?
F11 Empty,
F12 Wipe,{WIPE}
#S&P -----, Search and Pounce Messages begin here -----
F1 Qrl?,qr1? de {MYCALL}
F2 Exch,{SENTRSTCUT} {EXCH}
F3 Tu,tu
F4 {MYCALL},{MYCALL}
F5 His Call,!
F6 Repeat,{SENTRSTCUT} {EXCH} {EXCH}
F7 Empty,
F8 Agn?,agn?
F9 Nr?,nr?
F10 Call?,c1?
F11 Empty,
F12 Wipe,{WIPE}
REM -----, Special instructions begin at end-of-file -----
REM, This file can be used in most CW contests with a simple exchange
REM, The {EXCH} macro uses the contents of the Sent Exchange box in the contest setup
REM, Designed to work in either ESM or non-ESM mode
REM, To respond to caller, CQing station sends F5 then F2, or ; or Insert, or Enter in ESM
REM, F5 uses "!" macro for his callsign
REM, In F2 & F7 {SENTRSTCUT} macro defaults to SNN or allows manual entry of signal report
REM, S&P F1 calls QRL? before placing the program in RUN mode for calling CQ

Message Colors
Comment Run S&P Help Save Cancel
```

Continued



# Contest Corner

- The **F keys** have a label for your keyboard followed by a comma. The text to the right of the **comma** is the actual command. Here are the most common macros.

## A few single-character macros: !, \*, #

**! = Send the callsign entered in the Callsign field**

**+ = Send this station's callsign**

**# = Send serial number for this QSO**

Here are additional commands, inside the curly { } brackets, you will use:

| Command     | Description  |
|-------------|--|
| {CALL}      | Sends the callsign currently in the Entry Window.    |
| {MYCALL}    | Sends your callsign (setup in Station Data).         |
| {SENTRST}   | Sends the signal report (e.g., 599).                 |
| {EXCH}      | Sends the contest exchange (Zone, State, Serial #).  |
| {CLEARTEXT} | Clears the text from the entry window after sending. |
| {LOG}       | Logs the contact.                                    |
| {WIPE}      | Clears the entry window without logging.             |

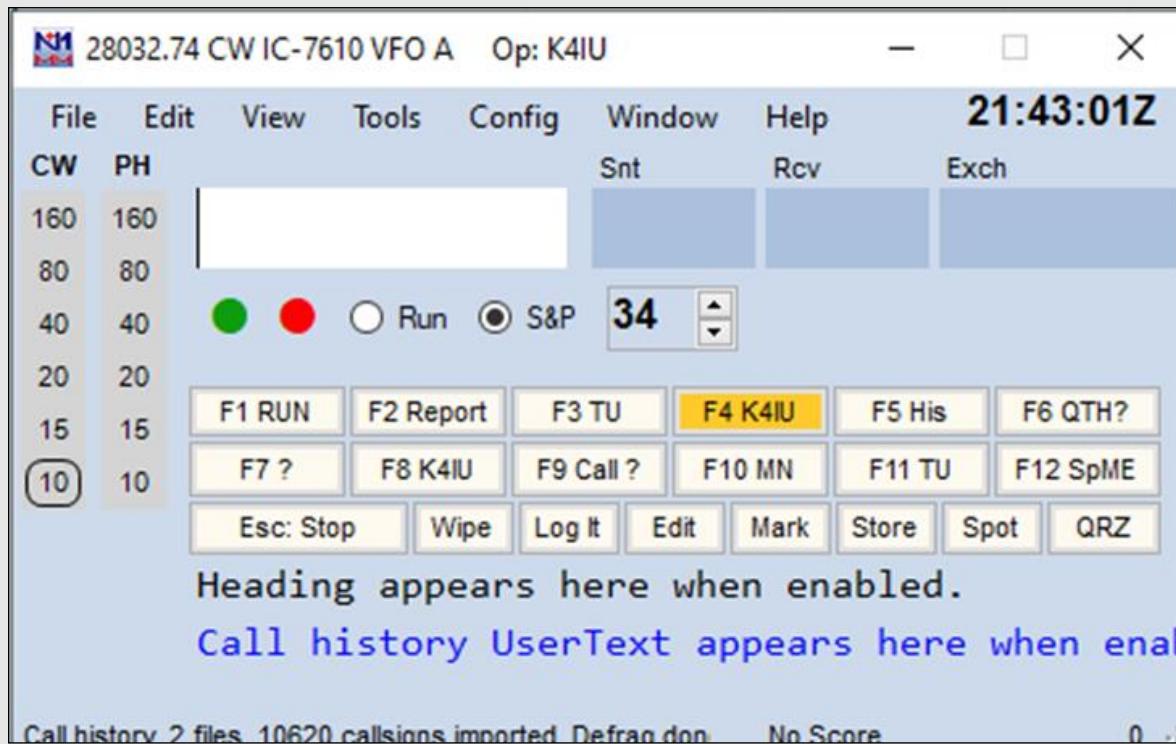
```
CW Message Editor - File C:\Users\van\Documents\N1MM Logger\FunctionKeyMessages\CW Default Messages.mc
File Help
#REM ------, Radio Messages begin here -----
#REM ------, Search and Pounce Messages begin here -----
F1 Qrce test {MYCALL} {MYCALL} test
F2 Ls, {SENTRSTCUT} {EXCH}
F3 Tu,tu {MYCALL} test
F4 {MYCALL},{MYCALL}
F5 His Call,!
F6 Repeat, {SENTRSTCUT} {EXCH} {EXCH}
F7 Empty,
F8 Sgn? ,sgn?
F9 Nr?,nr?
F10 Call1,,c12
F11 Empty,
F12 Wipe,{WIPE}
#S80 ------, Special Instructions begin at end-of-file -----
#REM ------, This file can be used in most CW contests with a simple exchange
#REM ------, The {EXCH} macro uses the contents of the Sent Exchange box in the contest setup
#REM ------, Press F10 to switch between ESP and non-ESP mode
#REM ------, To respond to callers, CQing station sends F5 then F2, or ; or Insert, or Enter in ESP
#REM ------, F5 uses "!" macro for his callsign
#REM ------, In F2 & F7 {SENTRSTCUT} macro defaults to SHN or allows manual entry of signal report
#REM ------, S&P F1 calls QRL7 before placing the program in RUN mode for calling CQ
Message Colors Comment Run S&P Help Save Cancel
```

```
CW Message Editor - File C:\Users\Buck\Documents\N1MM+ FunctionKeyMessages\CW - ARRL 10mc
File Help
F1 RUD CQ,ng <<<test>>>
F2 Report,Smn,mn
F3 TU K4IU,tu + {LOG}
F4 K4IU,K4IU
F5 His Call,!
F6 QM7,qrh?
F7 T,,
F8 K4IU,K4IU
F9 Call1,,c12
F10 His,,
F11 TU,<<<tu>>>{CHNAME} {MYCALL}
F12 Spne ,{Spotne}
F1 SAMP CQ,* test
F2 SAMP,*,Smn,mn,{LOG}
F3 TU,,tu
F4 K4IU,K4IU
F5 His,call,!
F6 QM7,qrh?
F7 T,,,
F8 K4IU,K4IU
F9 Call1,,c12
F10 His,,
F11 TU,<<<tu>>>{CHNAME} {MYCALL}
F12 K-4-I-0,, k-b-l-u
Message Colors Comment Run S&P Cancel Save
```



# Contest Corner

Once the commands from the text editor are imported into N1MM+ using the previous sample file above the logging window and F Keys will look like this:



**You can Import and Assign a Different/unique Function Key (.MC) file to different contests.** It is imported from the Associated Files tab after the specific contest and your operating info is entered.

**Step 1:** From the Specific Contest enter your variables from the drop downs

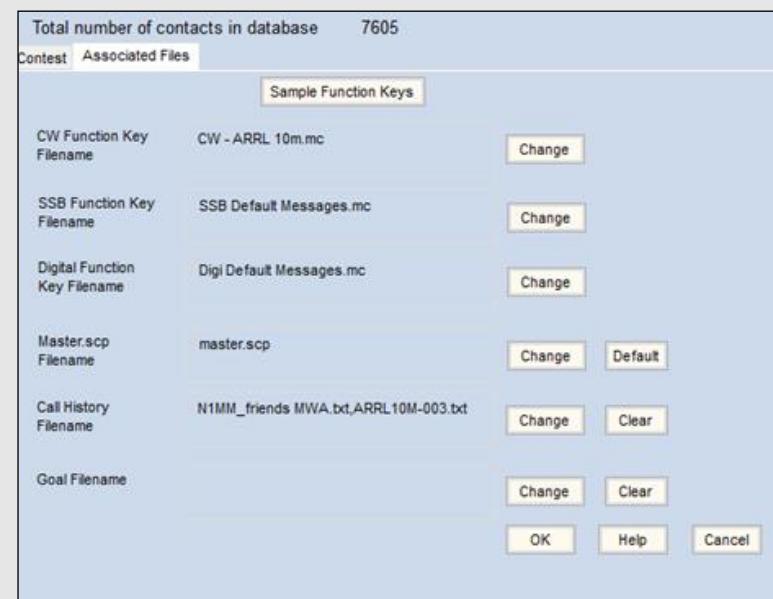
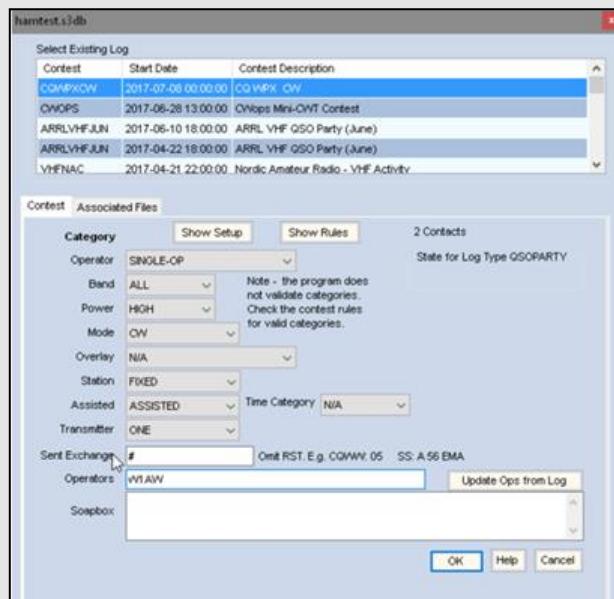
**Step 2:** Click the associated Files tab and import the mode specific .mc file



# Contest Corner

The **master.scp** file is a list of callsigns used by active contesters.

The **call history file** can be used to pre-fill the exchange during a contest to save typing and comes from a number of sources. Both can be imported as additional resources.



There's a lot to unpack here. If I've got you a little curious then jump into the searchable and excellent users guide for the specific details. There is a [groups.io](https://groups.io) with an extensive archive and lots of experts. Or send me your questions and I'll try to help.

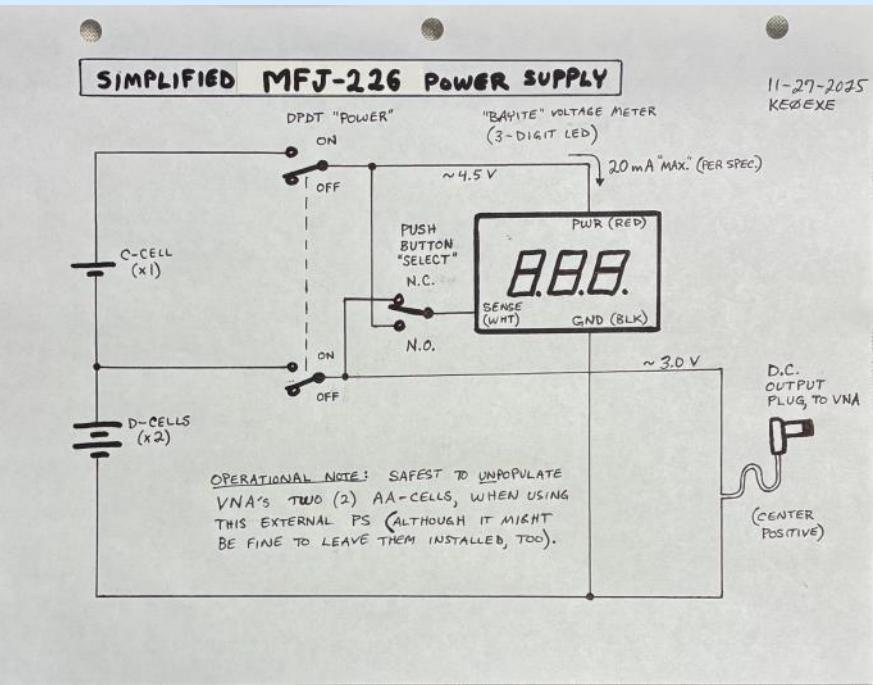


# Hamster Hints

Bob (KE0EXE)

**The following describes an external, battery-powered supply, that I recently built, to extend the run-time of my antenna analyzer.** This PS could be used to power a wide variety of portable instruments which normally operate from a pair of the ubiquitous, "double-A" (AA) battery-cells. In my case, my very useful MFJ-226 eats-up AA cells quickly, which is its one, major drawback. I decided to solve that problem, once and for all...

**Before getting into the design**, a few more comments are in order. I had briefly considered making a "wall-wart" power supply, instead, but quickly dismissed this idea for its lack of portability. That was a good decision, for another reason, too. After experimenting with a long cable-length (4 feet), on a battery-powered supply, I found that it *did* affect the frequency response of the analyzer *a little bit*. I attributed that to the added capacitive loading of the analyzer's "ground" or reference-node. While the response-deviation was not great, I naturally decided that "shortest is best." After all, the model 226, does work up to about 230 MHz, which is in the VHF range. The shorter power cable (about 6 inches) meant bundling the battery pack with the analyzer, rather than carrying the external batteries, say, on a shoulder-strap, with a longer cable going to the analyzer to give it the necessary freedom-of-movement for practical usage. (Incidentally, I did not worry too much about keeping the internal wires as short as possible, mainly to preserve the ability to reuse components if I ever dismantle the unit. Any adverse effect on the response, here, is not significant.)



Schematic diagram of external battery for graphical impedance analyzer.



# Hamster Hints

Bob (KE0EXE)

**Since I had already decided to use two, alkaline D-cells in the PS**, it all weighs a fair amount, when bundled, but this is a small price to pay for the extended run-time. I chose to use alkaline cells, to stay as close-as-possible to the designed supply voltage of the analyzer, *and, mainly*, to preserve ease-of-replacement and simplicity. (I was not interested in a complicated, "chargeable-cells" solution, as for instance, would have been the practical case if using lithium-ion or NiMH cells.) I had already found a right-sized, clear, acrylic project-box, but I did need to order a few other parts, namely the two black-plastic cell-holders, the digital voltage display, and some nut-and-bolt kits. Otherwise, everything came from my used-parts reserves.

**I could say much more about why I chose to design the PS in the particular way I did**, but I'll suffice to say I wanted an indication of how much energy my batteries had left, and I wanted this "indicator" to be small and fairly accurate. These requirements drove adding the additional C-cell, for metering head-room and battery longevity. (BTW, according the display's specification, it uses only 20mA, steady-state, which is a relatively small increase in the total load on the batteries. My analyzer uses on the order of 250mA, when in its "processing" mode.)



**For ease-of-service, everything is mounted on one side of the clam-shell**

**- Continued on next page -**



# Hamster Hints

Bob (KE0EXE)

**Except for one poor machining decision** (countersinking a hole in the acrylic, too close to the display so that the display's light is diffracted in an undesirable way), I am pleased with the design and build. Accuracy of the analyzer is still very high, too. Now I can focus more on my antennas, instead of on the "freshness" of my analyzer's batteries!



Complete bundle, showing diffraction-effect of machining error (lower-left of '2'.

# RARC TECH COMMITTEE

Eric - KF0S

## Technical Committee Meeting - 12/8/25

**Attendees:** Pat H. (KE0WWG), George H. (N0UM), Jared P. (KF0PGS) Eric K. (KF0RHE), Dave N. (K0VH), Steve W. (W0STV)

- **Mayo**

- o D-Star Gateway server - Pat needs to schedule time w/ Darrell to get up there and place the hardware with new software
- o Fusion repeater - there was an issue with the repeater on 11/16 where it acted as if digital was "keyed down" - Pat remoted in and was able to fix that instance by restarting the Wires-X software. Pat will look into the config to make sure some periodic app and computer restarts are put into place to prevent this.

- o **125Live**

- o The antenna installation was reviewed and deemed ok, but suspected too much metal around it is causing the SWR problems. Will look to relocate to another area on the roof in the Spring.

- o **82 Repeater**

- o This was reporting 0 degrees (among other values) for temperature, which was inaccurate. Pat will talk to Eric Van Norman to get a hold of John Scott to investigate.



# RARC MEETING MINUTES

**Collin (AA0CN) - RARC Secretary**

## Meeting Minutes, December 2025

**Elections:** Slate Passes!

**Member-At-Large:** Steve W0STV

**Treasurer:** George N0MGY

**Secretary:** Collin AA0CN

**VP:** Eric KF0RHE

**President:** Jared KF0PGS

Club President of John Marshall Radio Club: Raffle for Radio + entries to JMHS drawing! Contact Melissa AA03ME

**Presentation:** Dan N0SPN on 10M contesting!

Contest starts 0000Z Sat (6PM Friday Central time – 5:59pm Sunday), 48 Hours, max of 36 hours of operation.

Both Sideband and CW contacts count! (2pts vs 4pts each respectively)

**K0VH comments:** CW is fast (30WPM) and numbers for DX stations are sequential (listen for sequence). [contests.arrl.org/contests.php](http://contests.arrl.org/contests.php) Lots of certificates to win!

**RTTY 1st weekend in January.**

**PSK contest in the spring.**

**FT8 contest is early June.**

**K4IU Comments:** Logging handout, lots of info and sample log! ARRL has cabrillo generator online. Multinational multipliers in addition to DX.

**Business meeting:**

Meetings and Food – Check Calendar and Hamster! Also for Nets, Etc.

Facebook group message to RARC: Radio Tower at 402 12th Ave NW Kasson MN, they want taken down ; Lightweight square-back, perhaps medium duty. Contact AA0CN for info (via relay)



# RARC MEETING MINUTES

**Collin (AA0CN) - RARC Secretary**

**NZOS:** John Beargrease sled dog race looking for radio operators January 25th-28th 2026.

**Secretary report:** Minutes from last month present and approved.

**Treasurer's report:**

Checking:

Opening Balance: \$1,100.62

Credits:

Dues: \$70.00

PayPal Dues: \$160.00

Equipment Sold:

Raffle: \$22.00

Donation:

Misc.: Transfer from savings \$1,000.00

Debits:

RPU \$42.22

Meeting Food 3 months \$64.93

PayPal Charges \$5.65

Field Day:

Picnic

Equipment

Tower Lease

Insurance Equipment \$328.72

Web domain

Postage

Misc. SK estate sold equipment split \$400.00

Total: \$1,511.10

Savings:

Opening Balance \$9,828.20

Credits:

Interest: \$0.35

Transfer to Checking -\$1,000.00



# RARC MEETING MINUTES

**Collin (AA0CN) - RARC Secretary**

Closing Balance: \$8,828.55

Total: \$10,339.65

CD Matures January 2026 \$4,000.00

CD Matures January 2026 \$4,705.29

**Technical Committee Meeting:**

- DSTAR repeater update in progress
- Fusion repeater stuck on Digital – Restarted and issue resolved itself.
- 125Live antenna to be moved to the West in open air, hope for long-term fix to issues. No 125Live meeting this month (December). Need some rotators for that club for leadership. 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2:00PM. Considering moving meeting time. Need to be Social member.
- 82 repeater is reporting 0F temperature. Battery replaced, needs to be reprogrammed. John is working on it (needs calibrated)

**Contesting:** In Hamster, notes here above.

**Education:** Maple Grove Technician class is starting in January

**John Marshal Radio Club is looking for help 3:30pm – 5PM Wednesdays, looking for help!**

**Public Service:** None

**ARES:** Contesting ongoing, moving Foxhunt out to the 21st (Sunday, a week later, 1PM-3PM) Foxhunt activity.

**Winter Field Day:** Last weekend in January. 710s in trailer.

**Christmas Party next month (January the 13th) at Roosters Two (South by Lowes) at 6:00PM**

Meeting Adjourned 8:07PM



## Happenings In The Dakota Division

**Bill Lippert (AC0W) ARRL Dakota Division Director**

Sorry for taking so long since the last newsletter. With contest season and the holiday season upon us things have been a little busy, which includes getting ready for some travels. Cindy and I are currently visiting our son and his family in Poland to celebrate an early Christmas with them. Prior to stopping in Poland, we visit an individual we hosted as an exchange student years ago at her home Belgium.

This traveling reminds me that ham radio provides each of us an opportunity to connect with others around the world. To learn a little about lives of hams elsewhere, what is different about their lives from ours while also learning about the things we have in common. We learn some of the challenges they face and their solutions. Some of things I see are things we will be facing some day.

Ham radio also provides us with the opportunity to learn from each other as we each deal with the technical changes of the hobby. I could list many of the things that hams share and help each other. Hams also help and give back to their communities by helping with Skywarn, parades and many other other events

A good place to help with your community is your local radio club. For help in finding a club go to the ARRL website to use the club finder, <http://www.arrl.org/clubs/search> , For those in clubs check to make sure your club's information is current and accurate. If there are errors, the first place to contact is the club. If you need additional help, contact the ARRL Club Coordinator for your state followed by your Section Manager. I can also assist when needed.



## Happenings In The Dakota Division

**Bill Lippert (AC0W) ARRL Dakota Division Director**

I started by mentioning contests so I'll close with a contest. This coming weekend is the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. This is a band all hams have privileges on. It also is easy band to get on with a simple antenna that can work the world, such as a dipole. We are near the sunspot peak so conditions are still good on 10 meters. This translates into that it doesn't take much to work people all over the world. Take a little time this weekend to participate and work a few stations including DX. Details of the contest can be found at [www.arrl.org/10-meter](http://www.arrl.org/10-meter) .

With that hope you have a good week and get on the ARRL 10 Meter Contest this next weekend.

73

Bill Lippert AC0W  
ARRL Director  
Dakota Division

[ac0w@arrl.org](mailto:ac0w@arrl.org)

Division elected leaders:

Director Bill Lippert, AC0W [ac0w@arrl.org](mailto:ac0w@arrl.org)  
Vice Director Lynn Nelson, W0ND [w0nd@arrl.org](mailto:w0nd@arrl.org)

MN Section Manager Bill Mitchell, AE0EE [ae0ee@arrl.org](mailto:ae0ee@arrl.org)  
ND Section Manager Ralph Fettig, N0RDF [fettigrd@gmail.com](mailto:fettigrd@gmail.com)  
SD Section Manager Chris Stallkamp, KI0D [ki0d@arrl.org](mailto:ki0d@arrl.org)



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## **ARRL Foundation Scholarship Applications Open**

For those attending college or other post-secondary education don't forget to apply for an ARRL Foundation Scholarship. If you know a ham looking to go to college next year, let them know also. There are over 170 different scholarships available with one application. Applications are accepted through December 30. Go to [www.arrl.org/scholarship-program](http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program) for more information.

## **HOA Bills**

While the most common area hams face antenna restrictions are H-O-A's there are many other locations that hams face restrictions these bills apply to. If you face land use restrictions that prevent you from installing an amateur radio antenna these bills will help you. Get on board to help get these passed by sending your own letter at <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/> , scroll down to How Do I Send My Letters section. Enter your call sign, wait for your data to be populated, verify, click on the Send My Letters red button. Now you've just created 3 letters, one for your house representative and two for your senators. The process takes less than a minute.

If you are a GMRS user you can send another letter under your GMRS license. Go to the same website.

Finally, clubs can get involved, one is to send letters from a club. The other is to get your members to send their individual letters. For clubs click on the for Radio Clubs link near the top on this page [www.arrl.org/current-legislation](http://www.arrl.org/current-legislation).



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I know it's easy to say you'll do this later and then forget. Just do it now, the individual letters take less than 1 minute to complete.

## **VE TEST SESSIONS (all times local times)**

01/27 – 6:00 PM Bismarck, ND;  
Contact [veteam@w0zrt.com](mailto: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](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/bismarck-nd-58501-1226-12)



- 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](#)?

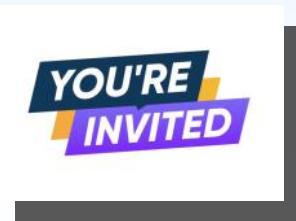
**RARC has been an [ARRL](#) affiliated club for the past 50+ years. RARC wants all members to know about the benefits of being a member of the ARRL and how the [ARRL](#) promotes amateur radio and represents and supports Hams throughout the year.**

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



• **Wednesdays at 9:00 AM (1400 Zulu)**

**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 7:30 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



## 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](mailto:gmkelm@charter.net)