

July 2026



# THE HAMSTER



Official Monthly Publication Of The *Rochester (MN) Amateur Radio Club*



***RARC/ARES***  
***Field Day Photo Pages In This Issue!***



# THE HAMSTER

## 2026 Rochester Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: [Jared Pfaffenbach](#) - KEØPGS  
Vice President: [Nicole Jacobitz](#) - KCØPRG  
Treasurer: [George Hopkins](#) - NØUM  
Secretary: [Collin Howe](#) - AAØCN  
Member At Large: [Steve Wiebke](#) - WØSTV  
Trustee: [Steve Wiebke](#) - WØSTV

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](#) (KØGMK) - Editor

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# THE HAMSTER

## *RARC President's Message*

[Jared Pfaffenbach](#) - KFØPGS - President

**Greetings from the President's desk (aka an old kitchen table in the garage).** I hope everyone's summer is off to a great start. Enjoy it while it lasts because it'll be over before you know it.

**I would like to thank everyone who participated in Field Day this year.** I have to say it was a great success. Set up and tear went about as smooth as it could have been. The operating stations were busy all day and we even got some new potential hams behind the mic making contacts. The location was great and we may be looking to be there again next year.

**We had some notable visitors as well: Bill Mitchell - AEØEE, MN ARRL Section Manager** came out to check out the site and visit Saturday afternoon, **Olmsted County Sheriff Kevin Torgerson** stopped by Sunday morning to chit chat with us as we were waiting for the storm to blow through and followed by **Rochester Mayor Kim Norton, who read the proclamation declaring Amateur Radio week in Rochester.** KTTC-TV arrived just in time before we were all packed up to do a story on Field Day for their news broadcast and website.

**Special thanks goes to Eric (KFØRHE)** for showing up early and tending all day to some smoked pork butt. It was delicious! **And also to George (NØUM)** for his seemingly bottomless trunk of supplies and tools and for lining up much of the publicity for the event. There are many more people to thank and many more stories to be told, but I should probably save room for the rest of the newsletter! To put it simply, if you missed this year, you missed out!

Anyhow, I hope to see you all at the next club meeting (7/14, 6:30PM, Fire Station #2) and keep those repeaters and airwaves busy!

73 to all,  
Jared Pfaffenbach (KFØPGS)

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## RARC Training

# Field Day Wrap-up & Crossbanding

by Vince Taplin (KFØSNN)

July 14th

**Training** presentation begins at 6:30 PM in the Rochester EOC at 2105  
Wheelock Drive NE in the lower level of Rochester Fire Station # 2  
The RARC monthly club meeting follows

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## July RARC Meeting ZOOM Login Information



Below is the ZOOM login information for the 07/14/2026 6:30 PM CDT RARC Meeting

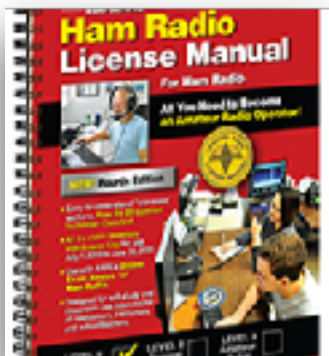
Join Zoom Meeting (click on the link below):

<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: #####



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# Education

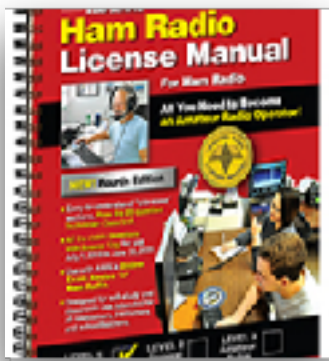
Dave - KØVH

First, I want to THANK all of you who recently got a new ham radio license or upgrade and provided me with excellent comments on the types of education used. Here is the question I posed: **What did you do to study and pass the FCC test?** Here is a summary of notes received:

- Used a few Maple Grove Zoom classes for Tech, Ham Radio Study for general and extra.
- Technician and General online via WM7X, it's a nationwide online testing service over Zoom, requiring 2 devices. For Technician and General used the ARRL practice test, and used KB6NU's No Nonsense study guides for Technician and General.
- Used HamRadioTestPrep phone app (very useful "on the go"). Have ARRL Tech and General license manuals for more depth when needed. [there are a LOT of phone apps out there! Ham radio prep, Ham radio Exam prep 2026, Ham Radio Exam .... ]
- ARRL books plus [Hamstudy.org](https://hamstudy.org) (Phone app, \$4). Two hams used HamStudy.
- <https://hamradioprep.com/> has videos, practice tests and can cover all levels of licensing.
- KN6NU's guide (free on Kindle or as a PDF) plus Maple Grove Zoom. For Extra used Zoom class from the Ham Club at the National Electronics Museum in Baltimore. This is an 11 week zoom session attended by hundreds across the US. [https://www.k3nem.org/?page\\_id=12](https://www.k3nem.org/?page_id=12) Note there are Tech and General classes in the fall, and Extra in the winter.

For those already licensed and wanting to upgrade this is a good start for more education in 2026-27. You have until July 2027 to use the current General question pool. Using the Monday night elmers 2m net can help along with discussions at social events and meetings (including ARES & 125 Live sessions).

The challenge remains when someone not connected with ham radio friends or related hobbies like GMRS wants to get a license. I did a Google search: how do I get a ham radio license in Rochester MN? (Note: If you change "ham" to "amateur," you get a slightly different answer, another answer using MS Edge and Bing.)



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# Education

Dave - KØVH

Getting your ham radio license in Rochester is a straightforward 3-step process: study for the entry-level Technician exam, take the test with local Volunteer Examiners, and pay your FCC license fee.

### **Step 1: Study for the Exam**

Prepare for the 35-question Technician exam using online platforms like [HamStudy.org](https://www.hamstudy.org) or the [ARRL Licensing, Education & Training](https://www.arrl.org) portal.

### **Step 2: Get an FRN**

Before taking your exam, you must register on the FCC CORES website to obtain an FCC Registration Number (FRN).

### **Step 3: Take the Test Locally**

Locally, exams are regularly hosted by the [Rochester Amateur Radio Club](https://www.rachamradio.org). You can find exact dates, register, and locate walk-in sessions in the area using the ARRL Exam. So at least it mentions HamStudy and Rochester Amateur Radio Club. No matter what when you get your license GET ON THE AIR 73

**Dave Naatz** KØVH Rochester, Minnesota

# Contest Corner

Fred - K4IU



**Field Day is in the books!** From all reports it was a success and everyone had fun. We hit the [solstice](#) last month with the sun at its most northern point. Many in the local area enjoyed some outstanding openings on 6 meters. Good HF conditions should continue through July. There are a variety of contests to enjoy even with all the summer activities we're looking forward to.

**July 1<sup>st</sup>** [RAC Canada Day Contest](#): This is a good old QSO party with our neighbors to the north which commemorates Canada's Birthday on Confederation Day (July 1).

**July 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>** [CQ World Wide CW/SSB VHF Contest](#) – Here's an opportunity for fun over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This major VHF contest attracts participants operating on the 6-meter and 2-meter bands.

**July 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>:** [IARU HF World Championship](#) - This is one of the biggest and most prestigious international amateur radio contests and you can operate both SSB and CW on 160-10 meters. It is organized by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and lasts 24 hours giving you time to still enjoy the weekend with your family. You can expect the bands to be hopping.

**July 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>:** [North American QSO Party](#) (NAQP) RTTY – If your station can do RTTY you'll find this to be a little different contest than some of typical SSB/CW events.

**July 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>:** [RSGB IOTA Contest](#) - The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) organizes this popular Islands On The Air (IOTA) contest. Hams will be traveling to islands near and far, and putting them on the air, making contacts with other islands and with those who are chasing islands. This event is very similar to a POTA outing lasting 24 hours.





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It's a busy month so check the [WA7BNM calendar](#) website for more July events.

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If Field Day was your first experience with contesting, you might have heard some unfamiliar jargon tossed around. Here's a short list of some common contest talk:

<b>Slang Term</b>	<b>Meaning/Use</b>
<b>Running</b>	Operating one one frequency and calling "CQ Contest" repeatedly to attract callers - the opposite of "Search and Pounce".
<b>Search &amp; Pounce</b>	Tuning across the band to find stations calling CQ and working them one by one.
<b>Rate</b>	The number of contacts per hour - bragging rights for high-speed operators.
<b>Multiplier</b>	A contact that boosts your score based on unique entities (states, countries or prefixes).
<b>Busted Call</b>	When a callsign is logged incorrectly - dreaded by contesters and log checkers alike.

73

Fred K4IU@me.com



# Hamster Hints

Bob - KEØEXE

**This last month, I set about to improve my long-wire antennas.** My highest (and longest) EFRW (end-fed random-wire) runs from near the tops of my tall Spruce tree, in the SW Front, to an Ash tree, on the east side of my lot. Keeping the middle of the antenna from sagging has been a problem, because there is extra length in the para-cord lines holding the antenna, to give the trees leeway to sway in the wind. In June, I solved that problem, using a counterweight system.

The counter weight I chose, for the Ash-tree end, was one I had made several years ago, using some left-over cement. It weighs perhaps 4 lbs. When I made it, I had placed reinforcing loops of steel wire inside this cylinder-shaped weight and also had inserted a bolt (with a bracket) into the wet cement, on one end. This year, I found the weight in a storage box, then brushed on two coats of exterior, high-gloss polyurethane, to make it smoother and to protect the concrete from the weather.

Once dry, I tied the lower end of the Ash-tree para-cord to the bracket. From here, the cord goes up, vertically, into the tree, where an anchored pulley sends it horizontally over to the insulator which holds up the "open" end of the



**Counterweight, attached to end of para-cord (before attaching PVC pipe to fence)**



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random-length wire. The other end of the antenna drops down from a similar insulator, cord, and pulley system (in an inverted-L configuration), which is attached to the Spruce tree, 100 feet away. (I could not measure this directly, as the house was in the way, so I made three other, easier measurements, then applied the Law of Cosines).

To prevent the counterweight from swinging like a pendulum in the wind, I cut a piece of 2"-diameter PVC pipe, 61 inches long, and attached it vertically to a fence by the Ash tree, using two U-straps. The pipe is long enough to contain the weight's movement, as the tree-tops move an equal amount, relative to each other.

The system works well, but probably needs a heavier counterweight. I can pull the current weight down to the bottom of the pipe. From there, it rises a little bit, with the first light breeze. Upon checking it later, I always find it up near the middle or top of the pipe. So far, it has not come out the top! The weight is not heavy enough to allow it to overcome the friction in the pulley and the line, to return itself to the bottom of the pipe. This is okay, though, since I can just pull it down each time before I operate, when I want maximum antenna height.



**PVC pipe attached to fence, below the Ash tree's canopy (replacement sapling on right). The weight is inside the pipe.**



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I also built and implemented an oak "ParaKeeper" stick to take up the extra length in the line, above the counterweight (see pictures). The line is held to the stick with a couple of zip-ties, but this restraint system should be improved, for speed and ease-of-use.



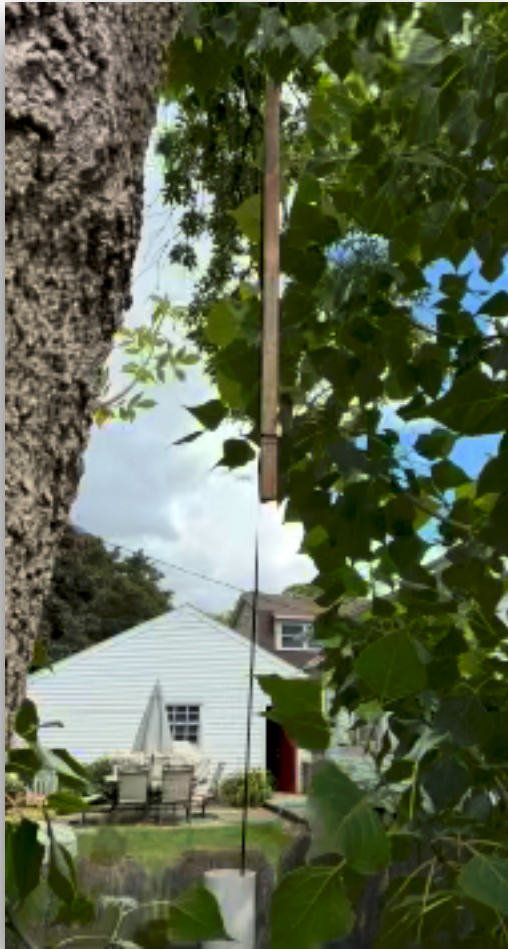
**Empty "ParaKeeper" stick, on its back. (Maple dowels were glued into a 3-foot oak "1x1", then whole assembly was given two coats of thick, glossy polyurethane, for weather protection.)**



**"ParaKeeper," on its side.**



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**"ParaKeeper" with its full wraps of para-cord (implemented).**



**Hard-to-see "ParaKeeper" hanging from Ash tree and hidden by nearby sapling.**

I do need to solve the problem of high winds causing the counterweight to exit the pipe and swing freely; perhaps I will tie-on an additional, short safety-cord to restrain it somewhat more.

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# Rochester Mayor Kim Norton Proclaims The Week Of June 21st 2026 Amateur Radio Week



Rochester, MN, Mayor Kim Norton



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# **RARC/ARES Field Day 2026**

## **Olmsted County Emergency Operations Center**

Photos Courtesy Of AIØM & KØGMK

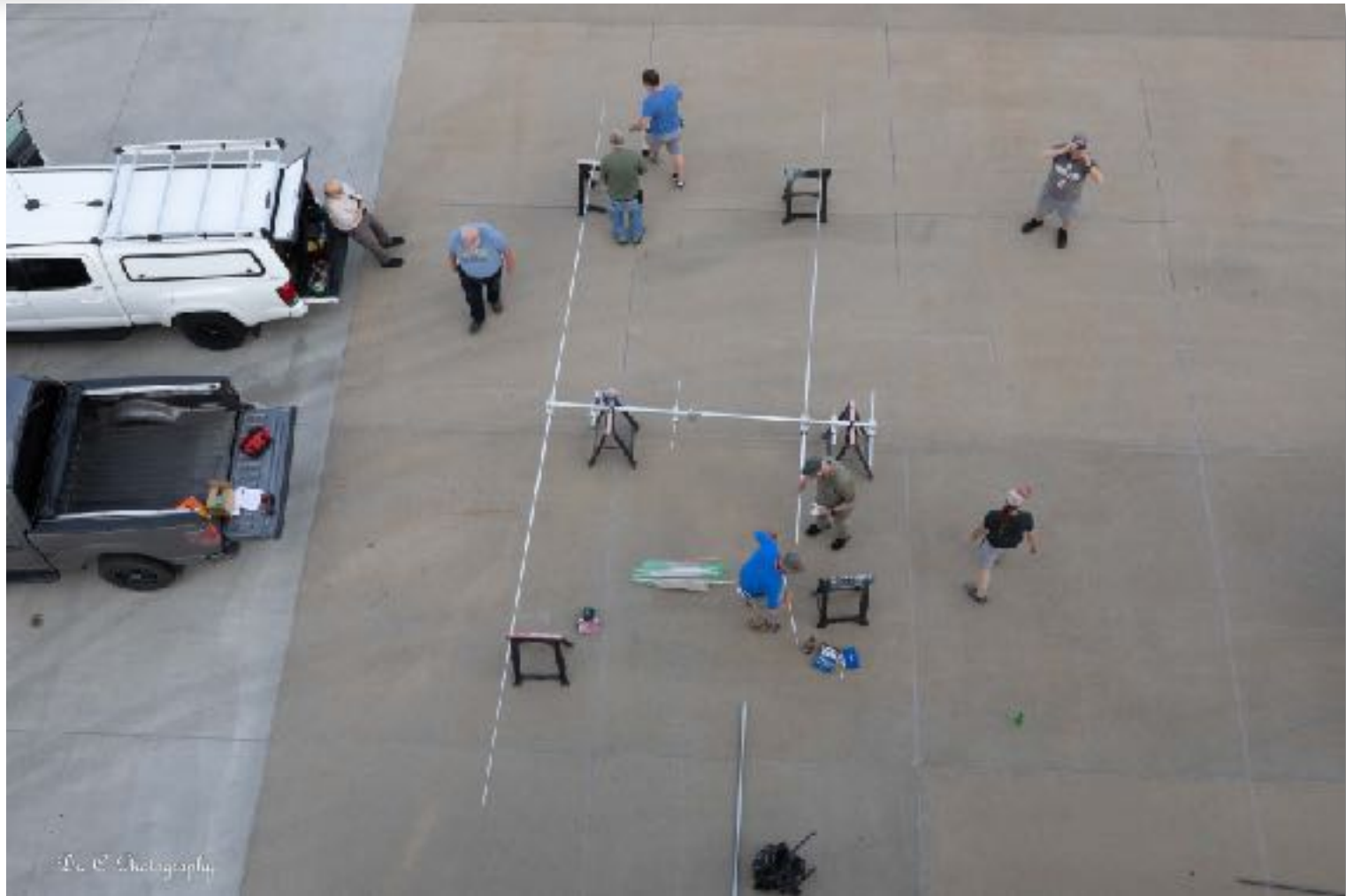


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# **RARC/ARES Field Day 2026**

## **Olmsted County Emergency Operations Center**



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# RARC/ARES Field Day 2026

## Olmsted County Emergency Operations Center



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# **RARC/ARES Field Day 2026**

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# **RARC/ARES Field Day 2026**

## **Olmsted County Emergency Operations Center**



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# RARC/ARES Field Day 2026

## Olmsted County Emergency Operations Center



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# **RARC/ARES Field Day 2026**

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# **RARC/ARES Field Day 2026**

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# **RARC/ARES Field Day 2026**

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# **RARC/ARES Field Day 2026**

## **Olmsted County Emergency Operations Center**



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# RARC/ARES Field Day 2026

## Olmsted County Emergency Operations Center



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# **RARC/ARES Field Day 2026**

## **Olmsted County Emergency Operations Center**



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## RARC TECH COMMITTEE

Eric - KFØS

### Tech Committee - 6/8/26

**Attendees:** Eric (KFØS), George (NØUM), Steve (WØSTV), Nicole (KCØPRG), Taylor (WBØRSJ), Jared (KFØPGS)

- **82 Repeater**
  - Continuing to monitor hum/noise issue.
  - 100 Hz tone on repeater output is sometimes not opening receiver squelch. Pat noted that one radio in his vehicle may open, but another may not.
    - Is this tone passed through? If that's the case, then it would be the tone from the original transmission. Good enough to open repeater but not enough for the receiving receiver.
  - Old 7/8" heliax from last repair. John has it and needs to determine where it is going by mid-July.
    - Sell it? Cash out at Watson Recycling. Take along Jared and his electrician's license.
- **Mayo**
  - Fusion
    - Fusion switch needs to be master reset during next visit.
  - Pat is working on remote access documentation.
- **Get club license in order:** new trustee and new club FRN (current FRN is the current trustee's personal FRN which is not desired).
  - Instructions noted earlier.
  - Eric and a board member, TBD, will work on getting this done.
- **Site check**
  - Drop off new license copies/Who to call once done.
  - Inventory while onsite.
- **Discussion about several instances of a mic being held open continuing from last month.**
  - Possibly set a transmit timer on your radio.
  - Recent happenings with kids in the background. One instance was ~2:30 in the afternoon.



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# RARC MEETING MINUTES

Collin - AAØCN

## Meeting Minutes, June 2026

**Program:** N1MM introduction and Field Day discussions

**Drawing First:** \$28, Frisbee, Battery Charger, Bag.

**Nets/Events:**

**ARES Nets** Sundays 9pm, rotating 147.255 (odd days) /146.820 (even days)

**Monday:** Elmers Net 8pm 820/255 repeater

**Tuesday:** 28.325USB 10m Net 7PM

**Tuesday:** Hobby Net 8pm 255 repeater

**Wednesday:** Southeast MN Digital Net

**Thursday:** HF MN ARES Net 3583.5 USB Digital Olivia 8/500 8PM

**Saturday** 10AM IBM HF Net

**Complete List in the Hamster!**

**Events:**

Meeting nights: Tuesdays 5pm Whistle Binkies North pre-meeting social hour

Saturday Morning 6:30AM Grandma's Kitchen breakfast

Wednesday Coffee Chat Roosters North 9AM

John Marshal Club – Off for summer

125Live Tuesdays 3rd Tuesday 2PM Communications Club

**Field Day:** June 27th 28th 50thSt SE Law Enforcement Training Center Fire Tower

**Secretary's Report** AAØCN Collin: So posted, accepted.

**VP Report** Nicole KCØPRG: Upcoming presentations on Field Day, Surface Mount Soldering, and others!

**Treasurer's Report** George NØUM: Received and approved and redacted.

**Tech Committee** Eric KFØS:

See report in this Hamster

**JM School Club:** Schools out!

**Contests:** Field Day upcoming, VHØ/UHF Contest this weekend (Exchange just callsign/Grid square)

**Education** Dave KØVH: All data on license acquiring in the Hamster, available in email or on website, and [Groups.io](https://groups.io)

**ARES/Public Service:**

Ares not meeting this weekend: Will be on the 20th at 9AM Saturday. Working Field Day EMCOMM text messaging,



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## RARC MEETING MINUTES

Collin - AAØCN

section EC, digital communications. New training programs as well. Encourage folks to get on [Groups.io](https://groups.io), upcoming events (Ride the Ridges, Trinona, Rushford->Houston for water stops by RARC ARES).

SKYWARN: Brent Knapp and Eric KFOS, plan activities tomorrow 6/10 monitor the 255 repeater, over 50% possibility of severe weather.

**Business:** Field Day is pretty well covered. If you think you might need it, bring it.  
Food? Plan your own.

**Picnic:** Foster Arends likely the best location. It is booked. 6PM August 11th Potluck, bring your own beverage. Club has plates/napkins, burgers/brats.

**This weekend is Twin City FM Club's Plymouth SwapFest**

**Treasurer:** Security risk and no need to publish financials, Treasurers Report to be omitted from public notes in the future.

**Meeting adjourned 8:50PM**

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## Happenings In The Dakota Division

Bill Lippert - ACØW - ARRL Dakota Division Director

**(6/18/2026)**

### **FIELD DAY**

Field Day is a week away. Time to get your Field Day site on the ARRL Field Day Locator [www.arrl.org/field-day-locator](http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator) . Your section managers, Vice Director and Director will be finalizing their site visits this weekend, To assist use in our planning, time to get your site on the Locator.

Proclamation requests, the South Dakota Governor's office let us know, they will not be issuing a proclamation this year. The Minnesota Governor's office has yet to respond and has missed the requested date. If I do receive something from the Minnesota Governor, I'll let you know.

While we have not been successful with our governor's this year concerning Field Day, the State of Washington Governor made this video for the hams in Washington, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhBR9z7Q14k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhBR9z7Q14k) .

### **SECTION MANAGER ELECTIONS**

Congratulations to Ralph NØRDF for his nomination for another term as North Dakota Section [Manager.is](http://Manager.is) filing for another term.

Unfortunately, no one filed for the Minnesota Section Manager position. Nominations for the position will be announced in the January and February QST's with nominations due 4 PM EDT March 5. With a change in the Section Manager election cycle, the term will be for one year. Contact AEØEE if you have questions about the position. Bill will serve as temporary Section Manger through the next election.



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### **HAPPENINGS Next Issue**

While I will try to get the next Happenings issue out in early July, it may be later in July before it comes out. I have been selected to serve as a referee at the World Radiosport Team Championship being held in England July 8 through July 14. We go from that right to the July Board Meeting. So a busy month.

Remember to get your Field Day site on the ARRL Field Day Locator site.

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** Chris Stallkamp, KI0D [ki0d@arrl.org](mailto:ki0d@arrl.org)

**MN Section Manager** Bill Mitchell, AE0EE [ae0ee@arrl.org](mailto:ae0ee@arrl.org)

**ND Section Manager** Ralph Fettig, N0RDF [n0rdf@arrl.org](mailto:n0rdf@arrl.org)

**SD Section Manager** Nick Hauser, KT0W [kt0w@arrl.org](mailto:kt0w@arrl.org)

### **SPECIAL OPERATING EVENTS**

**July 1 – 8**, 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.k0nd.org/TRPL.html](http://www.k0nd.org/TRPL.html)

[www.trlibrary.com](http://www.trlibrary.com)



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**July 25, 1300 – 2300 UTC; WOALX**

**Minnesota Mosquito Challenge**

Runestone Amateur Radio Club

21.270, 14.230, 7.190

QSL/Certificate – KG0DX

William Klundt

509 Pine Street South

Sauk Centre, MN 56378

**HAMFESTS** (all times local time):

**7/11** – 8 AM – 2 PM; Minot ND

**ARRL North Dakota Section Convention**

SVARC Summer Hamfest & Conv.

Souris Valley ARC

ARRL Representatives

ARRL Forum

Minot Municipal Auditorium

420 3rd AVE SW

Minot, ND

Contact: [w0nd@srt.com](mailto:w0nd@srt.com)

[www.k0ajw.com](http://www.k0ajw.com)

[www.arrl.org/hamfests/souris-valley-amateur-radio-club-hamfest-arrl-north-dakota-section-convention](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/souris-valley-amateur-radio-club-hamfest-arrl-north-dakota-section-convention)

**7/11** – 8 AM – 11 AM

**Black Hills ARC Annual Tailgate Party**

Faith Lutheran Church

17 Indiana Street

Rapid City, SD

Contact: [kzerocx@gmail.com](mailto:kzerocx@gmail.com)



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**7/11** – 8 AM – Noon; Roseville, MN

**Magic Tailgate Event**

Minnesota Amateur Group of Independent Communicators  
Galilee Lutheran Church  
145 N. McCarrons Blvd.  
Roseville, MN

Contact: [n0goi@arrl.net](mailto:n0goi@arrl.net)

<http://www.magicrepeater.net/fest.htm>

[www.arrl.org/hamfests/magic-repeater-tailgate](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/magic-repeater-tailgate)

**7/25** – 8 AM – Noon

**ARRL South Dakota State Convention**

Sioux Empire ARC  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
3801 E. 26th St.  
Sioux Falls, SD

Contact: [wgravning@yahoo.com](mailto:wgravning@yahoo.com)

[https://w0zwy.org/?page\\_id=930](https://w0zwy.org/?page_id=930)

[www.arrl.org/hamfests/arrl-south-dakota-state-convention](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/arrl-south-dakota-state-convention)

**7/25**

**Goose River Hamfest**

Goose River ARC  
Mayville Island Park  
Main Street West  
Mayville, ND

Contact: [cbye@gra.midco.net](mailto:cbye@gra.midco.net)

[https://gooseriverarc.org/?page\\_id=321](https://gooseriverarc.org/?page_id=321)

[www.arrl.org/hamfests/2nd-annual-goose-river-hamfest](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/2nd-annual-goose-river-hamfest)



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

**VE - South Dakota**

**7/14** – 7:00 PM **Sioux Falls, SD**; must preregister

Contact: [wgravning@yahoo.com](mailto:wgravning@yahoo.com)

Sioux Empire Amateur Radio Club

Minnehaha County Emergency Mngt Bldg

608 N Sigler Ave

Sioux Falls SD

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/SEARC/all>

[www.arrl.org/exam\\_sessions/sioux-falls-sd-57104-42](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/sioux-falls-sd-57104-42)

**7/25** – 9:30 AM **Sioux Falls, SD**; must preregister

Contact: [wgravning@yahoo.com](mailto:wgravning@yahoo.com)

Sioux Empire Amateur Radio Club

Westminster Presbyterian Church

3801 E. 26th St.

Sioux Falls, SD

[www.arrl.org/exam\\_sessions/sioux-falls-sd-57103-4113](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/sioux-falls-sd-57103-4113)

**VE - Minnesota**

**7/8** – 7:00 PM; **Lakeville, MN**

Contact [NOOA@ARRL.NET](mailto:NOOA@ARRL.NET)

Valley ARC

17387 Kenyon Avenue

Lakeville MN

[www.arrl.org/exam\\_sessions/lakeville-mn-55044-4459-196](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/lakeville-mn-55044-4459-196)



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**7/11** – 9:30 AM; **Roseville, MN**; must preregister

St Paul RC

Contact [pipemajor2@gmail.com](mailto:pipemajor2@gmail.com)

Galilee Lutheran Church

145 McCarrons Blvd N

Roseville MN

[www.arrl.org/exam\\_sessions/roseville-mn-55113-6923-40](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/roseville-mn-55113-6923-40)

**7/15** – 7:00 PM; **Austin, MN**;

Contact: [nytro1952@gmail.com](mailto:nytro1952@gmail.com)

Austin Area Amateur Radio Club

329 N Main St

Room 102

Use 3rd Ave NW Entrance

Austin MN

[www.arrl.org/exam\\_sessions/austin-mn-55912-3037-103](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/austin-mn-55912-3037-103)

**7/18** – 9:00 AM; **Cottage Grove, MN**; must preregister

Contact: [wd0gup@hotmail.com](mailto:wd0gup@hotmail.com)

South East Metro ARC

St Luke Lutheran Church

7000 Hinton Ave S

Cottage Grove MN

[www.semarc.org/P7\\_VE.htm](http://www.semarc.org/P7_VE.htm)

[www.arrl.org/exam\\_sessions/cottage-grove-mn-55016-1809-26](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/cottage-grove-mn-55016-1809-26)

**7/18** – 10:00 AM; **Sauk Rapids, MN**; must preregister

Contact: [NOJFY@W0SV.Club](mailto:NOJFY@W0SV.Club)

St Cloud Amateur Radio Club

1833 Eastern Star Loop

Sauk Rapids MN

[www.arrl.org/exam\\_sessions/sauk-rapids-mn-56379-2558-6](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/sauk-rapids-mn-56379-2558-6)



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**7/21** – 8:30 PM; **Mankato, MN**; must preregister

Contact: [wx0mik@gmail.com](mailto:wx0mik@gmail.com)

Mankato Area Radio Club

ONLINE

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

[www.arrl.org/exam\\_sessions/mankato-mn-56001-9999-70](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/mankato-mn-56001-9999-70)

**7/27** – 6:00 PM; **Chanhassen, MN**; must preregister

Contact: [kdzerob@aol.com](mailto: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-55317-91](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/chanhassen-mn-55317-91)

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**ARRL Dakota Division**

**Director: Vernon E. Lippert, AC0W**

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

July 2026



- 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 have 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 is a link for you to view what the **ARRL** offers Hams. Take a look:

[ARRL Benefits](#)

July 2026



Wednesday Morning **RARC** Ham Radio Gathering

**You Are Invited!**

*Stop By For Breakfast or Coffee  
&  
Ham Radio Talk!*



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

**Rooster's (North Location) - 2280 Superior Drive NW**



## Parks On The Air® (POTA)

*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 national 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.





July 2026

# Weekly Nets

## Sunday:

- **Austin 73 Sunday Evening Net** - 7PM on 146.730 MHz PL 100
- **Owatonna/Steele County ARC Club Net** - 7:30PM on 145.490 MHz PL 100
- **MN D-Star Net** - 7:30PM Reflector XLX632A
- **Goodhue County ARES Net/Hiawatha Valley ARC** - 8PM 147.300 MHz PL 136.5
- **Southern MN Fusion Net** - 8:30PM Wires X Rm 40861
- **Dodge County ARES Net** - 8:30PM 146.820 MHz PL 100
- **RBWMS Net** - 8:30PM 146.390 MHz PL 100
- **Winona Emergency Preparedness Net** - 8:30PM 146.835 MHz PL 131.8
- **Olmsted County ARES Net** - 9PM 146.820 MHz (even # Days) 147.255 MHz (odd # Days) PL 100
- **KAØPQW 2 Meter SSB Net** - 9PM 144.200MHz

## Monday:

- **Elmer's Net** - 8PM 147.255 MHz PL 100
- **Waseca Digital Practice Net** - 7PM 146.715 MHz PL 141.3

## Tuesday:

- **SE MN 10 Meter Net** - 7PM 28.325 MHz USB
- **Rochester Hobby Net (Any Hobby Except Ham Radio)** - 8PM 147.255 MHz PL 100

## Wednesday:

- **SE MN Digital ARES Net** - 7PM 146.820 MHz PL 100 MT63 2000L
- **Wednesday Night Experiment** - 9PM 146.790 MHz PL 100

## Thursday:

- **WØNE Weekly WinLink Check-in Net** - All Day
- **Southern MN ARES 80 Meter Net** - 8PM 3.583.5 MHz Olivia 8-500

## Saturday:

- **20 Meter IBM Net** - 11AM 14.347 MHz USB



July 2026

# 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/>

**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 have any questions or comments about the Hamster or are interested in perhaps being a contributor please feel free to [contact me](#).

Thank you for reading the Rochester Amateur Radio Club's  
Official Publication.

**G. Mark Kelm - KØGMK - Editor**