



THE HAMSTER

June 2024

Official Monthly Newsletter of the Rochester Amateur Radio Club

Founded In 1932 - 50+ Years Of ARRL Affiliation



June 23-24

Rochester EOC (Rochester Fire Station #2)

2185 Wheelock Drive NE, Rochester MN

- ◆ **Field Day 2024** - page 2
- ◆ **RARC Training Recap** - page 3
- ◆ **ZOOM Online Meeting Login Info** - page 4
- ◆ **RARC Remembers** - page 5
- ◆ **ARES** - pages 6-7
- ◆ **ARES Community Service** - pages 8-9
- ◆ **Contest Corner** - pages 10-11
- ◆ **Hamster Hints** - pages 12-15
- ◆ **Technical Committee Report** - pages 16-18
- ◆ **Education** - page 19
- ◆ **125Live Ham Radio Club** - page 20
- ◆ **RARC Buy - Sell -Trade** - page 21
- ◆ **Spring POTA** - page 22
- ◆ **JM Rocket Radio Club** - page 23
- ◆ **Local Ham Radio Nets** - page 24
- ◆ **ARRL** - page 25
- ◆ **Contact RARC** - page 26



RARC Field Day

Taylor (WB0RSJ) Steve (W0STV) - Co-Chairs



Field Day 2024 is June 22-23!

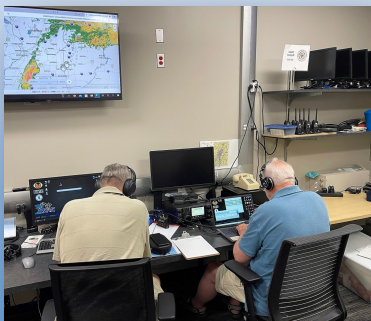
**RARC Field Day 2024 will be held at the Rochester EOC located at Rochester Fire Station #2:
2185 Wheelock Drive NE, Rochester, MN**

At the June 11th RARC meeting we will cover:

- Operating times update-review the sign-up sheets
- Setup discussion and layout
- Station layout
- N1MM basics
- Food! John Scott has volunteered to do BBQ pulled pork sandwiches from his smoker. Salads, chips and beverages as in the past. Please sure to sign up.
- Bonus point discussion by Dave (K0VH)

For More Information Please contact:

- **Taylor** (507) 923-3387 tbbauman@gmail.com
- **Steve** (507) 254-3993 W0STV@yahoo.com





RARC Training Recap

Dan Stroh (N0SPN) - Vice-President



[RARC talk May 2024.pptx](#)

Thank You Pat Cahill (W0BM) for presenting "Getting Started In CW" with hints, tricks and set-up info for those who have never operated CW but would like to.



June 2024 RARC ZOOM Online Login Info

Optional for those not able to attend in-person



Below is the ZOOM login information for the **June 11, 2024, 6:30 PM CDT RARC meeting** . The ZOOM login info is also posted via the [RARC email reflector](#) prior to the meeting.

- ◆ **When:** June 11, 2024 @ 06:30 PM CDT (US and Canada)
- ◆ **Join Zoom Meeting (click on the link below):**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9876548873?pwd=T0JBWEFzSCtBYzhiazA1NTdDb2Rkdz09>
- ◆ **Meeting ID:** 987 654 8873
- ◆ **Passcode:** : 738852

- **For audio only from a mobile phone:**

Call: (312) 626-6799 US (Chicago) **Meeting ID:** 987 654 8873 **Passcode:** 738852



RARC Remembers



William Frank (Bill) Osler - KORGR (SK)

Bill (pictured as a toddler sitting on the desk of his Dad's ham shack) was a retired IBM Engineer and an integral member of Rochester Amateur Radio Club for several decades. Bill held the title of RARC Educator and taught both Technician and General licensing classes for RARC. Bill was also District ARES Emergency Coordinator for Minnesota District 1. Bill was a native of California. We will miss Bill's laugh. Funeral plans are pending.



William (Bill) Knoph - NONUV (SK)

Bill, a native of Austin, MN, was active in RARC until serious health issues. Bill was a long-time employee of St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. Bill loved to travel especially to Mackinac island, Door County and Hawaii.

Bill's family requests that in lieu of cards, please consider a donation to the American Kidney Fund or the Gift of Life Transplant House in honor of Bill.



ARES

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

The June ARES meeting will on June 22 and 23rd as part of the RARC 2024 Field Day event. We have the Rochester EOC building and lot reserved for June 22nd and 23rd, along with the use of the Minnesota Aluminum antenna tower from the Olmsted EOC. There should be a sign up sheet on the RARCHAMS.ORG website soon for you to sign up for your field day activity. Taylor will have more information in this news letter. We have 24 days to get this RARC activity running. See you there.

A new Rochester EOC director will take his position on June 1st 2024. That person is **Captain Jon Turk**. Jon has been affiliated with emergency management since Dave Carr when there was only one EOC, at the Rochester International Airport. Jon Turk and a L.E.C. dispatcher, met with John Dalin, and I at the Rochester EOC fire station #2 to discuss the equipment on site and ARES involvement with the Rochester EOC. Jon is proactive with planning for any situation possible from SkyWarn to cyber disasters. He has been a ham radio operator for decades and wants to know what we are capable of doing. We have effective radio communications along with hybrid and digital modes to use and show him.

Jon is requesting that Olmsted Skywarn dispatch people to monitor and report any weather from the field to the officials at the Rochester Concerts by the River, Thursdays down town or any other open air activity to allow time for people to get to shelter. Monitor the 147.255 repeater and watch the RARCHAMS@groups.io for the possibility of a call out to report back.

Olmsted ARES Mission Statement:

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



ARES

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

We have 3 public service events for 2024, compared with 16 in 2019. Olmsted ARES is becoming more affiliated with emergency communications, government agencies, and disaster services more than ever before. To make ARES a useful asset to the agencies ARES has national MOU's with, you are the people that buy equipment, train to use it, and when all else fails have the drive to make things happen. Thank you for your time to make Olmsted ARES/skywarn what it is today and tomorrow. I cut and pasted this from an email from the Olmsted EOC, quote: "We already have the best team".

The new Olmsted EOC should be completed in September 2024. Will schedule a walk through for the RARC after it's completion. It is located SE of Fleet Farm.

Steve-W0STV

Olmsted ARES-EC

The more preparation, the less confusion.

Olmsted ARES Mission Statement:

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



Community Service

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

The May 18th ARES meeting focused on updating and review the Med City Marathon event for the next day May 19th. (Event photos on next page) The net started at 550hrs on the 147.255 primary repeater. We brought a second radio into the EM-50 for a backup for overflow traffic and to hear our actual transmissions along with the received traffic. The radio helped to computer log all activity using ICS form 214.

We used the RARC APRS transmit units on the four golf carts operating around the city course. We have bugs in two of them, The event organizers wanted us to use the Glympse phone app in conjunction with APRS so they could monitor on their phones where the carts were. Communications in the comm van with the course director, medical tent, police, fire, golf carts, and water stop personal was flawless. There are always things we all can do to make this better, but we pretty much nailed it. **Captain Jon Turk congratulated ARES/public service for a job well done.** We successfully were able to locate a missing person that intentionally left the course to get to the finish line.

I want to thank Fillmore EC Jim Miller (KD0ORR) and ARES team for coming to the MCM, and manning the first two water stops on county road 8. You helped make a difference.

The next public service event is the Rochester Fest Parade. This year it is on June 29th, one week later than field day. We will only need a few people since there are no longer announcement stands along the parade routes.

Steve-W0STV

Olmsted ARES-EC

The more preparation, the less confusion.



Community Service

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Med City Marathon



Contest Corner

Fred (K4IU)



The HF bands have been on *fire*. The solar storms of last month were a series that tracked across the face of the sun with particle and ionizing components that occurred from 10–13 May 2024. Looking north many saw some stunning light shows in the form of aurora borealis. I expect the same level of high activity from the sun to continue in June. And what could be timelier for the big June events of the **ARRL June VHF Contest** and **ARRL Field Day** than sunspots!

- **1 June:** [ARRL International Digital Contest](#): This one is gaining in popularity and attracting new contenders. With good propagation and new digital technology even the “little pistols” can do well using low power and modest antennas.
- **8 June:** [ARRL June VHF Contest](#): **There are rule changes for 2024!** Participants in the FM Only category can now count contacts made on 902 MHz and 1.2 GHz toward their scores. Previously, only contacts on the four lowest VHF bands (50, 144, 222 and 432 MHz) counted toward participants' scores in this category.
- **22 June:** [ARRL Field Day](#): The June QST has an entire section devoted to Field preparation and activities beginning on page 70. There is much, much more in the *Hamster* this month.

Besides those contests noted above there are several QSO parties mixed in throughout the month. Don't forget the [All Asian DX Contest](#) on June 15. Check the [WA7BNM calendar](#) website for more June contests or try [Eric Guth's QSO Today comprehensive calendar](#) of ham related activities to include Hamfests and expos.

Contest Corner

Fred (K4IU)



The ARRL Field Day, a nationwide radio operating event, takes place June 22nd-23rd, transforming parks, backyards and EOCs into temporary stations. This 27-hour exercise combines the thrill of radio contact with valuable emergency preparedness training. Participants improve their skills in setting up radios in an outdoor environment, simulating communication during disasters. It's also a fun, social event filled with the camaraderie of radio sportsmanship, all while promoting vital communication skills. So, dust off your ham radio, grab your portable/mobile gear, and get ready for an adventure in communication



Field Day 2024 is June 22-23!

***RARC Field Day 2024 will be held at the Rochester EOC located at Rochester Fire Station #2:
2185 Wheelock Drive NE, Rochester, MN***



Hamster Hints

Bob (KEØEXE)

Once upon a time, there was a motion-detecting, battery-powered lamp, with no mounting bracket. Here follows the tale of how it was restored to be useful once again...

The project began with some 16-gauge, plain steel, sheet-metal stock. After sawing it to the correct overall size, using a hand hacksaw, I cut out--and broke out--a rectangle from the middle (see photos). A tip here is to radius the inner corners with a drilled hole, first, to provide clean corners which are then less likely to create stress-cracks. Filing and sanding it all resulted in a nice-fitting "U-bracket." I then marked, drilled, and counter-sunk the mounting holes.

The tools required for this project were as follows: a red "Sharpie"(TM) pen; a small ruler and a square; a hacksaw; two C-clamps to hold the stock while sawing it; a vice to hold it while filing it smooth; a couple of large pliers to grab, bend and break-out the center rectangle; course and fine files; a drill bit, a counter-sink bit, and a drill-press; some fine sandpaper, to prepare it for painting; and, lastly, a can of spray paint.

For most of the metal-working knowledge, I had learned it way back in junior high Shop Class, while my "techniques" have been honed over the subsequent 45 years. My teacher was an ex-Navy man: thank you, Mr. Miller! It pains me to know that such fine, hands-on technical classes have mostly disappeared from present-day, public-school curricula.

When mounting, three small bushings will be used to "gap" the bracket away from the wall, such that the mating, plastic piece on the lamp will have enough room to clear the wall.

- Project photos on next pages -



Hamster Hints

Bob (KEØEXE)

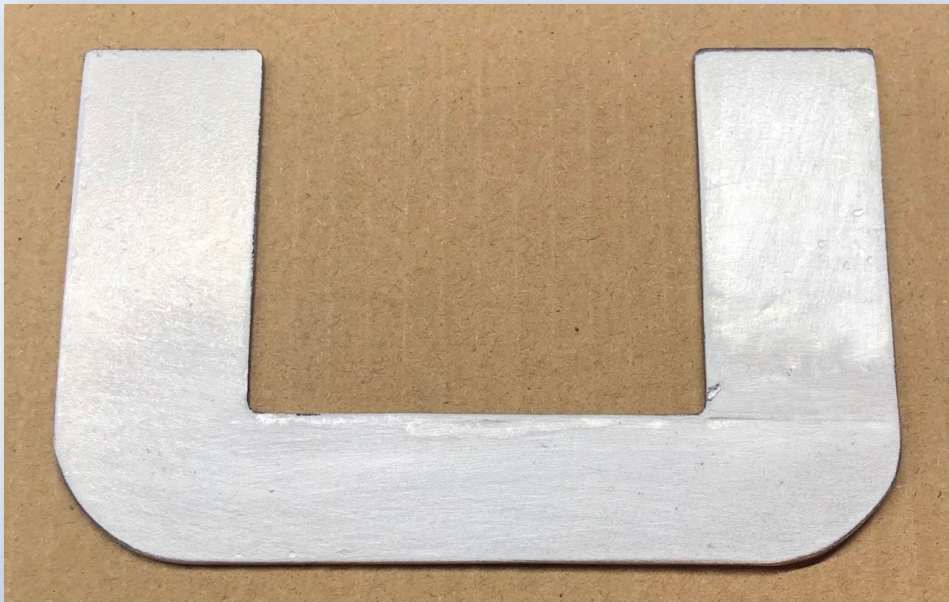


Back of motion-sensitive lamp, showing plastic bracket



Hamster Hints

Bob (KEØEXE)



Cut and filed steel bracket, showing radiused, inner (and outer) corners

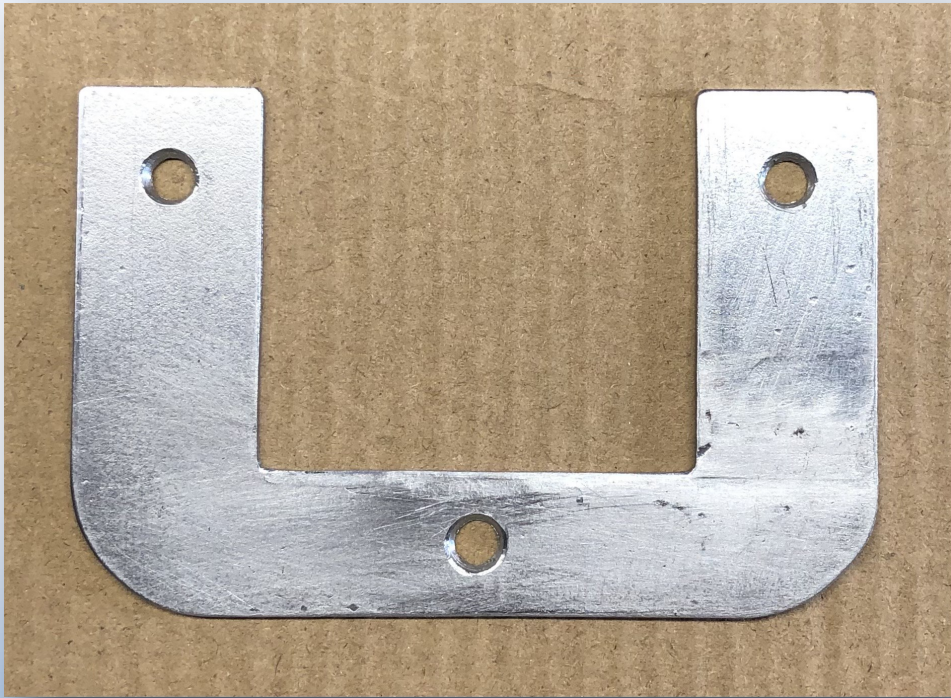


Test-fitting the bracket (mated about half-way).

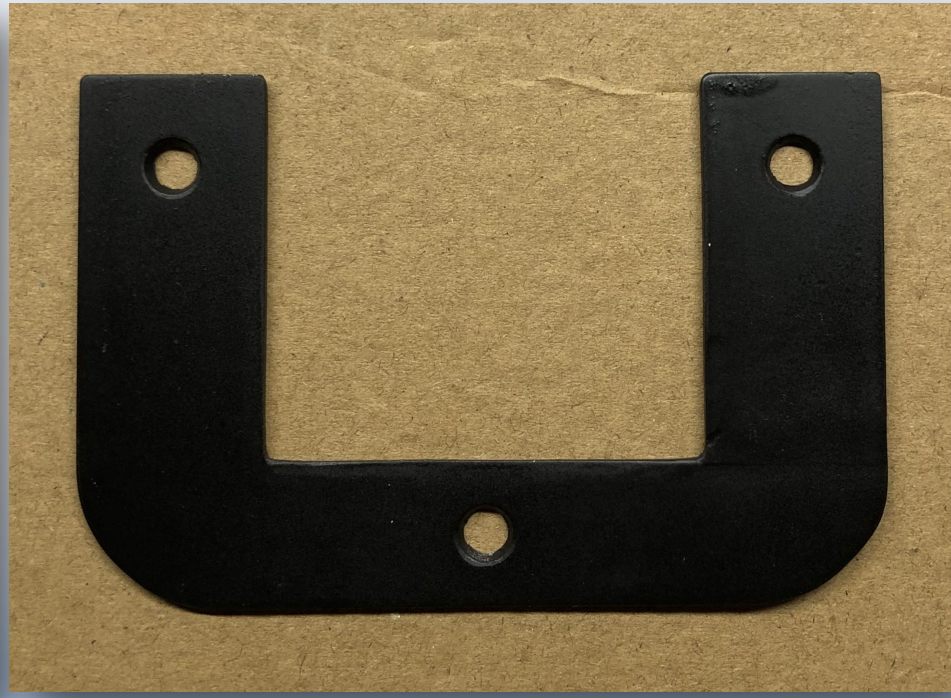


Hamster Hints

Bob (KEØEXE)



Holes drilled and countersunk



Finished bracket, spray-painted in flat black



Technical Committee

Eric (KF0S)

Tech Committee - 5/11/24

Attendees: Eric, Pat, George, David, Taylor, John D.

Post meeting and RARC meeting comments in italics

146.625 Fusion repeater:

- DSL Modem reset and WiresX is available.
- Was stuck on a Windows Update. That was disabled except for Security updates. Should disable for all.
- Weekly reboot automatically scheduled.
- Current reports say it is up and down. Currently down. *Back up. WiresX was hung.*
- Should we remote?
- FTM-200 plus power supply, hook to antenna, and internet.
- Doesn't help DSTAR.
- Do we upgrade the computer? Current computer won't support Windows 11.
- Defer until we look at things.

443.85 D-Star repeater:

- Gateway Server. Hardware/software.
- Software guide updated yesterday.
- Will look into getting the PC reloaded and ready to go back onsite as we now have decent access.



Technical Committee

Eric (KFOS)

Mayo Site:

- Access is hopefully much more convenient. Darrell Rowe.
- We should do clean up; labelling, replace license, etc.
- Work party to see what is needed, check bandwidth, power status (UPS, failover) and start cleanup
- Schedule with Darrell.
- Possible to get some other internet up there (may have a cost to us)?
- Others on 22nd floor have external access.
- Start with Andy or Darrell to determine process or who to talk to.
- *Consensus is Mayo will not let us on their network.*
- Add a remote switch (RF or IP)?

146.82 repeater:

-

147.255 repeater:

-

Donation of W0IBM equipment:

- IBM and new site team seem to still in a dispute. Both sides know we would like to take the antennas down once resolved.



Technical Committee

Eric (KFOS)

Control Operators:

- Validate that we can control repeaters.
- Work on getting together docs for all repeaters.
- Collect more info from John Scott.
- John Scott has code to lock box with building access for 146.82.
- *Taylor is working on this.*

Website:

- Field Day info to Pat soon.

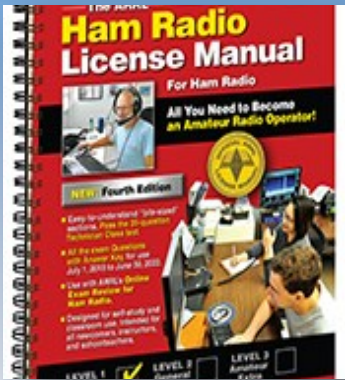
Education:

- **125 Live:**

Meetings on 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 2:00-3:00pm. 125 Live member or \$10 (may be waived) for non-members.

Education

Dave (KØVH)



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

- If you plan to get your **extra class license** this year, you have until June 30 before the question pool changes.
- We'd appreciate knowing any of you who are using ARRL books, the new to ARRL Gordon West training methods, or Dave Casler videos: how effective are they? Would you like some mentoring from the club? A good spot would be the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 125Live.
- We'd also like to know if you are taking any 2024 Maple Grove radio club Zoom classes or remote exams <https://k0ltc.org/training/>



125Live Ham Radio Club



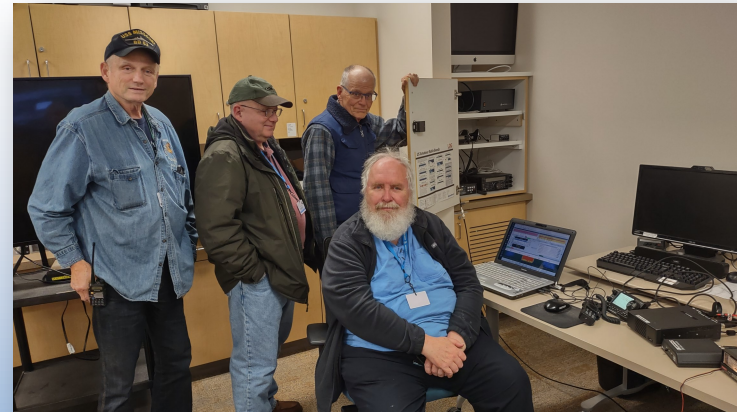
Steve Wiebke (W0STV)

I was unable to attend the 135live Ham Radio Club meeting on June 21st due to the NWS Sky-Warn activation of the Olmsted EOC. I sent out an email for someone to run the meeting but did not get any response. I did hear that the 125Live Ham Radio Club did meet. Who ever went, if you could talk about what was said and done at the June RARC meeting on the groups.io reflector as that would be interesting to read.

If you are a 125live social member or know someone that would like to get into or back into Ham radio let them know about the next 125live radio club meeting.

The photo is of a few of the 125live Ham Radio Club members during the eclipse FT8 operations.
The more you know/

**Steve-W0STV
Olmsted ARES-EC**
The more preparation, the less confusion.



The next meeting of the 125Live Ham Radio Club sponsored by RARC will be June 16th at 125Live at 2:00 PM.

For more information please contact(W0STV) at: w0stv@yahoo.com



RARC buy - sell - trade



ST-5000 Step Up Step Down Transformer 110V 220V Step Up Voltage Converter Transformer, 5kw rating, used once / no longer need, like-new condition, **\$100 firm** (\$129.99 on Amazon). See Bob, (KE0EXE), gettuit@charter.net



Yaesu FT-950 160 thru 6 meter transceiver Includes MH-31 microphone
Original box **\$500** Lynn (WB0U) (507) 358-8459



Astron RS-35M 13.8 volt power supply 35 amp peak, 25 amp continuous with volt and amp meters. Quiet linear supply, no RF noise, **\$150** Lynn (WB0U) (507) 358-8459



Icom IC-735 HF transceiver - Dan Stroh (NOSPN) you can call or text me at my cell# 507-273-0734 **\$175**

If you have any Ham related items that you want to sell or are looking for locally, email the Hamster at [RARC Buy or Sell](#) or Trade.



Parks On The Air® (POTA)

It's Spring 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](#)?

Take a look at the [map of entities](#) to see the wealth of places to activate close to Rochester as well.

POTA is a great way to enjoy Ham radio and enjoy the bonus of operating remotely or out of your vehicle!

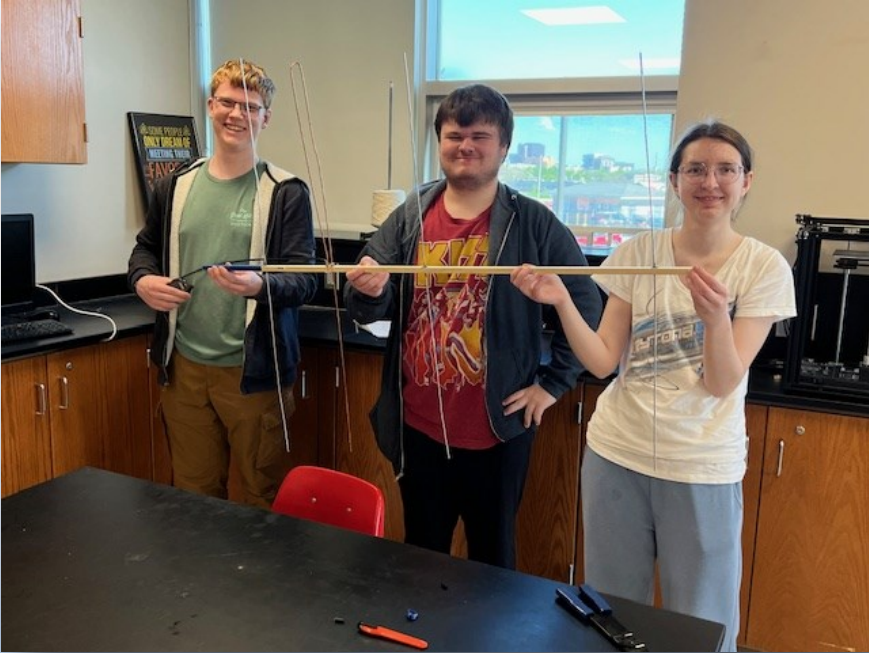


Niel (W0VLZ)



JM *Rocket* Radio Club

John Marshall *Rocket* Radio Club got their first working Yagi built that works! They are fine tuning some others to get them to work, too.



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



Weekly Nets

- ♦ **Monday 8 p.m. Elmers' Net** 146.820 repeater (PL Tone 100)
- ♦ **Tuesday 7 p.m.** (except on Club Meeting Nights) **RARC 10 Meter Net** meets on 28.325 Mhz. USB. The Net is cancelled without notice if lightning in the area or SkyWarn activation.
- ♦ **Thursday 6:30 p.m.** 146.820 Repeater. The first Net of each month is a voice net, and it's the **SE MN District ARES 2 Meter Digital Net**. The other weeks, it is an informal digital net, using the digital protocol announced for the week on the Net and NBEMS.

Most use [FLDIGI](#) and the rest of the [NBEMS](#) suite of programs, all of which are free. MT63 is a very forgiving mode. You can do MT63 on VHF without a soundcard modem - 'acoustic coupling' works fine. meaning you can hold your HT up to the mic on your computer and copy it very well and do the reverse to transmit.

- ♦ **Thursday 8 p.m. ARES 80 Meter HF Digital Net**, 3583.5 kHz, Olivia 8/500
- ♦ **Daily M-F about 11:30 a.m.** - Repeater Of The Week - **Very Informal Morning Net** - If you show up and there is no net control, become one! The object of this net is to encourage more on-air activity.
- ♦ **Saturday 8:30 p.m. Iowa D-Star Net** on D-Star Reflector XLS632A
- ♦ **Sunday 7:30 p.m. Minnesota D-Star Net** on D-Star Reflector XLS632A
- ♦ **Sunday 8:30 p.m. Dodge County ARES Net** on the 146.820 (PL Tone 100) Repeater at 8:30 p.m.
- ♦ **Sunday 9:00 p.m. RARC/ARES Net:** 147.255 repeater (PL Tone 100) Odd numbered Sundays
146.820 repeater (PL Tone 100) Even Numbered Sundays



- ◆ Are you a member of the [ARRL](#)?
- ◆ Are you new to Ham Radio?
- ◆ Have you been licensed for a while but not active?
 - ◆ Are you active but never explored the [ARRL](#)?

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

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

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



Contact RARC

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

- ◆ **Online:** <http://www.rarchams.org/>
- ◆ **Mail:** RARC , P.O. Box 1, Rochester, MN 55903
- ◆ **Groups.io:** [Register](#) and a Moderator will respond shortly
- ◆ **Weekly Net:** Sundays at 9:00 PM: 147.255 repeater (PL Tone 100) Odd numbered Sundays
146.820 repeater (PL Tone 100) Even Numbered Sundays

If you haven't done so already, please [register](#) for the RARC groups.io email reflector so you can keep abreast of club activities, official club notices and of course the monthly Hamster emailing. Click on [register](#) and you will be taken to the RARC registration page. Once you have [registered](#) go to your account settings and choose how you would like to receive email from RARC.

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