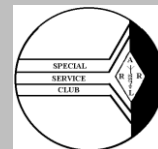


FHARA Inc. NEWS

**Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Association, Inc.,
28 West State Street, Dolgeville, NY, N.Y. 13329**

Now online www.fhara.net



2009 - 2010 OFFICERS

Elected Officials

President: Hank Crofoot, KB2VLP
315 - 823-2993 kb2vlp@localnet.com

Vice. President: John Reed, N2WTF
315-866-7251 jreedham@yahoo.com

Secretary: Ray Thibodeau, KB2WRP
rthibodeau@twcnv.rr.com

Treasurer: Chris Bouck, KB4CMF
315-429-3927 cbouck01@twcnv.rr.com

Appointed Positions

Club Librarian: Ray Thibodeau, KB2WRP

E-mail: rthibodeau@twcnv.rr.com

Volunteer Positions

Newsletter Editor Chris Bouck KB4CMF

E-mail: cbouck01@twcnv.rr.com

Co-editor Vince Staffo WB2FYZ

E-mail: vstaffo@twcnv.rr.com

ARES/RACES EC/RO:

Don Rankins, N2ZWO

l. 315-894-5501

E-mail: drankins@twcnv.rr.com

Herkimer County ARES/RACES Website:

<http://www.herkimercountyoes.org>

National Skywarn Page:

<http://www.skywarn.org/>

SKYWARN Coordinator:

Hank Crofoot, KB2VLP

Tel. 315-823-2993

E-mail: kb2vlp@localnet.com

Interference Committee Members

Chris Bouck KB4CMF, Don Rankins N2ZWO

Hank Crofoot KB2VLP, George DeFazio

WS20, Ed Prior W2XAM

Elmer Committee Members

Chris Bouck KB4CMF, Don Rankins N2ZWO

Hank Crofoot KB2VLP, John Reed N2WTF

George DeFazio WS20

Program Director

Steve Kuck K2ALS srkuck62@yahoo.com

**Appointed
Emergency
Coordinators**

**Committees ---
Interference
Elmer**

(CQ de W2FHA)

Local ARES / RACES Repeaters

145.110 Minus (-) PL 167. 9 - Primary Freq

147.045 Plus (+) PL 167. 9 - Secondary Freq

147.090 Plus (+) No PL - Alternate Freq

146. 580 Simplex - Alternate Frequency

Meeting Reminder

The next meeting of the FHARA will be on 13 January 2010, at the 911 center. The meeting starts at **7:00 p.m.** Please try to be prompt. The meeting is open to the general public. Please bring a friend or encourage another ham to attend.

Additional Reminder

This month's program will be a demo by Vince WB2FYZ on a PL259 tool and info by Don N2ZWO on repeater functions and procedures

Upcoming Events

FHARA Will Hold a VE Testing Session Upon Request. You Must Pre-register Ahead of Time. (Two weeks) Test Starts at 6:00 pm at 911 Center. Contact KB2VLP or KB4CMF.



Sick Call - Silent Keys

Joe Michaud K2UBE had some surgery recently and is recovering. Thanks for the tip from Vince WB2FYZ. Joe we hope you to feel better and recover quickly.

If you know of anyone that is sick or has passed away, please let Chris, KB4CMF know.



FHARA ARES/RACES MINUTES 9/10/09

The meeting was called to order at 19:03 by Hank KB2VLP, President. The pledge was next led by Bill KC2AWJ and followed by a moment of silence in honor of our silent keys and all our service personnel in harms way around the world. The following roll call showed 23 members and 2 guests present. Ray KB2WRP, Secretary read the minutes of the 8/12/09 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Marty W2MVB, seconded by Jamie KC2NHC with a unanimous vote following. Chris KB4CMF, Treasurer read the Treasurers report which showed a beginning balance of \$1429.48, income of \$104.00, expenses of \$132.00, making a closing balance of \$1401.48. A copy of the report is on file with the treasurer and the secretary and the books are open for inspection at any time. A motion to accept the report as presented was made by Steve K2ALS, seconded by Ron KC2ENH with a unanimous vote following.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following birthdays in September announced were Jo, XYL of Jim K2RXO 9/3, Dave W5IXM 9/6, Anthony KC2RDB 9/8, Jeanne, XYL of John WA2BSF 9/11. The monthly breakfast will be held on Saturday 9/12 9AM at Denny's in Herkimer. Dues for 2009 - 2010 are due now!!! Please see Chris KB4CMF to pay your dues. Hamfests in September are Ballston Spa 9/12, Rags in Pompey 9/19, Elmira 9/26. Hank made mention of a letter sent out by Congressman Arcuri in regard to Bill HR 2160 about the importance of Amateur Radio Operators in times of emergencies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hank thanked all persons who helped at the Herkimer County Fair. He explained that we are in that building and area because the space is donated to us by the Fair people. It would be to expensive to locate in the vendors building. He also commented on Ron KC2ENH's idea to use the County's Command 22 bus as a location for next year. The fair people and Bob Vandawalker seem to be OK with this. Since we will be operating out of the bus we can give tours of what is in the bus and why its there. Hank also said that next year will be up to someone else to take charge of this event.

OLD BUSINESS

Steve K2ALS is in charge of the Special Event Station being held with the Town of German Flats Living History Weekend on 9/26/09. He circulated a sign up sheet for help setting up a 20 meter antenna on Thursday 9/24 and also setting up and operating on Sat. 9/26. Thanks to Chris KB4CMF the event

was published in QST as operating on 14.280 mhz with a certificate available through his address.

NEW BUSINESS

A special presentation was made to Vince WB2FYZ making him an official member of the MUFON Net. Chris KB4CMF and now Vince are members of this aliens net. The annual Christmas Dinner will be chaired by Chris KB4CMF. A vote was taken as to whether to have it in December when things are a lot more busy and hectic or push it into early January. A show of hands showed the preference to be in January. A donation of \$5.00 to FHARA and \$5.00 to ARES/RACES from the sale of Silent Key equipment was received.

NEW MEMBERS

An application for membership was received from Ken Gies, K2NG. A motion to accept his membership into FHARA was made by Hank KB2VLP, seconded by Marty W2MVB and the results of a written secret ballot was a unanimous yes vote. Welcome aboard Ken.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Everyone in attendance was happy to see Bill Paslak back with us tonight . He was welcomed back after his illness by all.

BREAK

The 50-50 raffle was won by Ron KC2ENH -- all the monies were given to ARES. A second raffle was for an ARRL Repeater Directory and was won by Ray KB2WRP.

ARES/RACES

Due to Don N2ZWO's absence from the meeting Hank read a report furnished by Don. The ARES treasury report showed in Savings a beginning balance on 8/1/09 of \$2160.13, deposit of \$60.00, Dividend deposit of .47 making a closing balance of \$2220.60 as of 8/31/09. In checking the beginning balance as of 8/01/09 was \$61.67, deposits of \$114.00, expense of \$35.62, making a closing balance of \$140.25 on 8/31/09. A copy of these reports is on file with the EC and the Administrative AEC. The books are open for inspection at any time. The annual SET for Herkimer County ARES will take place in either October or November. The date to be announced. A new Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator has been appointed. Mike Little KB2CCD of Oneida - Madison ARES will be overseeing SET activity in the WNY Section. He will be planning a section SET. This will be a new endeavor. Mike is also available as a resource for emergency planning. Don has obtained the post hole digger needed to construct the base for the tower at the 911 site. He will get together with Ed W2XAM and Ron KC2ENH to plan a work party at th 911 site.

He sent his apologies for not being at the meeting tonight.

PROGRAMS

September meeting -- Swap and Shop Fest
A motion to adjourn was made by Steve K2ALS, seconded by Jamie KC2NHC and a unanimous vote adjourned the meeting at 20:30.

Respectfully submitted, Ray Thibodeau KB2WRP
FHARA Secretary, ARES Administrative AEC

FHARA - ARES/RACES MINUTES 10/14/09

The meeting was called to order at 18:02 by Hank KB2VLP, President. The pledge was led by Don KC2OJI and was

followed by a moment of silence in honor of our silent keys and all our service personnel in harms way around the world. The following roll call showed 14 members and 4 guests present. Since tonight's meeting is Advanced Skywarn Training the reading of the minutes of the September 9th meeting as well as the treasurers report are being dispensed with in the interest of saving time. The minutes will be in the next Newsletter and the Secretary had a copy present for anyone who wished to review them.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays for the month of October are Bob KB2TGD 6th, Dee KB2VLO 10th, GaryW2CEA 11th, Ben W1VM 22nd, Gen WA2BBE 25th, and Karen KB2WYZ 27th. The monthly breakfast will be held on Saturday 10/17 at 9am at the Herkimer Denny's. Everyone was encouraged to attend for a good time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Steve K2ALS, Chairman gave a report on the special events station held on Saturday 9/26 during the Town of German Flats Living History Weekend. A 20 meter dipole antenna was erected on Thursday 9/24 by a few members and the S.E.station was on the air on Saturday at about 14:30 UTC. There were 26 contacts made during the event with 11 of them in Sweden, 8 in Finland, 4 in Denmark, and 1 in Los Angeles. Ray KB2WRP passed around the logbook for review. Steve gave a well deserved thanks to all members who helped in any way with this event.

OLD BUSINESS

It was voted to hold the annual Christmas Party in early January instead of December this year. Hank KB2VLP, and Chris KB4CMF are heading up this event. Hank said he had some fairly recent Amateur Radio catalogs for anyone who wants them.

NEW BUSINESS

Chris KB4CMF said that he is trying to organize a class for anyone who wants to get their Ham License. He is hoping to get this in place for the first of next year. If anyone knows of interested persons please have them get in touch with Chris or Hank. Forms for voting on Ham of the Year were passed out and members were asked to get them returned by the next meeting so the person can be selected by the HOTY committee.

NEW MEMBERS

John Binney, 14 Fulmer Street, Mohawk, NY applied for membership to FHARA. He is not licensed yet but is studying for his exam. A motion to vote on his application was made by Marty W2MVB, seconded by Steve K2ALS and a secret ballot vote was taken. John Binney is accepted as a new associate member.

ARES/RACES

Don N2ZWO announced that our annual Simulated Emergency Test will be held on 11/14 beginning at 9am. A sign up sheet was passed. The Western NY SET was held on 10/1. The annual Pumpkin Patrol will be held on the evenings of 10/30 and 10/31. Don will set up and distribute the assignments but will be out of town from 10/26 to 11/6. A copy of the current ARES treasury report was given to the Administrative AEC but not read in the interest of saving time. The books are open for inspection at any time.

PROGRAMS

October -- Advanced Skywarn Training November -- TBA A motion to adjourn was made by Marty W2MVB, seconded by Ken KN2G and a unanimous vote adjourned the meeting at 18:26.

**Respectfully submitted, Ray Thibodeau KB2WRP
FHARA Secretary, ARES Administrative AEC**



Birthdays

Here are the birthdays for **January:**

9 Vince WB2FYZ

18 Tammy KB2RMX

26 Marty W2MVB

If I have missed your birthday or your XYL's, I may not be aware of it. Please let Chris, KB4CMF know and I will be sure you are included. **73 Chris KB4CMF**



From the FHARA President, KB2VLP

De (KB2VLO) and I wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Thought for 2010 - maybe a New Year's resolution should be to try and become more "Radio Active" starting in 2010.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday January 13, at 7:00 pm in the conference room at the Herkimer County E-911 center. the program is TBA.

On Saturday, the 16th of January, many of us will meet at 5:30 pm at Montana's in Frankfort, for our annual dinner. Remember the "Ham of the Year" will be announced and the award presented at this dinner. The cost is ONLY \$17.00 per person, which includes dinner, tip, tax and a gift for everyone! This is only \$1.00 per person more than 2009, with a larger menu ! Everyone is welcome, spouses, family members, and friends. You do not have to be a "ham" to partake of this dinner. Reservations are needed by January 7. As of this time we do not have enough signed up for the dinner to make it worthwhile ! IF you plan to attend PLEASE contact me or Chris before the 7th of January!

Chris (KB4CMF) is trying to plan a course in basic radio so participants can understand radio theories and hopefully pass their Technician exam. The course would start towards the end of January or early February. We would also set up a VE session to test new candidates for their Technician license after the course is done. The testing would be done in the class room after they are done with the course. Otherwise testing is by appointment only! Our proposed schedule is to do VE sessions on a quarterly basis.

We had a VE session in December with 3 new Technicians and one upgrade to general level. **CONGRATULATIONS to Larry Hallenbeck (KC2WGT), John Binney (KC2WGZ) and Jeff Baldwin (KC2WGU) the three new "hams" (Technician Class) and Scott Martin (W2SMM) with an upgrade to General Class.** If your hear any of them on the

air, it would be very nice to welcome them to our hobby. Remember your first few times "on the air" and PLEASE listen for our new "hams" and offer them your help.

If you know anyone interested in testing for a Tech license or an upgrade in the future, please advise me or Chris.

At this time, I am reminding some of you that dues were due in September. As of this time we still have some individuals and families, who have not yet paid their 2010 dues. Remember that HALF of our dues goes to the ARES/RACES treasury to support our 3 repeaters. For a "small club" we are very blessed to have one, let alone three repeaters. If you are not sure about whether your dues are up to date or not, please contact Chris (KB4CMF).

Come out and try this or some of the other upcoming events, maybe you will some enjoy different aspects of our hobby. The idea is to be as "radio active" as you can!

73 Hank, KB2VLP, Pres FHARA

ARES / RACES Report



From N2ZWO
Herkimer County
ARES/RACES
Emergency
Coordinator / RO



From The Desk of Don Rankins N2ZWO EC / RO Herkimer County ARES / RACES

The 145.110 Herkimer Co. ARES/RACES repeater does boast the capability of providing phone call service to members of ARES/RACES and FHARA members. The up and down codes are provided only to members.

Regular Phone Calls

Regular calls may be placed on the autopatch system. **IDENTIFY with your call sign.... Key up...** send the **UP CODE** and the seven digit phone number...the repeater voice will read back the word **AUTOPATCH** and the numbers you sent and then in 2 seconds dial. (If you wish for the number not to be broadcast click your **PTT** when you hear the word **AUTOPATCH**. The read back will be deleted and then the number will be dialed.) When you are finished, use the **DOWN CODE** to clear the autopatch. Be sure to **IDENTIFY** with your call sign when you are finished.

Member speed dial numbers are available. You need to register the phone number(s) with the EC/RO. This would be a most commonly called phone number that you use such as your home phone number. A one-time setup donation of \$5.00 will be used to help support the autopatch system. When dialing a speed dial number you **do not** use the **UP CODE**. Instead, **KEY UP** and send the assigned numbers. The repeater will respond with the word "Speed-dial" and the call sign that the number dialed is assigned to. Use the **DOWN CODE** to close the autopatch and remember to **ID** with your call sign.

Emergency Calls

There are two viable ways to make emergency calls to the 911 center in Herkimer.

1. **KEYUP...** send the **AUTOPATCH UP CODE** and **911** ... after a dispatcher answers start your transmission with the words "This is a **HAM RADIO emergency call**"... when all information has been passed end the call by clearing the autopatch with the **DOWN CODE**. Do **IDENTIFY** with your call sign after closing the autopatch.
2. Or **KEYUP... send 90...** this speed dial requires **NO USE** of the **UP CODE**. Complete your call as above by using the **DOWN CODE**. Do **ID** with your call sign after closing the autopatch.

Do the following: When transmitting emergency calls...try to remain calm! **Be patient** with the dispatcher or person handling your call. Keep your transmissions short and to the point. **KNOW WHERE YOU ARE**. Clearly state the nature of the emergency and exactly who or what is needed. The dispatchers will provide you with help as fast as possible. Use the word **OVER** at the end of each of your transmissions. This will clue the dispatcher that it is their turn to talk.

BE CERTAIN THAT THE DISPATCHER UNDERSTANDS THE CORRECT LOCATION OF YOUR EMERGENCY. DO NOT CLEAR THE AUTOPATCH UNTIL YOU ARE ASSURED THAT THE LOCATION AND NATURE OF THE EMERGENCY IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD. There is no way for the 911 dispatchers to place a call back to you if there is a question about the emergency. Stay on with the dispatcher until you are assured they have all of the needed information.

Hams monitoring the frequency should stand by. After the call has been cleared, continue to monitor the situation. If the initiating ham needs your assistance, he/she will certainly make it known. Do not get into the middle of a situation *unless your help is specifically asked for*.

LITZ Tone – long tone 0

The repeater is equipped to receive the **LITZ** tone for emergency paging. By **keying up** and **sending the 0 key for 4 seconds**, from your keypad, you can send the **LITZ tone**. The tone is used to **open our training** and activated **ARES/RACES /SKYWARN** nets. You may summon hams to aid you by sending the tone. **The 0 key must be pressed for a full 4 seconds in order for the tone to sound.**

I'll be glad to field all questions regarding the above information. Give me a call or ask at the next meeting!

73 Don Rankins N2ZWO, EC/RO Herkimer County
Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)
ASM Herkimer, Otsego, Delaware Counties
315-894-3621 voice and fax n2zwo@arrl.net



Skywarn® Report

We are now into the winter weather season. Remember we cannot control the weather, only learn to live with it to the best of our abilities. Please take time to double check your preparedness in case of power outages, and / or a Skywarn or ARES activation.

Due to the variables of the weather in our area, you should realize that driving conditions can go from good to very bad in a short time. Everyone, please double check your vehicles, tires, etc., and remember to use caution when driving during times of bad weather.

Also, we should all make sure that our homes are safe for the winter season. Be prepared at home, in your vehicle and at all times for the unexpected weather problems. This past month we were without power and phone service for MANY hours at my location in Fairfield. Additionally, there have been many fire related problems in central NY lately. Many of these are caused by wood stoves, and or careless handling of gasoline products.

When we have any Skywarn activations, please listen to the NCS (net control station) for the specific information need at that time. If the NCS needs observations from other locations, some of you may then be asked to deploy. Do not self deploy anywhere. If you think you could be of help somewhere else and wish to volunteer, please ask for permission to do so from the NCS, and receive the ok first!

I thank all of you for your past interest and help in Skywarn activities in Herkimer County.

Hank KB2VLP Herkimer County Skywarn Coordinator

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To report severe weather online - use this website:
http://cstar.cestm.albany.edu:7775/Severe_WX/svr.htm

Monitor the 145.110 repeater for any SKYWARN activity during severe weather. Also, monitor any streams or rivers and report any flooding.

73, Chris, KB4CMF Editor



CW FOREVER!



Editor's Corner - KB4CMF



WELCOME

Well this month I actually got something accomplished! I purchased a **Davis Advantage Vue** weather station for home. I like to learn about the weather and finally decided it was time to “bite the bullet” and purchase one. Now that I have it - I need to get the interface to connect it to the PC so I can send information to NWS or out on to APRS. The unit works great and provides a lot of weather related information. It also lets you know when there is a need for changing the time, the appropriate solstice, and meteor showers to name a few.

Congratulations to the hams that passed the recent **EXAM** conducted by the **FHARA VE Team** at the 911 center before our last meeting. There were three new Tech's licensed. They are **Larry Hallenbeck KC2WGT, John Binney KC2WGZ and Jeff Baldwin KC2WGU**. Also, **Scott Martin KC2VCE** upgraded from Tech to General (**Now W2SMM**). We were very pleased that all our candidates were able to pass the exams. 73 and enjoy your hard earned privileges.

Hank and I would like to thank the VE Team members that participated in the VE Test session. They included; Hank KB2VLP, Chris KB4CMF, Don N2ZWO, Vince WB2FYZ, and Norm K2YUO. We would not be able to conduct our VE sessions without our volunteer examiners – so thank you everyone and 73.

We are looking for ideas for programs for the association. If you have an idea - get it to one of the officers. We will try to come up with something.

Winter has settled in here now and we have already had one power outage here in Dolgeville. I encourage all to check their batteries – make sure you have an emergency kit or plan for your home. If you have a generator check it out and start it once in a while to insure it is working well. Hank KB2VLP has also had a power outage at his location. For those of us that have Time Warner for phone service remember when the power goes out you lose service.

Well - I guess I can get off my soap box for now. I now return the frequency back to other amateur uses.

Hope to **SEE** you all on **CW** soon.
73 Chris KB4CMF



Educational Committee

We are looking forward to our next class. It is set to start in the first week of February. Please get the word out that we will be having one. The times will be Tuesday evenings at the Little Falls Library 2nd floor classroom. Class will start at 6 pm and end at 8 pm for 13 weeks. We did not have a site to hold a fall class. Hopefully, we will have enough participation. The cost will be \$40 per person and include the course book. If you know of anyone that wants to become a ham, have him or her contact me our one of the officers in the association. **Thanks.**

73 Chris KB4CMF



Fundraising Bottles & Cans



Do not forget to bring your clean returnable/deposit bottles and cans to meetings. We are still collecting them. Remember every little bit helps, and it adds up quicker than you may think. **Proceeds will benefit the ARES/RACES repeater autopatch.**



FYI - I

Area VE Sessions

Listed below is information on local VE test sessions. Please contact the person or persons listed for more information:

FHARA Inc., VE Team

The FHARA VE Team will conduct test sessions quarterly. VE test sessions are by appointment **ONLY**. All three levels are available. **Please pre-register**. There will be **No Walk-ins**. **Contact: Hank KB2VLP** test liaison at 823-2993 or **Chris KB4CMF** session contact person at 429-3927 or E-mail cbouck01@twcny.rr.com. Please bring two (2) forms of I.D. (one with a photo); original AND a photocopy of current ham license (if any); original AND photocopies of any Certificates of Successful Completion of an Exam (CSCE) element; and blue or black ink pen and a pencil. At this time tests will be conducted quarterly - unless there is a greater demand for more. The test fee is currently set at **\$15.00**.

The FHARA Emm Comm Team will conduct EMCOM test sessions by appointment **ONLY** prior to the FHARA, Inc. meetings. All three levels are available. **Please pre-register**. There will be **No Walk-ins**. **Contact: Don, N2ZWO**, EmComm test coordinator at 315-894-5501 or E-mail drankins@twcny.rr.com

The Rome Radio Club VE Team

The Rome Radio Club VEC team conducts examinations on the first Friday of every month (**May 4, Jun 1, Jul 6, Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7**) at the Westmoreland Fire Station, Station Road, Westmoreland, NY. Sessions start at 6:30 pm. A pre-registration of 5 days in advance is required. To do this you must fill out the proper FCC 605 form, include a copy of your present FCC license and a copy of any CSCE's for element credit. Send to Bill Effland K2GVI, Box 157, Westmoreland, NY 13490. For further info contact **Bill Effland (K2GVI)** at 315-853-5700 or K2GVI@localnet.com. Any person who qualifies for a handicap waiver or needs special accommodations to be tested should contact Bill to make a special appointment. The test fee is currently set at \$15.00.

The Madison Oneida ARC VE

The MOARC club sponsors VE testing on the third Friday of every month at the BOCES complex on Spring Road in Verona at 7:00 PM. All necessary papers, answer sheets, etc are provided by the examining team. It is a good idea to bring a couple sharpened Number two pencils to the test session. Two forms of ID are required, and one should be a picture ID. Minors who do not have the two forms can bring a birth certificate or other legal document that identifies them and have a responsible adult attest to their identity such as a parent or other relative. The fee may have gone up a few cents; it has been at fourteen dollars but bring a couple bucks extra in case the fee has increased. **Contact Bill Mayers (KG2DI)** at 315-633-8844 for more information.

Oneonta Amateur Radio Club VE

Oneonta – VE Sessions will be at 6 pm where ever we are meeting? (The OARC has been wandering of late.)
Otsego County Radio Association testing sessions are set for at 6 pm at the EOC in **Cooperstown** (Otsego County Office Bldg). Test fee is \$14. Walk-ins are OK, but calling ahead to be sure session is on is a good idea. ID's and copy of license (if upgrading) are required. Talk-in will be on the 146.850 or 146.640 repeaters. Contact person is **Bill Holland, AA2RM** at (607) 746-2777 wholland@stny.rr.com

If you can read this thank a Teacher.
If you're reading it in English thank a Soldier.

The Amateur's Code® **Paul M. Segal W9EEA (1928)**

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE... never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL... offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE... with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY... slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED... radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.

PATRIOTIC... station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

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FYI – III

Area Nets

Empire Slow Speed HF net nightly at 6 p.m. on 3.576 MHz.

NYS CW net 7:00 p.m. and 10 p.m. on 3.576

Central District Emergency net – 7 p.m. second Tuesday of every month, on 147.00 repeater (negative offset)

(CDEN). Walt N2IK is providing valuable assistance. CDEN services the six county areas of Cayuga, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego and Seneca counties.

Onondaga County Radio Emergency Net meets on the first and third Mondays of each month on 147.30(+) for both ARES and RACES members in the Onondaga County Radio Emergency Corp. OCREN **WA2PUU** is Onondaga County Emergency Coordinator.

Oneida County Traffic & Emergency net (OCTEN)

Early Session at 6:30 p.m. on 146.760 - with call-ups at 6:35 p.m. on the following frequencies 145.110-, 146.610-,

146.655-, 146.850-, 146.880-

Late Session 9:30 p.m. on 145.170- with callups on 146.760-
Oneida - Madison Emergency Net (OMEN) is held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 1915 local time on the 145.170 repeater (negative offset, no PL). **OMEN** is the ARES net for Oneida and Madison Counties. Each month training and information are presented to ARES members and non-members that are interested in emergency communications. The net typically is 15 to 30 minutes in length. For more information, please contact:

John Sallustio (AB2QZ), the Oneida - Madison Counties Emergency Coordinator (EC), phone: (315) 336-7642,
Michael Little (KB2CCD), Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC), phone: (315) 339-4308, email: kb2ccd@arrl.net .
Doug Arvidson (AK2Z), formerly **KC2MBC**, Assistant Emergency Coordinator/Net Manager 315-245-2838, Email: ak2z@twcnv.rr.com

MOARC Tech Net meets every Monday evening at 7:30PM on the 145.170 - repeater. The net will conclude at the end of March 2010 and resume in the fall.

Otsego County ARES / RACES net 146.850
7 p.m. every Thursday

Herkimer County ARES / RACES net 7 p.m. Monday
145.110 - PL 167. 9 use DTMF 325 to disable PL - also check-ins on 147. 045 PL 167. 9 and 147. 090 no PL, Also try 144. 390 via APRS - Net Manager is Chris **KB4CMF**

Massachusetts 6 Meter net Sunday 9:30 a.m. 52.230 MHz
Montgomery County ARES / RACES net
7 p.m. Thursday 147.195+

New York State RACES net
9 a.m. Sunday 3.993.5 MHz. Weekly

New York Phone net
1 p.m. 7.238 Alt 3.925 MHz Daily

New York Public Operations meets 7 days a week at 5 pm /1700hrs Local on 3.925 MHz with an alternate of 3.913. N2YJZ is Net Manager

New York State ARES 3.925 MHz as needed

Second Region Traffic Handlers Information Net (SRTHIN) Every Monday following the (NYPON) net about 5:20 p.m. on 3.925 MHz.

SKYWARN HF net Sunday 9:30 a.m. 7.234 MHz (Except 1P^{STP} Sunday on 3.3993.5 MHz) + or - QRM

Swap net 7 p.m. Wednesday on the 147.00 repeater

W. Mass 2 meter net Sunday 9 a.m. 146.910

W. Mass 6 meter net Sunday 9:30 a.m. 53.230 PL 162.2

K1RMS 6 meter net last Friday of month 7 p.m. USB 50.165



FYI - IV

Membership & Renewals

Please note - **If you do not see your callsign in the following table, you are not a member in good standing.** It is that time of year again... September is next month. So, please get your dues to the Treasurer as soon as you can, to avoid a lapse in membership and voting privileges. Make your checks payable to the Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Dues are as follows:

\$15 for an Individual Membership

\$10 for a Student Membership

\$20 for a Family Membership

Your membership gives you voting, newsletter, and autopatch privileges. Do not let your membership lapse. The following is a list of members in good standing in the FHARA:

K2UBE **	KC2ENH	KB2VLP +
WA2BSF **	W5IXM	KB2VLO +
WA2LHQ **	N2NDQ	KI4LOA
WA2SVC**	KB2VLQ	
	KC2NHC	
W2MVB	N2KAE	WB2FAW +
W2XAM	N2ZWO	WA2BBE +
KC2AWJ		
K2RXO	KC2OJI	W2CEA +
KB2WRP	KB2ZJH	KV1G +
KB4CMF	KB2TGD	
KA2JXD	K2YUO	N2WTF +
KC2TFE	K2ALS	KB2WYZ +
N2CSQ	K2DLI	
KC2QNW	KE7AWV	
WB2FYZ	N6RVA	WS2O +
W1VM	KN2G	KB2RMX +
KC2WGZ	W2SMM	

Callsigns in Blue are paid through 2008 - 2009 (Paid up)

Callsigns in Red are Life Members

Those members with an * after their name, are free members for the year, due to the organizations **class enrollment and subsequent licensing**. Those members with an ** after their name, are **Life Members**. **Total paid up membership = 41.** Free due to class = **0**. **Life Members = 4**. **Family (+Plus sign) Memberships = 5** (2 members or more) = **10**. Single Members = **35**. **Total membership = 45** as of Dec **09**.

Here is a breakdown of the association's makeup of classes of licenses:

Advanced	3	7%	Note All figures were rounded.
Extra	13	29%	
General	19	42%	
Technician	9	20%	
Technician Plus	1	2%	
Total	45	100%	

If I omitted anyone, please bring it to my attention ASAP.
Chris KB4CMF



FYI - V

2009 Western New York Hamfest Calendar

30 January 2010: Lockport ARA Hamfest sponsored by the Lockport Amateur Radio Association will be held at the South Lockport Fire Company at Ruhlman and Transit Roads in Lockport NY. For more information go to [LARA Hamfest](#). Talk-in 146,82 (PL 107.2). Contact Daniel Caswell N2OBX, 29 Hoover Pkwy, Lockport NY 14094. email: caswelld@verizon.net.

18 April 2010: BARA Hamfest sponsored by the Binghamton Amateur Radio Association, located at the Port Crane Fire Company, 844 Route 369 in Port Crane NY. For more information go to [BARA Hamfest](#). Talk-in 146.865 (PL 146.2), contact: Brian Adee K2DLB, 1060 Bunn Hill Rd., Vestal NY, 13850, email: k2dlb@arrl.net.

5 June 2010: Atlantic Division Convention (Rochester Hamfest) sponsored by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association. For more details go to [Rochester Hamfest](#). Talk-In: 146.280/146.880 (PL 110.9). Contact: Duane Fregoe, K2SI, 46 Denishire Drive, Rochester, NY 14624. Email: k2si@arrl.net

17 July 2010: RADIOCOMM 2010 located at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds, Cemetary Street in Frankfort, NY, is sponsored by the Utica Amateur Radio Club, Inc. For more information: [RadioComm 2000](#). Talk-In: 146.760. Contact: Marty Benedict, w2mnb, 315 Marion Street, Herkimer, NY 13350. Email: w2mnb@arrl.net

28 Aug 2010: 2010 Ham-Jam sponsored by the Central New York Amateur Radio Association, will be held at the Deerfield Volunteer Fire Department, 5476 Trenton Road in Deerfield, NY. Go to [CNYARA](#) for more information. Talk-In: 145.210(-). Contact: Brian Lekki, KC2UQR, 458 Butler Road, Poland, NY 13431. Email: KC2UQR@gmail.com



FYI – VI

OTHER CLUBS

This section is available to our neighboring clubs and any other organization that would like to pass on information that would be of general interest to our association's membership.

Rome Radio Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at Stiefvater Consultants, Griffiss Park, Rome, NY. More information is available on the club repeater, 146.880. wb2jil@arrl.net
<http://pages.prodigy.net/romeradioclub>

MOARC Madison Oneida Amateur Radio Club (W2MO) meets on the last Wednesday each month at 7:30 pm at the Oneida /Madison BOCES on Spring Rd in Verona, NY. All are welcome. Club repeaters 145.170, 147.285 (-) PL 136.5. Their web site is: <http://www.moarc.com/>

Utica ARC (K2IQ) meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Cedarbrook Independant Living center at 101 Sitrin Rd. New Hartford. Starts at 7:00 pm. Bring a friend along as well. Their web site is: www.uticaarc.org

CNYARC N2CNY Central NY Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at the Marcy Town Hall. There is no Club repeater frequency. The club website is www.cnyara.com

Boonville Amateur Radio Club meets at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of every month. Meetings are held in the white building located behind Slim's Restaurant and Adirondack Music in the Boonville municipal parking lot.

RAGS Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse (W2AE) club meets on the second Thursday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 pm at the Onondaga Hill Masonic Club Building. Their web site is: www.ragsinreview.com

SARA The **Schenectady Amateur Radio** meetings are held at 7 pm in the new cafeteria at the Niskayuna Senior High School, 1626 Balltown Rd, Schenectady, NY 12309. Talk in will be on the SARA repeater 147.06 + Their web site is: <http://www.k2ae.org>

TARA The **Troy Amateur Radio Association** meets at the Green Island Municipal Center, located on George Street (Just north of the Green Island Bridge at the V in the road on the third Tuesday of each month. There is plenty of off street parking available on the Hudson Avenue side of the meeting hall. Also, this building is handicapped accessible and special handicapped parking is available for those needing such. Monthly meetings start at 7:30 pm and guests are ALWAYS welcome to attend. Their web site is at: <http://www.n2ty.org/>

TARC The **Tryon Amateur Radio Club (K2JJI)**. Net is at 7 pm each Tuesday on the Tryon repeater 146.700 (-) offset with a 100 Hz CTCSS. Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at the Fulton County Sheriff's Dept EOC – Route 29 & Harrison St, Johnstown NY. (Back of the building). Their website is at: <http://k2jji.org/>

FYI – VII

REMINDER

If you have an article for the newsletter, please try to get it to me no later than the 25th of the month for the following month's issue.

Write Early and Write Often

The FHARA Newsletter is looking for a few good writers, particularly ham radio operators working on any aspect of our hobby, who would like to publicize their activities here. You don't have to be Vonnegut to contribute to your newsletter and you don't have to use Microsoft Word to compose your thoughts. The editorial staff (a.k.a. me) can handle just about any text and graphic format, so don't be afraid to submit whatever you have to cbouck01@twcnv.rr.com The deadline for the next issue is a week before our meeting, so write early and write often. 73 Chris KB4CMF



FYI – VIII **For Sale**



If you are interested in advertising your items for sale, please contact Chris **KB4CMF** at 429-3927 or email: cbouck01@twcnv.rr.com

FYI – IX



The Christmas Debate

To those weary of the "Xmas debate," please bear with me as I actually have a RADIO point to make...

There is no doubt our social engineers have worked overtime to strip Christians of the respect and honor of our observance, Christmas. Almost as annually predictable as the atheists whining about a crèche in front of a library somewhere or non-Christians complaining about their various notions is the annual "X-MAS Debate."

It may come as a surprise to some that Xmas was the original name of "Christmas" used by the churches between 200 to 300 A.D. The letter "X" was not a letter but, instead it was a religious symbol of the church that meant "Christ." Later, the Greeks and Romans adopted the symbol of a fish and called it an "ex." The fish symbol we often see on places of business or trunks of cars to indicate its owner is a Christian is familiar even today. Later the fish symbol was added to the alphabet and changed to a cross, then morphed into what we know today as the letter "x," two diagonal lines crossing in the middle.

"X MAS" meant a holy day in which a religious mass or feast took place to honor Christ. And it was called, "ex-muss."

Many years later the religious symbol, "X" was morphed into secular uses for any word beginning with the first few letters of the word "Christ." From that we became accustomed to XTAL for crystal (among others) but I have never heard anyone complaining about the word "XTAL."

I hope this does not come off as my sounding like I am some sort of pompous religious scholar; I may be pompous but I am indeed no scholar and certainly no religious scholar. However you can verify this information easily in any World Book Encyclopedia under "Christmas" or in Isaac Asimov's book, Asimov's Guide to the Bible and, no doubt, countless other sources.

So there is little need to get thy nose bent out of shape when someone uses the term, "Xmas" as it is a term of very holy origin. Of course, using it as syntax to casually abbreviate the word, "Christmas" is probably not strictly proper either. But "XMAS" does not connote blasphemy or irreverence in its pure usage.

We all know the meaning of "73." As a solely CW operator I prefer to use the term, "58" as Christmastime. Not too many hams anymore know the meaning of "58" When they were

devising abbreviations to cut down on repetitive phrases in telegraph message forms, the forerunner of the ITU assigned "73" to mean "best regards." Among the other numerical short cuts you will find "58," which means "Merry Christmas and a happy New Year."

58 DE WA9VLK (Now, isn't that easier?)

To be honest I have never heard of any of these signals – that is 58? Have you??

From the CW reflector - Chris **KB4CMF**

FYI – X



Yorkville Battery has Moved

Yorkville Battery has now moved to 126 Whitesboro Street, Yorkville, NY 12395. Phone (315)736-2307 Their website is at <http://www.yorkvillebattery.com/>. I suggest you check them out.

Chris **KB4CMF**

FYI – XI



Albert Says

"You see, wire telegraph is kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat." Albert Einstein

Thanks to Chris **KB4CMF**

FYI – XII

"The K9RFZ PL-259 Tool" Simple, Inexpensive Coax Connector Tool

By Joseph Lawrence, K9RFZ

I use a lot of PL-259 connectors to build feedline cables for friends and recent Technician hams that need some help getting on the air. I have streamlined the process by using a coax prep tool similar to the DX Engineering DXE-UT-8213 and the K4AVU crimp tool mounted in a bench vise. The slowest step in the process is attaching the connector to the prepared coax. Aside from aligning the connector and making certain the center conductor wires all fit into the center pin, I still use a pair of vise grips to grab the connector and thread it onto the coax outer covering. I take special precautions to assure the vise grip is snug enough so the jaws don't grind the connector and yet not too snug that it deforms the connector. With a little creativity and time, I've replaced the vise grips with a simple and inexpensive tool that protects the connector and requires minimal effort to get the connector all the way onto the coax. I reused a PL-259 barrel and glued it inside a PVC T-connector with the threads pointed outward. I found

the 3/4" with threaded 1/2" PVC connector gives a modest fit to the PL-259 barrel. I used Gorilla Glue and coated the PVC threads before inserting the barrel. This glue expands as it dries and some glue wicked up the connector along the knurled edge.



Prep the coax as usual, but then thread the PL-259 connector into the new tool.



Line up the connector on the coax and twist away.

The T-connector side openings allow you to see when the center conductor has reached the tip of the connector. Just unthread the tool from the installed connector and I'm ready to crimp the connector and solder the tip for another flawless installation. For the price of a PVC connector, a leftover PL-259 barrel, and some glue, I have a tool that does the job quickly every time.



Thanks to Vince **WB2FYZ** for the information

FYI – XII

FHARA Donates to Food Pantry

At the last meeting the **FHARA** voted to donate **\$50** to the local **Food Pantry**. Below is a picture of president **Hank Crofoot**, **KB2VLP** presenting a check to the Herkimer Food Pantry to association member **Bill Paslak KC2AWJ** who **works at the pantry**. We hope that this small gesture will make some needy local families Christmas a little brighter and less hungry. Bill says thanks to the association for their generous donation. 73



Photo by De Crofoot KB2VLO



FYI – XIII



The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool on Monday, January 4. This new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010; it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010. The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination; it will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element. The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

+ Amateur Radio in Space: First Chinese Amateur Radio Satellite Now in Space

Someone is picking on me again!! Chris KB4CMF

This space is intentionally left blank AGAIN because it DEFINITELY irritates our president Hank KB2VLP (But - that is ok since he irritates ME constantly.) :-) - *anonamouse*

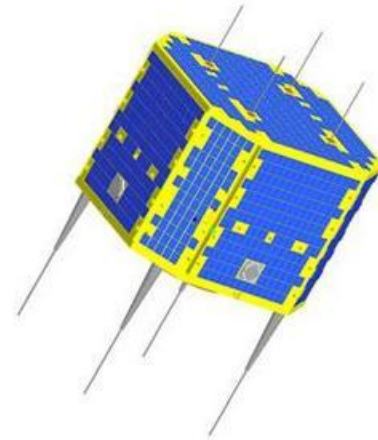
Tip: PowerPole Updates

Powerpoles are now available in welded assemblies from Anderson Power Products. There is typically a minimum of 500 to 1000 pieces (250 to 500) mated sets. These are ultrasonically bonded. Because Red and Black are so popular, there is a standard part number: PPHSG12RB. These cost a little more because of the extra labor to bond them, but now you can do away with the roll-pin. You can order this from any of our distributors. See our Web site for our regular distribution channels. There are also numerous smaller distributors that carry some product as well.

Also, Anderson finally made a waterproof powerpole pak. We call the Product Line SPEC Pak. We use 15/45 powerpoles inside an IP67 shell. Currently we have a 4 and a 6 pole version released with many other configurations in design to be released throughout 2010 and 2011. By mid 2010 we'll have versions to handle all the way up to 3/0 wire and hundreds of configurations in between. We also now have a pre-made ground powerpole and a powerpole that will accept 4 signal contacts in the same 15/45 housing.-- Eric Brown, Product Manager, Anderson Power Products

Don't forget the FHARA Christmas party. There is still time to sign up.

+ VEC News: NCVEC Releases New Technician Class Question Pool



AMSAT China (CAMSAT) reports that at around 0230 UTC on December 15, China launched its first Amateur Radio satellite -- named XW-1 -- into space. The microsatellite -- a secondary payload aboard the CZ-4C rocket launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center -- was launched into a Sun-synchronous orbit

with an apogee of approximately 1200 kilometers. XW-1 successfully reached orbit at 0253 UTC. Members of the XW-1 launch team reported they received a beacon from the satellite shortly after the satellite deployed. In the first few days, the XW-1 team will work on the satellite's FM and store-forward transponder mode and its linear transponder mode. Once those tests are complete, they will upload a new flight program to set up the payload schedule. The satellite's communications payload includes a beacon and three crossband transponders operating in FM, SSB/CW and digital modes. Uplink and downlink frequencies can be found on the CAMSAT Web site. For the latest Keplerian elements for XW-1 and other satellites, check out the W1AW Keplerian Bulletins.



That is all for this month.

Hope to see you all at the meeting this week. Also, I hope to hear you on the air.

73 de KB4CMF

**Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
& Herkimer County ARES / RACES**

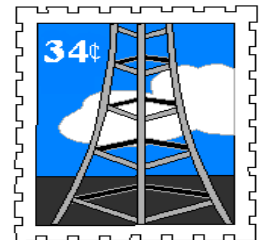
NOTE The next meeting of the FHARA, Inc. will be at 7:00 p.m. on 13 January 2010 at the 911 center in Herkimer.**

This month's program will be a by Vince WB2FYZ on a PL259 tool and info by Don N2ZWO on repeater functions and procedures

The FHARA Breakfast Club will NOT meet this month as it is the same day as the Christmas party.

Bring a friend. Bring a new ham. Bring an old ham.

**Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
clo Chris Bouck KB4CMF
28 W State Street
Dolgeville, New York 13329**



**Visit us at:
WWW.FHARA.NET**