



GRAM NEWS



Volume 42, No. 8

W2RCX

April 2004

April Meeting

The April meeting of GRAM will be held on Thursday, April 15th, 2004 at 7:30 PM. The meeting location will be at the Salvation Army in Batavia, 529 E. Main St. Program TBA

The Board of Directors meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Thursday April 15th.

Field Day 2004

The Club has decided to participate in Field Day this year. Joe Ogozaly, KC2IQT & Terry Cook, KC2JKU will be the chairpersons for this years Field Day activities. The club has also decided that this will be a for fun event. We need to help out Joe and Terry as much as we can to make this a successful event for GRAM. With that in mind the planning should begin now. So that we can decide where to hold Field Day, how are we going to get the equipment to the Field Day site? Help will be needed for set up, operating, and tear down. As well as food for the participants. If you would be interested in helping out on Field Day in any way, please let Joe and Terry know or a GRAM Board Member or Officer.



Club Repeater Update

News about our 147.285 repeater, Howard and I were up at the repeater sit and talked to the contractor involved in the refurbishing of the building. The tower on the roof has to come down.

This will need to occur about the end of May 2004. We are going to have to have some help getting this done. The contractor is willing to work with us. The tower will have to be relocated in another spot on the building.

The repeater has been having some noises -hum- and other noises - We have found with all of the dust being generated the fan has sucked a lot of it in to the cabinet, even with the filter on the cabinet. All of this is not good for the electronics. We will have access to the room about the end of May, we hope?

As I get more information I will pass it along.

Regards: Harold Hay, W2ABQ

Club Officers

President: Theodore Karpenko, KB2LXD

Vice-President: Brian Stricker, N2XNY

Secretary: Joan Brundage, KB2ZCE

Treasurer: Harold Hay, W2ABQ

Directors

2005: Jim Cochrane, KC2EZL

2005: Joe DeFazio, W2DIG

2004: Howard Flint, KC2EZJ

2004: Peter Brundage, WB2CGF

2004: Tom Rosica, W2GIR

Committee Chairs

Membership:	Howard Flint, KC2EZJ
Program:	Open
Newsletter:	Brian Stricker N2XNY
Website:	Brian Stricker N2XNY
Publicity:	Tom Rosica W2GIR
Education:	Brian Stricker N2XNY
Christmas Party:	Don & Cheryl Yaxley KB2QKE & KB2RFI
Field Day:	Joe Ogozaly KC2IQT Terry Cook KC2JKU
Picnic:	Howard KC2EZJ & Carol Flint
Historian:	Open
Ways & Means	Harold Hay, W2ABQ

Committee Chairs (cont'd)

Hamfest:	Harold Hay W2ABQ
RFI:	Harold Hay W2ABQ
Equipment:	John Maha K2ZUT
Benevolence:	Joan Brundage KB2ZCE
Repeater:	Harold Hay W2ABQ
ARRL:	Dr. David Bell W2YCS
ARES/RACES:	Les Wilcox WA2GUP

Club Repeater

The club operates a 2m repeater, W2RCX, on 147.285 MHz with a + offset. The repeater control persons are:

Harold Hay W2ABQ
Howard Flint KC2EZJ
John Maha K2ZUT
Joe Defazio W2DIG

The GRAM Net is held on the club's repeater, W2RCX, on Thursday nights at 9:00PM. All amateurs with a technician class or higher license are invited to check in. This is an informal net. So come on and join in on the fun !

If the repeater is off the air, please tune to 147.285 MHz simplex and attempt to contact a repeater control person.

Rochester Hamfest

Almost time again to look in your basement or closet to find some HAM radio gear that you don't want. Last year our Radio Club got together and donated items to the club for us to sell at the Rochester Hamfest Flea market. We took in \$ 800.00 for the club. We are going to do it again this year. Take a look and find something like an old radio or parts. Lets have every member of GRAM give one item. Computer equipment will not be accepted. The rules are that donations will not be returned. Prices will set by Harold Hay and Howard Flint. Items can be picked up by Harold Hay, call 343-1330 or 343-2844.

Last year we set up the GRAM tent at the Rochester Hamfest and advertised the Gram Radio Club. We also sold Batavia Hamfest tickets. We are doing the same thing this year. The regular price for the tickets is \$ 5.00 each. Special pricing at the Rochester hamfest is only \$ 4.00 each.

The Rochester Hamfest is June 4-5-6-2004. Lets get behind our club and donate some items so that we can raise money for the club.

Harold Hay W2ABQ

START OF SEVERE WEATHER

So, just when does the severe weather season normally begin? In the NWS Buffalo Forecast Area, the average date of the first report of large hail or damaging thunderstorms winds is April 8th.

In the past ten years, the earliest date of reported severe weather was March 9th in 2000 and 2002. In 1998 (a very active severe weather year), the first severe weather wasn't reported until May 4th.

Judy Levan, NWS Buffalo, NY

Editors Note

If you have an article that you would like to submit to GRAM NEWS, please submit them via e-mail. My e-mail address is: N2XNY@yahoo.com. I understand that not everyone has e-mail, so you can also send submissions to:

GRAM Radio Club
PO Box 572
Batavia, NY 14021-0572

Program Chairperson Needed

After many, many years, Tom Rosica is stepping down as the Program Chairperson. Many thanks go out to Tom for a job well done. As such, the Program Chairperson position is open to any member of the club. If you are interested in this important position, please let the club officers and board members know.

Activities

Is there a Ham Radio activity (Fox hunt, contest, satellite, SSTV, Road Trip to Dayton, etc.) that you would be interested in ? Chances are that others in the club share the same interest. Please let a board member or club officer know. They can let the rest of the club know about the activity, recruit participants, and select a date.

Membership Chairperson Needed

The club is in need of a Membership Chairperson. As of 11/30/03 Harold Hay, W2ABQ, will relinquish his Membership Chairperson duties. If you are interested in this Chair, please contact a Club Officer or Board Member.

The club thanks Harold for his tenure as Membership Chairperson.

Upcoming Events

4/15	GRAM Meeting
5/20	GRAM Meeting
6/26&27	Field Day
8/7	Club Picnic

GRAM Treasurer

Previously, it was reported that Harold Hay was resigning his post as GRAM Treasurer, effective 1/4/04. Harold has agreed to stay on as Treasurer until his replacement can be found.

With that said, any full member of GRAM wishing to complete Harold's term as GRAM Treasurer should contact a GRAM Board member or Officer.

MISSISSIPPI AMATEURS RESPOND FOLLOWING AMTRAK ACCIDENT

Members of Metro-Jackson, Mississippi, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MJARES) and the Jackson Amateur Radio Club (JARC) responded Tuesday, April 6, after Amtrak's "City of New Orleans" passenger train bound from New Orleans to Chicago derailed. One person died and dozens were injured in the mishap, which occurred at 7 PM near the Madison-Yazoo county line after the train had departed from Jackson with 80 passengers and crew members aboard.

"Fortunately, rescue operations quickly turned into a cleanup effort as passengers were transported to area hospitals and overnight accommodations," said MJARES member and ARES Emergency Coordinator Ben Jones, AC5SU.

The accident's swampy location made access difficult for rescue workers and other emergency personnel and also complicated communication and logistics. Jeff Sykes, K5VU, and other JARC members responded to a request from the Central Mississippi Chapter of the American Red Cross to provide emergency communication. Greg King, KD5HDZ, accompanied the Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle as it brought water and snacks

to emergency workers at the incident command post and the Madison County Sheriff's Office respite center in Flora.

Club members Bill White, KC5WYY, and Terry Drake, KD5JPB, staffed the JARC radio station at the Red Cross Chapter, utilizing HF as well as the KA5SBK, W5PPB, W5PFR and N5WDG repeaters. John Jenkins, KD5QQF, and Guy Harrell, KD5QQG, also responded to assist in the relief effort.

MJARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator Ed Jones, W5GEJ, and Central Mississippi DEC Ron Brown, AB5WF, activated the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service on behalf of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Official Relay Station Lew King, W5LEW, stood ready to service NTS traffic and disaster wellness inquiries.

MJARES members worked well into the early morning hours of April 7 to support Red Cross relief operations, passing vital messages relating to logistics and essential on-the-scene information. Jones managed the amateurs' volunteer efforts in conjunction with Red Cross staff and volunteers.

Less than an hour before the train wreck, SKY-WARN Coordinator and MJARES AEC Billy Bob Sekul, N5XXX, had put members on alert for severe weather at the request of the National Weather Service.

Courtesy of ARRL Letter 4/9/04

