



GRAM NEWS



Volume 42, No. 9

W2RCX

May 2004

May Meeting

The May meeting of GRAM will be held on Thursday, May 20th, 2004 at 7:30 PM. The meeting location will be at the Salvation Army in Batavia, 529 E. Main St. Program will be a video, Winning on The Hill. This is a video of the Rochester VHF Group's effort on Ganett Hill in the early 1990's in a VHF contest.

The Board of Directors meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Thursday May 20th.

Donated Equipment

The items listed below have been donated to the club (GRAM) from the estate of Ange DeFazio, W2SRP. It has been decided to offer these items to ALL GRAM CLUB members at the May club meeting. Prices are starting prices, with the opportunity to bid on each item you want. These items will be taken to the Rochester Hamfest if not sold at the meeting on Thursday May 20, 2004. The radios to be offered are:

1. Yaesu FT-900 with ac and hand mike, manual \$725.00
2. Yaesu FT-2100 B Amp 1200 watt \$275.00
3. Kenwood TM-255A all mode 2 meter \$375.00
4. Dentron antenna tuner Mt-3000A \$275.00
5. Kenwood TS-440 w/mike and power supply \$325.00
6. Azden psc-7000 2 meter FM \$60.00

Cash or a good check will be accepted for these items.

Thank you, Harold Hay Hamfest Chairman

Club Repeater Update

On Thursday May 13th, the tower that supports the club's repeater antenna was relocated at the School for The Blind. Due to construction at the school, the repeater tower and antenna would either have to temporarily come down or be relocated.

The repeater committee decided that it would be best to relocate the tower. Howard Flint KC2EZJ, fabricated some hardware so that the tower could be mounted to the side of the building. The hardware also allows the tower to be raised up and down to work on it. The tower now rests 30 feet west of it's original location at about the same height.

Thank you to all who helped with the tower move.

Regards: Harold Hay, W2ABQ

Field Day

Help! We are in danger of not having Field Day this year. The group heading up this event has stepped down.

The club is looking to have a small but fun Field Day event. It should be a chance for the club members to get together and have some fun.

If you are interested in putting this event together, please contact a board member or club officer and let them know. Hurry though time, is running out.

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

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.

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.

Upcoming Events

5/20	GRAM Meeting
6/4-6/6	Rochester Hamfest
6/26&27	Field Day
7/17	Batavia Hamfest
8/7	Club Picnic

ARES/RACES Update

Hams involved in Public Service have been busy this month! There have been three walks using the services of hams from GRAM/ARES.

On Sunday, 02 May the MS Walk eating and socializing was shortened by a sudden decrease in temperature and rainfall. Hams serving were Howard, KC2EZJ; Harold, W2ABQ; Ted, KB2LXD; Liz, N2LVW; Joe, KC2IQT; and Les, WA2GUP. Next year we will probably put an HT in the truck so the driver can monitor the activity and move more quickly to the needed spot. Also, the hams served above and beyond communications by loading up the leftover supplies, food & equipment. Most of the MS volunteers had packed up an left early. So extra thanks for that, as well.

On Saturday, 08 May, the FAS (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) Run & Fun Walk used communications—this was their first endeavor, and it was a sanctioned race. Hams providing communications were Harold, W2ABQ; Bill, K2IAQ; and Howard, KC2EZJ. The race was regarded as a success, and will probably be much larger next year. We had very little lead time on this walk, so special thanks to the hams who pitched in.

The Salvation Army Walk was on Saturday, 15 May. It was a small walk on a rather rainy day. Nevertheless it was held, and hams assisted: Mark, KC2GMG; Harold, W2ABQ; Howard, KC2EZJ; Bill, K2IAQ; Ted, KB2LXD. This is the first time that hams have helped on this one.

The next one coming up is the Batavia Scholarship Race (the Don Carroll Race) on Saturday, 19 June. Quite a few hams are needed for this one. We cer-

tainly count on the regulars, but we could use some more. If you know of a ham that might be interested in using his skills in providing public service, encourage him/her to help out on this event. If we have enough, we can either double-team, or relieve some of the hams near the end of the race.

Again, a tip of the hat in thanks to the above-named hams for their public service.

Les, WA2GUP
EC of Genesee County ARES/RACES

@ Last

The International Morse code officially gains a new character on May 3. That's when the now-familiar "@" symbol joins the Morse lexicon as the letters "AC" run together (---.). Known as the "commercial at" or "commat," the @ symbol never rose to the level of usage that demanded a unique Morse character until it gained currency as a critical component of e-mail addresses during the past decade or so.

Last December, the International Telecommunication Union Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 8 agreed on the wording of a Draft New Recommendation ITU-R M. [MORSE] that specified the international Morse code character set and transmission procedures and included the new Morse code character.

The pending change has attracted some attention in the media, including mentions on National Public Radio's All Things Considered and in The New York Times.

from ARRL Letter, Vol 23 No 18

Thanks to Howard Flint for submitting this.

FCC Rule Changes

The FCC says minor amendments to various Amateur Radio rules become effective June 1. The regulatory changes, which the FCC made on its own motion rather than in reaction to any petitions, appeared May 5 in the Federal Register.

"This document makes minor amendments to various rule sections to clarify or eliminate duplicative language or conform them with other rule sections," the FCC said.

Among other changes, the most significant involved revising the wording of Section 97.307 (d), which defines spurious emissions. The updated language imposes a slightly higher standard on newer transmitters or amplifiers of any power level. Starting June 1, the rule will provide that:

* the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed after January 1, 2003, must be at least 43 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission.

* the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed on or before January 1, 2003, must not exceed 50 mW and must be at least 40 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission. If the mean power output of such as transmitter is less than 5 W, the attenuation must be at least 30 dB.

Still exempt from the provisions of Section 97.307(d) are transmitters built before April 15, 1977, or those first marketed before January 1, 1978.

The FCC also has redefined what constitutes an Amateur Radio operator to reflect the advent of the Universal Licensing System (ULS) electronic licensee database. Under the revised Section 97.3(a)(1) an amateur operator is "a person named in an amateur operator/primary license station grant on the ULS consolidated licensee

database to be the control operator of an amateur station." The current rule defines an amateur operator as "a person holding a written authorization to be the control operator of an amateur station."

Another change eliminates Technician or Technician with Element 1 credit licensees from the classes of operators permitted to prepare Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) and Element 2 (Technician written) examinations.

The Commission ordered the rule changes within the context of a larger, wide-ranging Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 04-140. That NPRM addresses several Amateur Radio-related petitions and proposes revisions to operating privileges. The FCC continues to seek comments on these proposals. Comments are due by Tuesday, June 15, and reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan.

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Ham Radio Carrying Rocket Hopes to Reach Space

An amateur rocket team this month will attempt to send a 21-foot-tall rocket carrying a ham radio avionics package into the fringes of space. The launch by the Civilian Space Xploration Team (CSXT) could occur as early as Monday, May 17, from Black Rock Desert in Nevada. A CSXT try to reach space in 2002 ended some three seconds after launch when the rocket's engine exploded. Avionics Team Leader Eric Knight, KB1EHE, says CSXT has since rebounded from that devastating blow with a newer, bigger vehicle.

"We are very pumped," the Connecticut amateur told ARRL. "Our confidence level grows with each launch. All the ingredients are there for success." Knight's avionics team includes eight Amateur Radio licensees, most of whom also were involved in the 2002 launch attempt. The entire CSXT team, headed by CSXT founder and Program Director--and former Hollywood stunt man--Ky Michaelson of Minnesota, has 18 members.

In terms of Amateur Radio, the GoFast rocket, named for a corporate sponsor, will transmit telemetry on the 33-cm amateur band and Amateur TV at 2.4 GHz using a high-quality color camera. The avionics also incorporate multiple global positioning system (GPS) units to record the vehicle's precise location and flight path, redundant data acquisition and storage systems, and a variety of data sensors.

Once the rocket goes up, appropriately equipped amateurs may be able to receive signals from the approximately 2 W transmitters onboard, even at some distance from the launch site, Knight says. Specific frequencies have not yet been selected, however. In addition, the team may set up an HF station at the launch site.

Knight says the avionics crew even salvaged a few electronic components for the 2004 launch

from the 2002 avionics package, which continued to function flawlessly until the rocket crashed into the desert.

Plans call for the solid-fuel rocket to zip upward from the desert floor and reach a speed of more than 4000 MPH in about 9 seconds. Assuming all goes well, the suborbital vehicle will, on its own momentum, attain an altitude of 100 km or 62 statute miles--high enough to be considered "space"--linger there for a couple of minutes then arc back to Earth some 26 miles down range. The whole thing will take somewhat less than a half-hour, Knight says. If successful it would mark the first amateur rocket launch into space.

Knight is optimistic that the team has gained valuable knowledge from its past failures. "We've learned a lot that you can't get from a textbook," he said. "We feel we have a chance to make history." There's more information on the CSXT Web site, www.civilianspace.com.

Taken from ARRL Bulletin 5/12/2004

Nominations

With the club election being held next month, it is Nomination time. According to the club constitution, the Nominating committee will present a slate of officers and directors to the club membership at the May meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the May meeting.

With that in mind, please come on out to the May meeting of the club and make a nomination for a club officer or board member. This is also a great chance meet some of the people who have recently joined the club.