



# GRAM NEWS



Volume 42, No. 3

W2RCX

November 2003

## November Meeting

The November meeting of GRAM will be held on Thursday, November 20th, 2003 at the Salvation Army, 529 E. Main St. Batavia, NY at 7:30PM. All members and anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio are invited to attend. This month's program will be a presentation by Penny's Stitch & Print.

The Board of Directors and Club Officers will meet prior to the General Membership meeting at 6:30 PM

## Dues Are Due

It's time to renew your GRAM membership ! It's easy to do. A membership application is included in this issue of GRAM NEWS. Simply complete it and bring it to the November meeting along with your payment. Or you can send your completed application and payment for dues to:

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



## W2RCX Repeater

The 147.285 repeater has been repaired and back on the air . Fred Gephart WA2CAM did a complete reboot of the controller and we also removed the preamp from the system. The repeater seems to be working better than ever. We have also removed the tail beep.

The time the repeater was being repaired, the backup repeater was being used, and performed just fine.

The Thursday night net has been getting bigger each week , Don't forget to check in if only to say " HELLO "

Regards: Harold Hay, W2ABQ

## VE Testing

Jim Canty, AA2XA, would like to announce that the Genesee Radio Amateur (GRAM) club will be holding a test session for all Amateur Radio Class licenses. The session will take place on Saturday December 6, 2003. The location will be at the Salvation Army Community Center, 529 E Main St. Batavia, NY. Registration will begin at 9:30 AM. Testing will begin at 10:00AM. If you are interested, please contact Jim Canty at 585-343-9018.

**Pre registration advised but walk-ins will be accepted.**

## 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:	Harold Hay, W2ABQ
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:	Open
Picnic:	Open
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.

## Club Equipment

The club HF radios, an Icom 735 and an Icom 738, have been completely checked out and adjusted to the Icom specifications. The total cost was \$ 125.00. The Icom 735 is back at the Salvation Army and the Icom 738 is at my place . They are both working just great. The work was done by WA2IKC an engineer at RF communication in Rochester, New York

Regards,

Harold Hay W2ABQ

## Computer Corner

Ever wonder what to do with that old hard drive or CD ROM? Why not make it into an external device. Kits are available that allow you to mount the drive in an enclosure and allow for USB connectivity to a computer. This is an easy way to add another drive to a computer as USB is a plug and play technology.

## Pumpkin Patrol

Recent Public Service through ARES was given by 15 GRAM members and other Hams in Pumpkin Patrol 2003. Seven served both nights: JOAN, KB2ZCE; PETE, WB2CGF; JIM, AA2XA; MARK, N2XDO; HOWARD, KC2EJZ; TED, KB2LXD; and BOB, W2XG. Eight served one night: TERRY, KC2JKU; MERVYN, WA2OIY; HAROLD, W2ABQ; DON, WA2AIV; BRIAN, N2XNY; ALLEN, KC2HPW; LES, WA2GUP, and BILL, KB2ETL. On the second night Pete, WB2CGF served as NCS. That gave us total coverage the first night, and good coverage the second.

No incidents occurred on the two nights; however something did occur the following night! According to an e-mail forwarded to me, read the edited version for yourself.

AT APPROXIMATELY 1:15 AM, A 2002 KENWORTH TRACTOR TRAILER WAS TRAVELING WESTBOUND ON I-90 WHEN THE WINDSHIELD WAS STRUCK BY A PUMPKIN THROWN OFF THE SLUSSER ROAD OVERPASS. THE OPERATOR IMMEDIATELY PULLED OVER AND CALLED 911. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF TROOP A AND THE GENESEE COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE TWO SUBJECTS WERE ARRESTED. THE DRIVER SUSTAINED NO INJURIES AS A RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT.

Again, thanks to all who served—from the State Police, as well as from me.

--Les, WA2GUP, Coordinator

## 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

11/20 GRAM Meeting  
 12/18 GRAM Christmas Party ?  
 12/6 GRAM VE Session  
 1/31 Lockport ARA Auction

### Are you ready for Winter ?

With the recent blast of winter weather it time to prepare for winter. To help, check out this excerpt from the November 2003 Skywarn Newsletter.

The NWS and state and local governments want you to know that now is the time to prepare for the severe winter weather our area can experience. During major winter storms, it's usually best to remain at home rather than venturing outdoors. You should always be prepared to ride out any adverse weather. Your primary concerns at home include the possible loss of heat, electricity, and telephone service. You may also run out of supplies if the storm persists for several days.

You should keep a three-day supply of non-perishable food that requires no cooking or refrigeration. Have a non-electric can opener available. Store one gallon of water per person, per day. Your disaster supplies for the home should also include a first aid kit along with essential prescription medication, a portable radio with extra batteries, a NOAA weather radio, flashlights with extra batteries, and several blankets.

Be sure your vehicle is ready for the winter driving season. Have your engine tuned up...your battery checked...and your engine coolant or anti-freeze tested to see if it can withstand the extreme cold. Also, you can increase your visibility by installing new windshield wipers. Finally, be sure your snow tires or all season tires are properly inflated and have enough tread to grip the road.

You should consider a survival kit for your car, especially if you drive in rural areas. Have a blanket or sleeping bag on hand along with a sup-

ply of non-perishable food, a first aid kit with prescription medication if necessary, and bottles of drinking water or juice. If you become stuck or stranded, your chances of survival will be greater. Also include a shovel, sand or cat litter, booster cables, an ice scraper, and a snowbrush.

Thanks to Judy Levan at the NWS in Buffalo for this information that was originally in the November edition of the Skywarn Newsletter.

### GRAM Treasurer

It is with great regret that GRAM must announce that Harold Hay, W2ABQ, has resigned his post of GRAM Treasurer. Harold's resignation will be effective 1/1/04. The club thanks Harold for his work as club Treasurer as well as all of the other functions that he handles for the club, most notably, Hamfest Chairperson.

Per the amendment to Article IV, Section 4 of the GRAM Constitution. The remainder of Harold's term as GRAM Treasurer shall be filled by an appointment by the Board of Directors after a written solicitation for candidates from the membership.

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.

## Amateurs aid in Wildfires

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) teams are assisting local authorities and relief organizations as fire has burned more than 500,000 acres in southern California.

Authorities report 11 separate fires have erupted and more than a dozen people have died. ARRL San Diego Section Manager Kent Tiburski, K6FQ, estimated that about 100 ham ARES and RACES volunteers are participating in his section, where most of the fatalities took place.

Amateurs are supporting the Red Cross and The Salvation Army and staffing six shelters throughout San Diego county. Additional hams have deployed to San Diego-area emergency management offices and hospitals. Communication is mainly taking place on VHF.

The San Diego ARES Net has been activated on 7.233 MHz with 3.905 MHz as a backup. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) also has been using 7.233 MHz as a coordinating frequency.

San Diego-Area SATERN Coordinator Paul Cook, N6RPF, reports that SATERN has helped with communication for a number of busy canteens in the San Diego area.

In San Bernardino County, Orange SM Carl Gardenas, WU6D, said ARES volunteers have been supporting emergency communication in the county. ARRL Los Angeles SM Phineas Icenbice, W6BF, reports ARES members from his section have been assisting volunteers in the Orange and San Diego Sections.

Los Angeles SEC Dennis Smith, KA6GSE, says ARES volunteers from the section also are helping at Red Cross shelters in LA.

Courtesy of ARRL special bulletin dated 10/28

## UO-14 RIP

The UO-14 satellite has been declared officially dead after nearly 14 years in orbit, the Mission Control Centre at the Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) Center for Satellite Engineering Research reported November 11.

AMSAT-UK Chairman Martin Sweeting, G3YJO, said one of the NiCad battery cells became exhausted, which caused UO-14's transmitter to shut down due to undervoltage. The popular and heavily used FM satellite quit working in August.

Ground controller Chris Jackson, G7UPN, was able to reset the satellite at one time, but he later determined that UO-14 had suffered a primary power system failure.

Launched in 1990, UoSAT-OSCAR-14 pioneered the PACSAT communication concept as the first 9.6 kbps Amateur Radio data communications satellite. It became best known in recent years as an FM "easy sat" repeater. UO-14 completed over 72,000 orbits.

The loss of UO-14 leaves amateurs with SO-41 and SO-50 as the only two LEO FM voice satellites now in operation, although the planned 2004 launches of the OSCAR-ECHO and VUSAT could help fill in the void. ECHO is planned for launch next March 31.

Courtesy of ARRL special bulletin dated 11/13