



GRAM NEWS



Volume 42, No. 2

W2RCX

October 2003

October Meeting

The October meeting of GRAM will be held on Thursday, October 16th, 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 Happy Hour with Pizza and Soft drinks. Some come on down and enjoy some pizza and Ham it up !

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 October 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

From time to time we are receiving interference on the repeater, which keeps it keyed for long periods of time. This is not pleasant to listen to. This can also cause problems with the heat build up and then cause the repeater to malfunction. Not to mention causing it to time out. If the interference continues, we will turn on the tone system.

This means you will need a tone (PL tone) to use the repeater. The tone that is used on our repeater is 141.3 Hz. Most radios today have that option, you will need to program this into your radio. You will not be able to hear the tone in most cases. I am sorry, but some of the older radios don't have this option.

If you hear the interference, I would like you to tune around 147.885 MHz + or - 100 KHz (the repeater's input frequency) and see if you can find where it is coming from, and then maybe we can clean this up.

If the repeater is not on the air for some reason, we will use the freq of 147.285 MHz simplex. That will mean's set your radio (147.285 no + or -)

Thanks to all of the people that use this repeater and the special events it is used for.

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:	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.

Computer Corner

With the Christmas shopping season just around the corner, many consider a new computer as a gift the whole family can use. The big question is what software do I need for my new computer ?

The software that you need depends on what you will be doing with the computer. I'll look at the general purpose family computer that is used for the kids home work, internet access, e-mail, and some occasional game playing.

The one piece of software that every PC needs is anti-virus software. My suggestion is to use what you are familiar with. If this is your first computer, check with the manufacturer to see what they can offer to you. Once you have the anti-virus software, keep it up to date !

As for internet & e-mail, Windows XP comes with Internet Explorer and Outlook Express. If you are used to using Netscape, then go ahead and download and install it. Keep in mind that Windows update requires the use of Internet Explorer.

You will probably need a word processor for the kids homework, personal correspondence, etc.. Many PC manufacturers bundle some sort of Office suite (Not necessarily Microsoft Office) with their computers. These packages offer more than the average home user will ever use. For the general use home computer, you may want to consider Microsoft Works Suite. It offers Microsoft Word, Works, and a couple other software titles along with it. Word will take care of your word processing needs. Works, offers spreadsheet and flat file database, functionality.

As for games, make sure that your computer meets the system requirements for the game you are interested in. You will most likely need a joystick or game pad to maximize your gaming experience.

Hope that this helps

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

10/16 GRAM Meeting
 11/20 GRAM Meeting
 12/18 GRAM Christmas Party ?
 1/31 Lockport ARA Auction

Push to Identify Unlicensed 10-Meter Operators Continues

NEWINGTON, CT, Oct 10, 2003--A concerted effort begun last spring to monitor for and possibly identify unlicensed operators on 10 meters will continue through October. The FCC already has asked the ARRL Amateur Auxiliary/Official Observers for assistance. Now, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth is inviting hard information on suspected interlopers from all amateurs.

"If I don't receive reports, we'll have to conclude that unlicensed operation on 10 meters no longer is a problem," Hollingsworth said this week. Hollingsworth's initial request to beef up monitoring came in the wake of complaints from the amateur community that rose to the level of a major enforcement headache. He's expressed some disappointment, however, that the number of solid reports received so far has been few, although he's aware that a problem exists.

Hollingsworth asks amateurs to be specific in what they report. "Everybody should police their own neighborhood," he suggested. "Turn on the radio, and take a listen on the band. If you hear a loud signal that's obviously an unlicensed interloper, see if you can track it down."

Continued in next column

Hollingsworth said that in the case of a suspected unlicensed trucker on the highway, amateurs should try to get the license plate number of the tractor--not the trailer--or at least the company name and, if possible, the DOT number.

The FCC does not require direction-finding data but would appreciate, where possible, names and addresses of alleged or suspected operators. Audio recordings of apparently illegal transmissions also can prove helpful but are not absolutely necessary.

Individual amateurs with solid information on alleged unlicensed operation on 10 or even 12 meters should report it to the FCC via e-mail. Official Observers should file their reports through normal ARRL channels.

ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, says the FCC wants to pin down specific areas where unlicensed operation is prevalent in the US. He and Hollingsworth concede, however, that not all illegal 10-meter operation is of domestic origin.

The FCC's initial request last May request was made in accordance with the Communications Act and a longstanding agreement between ARRL and the FCC regarding the use of Amateur Radio volunteers to assist in enforcement.

Courtesy of ARRL website, www.arrl.org

ARES Notes

On Saturday, 04 October GRAM members and other hams provided communications at America's Walk for Diabetes/Batavia. Most were on site from about 8:00 am to 12:30 and also enjoyed the delicious food that was available. Those helping were: Bill, K2IAQ; Bob, W2XG; Howard, KC2EZJ; Ted, KB2LXD; Terry, KC2JKU (and his grandson Tyler); Tom, W2GIR; Joan, KB2CZE; Pete, WB2CGF; Don, WA2AIV; Les, WA2GUP/ncs and a non-ham volunteer Mark Wiatrowski.

Next scheduled event is the Pumpkin Patrol on the evenings of 30 and 31 October. Usual time is 7:00 to 10:00 pm. If there are enough volunteers (GRAM or other hams) we'll put two hams in each vehicle for more fun and fellowship, and to allow one person to walk over the bridge occasionally. If you plan to help, please e-mail me wilcox26@2ki.net the nights you will serve and include your car year, make, color and license for easy identification by law enforcement personnel.

Trooper Eric Weinreber will deliver our letters of authorization and placards for our cars on 16 October at the GRAM meeting—Pumpkin Patrol and the NYSP is the program, and he will be the speaker--Trooper Dino Marrocco has a different assignment with NYSP now.

--Les Wilcox, WA2GUP,
Emergency Coordinator for Genesee County
ARES/RACES

NWS BUFFALO WEBSITE

The NWS Buffalo website was recently moved to a new web server to provide increased performance and faster access time. If you haven't done so already, bookmark <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/buf/> to access our homepage.

Several months ago, I told you about the Experimental Graphical Forecasts on the web at <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/buf/gfe/gridded.html>. We keep adding more parameters so that you can now see public forecast graphics of temperature, dewpoint, heat index, relative humidity, weather, sky cover, wind direction and speed, wind gusts and chance of precipitation. There's also a "Marine" tab with graphical forecasts of wind speed and direction, wind gusts, wave heights, weather, sky cover, and visibility. The "Fire Weather" tab displays many of the public graphics, but in addition contains lightning activity level, mixing height, Haines and Dispersion Indices graphics.

Through September 30th, the NWS is looking for your comments on these products. If you'd like to comment on them (what you like, don't like, what's useful, or the quality of the graphics), go to <http://www.weather.gov/forecasts/graphical/supplementalpages/survey.php> and let your voice be heard!

Courtesy Judy Levan, N2TEZ
Taken from the September 2003 Skywarn Newsletter