



# GRAM NEWS



Volume 42, No. 1

W2RCX

September 2003

## September Meeting

The May meeting of GRAM will be held on Thursday, September 18th, 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

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

## Hamfest Meeting

Planning for the 2004 Batavia Hamfest has already begun. At the meeting held on Saturday September 13th. The prizes for next year's hamfest have been determined. They are an Icom 706mK11G HF-VHF-UHF, an HT, and \$100 cash.

## Club Elections

The club held its annual election at the June meeting of GRAM. Congratulations to the members listed below who will take office during this month's meeting of GRAM.

President: Theodore Karpenko, KB2LXD

Vice President: Brian Stricker, N2XNY

Secretary: Joan Brundage, KB2ZCE

Treasurer: Harold Hay, W2ABQ

Board Members for a term of one year:

Howard Flint, KC2EZJ (Past President)

Tom Rosica: W2GIR (Replaces Joan Brundage)

Board Members for a term of two years:

Joe DeFazio, W2DIG

Jim Cochran, KC2EZL



## 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:	Tom Rosica W2GIR
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 !

## Computer Corner

This month's topic is keyboard maintenance. Yes you should clean your keyboard once and a while. At the bare minimum blow it out with a can of compressed air, followed by a vacuuming. This will remove any loose debris caught in the keyboard.

You may want to follow this up by cleaning the keys. This will remove oils and acids left on the keys by your fingers. A damp cloth that has been dipped in a solution of dish soap and water will do. Finish by wiping the keys with a dry cloth.

If you feel adventurous, you may want to remove the keys altogether to get at the more stubborn dirt. If you do this, please, please, keep track of where the keys go. There is nothing worse than hitting a key and it does not produce the character you expected! Once you have the keys removed, use a swab dipped in isopropyl alcohol to clean things up. Then when every thing is dry, put the keys back in their proper place.

Since you now have a nice clean keyboard, it is time to work on the mouse. The mouse usually needs to be cleaned more often than the keyboard. If you have a new fangled optical mouse, just wipe the bottom of the mouse off. If you have an old school mouse, remove the retaining ring on the bottom of the mouse and remove the rubber ball. Looking down into the mouse, you should see 3 rollers. Generally the dirt from the rubber ball gets packed onto the rollers preventing the mouse from working properly. Remove the lint from the rollers and reassemble the mouse. Your mouse should move much more smoothly.

Lastly, if you don't want to be bothered with the maintenance, new mice and keyboards start at about \$10 each provided you do not require anything fancy.

## 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

10/4 Walk for Diabetes  
10/16 GRAM Meeting

### Court kicks New York ham's "police radio" case:

A New York court has dismissed a misdemeanor charge against ARRL member Richard C. "Dick" Lalone, KC5GAX, for violating §397 of that state's Vehicle and Traffic Law. That section prohibits individuals other than law officers from equipping their vehicles with radios "capable of receiving signals on the frequencies allocated for police use" without first securing a permit. The section, which also prohibits knowingly interfering with police transmissions, contains an explicit exemption for "any person who holds a valid amateur radio operator's license . . . and who operates a duly licensed portable mobile transmitter and in connection therewith a receiver or receiving set on frequencies exclusively allocated . . . to duly licensed radio amateurs." In a nearly 1300-word decision, Judge John J. Hallet said it was clear the legislature never intended the provisions of §397 from applying to licensed Amateur Radio operators, and he dismissed the charge August 5. Susan Terry, KF4SUE, a former New York assistant attorney general, represented Lalone. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist John Hennessee, N1KB, provided advice or assistance to Lalone.

Courtesy of the 9/12/03 ARRL letter.

## Batavia Hamfest 2003

The 23rd annual Batavia Hamfest was held on Saturday July 19th. Hamfest attendance was estimated at 600. The day went smoothly with the chicken barbeque selling out again. The Hamfest attendees liked the t-shirts that were worn by the members of GRAM. It made it easy for them to identify someone who was affiliated with the hamfest. Harold Hay, W2ABQ has indicated that the t-shirts will be apart of next year's hamfest as well. Howard Flint and Harold Hay want to thank all of the members for their support in the hamfest., and a very special thanks to Ange DeFazio W2SRP. Planning is already under way for next year's hamfest with a meeting being held on September 23rd. Check out the pictures from this years hamfest.



## ARES Notes

### PUBLIC SERVICE FOR JUNE

Thirteen ham operators from GRAM & ARES provided communications for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Don R. Carroll Batavia Scholarship Race on Saturday, 21 June. It is always a good event, but it was dampened with light rain this year. In spite of the rain, there was good competition, excellent food and fine entertainment. Hams were repeatedly told that it would not be as successful if they had to do it without communications!

This year Don Carroll was uneasy about whether his health would allow him to be present, but the doctor gave the OK on Friday! In addition, Dorian Ely of RSVP observed hams in action for most of the event—and she was favorably impressed.

The hams who participated were KB2RJP—Jack, WA23OIY—Merv, W2ABQ—Harold, K2IAQ—Bill, W2XG—Bob, KC2JKU—Terry, KA2BCE—Marion, W2SRP—Ange, KA2BCF—Dick, W2GIR—Tom, KC2IQT—Joe, KC2EZJ—Howard, and WA2GUP—Les.

Many thanks go to Dick, Marion & Terry for joining in on the event—we would have been shorthanded without them! Special note: Ange—W2SRP has served in all 21 races—congratulations!

NEXT EVENT: Walk for Diabetes on 10/4/03

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

## 5 MHz Allocation Update

When the five new 60-meter channels become available to US Amateur Radio operators at midnight (12 AM) local time on July 3, the rules will impose a new record-keeping requirement for hams. The requirement applies only to those using something other than a simple half-wave dipole on the 5 MHz allocation.

According to Part 97.303(s), a half-wave dipole on the 5 MHz allocation will be presumed to have a gain of 0 dBd. "Licensees using other antennas must maintain in their station records either manufacturer data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain," states the newest addition to the FCC's Amateur Service rules.

Because the new rules also require hams to run no more than 50 W effective radiated power (ERP) on the new channels, the choice of antenna becomes an important compliance factor. The FCC rules stipulate, "For the purpose of computing ERP, the transmitter PEP will be multiplied (by) the antenna gain relative to a dipole or the equivalent calculation in decibels."

ARRL has posted a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) concerning 5 MHz operation on the ARRL Web site, [www.arrl.org/fandes/field/regulations/faq.html#sixty](http://www.arrl.org/fandes/field/regulations/faq.html#sixty) . NNNN /EX

Courtesy of the ARRL