



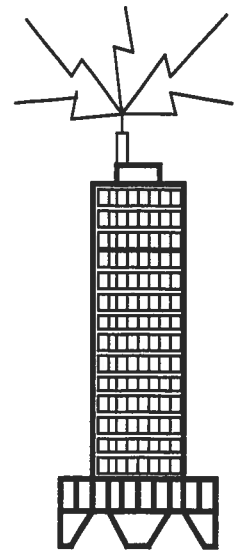
# XARC

## Monthly Newsletter

The Voice of the Xerox Amateur Radio Club

Xerox  
Amateur  
Radio Club

KE2MK/R  
224.26/444.825  
145.29



Dave Sweet  
Harry Williams  
Pete Fournia  
Rick LaDonna  
John Wright

N2BHL  
N2VML  
WA2BPQ  
N2IJI  
KE2MK

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Trustee

**1993 National VHF  
Contest  
First Place**  
Mid Size Clubs

January 17, 1994

### Next Club Meeting

**January 20, 1730 hrs**

**The June VHF Contest N2WK**

**Hill Gang - The VIDEO**

**Plus**

**The NEW Rochester Cup Rules**

by

Tim Stoffel, NS9E

RVHFG Contest chairman

Join us for what's sure to be a great program.

### Club Elects New VEEP

At the December club meeting, Harry Williams, N2VML was elected our new VEEP. Harry has already assembled a list of possible meeting topics and sent out a survey to club members. If you see Harry, congratulate him on his new position, and please send in the survey if you haven't already done so.

### Dues are Overdue

Well folks, its now officially '94. If you haven't yet paid your dues yet, then you're **REALLY** late. **You must pay your dues before the upcoming VHF contest to participate along with the club.** You can find a form on the last page of the newsletter. Dues are \$10/year and can be paid at the January meeting or mailed to the treasurer, Rick LaDonna, N2IJI.

Tim has enthusiastically offered to be our program for the January meeting. He will show the video featuring the N2WK Hill Gang during the June VHF Contest. We understand it is a professionally produce show and is extremely interesting to all amateurs. Barry Rickett, N2EZX, visited the N2WK contest site in June of 1992 while they were operating and reports that it's an operation which the typical amateur only dreams about.

As RVHFG Contest Chairman this year, Tim would also like to talk about and field questions regarding the Rochester Cup for 1994 and the January contest in general.

### Meeting Survey

In case you missed it, here's the survey form to register your preferences for

future meeting topics. Please fill it out and send it electronically to Harry Williams if you haven't already done so.  
Ed.

XARC Members,

In preparation for the 1994 club meeting schedule of programs, we would like to get your input on the topics that would be of interest to you. The following list of subjects was developed at our December 16 club meeting. Since we know that this list isn't comprehensive, a section at the end of the form is provided for "write-ins". Please indicate your interest for each item shown below.

In addition, we are looking for volunteers to speak on these subjects; so let us know if you have an expertise, or a more than average knowledge, in a particular area and would be willing to give a talk. Perhaps you know other individuals who might be willing to address the group?

Please send me your responses before the next XARC meeting in January. I will tabulate the results and share the outcomes.

Your input is important, thanks in advance for your support - 73's

Harry Williams - N2VML  
756 Middlebury Rd. Webster, NY 14580  
831-3N (internal Xerox mail)  
N2VML:ODP-MC (Email)

Interest L/M/H	Topic	Possible Presenters
1.	Ham radio in England	Jeff Williams
2.	Ham radio in Japan	
3.	Make your own QSL cards	Pete Fournia John Wright

Harry Williams

4. HF Digital modes
5. Electronic call sign databases
6. Packet "how to's"
7. CW protocols
8. Net protocols & types
9. ATV
10. ARES
11. MARS Ed Kessler
12. RACES Ed Holsworth
13. Ham radio history "the good old days"
14. Antique radio equipment
15. RFI / TVI solutions
16. Antennas
17. Shack safety
18. Satellite communication "how to's"
19. Fundamentals of project building
20. QSL procedures & protocols
21. What constitutes good amateur practice
22. Field \_\_\_\_\_ trips to:  
  ??
23. Other:
24. Other:

## How to Get Ham Call Sign Addresses and Other Info for Your PC

I received the following info from Steve Corona, that may be of interest. Ed.

There's a Bulletin Board that can be reached by phone at 544-1863. It's called RFCARC and it's officially the RF Communications Amateur Radio Club but actually it's a private BBS mainly dedicated to Ham and other techy stuff. They have on line the US and International call sign CD's. I think it can also be accessed through packet but I have never done that (phone is faster).

One of the guys who runs it is an old buddy from community college days Jim Lill, WA2ZKD. It's a nice BBS and has ton's of Ham software to download.

## January Sweepstakes Time

Hi everyone,

Well it's 1994, January, and we all know that's VHF Sweepstakes time. This year it's the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd. There are a couple of rather significant things to mention regarding this year's contest.

First - The "Rochester Cup" rules have been completely overhauled by the Rochester VHF Group. In response to declining participation by local clubs, the board of the RVHFG has significantly simplified the rules and leveled the playing field for all competitors! Before the contest, a list of RVHFG members will be available. Your score, for Rochester Cup purposes, will be the number of RVHFG members you work during the contest. One point per RVHFG member, regardless of bands, mode, grid, etc. The sum of the individual Rochester Cup scores for a club's membership is then multiplied times the percent of the club in the contest. The result is the club's score for the Rochester Cup. If you think about this for a moment, you will quickly see that a reasonable effort with only 2 meters FM can do nearly as well as the big gun, nationally competitive, stations regarding the Rochester Cup. Once again, I believe the key is to get as many of our members on during the contest as we can. We didn't compete in the Rochester Cup last year because we felt the rules needed change. No one can argue that the RVHFG was unresponsive. I would like to see us put in a real good effort to show them that we appreciate their responsiveness.

Second - Although there has been considerable discussion regarding the rover rules by the major VHF clubs and many recommendations, no action has been taken by the ARRL to implement

any of the changes. To protest the lack of action by the ARRL, the RVHFG and some other major VHF clubs have decided to boycott this year's CLUB COMPETITION at the national level. The hope is that this will encourage the ARRL to take notice and be a little more responsive to input from the clubs who provide a major part of the competition in this event. Please note, that even though the RVHFG will not be in the national club competition, there will still be fierce competition for the individual awards and for the Rochester Cup.

If you have any questions regarding the sweepstakes, don't hesitate to give me a call. And finally, I will be VERY disappointed if I don't work you during the contest.

73  
Barry, N2EZS

PS. here is some basic information regarding the event.

The contest runs from 2PM Saturday, Jan. 22 to 11PM Sunday Jan. 23. In general, any legal, amateur frequency, direct contact ( no repeaters ) above 50 Mhz where a complete exchange of calls and grid locations is made counts. Duplicate calls ( same band, same calls, same grids ) are not allowed. 6 and 2 meter contacts are worth 1 point each, 222 Mhz and 70 cm contacts are worth 2 points each, 903 and 23 cm contacts are worth 4 points each and all contacts above 1300 Mhz are worth 8 points. Total grids worked is the sum of the grids worked on each band. Your final score is the total number of contact points times the total number of grids. I explained the rules for the Rochester Cup yesterday.

In the past Rick LaDonna, N2IJI, has skippered the club station, usually operating four bands ( 50, 144, 222, &

440 Mhz ), for club members who don't have the equipment, the experience or the desire to operate on their own. Hopefully Rick will continue this year in that capacity. It's usually a pretty good time for those who join in.

As of right now, I believe Tim Stoffel, NS9E, will be speaking at our January meeting. He is the contest chairman this year for the Rochester VHF Group and will likely have some good advice for operating the contest. He should also be able to field any questions regarding the contest or the Rochester Cup that anyone might have. I also plan on attending this meeting and will have contest packages which will include logs, grid maps, operating schedules, etc. for the contest.

As always, if you have any comments or questions, don't hesitate to send me a note, call me, or whatever.

## Articles Welcome

If you have an article, letters, or news you think may be of interest to club members please submit it to me for publication (electronically if possible). Your input can help us make our newsletter better.

Bob, K2OID

## KARZ's Corner The Rewards of Teaching

We tend to forget that there's a lot to amateur radio. It takes more than a few minutes to explain to a visitor at our Field Day site exactly what's going on. Even for those who hang around for a hour or more, the "lingo" can be overwhelming. Try explaining "QSL your 2 delta orange. Please copy 3 alpha western New York. 73 and good luck in the contest. QRZ Field Day" in a

few sentences. If its not Field Day, then the lingo becomes completely different. How about "this is K2OID in FN13. What's your grid square please" or "Your report is 47 with QSB and some QRM" or "you're full quieting into the 29 machine. Would you like me to bring up the autopatch?"....and all of this is strictly terminology. We haven't even touched the technical content yet.

The point is that ham radio can be quite intimidating, so much so that practically none of us has picked it up on our own. Rather, we've all had "Elmers" to help us through. My "Elmers" were Ed Snow (formerly W2BZN) and the older members of the Brighton High School Amateur Radio Club. Hopefully, I was an "Elmer" for some of you.

There are numerous motivations for "Elmering", but surely some of the more important are a pride in one's hobby, a desire to see amateur radio prosper, and a wanting to give something back to the hobby.

A major way to "Elmer" is to become an instructor. That way you can participate in the ham "creation" process from the very beginning. Personally, I like teaching code because its a major obstacle for virtually everyone and thus brings quite a sense of accomplishment when the test is finally passed. I also get a perverse sadistic joy in watching people suffer week after week after week. (just kidding!) However, being a code trainer does require patience, persistence, and even some badgering (just ask a few of my former students).

I am currently working with 3 XARC members who are going for their general CW test (13 wpm). They've all been working hard since early October, and we're almost there (I use "we" because, even though they're doing all the work, I feel like I'm part of the effort).

Last month, their confidence was flagging as they hit the proverbial "wall" at 10 words per minute, so I asked one of my former students, Ben Piccirilli (N2OPV for now, but awaiting his advanced call) to give the students a little pep talk. Ben graciously agreed, and on a busy December weeknight he came to class. He stressed the importance of persistence and spoke of how long it took to get his speed up. Then he gave a few pointers such as playing code tapes on the way to and from work. The conversation soon lapsed into the various aspects of ham radio and how enjoyable we all found it. Then Ben looked at me and said that if it weren't for me, he would never have gotten past tech.

I was a little at embarrassed his words. After all it was him, not me, who earned it. Still, Ben's remarks hit the very essence of what it means to a trainer and what motivates many of us to show up week after week to help our students along. Its knowing that you've brought someone along in the hobby to enjoy it and contribute to it who, but for you, would not have made it. That's what its all about. If you haven't considered becoming a trainer, perhaps you should.

Thanks Ben!

73 and C U in next week's VHF contest.

Bob, K2OID

## Finding Information About the Club

Xerox Amateur Radio Club documents are available in a public file drawer administered by XHFES. Our radio club folder contains the membership list; our Bylaws; a sample newsletter including a list of officer, membership application,

and repeater frequencies; and a general description of the club. You may access this information by selecting the HENR801A:XEROX domain / PASFS-THREE drawer / XHFES drawer / Club Folders / Radio Club. This is the same drawer referenced on the last page of the Chatterbox.

Peter Fournia, WA2BPQ

## Equipment loans

As many of you know the XARC has recently increased its equipment inventory by leaps and bounds over what we had just a short time ago. I have been asked, as the chairman of the station committee, to publish a list of equipment which is available for short term loan to members of the club. When borrowing a piece of equipment, a note should be left in the club station with the item borrowed, the date borrowed, the anticipated return date, and the borrowers name and call.

The following is a list of equipment located at the station in building 337 which is available for lending per the above guidelines. All other items are not to be removed from the station for personal use.

Heathkit HW101 transceiver with speaker and power supply  
 KDK 2 Meter FM transceiver  
 12 volt power supply (blue box type)  
 Bird wattmeter, 3 - 30 Mhz, up to 100W  
 Kenwood VHF/UHF watt/SWR meter, 140 - 500 Mhz  
 Headphones  
 ARRL Handbook  
 ARRL Antenna book  
 US and Foreign area call books (1988 issue)  
 Software library disks, Amateur related, ( 5 1/4 and 3 1/2 DSDD disks)

All of the equipment located at the station is, of course, there for the use of all our members at any time. I would strongly encourage you to use the station. The performance of the station is better than most would imagine.

Thanx Barry, N2EZS

## **Do you have QSL cards to send?**

As a club we are entitled to combine ARRL members cards in one mailing. Just order your outgoing cards as always, include a current mailing label from QST and give them to Peter Fournia in bldg 129-075B.

## **Is your ARRL membership up for renewal?**

If so remember to renew through the club. See Rick LaDonna for details.

## **Want Ads**

FOR SALE: Cushcraft cross polarized 2 meter beam. 10 elements total. 10dbc gain. \$65 or B/O. John Facci (x26696 or 671-6641)

FOR SALE: Ameritron 5 way coax switch (remote controlled, weather proof) with bench top control head plus about 125 feet of 8 wire control cable. \$90. Never used. John Facci (x26696 or 671-6641)

Submitt want ads to Bob Karz, K2OID

## **December Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was opened at 5:45PM on December 16 by Peter Fournia. Eight members attended. Harry Williams, N2VML was elected vice president.

Bob Karz requested input for the newsletter and for the meeting programs. Harry Williams facilitated a brain storm session at the meeting and later listed results on the XARC DL.

Harry Lees, KJ6WS, has a 286 PC to donate to the club station in place of the current 8088 PC. He is looking for a donated or inexpensive serial port for it.

There was a discussion about need to repair/replace the Butternut vertical HF antenna at the club station. Bob Karz and Peter Fournia will inspect the broken vertical and scope price on a replacement antenna.

A question was raised about our risk/insurance of the repeater and club station equipment. Damage from lightning was the source of concern.