

ROME RADIO CLUB NEWS LETTER



25 October 2002

Volume 1 Edition 2

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Monthly Program Preview

For the November club meeting we are planning a live demo of the Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS). Mike Little (KB2CCD) will explain how the system works and what is needed to receive and display these reports. The demo will show how APRS displays the locations of participating ham stations, and how it can be used to exchange message data. Free software will be

distributed to attendees who are interested in using this mode.

Also to be presented is a report on how APRS was demonstrated by the Air Force and the ARRL as a back up method for aircraft to report an emergency and its position when primary systems are not working. (*Ed – see article in this edition*)

As always, we invite your ideas for future programs, and if you have something interesting to present, please let us know!

Russell Brown, Program Director
Email: wb2jil@arrl.net

Meeting Highlights

The last club meeting was held on 2 Oct 2002 at the County's Cooperative Extension Office located next to the Oneida County Airport. Our president, Dave Muscarella (K2YE), conducted the meeting and the minutes were recorded. In brief, the major items of business included a talk by our county's emergency coordinator, Frank Reynolds (N2FHR). Frank discussed ARES efforts in this county and the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) that occurred on the weekend of 5 & 6 Oct 2002. Thank you Frank for an informative presentation!

Club Officers

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* Appointed Position

VEC Sessions

The Rome Radio Club VEC team conducts examinations on the first Friday of every month at the Oneida County Cooperative Extension Office located at the Oneida County airport. Sessions start at 1900. A pre-registration 5 days in advance is required. Contact Bill Effland (K2GVI) for information and registration. Any person who qualifies for a handicap waiver or needs special accommodations to be tested should contact Bill to make a special appointment. The test fee is currently set at \$10.00.

The Madison Oneida ARC VEC conducts examinations on the third Friday of each month at the Madison Oneida BOCES complex on Spring Rd in Verona NY. Contact Bill Mayers (KG2DI) for more information.

Local Nets

All Frequencies are in MHz and Times are Local (Eastern)

NTS Nets:

OCTEN-E 145.450- 1830 Daily
OCTEN-L 145.170- 2130 Daily
CNYTN 147.300+ 2115 F-W
147.000- PL 71.9
2115 Th
NYPHONE 7.237 LSB 1300 Daily
NYPON 3.925 LSB 1700 Daily

Swap Nets:

Swap Net 147.000- PL 71.9
1900 W

Emergency Nets:

Central District Emergency Net
147.000- PL 71.9
1900 2nd Tu

OMEN (ARES)

145.170- 2000 last W
SkyWarn 145.170- as needed
145.450- backup
NYS RACES 3.9935 0900 Su
NYS ARES 3.925 as needed

Information Nets:

SWL Net 147.000- PL 71.9
2030 F
MOARC 145.170- 2000 W
CW Practice Net
145.170- 2030 W

**Air Force and
Amateurs Demo
Precision Emergency
APRS System**



The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) jointly held two Precision Emergency Automated Position Reporting System (PEAPRS) flight test during the week of June 3-8, 2002 as part of Team Patriot. The test involved an Air Force Aero Club aircraft with a simulated emergency flying over upstate New York. The purpose of the test was to demonstrate that the Automated Position Reporting System (APRS) or an APRS like system could be used to supplement the current communications that an aircraft, either commercial or private, has to convey that an emergency is in progress. APRS is a form of Packet radio, where packets of digital information are sent via HF, VHF or UHF radio across the country and around the world using digital repeaters (digipeaters). The packets in APRS contain position data, weather data and sometimes a text message.

The emergency simulated could have been a simple mechanical or electrical one that would have had the pilot making an emergency landing, a catastrophic disaster, or a terrorist hijacking. In any of these cases, the primary communications, generally VHF or UHF airband radios and IFF transponders, could be intentionally or unintentionally inoperative. PEAPRS is a low cost supplement to these standard means of communications. The PEAPRS emergency beacon could be triggered by the pilot or someone else on board pushing a button or

by having a sensor indicate that the emergency is in progress and automatically engaging the PEAPRS equipment.

The flight paths for both flights had the aircraft simulating the emergency as it flew south between 3000 and 8000 ft from the Watertown, NY area towards Oneida, NY. The PEAPRS system was operated under Amateur Radio Station Call Sign WA2ZXS. An APRS emergency beacon was transmitted with the text stating "Test Emergency Test".

Reports from over 200 Amateur Radio Operators from across the country and from around the world were received via telephone, APRS message, and e-mail. Hams copied the emergency beacon via APRS packets received directly from the aircraft, digipeated by local repeaters, or relayed via the Internet through the many Igates located across North America and on the Internet using one of many APRS sites such as www.findu.com.

For both flights, the first reports came in within one minute of the transmission of the first emergency beacon. Amateurs from the US, Canada, Spain and Greece sent in signal and position reports. The data is being analyzed and a detailed report will be published.

For more information, contact Mike Little (KB2CCD) at kb2ccd@arrl.net or Buzz Szarek (WM1W) at buzz@toast.net.

OCTEN Turns 20

October marked the 20th anniversary of the Oneida County Traffic and Emergency Net (OCTEN) as a National Traffic System (NTS) local net. OCTEN became a NTS net October 1, 1982 with the ARRL appointment of Tom Olin, WB2HLY as Net Manager. He remained Net Manager until Sept 1993.



The National Traffic System consists of four levels of net: Local (i.e. OCTEN), State/sectional, Regional and Area nets. These nets meet in an orderly time sequence to provide a flow pattern for traffic from origin to destination.

The NTS is there to handle routine traffic as well as all types of emergency traffic when disasters occur such as hurricanes, tornados, ice storms and the like.

OCTEN handles traffic for Oneida and all surrounding counties. It meets daily at 6:30 PM on the 145.450 - rtr (145.170 backup) and daily at 9:30 PM on the 145.170 - rtr (145.450 backup). No PL tones needed.

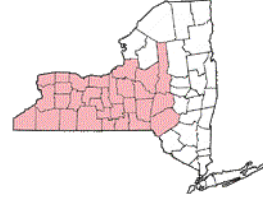
For more information on OCTEN contact the Net Manager (NM) Jack KA2ZNZ or George W2PII Ass't NM.

From the President

Editor's Note - In the future, I hope to have a short message to the membership from our club president.

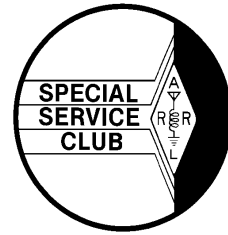
Section News

Information in this section comes from our section manger's (Scott Bauer W2LC) monthly newsletter published on the ARRL's web page (www.arrl.org).



Public Service

Our club has a long history of being a special service club. In the past, we have supported the Honor America Days Parade, the Drums Along the Mohawk, the race in Westmoreland, and the Pumpkin Patrol (just to name a few). The Shriners Circus was held during the first week of October and one Rome Radio Club member (KB2CCD) helped out with communications for it. A big thanks from Pat Daily (N2DKB) for helping.



Up coming Public Service Events in our area are:

- Pumpkin Patrol for Bridge Watching along the Thruway on 31 Oct - contact Frank Reynolds N2FHR at 336-8276 or n2fhr@arrl.net for details and volunteering.
- Pumpkin Patrol for Kid Watching in Rome on 31 Oct - contact Tom Hesler N2LTC at 339-4849 or at n2ltc@juno.com or Bud Hesler KZ2K at 336-1290 or at kf2ey@aol.com for details and volunteering.

EC Corner

If you are not an ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) member, please consider joining. ARES is our front line in any communication emergency. Whether it's caused by an ice storm or blizzard, a tornado or other natural disaster, a terrorist attack or some other bad event, we can provide a unique and necessary capability to keep information flowing to support the rescue and relief work force. For more information, or to get an application to join, contact Frank Reynolds (N2FHR).



Homeland Security Grant Training Set to Start September 1 (Aug 16, 2002) -- Amateur Radio emergency communications training supported by a \$181,900 federal homeland security grant will begin within a few weeks instead of next year as reported initially. The grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) special volunteer program was announced July 18. During its first year, the grant will reimburse the cost of Level I ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training for up to 1700 volunteers. More details can be found on the ARRL Web page, or contact Frank (N2FHR).



Also, don't forget to check into both the Oneida/Madison Emergency Net (OMEN) and the Central District Emergency Net. These are good places to practice your emergency skills and to gain new ones that may help save lives in the future.

Membership

Random notes about membership:

- There are about 40 paid-up members in our club. A complete listing is available on request from our Treasurer.
 - Most of our members are ARRL members as well. To remain an ARRL affiliated club, at least 51% of our club members must be ARRL members, so consider joining if you do not already belong.
 - Memberships are due for renewal on January 1st, 2003. The annual dues are \$10.00 for a regular membership. Additional family memberships are \$5.00 each. In the past there was a \$3.00 surcharge for The Gazorche (club newsletter). This cost has been eliminated for those members getting the newsletter delivered via e-mail or downloaded from the web site.
- More at the November meeting.**

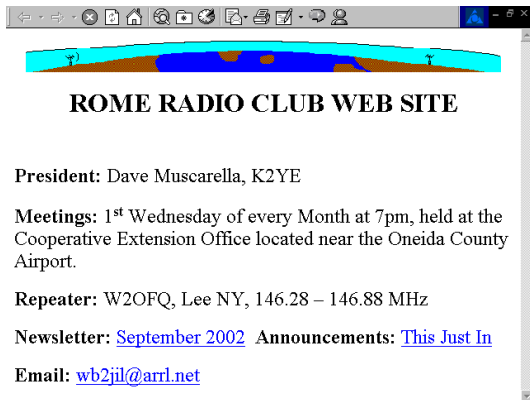
Club Calendar



- November 6 - Club meeting
 - December 4 - Club meeting
 - January 1(?) - Club meeting
 - February 5 - Club meeting
 - March 5 - Club meeting
 - April 2 - Club meeting
 - May 7 - Club meeting
 - June 4 - Club meeting
 - June 28/29 - Field Day
 - July 2 - Club meeting
 - August 6 - Club meeting
 - August 9 - RRC Hamfest
-

Rome Radio Club Web Page

Thanks to Russ Brown (WB2JIL) for creating and maintaining our new club web page. Russ has done a great job. Currently the web page lists the newsletter and current announcements (visit the site at: pages.prodigy.net/romeradioclub). If you have any inputs for the web page, email your information to Russ: wb2jil@arrl.net .



From Our Neighbors

This section is available to our neighboring clubs and any other organization that would like to pass on information that would be of general interest to our club's membership.

- MORAC meets on the last Tuesday each month at 7:30 PM at the Oneida/Madison BOCES on Spring Rd in Verona, NY. All are welcome. Their web site is: <http://members.bugetsurf.net/scehonski@bsn1.net/moarc.htm>
- Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Association meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Herkimer County BOCESS starting at 7 PM.
- Utica ARC club meetings
- Boonville Club meetings

- RAGS club meets on the second Thursday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 PM at the Onondaga Hill Masonic Club Building. Their web site is www.pagesz.net/~rags

Swap Page

This space is being provided for members to post listing of items they have for sale, trade, give away. Also, listing of your wants and needs can be posted. The same rules that apply for club auctions apply here as well. As we have just started, there is nothing for this section yet - email or write me, Mike Little (KB2CCD) at kb2ccd@arrl.net with a list (and maybe a picture) of the items you want to find or sell.

JOTA Explores Edge Of Space

*Reprinted from the QRZ Website:
Posted: Oct. 22 2002, 11:49 by Rod K9ROD*

This last Saturday EOSS, Edge of Space Science (www.eoss.org), The Boy Scouts of America, and The Girl Scouts teamed up just East of Colorado Springs, Colorado for the 60th launch of a high altitude balloon by the EOSS group. The wind was calm and the weather couldn't have been better for a crisp Fall day at the foothills of the Colorado Rockies. EOSS 60 was launched Saturday morning with a cross band repeater, APRS, SCTV, and a goodies package put together by the Boy and Girl Scouts. There were many contacts made through the cross band repeater to include one from Wyoming to Kansas. Scouts participated in the launch

and recovery of the payload. For some pictures of the recovery operations go to <http://staff.uscolo.edu/vorndamr/eoss60>. What a great way to spend a Saturday. For more information about the flight, visit the EOOS web site for details:
http://www.eoss.org/ansrecap/Thirtyone_to_sixty/recap60.htm

From the Editor

Last month I suggested that we change the name of the Newsletter from “The Gazorche”, which had not been published for over two years to something else that would help signify a new beginning for the newsletter and the club. I proposed, as one candidate the name “The Copper Wire”. Since then, I’ve gotten verbal feedback from a few club members, and at least one non-club member. All the feedback has been positive for a name change, but there has been no consensus on what that name should be. I hope we are able to take 5 minutes (and not much more) of the Nov meeting to discuss this topic. Till then, I will continue to call this paper the “Rome Radio Club Newsletter”.

Please continue to give me feedback on the newsletter. Last month’s edition had a number of typos and errors. Most of the errors were corrected on the copy that was posted on the club web page.

This month’s “From Our Past” illustrates how active a club we used to have. Let’s see if we can revive some of the activities that are outlined in the letter to prospective members.

As always, please pass this newsletter on to anyone whom you think can benefit from its content.

73, Mike KB2CCD

WEB Page Links

<http://home.twcny.rr.com/datahold/WNY>
www.arrrl.org
www.tigertronics.com
www.ldgelectronics.com/qstldglink.htm
www.artscipub.com/repeaters
www.ac6v.com
www.findu.com
<http://pages.prodigy.net/romeradioclub>

From Our Past

The following letter was sent to prospective members in the 1990s:

Dear Prospective Member:

Thank you for your inquiry about our club. I will try to give you a brief rundown.

Meetings are held the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at Strough Jr. High School, Laurel Street, Rome, NY. No meetings during July and August or when meeting night falls on a school holiday. On those Wednesdays when there is no “in person” meeting, on the air meetings (informal) are held on the 146.28/88 repeater at 7:30 PM.

Dues are \$10.00 per year, each additional family member or any student is \$5.00 per year. Dues of newly joining members are prorated by quarters of the year in the year that they join. Dues are due on January 1, of each year. With an additional \$3.00 per year each member can receive the monthly news bulletin, the Gazorche.

The club operates the 146.28/88 open-repeater located northwest of Rome near Point Rock. We also maintain a closed autopatch repeater for members on 147.84/24. It is on Holland Patent telephone line with Rome, Utica, etc., available. Not being located in a very high spot, its coverage is more limited than the 146.28/88 machine.

Public service activities include providing radio coverage on the Honor America Days Parade, the Family Y Triathlon, the American Lung Association Bike Trek, Drums Along the Mohawk Drum and Bugle Pageant, furnishing operators to help at the Empire State Games and the taking part in the annual Emergency Preparedness Drill involving area hospitals and other emergency organizations. In connection with the latter type of service, the club has installed permanent antennas at the area hospitals and Red Cross headquarters to insure good VHF communication.

Every June, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sponsors Field Day Events which the club members participate in setting up radio gear to handle messages. This practice could prove a great value should a real emergency arise. This event includes fun times, good food and the meeting of old and new friends.

Club sponsored classes designed to teach the material necessary to pass Federal Communications Commission tests are regularly taught by knowledgeable members and have resulted in many newcomers getting on the air for the first time and have helped many who already held licenses to upgrade to a higher class ticket.

License tests are conducted locally by a volunteer examiner team made up of fully accredited club members under the sponsorship of the ARRL.

We have an auction at a club meeting in the fall where anyone can bring

unwanted gear to be sold with the club benefiting by a 10% commission. Two meter hidden transmitter (Bunny) hunts are held in the spring and fall, the winner being the hidden operator at the next hunt.

The annual Harvest Dinner (Covered Dish) in October is always an enjoyable get-together of hams and family members. There is always a program such as travel slides or other interesting presentation.

I hope this letter has answered some of your questions and that you will be able to join us soon. Attached is a membership application for you to join the club.

73,

Jack R. Roux, Jr., Secretary
KB2TXR

**ROME RADIO CLUB
APPLICATION/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name: _____ **Callsign:** _____

—

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ **Amateur
Class:** _____

Month/Day of Birth: ____/____ (do not give year)

E-mail

Address: _____

Are you a member of:

American Radio Relay League (ARRL):	Yes ___ NO ___
Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES):	Yes ___ NO ___
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES):	Yes ___ NO ___
Another Amateur Radio Club(s)	Yes ___ NO ___

If Yes, Please List _____

Renewal [] **New Member** [] **Date of Application:** _____

I, the undersigned, hereby agree to abide by the Constitution and By-laws, as well as all other rules of the Rome Radio Club, Inc.

Signature: _____

Interest and Capabilities Survey:

HF (160-10m)	CW []	SSB []	FM []	Digital []
VHF (6 - 1.25m)	CW []	SSB []	FM []	Digital []
UHF (70cm & above)	CW []	SSB []	FM []	Digital []

[] Traffic	[] Packet	[] Satellites	[] RTTY
[] EME	[] Ragchews	[] APRS	[] Antennas
[] Experimenting	[] QRP	[] 2 Meters	[] Public Service
[] CW	[] Field Day	[] Contesting	[] DX
[] Magic Band	[] Phone	[] SSTV	[] ATV
[] Kit Building	[] Other _____		

Mail to: **Dave Geiser W5IXM**
3790 Snowden Hill Rd

New Hartford, NY 13423-5137

Make Checks Payable to: Rome Radio Club, Inc.

Local Repeaters

FREQ	PL	NOTES	CALL	LOCATION
53.050	71.9			Auburn, NY
145.110	- 167.9	5P	N2ZWO	Jordanville, NY
145.170	-	1,5P	KA2NIL	Stockbridge NY
145.230	-		W2SEU	Stamford NY
145.310	- 151.4			
145.390	-		AE2K	Syracuse, NY
145.430	- 141.3			
145.450	-	5S	W2JIT	Deerfield NY
146.610	- 123.0		WA2ZWM	Cobleskill, NY
146.625	- 103.5			
146.655	-		WA2OFK	Boonville NY
146.670	- 151.5		AK2K	Sempronis NY
146.685	-		WA2EYH	Bainbridge, NY
146.715	-			
146.760	-		W2JIT	Deerfield NY
146.850	- 167.9		W2SEU	Oneonta NY
146.880	-		W2OFQ	Lee NY
146.910	-		WA2KFW	Pompey NY
146.940	-	1	K2GVI	Westmoreland NY
146.960	-			
147.000	- 71.9		W2QYT	Auburn NY
147.045	+ 167.9	5S	N2ZWO/2	Salisbury, NY
147.060	+		N2CWA	Syracuse, NY
147.045	+ 151.4		K2UCO	Oneida, NY
147.090	+		W2JIT	Mohawk, NY
147.120	+		WB2HVE	Rome, NY
147.150	+ 103.5		KW2M	Fulton, NY
147.195	+		WB2FDF	Elbridge, NY
147.210	+		KB2TLD	Syracuse NY
147.240	+	1, 2	K2BRH	Rome NY
147.255	+ 151.4			Watertown, NY
147.270	+			Auburn, NY
147.285	+ 136.5	1	WA2ZXS	Rome NY

147.300	+ 100.0	N2ACQ	Syracuse NY
147.375	+ 151.4		Watertown, NY
224.260	-	KA2NIL	Stockbridge NY
442.100	+	KA2UWD	Utica, NY
442.300			Syracuse, NY
443.200			Syracuse, NY
443.500			Syracuse, NY
443.650	-	KA2NIL	Stockbridge NY
444.100			Clay, NY
444.300	103.5		Liverpool, NY
444.400	+	N2FBB	Ilion, NY
444.650			Auburn, NY
444.850	+	W2JIT	Utica, NY
444.900	+	K2GVI	Westmoreland, NY

Notes: 1 - Auto-Patch; 2 - off the air; 3 - linked to 10m;
4 - linked to 6m; 5 - ARES/RACES repeater (P - primary, S - secondary)

Listing compiled from multiple sources; including
KC2HSU, KB4CMF, nf2g.com, KB2CCD - corrections
and additions should be directed to the editor