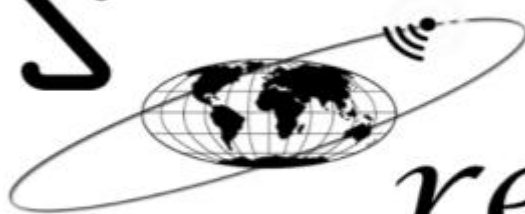


# RAGS



# review

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER THRU JUNE BY THE RADIO AMATEURS OF GREATER SYRACUSE

## MAY 2026

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- May 23, 2026  
PORTABLE OPERATIONS PARTY  
Clark Reservation State Park, Jamesville, NY  
8A – 3P, Coffee, Donuts, Burgers & Dogs
- June 11, 2026  
ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER  
Scholarship Presentation, Great Fellowship
- June 27-28, 2026  
ARRL FIELD DAY  
Camillus Ski Association Facility  
Operation, Fellowship, Food...FUN!
- July 11, 2026  
ROGER'S RAGS HAMFEST!!!
- August 15, 2026  
Joint RAGS/LARC Picnic  
Clay Town Park, Wetzel Rd.

### **PARKS ON THE AIR OPERATION**

***Club Members Will Discuss  
Their Different Approaches  
To Hunting and Activating***

***Chuck, KD2YUY - RV Operation  
Amir, K9CHP – Solar Operation  
Scott, K1SMK – Pocket POTA  
Peter, K2UPD – Remote Hunting  
Jerry, NK2C – SUV Activations***

**PLEASE JOIN US!!**

***NEXT MEETING – Thursday, May 14, 2026***

**IN PERSON AT 7:00P**

**Coffee is always on!**

**CHECK THE 31/91 REPEATER AFTER 3P FOR WEATHER CONCERNS**



**Dewitt Community Room  
148 Sanders Creek Parkway  
East Syracuse, NY 13057**





**John Perkins**  
**K2VTT**  
[Jp96166@gmail.com](mailto:Jp96166@gmail.com)  
315-399-8175

# FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to the several new members who recently joined RAGS. Get involved. There are a variety of activities for all interests.

As the weather improves, so do the activity options. Hamfest season is in full swing.

Don't forget the next RAGS POTA DAY May 23 at Clark Reservation in Jamesville. Various radios, antennas, and power setups will be in use. I will be bringing a satellite antenna and radio as well.

May 31 is the next youth science day at the MOST. We will be manning the K2MST Radio Station along with the activities run by the MOST.

Save the date for Field Day June 27-28. We will need help setting up Saturday morning, and then operating for 24 hours. Once again we will be at the Camillus Ski Club.

73, John K2VTT

**DUES ARE DUE FOR THE 2026 -2027 YEAR**  
**Pay online, at a meeting, or by mail. \$10/Year or \$20 by mail**

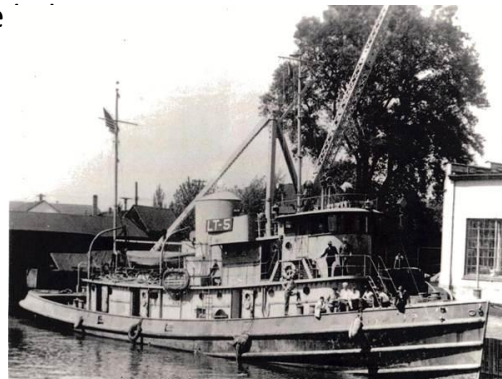
## NEWS FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING

The club had a wonderful turnout for our annual auction. There were a lot of very nice and useful items and many went home with some real treasures. This is always a fun event which involves a lot of camaraderie, coffee, and snacks. It is time to look forward to next year.

During the business portion of the meeting, John, K2VTT listed the many upcoming RAGS activities and solicited all members to get involved.

## HAM RADIO OPERATIONS AT OSWEGO HARBOR, JUNE 6-7

Fred, W2LGA will again be operating from the Derrick Boat and LT-5 Tugboat at Oswego Harbor during International Museum Ship Weekend. This year Fred will be using a special call sign – W2L. He is encouraging other hams to come and operate from either the Derrick Boat, The LT-5 Tugboat or near the F. Lee White Maritime Museum. This activity also coincides with The Lake Ontario Waterfront Festival on Saturday, June 6. See Press Release



The H. Lee White Maritime Museum and New York Sea Grant have announced June 6 as the new date for 2026 Lake Ontario Waterfront Festival. Admission is free. The family-friendly event is held from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Oswego's Historic Maritime District along the 1 West First Street Pier.

Special activities for the 2026 festival will highlight America's 250th anniversary as a nation with a children's education activity focused on the National Historic Landmark World War II U.S.S. Large Tugboat LT-5 that participated in the June 6, 1944 D-Day landing of Allied forces at Normandy. The LT-5 is part of the H. Lee White Maritime Museum's collection of historic vessels.

America's history of service to the nation by ham radio operators will come alive with Fred Legawiec and other "hams" operating from the museum's historic Derrick Boat No. 8 along Oswego's West First Street Pier. They will be talking with operators aboard museum ships worldwide as part of the Museum Ship Weekend Event on Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Lake Ontario Waterfront Festival activities will also feature maritime history and recreation, the Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary, environmental protection and research, seafaring song and dance with The Happy Pirates, and local tourism. New York Sea Grant will have information on safe and environmentally friendly boating practices, emergency distress signals, and how to properly size a life vest for children, adults, and the family dog.

The festival is located alongside the H. Lee White Maritime Museum in Oswego's Historic Maritime District on the West Pier. The museum with several new exhibits for 2026 and its Treasure Chest gift shop will be open. The museum has an extensive collection of artifacts, images, archival records, original artwork, models, and historic vessels, including the National Historic Landmark LT-5, one of the last remaining wartime tugboats of its era.

# LET'S KEEP K2MST ON THE AIR!

As part of RAGS outreach to the youth and potential new hams of the CNY area, RAGS is trying to keep the M.O.S.T. ham station (K2MST) in operation each week during its Thursday to Sunday hours of operation. K2MST is a very nice station with HF and VHF/UHF capabilities. It is easily seen and heard by visitors and is a great way to expose youth and their parents to the excitement of Amateur Radio.

Operators must complete a volunteer applicant form and several RAGS members are capable of familiarizing new operators with the equipment.

Contact John, K2VTT or Jerry, NK2C for more info and an application form.



So far RAGS has a small team of volunteer operators who have committed some time each month to station operation. The station currently has HF capabilities utilizing an Icom IC-7300 (donated by RAGS) and a 40/20 dipole and a large Loop antenna. Operation on 10 thru 80M, (CW, SSB, and Data) is possible and the antennas are quite high. There also is VHF/UHF repeater capability and the MOST 443.15 is regularly tied to the East Coast Reflector. This is fun because stations check in from all over the world. Coming, pending rotor repair, is VHF/UHF utilizing an ICOM IC-9700.

## RAGS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2026-2027



As in past years, RAGS is offering a Scholarship to a selected qualified applicant. This year, the scholarship award will be in the amount of \$500. The applicant requirements are as follows:

- Must be a current member of RAGS
- A high school level graduate holding a valid amateur radio license.
- Accepted at an accredited university, college, or technical school for the application year
- Or enrolled in a continuing education program for advanced study.

Request an application form by sending a written request to RAGS, P.O. Box 88, Liverpool, NY 13088. The deadline for Completed Applications is May 29, 2026.

# BUILDING A NEW SHACK?

JAMES RICHARDS - -K8JHR

- **Have Plenty of AC Outlets.** Run an extra line if you can, to dedicate to just ham gear. Run a 220v line if you think you will run a linear amp. Most can run on 110v AC, but nearly all will coast along and run cooler on 220v AC.

- **Have a big desk top.** Lots of guys use narrow desks. I have two 30" x 72" desk shells with some drawer units under each, and lots of leg room under both. I would prefer a 36" deep desk top and will do that next time. Loads of guys use counter top that is only 24 inches deep, which leaves you NO room to write or have separate notepaper or other important stuff, like you code key, a desk top PTT switch, or a mug of beer.

- **Plan ahead** for where you are going to put your computer – and monitor – especially if you need to locate the transceiver away from the monitor to avoid unwanted stray EMI/RFI and electrical hash some LED and plasma monitors emit.

- **Plan ahead** for LOTS of wires, cables, and connectors. My desk shells are both 6 inches from the wall, leaving room for patch cables, power cables, switches, connectors, and the like.

- **Include some heavy-duty shelves.** I built shelves on the walls, above the desk, and used heavy shelf brackets, which are attached to the studs in the walls, and can hold something like 500 lbs each, and I set the shelves on the brackets, about 1.5 inches away from the wall so I can pass cables and connectors.

- **Take notice that ham gear is often HEAVY.** I see so many photos of shacks where the shelves are sagging terribly – often to a point where one might worry they might give way and fail.

- **Plan ahead for adding more gear,** and other useful stuff, like large notebooks which can hold the instruction and user manuals, copies of adverts, service manuals, and also hold copies of articles you might collect along the way.

- **Buy a really good,** substantial, large swivel desk chair. These days you can get a fairly decent executive type desk chair at Staples Depot Max for between \$125 and \$200 – and it is worth it. Why sit anywhere for any extended time in a crappy chair?

- **Locate your shack as close to the ground as possible** – both physical earth ground, like what we know as dirt, and also electrical ground, like

what the electrician calls ground, so you can tie (bond) your shack ground system to the domestic electrical system ground, what is called "single point bonding."

- **Think about whether or not you are left-handed or right-handed...** where the window is... how you are going to lay out the radios... tuner, linear amp, code key, and even where you will hang your headset or head phones, and even plan where the microphone and PTT switch will go. Lets see... 2 meter rig... HF transceiver... you operate the tuner with your left or right hand... think about this as you proceed.

- **Build shelf-risers** that give you more vertical space. I have multiple levels of gear on the desk top. This allows me more gear in a vertical space. Plan for these things as you proceed, and maybe you get some help from a handy and well-equipped neighbor or friend if you don't have this type of shop equipment, yourself.

The point is, to plan ahead and maximize the available space – my shelf risers pretty much double the number of radios and accessories I can put on the desk.

- **Get the wife involved.** Not only will she have good ideas on how to lay out your gear, but she may have suggestions you will not realize on your own. My wife does that and sometimes she saves me from making a short-sighted move. In any case, this will get her invested in the shack-building process, and she will be more supportive and enthusiastic about your ham shack.

- **Plan for good lighting.** Nothing worse than working in the dark.

- **Put a long multiple-plug-power strip** on the wall behind the desk, at about, or just slightly below the height of the desk top – typically 29-30 inches up from the floor. You won't believe how many power cables, wall warts, and etc. you need to plug in to complete the shack. Do this before installing the desk, etc.

- **Plan for multiple antenna cables** entering the house. Do this before you assemble our desk and lay out the equipment on it. In any case, the point is to PLAN AHEAD for these things, so as to minimize surprises, disappointment, and waste.

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## Public Service & Emergency

## Preparedness News



Our next Event is the Workforce Run on June 9 followed by the Y-Triathlon on June 13. We need volunteers for each event. Please email Walt, [n2ikwkb@gmail.com](mailto:n2ikwkb@gmail.com) or Andriy, [kd2kub@proton.me](mailto:kd2kub@proton.me) or sign-up on the website, [www.ragsclub.org](http://www.ragsclub.org).

To join the P/S gang, you can sign-up online on the Rags website, [www.ragsclub.org](http://www.ragsclub.org) or you can give Walt, [n2ikwkb@gmail.com](mailto:n2ikwkb@gmail.com), or Andriy, [kd2kub@gmail.com](mailto:kd2kub@gmail.com) a shout and volunteer!

73, Walt, N2IK  
Public Service Chair

The **ARES/RACES** Group is beginning a new monthly repeater net for all to learn net control protocols. It is planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7P. The next net will be May 21 on the 146.775 repeater. Please check-in and join in the learning process!

### A Hobby Without Age, Without Borders

One of the most remarkable things about amateur radio is how completely it transcends the boundaries that divide so much of modern life — age, nationality, background, and language. At Hamvention®, you will find ten-year-olds who just passed their Technician exam standing next to eighty-year-old Extra class operators who have been on the air for six decades. You will hear accents from Brazil, Japan, Germany, Australia, and dozens of other nations. The language of radio — the universal exchange of signal reports, call signs, and camaraderie — cuts through every barrier.

Youth engagement in amateur radio is surging. Globally, organizations like Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) run camps and contests specifically designed for licensed operators under the age of 26, drawing participants from Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia. The World Organization of the Scout Movement's annual Jamboree on the Air is the largest scouting activity on earth, with roughly half a million Scouts and Guides making radio contacts each October. The World Wide Young Contesters organization brings competitive radio sport to young Europeans. And closer to home, the ARRL's Youth on the Air camp program, held annually in North America, draws licensed young operators from across the Western Hemisphere for a week of hands-on training, cutting-edge operating, and mentorship.

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUBS

### LARC

#### Liverpool Amateur Repeater Club

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month – 7P  
N. Syracuse Community Center  
700 South Bay Rd, N. Syracuse

### QCWA

#### Quarter Century Wireless Assoc.

Last Friday of each month – 10A  
Denny's Restaurant, 6591 Thompson Rd,  
Syracuse, NY 13206  
ALL ARE WELCOME

### Yay!!! - Upcoming Hamfests – Yay!!!!

- Thousand Islands – 05/16
- Cortland – 06/13
- Rochester – 06/20
- RAGS – 07/11
- Ithaca – 08/01



### Nets Of Note

**OCTEN Traffic Net - Nightly at 8:00P**  
Oneida 145.17- MHz, Auburn 147.00, Syracuse 147.30

**CNY Amateur Radio Swap and Information Net**  
Weekly, Wednesdays at 7:00PM  
Auburn 147.00 +, 71.9 tone Cortland 147.225 +, 71.9 tone  
Remsen 145.33 -, 71.9 tone Ithaca 146.97 -, 103.5 tone  
Lafayette 145.15 -, 123.0 tone Syracuse 53.67 -, 103.5 tone

**Rock City Net - Weekly, Wednesdays @ 8P**  
3.986, SSB

**RAGS Chat Net – Sunday Nights at 7:00PM**  
75 Meters - 3.986 MHz – LSB

**CNY Fireside Chat Net**  
Weekly, Monday, 7P 146.670 -, 103.5 tone

**CNY Information Net**  
Weekly, Monday, 8P 146.670-, 103.5 tone

**QCWA Social Net**  
Weekly, Tuesday, 7:00P, 53.050-, 71.9 tone  
(linked to 53.67 -, tone 103.5)

**220 VHF Net**  
Weekly, Friday, 7P 224.12-, 103.5 tone

**Easy-Pal Digital Slow Scan**  
Weekly - Saturday Nites 146.67-, 103.5 tone  
Daily – 3.857 HF  
Note that 147.390 is an ECHOLINK Repeater

**General Ham Info**  
[www.upstateham.com](http://www.upstateham.com) and [www.kd2sl.com](http://www.kd2sl.com)

# Yum! Yum!

## Apple Pecan Spinach Salad

- 3 Tbl olive oil
- 2 Tbl balsamic vinegar
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp pepper
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 ( 5oz ) bag fresh baby spinach
- 1 ( 5oz ) bag fresh arugula
- 2 Honeycrisp apples, halved, cored & thinly sliced
- ¾ c toasted pecans
- ½ c crumbled blue cheese



Whisk together the olive oil and next 4 ingredients until well combined. Toss gently with greens. Top with apple, pecans and blue cheese.

## Baked Scallops

- 1 lb fresh sea scallops
- ½ c milk
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 c Ritz crackers, crushed
- ½ c butter, melted
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp dried dill weed

Cut large scallops in half, if desired; place in heat proof bowl. Add enough boiling water to cover and let sit for 3 minutes. Drain; pat dry with paper towels. Dip scallops in milk, then egg, then crushed crackers. Place in greased scallop baking shells or individual baking dishes. Combine butter and garlic; spoon over scallops.

Sprinkle dill and remaining crackers over scallops. Bake at 350° for 15 mins.

## Sunny Lemon Pie

- 1 ( 4oz ) pkg cook & serve lemon pudding mix, cooked as directed on package
- 2 Tbl lemon juice
- 1 ½ tsp grated lemon rind
- 1 c sour cream
- 1 ( 9" ) graham pie crust
- 2 c Cool Whip

While pie filling is still hot, stir in lemon juice and lemon zest. Add sour cream and mix well. Pour into pie crust and chill 2 hours or until set. Top with Cool Whip and keep chilled until served.

- **Plan for a big clock** that shows Zulu or UTC time. I have a smaller alarm clock on my desk, right under my computer screen, but you might like a larger clock of some kind, but in any case, plan for a separate clock for world time, as hams live on Zulu time, and not local time.

- **Get a bulletin board** or leave some space for putting up various wall paper, such as Worked All Whatever Awards, Band Plan Charts, Tuner and Amp Setting Charts, Colored US Section Map, repeater frequency charts, and photos you will surely collect over time.

- **Include the following amenities:**

- bathroom – preferably full bath with a shower
- walk in storage closet
- hallway placing the shack, bathroom, and storage closet down the hall, away from the family rec room
- refrigerator with ice maker
- coffee maker
- microwave oven
- separate supply of coffee mugs, beer mugs, etc. for you and your ham friends
- a couple of chairs for friends, wife, kids, grandkids, etc. Don't be a hermit !
- a lighted call sign as well as a call sign coffee mug... or two... cannot have too many of these in the shack.
- a sufficient supply of beer, bourbon, and snacks and sundry comestibles for snacking and refreshing you and your friends as you don't wanna be undernourished or become dehydrated during a long QSO or, especially, during a big contest.... ;-)
- **Scour the web for images of other ham shacks**, and see which ones you like, and which you don't, noting the reasons therefore. See what other guys are doing. You will be surprised at how many really cool shacks there are, and also how many really messy, inconvenient, awkward shacks there are. It takes all kinds, but, surely some of them will appeal to you and you will get some good ideas from doing this.



# CLUB INFORMATION

Website:

www.ragsclub.org

Mailing Address:

Box 88, Liverpool, NY 13088

President >> John Perkins  
 Vice President >> Mark Sloan  
 Vice President >> Doug Falcon  
 Secretary >> Jeff Plumb  
 Treasurer >> Jerry Wright  
 Hamfest Contact >> Jerry Wright  
 Public Service >> Walt Bordett  
 Health and Welfare >> Jerry Wright  
 Field Day >> Dave Rice  
 Membership >> Jerry Wright  
 Newsletter Editor >> Jerry Wright  
 Webmaster >> OPEN  
 Historian >> OPEN  
 Nominating Chairman >> Mark Eckert

>> k2VTT  
 >> KD2YVB  
 >> N2JOM  
 >> KD2CPT  
 >> NK2C  
 >> NK2C  
 >> N2IK  
 >> NK2C  
 >> KC2HO  
 >> NK2C  
 >> NK2C  
 >>  
 >>  
 >> K2MTE

# CLUB CALL SIGN: W2AE

Meetings:

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month from Sept. to June

>> 315-399-8175 >>  
 >> 315-415-7789 >>  
 >> 315- 677-5124 >>  
 >> 315-755-8964 >>  
 >> 315-488-5383 >>  
 >> 315-727-2762 >>  
 >> 315-445-8161 >>  
 >> 315-488-5383 >>  
 >> 315-469-6009 >>  
 >> 315-488-5383 >>  
 >> 315-488-5383 >>  
 >>  
 >>  
 >> 315-672-5605 >>

Common email for all  
 is auto forwarded to each  
 Officer and Committee Head

**w2aerags@gmail.com**

REV. 09.05.2020

### About Us

RAGS Review is our official newsletter.  
 We are a non-profit organization incorporated  
 by NYS in 1975.  
 Dues are payable yearly on April 1<sup>st</sup>  
 To join or renew, membership applications are available  
 at meetings and online.

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**NEXT MEETING:**  
**MAY 14, 2026 @ 7P**

**RAGS**  
**PO Box 88**  
**Liverpool, NY**  
**13088**