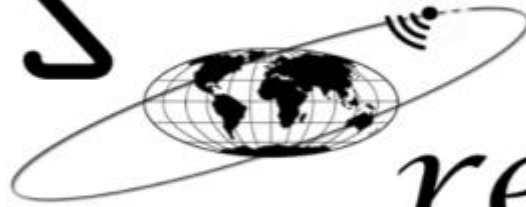


RAGS



review

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER THRU JUNE BY THE RADIO AMATEURS OF GREATER SYRACUSE

OCTOBER 2026

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- October 24, 2026
RAGS Portable Party 8A-2P
Camillus Erie Canal Park
5750 Devoe Rd.
Camillus, NY
- November 12, 2026
A U.S. ISLANDS POTA ROVE
Presentation by Matt Brown, K2EAG
- December 12, 2026
ANNUAL RAGS/LARC HOLIDAY PARTY
Save The Date!!
- January 14, 2027
ELMER'S PANEL DISCUSSION
Experienced hams will field your queries

OCTOBER PROGRAM

3Y0K – 2026
BOUVET DX-PEDITION
A Personal Story

Dennis Ward, KT8X
Co-Leader 3Y0K Bouvet
Island Dxpedition

PLEASE JOIN US!!

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, October 8, 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

315-399-8175

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings:

I enjoyed Steve's September Meeting Presentation and looking forward to the October Presentation on the 3Y0K Bouvet Island DXpedition.

Our next meeting will be on October 10 at the Dewitt Community Room on Sanders Creek Parkway (attached to the Fire Station). Coffee is on at 6:00 PM, meeting starts at 7:00 PM. I'm looking forward to the presentation on the Dxpediton.

Walt can still use some assistance with the Great NYS Marathon.

A big thank you to Amir, K9CHP, who has been our Emergency Coordinator (EC) for several years. Amir has decided to step down from that position.

Looking forward to the fall activities. Get involved and have fun.

73

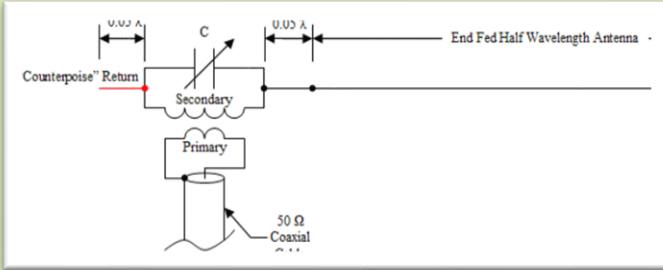
John K2VTT

NEWS FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING

We had a very upbeat meeting for our opening of the 2026-2027 RAGS Meeting season. There was a large attendance with lots of pre-meeting discussion about summer activities and fall plans. Steve Mussi, KD2ETP gave a very interesting demonstration of his new IC-905 transceiver and associated gear. He focused on uses in the 10 Mhz frequency range. As usual lots of coffee and donut holes were consumed and discussions spilled over into the parking lot afterwards.

EFHW Basics

Randy Thompson, K5ZD



I don't think I had ever heard of an EFHW (End-fed half wave) antenna 5 years ago. Now they seem to be in use everywhere. They are a compromise multi-band antenna, but they seem to work well enough that people use them. In a follow-up email exchange, Ward Silver, NOAX, provided this information on the EFHW that was new to me.

The key to getting the most out of an EFHW is the impedance transformer and how you install the antenna. Transformer design was all over the place until K1RF published a really good presentation on his effective design. (<http://gnarc.org/wp-content/uploads/The-End-Fed-Half-Wave-Antenna.pdf>) Summarizing, you have to use the right ferrite and have an end-fed impedance that is reasonably close to what the transformer can be expected to match. The ferrite has to be in its inductive (low-loss) region because it's a flux-coupled transformer, not a transmission-line choke. Type 43 works well across the HF spectrum, becoming lossy above low VHF where it is used for EMI suppression. Using Type 31 makes the transformer an RF sponge at HF which is what it's designed for. Turns ratios making the impedance ratio anywhere from 9:1 (3 to 1 turns) to 81:1 (9 to 1 turns) are used but the ratio most suitable to a wide variety of feed point impedances is 49:1. Not having enough core cross-section area for the power level involved (1.5" OD for QRP, 2.4" OD for 100W, 2x2.4" OD for up to 500 W CW or 1 kW SSB, 3x2.4" OD for 1.5 kW) drives the core into a lossy region and it heats up.

Having some additional conductor beyond the feed point – I hesitate to call it a “counterpoise”

because that's not what it is acting as – helps stabilize the feed point impedance. This is usually the outer surface of the coax. Using a current choke at the feed point blocks this path and makes the feed point impedance erratic so it's kind of a crapshoot how the SWR will look. If the feed point transformer is up in the air, such as in a horizontal configuration, the length of coax starts to become more significant and the antenna starts to look like an OCFD. Depending on how much coax surface there is, the resulting feed point impedance can also become erratic. The most reliably effective installation is to put the transformer three to six feet above the ground, run the wire straight up with a non-metallic (fiberglass) mast for at least 10 feet, then run the wire up to the highest point you can find so that it's basically an inverted-L. Just lay the coax on the ground – it will be fine and non-fussy.

True, the EFHW only “requires” one support, but so does a dipole as an inverted-V or sloping dipole. The important thing is where the current maxima are located with respect to ground. This changes with frequency. On the lowest two bands, the current maxima are in the middle half of the antenna. On the higher bands, the current maxima are all across the antenna with the higher peaks nearer the transformer. The higher the maxima above ground, the more efficient radiator the antenna will be. On 15/12/10 meters, an 80-10 antenna starts to look like an end-fed long wire and radiates in the direction away from the feed point.

A center-fed doublet will work just as well but you have to have an antenna tuner for the even harmonic bands and use a low-loss open-wire line between the feed point and the tuner. Note that using 100 feet or more of RG-58 with the “wrong” transformer or a funky installation will make an antenna look just dandy to the transmitter due to feed line loss.

If the coax-fed EFHW is presenting an SWR high enough to require a tuner at the transmitter, something is wrong either in the design or

(Cont. Pg. 6)

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.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT HAM RADIO

Rick Prantis

What I love about ham radio is that it doesn't matter who you are, how old you are, or young, or what your socio economic standing is, or your job, or your gender, or your nationality, or your race, or what you do or did for a living, or how much education you have, or who you know, you can still find people that will appreciate you and treat you like an equal. We are called ham radio operators. It is not dependent on how much equipment we have or how old it is. It matters not what language we speak when off the radio. The size and location makes no difference. We are joined together with others from everywhere on our planet by a microphone and a love of radio. I have friends who treat me good, and I treat them good. We are not likely to meet in person, or have anything else in common. We are United by radio. If we could apply the same to everything and everybody in life, we would have no need for war or a reason to hate. I get the same excitement today as I did when I had my first ham radio experience as a teenager in 1962. How could we not love ham radio.

INSTALLING RV PASS-THROUGHS

I've heard numerous people ask how to set up a ham radio station in an RV, and more specifically how to install an antenna and how to connect the coax to it. For a quick and temporary solution, I used a window pass-through like the Comet CTC-50M, which worked great. Eventually, however, I wanted something that was more permanent, more plug-and-play, and a little more durable. I have no problem with drilling a hole in a new vehicle, so I decided to go that route for our RV.



We have a small Jayco Jay Flight SLX 174BHA pull-behind travel trailer, just right for my wife (Lisa KR5LYS) and me to set up at a family camping overnighter, primitive remote location, or even at Field Day. As for the antenna, I wanted to enjoy the flexibility of setting up any kind of antenna I wanted, and a dozen or more feet away from my RV, to separate my station from the RFI (radio frequency interference) that I'm transmitting. This meant not installing an antenna directly on my RV, but providing a way for its feed line to get into the vehicle instead. This also gave me the freedom to try out various antenna ideas instead of being restricted to only what's attached to my vehicle.

The construction Locating a spot on your RV to drill pass through holes is not as trivial as it might Noji (left), Lisa (bending), and Gary KG7FXG at Field Day sound. What I had to find was a place that was out-of-plain-sight inside the vehicle while remaining inconspicuous yet easily accessible on the outside. For me, it turned out that a convenient exit point was inside the bottom storage compartment that's under the master bed. I carefully drilled two 5/8" holes about two inches apart for a pair of 4" bulkhead barrel connectors, then installed the connectors. Under the fire extinguisher and the master bed I drilled a 1" hole that goes from the bottom storage compartment to the RV interior.



I unscrewed the threshold from the doorway to route my coax. I routed two 20-foot sections of RG-8X through the 1" hole, then installed them onto the bulkhead barrel connectors. I laid the coax comfortably on the floor just inside the RV door and re-installed the threshold over the pair. Finally, I coiled up the remainder of the coax and hung them on a pair of Command hooks that I adhered to the cabinetry.



Testing the two pass-through holes meant testing the feed line connections using the coax I installed, an external antenna, and test equipment, which in this case were a continuity tester, an analyzer, and my trusty rig. The transceiver is a Yaesu FT-857D, which is a 100 watt shack-in-the-box, meaning I could conveniently connect both coax cables to the same rig, which I did. If you look closely at the photo on the right, you can see my "continuity tester" attached to the end of one cable, and it's nothing more than an SO-239 connector with a 100-ohm resistor across it. Once both cables tested for continuity, I connected an end-fed HF POTA antenna and a vertical mobile VHF whip outside, and my analyzer showed that I had not messed up my installation too badly. More importantly, people that heard me on VHF reported full quieting, while HF contacts in Oklahoma, Georgia, and Ohio said I sounded like I was in their backyards. Summary You can install a permanent pass-through system for your feed lines into your RV by drilling holes from the inside to the outdoors at strategic locations, then installing bulkhead barrel connectors. Two of the most important considerations for the holes and cabling are keeping them out-of sight, if possible, and making sure they are water-tight. Don't forget the three rules at the conclusion: test (continuity), test (analyze), and test (make contacts)! Noji Ratzlaff KNØJJ



Public Service & Emergency Preparedness News



Our next and final event of the Public Service season is the "Loop The Lake" NYS Marathon on 10/18. We need volunteers for each event. Please email Walt, n2ikwkb@gmail.com or Andriy, kd2kub@proton.me or sign-up on the website, www.ragsclub.org. Radios are provided to volunteers if they do not own them. So come out and learn and help your community.

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

73, Walt, N2IK
Public Service Chair

ARES/RACES QUARTERLY TRAINING

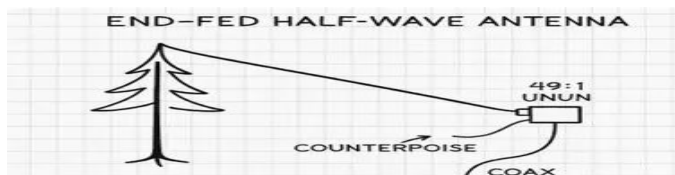
The last training session was held Sept. 25. The activity involved attendees bringing their Go-Boxes and trying out the newly installed EOC antennas.



installation. You may be able to get a match with the tuner but feed line loss is likely to be high – you can hear people but not work them.

Most folks don't really understand the antenna, install it any old way or really low, have unreasonable expectations, and are disappointed. Or the manufacturer doesn't use the right ferrite or provides the wrong impedance ratio, or, or, or and the antenna just isn't efficient. The result is unhappy customers who need education – sometimes "app notes" will really help. Ward Silver, NOAX, email dated 06-26, 24

I found the information above informative and asked Ward if I could share it so others might benefit. Hope you find something that helps you get the most out of your EFHW antenna



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUBS

LARC

Liverpool Amateur Repeater Club

4th 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!!!!

We are excited about 2027.
Save your gear and \$\$
for the Marathon Hamfest
in January



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 and www.kd2sl.com

Yum! Yum!

!! FUNNIES !!

Herb Garden Turkey Breast



- 8 1/2 lb turkey breast,
thawed if frozen
- 3 Tbl lemon juice, divided
- 2 Tbl oil, divided
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- 2 tsp fresh thyme, chopped
- 1 tsp fresh sage, chopped
- 1 ¼ tsp salt
- ¾ tsp pepper

Place turkey breast on a rack in an ungreased shallow baking pan, loosen the skin on top without removing it. Combine 1 Tbl lemon juice, 1 Tbl oil, garlic, lemon zest, and seasonings; spread under the skin. Combine remaining lemon juice & oil; set aside. Bake uncovered at 350° for 2 ½ to 3 hours, basting every 15 to 20 mins with reserved lemon mixture. Turkey is done when it reaches 165° on you meat thermometer.

Swiss – Onion Potato Bake

- 1 c finely chopped sweet onion
- 2 Tbl butter
- 1 (30oz) pkg frozen shredded hash browns, thawed
- 2 c (8 oz) shredded Swiss cheese
- 1 tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- 2 eggs
- 1 c milk
- minced fresh parsley, optional

Sauté onion in butter. In a lrg bowl, combine hash browns, cheese, salt, pepper and onion mixture. Transfer to a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Whisk together eggs and milk; pour over potato mixture. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 35 to 40 mins. Sprinkle with parsley is desired.

Pumpkin Gingersnap Ice Cream

- 1 (14oz) container vanilla ice cream, softened
 - 1 (15oz) can pumpkin
 - 1 sleeve gingersnap cookies, crushed
 - optional; whipped cream, additional gingersnaps
- In a lrg bowl combine ice cream and pumpkin; blend well by hand. Stir in crushed cookies. Cover and freeze. To serve, garnish with whipped cream and additional cookies.



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

Meetings:

2nd 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 1st
To join or renew, membership applications are available
at meetings and online.
PAGE 8 <>OCT 2026

NEXT MEETING:
OCT 8, 2026 @ 7P

RAGS
PO Box 88
Liverpool, NY
13088