RAGS review

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER THRU JUNE BY THE RADIO AMATEURS OF GREATER SYRACUSE

NOVEMBER 2026

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **December 12, 2026**
ANNUAL RAGS/LARC HOLIDAY PARTY
See page 3 for details!!

- **January 14, 2027**
ELMER'S PANEL DISCUSSION
Experienced hams will field your queries

- **February 11, 2027**
WINLINK USAGE ON HF & VHF FOR TRAFFIC AND EMERGENCY OPERATION

- **March 11, 2027**
GETTING ON THE AIR FROM VIETNAM

- **April 8, 2027**
ANNUAL RAGS AUCTION
Sell and buy treasurers

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

EXTREME POTA

Featuring The N4T Dry Tortugas Expedition

Matt Brown, K2EAG

PLEASE JOIN US!!

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, November 12, 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 Dennis Ward's (KT8X) presentation on their most recent Bouvet Expedition.

I'm looking forward to Matt Brown's POTA DXpedition presentation at the November meeting.

Our next meeting will be on November 12 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.

Fall is upon us with the Holiday Seasons approaching.
Get involved and have fun.

73
John K2VTT



NEWS FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING

We had a very interesting program by KT8X on the most recent Bouvet Island Dxpedition. The speaker described many details of the planning and execution of the project. There was a large attendance with lots of interest and questions for the speaker. As usual lots of coffee and donut holes were consumed and discussions spilled over into the parking lot afterwards.

2026 Holiday Party

Saturday, December 12th at 12:00 PM

Liverpool Fire Department Station 1

1110 Oswego Street, Liverpool, NY 13088

Park behind Station 1, NOT in front or on the side of the building.
There is an entrance off Alder Street.
Use the door entrance on the back side of the building.

Advance reservations; $25 per adult.
Reservations after December 6th and walk-ins, $30!
Reservation Deadline December 5

Food will be available around 1:00pm!



Hors D'Oeuvres
Chicken Francaise
Baked Lasagna
Sausage Peppers & Onions
Roasted Potatoes
Salad & Dressing
Mixed Veggies
Garlic Knots
Soda & Coffee,
(NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED)
Dessert
Door Prizes!



Mail To: LARC
PO Box 5623
Syracuse, NY 13220

Checks Payable to: LARC
Or PayPal via LARC website (w2cm.com)

Name(s): _____

_____

Phone: _____

Amount enclosed: (# attending X $25.00) _____

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.

PUMPKIN PATROL 2026

Many local hams (coordinated by LARC) participated in the 50th Annual Pumpkin Patrol on October 30 and 31 along New York State Thruway bridges and overpasses to deter dangerous Halloween pranks and keep motorists safe.

This long-standing initiative is a collaboration between State Police Troop T, whose members patrol the Thruway exclusively, and volunteers from local amateur radio organizations. These volunteers will monitor various bridges and overpasses for suspicious or unsafe activity, such as throwing objects onto the Thruway. The volunteers can quickly alert nearby State Police patrols or local law enforcement to help prevent hazards to passing motorists.

The Pumpkin Patrol began as a volunteer effort in 1976 in Fort Johnson, Montgomery County. The State Police assumed coordination of Pumpkin Patrol in 1990 as part of its broader crime prevention efforts.

This initiative coincides with other State Police enforcement activities during the Halloween weekend, including increased patrols targeting impaired driving and underage drinking.

Autumn HF Propagation: Why Fall Is a Great Season for DX

From www.hamradiolist.com

Something changes on the HF bands every year right around now. The days get shorter, the static crashes that plagued summer evenings fade out, and bands that felt dead a month ago suddenly come alive with distant stations. This isn't folklore — it's a real, well-understood shift in how the ionosphere behaves as the Northern Hemisphere moves toward winter (or, for operators south of the equator, toward spring). Understanding why autumn works this way can help you plan smarter operating sessions instead of just spinning the dial and hoping.

Why the Ionosphere Shifts in Autumn

Two things are happening at once as fall sets in. First, the days are shorter, which means less total solar ultraviolet radiation is hitting the lower ionosphere each day. The D layer, which sits low in the atmosphere and is mainly responsible for absorbing and weakening HF signals during daylight, simply has less time to build up that absorption. Second, the F2 layer — the one that actually bends HF signals back to Earth for long-distance contacts — tends to become denser heading into winter, a pattern long-time operators call the winter anomaly. Put those together and you often get a higher maximum usable frequency with less signal loss along the way, which is a good combination for working distant stations.

Lower Noise Floors Make a Real Difference

Summer in much of the Northern Hemisphere means thunderstorm season, and thunderstorm static can raise the noise floor on the lower HF bands enough to bury weak signals that would otherwise be perfectly workable. As autumn arrives in temperate regions, that static backs off noticeably. A band that sounds like bacon frying in July can sound almost silent in October, and that quiet makes a real difference when you're trying to pull a weak signal out of the noise. Keep in mind this varies by region and hemisphere, so your local experience may differ.

Ten, Twelve, and Fifteen Meters Come Alive

During summer, openings on 10 meters are often driven by sporadic E — short, unpredictable patches of ionization that can produce strong but brief contacts over a few thousand kilometers. As that effect fades in fall, true F2-layer propagation takes over on the higher bands, and when solar flux cooperates, openings on 10, 12, and 15 meters tend to last longer and cover greater distances. If you're new to these bands, double check your license privileges and the current band plan before calling — the free quick reference page is a handy place to confirm bands, modes, and allocations at a glance.

Twenty Meters Stays the Reliable Workhorse

If the higher bands are quiet on a given day, 20 meters is usually still doing something useful. It tends to stay open longer into the evening in fall and remains one of the most dependable bands for working other continents on phone, CW, or digital modes. Remember that HF privileges differ by license class and country — in the United States, a Technician-class license has limited phone privileges on HF, while General and Extra open up far more of 20 meters; in Canada, a Basic qualification grants HF access, with Basic with Honours adding full power privileges. Always operate within what your license and local regulations allow.

Longer, Richer Greyline Windows

The greyline — the narrow band of twilight circling the globe at sunrise and sunset — can offer some of the best low-loss propagation paths available, especially on 40, 20, and sometimes 80 meters. As nights lengthen through autumn, that twilight period stretches out a bit each day and shows up twice, at dawn and dusk, giving you more chances to catch it. If you haven't explored this yet, our deeper look at greyline propagation walks through how to use it deliberately rather than by accident. Timing shifts with your latitude, the calendar and current solar flux.

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Public Service & Emergency Preparedness News

Our next event is the Syracuse St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 13, 2027. This is a very good event and the parade coordinating team really appreciates ham radio involvement. We always need volunteers for this 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 next training session will be in January. The use of Win Link for VHF and HF communications will be emphasized.

What is the National Traffic System (NTS)?

The NTS is a field organization of the American Radio Relay League. Messages are sent in the standard ARRL Radiogram format, and relayed from Amateur Radio operator to another through a series of formal networks. The message is ultimately delivered to the addressee in about 24 to 36 hours by an NTS operator who lives fairly close to the recipient, either by telephone, mail, or hand delivery (uncommon). The NTS operates every day and is used by thousands of people to send and receive short messages of a personal, non-commercial nature, such as birthday greetings, congratulations on a special event, or wishes for a speedy recovery. Subject to international treaties governing "third party" messages, many foreign countries also allow their hams to exchange radiograms with US hams. During disasters or other emergencies, radiograms are used to send critical life safety and agency messages, and "health and welfare" information from disaster victims to friends and family. During these times, the NTS works in concert with the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES ®) and other emergency and disaster relief organizations, such as the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army. Networks are often accelerated and expanded to accommodate the needs.

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 Jenuary



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!



Creamy Turkey Casserole

1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 can cream of celery soup
1 ½ oz pkg onion soup mix
1 c instant rice, uncooked
1 ½ c milk
2 to 3 c turkey. Cooked and cubed
bread crumbs
Combine 1st 6 ingredients; spread into a 9x13 ungreased baking pan. Sprinkle with bread crumbs. Bake at 350 for 45 mins.

Caramel Apple Salad

1 (8 oz) cool whip
1 (3 1/3 oz) pkg instant butterscotch pudding mix
1 (8 oz) crushed pineapple
2 c apples, cored, peeled and diced
1 c dried roasted peanuts
1 c mini marshmallows
Mix Cool whip, pudding and pineapple together. Fold in remaining ingredients. cover and keep refrigerated until ready to serve.

Mini Pumpkin Tarts

Topping
¼ c flour
¼ c sugar
¼ c pecans
2 Tbl butter, softened
Crust
¾ c butter
2 (3 oz) pkgs cream cheese, softened
1 ½ c flour
Filling
1 (14oz can) sweetened condensed milk
1 ¼ c canned pumpkin
1 egg
tsp pumpkin pie spice
Topping
Whipped cream, if desired
Combine all topping ingredients to coarse crumbs. Set Aside.
Combine butter and cream cheese;
Beat until mixed. Add flour, continue beating 'til dough forms. Divide into 36 pieces. Place 1 into each ungreased mini muffin pan. Press onto bottom and sides of cups. Combine all filling ingredients and pour into cups. Sprinkle with topping. Bake at 375 for 25 to 28 mins. Cool 5 mins.
Store refrigerated.

Keep an Eye on Solar Flux and the K-Index

None of these seasonal patterns override the underlying solar conditions — they work alongside them. Solar flux gives you a rough sense of how ionized the upper atmosphere is on a given day, while the K-index tells you how disturbed the geomagnetic field is, which matters a lot for high-latitude and polar paths. A quick look at the free live HF propagation page before you sit down at the radio takes the guesswork out of deciding which bands are worth your time. If you want the fuller picture of what that number actually means for your contacts, this explainer on the K-index is worth a read.

A Fall Operating Checklist

A few minutes of preparation before an operating session pays off, especially during a season with this much to offer:

- Check current conditions on a propagation page before choosing a band.
- Note your local sunrise and sunset times so you don't miss the greyline window.
- Inspect your antenna and feedline for wear after a summer of heat, wind, or storms.
- Review your license privileges for any band you haven't operated on recently.
- Log every contact as you go, rather than trying to remember details later.
- Send a confirmation once you've worked something interesting, so the contact doesn't get forgotten.
- For the logging and confirmation steps, several online logbooks can keep everything organized and searchable, and you can turn a good DX contact into a shareable QSO card in a couple of clicks.

Wrap up

Autumn won't guarantee a particular contact or a particular band opening on a particular day — propagation always depends on current solar and geomagnetic conditions, and no one can promise results. But the seasonal trend is real and well documented: shorter days reduce absorption, the F2 layer tends to strengthen, atmospheric noise drops, and the greyline lingers a little longer each morning and evening. Put a little planning behind your operating time this season, and you'll likely find the bands returning the favor.

CLUB INFORMATION

CLUB CALL SIGN: W2AE

Website:
www.ragsclub.org

Mailing Address:
Box 88, Liverpool, NY 13088

Meetings:
2nd Thursday of month from Sept. to June

President	>> John Perkins	>> k2VTT	>> 315-399-8175 >>	
Vice President	>> Mark Sloan	>> KD2YVB	>> 315-415-7789 >>	
Vice President	>> Doug Falcon	>> N2JOM	>> 315- 677-5124 >>	
Secretary	>> Jeff Plumb	>> KD2CPT	>> 315-755-8964 >>	Common email for all
Treasurer	>> Jerry Wright	>> NK2C	>> 315-488-5383 >>	
Hamfest Contact	>> Jerry Wright	>> NK2C	>> 315-727-2762 >>	is auto forwarded to each
Public Service	>> Walt Bordett	>> N2IK	>> 315-445-8161 >>	Officer and Committee Head
Health and Welfare	>> Jerry Wright	>>NK2C	>> 315-488-5383 >>	
Field Day	>> Dave Rice	>> KC2HO	>> 315-469-6009 >>	**w2aerags@gmail.com**
Membership	>> Jerry Wright	>> NK2C	>> 315-488-5383 >>	
Newsletter Editor	>> Jerry Wright	>> NK2C	>> 315-488-5383 >>	
Webmaster	>> OPEN	>>	>>	>>
Historian	>> OPEN	>>	>>	>>
Nominating Chairman	>> Mark Eckert	>> K2MTE	>> 315-672-5605 >>	

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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.

NEXT MEETING:
NOV 12, 2026 @ 7P

RAGS
PO Box 88
Liverpool, NY
13088