

# A.R.A.T.S. Coherer

The Official Newsletter of  
The Amateur Radio Association  
of the Tonawandas, Inc.  
- Since 1954

OCTOBER 2025

Volume 10  
Issue 10

## EDITORS MESSAGE

This club belongs to you, the members. Your ideas, energy, and participation are what keep ARATS vibrant and relevant. I encourage each of you to share your thoughts on how we can make our club even better.

## MEETING DATES & LOCATION

Remember meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at City Hall, City of Tonawanda, 200 Niagara Street, Tonawanda NY Unless otherwise noted time will be 7 p.m.

## VE EXAM LOCATIONS

Lancaster ARC: John H. Maxwell  
(716) 404-9256 or

[maxwell@acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:maxwell@acsu.buffalo.edu)

South Towns AMS (WB2ELW)

Robert A. Koster (716) 649-7272

Rkoster53@roadrunner.com

ILockport Amateur Radio Association

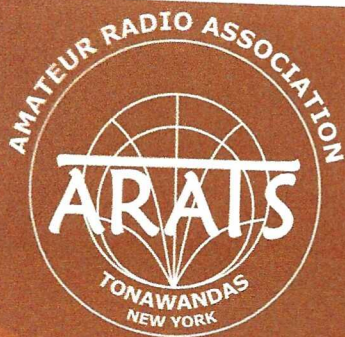
[Lara.W2RUI@gmail.com](mailto:Lara.W2RUI@gmail.com)

President: Mike (716) 240-8826

Contact any of these Clubs and they will get you started.







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## President Message

On Wednesday October 15<sup>th</sup> we (ARATS Members) went to the Niagara County Public Safety Building for a tour of their dispatch center, 13 members were in attendance.

The first part of our tour started with a walk through the County Emergency mobile command unit; the unit is used in several different occasions as it is loaded with emergency radios and computers. It is used if the dispatch center is down or they have to go out on the road for a special assignment.

After the MOC tour was done they were taken into the dispatch area, and all phones had to be off for several reasons. Captain Travis Leaderstorf the senior dispatch supervisor I believe for the afternoon shift, gave us a tour of the 911 dispatch area.

Thanks to all who came out for the tour.

I am still looking for a few members who have projects and would like to give a presentation at an upcoming meeting night.

After fixing a few little problems at the DeGraff repeater site, Joe (NN2ZdU) and other members of the club have our repeater sounding pretty good, I am hoping to hear more members using 955. Remember we have a net on Thursday night at 8pm, Please try to check in.

I have started a member only page on the web site where I will be posting pictures of members shacks or any projects you have

completed or are working on, I am asking for pictures and information.

Members can send pictures to me at [bobkc2szq@yahoo.com](mailto:bobkc2szq@yahoo.com)

In other news in a couple of weeks, November 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be turning our clocks back an hour, ending daylight saving time, on the positive side you will be gaining an extra hour of sleep.

Remember to clean and replace the batteries in your smoke alarms.

A free weekly Amateur Radio General Class licensing course on zoom will begin on Thursday October 30<sup>th</sup> and will run through Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup> (9 sessions with no class on Thanksgiving or Christmas), information and email to sign up will be posted on the info page on the web site.

73's and hope to see members on Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup>

Bob – KC2SZQ  
President



## **License Renewal**

Just a quick note: When was the last time you renewed your Amateur License? You may want to check the date on it before it has expired.

## **Reminders**

Membership is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. Regular dues are \$20 a year. Other rates are also available. We are having to look for a place to get name badges as our regular place went up quite a bit, so if you know where we can get them, please e-mail me.

## **ARATS website and Facebook pages are up and running, look at both.**

No need for an application anymore just send your check, to:

ARATS

207 Syracuse Street

Tonawanda, NY 14150 – 5429

C/O Robert Allard /Membership Chairman



## Niagara County Communications Tour

Hello ARATS Members.

On October 15, 2025, 13 members of ARATS descended on the Niagara County Communications Facility and had a great tour through the County (MOC) vehicle and then it was back inside the facility to be taken on a tour of the communications room.

The tour was given by Sr. Communications officer it was a very informative tour, and we all learned about the different types of communications that were going on in this facility. It was a little dark in the communications room as there were so many different size screens they sit at, all dispatchers used headsets so there was no noise other than the tour guide and us asking questions, and I do mean dead quiet.

We also had the chance to meet "Trigger" who is the Dispatchers therapy canine, very friendly as he had use of the whole dispatch area.

We started at the Fire Dispatchers area, who is sitting in the "Hot Seat" as he does all the county dispatching, by himself, he did get a 911 call, but it turned out to be a transfer call to Niagara Falls Fire Department. We were shown the computer(s) that hold all the fire sections information.

Next it was on to the Law Enforcement area which is about 100 feet away from Fire section, there we were introduced to all dispatchers and a new dispatcher who is in training, Good Luck to him. Also, there is a dispatcher dedicated to the City of North Tonawanda Police.

Overall, the tour was informative and interesting on the many areas in the small room, and computer screens each dispatcher had at least 4 large ones and a small one I believe.

We will have to get another tour next year and see if there are any updates and new members of the team.

The Mobile Operation Center (MOC) has just about the same amount of radios inside the vehicle and antennas on top the vehicle were many, there inside is all communications that they take on special detail when and where needed, this vehicle was very interesting to see, I was told that it is not a comfortable riding vehicle to drive anywhere.

It is used if the communication center goes down or they have emergency training. The vehicle is about the size of a tour bus.

All in all, I think we all had a good time.



## ACCURATE BATTERY CHECKING

When checking a battery to see if it's good, the first instinct one might have is to simply put a voltmeter across the terminals and use the meter's reading to pass judgement on the condition of the battery.

Batteries are specified to deliver a certain amount of current at a specified voltage when fully charged and in good condition. Current and voltage capabilities vary depending on several factors, including the physical size and chemical make-up (NiCad, Lithium-ion, and so on) of the battery. Armed with this information we can calculate the resistance that we need to put across the terminals to simulate an actual load, such as a flashlight, a portable radio etc, at the current that the battery is specified to deliver when new.

Passing grade on a voltage test does not necessarily indicate how much life there's left in a battery. In a perfect world, a battery would maintain optimum voltage for the duration of its time on load (ie until fully discharged).

There are a couple of cautionary notes that need to be mentioned about batteries:

Regardless of size, a battery can explode or catch fire if shorted, or heated (ie by soldering leads to the terminals)

Automotive, marine, and other high-capacity batteries can deliver large currents. Take great care when using metal tools so that they do not weld themselves across the terminals.

So, for safety reasons, even small batteries should be treated with respect and caution.



With the recent FCC threats against ABC/Disney and the Jimmy Kimmel Show it's clear that the First Amendment no longer applies to FCC licensees. U.S. radio amateurs need to keep this in mind and refrain from certain topics and discussions on air. Such topics include:

- Negative opinions about the FCC, the administration, ICE, DOGE, DoJ, DoWAR, etc. This includes discussions of key agencies being led and staffed by Trump lackeys and unqualified TV personalities, and DOGE failing at its mission to save money and having leaked most major US agency databases and citizen personal information to enemy states.
- Verbatim quotes of Charlie Kirk, as verbatim quotes tend to present Kirk in a negative light. However, discussions with material from Kirk debates with clueless 19-year-old college kids are probably safe. Any negative discussion of Charlie Kirk is considered hate speech.
- Any positive discussions about DEI, which actually means *black* and *brown* people. This is considered *woke*, which is now forbidden.
- Political violence committed by right wing interests, unless it's joking about it. Examples from Charlie Kirk, DJT, and others are available on the web.
- Any discussions of *antifa*, anti-fascism. Anti-fascism, while merely a collection of beliefs and opinions, has been declared a terrorist organization in the US. Just like *corporations* are *people*, *thoughts* are now *terrorist organizations*.
- Anything that could be deemed anti-Christian or anti-family. This includes discussing non-Christian religions in a positive light as they are by definition, anti-Christian. (Presidents cheating in three consecutive marriages and paying off porn stars to keep quiet about affairs is not anti-Christian or anti-family, it's what people do when they're stars, and God loves stars.) Consult [National Security Presidential Memorandum NSPM-7](#) for detailed information.



- Support of LGBTQ+, trans rights, gender affirmation, etc. As Charlie Kirk said, being trans is "giving God the middle finger". However, banging a porn star while your wife is pregnant is giving God a high-five.
- Donald Trump being a convicted felon and rapist, a draft-dodger, and a suspected pedophile. He actually wasn't convicted of rape, it was technically sexual assault. And Epstein said those girls were 18, or really close.
- Stephen Miller resembling a German S.S. agent. It's disrespectful to the real leader of the so-called "free world", as he is the "real brains" behind the curtain.
- Any criticism of Trump supporters, no matter how dim-witted they may be. This includes Trump voters who are farmers now reeling from the effects of tariffs and have tons of crops with no international markets in which to sell.
- Any views that could be construed as left wing, include support for universal healthcare, humanitarian aid, social programs, five-day work weeks, mandatory maternity leave benefits, not throwing immigrants into alligator pits, and in general, having empathy for anyone besides themselves. Although originally left-wing creations, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid can be discussed.
- Conversations about Jeffrey Epstein or the Epstein files, except about it being a fabricated hoax, of the worst kind, ever, and a national disgrace. Jeffrey Epstein didn't exist. Total hoax.
- Referring to any Democratically controlled city as anything other than a "war-ravaged hellscape raped by radical liberals and illegals."
- While it's technically redundant using the term "*radical liberals*", one should always prefix the term *liberal* with the adjective *radical* while on air.
- When discussing national and social problems on the air, the safest way to cast blame is blaming "*illegals*", even if they aren't remotely connected to the issue being discussed. Also, it's useful to connect "*illegals*" to any initiative or objective of Democrats. For example, if Democrats are



attempting to reduce healthcare costs, one should say that Democrats are *"trying to give free healthcare to illegals"*. If Democrats want more funds for highways, it's because they *"want to make it easier for illegals to drive into the US"*. If the highway program is in a state like Utah or Iowa, it's so the *"illegals can drive faster to commit more rapes and murders in the state."*

While not codified in Part 97, U.S. radio amateurs need to always keep in mind that they use the precious radio spectrum at the pleasure of FCC Chairman Brenden Carr and President Donald J. Trump. Abuse of privileges, as outlined above, could result in being classified a radical and/or terrorist and result in license revocation, imprisonment, or deportation.



### ARATS WEEKLY NETS

2-Meter Net      Every Thursday at 8:00 P.M.  
146.955Mhz – offset PL 151.4

2 – Meter Net      Every Wednesday at 8: 00 P.M.  
144.210 SSB

6- Meter Net      Every Monday at 8: 00 P.M.  
50.200Mhz  
Net Controller WB2VUO (this is not an ARATS net)  
Anyone can join

10 – Meter Net      Every Tuesday at 8:00 P.M.

28.450 USB  
Net Controller is

Bulletins:      The Bulletins have stopped for now

Join in on one of the many nets, find new friends, and ask questions that you

You may want to get an answer, or maybe you can help someone out with their question. Stop by; we would love to hear from you.



## Western New York Officials

Assistant Section Manager:  
Laura Mueller N2LJM  
[N2ljm@arri.net](mailto:N2ljm@arri.net)

Section Emergency Coordinator  
Assistant Section Manager  
Joseph M. Tedesco, KC2DKP

Section Youth Coordinator  
Keith P. Oliver, KD2KON

Section Traffic Manager  
Assistant Section Manager  
Raymond M. Feness, K2RMF

Affiliated Club Coordinator  
Luke Calianno, N2GDU

Assistant Section Manager  
Richard C. Sparling, K2EY

Section Traffic Manager  
Matthew D. Brown, K2EAG

Technical Coordinator  
William K. Hibbert, WB2VUO  
[wb2vuo@arri.net](mailto:wb2vuo@arri.net)

Public Info Coordinator  
Edward A. Gutowski, W2GUT

Assistant Section Manager  
Donald W. Rankins, N2ZWO

Assistant Section Manager  
Tom L. Delasin, WA2DAD

Assistant Section Manager, W2LC  
Scott J. Bauer, W2LC

Assistant Section Manager  
Mike Johnson, N2WKT



## OFFICERS

President - Robert Fleischauer / [bobkc2szq@yahoo.com](mailto:bobkc2szq@yahoo.com)  
V-President / Treasurer - Robert Brock / [k2led@arrl.net](mailto:k2led@arrl.net)  
Secretary – Robert Allard / [reallard5276@gmail.com](mailto:reallard5276@gmail.com)

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## ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

Club Station Trustee – Robert Fleischauer / [bobkc2szq@yahoo.com](mailto:bobkc2szq@yahoo.com)  
Club Repeater Trustee – Joe Eberle / [n2zdu@aol.com](mailto:n2zdu@aol.com)  
Membership Chairman – Robert Allard / [reallard5276@gmail.com](mailto:reallard5276@gmail.com)  
Webmaster – Robert Fleischauer / [bobkc2szq@yahoo.com](mailto:bobkc2szq@yahoo.com)  
Coherer Editor – Robert Allard / [reallard5276@gmail.com](mailto:reallard5276@gmail.com)



## **SAFETY IS NOT AN ACCIDENT**

PPE (personal protective equipment) is an essential part of safety planning and requirements will be specific to your stations and events.

### **TYPES of PPE**

Safety Boots – These have steel toe caps and possibly non-slip, electrically-insulating soles.

### **GLOVES**

Tough industrial gloves should be worn if you are handling rough items that could cause injury to your hands.

### **TOOL BELT**

Not strictly PPE but very handy if your site is spread out. May also stop tools dropping on someone if you need to work at height.

### **HIGH VISIBILITY CLOTHING (HiVis)**

Should be worn in poor visibility or in areas where there are moving vehicles. Far too many accident reports have phrases like: I didn't see them until it was too late.

### **GOGGLES and EYE SHIELDS**

Should be worn for any activity that can give rise to flying particles, debris, dust or grit.

### **HARD HATS**

These, along with HiVis, are emblematic of Health and Safety but are major contributors to reducing injury.

### **Equipment**

Again, this list is not exhaustive. You should always follow manufacturers' instructions and any guidance provided by the Safety websites and any other safety websites.

### **FIRST AID KIT AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

These should be the first on your station equipment list.

Planning is the key to operating safely. A few moments of thought about tools, equipment and PPE may save injury and curtailment of your activity, not to mention long and tedious waits in Emergency Rooms.

**REMEMBER TO ALWAYS BE SAFE AND WORK SAFE**



### The Amateur's Code

- Considerate: Never knowingly operate in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of
- Loyal: Offering loyalty, encouragement, and support to other amateurs, local club and The American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the The United States is Represented Nationally and Internationally
- Progressive: With knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and Beyond reproach
- Friendly: With slow and patient operation when requested friendly advice and Counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance co-operation and consideration For the interests of others
- Balanced: Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, School, or community
- Patriotic: With station and skill always ready for service to country and community