

The RARA RAG

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December 7th Meeting 'OSCAR' with Becker

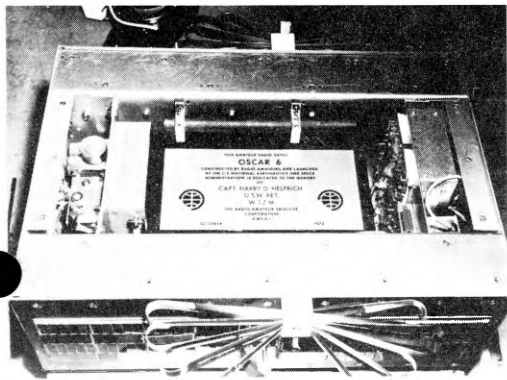
by Joe Hood, K2YAH

Did you know that amateur radio operators were the first non-government, non-military group to orbit a satellite? Its true, the Oscar I beacon which transmitted its familiar HI to hams throughout the world stands as a prime example of the amateurs ability to accomplish the impossible through high technical skill and the amateur's unparalleled abilities to beg, borrow, appropriate, solicit and hitchhike.

As we all know the AMSAT program didn't stop with a simple beacon satellite. The present OSCAR includes a 2 to 10 meter transponder and has been in use for well over a year providing a new and interesting mode to the amateur operator as well as valuable technical data from its onboard telemetry system.

Fred Becker, W2GV, who owns and manages Becker's Furniture, has been very active with the latest OSCAR. Fred has put together a program outlining what the OSCAR satellite is, how to determine where it is, and how to use it. He plans to include some tapes of actual QSO's made via the satellite as well.

So if you haven't had the chance to listen to the OSCAR or attempt to QSO through it. Fred's program should give you an excellent opportunity to hear this orbiting repeater first hand. The program begins at 8 p.m. on December 7, 1973 at the Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue. We're sure you'll find this discussion of this new frontier in amateur radio entertaining and worthwhile.



OSCAR 6

the BIGGEST holiday season event

by Ed Gable, W2MPM

This, as everyone knows, is the holiday season. Ah yes, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years - all big events celebrated with good times and all the family gathered around. However the fourth big event of the season finds John Q. Ham turning himself into another person. He bids farewell to the XYL, pats his kids on the head and then departs for the shack - not to return until the deed is done. "What is going on," you ask. What else but the annual ARRL VHF Sweepstakes Contest, or better known as the "January Contest."

All kidding aside, most readers are familiar with the tremendous local turn-out for this event, participating for the Rochester VHF Group. In years past the group has distinguished itself by placing second or third on a national basis.

Mark your calendars now for the weekend of January 5th. Plan to help the group in their effort to better previous scores. The contest committee is active now in preparation. There will be awards and certificates for a multitude of categories, why not pick one out and try your skills. A mailing list is being prepared from RaRa, RRRR, and the VHF Group, as well as from a list of past participants. The mailing will include all needed information and log sheets to get you started. If you are a fairly recent newcomer to the area and/or VHF, or think that for any reason you may not be on the mailing list, please contact Chuck Oneske, K2YCO, to check your status.

The committee urges you to start now in your preparation for the contest. Perhaps your converters need tweaking or you want that extra simplex frequency on FM. Do it now, or you'll be caught up in the Christmas and New Years rush.

Many plans are being investigated to help increase individuals and club scores. One fine idea is to have a well equipped FM station operating /VE3 with a beam on Rochester. Other ideas are welcome and encouraged. Please contact one of your committee co-chairman: K2YCO, K2CEH, or W2MPM.

Have a good holiday, have a great contest, see ya on the 5th.

MONROE COUNTY FM NET

by Rick Booth, WA2GCX

Rochester's first two meter FM net was held on Sunday, October 7th. Commonly referred to as the Monroe County FM Net, it is a joint venture between the WA2UWQ/2 and WR2ABF repeater groups. The primary purpose of this net is to provide a place for information to be passed which is of common interest to all amateurs. The type of information relayed will include concerns of the repeater groups, public service announcements, CD information, notice of meetings, ARRL bulletins, etc. Any amateur is invited to check in and pass information which might be of general interest.

Net procedure consists of a request for check-ins by geographical areas both within and outside Monroe County. Stations with informational (traffic) should so identify during the check-in period. To keep the net as short as possible, informal rag chewing during the net is discouraged.

The net will meet each Sunday at 12:30 p.m. alternating between WA2UWQ (146.28/146.88 MHZ) and WR2ABF (146.19/146.79 MHZ) every other week. The schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| WA2UWQ/2 | WR2ABF |
| December 9, 23 | December 2, 16, 30 |

Our local repeaters provide us with an excellent opportunity to reach a large number of amateurs with high quality communications. If initial results are any indication, this net should continue to grow in popularity. See you on Sunday.

The RARA RAG

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13th Annual Dinner-Dance to be on February 10th

RaRa's social event of the season will soon be here. The annual Valentine Dinner-Dance is the name of THE event. It is scheduled for Saturday evening, February 10th at the new Hilton Inn-On-The-Campus. Mark your calendar now for that date. More details will appear in the January edition of the Rag.

WANTED: Signal Generator with calibrated output attenuator. Measurements Model 80 or equivalent. Stan Thomas, K2QIV, 716-671-3064.



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Bob Lauzon, WB2NSD

The annual auction is now history and a fine auction it was! There was a good collection of junk and the action was great. Though many members are due thanks for helping to set up a hall and run the event, special thanks are pressed to two for their excellent efforts. Tom Ball, WA2THS, who has just recently returned to amateur radio, was our auctioneer. He was in excellent voice and his rather unique sense of humor added just the right touch to the event. Ray Roberts, WA2SSU, assured the financial success of the auction by donating valuable items of automotive service at his new Tire World on Ridge Road West. The club owes both of these gentlemen a debt of gratitude.

One suggestion was made by a member to the Members' Relations Committee. That suggestion was to do with the auction. The point was made that all sales of equipment, etc. that are within the set price limitations of \$75.00 tops and \$2.00 minimum, be made through the auctioneer only. The Board of Directors agrees with that suggestion but we must recognize that it is a difficult matter to control. There are always a few cases where a member brings in an item with his price affixed and he is approached by another member offering to buy it. Rather than wait until the item is brought up for auction and the risk of losing the sale, the equipment is sold on the spot. We will make every effort to avoid private sales but we can't promise 100% compliance.

The Code & Theory class approaches mid-point with maintained enthusiasm from the students - two have already taken and passed the code test and are awaiting the written examination. We expect to move to better class

room at the Downtown R.I.T. building in the very near future. There is increasing interest in a General and Advanced class so we will try to organize one for spring 1974 if we can line up a theory instructor willing to devote the necessary time.

Plans for the 1974 Western New York Hamfest and VHF Conference are progressing. A meeting of the planning committee was held on Thursday, November 8th at which every phase of the hamfest was discussed. The newly expanded county fairgrounds will provide us with the opportunity to have the best event yet and we are going to take advantage of the larger quarters to add meetings and attract more exhibitors. There will also be an indoor flea market in addition to the usual one held outdoors. May 18 is the date and The Hilton Inn-On-The-Campus will be headquarters for visiting guests and the usual Friday evening Get-together. Manpower will be needed for the affair so if you want to get involved make your availability known to one of the club officers as soon as possible.

Sincere thanks to those of you who arrived early at the auction and helped set it up and thanks too, to all members for arriving on time.

SELL: Unique wire Tuner, mint, \$50; Newtronics 4BTV vertical in factory sealed carton, \$35; near new 30 foot TV mast, \$5; Excellent HRO-60 with 12 coils, \$225.

WANT: National NCL2000 linear. Jim, W5GXH, 235-3201.

WANTED: Thompson Products stepping type antenna relay. Round black case with molded letter "N" connector turret on top. Sold in past by Glenwood Sales. Cash or trade, K2YCO, 266-6370.

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| Date | Time - EST |
|----------------|--|
| Wed. 12-5-73 | 8:34 p.m. to 8:57 p.m. 10:30 p.m. to 10:48 p.m. |
| Thurs. 12-6-73 | 4:03 p.m. to 4:10 p.m. 5:46 p.m. to 6:04 p.m. |
| Fri. 12-7-73 | 8:29 p.m. to 8:58 p.m. 10:25 p.m. to 10:43 p.m. |
| Sat. 12-8-73 | 5:41 p.m. to 5:59 p.m. |
| Sun. 12-9-73 | 8:24 p.m. to 8:47 p.m. 10:20 p.m. to 10:38 p.m. |
| Mon. 12-10-73 | 5:38 p.m. to 5:54 p.m. |
| Wed. 12-12-73 | 7:19 p.m. to 7:42 p.m. 9:13 p.m. to 9:35 p.m. 11:13 p.m. to 11:24 p.m. |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Thurs. 12-13-73 | 4:37 p.m. to 4:49 p.m. 6:22 p.m. to 6:42 p.m. |
| Fri. 12-14-73 | 7:14 p.m. to 7:37 p.m. 9:08 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 11:08 p.m. to 11:19 p.m. |
| Sat. 12-15-73 | 4:32 p.m. to 4:44 p.m. 6:17 p.m. to 6:37 p.m. |

Bill Rhodes, WB2JMX, submits the following want ad which actually appeared in a recent copy of the Democrat & Chronicle. It is reprinted (less the phone number) for your amusement...

CB STATION, base and mobile: Midland 13-880B AM and sideband, with VFO setup, \$245. Tuner sidekick 100 mike, \$25. Linear amp, \$90. Lafayette AM mobile, model 625, complete, \$150. 000-0000.

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Letter to Washington

The following letter was filed with the Federal Communications Commission as Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Rochester VHF Group and Rochester Radio Repeater Association official comments to Docket 19759, the 220 B matter.

The Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: Docket No. 19759

(224-225 MHz Class E Citizen Service)

This represents the thinking of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and its affiliates the Rochester VHF Group and the Rochester Radio Repeater Association. Membership approximately 450.

We sincerely appreciate the privileges granted the Amateur Radio Service. We understand and are sympathetic with the problem the FCC is confronting in its efforts to strengthen that service, and to improve the Citizens Service for which there is a definite need. It is with these thoughts in mind that we respectfully submit the following.

I

We request that the Commission reconsider the frequency allocation proposed as there are several technical arguments supporting the reconsideration.

1. Television interference caused to Channel 13 receivers. This TVI, caused by insufficient front-end selectivity in the TV receiver, is already experienced by some amateurs using low power on the 220 MHz band (2 watts ERP, as in the case of repeater control links). Doubtlessly the problem would be intolerable with the higher power allowed by the proposed service, and with operators who have no technical knowledge of radio theory.
2. Interference to the proposed Class E service from TV Channel 13 transmitters. It is doubtful that sufficient front-end selectivity can be provided for the Class E service receivers in a cost effective manner.
3. Harmonic interference to the 448-450 MHz amateur segment. The second harmonic of the proposed 224 MHz operation falls exactly in this rapidly growing amateur segment which is being used for FM and FM Repeater operation in large metropolitan areas. The harmonic radiation would have to be reduced to as not to access repeaters in the amateur service. It is doubted this could be provided in a cost effective manner.
4. There is currently a Class A service available for the Citizens' use at 460-470MHz. Advancements in the state of the art make it a simple matter now to provide excellent radio equipment at these frequencies. We therefore request the Commission consider assigning the Class E service to these higher frequencies.

II

Pursuant to the Commission's request for comment for establishment of Class E Rules and

enforcement procedures, we suggest the following:

1. Establishment of a minimal written examination covering operating procedures and regulations for the service.
2. The applicant should be required to show cause why he should be granted the Class E privileges by identifying the specific business or activity the license will service.
3. Each licensee should be assigned a specific channel on which to operate. Multi-channel privileges should be granted only in cases of extreme circumstances.
4. Limitations on the effective radiated power should be established including type acceptance of antennas.
5. A station should be restricted to communications only between its own units. This could be implemented by the required use of tone coded squelch equipment.
6. The number of mobile stations licensed under any one application should be specifically stated and justified.
7. Equipment vendors should be prohibited from issuing equipment unless a valid FCC license is presented at the time of issuance.
8. A First or Second Class radio telephone licensee should be required to certify the equipment is operating properly by co-signing the license at the time of acquisition. This means certification of transmitting frequency, deviation and power output.
9. Equipment should be recertified in a similar manner on a yearly basis.
10. With the advances in micro-electronics, it is felt that an automatic station identifier should be incorporated in the circuitry of each transmitter, which would be activated each time it is keyed. This is economically feasible.
11. Each transmitter should be sealed against tampering with a device which would render it inoperative if broken.
12. A fee system should be established which will discourage petty use of the service, and provide all funds necessary to properly administer and police the service.

Respectfully submitted,

Rochester Amateur Radio Association
Rochester Radio Repeater Association
Rochester VHF Group



Lee Mairs, mfg rep
473-6139



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Two Letter Calls in Rochester

by W. H. DeWitt, W2DD

With over a quarter-million licensed hams in the United States these days, two letter calls are a pretty small percentage of the total roster. But back in 1921, almost half of the hams in this area had two letter calls. The Triangle Radio Club of Rochester published a magazine called "The Electron" in which local stations were listed. Nineteen of the forty-three calls on that list were of the two letter variety. Those W, K, and WA, and other latter-day prefixes hadn't been invented yet! Incidentally, that same issue of "The Electron" for January 1921 carried articles of a timeless nature by George Batterson, W2GB and Dr. C. J. Staud, K2DQ. George's article lamented the QRM makers and Cy's story was historical.

As already indicated, some of the hams on that early list are still licensed and active: W2GB then signed 8TC and K2DQ was 8AP; Ducky Dengler, W2LK held 8KS; H. C. Loeffler now W2RNZ started as 8TL; S. H. Nelson, now retired in Florida as WB2KBY made 8NB a famous international DX call. The change from the eighth to the second call area brought several changes in call letters that were not exactly welcome to these old timers.

Of the 1800 plus calls listed in the new RaRa Directory there are 31 two letter calls (hope I didn't miss any--). The percentage is 'way down from the old days, but that's to be expected. However, it is surprising to see how many hams there are in this area who have been licensed for over thirty years, some having held the much prized "shorties" for that length of time. W2EB was 8PK back in the twenties. W2MG is remembered by many as 8MC. When K2BP signed the old Radio Club constitution in 1925, he put 8WP after his name. W2SA, held by the Society of Rochester Transmitting Amateurs, stems from the old downtown club station call, 8AC. K2JD was obtained by RaRa because the old Radio Club of Rochester held 8PZ. W2MA, W2CR, and W2QY are other long term holders still shaking up the ether (I'm dating myself!). I believe my first contact with W2IM was on spark when he was 8ASQ and yours truly was 8BRD. E. Willis (Bill) Stratton, now listed as W2MV, was 8DDL and 8MU when 80 meters opened up.

Ham calls are unique. They maintain an identity. Most of the time this is good. There is a two letter call once held West of here that hardly anyone would want, but that is an exception. However, many hams would rather have their original three letter call then switch to a new two letter ticket. That's their privilege, but it wasn't my choice! I had that tongue-twisting-mouthful, W2VZV, and W2DD was a most welcome relief! I'll bet the dyed-in-the-wool CW man Webb Fox was delighted to replace WB2HZH with W2II! And, call him Horseshoe Haner-- Bob worried about giving up good ol' W2FBA, and then came up with W2AB! How lucky can you get?

Despite the misconception and distorted statements of a few local hams, you CANNOT

just pay an extra fee and get a two letter call. Nor can you get one because you have been licensed over twenty-five years. Unless you have previously held a two letter call, you MUST pass the Amateur Extra examination, you must have been licensed for twenty-five years or more, and THEN you can pay the extra fee and get a two letter call sign.

There must be a story about how the Antique Wireless Association just happened to get the call W2AN, but we'll leave that one for Bruce Kelley, the W2ICE-man. I'm sure its nostalgia, but I'm glad I took the Extra and FINALLY got MY two letter call!

-30-

Current Two Letter Call Per RaRa Directory

W2AB, W2AN, K2BP, W2CR, W2DD, K2DQ, W2EB, W2EJ, W2GB, K2GM, W2GV, W2II, K2JA, K2JD, W2LK, W2MA, W2MF, W2MG, W2MV, W2OL, W2QY, W2SA, W2UG, W2UN, W2UV, W2VS, K2WW, W2YF, W2ZS.

VHF Group Meeting Dec. 14th

The next regular meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be on Friday, December 14th at the Monroe County Farm and Home Center at 8 p.m. Final VHF Contest information will be available at the meeting.

FOR SALE - HQ-110 to 6m, D104 w/push to talk stand, mobile CB (new) antenna, polaroid camera, mobile mikes, 6m AM transceiver VHF-UHF transmitting station homebrew. Le Gessin, WA2ZNC, 381-7328.

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