

The RARa Rag

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'74 Hamfest - Largest Ever!

Once again this annual story starts with the same statement as last year. Attendance at the 1974 WNY Hamfest and VHF Conference was higher than ever before. Total attendance was 2958.

Everyone was crossing their fingers and hoping that weather for the 1974 event would be pleasant. It was. Even though two days prior to the Hamfest, Rochester experienced more than 3 inches of rain during an overnight storm which caused flooding in some areas. The Fairgrounds area was spared.

There were many new and different things this year. Most noticeable was the outdoor flea market. The huge parking lot next to the Dome was filled at an early hour. The Dome itself was used for the first time. It provided plenty of space for exhibits, meeting rooms and the banquet.

American Radio Relay League officials in attendance were: President, Harry Dannals, W2TUK; Atlantic Division Director, Harry McConaghy, W3SW; Hudson Division Director, Stan Zak, K2SJO; Canadian Division Director, George Spencer, VE2MS; and QST Technical Editor, Lew McCoy, W1ICP.

Highlight of the evening banquet was presentation of the Amateur of the Year award to Clara Reger, W2RUF. Clara has been active in many many League offices and nets for 40 years. She founded the New York State CW net; has received numerous merit citations; is in charge of the Buffalo Red Cross station; founded the Novice CW Net and has handled the New York State Code contest at the WNY Hamfest for nearly 20 years.

Also at the banquet, George Spencer, VE2MS, presented a Technical Merit Certificate to Larry Kayser, VE3QB. Larry is to be recipient of the 1973 ARRL Technical Merit Award to be formally presented at a meeting in Canada later this year.

Date for the 1975 Hamfest is confirmed. May 31 is the magic day. We will again use our new Hamfest home, the Dome Arena at the Monroe County Fairgrounds.

RaRa Rag Takes Vacation

As is our usual policy, the RaRa Rag will not be published during the months of July and August. This is the last copy of the current season. The next edition will appear about Labor Day.

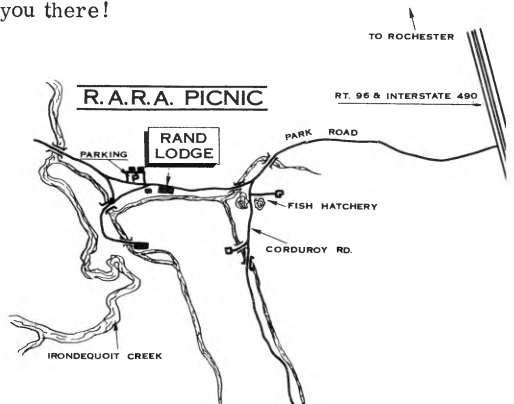


Eddie Dunn, W2ECH, applauds Clara Reger, W2RUF, named Amateur of the Year for 1974.

June 8th - Annual RaRa Picnic

by Joan K. Vogt, WA2YTK

Rand Lodge in Powder Mills Park will again be the site for the annual club picnic. Joan Vogt, WA2YTK, chairman of "Fun and Games", is preparing many activities for all. Joan will be assisted by Florence Kirkbright, WB2QXB; Onalee Gessin, xyl WA2ZNC; Claire Young, xyl WA2UGE; and Joyce Holdsworth, xyl WA2EKR. There will be guessing contests, games, candy, door prizes, scavenger hunt, and of course balloons. A new event this year will be RaRa's own mini golf tournament. This reporter felt that with the local big interest in golf this great sport should be incorporated at a small scale in our picnic. (Please bring your own clubs and golf balls.) Golf will start at 2:30 p.m. and the games will start at 3:00 p.m. (please have your children ready). Picnic supper will follow including hots, salads, potato chips, soft drinks, and ice cream. Chow call will be at 5:00 p.m. Don't miss this final RaRa social event - that's Saturday, June 8th - see you there!



The RARA RAG

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Managing Editor . . . Harold Smith, WA2KND
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Staff Ed Gable, W2MPM
Joe Hood, K2YAH
Helen Smith, WA2YRH
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THE RADIO AMATEUR'S JOURNAL

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Election Results

At the annual meeting of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, on May 3, 1974, the following officers and directors were elected to serve for the 1974-75 RaRa season:

President - Joseph Hood, K2YAH
Vice-President - William March, WA2CER
Secretary - David Holtz, WB2HHTH
Treasurer - Leonard Gessin, WA2ZNC
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James Collinsworth, WB2EDT
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Flood Causes Phone Failure Amateur Radio Assists

by Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, Emergency Coordinator

Following the heavy rains of May 16 and 17, Rochester General Hospital (Northside) lost phone communication and simultaneously lost both their primary and secondary radio systems. This occurred about noon on the Friday of Hamfest weekend.

Because of close contact with George Negus, K2OIU, during our SET and other exercises, the hospital emergency coordinator had his staff get to a phone and ask George for help.

George headed for the hospital rounding up help as he drove. Gary Sienkiewicz, WB2WZG, met him there as he arrived. Also, Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, went to the scene with equipment borrowed from the Kodak Office club station.

Several fixed stations assisted and others volunteered to go to the hospital to help if needed.

Although the phone problem was solved within an hour, the hospital radio equipment remained poor throughout the weekend.

This demonstrates the value of our exercises and of close contact between our public service amateurs and our community service organizations.

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Amateur of the Year plaque is presented to Clara Reger, W2RUF, by Harry Dannals, W2TUK, ARRL President, right and Harry McConaghy, W3SW, ARRL Atlantic Division Director.



George Spencer, VE2MS, Canadian Division ARRL Director, right, presents Technical Merit Award for 1973 to Larry Kayser, VE3QB.

Mid-Summer Campout Planned

by Ed Holdsworth, WA2EKR

Arrangements are now complete for the upcoming Spring Campout to be held at Lei-Ti Recreation Resort south of Batavia, N.Y. on Memorial Day Weekend. This first event of the summer season will be history by the time you read this issue of the Rag.

Planning is now in progress for a second campout this season, scheduled to be held in the Southern Tier area in late July or early August. This location was chosen so that driving time is under 2 hours from the Rochester area. The area to the south of Rochester offers unlimited possibilities for tours, such as area wine companies, Corning Glass Center, Hammondsport Aviation Museum and many other sightseeing activities for RaRa members and their families.

If you enjoy camping for the weekend or just spending the day, please indicate your interest in our summer campout by contacting Ed Holdsworth, WA2EKR, at 624-1929 or Rich Koehn, WB2SNA, at 271-6102 or on the local repeaters.

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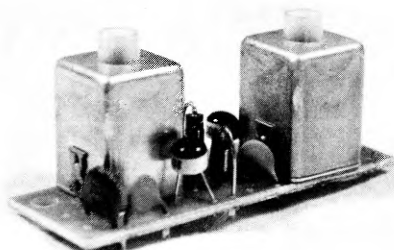
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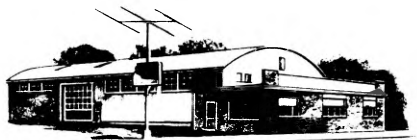
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