

The RARA RAG

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The October 4th Program "You too --- Can Enjoy 432"

by Bill March, WA2CER

In the past few years, VHF and UHF activity has grown tremendously, especially in the 144, 220, and 432 MHz bands. Much of the activity is in the form of FM repeaters, which has virtually filled 146-148 MHz in populous areas, and is growing in the 220 and 432 MHz bands. There is also large amounts of CW, AM and SSB activity, not to forget RTTY, facsimile, and television.

In years gone by, activity in these bands was limited by available technology, equipment, and economics. However, life on these bands today is a different story. Inexpensive, high performance solid-state hardware is available for constructing VHF and UHF transmitters and receivers.

What all this means is that more hams are thinking about 432-450 MHz. If you are avoiding the 432 band because of the lack of technical confidence, the October meeting program is for you. The ease with which you can get on 432 will be given by Robert Nezelek, W2CNS. Bob, as many know, is very active on the VHF and UHF bands and will present practical information on 432 transmitters, receivers, and antennas. If you contemplate working OSCAR 7, to be launched this month, Bob will show you how to make a 432 SSB rig.

The meeting will be at the usual QTH, the Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue, at 8:00 p.m., October 4th. See you there.

CODE & THEORY CLASS

by Hitton D. Noggin, KØNK

The Code & Theory Class will meet for the first time on Monday, October 7th at 7:30 p.m. sharp at CD Headquarters in the RaRa Radio Room. Classes will be held every Monday at that time for about 12 weeks. There will be an hour of Novice code and an hour of Novice theory. The class will be limited to about 40 aspirants so advance registration is desirable.

If you want to attend this free course phone 332-1000, ext. 208 and leave your name and address after which you will be sent a registration form or you will be able to register at the October meeting by filling out a registration form provided by the Membership Chairman at the rear desk.

Syracuse Hamfest October 12th

by Viv Douglas, WA2PUU, Editor RAGS Review

Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse will be having their 10th Annual Hamfest on October 12. A flea market will be featured along with an antique radio booth, slow-scan TV display, electronic skill games and cw contest, just to mention a few.

The programs commence at 10:00 a.m. with "Oscar Tracking" followed by "Affect of Land Topography on Antenna Characteristics" with featured speaker at 3:00 of W2TUK, Harry Dannals, President of ARRL talking on "Amateur Radio - A Look into the Future" and will conclude with NTS Traffic Meetings.

Lunch will be available on the grounds and 15¢ BEER!

Bring your QSL card to put up on display.

Time 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. located at Syracuse Auto Auction Inc., Lafayette, New York -- 4 miles south of Syracuse on Route 11. Tickets \$1.50 advance sale -- \$2.00 after September 29. In the Rochester area tickets available from RAGS member Vince, WA2TZZ, by calling 334-7551.

Membership News

by Bob Lauzon, WB2NSD, Membership Chairman

Dues are coming in slowly and we can use the dough. Please pay either by mail to RaRa (address elsewhere in this issue) or by seeing the Membership Chairman at the next meeting.

Dues are still \$5.00 regular; \$2.00 Associate and an extra \$1.00 for a family membership (no bulletin); Life Memberships are available for 20 times the annual dues or \$100.00 at this time. Life Memberships may be paid in full or in four equal installments. Life Members receive a special Call Sign Badge, a certificate and freedom from future dues. Life forms are available at the rear desk at any meeting.

WNY Hamfest to be May 31st New Headquarters This Year

The annual Western New York Hamfest and VHF Conference will be held on Saturday, May 31, 1975, at the Monroe County Fairgrounds.

New headquarters for the Hamfest in 1975 will be the new Rochester Marriott Inn on West Henrietta Road at Thruway exit 46.

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Notes from the President's Desk

by Joe Hood, K2YAH

The RaRa season is off to an excellent start. The first meeting was attended by what appeared to be a near, if not, record crowd and Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, program describing the new VHF-UHF police radio system for the county was interesting as well as humorous. From the many favorable comments received Len's program was the one to start the year with.

Other things are getting off to a good start too. WB2EDT, K2ZAA, K2LZG, W7JRL/2, WA2JFM, WB2EEU, WA2RYT, K2YAH, K2WW have volunteered to teach portions of the General/Advanced course. Interest in purchasing texts and attending the course has been sufficient to warrant ordering a limited number of text books. Since the text will be used heavily it is required for those attending the class and the number of texts available is limited so if you want to attend and are willing to purchase a text for about \$12.00 contact Ed Holdsworth, WA2EKR to sign up. The course will begin at the County CD facilities at Westfall and East Henrietta Roads as soon as the books arrive. Those of you who volunteered as instructors will receive a schedule of your teaching assignments on or before the October meeting. Oh yes, the room at CD to be used for the class has no blackboard so we are on the prowl for one. It should be 3 x 5 feet minimum. If you know where one might be borrowed let one of the officers know.

Those of you who attended the September meeting will remember Leo Kluger, WN2TRN, who was looking for volunteers to man an amateur radio exhibit at a Scout Camporee in Webster on the weekend of October 12. We're glad to report that the K2JD truck will be there along with volunteers from the membership. If you have an hour or so to spare and are interested in helping man the exhibit let Ed Holdsworth, WA2EKR, know. Or if you find yourself free that Saturday give K2JD/2 a call on the WR2AEI repeater and get directions on how to get there. These public service type exhibits and projects are not only fun but return tenfold the time and effort invested in good public relations for amateur radio. . . . and that helps all of us.

There are more things in the works like the Oscar project, a possibility of FCC exams in Rochester on Hamfest Friday, and others but more on them as they firm up.

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50 and Up

by Ed Maher, WB2ZJY

Friday the 13th of September proved to be a good night for the VHF group. We had about forty members turn out, two of whom were xyl's. The next meeting should see many more 'l's and xyl's, we hope equal to the om's.

Fred Cupp, W2DUC, was the speaker of the evening. His show included the Heathkit HR 202, schematics and a very fine description of the unit. We are fortunate to have a talented person like Fred a member of our group. Our thanks for his efforts.

Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB, has expressed an interest in homebrew work, possibly on a group basis. If "home brewing" is your "thing" Otto would like to hear from you. Give him a call at 247-4976.

Our next meeting will be "Ladies Night" October 25. It will be a slide show by Linc Cundall, W2QY, and his xyl Helen. Linc will be the projectionist and Helen will be the narrator. The photos will include prize winners and is another example of the many talents of Linc Cundall. While the program is off the beaten path, it is our tribute to those who set and wait on Friday night.

See you on October 25th.

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Mid-summer Campout at Bath, N.Y. termed Success

by Rich Koehn, WB2SNA

Hickory Hill Campground near Bath, New York was the setting on the weekend of August 10th for the second RaRa campout for the 1974 summer season. The weatherman was more cooperative than he had been for the campout on Memorial weekend at Lei-Tei campground near Batavia. Sunny skys were enjoyed by all and the temperature was ideal for swimming in Hickory Hill's double pools.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the tour of the Gold Seal Wineries at Hammondsport, New York by the hams and their families. After a visit to the processing plant and champagne vaults, the group enjoyed sampling the wares of the winery.

As might be expected, the group's presence was indicated by a 30 foot tower and antennas. Many operating hours were logged during the weekend lead by WB2NSD on CW with his tape dipole.

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