

The RaRa Rag

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December 6th Program

The Twisted Pair

by Bill March, WA2CER

Long Distance communication began with the invention of the telegraph and telephone. Without them, the spread of information was pretty well limited to a fast horse. The telegraph and telephone so greatly improved communications they were vital to the growth and development of industrial countries.

Today, the telephone is an indispensable necessity in most everyone's daily life. It still functions much the same way it did when it was invented. Yet, it survived and grew along with other more advanced forms of communication which followed; radio and television.

For these reasons, the telephone should make an interesting subject for the December meeting program. Mr. John Schooley, W2BLU, a RaRa Board member, will present a slide talk on the basic design and operation of telephone systems. John is an electrical engineer and works on the telephone system at Kodak Park Division of Eastman Kodak Company.

The date of the meeting will be Friday, December 6, 1974. It will be held, as usual, at 8 p. m. in the Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue, just east of South Avenue. See you there.

OSCAR 7 Launched Nov. 15th

OSCAR 7 was launched successfully at 1711 GMT November 15th. The satellite is reported working perfectly. It has repeaters on two frequencies, 432mHz in, 145mHz out and 145 mHz in and 29mHz out.

Mode A (2 meters in, 10 meters out) will operate Sunday, Tuesday and Friday (GMT days); Mode B (432 in, 2 meters out) will operate on Monday, Thursday and Saturday (GMT days). Wednesday is reserved for experimental use.

Mode A operates on a center frequency of 145.9mHz in and 29.45mHz out with a 100kHz non-inverting passband. Mode B operates on a center frequency of 432.15mHz in and 145.95

Hz out with an inverting passband of 50kHz. Beacon frequencies are 29.5mHz and 145.98mHz with 20 wpm cw telemetry. There is also a 60 wpm RTTY beacon on 435.1mHz.

For precise details about OSCAR 7, contact Bob Crumrine, WB2DNN, or Fred Becker, W2GV.

Mayor Ryan Declares Amateur Radio Week

by Joe Hood, K2YAH

The concern to make the public more aware of what amateur radio is and how it serves the public interest spurred a RaRa member, Bill Landon, K2CBD, to approach Mayor Ryan with the idea of declaring a week as amateur radio week in the City of Rochester. After explaining the volunteer efforts of amateurs in providing communications services during local and even international disasters as well as the many public service events in which local hams have participated, it wasn't difficult to convince Mayor Ryan to declare an amateur radio week.

The initial contact made by Bill Landon, K2CBD, has been followed up by our ARRL Public Relations Assistant, David Holtz, WB2HTH. David has forwarded a resume of the significant public service contributions of local amateurs to the Mayor. He has also prepared news releases for the local news media as well as contacted several local TV stations in hopes of getting some news coverage and possibly a short segment on one of the local talk shows. As of press time nothing has firmed up in these areas so will have to rely on word of mouth if and when something breaks.

In addition to news and TV publicity we plan a short demonstration of amateur radio's communications ability by establishing a direct link from the Mayor's office to Washington, D. C. to allow Mayor Ryan to speak with Congressmen Horton and Conable and possibly K7UGA, Barry Goldwater, if he is available. John Schooley, W2BLU, and Eddie Dunn, W2ECH, are working on setting up the link which will be 2 meter FM from the Mayor's office through the WR2AEI repeater to W2ECH and from there via HF single sideband to Washington. We are also considering a demonstration of the WR2ABF autopatch facilities if the details can be worked out. Rick Booth, WA2GCX, and Harold Hay, WA2ABQ, are working with the RaRa Committee on this.

There are many more things we could do but for this first attempt it would seem that a few well thought out demonstrations and news releases are a better approach than trying to do too much and having something flop. If you are interested in helping RaRa make Amateur Radio Week a success please volunteer your services to one of your board members. A good public image for what amateur radio is and isn't is worth the effort. Is that a big 10-4?

Dinner-Dance to be Saturday, February 1st at Barry's

The annual RaRa Valentine Dinner-Dance will be held this year a bit earlier than usual, Saturday, February 1st, at Barry's Restaurant, located on Dewey Avenue at Latta Road. The Barry's were operators of the famous Crescent Beach Hotel which was destroyed by fire a short time ago.

Master of Ceremonies this year will be Gene Molter, WN2MKB. For additional entertainment we will see Dante the Magician perform. After the entertainment, the lights will be lowered and our orchestra will play for dancing until past the witching hour.

There will be two dinner choices; Surf and Turf or Prime Ribs. Dinner tickets will cost \$7.50 each (which really doesn't quite cover costs). The January meeting will be your last opportunity to purchase your tickets since the Dinner-Dance will occur before our regular February club meeting.

For the newcomers to RaRa, the Dinner-Dance is our way of expressing thanks to our spouses for putting up with us throughout the year. It is the one night of the year when we attend a radio club function where radio is not the topic of discussion.

Hamfest Information

The 1975 Western New York Hamfest is scheduled for Saturday, May 31, at the Monroe County Fairgrounds.

Those who gather on Friday, May 30th, are directed this year to a new headquarters location, the Rochester Marriott Inn, on route 15, West Henrietta Road, directly across from Thruway exit 46.

The Hamfest ad running in all the amateur journals tells of the Marriott as new headquarters. Many have asked what about the Fairgrounds. The answer is stated above. Please tell your friends how it works.

For anyone who wishes to organize a hospitality room or suite for a special interest group, please make your wishes known as soon as possible to Hamfest general chairman, Harold Smith, WA2KND. Each year requests for such facilities are received after all accommodations are booked. Don't be disappointed.

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50 and Up by Ed Maher, WB2FJY

The December meeting of the VHF Group will be devoted to the VHF Sweepstakes. As an added short feature, Bob Moore, WA2JFM, will give a demonstration of the Heath Kit Spectrum Analyzer. Our thanks to Helen and Linc Cundall, W2QY for a fine "ladies night" at the October meeting.

We asked Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB, Contest Chairman, about his plans. He passed along the following comments:

"With the January Sweepstakes approaching (see December QST for details), it is time to breakout that dusty VHF rig and give it a work out. The colder seasons permit legitimate antenna work and perhaps a few extra hours to complete the latest project. The ability to work an extra band is great for boosting your score. In the Rochester Area there are many unused VHF stations during the contest. Lend a rig, borrow a rig, or invest in one of the many rigs available. Above all get on, have fun. With the many new FM stations participating each year, we can well challenge the club to the southeast of us for first place. Look for your logs in mid-December".

See you at the December meeting.

WR2ADG 444.25 - 449.25

by Ray Roberts, WA2SSU

After a long wait and numerous calls to Xerox, Lincoln First, Civil Defense and many others, the 450 repeater has found a home.

It happened one night at a Directors meeting. The question: "Where are we going to put it?" RaRa president Joe Hood, K2YAH, suggested Kodak.

Kodak is already home of the 2 meter 28-88 repeater which is atop the main office tower building. It would be too much to ask to put another repeater there... and it might cause technical problems. There are however, other tall buildings, although not nearly as tall as the main tower building. Building 69 in Kodak Park was suggested as the potential site. George Negus, K2OIU, and John Schooley, W2BLU, checked and found that it was indeed possible to use the suggested site. The building top has an elevation of approximately 600 feet. It is located on Dewey Avenue near the corner of Ridge Road West.

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RAY ROBERTS BOB JEFF
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Amateur Radio Contributions to Rochester and the Public

by David Holtz, WB2HTH

In the minds of many, amateur radio (ham radio) is equated with public service. Here are some of the many ways our volunteer efforts help.

Emergency Communications

Ham radio provides an emergency communications resource to provide vital health and welfare message handling in time of natural disaster, power failure, or civil strife. Our capability is not just confined to local communications but extends to state, national, and international (if and when required) levels as well.

Rochester "hams" massively volunteered their services and equipment, for example, during the Hurricane Agnes flooding (1972) around Rochester and the southern tier of New York State. Last spring our communications expertise helped during the Lake Ontario shoreline flooding. In June, when monsoon-like rains caused disruption of radio and telephone communications at Rochester General Hospital, hams quickly established a communications center ready in the event that communications were not quickly restored.

Our work is closely allied with Monroe County Civil Defense Headquarters where additional new amateur radio equipment is being installed by volunteer hams so that we will be ready if the need arises. The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, furthermore, has a mobile van fully equipped to provide communications wherever needed. We also work very closely with the national organization for hams, the American Radio Relay League, Inc.

Although few are aware of our "auto-patch" capability, the ability to make telephone calls from our automobiles with proper mobile and repeater/telephone equipment interface, hams have reported many auto accidents to Rochester and suburban police. Hams have also assisted many motorists in distress.

It is also noteworthy that in time of disaster, amateurs have put local government leaders in direct contact with Washington Congressmen and relief organizations.

Public Service/Safety Communications

During major public gatherings such as certain heavily attended parades, the Cycle for Step project, and the Hike for Hope, ham radio volunteers have supplemented existing civic communications. Aside from handling distress calls from lost young hikers and tired, injured, or foot-sore participants who needed medical supplies or transportation, amateurs inspired many hikers to "go the extra mile". Hikers were able to talk directly to and see persons on the hospital ship S. S. Hope, while located in Brazil, via ham television.

Hams pass nonbusiness and emergency messages without charge. Additionally, many GI's in Vietnam and other remote military installations have been able to talk to their

stateside families via ham radio-telephone "phone patches".

Education

As one of the most scientific hobbies appealing to young and old alike, amateur radio encourages persons to experiment and advance their knowledge of electronics and communication theory through self-study.

Nor is amateur radio limited only to the well-to-do. Electronic marvels have been constructed with ingenuity and enterprise almost solely from parts salvaged from discarded radio and television sets. Thus, amateur radio encourages invention, experimentation, and constructive use of spare time. This is vital for all persons, old or young and from all walks of life.

An entirely amateur enterprise--the OSCAR space communications satellite (our seventh has been launched)--permits hams to pioneer the frontiers of communications technology. Some Rochester-area high school students, in fact, are transmitting radio signals through the space satellite OSCAR to remote locations. Through self-teaching, these young people have mastered complex orbital tracking and plotting as well as other sophisticated techniques to accomplish this feat. Currently, information is available through the American Radio Relay League and the Rochester Amateur Radio Association to assist schools in establishing course curriculum to give students an understanding of space communications technology.

With simple receiving equipment, anyone can listen to the amateur OSCAR radio satellite and can learn the principles of tracking, acquisition and loss of signal, orbital plotting, and a host of space-age educational opportunities.

Other hams experiment by bouncing signals off the moon or from the ionized trails of meteors. Always the quest is for new knowledge and accomplishments.

Hams have been helpful to the Boy Scouts who learn code and theory. Live demonstrations have been presented to the scouts--and to school audiences as well. Each fall, the Rochester Amateur Radio Association offers free code and theory classes to anyone who wishes to join the venerable, public-spirited amateur radio fraternity of men, women, and children.

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Directory Updates

Each year the September issue of the RaRa Rag is sent to everyone listed in the current directory. Each year many copies are undelivered because the addressees have moved and no forwarding address is available. So you might update your directory, the following calls are associated with addresses which are incorrect:

WA2CZD	WB2LDI	WB2QIX
WB2DNK	WN2MKV	WA2SCS
WB2ECV	WN2MMJ	WA2SCT
W2HFE	WA2NRA	K2TBO
WA2IXX	WN2NPI	WA2UFP
WA2LAU	WA2ODQ	WA2YGE
WB2LZP	WB2QAP	K2ZBG

WANTED - Matching speaker for Collins 51J3 or 75A2/3 and 10 watt monaural hi-fi amplifier. Jim Gordon, W2HLF, 247-7139.

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FCC HIGHLIGHTS

by Bill Grenfell, W4GF

(from November 1974 Auto-Call)

I have previously discussed Section 97.87 of the Commission's rules in an effort to get across the basic minimum requirements for amateur station identification. However, critical listening will reveal that a lot of operators are identifying many times more than necessary yet they often fail to identify the other and their own stations at the end of an exchange of communications. Probably the most prevalent habit of overidentification can be heard on two meter FM where many operators give both call signs of the stations in a two-way exchange at the beginning and end of each transmission! Frequently this habit results in as much as a third or half of a two or three minute exchange being wasted in unnecessary identification whereas five to ten seconds would be all the time needed to satisfy FCC requirements! Operators on most other bands and emissions also waste considerable time with unnecessary identification.

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Wally Kincaid, WB2HZG, Pres.

Memberships Expire This Month

All memberships in RaRa expire the same date, October 31. That plan was instituted several years ago to make the bookkeeping a bit easier for the membership chairman.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, be sure to get your check in the mail promptly. It should be made payable to: Rochester Amateur Radio Association and mailed to P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, N. Y. 14603. Dues are: \$5 for regular (licensed) members; \$6 for family memberships (where more than one member resides at the same address); and \$2 for associate (unlicensed) members.

Upon payment of your dues, you will also receive your own personal copy of the 1974-75 Rochester Area Amateur Radio Directory. The directory contains approximately 2,000 listings by call and by last name of area amateurs.

Coverage tests will be run soon on a 450 simplex channel. If you have appropriate equipment to assist in the tests, please contact Ray Roberts, WA2SSU. We hope to have the 450 repeater on the air shortly.

Rag editor, Harold Smith, WA2KND, for many years was employed at Western Union. A change in middle management eliminated his job there. He is now the regional sales manager for the French Telegraph Cable Company. French is an international communications carrier with headquarters in Paris. They have been in business in the United States since 1879. They were the first company to successfully lay an operating transatlantic cable.

Of interest is the fact that OSCAR 6 is still in orbit and still functioning. OSCAR 6 was launched in the same vehicle as NOAA 2. NOAA 2 should be familiar to just about everyone. That is the satellite which sent back to earth the cloud cover pictures seen on the nightly television weather shows. NOAA 2 has failed, but OSCAR 6 still lives. To take up the slack, an older satellite ESSA 8 has been sending back the current cloud cover pictures.

NOAA 3 and OSCAR 7 were launched in the same vehicle. Will the amateur satellites outlive their professional sisters? NOAA 3 should be on the TV weather shows soon.

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