

The RARA RAG

Published by

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association
INCORPORATED

VOL. 27

JANUARY 1975

NO. 5

January 3rd Meeting: OSCAR 7

The January 3rd meeting program will be on OSCAR 7, the latest of the amateur radio satellites. The program will be presented by Fred Becker, W2GV, and Bob Crumrine, WB2DNN. Details of the OSCAR 7 satellite are contained in another item in this edition of the Rag.

Meeting place is as usual, the Monroe County Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue, Friday, January 3rd, at 8 p. m.

FCC Proposed Changes in Amateur Licensing

In response to 35 requests for rule changes the Commission has proposed amendments to its rules that would result in a major overhaul of the licensing structure of the amateur radio service.

The new rulemaking procedure, amending Part 97, would create a license structure permitting operation in either or both of two series -- Series A (shortwave) and Series B (VHF and above).

The amended rules would also add a new "Codeless Class" of license for operation in the VHF and UHF bands and would offer incentives for amateurs in this class to further upgrade their skills.

The Commission said that the new system would offer flexibility in the complex problem of associating operator qualification requirements with operator privileges. It predicted that the new system would easily double within several years the present 255,111 amateur operators and could have a beneficial impact on Citizens Radio Service by syphoning off some of the CB radio hobby activity.

The present FCC amateur licensing structure makes available ten operator license classes authorizing five levels of privilege. The classes in ascending order are Novice (or beginner); Technician (limited to VHF/UHF frequencies); Technician (Conditional - issued when operator lives more than 175 miles from FCC examining int); General; General (Conditional because of distance); General (physical handicap - issued when operator is unable to take FCC-supervised examination because of physical handicap); Advanced; Advanced (Conditional because of distance); Amateur Extra and Amateur Extra (Conditional because of distance).

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PROCLAMATION SIGNED - Midge Costanza, Rochester Vice-Mayor shown here signing Amateur Radio Week Proclamation. Looking on from left is Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT; Bob Phelps, WB2DPT; David Holtz, WB2HTH; Bill Landon, K2CBD, and Joe Hood, K2YAH.

AMATEUR RADIO WEEK - - - The Way It Was

by David D. Holtz, WB2HTH
Public Relations Assistant

The morning of December 10th was brisk, and the wet snow in the parking lot near the City Hall was good and slippery. Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, along with passengers David Holtz, WB2HTH and Bob Phelps, WB2DPT, slid into a parking lot. Soon Joe Hood, K2YAH, and then Bill Landon, K2CBD, maneuvered their cars into place.

The question that nagged at each of us was, "Will we be able to pull off the patch with Senator Goldwater in Washington through the repeater?" The Mayor's office is on an upper floor. So, if a handy-talkie can work into the repeater from the main floor, we'd have it made.

Joe heard a squelch tail. So did Jim! Things were looking good... The next hurdle was to get an effective link between Bob Reifsteck, K2LZG's home station and W3USS, the U.S. Senate station in Washington. ...but 40 meters was buzzing with activity.

While we waited our turn to see Vice-Mayor Margaret Costanza, Joe talked to Bob, K2LZG, and in turn to W3USS. Conditions were spotty--we would try our best.

Joseph Ferrari, President of the Monroe County Legislature, passed by the Mayor's

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VOL. 27 JANUARY 1975 NO. 5

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The RaRa Rag is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, N. Y. 14603. Subscription price \$1.00 per year (included in \$5.00 annual membership dues). Second class postage paid at Rochester, N. Y.



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THE RADIO AMATEUR'S JOURNAL

14 Vanderventer Ave. Port Washington, N. Y. 11050

Notes from the President's Desk

by Joe Hood, K2YAH

I'm happy to report that it looks like the FCC will be here the Friday before the Hamfest to administer examinations. Many of the details have yet to be completed however, we do know that the examinations will probably be given at the Hamfest headquarters hotel, The Marriott, on Route 15 near the Thruway exit. John Schooley, W2BLU, RaRa Director will be handling the planning and organizing the volunteer help needed to supplement the FCC staff personnel. If you'd like to help contact John. If you plan to take an exam keep your eyes on the Rag for further information on how to sign up.

Speaking of the FCC, most of you probably heard about the amateur licensing restructuring docket (number 20282) and some of you are probably upset. I share your feelings of distress but it should be realized that docket 20282 is just a straw-man proposal. The FCC is looking to see how the amateur community will respond to the docket. Will anyone respond? Does anyone care? Can amateurs offer sound, reasonable, substantiated criticism of the proposal or will the responses take the form of emotional outcries with no concrete counter proposals?

This is probably the most significant amateur radio docket to come out of Washington in a long time - perhaps in the entire history of amateur radio. It has its bad points and its good points. It deserves a full and comprehensive response from every amateur. The club is forming a task force to provide a club response to the docket but this in no way should reduce the need for every amateur to file his comments. The club will investigate providing a means of making the 14 required copies for those of you who don't have access to copying equipment.

Finally, the Valentine Dinner-Dance is fast approaching. Dance chairman, Ray Roberts, WA2SSU, promises a fine evening with good food, entertainment and music which may not make your y1 or xyl love ham radio but it will sure help. I hope to see a record turn out this year.

The last opportunity to purchase tickets for the event is at the January meeting. Dinner-Dance date is February 1st.

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Valentine Dinner-Dance already? Yes!

Because the 14th annual Valentine Dinner-Dance will be held on Saturday, February 1st, we must make this the last call for the event. The date is a week prior to the regular February club meeting. It is normally scheduled closer to Valentine's day. This year, it was just about impossible to book a better date, so the February 1st decision was made.

Meeting place will be Barry's Restaurant, located at Dewey Avenue and Latta Road, in Greece. The Barry's were former operators of the famous Crescent Beach Hotel which was destroyed by fire.

The Valentine Dinner-Dance was inspired by Cappy Capauldy, K2UXF, 14 years ago. It was Cappy's suggestion that the spouses of the amateur radio operators should be awarded recognition each year for putting up with us. What better way than to take them for an evening on the town complete with dinner and dancing. The RaRa Board agreed, and the Dinner-Dance was born. The first such evening was in the now non-existent Manger Hotel in downtown Rochester. In subsequent years, we have held the affair in a different eating and night spot each time. There have been a few repeats.

Master of Ceremonies this year is Gene Molter, WN2MKB. For the entertainment portion of the evening, Dante the Magician will perform. There will also be awards for the ladies.

After the formal entertainment and awards, the lights will be lowered and the orchestra will play for dancing and listening.

There are two dinner choices this year; Surf and Turf or Prime Ribs. Dinner tickets cost only \$7.50 each.

The January 3rd meeting will be your last opportunity to pick up your tickets in person. If you are unable to attend that meeting, mail your check to Helen Smith, WA2YRH, 153 Mason Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14626. Specify the dinner choice(s) and include both first names so name tags can be prepared in advance.

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RADIO WEEK

 (Continued from page 1)
reception area. David introduced himself, and Ferrari in turn talked to the others in our party.

Soon the moment arrived. We were ushered into the Mayor's office and met Miss Costanza. After exchanging pleasantries, the proclamation was presented and pictures were taken. Joe called W3USS. Through the 40 meters QRM babble came Barry's voice, K7UGA himself. We could hear when we listened closely, but Washington was having a bit of trouble, at first.

Margaret Costanza, like a true ham, spoke loudly and clearly into the Tempo. And soon she was heard. How about a little Arizona sunshine for Rochester? Not on your life was the gist of the reply. Soon Goldwater and Congressman Frank Horton congratulated Rochester hams for their activities that lead to Amateur Radio Week. The patch was done; we thanked the Vice-Mayor and departed.

Amateur Radio Week is now history. Did we accomplish all that we desired? No, not quite, for we didn't get quite as much press coverage that day as we would have liked. The Times-Union covered us. Certainly, the pre-exposure provided by Jim and Joe on the Eddie Meath Show was a real plus for all hams. Without question, our thanks go to Bill, K2CBD, for setting the amateur radio week machinery into motion. A team effort over and over for 1974--and so many others not mentioned in this story were a vital part in this effort.

Amateur Radio Week 1975? Maybe. If we continue our public service responsibility in the future, we'll look forward to public recognition again. How about, team?

FCC Proposed

 (Continued from page 1)

The new classes would be inserted in this list.

In proposing the rule changes the Commission said it could not accommodate all the requests made by the petitioners because some conflicted with others. However it added it did not believe it desirable to deal with the petitions on a piecemeal basis since many of the proposals were interrelated. Accordingly it said the rulemaking proceeding was in effect a review of the entire amateur licensing structure. In recognition of the desire of some amateurs and would-be amateurs for a class of amateur operator
(Continued on page 4)

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FCC Proposed

(Continued from page 3)

ator license not requiring a knowledge of telegraphy, the Commission said a new "Telephony only" type of operator license limited to frequencies above 144 MHz could and should be incorporated into the Amateur Radio Service.

Traditionally the FCC said, every amateur radio operator license has required the applicant to demonstrate some level of proficiency in sending and receiving International Morse Code. A 1971 survey and analysis of the Citizens Radio Service revealed that there may be as many -- or more -- nonlicensees (interested in amateur radio activities as there are persons already licensed in the Amateur Radio Service. The most frequently-mentioned reason for not obtaining an amateur license was the telegraphy requirement.

In proposing a new "Codeless" Communicator Class the Commission said the objective would be to enable beginners to enter the Amateur Radio Service and through the experience gained by operation of a low power radio telephony station develop the interest and skill necessary to qualify for a higher class operator license.

The Commission also proposed creating an Experimenter Class, a new higher class operator license comparable in requirements and privileges to the existing Advanced Class for the HF domain except based on operation above 29 MHz. The Commission said the Experimenter Class would provide meaningful incentive for amateurs interested in VHF and UHF regions of the radio spectrum to upgrade their skills. The Advanced Class already provides these incentives to amateurs interested in operating in the mf and hf shortwave bands.

The commission said that for this new higher class license any additional telegraphy skill would not be meaningful since telegraphy was not a major communication mode in the VHF and UHF bands. On the other hand it said modes such as television, remote control, facsimile and repeaters are very meaningful and need to be emphasized.

To incorporate the proposed Communicator and Experimenter Class licenses the Commission said it examined several possible revised operator license class structures.

The object it said was to minimize any adverse impact on now-licensed amateurs, to closely relate requirements to privileges for each license class, to provide realistic upgrading steps and incentives, and to offer the opportunity and flexibility for persons interested only in shortwave radio or only in VHF and/or both to obtain a license and pursue their particular interest.

The structure proposed by the Commission offers two series of amateur licenses. Series A and Series B. Amateurs would be permitted to hold one operator license permitting privileges in one or both series. For example, an amateur could hold an operator license authorizing Novice Class privileges in Series A and Technician Class privileges in Series B, a request sought by several petitioners.

Operator licenses in Series A would author-

ize only privileges on amateur frequencies below 29 MHz and operator licenses in Series B would authorize only privileges on amateur frequencies above 29 MHz. Licenses including Communicator and Novice Class normally would be issued for five years (Novice licensees now are issued on a two-year non-renewable basis)

The Commission said it also would adopt a request that Amateur Extra Class operator licenses be granted for life, but such licensees still would be required to renew their station licenses every five years. At present, 12,849 amateurs hold the Amateur Extra license, the highest class of license in the Amateur Radio Service.

The Commission said that under its proposed rules, new Advanced Class licenses and General Class licenses would no longer carry requirements and privileges above 29 MHz. The Experimental Class and the Technician Class would be the counterpart operator licenses in Series B and would not carry any requirements and privileges in Series A frequency bands.

The current Amateur Extra Class would be renamed Extra Class and would authorize full amateur privileges in both series. The Commission said it would discontinue the written examination and the exclusive telephony segments now associated with this class. Because of the 20 wpm telegraphy requirement for the Extra Class, amateurs holding this license would continue to have exclusive telegraphy subband privileges, the Commission said.

Under the proposed license structure all amateurs now licensed upon application automatically would be eligible to renew their current operator license to include privilege in at least one and in most cases both series without further examination.

The Commission said it was proposing three principal areas of operator privileges. Operating frequencies, emissions and maximum transmitter power.

For Series A the authorized frequency bands would be basically the same as at present below 29 MHz except the exclusive telephony segments reserved to the Amateur Extra Class would be available to the Advanced Class.

In Series B the Technician Class would be authorized all amateur frequencies above 50 MHz, thus gaining the spectrum from 50.0 to 50.1 MHz and 144-145 MHz. The Experimenter Class would be authorized frequencies above 144 MHz.

The Extra and Experimenter Classes would be authorized all amateur emissions. The Advanced Class would be authorized all amateur emissions permitted below 29 MHz. The General and Technician Classes would be authorized emissions A1, A3 and F3. The Novice Class would continue with A1 only, while the new Communicator Class would be permitted emission F3.

The Commission said modern communications required better methods for determining transmitter power than the "plate voltage times current" method now employed. It therefore

(Continued on page 5)

OSCAR 7

by Fred Becker, W2GV

432 Mhz to 2 Meter Repeater

Even numbered days during January

Uplink 432.125 - 432.175 Mhz.
Downlink 145.925 - 145.975
Beacon 145.972

meter to 10 meter repeater

Odd numbered days during January

Uplink 145.85 - 145.95 Mhz.
Downlink 29.4 - 29.5
Beacon 29.502

There are two linear repeaters aboard the Oscar 7 spacecraft. Only one repeater is on at a time and they switch every 24 hours. The 432/2 meter repeater will be on the GMT even numbered days of January. The 2/10 meter repeater will be on the GMT odd numbered days of January. The repeater is used for experiments only on Wednesday GMT.

Oscar 7 signals will be heard for approximately 20 minutes beginning with the times listed above. For those with rotatable beams the morning passes rise in the North and set in the South. The evening passes rise in the South and set in the North. For further information call Bob Crumrine, WB2DNN, or Fred Becker, W2GV.

Date	EST	Frequency
1	7:26 pm	2M
2	9:19 am	2M
	8:20 pm	10M
3	10:14 am	10M
	7:19 pm	2M
4	9:12 am	2M
	8:14 pm	10M
5	10:07 am	10M
	7:13 pm	2M
6	9:06 am	2M
	8:07 pm	10M
7	10:00 am	10M
8	8:00 pm	10M
9	9:54 am	10M
	8:55 pm	2M
10	8:53 am	2M
	7:55 pm	10M
11	9:48 am	10M
	8:49 pm	2M
12	8:47 am	2M
	7:48 pm	10M
13	9:41 am	10M
	8:42 pm	2M
14	8:40 am	2M
15	8:36 pm	2M
16	8:33 am	10M
	7:35 pm	10M
17	9:28 am	10M
	8:30 pm	2M
18	8:27 am	2M
	7:28 pm	10M
19	9:21 am	10M
	8:23 pm	2M
20	8:21 am	2M
	7:22 pm	10M
21	9:15 am	10M
22	7:16 pm	10M
23	9:08 am	10M
	8:11 pm	2M

24	8:08 am	2M
	7:10 pm	10M
25	9:02 am	10M
	8:04 pm	2M
26	9:56 am	2M
	8:53 pm	10M
27	8:54 am	10M
	7:58 pm	2M
28	9:49 am	2M
29	7:51 pm	2M
30	9:42 am	2M
	8:40 pm	10M
31	8:41 am	10M
	7:45 pm	2M

FCC Proposed (Continued from page 4)

proposed to specify the maximum transmitter output in terms of peak envelope power (PEP) except at the beginner level where the emissions authorized permit a fairly accurate measurement to be made of the input power using the method now specified.

The Commission noted that mail examinations are not as effective as FCC-supervised examinations in establishing qualifications. It proposed the operator license for an amateur qualifying by means of a mail examination on the basis of a protracted physical disability would have the letter (D) inserted following the operator class. A license of this kind would be renewable without examination upon a satisfactory showing that the disability continued. Otherwise, the holder of such a license would be required to demonstrate his proficiency to reexamination at a regular FCC-supervised examination.

The operator license of an amateur qualifying by means of a mail examination on the basis of difficulty in traveling to a regular FCC examination point would have the letter (C) inserted following the operator class. The only purpose of this conditionally issued type of license would be to provide temporary authorization until the person could qualify before an FCC examiner. This type of license would therefore not be renewable.

In an attempt to improve its mail examination system the Commission proposed that only an Extra Class licensee could serve as a volunteer examiner for all examination elements. Advanced Class licensees would be eligible to administer examination elements for the Technician (C) and (D) and the Communicator Classes. The Commission also proposed to increase to two the number of persons administering a mail examination. The second person may be the holder of any class of amateur operator license.

The Commission said that in view of the extensive amendments proposed it would allow more than normal time for suggestions and comments to be filed. Accordingly, Comments may be filed on or before June 16, 1975 and Reply Comments on or before July 16, 1975.

The action by the Commission December 4, 1974 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Commissioners Wiley (Chairman), Lee, Reid, Hooks, Washburn and Robinson.



RaRa MEETING 35 YEARS AGO - Seated l. to r.: George Fremo, Ray Cole, Unknown, Unknown, Charlie Otero, Orv Vauer, "Doc" Smith, Frank Lang, Unknown. Standing l. to r.: Bill Hamp, Ken Gardner, Marty Jones, Irv Goldberg, Milt Miller, Unknown, Erwin Shaffer, Al Grabb, Fred Reynolds, Dick Rice (?), George Olsen, Unknown, Unknown, Bruce Elle, Lloyd Cook, Leo Halpin and George Batterson.

EARLY RaRa MEETINGS

by Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, Club Historian

Rochester Amateur Radio Association was organized in 1930, at the beginning of the Great Depression, with meetings first held at the Central YMCA on Gibbs Street. In fact, RaRa even sponsored a couple Hamfests at the "Y" at a cost of only \$1.50 for both registration and dinner!

On several occasions the group piled into old touring cars and Model A's and drove all the way to Victor to visit WHAM's high power transmitter. Another time, in the summer of 1931, I remember attending an open-air meeting in Maplewood Park, near Driving Park Avenue.

A few years before the war, RaRa left the "Y" and started to meet in the old City Museum in Edgerton Park. The picture with this article was taken at one of these meetings. I believe Bruce Elle, W8VTR, set up the camera and I volunteered to release the shutter.

Recalling these early meetings brings back memories such as voting to accept new members. A prospective member would be asked to leave the room during the voting procedure, of course. This practice didn't last too long, however, and I don't remember that anyone was ever blackballed.

We didn't have large annual auctions as we do today, but now and then there were smaller sales, usually of individual collections. I well remember the night the club auctioned John Long's (W8ABX) gear and magazines. John was WHAM's Chief Engineer and the most likable fellow one could meet. It was a sad occasion: John had been killed in a car accident at Pittsford East Avenue railroad underpass while returning home from the Victor transmitter.

In a future RaRa Rag I will tell about some of the postwar meetings when we moved to the new East Avenue Museum.

WR2AEI Adds 'AREAS'

The WR2AEI (28.88) repeater will soon incorporate the Amateur Radio Emergency Alerting System (AREAS). The system, better known as the "Fuzz Buzz", will allow amateurs with touch tone equipped 2M FM mobile rigs a direct method of reporting accidents or other serious emergencies directly to the Cobbs Hill radio center.

The repeater technical committee has been working closely with Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, Alan Komenski, WB2ZFM, and Dick Schoenberger, Superintendent of Monroe County's Department of Public Safety Communication, on the system. Details of how to use the system will be given at RRRR meetings and through mailings to RRRR members. However, it must not be misused or abused nor should any amateur use the system to become a self appointed traffic patrolman. If any such problems arise the city and county officials who have approved the installation will immediately revoke the approval and the system will be removed from service.

The exact starting date for the system is dependent upon the arrival of some parts orders but we hope to have it operating sometime early in 1975.

FOR SALE - Johnson Matchbox kw with SWR, \$115; also Heath power supply HP-13, \$35. C. Brelstorf, K2WW, 244-9519.

FOR SALE - DB-23 preselector, \$20; Nikkor 35mm f2.8 lens like new with case, \$85. Jim, W2HLF, 247-7139.

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V.H.F. CONTEST

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJJB

January 4th and 5th is the date for the annual ARRL VHF Sweepstakes, starting at 2:00 P.M. local time on Saturday and ending midnight Sunday. Logs not picked up at the December 31st meeting have been mailed out to approximately 375 prospective VHF operators. Logs are same as last year.

A sample exchange would be: (upon contact) "W2XYZ this is W2XAB. Copy number 1; Precedent A; From W2XAB; Check 68; Section Western New York; Go ahead." The reply would be: "QSL number 1; Copy my number 14; Precedent B; From W2XYZ; Check 67; Section Western New York." Confirmation must be made both ways for two points each.

Please note: Precedent will be either A or B. A, for input power less than 50 watts, B over 50 watts. Check is the last two digits of the year in which you received your first license.

Awards will be made to the following: Highest ARRL score, Highest multi-operator score, Highest AM, Highest FM, Highest CW, and Highest SSB scores. Please return all logs as soon as possible after the contest using the S. A. S. E. provided. "Good luck in the contest."

FINAL NOTICE

Final Notice -- two of the most unpleasant words when used together. But, there is no other way to say it as clear. The final notice talked about here is a message to members who have failed to pay their '74-'75 dues.

There are only a few people in this category, but they are there. The club By-Laws state that a member is no longer in good standing when his membership has lapsed past the 60 day point. All club dues were payable on October 31st. The witching hour on New Year's Eve is the moment when the club always loses a few members. If you are one of those people, don't become a lost soul. Pay your dues now.

Dues are \$5 for regular memberships, \$6 for family memberships and \$2 for associate (unlicensed) memberships.

RaRa has been able to continue with the present dues structure for several years despite the current economic situation. A RaRa membership is one of the best bargains you can get today. Just send your check to the club box 1388, Rochester, N. Y. 14603, payable to the Rochester Amateur Radio Association.

A final notice -- if you fail, this is the last copy of the Rag you will receive!

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