

# The RARa RAG

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## KODAK PARK RADIO CLUB HOSTS FEBRUARY 7th MEETING

by Bill March, WA2CER

To continue a tradition of the past several years, the Kodak Park Radio Communications Club will host a joint meeting with RaRa on February 7, 1975 at Kodak Park Building 28. This joint meeting gives us a chance to break from our usual meeting place and gather with the pleasant members of the KPRCC. Now for the program.

Remember those CW contacts when conditions prevented you from receiving all the digits and you tried to piece the message together? Fun, eh? Ever wonder how the commercial and military stations were able to get the message through --- and verified? On the first transmission, too. They were using something that out of us have never tried in amateur radio.

The "secret weapon" they used can be called error-correcting codes. These codes can tell the receiving equipment that it did not hear elements of the transmission and correct the resulting error introduced by the poor reception. There are actually several ways of accomplishing this.

The February Program will be presentation on Error-Correcting Codes by Tom Warren, K4EIM/2. While trying to keep the theory light, Tom will describe how these codes attain their prescribed purpose of checking and error correction. He will also discuss some examples of these codes.

Now remember the meeting is at Kodak Park in Building 28, the Company Recreation Center. It is located on the north side of Ridge Road West just two stoplights west of Lake Avenue. Parking is available in a lot directly across Ridge Road from the entrance to the building.

The meeting will be held in a convenient corner of the second floor cafeteria. Once you park, cross Ridge Road and enter the building, you will see an escalator on your right. The meeting will be held just inside the doors of the cafeteria at the top of the escalator. Before you get on the escalator, however, you might wish to hang your coat and hat in the cloak room behind the receptionist's desk in the lobby.

See you there, Friday, February 7th, at 8:00 p.m.

## John Huntoon W1RW, Retires as ARRL General Manager

HR REPORT Jan. 16 - John Huntoon, W1RW, resigns as ARRL General Manager and Editor of QST! John's resignation, which becomes effective January 31, does not include all his ARRL responsibilities -- he will continue as League Secretary as well as secretary of the IARU.

Though a complete surprise to most of the amateur radio fraternity, John's stepping down is not a sudden decision. He has apparently been considering the move and discussing it with a very few close friends for some time.

His successor is Dick Baldwin, W1RU. Dick has strong support among the Directors, is well known and respected for his contributions to amateur radio in general and the League in particular. His recent work in preparation for the 1979 World Administration Conference, primarily overseas, has been particularly valuable.

What the change in ARRL leadership means to the League as well as to the amateur fraternity as a whole remains to be seen. The resignation is quite timely, as the ARRL January Director's meeting is taking place this week. As to the reasons for John wanting to step down, the assumption must be made that they are both personal and professional. He has held the League reins since 1960, and the combination of hats he had been wearing is certainly a crushing one. The League has been receiving lots of criticism, which is nothing new, but the pressure for change has become far more intense in the past few years -- and more and more of that pressure has been coming from within as well as from the field.

Despite the above, however, informed opinion is that the decision was primarily for personal considerations rather than because of outside pressures. What is significant to us as amateurs is not the why, but rather what this very important change in leadership will mean to the ARRL and therefore the entire amateur service, coming as it does under the shadow of the restructuring docket and 1979!

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BULLETIN - At press time, the Rochester VHF Group sweepstakes score stands at more than 360,000 points with over 120 logs tallied.

# The RARA RAG

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## Harry Dannals, W2TUK, Comments at SAROC

HR REPORT Jan. 16 - ARRL President Harry Dannals has some very important things to say, starting with the 1979 world conference: "Keep our amateur operations clean!" -- our one vote in 1979 affairs will be worthless for amateur radio if we don't muster support among nations in which amateur radio is next to non-existent, yet our lousy manners in DX pile-ups and thoughtless remarks in low-band ragchews are often heard by the very people we're trying to woo! VHFers can be equally responsible for our good or bad relations, too -- many of the diplomats who are in a position to influence their nation's telecommunications policy spend much time in this country, and many of those are interested enough in amateur radio to listen to 2 meters on PSB receivers. Any who were in Las Vegas during SAROC and heard the nonsense (and worse) on 2 meters would be hard pressed to support us!

As for restructuring, Harry's suggestion was to go easy. We have plenty of time, so hold off -- there's so much here to consider that a response at this time is certainly premature. We like Harry's thought here, too: "Think about the docket's impact on the amateur service first; not the impact on you!" As for the League position on 20282, he expects to see a special board meeting -- probably in May -- to prepare the ARRL response.

## LICENSE FEES REDUCED!

The Federal Communications Commission has instituted new, reduced fees effective March 1, 1975. Amateur applications for new licenses or renewals will be \$4 instead \$9, and those for modification will be \$3.

Should an excess payment be received by FCC after March 1st, it will not be returned.

The fees adopted represent a partial victory for the ARRL by bringing amateur fees into line with those of commercial operators. However, their main point -- that there be no fees at all -- failed of acceptance.

FOR SALE - FTdx560 transceiver, immaculate with CW filter, speaker, manual, original cartons, \$360; RME DB-23 preselector, \$15. Jim, W2HLF, 247-7139.

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# Notes from the President's Desk

by Joe Hood, K2YAH

By the time this goes to press the general and advanced theory course will be completed. The course has run for some thirteen weeks, covered some twenty text chapters and had an average attendance of about thirty students. Judging from the comments heard from several attendees, the class has been a worthwhile venture and the multiple instructor approach has been successful. Thanks go to WA2RYT, W7JRL/2, WA2JFM, WB2EDT, WB2EEU, K2WW and K2LZG who volunteered as teachers for the class. I hope we can repeat the course next year as interest in upgrading to advanced class will be high in view of the restructuring proposal docket 20282.

Speaking of 20282, your officers and directors have appointed Ed Gable, W2MPM, as chairman of a committee to study the docket, present it to the membership and compose a club response to be sent to the Commission. As a part of this effort it has been decided to reserve the March RaRa meeting for a panel discussion of 20282. Specific plans for the discussion aren't firm yet but it looks as though it will include a description of the proposal followed by a pro and con discussion of its good and bad points. The whole idea is to stimulate the membership into forming opinions and to arrive at an appropriate club response to the F. C. C. We will also have information on how individuals should respond... an action incumbent upon every amateur! Have you read 20282 yet? Do you have your advanced ticket? If not better get busy.

Hamfest plans are solidifying. Hamfest Chairman, Harold Smith, WA2KND, advises

any group with an interest in getting a meeting room or in having a special function to contact him immediately. Due to lead times the Hamfest Committee must cast the program in concrete many weeks before Hamfest so a word to the wise should be sufficient.

As you know the F. C. C. will be conducting amateur exams at the Hamfest this year. John Schooley, W2BLU, is coordinating the details with Ennis Coleman of the Philadelphia F. C. C. office. It has been determined that the examinations will be held on Saturday, May 31, at the Hamfest. It will be necessary for applicants to have pre-registered by mail before the examination date. Only those persons registered will be admitted to the exam room. Special arrangements will be made for anyone who wants to take a test but does not wish to attend the Hamfest. John will have more details later. This is a perfect opportunity for all technician, conditional and general class licensees to either upgrade or remove their conditional status which is a must in view of good old 20282.

Finally, thanks to Chet Selbert, WB2ZFS, who donated a 30 watt P.A. amplifier and microphone to the club. The equipment is being placed at CD headquarters for use in RaRa meetings and other functions held there where no PA is available.

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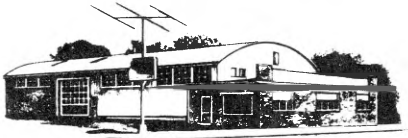
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