

The RARA RAG

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Sept. 5 Meeting - Double Header

by Jim Collinworth, WB2EDT

- How Sister Cities International Provided a Great Demonstration of Amateur Radio's Ability to further International Goodwill
- See a Demonstration of RaRa's New Solid-State Heathkit SB-104 Transceiver

At this first meeting of the new season our co-chairmen of RaRa's Sister Cities International Convention project, George Negus, K2OIU, and Ron Jakubowski, W2HXP, will describe how many purposes and aspects closely parallel objectives of Sister Cities International who held their annual meeting at the Rochester Americana in August.

The meeting will be held this Friday, September 5 at the usual meeting place, the Farm and Home Center at 249 Highland Avenue (just east of South Avenue) at 8:00 p.m. George and Ron will present an informative, entertaining and stimulating slide presentation and fill in with lots of "local color" about interesting incidents. They will cover activities from the original planning, the obtaining of the special events call-sign WH2SCI, through installation of tri-band beam, vertical, and dipole antennae on the roof of the Americana Hotel, as well as personal and on the air experiences.

The installation included two complete HF stations, VHF for local intercom use, keyboard CW, SSB, SSTV and RTTY.

One of the HF stations was a new solid-state digital-readout Heathkit SB-104 Transceiver. The other part of the double-feature meeting is a demonstration and description of this new addition the RaRa club station. We know you will want to see and hear about this new state-of-the-art equipment. This equipment and special call also served well in the RaRa booth at the Monroe County Fair. You will hear about this effort combined with the numerous new ham prospects who signed up for fall novice classes, and the K2JD engraving and badge-making at the fair. These will be covered in pre-program reports that should bring you up to date on RaRa summer activities.

Be sure to attend--and bring along an interested friend or two. This may be about the last opportunity to sign up for novice classes--they are filling up rapidly.

Make a note now on your calendar for this meeting and also for the ever-popular November 7 auction.

AWA's New Radio Museum

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Licensing Course Starts Sept. 22

Bob Lauzon, WB2SND, announces that he will once again conduct the annual RaRa licensing course beginning Monday, September 22, 1975 at the Civil Defense office, East Henrietta and Westfall Roads.

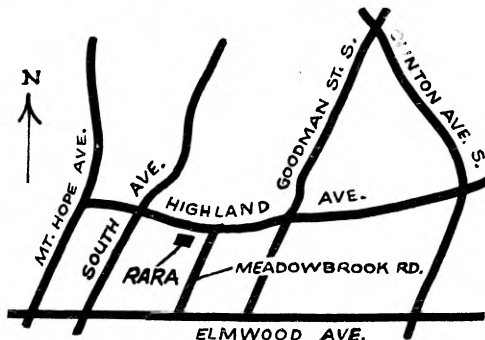
In previous years, we called the course a code and theory class. It still is, but the goal is an amateur license, hence the name change to "Licensing Course."

Many have already signed up for the course. If you know anyone who wants to become an amateur, be sure to tell him about the opportunity we are affording. Space is filling up rapidly. Class size will be limited.

To enroll, have the applicant send a check payable to: Rochester Amateur Radio Association, in the amount of \$4.00 to Bob Lauzon, WB2NSD, Drawer G, Pittsford, N. Y. 14534.

The \$4.00 pays for a license manual, an associate membership in RaRa and a registration fee. Dropouts before the first meeting are eligible for a \$3.00 refund.

Those who enroll and work at their licensing goal should be ready for their novice test at or before Thanksgiving time.



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Club Members Get New Directory

A local directory of all amateurs in the Rochester metro region is published annually by RaRa. The list covers all amateurs who ZIP code starts with the digits 144, 145 or 146. There are a few member listings outside th' area.

The Rochester Area Amateur Radio Directory is given free to everyone when club dues are paid for the upcoming season. It is not for sale separately. It is one of the many benefits of becoming or remaining a member of the club. New members also receive a hard covered loose leaf binder for their directory. Replacement covers are available to current members for \$1.00.

The basic source for the Directory is Call-book magazine. Updates are also made when we are advised of a change. Because the FCC is currently behind in license processing, there may be many changes which will not appear because of the current license application lag time. Check your listing in both sections, the list by call and the list by last name. If there is an error, let us know about it so it can be corrected in the next publication.

FCC Logjam Continues

HR REPORT Aug. 15 -- The Gettysburg Log-Jam continues to plague both Amateurs and the FCC as Amateur license applications now are taking up to 12 weeks for final action. This is true even after special efforts to dig out. Unfortunately, no Amateur tickets were processed while the attempt to catch up on CB applications was underway.

Expansion plans provide hope for the future. Included are a larger, faster computer and a 25% increase in personnel. Helping already are improved procedures and the new box numbers. Remember, address your Amateur applications to Box 1020, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

If your license is among those waiting, be patient. It will make it through, and further communication with the Commission will not help things. Remember, if it is a renewal and your application was filed at least 60 days before expiration, you may continue to operate until new ticket arrives.

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SPLIT-SPLIT -- WAZZAT?

by Joe Jarrett, K5FOG — Rick Booth, WA2GCX

A reprint with editing from a Texas VHF-FM Society Newsletter.

"There seems to be some great charisma about 70 meters. That's where all the people are, where all the rigs are, and everyone wants to beat his chest and say, "I have a two meter repeater". Split-splits (15kHz channel spacing) will remove some of that magic because two meters will no longer be fun. Try a simple experiment to demonstrate this to yourself. Find someone who has synthesized receiver capability on two meters in 5 kHz steps. Tune in any local system and then move away in 5 kHz steps until you cease hearing it. Unless you have an unusual or very commercial late model radio, you still heard the repeater at 15 kHz off frequency. More than 90 percent of the radios in use will not handle 15 kHz spacing. Careful allocation of frequencies is not the answer because of the tightly packed metropolitan areas. Imagine, if you will, two meters without channels. This roughly what split-split activity will be like.

The proponents of split-splits cite the 15 kHz channel operation of commercial system. Yes, the commercials douse 15 kHz channels. They use in general, newer, narrower, and more stable equipment than we do. Many have tone squelch and live with severe co-channel interference problems in the metropolitan areas. They are regulated by FCC inspectors who have the power of law to keep the peak deviation below 5 kHz and centered on frequency.

The Upper New York State Repeater Council has passed a resolution against assigning 15 kHz channel pairs in the immediate future. The ability of the council to look out for your interest depends on you. We ask all amateurs to consider the alternatives of 50, 220, and 450 mhz. Most areas of the country have many channels available for repeater usage in those bands. You say you want to be a repeater wheel? Then talk to your local frequency coordinator and reserve one of the 450 mhz big three or one of the two popular 220 mhz pairs and put up a machine. You'll be in the forefront as these bands bloom.

Hamfest FCC Exams

by John Schooley, W2BLU

A record turnout of 300 people took FCC exams for up-grading at the 1975 Rochester Hamfest. Of the 300, 229 left with a big smile and a feeling of satisfaction knowing they were a part of the 76% who passed. The breakdown of exams passed was 9 for Technician, 45 for General, 139 for Advanced, and 36 for Amateur Extra.

Exams were administered by Joe Welch, K3CT, an FCC examiner from the Philadelphia FCC office. All exams were graded on the spot by Joe with the help of John Theimer the new Buffalo Engineer in Charge.

RaRa Campout

by Ed Holdsworth, WA2EKR

The Fourth Annual RaRa Campout was held the weekend of July 12 at Webster Park. Those attending included K2DHR, K2SQI, WB2NSD, WB2SNA, K2QFR, WN2UTM and WA2EKR and their families. Saturday afternoon was the big horseshoe pitching contest which was won by K2QFR and his xyl Joyce. Saturday evening was the pass along supper which included those above plus WA2GHQ and WB2JMX and their families. This was followed by the usual campfire.

Sunday was a day of rest and time to do a little operating.

Those visiting and joining in on the festivities included K2CKN, K2EAW, W2EBF, WB2QVD and their families.

If you are interested in joining in on the fun, not only on this outing but at various times during the summer, contact WB2SNA or WA2EKR. Everyone is welcome to join in at anytime.

K2JD Engraving

RaRa provides still another service for the amateur community... name badge engraving. If you don't already have a badge with your name and call, be sure to order one at the next meeting or by mail to: K2JD Engraving, Drawer G, Pittsford, N. Y. 14534.

Name and call badges are available at \$1.25 each. Color samples will be on display at the meetings. If you order by mail, specify a color. We will try to meet your choice if possible.

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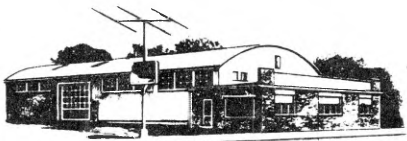
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