

The RARa RAG

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Joint Meeting of RaRa & Kodak Clubs March 5 - Kodak Elmgrove

by Bill Rhodes, WB2JMX

The joint meeting of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and the three Rochester Kodak Amateur Radio Clubs will be held on March 5, at 8:00 p.m. Sponsoring this year's meeting will be the newly formed Kodak Apparatus Division Amateur Radio Club (KADARC). The meeting will be held at the Kodak Elmgrove Plant, Building 4 Cafeteria, 901 Elmgrove Road (Town of Gates).

Persons attending should use the Building 4 entrance which is located on the west side of the Elmgrove complex. (The rear of the plant as you come in from Elmgrove Road.)

The program will be provided by Jim Schueckler, WN2YZL, and Joe Hood, K2YAH. You will enjoy their unique presentation entitled "An Introduction to Micro Processors". The program will be geared to applications in amateur radio and will be on an introductory level designed to stimulate interest in those not familiar with this rapidly growing field! So be sure to keep March 5th reserved for the joint meeting of RaRa and Kodak Radio Clubs. There will be a talk in station on 146.28/88 for directions on getting to the meeting.

Remember - the meeting location is NOT our usual place, but at Kodak Elmgrove Plant.

ROCHESTER HAMFEST MAY 21-23

Plans for the annual Rochester Hamfest on the weekend of May 21 through 23 are now completed. In addition to all the normal activities, the Hamfest this year will also be combined with the New York State ARRL Convention.

Things will begin happening on Friday, May 21, at the Rochester Marriott Inn, located on West Henrietta Road at Thruway exit 46. The Marriott is hotel headquarters for the Hamfest. At 7 p.m., the regular Friday evening Funfest will begin in the main banquet hall at the Marriott. There will be entertainment provided.

There will also be many manufacturer, distributor and groups holding openhouse in their respective suites.

The main activities begin on Saturday. Usually before the crack of dawn, many have already staked a claim in the huge flea market. Even before the claimsmen arrive, a group of

(Continued on page 4)

ARRL Freq. Coordination Plan

An inevitable necessity or a dangerous precedent?

by Rick Booth, WA2GCX

The ARRL has proposed a national frequency coordination plan for VHF repeater operation. This plan would consist of frequency coordinator for his area, with full support and backing of the plan by the FCC. With this backing, the frequency coordinator would have the authority that is necessary to effect workable assignments. In addition, the coordinator would have the authority to determine the power levels repeaters could run to avoid co-channel interference. The performance and actions of a coordinator would be subject to periodic review to prevent any abuses of the system.

The most probable approach for implementing such a plan would be through the existing network of repeater councils presently performing this task. Our councils issue approvals or disapprovals for frequency requests but in reality these are only recommendations due to the lack of enforcement. The system has worked reasonably well until the number of applicants began to exceed the number of frequencies available for assignment. Voluntary cooperation in some areas has given way to a new axiom: "If you can't have the frequency you want, run somebody off the channel". This type of activity has resulted in a demand for more authority and the result is this ARRL National Frequency Coordination Plan.

Do we really need this authoritative structure? Many people feel that it would be a dangerous precedent to set. Is it a system that could fall victim to "back room" politics, or a step in the right direction to keep our VHF-FM bands from undisciplined chaos? Consider these implications, I would be interested in hearing from you.

Rick Booth (WA2GCX)
ARRL VHF Repeater Advisory
Committee
206 Hillary Drive
Rochester, New York 14624
Tel: 716-889-1559

GUATEMALA DISASTER AID

If you actively participated by providing the much needed communications for the disaster victims in Guatemala, we want to hear about it. Send a synopsis of your activities to the editor of the Rag.

The RARA RAG

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DAYTON? FINAL CALL!!

In the February edition of the RaRa Rag, a column was devoted to telling of a group trip planned to the Dayton Hamfest on April 23 through 25. Although that date is more than six weeks away, if you want to join the Rochester gang for the trip you must act now!

Any space not reserved -- and paid for -- by Friday, March 5, will be turned back to the Dayton committee for others to use. There is absolutely no hotel/motel space available at Dayton on that weekend -- except for the block of rooms reserved for RARA members -- and they are just about gone.

It is possible to sign up for the plane trip and hotel room as a package; for the plane trip alone (which assumes you have accommodations) or for the hotel room alone. For those who need the plane trip and hotel, write a check for \$92.10. For the plane trip only, write a check for \$69.10 and for a hotel room, the check need be for only \$23.00.

The \$23.00 for the hotel pays for one night only. Reservations will be made for two nights. Additional hotel expenses will be billed by the hotel on departure. The \$23.00 is advance payment required by all Dayton hotels for that weekend. Our location is the Holiday Inn, Englewood, Ohio (located between the Dayton airport and the Hamfest).

Regular plane fare is now \$102.00 round trip to Dayton. Our group fare cuts that amount by one third which is a nice bargain. We will leave as a group at approximately 8:45 a. m. Friday, April 23 and arrive at Dayton around noon. We will leave Dayton shortly after noon on Sunday, April 25, arriving in Rochester early afternoon.

Your check must be sent to Harold Smith, WA2KND, not later than Friday, March 5.

Hamfest Is State Convention

The Western New York Hamfest and VHF Conference (official title for many years) this year is called the Rochester Hamfest combined with the New York State ARRL Convention.

We are phasing in the Rochester Hamfest simply because that is exactly what everyone calls it -- the Rochester Hamfest. And, this year for the first time, we are also combining it with the New York State ARRL Convention.

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hr REPORT

Greenville, NH 03048

..... From the President

by Bill March, WA2CER

The February meeting had an excellent program on antennas, as promised. Although Gordon Wendell, W2FDI, was certainly missed (due to alth reasons), Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, assembled a knowledgeable 4 member panel. The members were Gene Fuller, W2FZJ; Ron Jakubowski, W2HXP; Floyd Koontz, WA2WVL; and Dave Hoffman, W2ONP. The discussion covered many antenna designs for the HF and VHF bands. There were too many questions to answer them all during the program. Certainly, antennas will always make an interesting program subject.

As of Wednesday, February 11, 1976, the special fund to pay for the purchase of the SB-104 transceiver stood at over \$270. The Board has decided to continue the fund drive until the annual business meeting in May.

The club is again encouraging donation of sets of ARRL publications to area libraries during 1976 Library Week in April. Last year, the club and many board members each donated a complete set of ARRL publications. Reports from libraries indicate these publications are well used. Those wishing to donate a set of publications can give the money to treasurer Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, who will send for the publications after the March meeting. The sets can then be picked up at the April meeting.

The Valentine Dinner-Dance was attended by about 70 people. The facilities and the food at the Holiday Inn-Airport were very good. The seating at the round tables was favored over the long tables used last year. Unfortunately, Gene Molter, WB2BAM, was unable to be Master of Ceremonies as he had to stay home with his wife and newborn son. Congratulations to the Molter family. Many thanks to Eddie Dunn, W2ECH, for a great job as Master of Ceremonies. Bud Young, WA2UGE, and John Schooley, W2BLU, did a fine job on all the arrangements.

The Novice course is now over for this year. Although I don't have the final statistics, Bob Lauzon, WB2NSD, and Dave Hassett, K2SQI, have done another great job. Bob has started the General licensing class on schedule.

There was insufficient response from the club to sponsor an Explorer Post. Although this reply was given to the Boy Scouts, they were reminded of our annual Novice licensing class.

Finally, the annual meeting and club elections is only two months away. A nominating committee was appointed and will make their first report at the April meeting. But I am encouraging members to actively participate in nominations, which will open at the April meeting.

See you at the meeting. 73s.

How To Let The Public Know

by Gene Molter, WB2BAM

In an effort to bring before the public the impact of amateur Radio in Monroe County, as Area Public Relations Assistant, I would appreciate everyone assistance.

If amateurs would contact me by telephone or in writing with items they feel would be of interest to the news media and therefore the public, I would like to hear from them. There is no guarantee that information will be utilized by the news media, but at least I will possess material with which to work in order to contact the media when an amateur is involved in a matter such as running phone patches for the military, helping young people or senior citizens acquire licenses, constructing equipment from scratch or running traffic into missionary stations. Situations of this nature are interesting subjects for news features for print, radio and television.

Anyone with an idea should telephone me at home, 342-6321 or write to me at 170 Biltmore Drive, Rochester (Irondequoit), N. Y. 14617.

VHF Sweepstakes Report

The Rochester VHF Group continues to maintain second place in the nation in the annual ARRL VHF Sweepstakes contest which ran in January.

This year, there were 139 logs submitted for a grand total of 369,973 points. Top local score was submitted by Chuck Oneske, K2YCO, who scored 19,008 points.

Eddie Dunn, W2ECH, local contest chairman and all his assistants thank each and every of the participants for making their job a pleasure.

Of interest, this year the score exceeded last year by more than 25,000 points, an all time high.

Joe Hood, K2YAH, Candidate for WNY SCM Post

The immediate past president of RaRa, Joe Hood, K2YAH, is a candidate for the post of ARRL Western New York Section Communications Manager.

Ballots have been sent to all WNY ARRL members. If you have not received yours please send a prompt inquiry to ARRL HQ. The ballots must be returned so they are received at League Headquarters not later than 4:30 p. m., Thursday, March 25.

Joe is a very active amateur. It is the opinion of this writer that he would make an excellent SCM for our region.

Rochester has not had an SCM for years. Here is an opportunity to vote for one of our hard working people. Make sure you mail the ballot. It won't help if you fail to return it to headquarters. By the way, the post card requires a nine cent stamp, or any combination thereof which adds up to nine cents.

HAMFEST

(Continued from page 1)

RV people will have already spent the night on the Fairgrounds, RV means Recreational Vehicle. For the first time, there will be "hookups" available for those who order while there is still a supply.

At 9 a. m., the Dome Center will open for all to view the many manufacturers, distributors and publishers displays. Meetings will begin shortly thereafter in the Dome. In the building east of the Dome, the huge indoor flea market will begin operations. This year will mark the first time an indoor and outdoor flea market will be available. For those who will want indoor flea market space, the space must be reserved and paid for in advance. No space will be available on Hamfest day. Tables are \$5.00 each in advance. Earliest orders get prime space. For those who will use the outdoor flea market and take a chance on the weather, the charge will be a nominal \$1.00 per parking space.

Across the way, the Federal Communications Commission will again begin testing for those who will be upgrading licenses. General and Extra tests will begin at 9:30 a. m. Advanced tests will begin after lunch. Those who will take tests must file an application with the required \$4.00 fee in advance with the FCC Philadelphia office. Applications should be marked: "For examination at the Rochester Hamfest".

For the ladies attending, we will provide the usual bus service to downtown Rochester's Midtown Plaza where they can shop and attend a fashion show. New this year is a suite in the Midtown Tower Hotel where our ladies can rest, relax and refresh. At 4:30 p. m., busses will pick them up downtown for the return trip to the Fairgrounds and the Marriott.

As the afternoon draws to an end, activities will move back to the Marriott where the evening awards banquet will be held at 7:30 p. m. The banquet space this year is limited to only 300 seats. There will be absolutely no tickets available on Hamfest day. The move was made because the hotel facilities are much better than those available for the banquet at the Fair-

grounds. After the banquet, the Antique Wireless Association will conduct a show of a Polar Expedition. And, after that show, the Wouff Hong Ceremonies will be conducted.

Sunday morning will find more technical sessions scheduled at the Marriott. Activities will conclude in Rochester at noon on Sunday. However, the Antique Wireless Association museum in East Bloomfield will be open all day Sunday. If you have yet to visit the museum, this will be a terrific time to make the journey to East Bloomfield.

Brochures will be distributed to all the local amateurs and to more than 8000 others on the Hamfest mailing list. The mailing is scheduled for near the first of April.

Advance registration will cost \$3.50, and will cost \$4.00 at the gate. Banquet will cost only \$8.50. Indoor flea market tickets will cost \$5.00 per table. Outdoor flea market tickets will cost \$1.00 per parking space. Ladies fashion show tickets are free, but the ladies must hold a regular registration ticket.

Trailer hookups will cost \$15.00. The cost includes the hookup and two registration tickets. If more than two people will be in one trailer, additional tickets must be purchased. If only one person is in a trailer with a hookup he must pay the \$15.00 minimum.

Ticket orders should go to: Rochester Hamfest, P. O. Box 4777, Rochester, N. Y. 14612. This is a special post office box which has been acquired for the sole purpose of ticket orders. Advance sale ends on May 15.

For your friends who think they may not be on the mailing list, have them drop a card to the regular club post office box 1388, Rochester, N. Y. 14603. Brochures will be mailed to all who make a request.

HELP NEEDED - Retired amateur needs help with rotor installation. Has 60' windmill tower and needs help in replacing present prop-pitch rotor with HAM-M. Work to be done this spring. If you can help with this project, please give me a call. Joe Calzaretta, K2ZCU, 594-8114.

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FM NEWS and VIEWS

by Gary Hendrickson, W3DTN
from Auto-Call, December 1975

I would like to quote and paraphrase from a recent bulletin of the Dallas ARC:

When you transmit on a repeater input frequency, all stations monitoring the output frequency hear you...they have the following options for their response:

1. Listen to you without answering.
2. Switch to another frequency.
3. Turn off the rig.
4. Answer you and carry on a conversation.

REMEMBER, this is what their response means: 1) They don't want to talk to you. 2) They don't want to listen to you, either. 3) They don't want to talk OR listen to you, but they cannot switch. 4) All stations that did NOT answer or switch are still hearing YOU AND THEM! The latter group includes the control operator of the repeater.

There are probably dozens of listeners for every talker on the repeaters. Please keep your QSO's short and to the point, especially during the morning and evening rush hours.

Don't assume that all listeners want to join your QSO even if you transmit an invitation for them to do so. Also don't even assume that they enjoy listening to your QSO! DO use the repeaters! But DON'T tie them up for extended periods when other users may be waiting to use them for more productive purposes!

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