

The RARA RAG

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RaRa Picnic - June 5th

by Joan K. Vogt, WA2YTK

RaRa's last social event of this season is the club's annual picnic, June 5th, at Wadham Lodge in Powdermill Park. All RaRa members and their immediate families are most welcome. Joan K. Vogt, WA2YTK, is chairperson of "fun and games." She will be assisted by Florence, WB2QXB; Onnalee, xyl WA2ZNC, and Joyce, xyl WA2EKR. Plans are being made for activities for all age groups starting promptly at 3:00 p.m. Fun and games will include candy, balloons, paper airplanes, guessing games, relay races, and popular scavenger hunt, and for the older folks who are still young at heart, volley ball, badminton and bocchi game. For those of you who enjoy relaxing a bit, you might want to bring along a comfy folding chair. Promptly, at 5:00 p.m. a picnic supper featuring hots, pickles, potato salad, baked beans, potato chips, soft drinks, and ice cream will be served. Once again, that's Saturday, June 5th - don't miss this great event.

Outstanding Communications Support Provided Hike for Hope

by Jim Collinsworth, SEC, WB2EDT

Again this year, on May 16, local amateur radio operators provided excellent communications support for the Hike for Hope. This year's effort sounded to me like the most efficient effort we have ever provided for this event.

Much credit goes to the young fellows who coordinated this year's communications. Among others, much of the coordination came from Norm Schrader, WB2GGM; Jim Stefano, WA2YKR; and Bill Zack, WB2HDK, with much encouragement coming from Julio Ahumada, LU7BD. This crew (who also arranged for most of last year's support) did all of the advance planning and rounded up many of you who provided very efficient communications for the "hike" needs.

Much of the success is due to the technique of assigning each key "Hike Official" with a companion amateur radio communicator. Over the years in our public service and emergency communications projects we appear to have learned this lesson well.

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The 1976 season offers several new displays for visitors:

1. An outstanding collection of television camera tubes showing TV development from the earliest days to present.
2. The Museum is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Telephone with an exhibit of rare telephones two of which are on loan from the Smithsonian Institution dating back to 1878.

In addition, visitors can see a new solid-state display and listen (?) to several new amateur spark transmitters. Admission is free.

CAMPOUT JULY 16-18

The first RaRa campout for the 1976 season will be held July 16, 17 and 18 at Crazyhorse Campground located at North Java, N.Y. Those that attended the last campout at Crazyhorse will remember the ride on the Arcade and Attica Railroad and the installation of our 50' tower (a couple of times).

The time to sign up for an enjoyable weekend is now - so contact Rich Koehn, WB2SNA, or Ed Holdsworth, WA2EKR, as soon as possible to join us for another fun weekend.

We will be planning another weekend at this one, so if you are unable to join the group this time, contact us so we can include your name for future campouts.

WB2NSD is Amateur of the Year

Robert H. Lauzon, WB2NSD, was named Amateur of the Year at the 1976 Rochester Hamfest banquet.

Bob has helped hundreds of people get an amateur license in the past few years. He has been our licensing course director continuously since 1971.

The presentation was made by ARRL President, Harry Dannals, W2TUK.

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New 28/88 Repeater Installed

by Jim Collinsworth, WR2AEI, Trustee

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA), a RaRa affiliate, built and installed a completely new 2-meter repeater. The new repeater has some improvements and several new features, covered elsewhere in this issue.

The new repeater was made possible through the RRRA membership support of many people and through special contributions and diligent work of several people.

Hoisting the cabinet rack to the attic of Kodak tower was quite an endeavor accomplished by the diligent work of Jerry Wolf, WB2TJZ, and his Kodak Office crew.

The actual installation was accomplished on May 15 by Joe Hood, K2YAH; Ron Jakubowski, W2HXP; Harry Woodworth, WA2CED; Fred Shippey, WA2BQA; and Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT. Hams who helped build the new repeater or contributed parts include: K2YAH, W2HXP, WA2SDK, WA2THS, K2LZG, W2VS, WB2MDO, WB2JMX, WA2RYT, WB2CED, WB2YJH, WB2NBU, W2MPM, and, K2EAW.1

RaRa Election Results

Election of officers and board members was held at the Annual Meeting of RaRa on May 7. The results:

President: James P. Collinsworth, WB2EDT
Vice-President: Edward M. Gable, W2MP
Secretary: Alan Komenski, WB2ZFM
Treasurer: Leonard Gessin, WA2ZNC
Board Members:

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RaRa High School Seniors Receive Recognition

Achievements of a couple of outstanding high school seniors who are RaRa members and Advanced Class Amateurs have come to our attention.

Bill Zack, WB2HDK, who is class president at McQuaid Jesuit High School, has been accepted in the U. S. Coast Guard Academy. Bill (and father Stan, WB2PSA) have long been active in public service amateur radio activities.

Dave Eckerson, WA2DRC, has been named Valedictorian at Gates-Chili High School and has been accepted at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dave has been a very active traffic handler in the National Traffic System and has operated on the HF bands.

Probably, there are other seniors that we have not heard about who should receive recognition from RaRa. If you know of others, let us know.

New Repeater Features

by Joe Hood, K2YAH and David Holtz, WB2HTH

The new WR2AEI repeater (146.28/146.88 MHz) placed into service on May 15, 1976, has increased receiver sensitivity (less than .15 uv or 20 db quieting) and higher power output (about double its previous level). Here are some of its new features:

FREQUENCY LOCKOUT. When turned on by a primary control operator, frequency lockout prevents signals more than 3 KHz off frequency from keying the repeater. When the frequency lockout is turned off, the ID tone is low pitched.

OFF FREQUENCY INDICATOR. A station 3 KHz or higher in frequency will hear a high pitched tone emitted by the repeater when releasing its push-to-talk button. If the station is 3 KHz or lower in frequency, the station will

hear a low pitched tone when releasing its push-to-talk button.

GUARDED MODE. When undesirable weak signals from distant points are needlessly keying the repeater (during an inversion, for example), a primary control station can turn on the guarded mode. Listeners can recognize this mode by a slow repeater ID speed.

Here's how it works. When guarded mode is on and the repeater has been inactive for one minute, the repeater automatically goes off by the secondary control. It will ID when it goes off. To use the repeater again, you merely send the secondary turn-on code (2#8#) with your tone pad -- or a 400 ms. 1330 Hz (whistle) tone can be used.

RECEIVER SQUELCH. Can be set tight or loose by primary control. When the squelch is tight, the tail is short.

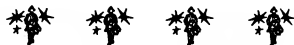
TIMER. The QSO timer length is two minutes and is based on the received signal. As before, the three minute transmitter timer is reset when the repeater transmitter goes off the air. Therefore, it is still necessary to let the repeater tail drop to reset the transmitter timer.

SQUELCH TAIL DELAY. The repeater will not emit a squelch tail unless it is keyed for at least three seconds.

POLITE ID. The ID will wait until your carrier drops, and, therefore, will not normally ID over your signal. However, if your signal is too weak and drops the repeater's receiver, the repeater will ID over your signal if it is time for the ID to run. This can also happen if your modulation is over 5 KHz and clips the repeater receiver squelch.

Received signals are locked out when the ID is running. That means that the ID level can be set low (.5 to .75 KHz deviation) and remain legal.

COMMANDABLE ID. If a "3" is included immediately following the secondary control touch tone "on" sequence, the repeater ID will run.



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