

The RaRa Rag

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SEPTEMBER 1976

NO. 1

W2CNS/8 West Virginia VHF/UHF DXpedition Featured at First 1976-77 Season RaRa Meeting

by Lester D. Mohicans AKA W2MPM

In welcoming you back to another season of RaRa activities we have planned a program that will undoubtedly prove to be most interesting and entertaining.

This past summer, Bob Nezelek, W2CNS, and eight other normally sane VHF/UHF enthusiast operated the June VHF QSO Party from Mineral County West Virginia. The logistics of moving complete all mode stations from Rochester, covering all bands 50 through 1296 mhz, complete with towers, antennas, and living quarters was no easy task.

Bob, and the "Panel of Experts," with the aid of a slide presentation, will entice us with what it took to work some 96 sections and amassing 50 thousand points.

I understand we will also find out what to do when poisonous (?) snakes decide to take up housekeeping on your guy wire anchors!

Along with W2CNS, the operators for this possible annual event were: WB2BGJ, K2LZF, WB2EVC/2, WB2KAO, WA2SEY, WB2WVL, K2LDU, and WB2ZKD.

Remember, this is your club. As this years VP and Program Chairman I am very anxious to hear from you, the members, concerning your ideas on programming or other RaRa activities. Your opinions will be heard, 5 by 9+.

The meeting will be held at the regular RaRa location, the Monroe County Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue, just east of South Avenue (across from Highland Park). The meeting starts at 8 p.m. on Friday, September 10th.

1976-77 Meeting Calendar

RaRa meets on Friday:

September 10, 1976

October 8, 1976

November 5, 1976

December 3, 1976

January 7, 1977

February 4, 1977

March 4, 1977

April 1, 1977

May 6, 1977

June is a Saturday picnic.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jim Collinworth, WB2EDT

Your officers and directors are working to make RaRa serve you better and to provide meaningful meetings, and services through the forthcoming club year.

Please pass along your helpful suggestions regularly to me and to your board (listed in each "Rag" issue). Also, jump in and participate in local activities. RaRa exists to help all aspects of amateur radio in our community -- to help individual hams; to provide a core of support for special interest groups such as affiliates like the VHF Group and repeater groups; to provide training for those interested in obtaining or upgrading licenses; to provide communications support for public service and emergency needs; to provide information and education to all hams; to enhance the operation of ham radio; to help represent amateur radio's best interests in FCC or legislative actions; and to provide activities that help you get the most value out of the amateur radio service.

RaRa can be successful in these endeavors only to the extent that we have your support, your thoughts, your cooperation, encouragement and even your membership. If you have never been a member--give us a try. We will try to keep the "Rag" informative and valuable. Our new program chairman, Ed Gable, W2MPM, is lining up the best series of meeting programs ever. RaRa and affiliates will continue to be in the forefront of providing public service and activities. If you have been a member in past years, rejoin us and help keep us on track, improving and progressing. Tell us where we can improve, and work with us. If you have always been a member--great--renew and keep a good thing going.

Sept. Meeting Date Changed!

It has been the rule that RaRa shall meet on the first Friday of each month, September through May for many years. The rule is still in effect.

In September (and October), we will bend the rule to cause the first meeting to be held on the second Friday, September 10. Remember, we meet on the second Friday, September 10.

The change was made because of Labor Day weekend holidays.

In October, we shall deviate from the rules again and cause that meeting to be held on the second Friday, October 8.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

All RaRa membership dues expire October 31st. Now is the time to renew for the upcoming season. As in the past dues remain as follows:

Yearly regular member	\$ 5.00
Family membership extra	1.00
Associate membership	2.00
Life membership	100.00

The life membership can be paid in full or in four equal quarterly installments. Life members receive a special call badge and certificate when the full amount has been paid. See membership chairman Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB, at the September 10th meeting and all following meetings regarding your membership needs.

VOL. 29 SEPTEMBER 1976 NO. 1

OFFICERS:

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Bulletins on Two Meter FM

by Dwight Hill, K2KWK

Each Sunday evening at 8:45 p.m. bulletins are sent by K2KWK, Official Bulletin Station for the American Radio Relay League. Frequencies are the 146.79 mhz WR2ABF and 146.88 mhz WR2AEI Rochester repeaters. Transmissions alternate each week from one to the other frequency coinciding with and preceeding the Monroe County FM Net on those frequencies at 9:00 p.m.

Material being sent includes ARRL Official Bulletins, W1AW Code Practice Schedule and Text references for checking copy, ARRL Operating Events (selected), Local bulletins and events upon request or notification, also selected excerpts from "HR REPORT". Pauses are made between bulletins to allow emergency priority traffic if necessary. Bulletins of more immediate interest will be sent as often as practical.

Each Wednesday evening between 9:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. K2KWK sends only the ARRL Bulletins as part of The Western District Net on the WR2AIU 146.64 mhz repeater at Wethersfield with coverage over most of Western New York and parts of Canada and Pennsylvania.

NEEDED: Schematic diagram for Central Electronics 20A SSB exciter. Will pay for copy or will copy and return. Jack Schanker, W2STM, 334-7175.

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Radio Society of Ontario Presents 9th Annual RSO Convention

Oct. 22-24, Don Valley Holiday Inn - Toronto

This is an invitation for you and your family to sit with your friends at the largest annual Amateur Radio Convention in Canada.

Advance registrations are now being taken for all the activities of the convention, and we advise you to make your reservations now.

The Friday Night Eyeball Buffet and Dance promises to be a gala evening, so come early and have a ball...an EYE-ball! The bar and buffet open at 7:00 p. m. with dancing starting at 9:30 p. m.

The Saturday Night Banquet and Dance will be held at 7:00 p. m. in the Main Ballroom. There are a limited number of tickets for this event as usual, and once sold, no additional tickets will be available. We suggest you order these immediately.

The Ladies Program includes a special bus trip to the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg, plus frequent buses to the shopping plazas and downtown Toronto. Other activities are planned for those who wish to remain at the hotel.

All tickets and program information, complete with map of the hotel area will be mailed to you promptly if we receive your application and remittance before SEPTEMBER 30th. After that date tickets and registrations will be held for you at the registration desk at the Holiday Inn. Write RSO Convention Committee, P. O. Box 313, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 2S7.

K2YAH and WBYZL on Program

Under the sponsorship of the Ontario ATV Association, Henry Ruh WB8HEE, publisher of A5 Magazine will describe the latest developments in ATV, and demonstrate the state-of-the-art equipment.

For those who saw the excellent presentation on Microprocessors in Amateur Radio at the Rochester Hamfest, will attest to its excellence. Jim Scheucker, WB2YZL, and Joe Hood, K2YAH, will present an updated version of their seminar on understanding these new devices.

Jack Reed, VE3GMT, and the Toronto DX Club will present a special and most interesting forum on all aspects of HF and LF DX.

Al Lowry, VE3AL, will present a most comprehensive forum on Antennas. So if you have an antenna problem, we are sure this is the place to solve it.

Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, is back at ARRL Headquarters, to edit the propagation coverage for QST. He will give us a summary of significant milestones in man's accumulation of knowledge about the sun, particularly those aspects of solar activity which affect radio propagation.

Larry Kayser, VE3QB, of Amsat Canada will present two sessions. Larry has all the latest information about Amateur Satellite Communications and will be showing his new operating prototype assemblies of Phase 111, and also describe the inter-connection by satellite of W,

VE, UK and JA Amsat Workers with tapes of actual contacts by satellite. His second session will be on Sunday morning, giving a live demonstration of communications through OSCAR, using newly developed transportable equipment.

Sunday's only other forum will be another interesting talk by Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, speaking on VHF Propagation.

We will then wind-up the 9th Annual RSO Convention with an EYE-BALL Sunday Brunch for which the Holiday Inn is famous.

Thanks for the Contributions

Since the last "Rag" was published, RaRa has received gifts from two of our members.

Thanks to Bud Young, WA2UGE, for the gift of a Swan 2-Meter FM transceiver for the K2JD van. Also, from Terry Oldham, WA2LDB, the gift of a Heathkit Apache transmitter and 20-meter beam for the club station. Terry is now living in the aloha state.

NEW DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

All RaRa members will receive a copy of the 1976-77 Rochester Area Amateur Radio Directory when they pay dues for the upcoming season. The Directory is available only to members and is not sold. New members also receive a loose-leaf cover for their Directory. Replacement covers are available at \$1.00.

CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL

The address label on your copy of the Rag is the information stored in the club Directory and Membership files. If there are errors on your label, such as your call, the spelling of your name, ZIP code, etc., please send a note to the club, Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603.

NOVICE "WN" CALL SIGNS TO DISAPPEAR

Beginning October 1, the FCC will cease issuing distinctive call signs to Novices. FCC states that the practice has created difficulties in processing applications, and has generally proven unsatisfactory. Starting October 1, Novices will be issued call signs that would not require changing upon upgrading to a permanent class of license. That is, Novices will be issued call signs with prefixes such as WA, WB, WD, KH6, KL7, etc. Those Novices currently holding licenses expiring October 1 or later will be automatically issued new licenses in the near future to reflect the changes. This group should continue using their Novice prefix until receipt of the modified licenses.

FOR SALE - Swan 250C & 117XC & TV2 (6 & 2 meter SSB/CW/AM); Motorola VHF mobiles; Aerotron VHF mobiles; GE VHF Portables. WA2ZNC, 381-7328.

Interference TVI, EMI, ECT

by Leonard Gessin, WA2ZNC

One of the services RaRa offers to its members is a standing committee to look into interference problems.

The vast majority of the interference problems are due to inadequate shielding, inadequate filtering, and many other design compromises in the devices experiencing interference. The general public as consumers of electronic home entertainment devices, can do very little to prevent, eliminate, reduce, or even diagnose a problem in a TV, radio receiver, electronic organ, stereo or other device. As radio amateurs using transmitting stations, we must be doubly careful that all systems are set up properly. Because you do not see or hear yourself in a TV set in your ham shack, does not relieve you of responsibility if you are causing interference to your neighbors set.

I have found throughout the past years when complaints come in that a very small percentage of hams are at fault. Our committee's have made recommendations in all cases to both the ham station, and the consumer as to what actions to take. We do not make any physical adjustments.

Most TV manufacturers will supply a free high-pass filter if you send them the model and serial number of the TV set in trouble, if interference is the problem. Most high-pass filters will prevent mild interference. For strong signal rejection only the Drake TV-3 HP is recommended.

If you have tried to solve a neighbors interference problem to no avail, send a letter to the club box with all details, or see a Board member at our club meetings.

I sure hope I do not have to work too hard this year OM, XYL, YL.

Hamfest Calendar

BOSTON

September 10-12, New England ARRL Convention. Info: George Stewart, 17 Barnes Ave., East Boston, MA 02128.

BUFFALO

September 18, Hamburg International Hamfest. Info: Bert Jones, W2CUU, 143 Orchard Drive, Kenmore, NY 14223.

ELMIRA

September 25, Elmira NY Hamfest. Info: WA2SMM, 320 W Ave., Elmira, NY 14904.

SYRACUSE

October 9, Greater Syracuse NY Hamfest. Info: R.A.G.S., Box 88, Liverpool, NY 13088

TORONTO

October 22-24, RSO Convention. Info: RSO Convention Committee, PO Box 313, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 2S7.

MCAFEE, NEW JERSEY

November 13-14, ARRL Hudson Division Convention. Info: Al Piddington, WA2FAK, 4 Acorn Drive, East Northport, NY 11733.



Perry Esten at W8BOX

A VISIT TO AN EARLY ROCHESTER DX STATION

by Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, Club Historian

International DX was only a few years old when I went on the air (1929) as W8ACY, and I was most impressed with the operation of the several big-time DX stations in the area. I listened with envy when I heard a local station qso some far-off station in Europe or Africa which I seldom heard let alone worked with my 2 watt single UX-201-A transmitter.

One day an older amateur friend invited me to go along with him to visit one of Rochester's leading DX men, Perry Esten, W8BOX who at the time was an engineer at WHEC. Arriving at the Grafton street address, we were ushered to his shack, and there for the first time, and considerably awestruck, I saw a high power transmitter, a single 204-A tube in a tuned-plate-tuned-grid circuit (see photograph).

Perry sat down and turned on his homemade two tube receiver (Schnell circuit) and with a little tuning we faintly heard a DX station from the horn speaker. What a thrill! My set was very erratic with hand capacity on 20 meters. 40 was a little better, but the only band which my transmitter would work properly was 80.

The antenna at W8BOX was the then popular rain-downpipe vertical consisting of three telescoped sections supported by a milk bottle. This gave low angle radiation for DX, as evidenced by the foreign qsl cards on the wall behind the transmitter.

Through the years I have managed to keep track of W8BOX. He left WHEC in the 1930's and was employed by several broadcast stations in the mid-West. Then he moved to New York with CBS and WABC. With Page Engineering he engineered and constructed several super-power AM stations in the Far East. His last position before retirement was Chief Engineer for the several high power "Radio Free Europe" stations with headquarters in Munich.

Amateur calls? In addition to W8BOX, he has held W2PC, W4PN, 5Z4PN, XDJØPN, KR6PN, DL4PN, etc. and is currently W6PN in Santa Barbara, Calif. Oh yes, he is still a DX'er with well over 340 countries to his credit. (Note his call letters "PN" are the first and last letters in his name.)

RECENT and CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The June picnic at Powder Mill Park was a resounding success. Thanks to all who made it possible. Thanks particularly to Joan Vogt, WA2YTK, for planning the games and activities that the kids enjoyed so much.

The RaRa Campout had about ten families participate in the trip to Crazy Horse Campground in North Java. Campout organizer and leader Ed Holdsworth, WA2EKR, reports that some longer jaunts may be possible if enough interest is shown. If you would like to participate in a possible week long Canadian expedition around Lake Ontario next summer, let Ed know.

Monroe County Fair, August 13-21, featured a very effective exhibit by RaRa. The attractive booth inside the dome featured a working station of our Heathkit SB-104 and a 2-meter FM station. Many people stopped, used the bank of telephones rigged up to the transceiver so they could listen to the two-way conversation. Forms were made available to sign up for fall license classes--starting September 20--at the Office of Emergency Preparedness Headquarters at Westfall Road and South Avenue. Many indicated a desire to attend the classes.

The K2JD badge making equipment also saw a lot of use in the fair exhibit.

A balloon race was part of the joint Aqua Festival and Bicentennial celebration just held. As I am writing this, the last-minute arrangements for amateur communications support are being worked out. Of course, by the time you read this the happening will have happened. If all went as planned, one hot-air balloon (called the hare) departed Genesee Valley Park during the weekend of August 28, travelled about 20 miles and landed. This was followed by about a dozen chase balloons (called hounds). The winner is the balloon able to land closest to the hare. Each balloon has its own chase crew who were accompanied by one of our amateur radio ops equipped with 2-meter FM and many other hams served as spotters. Amateur coordination was provided primarily by Howard Kingsford, WA2UEB, and Bud Young, WA2UGE.

Road Rally coming up September 12 from about 10:30 a. m. to about 4:00 p. m. Ed Holdsworth, WA2EKR, and Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ, will be coordinating a amateur communications at various check-points. About six hams will be used for the event. Another 400 miler rally will be held in early December running primarily in Pennsylvania. Some RaRa members will likely assist with that rally also.

September emergency exercise is coming up sometime between September 13 to 23. We should have a lot more information at the September 10 RaRa meeting. Basically, the New York State Office of Disaster Preparedness has set up a state-wide drill that will involve a lot of Rochester area services. We can expect some type of simulated aircraft disaster among other problems.

If you can volunteer to be on call to cover one of the local hospitals, be sure to let George Negus, K2IOU, know. Others will be needed at emergency sites and possible some evacuation centers.

Be at the September meeting and listen to the weekly 2-meter FM net, Sundays at 9:00 p. m., rotating between 28/88 and 19/79 repeaters to get more information as plans are finalized. Also, keep in mind that this drill is not an amateur radio exercise as such, but is a state-wide drill that will involve all local hospitals, ambulance services, local law-enforcement agencies and many fire, utility and other organizations. As in the past, we expect our communications services to be a valuable asset as other services become overloaded.

This is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the effective valuable resource amateur radio provides. Also, it is vital for amateurs to get such exposure and practice if they are going to be reasonably effective in a real emergency.

Ed Gable, W2MPP; Ed Holdsworth, WA2EKR, will be helping coordinate sign up and placement of amateur participants along with George Negus, K2IOU, and Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT.

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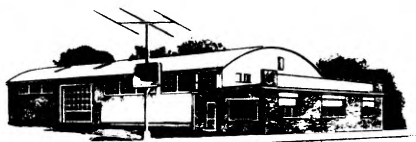
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