

# The RaRa Rag

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## Annual RaRa Auction Featured at the November 5th Meeting

by Dick Tafone, AKA W2MPM

Once again it's auction time at RaRa. This ever popular event will begin at 8 p.m. on Friday, November 5th. The normal meeting hall will not be used due to space limitations. Instead, the auction will take place at the Monroe County Fire Academy at 1200 Scottsville Road, just to the left of the Rochester Drive-In Theater. All parking and the entrance to the building is in the rear.

As in previous years, the auction is limited to RaRa members and one guest. Members will have to show their membership card to enter. Guests must register at the door.

As you know from reports here in the Rag and at meetings, there is a very large group of new associates members attending our licensing classes. At this time these people are looking for all kinds of basic equipment to begin their Ham careers with. Therefore, everyone is urged to purge their cellars and attics of unused gear to help our new members along. At the same time, however, don't bring pure junk! Let's face it, this is the solid-state age. Boxes full of 6SN7's and the like just aren't worth fooling around with.

The usual ten percent sellers fee will be continued and all gear displayed must go through the auction block - no prior sales.

The good people from K2JD Engraving will be present to take badge orders and other commercial exhibitors are encouraged.

If all goes according to plan (the order comes in) some members of the Board will be sporting the new official RaRa jackets. If there is enough interest shown these jackets will be made available to members at a nominal cost.

Come early to browse through the gear, the bidding starts at eight p.m. See ya there.

## Rochester Hamfest May 20-22

Plans are well underway for the annual Rochester Hamfest combined with the New York State ARRL Convention to be held the weekend of May 20-22, 1977.

Many new and exciting events are planned. Hotel headquarters is the Rochester Marriott. Hamfest will be at the Monroe County Fair-ground.

## Novice "N" Disappearing

The FCC has begun to issue regular WA and WB calls to novices who already hold a "WN" call. The action will make life a little easier and a little more difficult at the same time for novices. Easier, for it will not be necessary to replace QSL cards, name badges, etc., when upgrading to general or a higher class. More difficult because of the not-distinctive call.

Novices may, at their option, use slantbar-N after their call to identify themselves, example - WA2XXX/N. Other operators should extend every courtesy to operators signing slantbar-N.

The issue of the WA and WB calls to novices is automatic to those already holding WN calls. All new novices will automatically receive a WA or WB call. In some areas of the country, WD calls are beginning to appear.

The license itself now comes in a new computer generated tear-out form, just like some billing, tax statements and the like are currently generated. The new license is not as fancy as those in the past... but it's privileges are what counts, not the paper used for printing.

## TWO LETTER CALLS

The FCC has announced that effective November 2, two-letter calls with "X" as the first letter of the suffix will be available for assignment. This provides 52 additional two-letter calls for each call area. Also effective November 2, the "N" prefix block will be available to applicants for two-letter calls.

## DUES . . .

Membership chairman, Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB, has sent due bills to the few RaRa members who have not yet paid their annual dues.

If, by chance, you have already paid your dues and received a bill, please tell us. Such a situation can occur for two reasons. First, your check and the bill could pass in the mails. Second, believe it or not, we can make an error.

You can save time and postage by seeing Otto and his committee at the November meeting.

Those who have already paid their 1976-77 dues need not read this item any further.

# The RaRa Rag

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INCORPORATED

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# Where does the money go?

by Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, Club Treasurer

RaRa has been averaging 400 members a year, for the past several years, each paying five dollars dues. Wow, \$2,000.00  $\pm$ . What happens to the money, where does it go, what does it buy, and for who? Well, I guess I know since pay the bills.

The single biggest bill we have is for printing. That's the Rag (10 issues), stationery, envelopes, directories and tickets. Over a thousand dollars per year.

Our meeting awards cost us in the neighborhood of \$700.00. The ticket sales is around \$450.00. I have two columns going; one plus, one minus.

Next cost is our K2JD van and our OEP Ham Shack. \$450.00 in the minus column.

The Farm and Home Center (Monroe County Cooperative Extension) cost \$30.00 per meeting (7 meetings-\$210.00).

Our Insurance program (K2JD and liability) is a \$200.00 bill.

The Picnic has a tag of \$300.00 plus dollars.

Our Dinner-Dance takes in about \$600.00; plus column. The out cost is \$800.00; minus column.

Our postage costs around \$235.00. We give our VHF club a \$40.00 check to offset mailing cost for the VHF January contest.

This year, 1976-1977, we have started a refreshment kitty to help offset that expense and it works - about \$25.00 spent and \$25.00 collected (thanks to club members and guests).

We have purchased a raft of ARRL license manuals for our new member classes. What we spent, we got back in book sales to the class members.

The November Auction brings in \$100.00 dollars. If you added right, the minus column is a lot bigger than the plus column, and that's where our Hamfest comes in. That giant affair is paying for itself, and makes up RaRa deficits. That is why our dues do not go up.

Well, I think I have covered most everything. The books are open, and at each meeting for the membership to see.

We have started a Savings Account to offset costs for our 26 life members. Interest from this account applies to life dues. Any questions? See you at the November auction.

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# "THE FINAL SCORE"

by Orville F. Bauer, W2TEX

When disaster strikes, we are on our way,  
We listen for orders and then obey.  
We are sent where they think we'll be needed  
most  
and report our position, when we reach our  
post.

Now there are six stations with traffic galore  
While this one and that one has handled a score.  
We sit for an hour and don't get a call,  
Why did they send us here, they don't need us  
at all.

Now, there's so and so he's on message twenty-  
one

But, we get no call, our total is none.  
But, after an hour, there comes a blast  
It's a call for us, it's come at last.

The request is foolish, at least to me  
It has no importance, that I can see.  
But, we do our duty and fill the request  
Then settle again for a good long rest.

At last, it's all over, we get a call,  
Come to Headquarters, come one and all.  
They've handled vast traffic, the job was well  
done

But me by my lonesome have handled but one.

I soon arrive with a look of gloom  
Then the gang, they all shove me into a room.  
There I'm met by a man and his pretty wife  
My only message has saved her life.

Editor's Note: The above appeared as is in the  
October 1951 issue of RaRa Rag.

## Club Mailing List

The club mailing list - membership - is near the 750 mark. Each month, we must "buy" several address changes from the post office. When you move and fail to notify us to change your address, the postal service does not forward your Rag. Instead, they inform us of your new address, if available, and return the corrected address label to the club at a cost of 25¢ each.

Please be kind enough to send a note to RaRa, PO Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603 whenever you intend to make a move along with the effective date. Then we will be able to send your Rag to your new address and you will not miss any issues.

And, if your name, address or call is incorrect, please call it to our attention. The rules are about to change, dropping the "N" from all novice calls. Let us know if you become an "A" or "B" or whatever. If you have a call and none appears on your address label, tell us your call. It is certainly something you shouldn't keep secret.

FOR SALE: 2 rack cabinets with 6 meter AM transmitter, power supply, Eico modulator, all in good condition. 6 meter AM/SSB receiver with Collins filter, needs work. Best offer. WB2QXB, 663-0267.

# Rochester VHF Group

by Ed Valmore, K2EVJ

The second meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be held Friday, November 12, at 8 p.m., at the Monroe County Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue.

Our speaker will be Mike Baker, K2LZF. Mike has a background of some 20 years of VHF experience, and is currently active on 6, 2, 220, and 432 from his QTH north of Ithaca. He will describe methods of constructing and installing large VHF antenna systems. Proper support for large arrays can be a problem. A unique solution for the problem will be presented, along with slides of some typical installations. If you are interested in improving the performance of your station, don't miss this. Remember that better antenna/feedline performance will benefit you when transmitting and receiving. No other element in your system can provide simultaneous improvement in both areas.

The frequency counter mini-project is underway, and some 2 meter transverter kits are still available. More information about the projects will be presented at the meeting.

In the hope of stimulating additional interest in home construction projects and an interchange of ideas, members are encouraged to bring in VHF equipment they have built. The meeting room will be opened at 7:30, to provide some extra time for conversation.

The meeting schedule for the remainder of the '76 - '77 season is as follows: November 12, December 17, January 14, February 11, March 18, April 8 and May 13.

## K2UN Inaugurated at the UN

ARRL President Dannals, Vice-President Eaton, and Director Zak were present at the inauguration of K2UN at the United Nations in New York on October 21. ITU Secretary-General M. Mili was also in attendance. The organizers and members of the United Nations Amateur Radio Club deserve thanks for establishing K2UN at a location which underscores amateur radio's continued involvement in promoting international good will.

### SAVE MONEY

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# Portable & Mobile Identification Rules Changed

The FCC has taken action in Docket 20686, essentially adopting the changes in portable and mobile station identification procedures which were proposed in late January (April QST, page 48). Effective November 26, all requirements for prior notification of extended portable operation are dropped. FCC-licensed amateurs operating their stations at portable or mobile locations with FCC jurisdiction no longer will be required to indicate their portable or mobile status when they identify. There are no changes in the identification requirements for reciprocal licensees, who are still required to observe Section 97.313.

## ARRL Comments

The ARRL filing argued for elimination of the call area designator during portable or mobile operation within one's own call area, but for retention of the requirement at other times for a variety of reasons. While licensees will no longer be required to indicate portable or mobile status, they will be permitted to do so, and we might well indicate a requirement to do so in the rules for some of our contests and other operating activities in order to minimize confusion.

## RRRA Rochester Radio Repeater Association

by Fred Shippey, WA2BQA  
1976-77 Chairman

Our November meeting will be held on Friday the 19th at 8:00 p.m. in the basement meeting room of the Pittsford Library. Bob Nezelek, W2CNS (also known as AFW2CNS) will present a program on the Air Force MARS repeater system.

A second mobile radio 'parking lot' clinic will be held on Saturday the 6th of November at the Webster Tire World Store from 2 to 4 p.m.

Our October 'parking lot' clinic wasn't exactly an overwhelming success as there were more people present to help run the clinic than came in to have their radios checked. Our October meeting FM clinic was well attended, but I'm sure there are still plenty of 2 meter rigs around that could use a checkup. Stop by our November clinic with your rig whether or not you're a member of RRRRA.

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# DEAR CHARLIE;

I understand that all Technician Class licenses are "grandfathered". Does that mean that I must be a grandfather before I can get a Technician license?  
New Novice

Dear NN

Many Technician Class licensees are grandfathers, but many grandfathers are not Technicians. In case you "bust" (fail) the 13 wpm - code test when applying for your General Class license, but pass it at the 5 wpm speed, the FCC will (on request) administer the General level theory exam (element 3). If you pass the theory test, you too can be a Technician!

Questions for Dear Charlie? Write him at RaRa, PO Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603.

# TRIGGER TROUBLE

The Attorney General of the State of Illinois has asked for a permanent injunction halting the operation of Trigger Electronics, River Forest, Ill. The Attorney General alleges that Israel Treger, who operates Trigger Electronics, has been guilty of violations of the state's Consumer Fraud Act and the Illinois Deceptive Practices Act because of his false and misleading advertising. The Attorney General alleges that Treger has been guilty of refusal or neglect to ship items of equipment ordered by consumers, demands for extra payments before shipment due to price increases occasioned by Treger's own late delivery, and constant employment of delaying tactics in response to customer inquiries about their pre-paid orders.

The Consumer Fraud and Protections Division has requested that individuals who have complaints against Treger, and who have not yet communicated them to the Attorney General, forward them to that office at 134 N. LaSalle Street, Room 204, Chicago, Illinois 60602, attention Jon McPhee.

# INTERFERENCE

The FCC has asked the assistance of the International Telecommunication Union in resolving the harmful interference which is originating from somewhere in the vicinity of Minsk in the USSR and which consists of 10-pulse-per-second signal sweeping the spectrum from 5 to 17 MHz.



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## Propagation Forecast Bulletins

ARRL has begun an improved series of W1AW propagation forecast bulletins. Each Friday, mail service from Boulder permitting, ARRL will prepare a 100-word summary of propagation prospects for the following week and month. The first such bulletins was added to the schedule Friday, October 15.

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