

The RARA RAG

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Television Direct from Satellites at the January 7th Meeting

by Lynn Eeuramp, AKA W2MPM

At our December meeting we were all entertained and well informed about television transmission techniques using cable. Along the same lines, at the January meeting the fascinating topic of television direct from orbital satellites will be discussed. We have all watched TV programming "via satellite." These transmissions are from an earth station to a satellite, back down to another earth station and then retransmitted by cable or your local TV stations to the home. However, picture if you will direct consumer use of these satellite signals whereby the big TV yagi on the roof is replaced by a small dish and converter - instant DX television! Sound futuristic? Not really. The topic will include the past, the present, and the future of this existing technology.

Our distinguished speaker for this presentation will be Mr. David Ferre'. Mr. Ferre' is a Field Service Engineer for RF Communications. He has traveled the world over providing support for NASA's numerous Satellite Tracking Stations and has published many articles on this and similar subjects.

Once again we are back to the usual meeting hall at the Monroe County Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue. This January meeting will start at 8:00 p.m.

For those of you who were really looking forward to the presentation on the Instrument Landing System at the Monroe County Airport, don't give up! We are presently trying to reschedule that program for the near future.

Don't forget the January VHF Sweepstakes contest on the weekend of January 8th and 9th. This is a big yearly event and we should all do our part in supporting the Rochester VHF Group in their never ending quest for first place. Details on this elsewhere in this issue of the Rag.

Happy New Year.

NO LICENSE FEES!

A Public Notice has been issued by the Federal Communications Commission announcing the suspension of all fees for all radio services effective January 1, 1977. Details on page 5.

Annual Valentine Dinner-Dance

The annual RaRa Valentine dinner-dance will be held at the Americana Towne House on February 12th. This is your chance to impress the XYL with a great night out thanks to your hobby of Amateur Radio.

Things will get underway with cocktails at 7:00 p.m. in the Towne Room followed by a dinner of Veal Cutlet, Marinara or Beef Burgandy complete with appetizer, salad and dessert. Of course there will be flowers and other surprises for the ladies.

Following dinner we will be entertained by the "Flower City Four", a musical barbershop comedy group. For those who wish, there will be music for dancing in the lounge of the Americana Towne House following our program.

Tickets will be available at the January RaRa meeting and from the officers and directors of RaRa at \$10 per person.

NOVICE & GENERAL CLASSES

Due to demand both Novice and General Class courses will be held this spring. They will start on February 28, 1977 at a location to be announced in the February issue of the RaRa Rag.

The courses will run simultaneously on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and will last for 12 weeks ending the Monday before the Hamfest so those in the General Course can take the examination at the Hamfest.

Due to the fact that the same instructors will be handling both courses they must be limited to 35 people each. Applications should be mailed to Bob Lauzon, WB2NSD, Drawer G, Pittsford 14534. Preregistration is essential and applicants will be accepted in the order their applications are received.

The only cost will be RaRa dues plus the cost of a License Manual and a 50¢ registration fee. If RaRa dues have already been paid and a License Manual already obtained then the 50¢ registration fee will be the total expense to the student.

Novice code will be taught from zero to 6 WPM. General code from 6 WPM to 15 WPM.

Both Novice and General theory will be taught on a programmed seminar basis which has been quite successful in the past.

If you know of any person who wants to become a Novice please tell them of this announcement. We assume that those who want to become General Class operators will read this in the Rag.

The RARA RAG

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hr REPORT

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FCC EXAMS AT HAMFEST

The FCC will conduct Amateur License examinations at the Hamfest for Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra classes. Examinations will be scheduled beginning at 9 a. m. and continue throughout the day. Examination time will be assigned by the FCC after receipt of your application and you will be notified of the time by return mail. If you do not obtain an appointment prior to the Hamfest, please stop at the FCC examination area at the fairgrounds at 9 a. m. to make an appointment for examination.

Application for examination should be submitted prior to May 15 to the Federal Communications Commission, Federal Courthouse, 601 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19106. Enclose the \$4.00 filing fee and mark your 610 form "For examination at the Rochester Hamfest".

Now you have that opportunity you've been waiting for to upgrade your license without making a special trip to the FCC examining office-- and you can have the advantage of taking the exam in congenial surroundings to lessen the examination jitters. Make your trip to the country's finest hamfest even finer by bringing home a new license!

START STUDYING NOW AND BE SURE TO GET THAT 610 FORM FILED WITH THE PHILADELPHIA FCC OFFICE BEFORE MAY 15.

Associate Editor Named

Beginning at the start of the New Year, Dwight Hill, K2KWK, becomes associate editor of the RaRa Rag.

Dwight's prime function will be to gather the information from the regular contributors and other sources. Harold Smith, WA2KND, will continue as managing editor and will handle the production and distribution of the Rag.

Regular contributors (and anyone who has copy for the Rag), should now direct their material directly to Dwight Hill at 265 Norcrest Drive, Rochester, NY 14617. He must have your copy by his closing date, preferably sooner. Closing dates for the balance of the winter-spring 1977 season are:

February edition - January 15
March edition - February 12
April edition - March 12
May edition - April 16
June edition - May 14

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CQ SS de K2EVJ

Next weekend will find members of the Rochester VHF Group attempting to saturate the ether with electromagnetic radiation. Activity may be expected on all bands 6m. to 23 cm. Transistors will be stressed to the limit; occasional glass encased valve may be seen to glow brightly --without failing-- as the final strains to penetrate the QRM. The occasion is the 30th annual January VHF Sweepstakes Contest.

I would like to encourage members and non-members alike to join the fray. Break out your VHF gear, old or new, and get on - AM, FM, CW or SSB. The more participation, the more fun will be had by all. Individual scores will be increased, and even non-members can contribute to the club score by contacting as many members as possible.

Contest rules appear on page 87 of the December 1976 issue of QST, with additional information in QST for January 1977 (page 73). So get on the air January 8th and 9th, then submit your contest log to Andy McCaskey, WA4MTP/2, 808 South Lincoln Road, East Rochester, N. Y. 14445. No score is too small to submit. Good luck!

Lockport Auction Sat., Jan. 29th

Once again the Lockport Amateur Radio Association, Inc. is holding its popular Ham Radio Auction. Due to the popularity of this event, it had become quite crowded in past years at our old location.

In response to this enthusiastic turn-out of the past, this year's auction will be held in larger quarters at the Niagara County Cooperative Extension Fairgrounds, also known as the Farm & Home Center, on Route 78, north of Lockport. The date set is Saturday, January 29, 1977 at 7:30 p.m.

FOR SALE - Standard Horizon II w/ 04/64, 16/76/22/82 34/94, 69/09, 52/52/94/94. \$225. Chuck Bliley, K2NAO, 276 Wildbriar Road, 14623. Phone 334-2904, after 6 p.m.

SALE- Lafayette HA-800B rcvr. - works on all bands 80-6. Good condition, about 3 years old (need money for college expenses) \$60.00. Tom, WB2IEY, 131 Church Avenue, Macedon, 14502.

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ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

by Ed Valmore, K2EVJ

The January meeting of the VHF Group will be held at 8 p.m. on the 14th. As usual, the meeting site will be the Monroe County Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue.

No doubt there will be some discussion of contest activities, but the center of attention will be our speaker, Mel Wilson, W2BOC. As a result of his many years of detailed studies of sporadic E propagation, Mel has become a nationally respected authority on VHF propagation. He will present our group with an overall view of VHF propagation characteristics. If you're a newcomer to the VHF bands, you'll find out what you can expect from aurora, F2, Sporadic E, scatter, and other modes. The oldtimers will no doubt pick up a few tips on the subtle details too. A considerable part of the enjoyment of VHF communications is in upgrading your station and operating technique to allow taking advantage of propagation outside the 25 to 50 mile ground wave range typical of many stations. Mel's talk will point out what you may have been missing - so you won't miss it again!

As has become our custom, the meeting room will be open at 7:30. Bring your home built gear in. Show us your progress, or get a suggestion or two on your problems. See you there.

Last RaRa Rag For Some

As always at this time each year it is time to remind a few club members that -- they are about to become non-members, and this is the last copy of the Rag they can expect to see.

All club memberships expire October 31 of each year. The club By-Laws indicate that members are still in good standing for an additional 60 days. That extends the absolute date until midnight December 31.

Check to see that you have a current membership card. If not, send your check today. Dues are \$5 for regular (licensed) memberships, \$6 for family memberships and only \$2 for associate (unlicensed) memberships. Checks should be payable to: Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. and mailed to P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603.



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Army MARS Looking for New Members

by Ronald J. Jakubowski, W2HXP/AAM2HXP

The Rochester area New York State Army MARS is starting a membership drive to expand the ranks of the system. The MARS system is looking for dedicated traffic handlers who are active on SSB, CW, RATT and 2 FM. What is Army MARS? MARS stands for the Military Affiliate Radio System and was started shortly after World War II to be a training ground for teaching Amateur Radio operators military operating procedures and practices. The country was grateful for the service provided by the Amateurs in the Signal Corps during the war, and MARS was formed to keep the lines of communications open between the Amateurs and the military.

From these beginnings, the mission that has evolved for the Army MARS system is twofold: 1. To handle morale and welfare traffic for active members of the service and other authorized service-connected personnel in the U.S. 2. To be prepared to provide back-up communications for the Army if normal dedicated channels become unusable.

Army MARS then is primarily concerned with traffic handling and training in net operations and procedures. The Army MARS nets operate on military frequencies, many of which are directly adjacent to the Amateur bands. All modes are used, and we even have a 2-meter repeater operational in Rochester, other benefits besides the satisfaction of performing a useful communications service are:

-----Technician Class licenses can operate SSB on the HF nets.

-----Novice Class licensees can operate voice on MARS 2-FM.

-----MARS licensees are issued distinctive Army call signs to use on Army frequencies.

-----Operating expenses and travel expenses to MARS meetings are tax deductible (most all major ham fests have MARS meetings and forums).

-----Army Reservists may claim MARS operating time towards their retirement points.

-----Occasionally, surplus equipment becomes available for issue to active members to fill operating or maintenance requirements.

Activity is the prime prerequisite for becoming and remaining an Army MARS member. A member must submit a monthly participation per quarter. This participation time can consist of net operation, equipment maintenance, preparation of training, travel to and attendance at MARS meetings, etc.

Army MARS is a very rewarding subdivision of the Amateur Radio Hobby and we would like to see more area Amateurs join us. If you think you'd be interested, or would like more information, contact W2HXP at 482-6308 or on the air.

Is OEP Really Gone? What Happens Now? PREPARE FOR THE 1977 SET

by Bill March, WA2CER

RaRa OEP Liaison Committee Secretary

The 1977 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is just over three weeks away. Full details are in the December QST on page 82. As usual, the Monroe County AREC organization is planning full participation during the SET period of January 29-30. Although the nature of the simulated emergency is not announced in advance, planning meetings will involve participants from several Western New York counties.

The object is to practice your traffic handling skills. To participate, keep an ear on the local repeater or HF emergency calling frequency, for the start of activities. Then send a couple of messages. Or join your local traffic net. Those with emergency power for HF as well as 2 meter gear will be needed to get messages into and out of the National Traffic system. Lets make this SET a good one.

At the time of this writing, the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness has been eliminated by a budget cut. There may be a small chance of reinstatement. But most likely, the local RACES group will be left without a civil defense organization. As a result, plans are proceeding to affiliate the RACES/AREC activities with another local government organization in the event OEP is nonexistent. Nevertheless, your local RO/EC Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, is open to suggestions.

Also of interest is the use of the building facilities for the club station, K2JD, and amateur licensing classes run by RaRa. At this time, the possibility of continued use of these facilities appears excellent. However, the latest information should be available at the meeting this Friday. See you there.

FOR SALE - Heathkit SB303, solid state receiver mint, \$250.00; Motorola BY450 base, \$100.00; Hallicrafters SR42 with VFO, 2 meter AM, \$100.00; 8 channel VHF Scanner, 5 xtals, \$75.00. Len "WA2ZNC", 381-7328.

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LICENSE FEES SUSPENDED

From HR Report Dec. 24, 1976 - Suspension of FCC license fees will go into effect January 1! The fee suspension, announced at a Dec. 22 press conference, will apparently apply to all FCC licenses -- broadcast and commercial as well as Amateur and CB. It's the result of a court decision announced December 20, outcome of a suit brought by cable TV and other interests, who had charged that the FCC's fee structure was arbitrary and thus improper.

Implication of the suspension, particularly to the logistics of Amateur and CB licensing, are far-reaching. Starting January 1, all checks and money orders sent with license applications themselves would have to be returned, to be resubmitted without the fee.

Duration of suspension will probably depend on Congressional action; other details were still being worked out at presstime. Suspension of license fees could favorably affect growth rate of Amateur Radio if historic relationship between license application and fees still holds.

Citizens Radio Service Reorganized

On December 15 the FCC adopted a third report and order in Docket 20120, changing the name of the Citizens Radio Service and implementing an editorial reorganization of Part 95 of the Rules. The name of the Citizens Radio Service was changed to the Personal Radio Services. The Class A Citizen Radio Service was changed to the General Mobile Radio Service, the Class C Citizens Radio Service was changed to the Radio Control (RC) Service, and the Class D Radio Service was changed to the Citizens Band (CB) Service. The Commission stated that the re-organization is an interim measure to assist licensees in understanding those rules which they must know. The re-organization and name changes become effective January 27, 1977.

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