

The RaRa Rag

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The Rochester Amateur Radio Association

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VOL. 29

JUNE 1977

NO. 10

Florida Trip Planned -- Next Winter

One of the very best things about living in our part of the world is our ability to leave the frigid weather behind in February and take a vacation in the warm Southland.

Although it may be warm and comfortable now, you can be assured that another winter will be upon us sooner than we wish.

On the weekend of February 16 through 19, 1978, you will be able to get away from the cold Northland and spend an extended weekend in Orlando and Disney World. You'll even be able to attend the annual Orlando Hamfest, held that weekend.

Plans are being drawn up now to form a tour group of RaRa members and their friends. We will fly from Rochester to Orlando on the morning of Thursday, February 16. Return to Rochester is on Sunday evening, February 19. The three night stay in Orlando will be at the Sheraton Twin Towers site of the Hamfest. Also included will be a day at Disney World and/or the Kennedy Space Center. A car rental will also be included. IF - we get at least 40 to make the tour, we can get a special price of approximately \$250 per person. The price includes the air fare, hotel, car rental, and admission to Disney World. To accommodate a group our size, we must have space reserved by Labor Day.

SEND - a card or note (no phone calls, please) to Harold Smith, WA2KND, 153 Mason Avenue, Rochester, NY 14626. List the names and addresses of people who are interested to take advantage of the offer. Remember, it is open to RaRa members and their friends. Send your card today.

When enough have signed up for the tour, we will have our travel agent arrange the details. If the magic 40 number is not achieved, you will be advised -- if you have indicated an interest.

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Other times may be arranged for group visits, contact Charles Brelsford, K2WW at 244-9519 for appointment.

GOOD NEWS - BAD NEWS

At the Annual Meeting of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, held each May, there was good news and not so good news.

First the good news ... officers and board members were voted to office for the 1977-78 season. Elected were:

President: Edward Gable, K2MP (W2MPM)
Vice-President: Leonard Gessin, WA2ZNC
Treasurer: Ronald Jakubowski, K2RJ
Secretary: Otto Bluntzer, WB2RBJ

Board members:

James Collinsworth, N2JC (WB2EDT)
Robert Erskine, W2NVZ
Edwin Holdsworth, WA2EKR
Howard Kingsford, WA2UEB
Alan Kominski, WB2ZFM
Frederick Shippey, WA2BQA
Harold Smith, WA2KND

The not so good news ... it was unanimously approved by the membership that the dues be raised. For the upcoming season, dues are \$6.00 for regular memberships; \$3.00 for associate (unlicensed) memberships; and \$1.00 additional for each member of a family applying for family membership. The special rate applies only to members of a family residing in the same household. \$1.00 of the dues paid for regular or associate memberships is your subscription to the RaRa Rag. Family members will not receive a copy of the Rag unless an additional dollar is paid for their own copy.

This is the first dues increase in many years. The RaRa officers and board members are to be commended for keeping our dues so low for so long. As a matter of interest, the national average radio club dues are much higher than ours.

RaRa Takes a Vacation

Each summer the Rochester Amateur Radio Association -- and the RaRa Rag takes its vacation during the months of July and August. There are no formal activities scheduled during that time.

Club meetings will resume in September. The fall meeting schedule will be listed in the September edition of the Rag.

An amateur licensing class will start up in the fall. Interested people should send a card to the club post office box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603.

The RARA RAG

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The Rochester Amateur Radio Association
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Vice-President: Edward M. Gable, W2MPM

Secretary: Alan Komenski, WB2ZFM

Treasurer: Leonard M. Gessin, WA2ZNC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Edwin Holdsworth, WA2EKR

Ronald Jakubowski, W2HXP

William March, WA2CER

Harold Smith, WA2KND

Ralph Young, WA2UGE

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Licensing Course Director:

Robert Lauzon, WB2NSD

Member Chairman: Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

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hr REPORT

Greenville, NH 03048

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

by Ed Valmore, K2EVJ, Past Chairman, Rochester VHF Group

The last meeting of the 1976-1977 season was held May 13. The most important item on our business agenda was the election of officers for next season. The nominating committee's selection of three very capable individuals was elected by a unanimous vote of the members present. Our new officers are:

Chairman: Floyd Koontz, WA2WVL

Vice-Chairman: Ray Leigh, W2SNI

Secretary/treasurer: Rick Hambly, WB2TNL
Watch for the announcement of our first fall meeting in the September Rag. In the meantime, enjoy the summer, but don't forget VHF activities entirely -- now is the time for antenna work (don't be misled by those of us who put up antennas the morning of the January contest).

As for summer operating, some very interesting propagation can be expected, including Sporadic E on 6 and 2. Extended ground wave, ducting, and temperature inversions will occur on all the VHF bands. In fact, these conditions have already provided some fine DX recently. On 6 meters, all 10 continental call areas were worked by area amateurs, including QSO's with Arizona, California, Nevada, Montana and Wyoming. Other interesting VHF DX included Labrador, Newfoundland, the Bahamas, Jamaica and Mexico. And, the Hawaiian beacon KH6EQI has been heard.

W2CNS/3 - - -

The June VHF contest is now history. In addition to some of the DX mentioned above, our local VHF DXpeditionary group has again made its mark. As a follow-up to last year's West Virginia trip, the crew traveled to Delaware this year. Although the results aren't yet tabulated, a good time was had by all, working 50, 144, 220, 432, 1296 --- and 10,000 mc. W2CNS/3 was getting close to 6 meter WAS when the contest ended, and made what is probably was the first Delaware - New Jersey contact on 3 cm. With Delaware a relatively rare state on VHF, W2CNS/3 was much in demand on all bands. Now the question is: how will they top it next year?

Who's Who

K2YAH is now K2YA

WB2NSD is now K2RL

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Amateur of the Year — Vivian Douglas, WA2PUU, receives plaque from Harry Dannels, W2HD, ARRL President and Harry McConaghy, W3SW, ARRL Atlantic Division Director.

SOME NOTES

ablevision connectors of the F-59 and F-61A variety are extremely low-loss connectors at 70 cm. While they fit RG-59 cable, they can be fitted to RG-58. Solid conductor cable must be used rather than the more flexible stranded type.

Want to have continuous weather reports on your 2M rig? Well, most FM transceivers are sufficiently broadbanded to allow reception of U.S. and Canadian reports by installing the proper receiver oscillator crystals. U.S. frequencies are 162.40 and 162.65 MHz.

Thanks to "The Ontario Amateur"

SILENT KEY

WB2NJE, "Fi"
Leech H. Fifield
Honeoye Falls, NY

LETTERS

Each year an Amateur of the Year is selected for the outstanding work they do for the rest of us. A plaque award is made at the annual Hamfest banquet. This year's award went to Vivian Douglas, WA2PUU, of Syracuse. She has 'done it all' and continues to spend a great deal of time helping the amateurs in the Syracuse area. Just a few of the things Viv does is: Edit the club bulletin; hamfest organizer; license class instructor; an ARRL assistant director; an ARRL public relations assistant; writes a weekly column for the Syracuse newspaper; was able to help the Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse build their membership from only 100 to over 300 in a few short years. Here is a letter to the selection committee from Viv.

To That Special Top Secret Committee

After two weeks I am finally drifting down off "cloud 9" where I have been in a happy and still surprised daze from being honored as "Amateur of the Year" at the Rochester Hamfest and New York State Convention.

Each day I hear of more hams who knew of the big "secret" and I am amazed that they all kept it so well. I had absolutely no idea I was being considered for this award.

Amateur Radio has played a special part in my life since I took it up 7 years ago and as much as I enjoy operating CW, I have also enjoyed working for our club, RAGS, and helping to promote better public relations for Amateur Radio thru the Ham Radio Column I write, and training Novices. It has been "my" pleasure, all the way.

The Instant Camera I received has snapped many a picture so far and I am really enjoying it. How did you know that was exactly what I wanted?

I sincerely thank the committee for the special honor you gave me and I hope I can be a part of the ham fraternity for many years to follow. It makes the statements so true "It's a small world, isn't it?", and "Hams are special people."

My grateful thanks,

"73"
Viv

CQ

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ROAD RALLY

Saturday, May 14, saw the departure of 21 hearty Rochester Area Amateurs heading for the northern reaches of the Pennsylvania mountain country to be joined by 8 amateurs from the Wellsboro, Pennsylvania area. The event was the Susquehannock Trail Pro National Road Rally sponsored by the local Rally Clubs. This was an all night Road Rally to test men and machines as they battled the dust to see who could survive. The route traversed the mountains of northwestern Pennsylvania over a route that covered 375 miles of dirt logging roads. Our job was to provide safety communications between state crews and the base station in Wellsboro.

The group left the area at approximately 11 a.m. Saturday, met in Wayland, NY, had lunch and arrived in Wellsboro at 5 p.m. After signing in and setting up the base station, the crews headed out with their stage crews to their first got together for breakfast and headed home.

The contingent from Wellsboro included: WA3DPV, K3PSO, K3CKB, K3GYZ, WB3BIN, WA3FWQ, J. Winkler and D. Learn. Those from Rochester were: WA2GHQ, WB2ZFM, WB2MDC, W2MPM, WA2UGE, WB2SNA, K2RJ, WB2UTM, WA2IMQ, WB2FGY, WB2IEY, WA2YTA, WA2EJU, WA2CER, K2SQI, W2SNI, WA2EKN, WB2HWO, K2CKN, WB2BWQ, and WA2EKR.

EDITOR'S INCH

Welcome to the new "good-ol-days"!

Twenty five years ago it was a challenge in itself to get information about ham radio or even to find a radio ham. This was enhanced by living in a small village whose only connection to Rochester was a day trip on a low speed busline. But the effort and planning for a day in "the city" was worth it because of several well stocked parts emporiums. Most equipment then was homebrew, not seeing the commercial gear, didn't seem to matter as the prices were out of sight anyway. Then several things happened in technology, business and distribution.

Eight to fifteen years ago the outlets had dwindled to one who was very disinterested in individual sales. Purchasing parts for individual experiments or construction required a highly developed begging skill. Though prices of commercial gear eased as it became more popular you could forget about ever seeing anything in Rochester. "There's no market for it."

Today we have a brand new ball game that seemed to begin about three years ago. I am glad to see that things in the last year have really begun to swing. Now in "little, out of the way" Rochester, including its suburbs, you can buy parts both new and/or high priced from fancy places or you can buy new and/or used at low price from a place that looks like a factory stock area. Pinch me - I can even shop for price and quality!

The finished goods can be seen, touched and operated at stores advertised in this newsletter. If you look in the clean front window (not the back corner counter) of one of our advertisers you can feast your eyes on several real transceivers. You can get overcome and have to take one home without hearing a whimper about the store loosing its "demonstrator". They will just go unpack another one. And then there are kits - some locally and expertly engineered, assembled and stocked; and some from out of town. Wow - this is really high living for the hams of Rochester!

How did it get this way? Some of us opened stores and plenty of us patronize them. A business wants to keep paying the rent, help and overhead. To do this it is mandatory to have satisfied customers. If sales are made at rock bottom prices then the store folds. If prices are higher than national advertising then there are no customers to satisfy. It is necessary to the customer and the store to arrive at a price that is fair to both. As any store manager should know, that's how you satisfy a customer! Availability for after the sale service is also important to the customer. After all - packing, shipping and insurance to send your new gear out of town for warranty service can cost y the extra 2% or 4% you held out for, plus time off the air.

What we have here now is worth keeping, you and I can do our part to enjoy it and be sure we keep it for the good-ol-days ahead.

Dwight Hill, K2KWK

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QSL CARDS

Canadian - American License

The United States and Canada have a agreement to honor amateur licenses from one country in the other. Here in Rochester we live close enough to the international border so that it takes a great deal of sense to be able to freely use your equipment in both countries.

The procedure to do this is simple, free, and applies to both amateur licenses and citizen operators. The permit for U. S. operators is issued by the Government of Canada, Department of Communications and it can be made valid as long as the U. S. license is in force.

The only formality is to request and complete the D. O. C. form 16-52, then forward it to the convenient District Office as listed below. Alternatively an applicant may telephone the District Office, supply full details over the phone and get the permit sent directly back.

Dept. Of Communications
9th Floor, Room 909
55 St. Clair Ave. E.
Toronto, Ontario, M4T-1M2
(416) 966-6289

"Operations of a radio station in Canada are required to conform with the provisions of the Radio Act, and Regulations made thereunder, copies of which may be obtained from the Queens Printers, Ottawa." There is a nominal fee. Or an extract of the Canadian rules, Form AR-5-80 is available at the District Offices. Other books include: "The Canadian Amateur Radio Regulations Handbook", \$2.25 from C. A. R. F., Box 356, Kingston, Ontario K7L-4W2; the "Ham Handbook for Beginners" and the "Ham Handbook for Advanced" each \$5.30 from ARTA Publishing Co., P.O. Box 571, Don Mills, Ontario.

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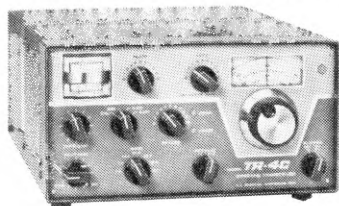
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