

The RARA RAG

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RaRa to Hold Valentine Dinner-Dance February 11th

Throughout the year, one Friday night after another, we Rochester Area Hams are attending one amateur radio related function or another. Yes, three or more Friday nights each month, we have left our y1's or xyl's sitting at home taking in a movie or sitcom on the television.

Once each year, the members of RaRa gather to show our appreciation for all the understanding we have received throughout the year, and we do it at our annual Valentine Dinner-Dance. Each year this has been a gala event with dinner, entertainment, gifts for the ladies, and just plain good times. You're welcome to come even if you choose not to bring a y1.

This year's affair will be at the Pittsford Tavern on the Mall, 3400 Monroe Avenue, opposite Pittsford Plaza. A cash bar will be available starting at 7 p.m., with dinner promptly at 8 p.m. The dinner selections include broiled sole, breaded veal parmegian and roast sirloin of beef. Please specify which you prefer when purchasing your tickets.

Tickets will be \$10.00 each and can be purchased at the February RaRa meeting or by contacting Alan Komenski, WB2ZFM, at 248-2497 or Howie Kingsford, WA2UEB, at 392-7827.

LICENSING CLASS

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The Licensing class will commence on February 20, 1978. Classes will again be held in the County Building at 350 East Henrietta Road starting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday evenings. They will finish on May 15, which is the Monday preceding the Hamfest. Classes for both Novice and General Code and Theory will be held and consideration is being given to teaching the Advance Theory. Sign up with Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, or any member of the board early to secure a place and to receive all details on the classes. A mailing will be made by early February with complete details, to those that have registered.

February Third - ITU NITE!

And what is ITU you say? Well, it stands for International Telecommunications Union. So what, you say! Well, would you believe, this group of representatives from every country in the world is going to meet next year and talk to each other. They are going to discuss the frequency spectrum. Guess what? All the amateur bands are part of the frequency spectrum, (and/or located therein). In fact every electromagnetic transmission (radio wave that is) has a space somewhere. We all hear a few that can be heard in a lot of places sometimes. So - back to ITU.

ARRL has put together a tape and slide show, guaranteed to confuse, astound, enlighten and learn you more than you care to know (right Ed?). How has the spectrum been divided up the way it is? Are our amateur bands safe, as we know them? Is there room for emerging third world countries to get their share of the frequencies available? I hope these questions will be answered Friday nite as well as many more that are asked. See you Friday, February 3rd at the Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue at 8 p.m.

CLUB STATION K2JD

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

Our club station is now available to club members on a 24 hour basis. The only requirements are - Membership in the club, an Amateur License, and be checked out on the use of the equipment. We will issue a special pass to those that have been checked out to enable them to gain access to the station.

The station consists presently of the SB 104, SB 220 and the necessary accessory gear in a console built to house them. We are still working to expand our antenna system to work all bands and hopefully in the near future we will sport a new beam. We are also working to build two complete novice stations. We have at present all the necessary gear to set these up and all that needs to be done is to build the console and install antennas.

Anyone who is interested in working on the station, wants to get checked out or just wants to see it is welcome any Monday evening.

This is your station and the more interest in it the more it can be developed, so pass along any suggestions or comments - We'll be glad to hear from you.

Rochester
HAMFEST

MAY 19-21

Details Next Month

The RARA RAG

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The FCC vs Auto & Phone Patches

by Ed Gable, K2MP, President

Recent literature prepared by the FCC and the League has indicated a renewed and intense interest in the use and abuse of Amateur privileges concerning Autopatches and Phonepatches

The FCC, which regulates the use of the entire radio spectrum, hears complaints and comments from all sources. These include: 1) Telephone companies who feel any loss of revenue will adversely effect their massive capital equipment investment. 2) The Commercial Communications people (RCC) who complain competition from a non-commercial service is a threat to their livelihood, and 3) governments of certain nations which prohibit Amateurs from handling third party traffic internationally in competition with government owned telecommunications services. This factor alone could carry significant weight during 1979 WARC.

The question facing Amateurs is this: Should phone patches and autopatches be subject to reasonable voluntary restraints, thereby preserving most of our traditional flexibility, or should we risk forcing our government to define for us specifically what we can and cannot do? Experience has shown very clearly that when specific regulations are established, both innovation and flexibility are likely to suffer.

Therefore, it is urged that all Amateurs look closely at their activities concerning auto and phonepatching. As guidelines, consider the following: 1) International phonepatching (and formal traffic) must only be made with countries having third party agreement with the U.S. 2) Phone or autopatches involving the business affairs of any party must not be made. 3) Calls to place an order for a commercial product or service must not be made, nor is the calling of one's office to leave or receive messages permitted. However, calls in the interest of highway or personal safety are permitted. 4) Phone and autopatches made solely to avoid toll charges, or when normal telephone service is available, should never be made. Last but not least, if you have any doubt as to the legality or advisability of a patch, don't make it.

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NEED A QSL ADDRESS? CALL THE LIBRARY

by Ed Gable, K2MP, President

We are pleased to announce that under a new agreement between the Rochester Public Library and RaRa, area Amaterus can now call the Library for addresses from the Callbook. Both the U.S. and Foreign reference are available.

You should call directly to the Science and Technology department at 428-7327, and request the address by call letters. Although no maximum is specified, common sense should prevail. We could quickly ruin this fine service by requesting excessive numbers. As a guideline we suggest a maximum of five requests per call.

Under this agreement, RaRa purchases the Callbooks for the Library on an annula basis.

At this time we should thank Virg Dumond, WB2FGY, who was instrumental in arranging for this service.

The Rochester Public Library also has other items of interest to the Amateurs. These include a complete set of Sams Photofacts, a large assortment of ARRL publications, (also donated by RaRa) years of QST, and many technical references. The Science and Technology department is located in the Southeast corner of the main floor and is certainly worth a visit.

RRRA Meeting Notice

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association will be back in its regular location for the February meeting. The date is Friday, February 17th. The meeting place is the Pittsford Town Hall.

Following the monthly business meeting, a program on Aviation Electronics will be presented by Fred Shippey, WB2BQA, and Kent Hemphill. Fred Shippey is last years RRRRA Chairman. Kent Hemphill is a pilot and owns his own plane. Both Fred and Kent are Air Force Reservists and actively working with the Civil Air Patrol. They will be describing, with the aid of slides, types of aircraft navigation and communication equipment; and, how the pilot uses the airways system and other electronic aids in light and heavy aircraft. A list of aircraft frequencies commonly used will be available for those who like to "listen in".

Refreshments and informal discussion will round out the evening. See you on February 17th at the Pittsford Town Hall.

Richard J. Koehn, K2UW
Program Chairman

WELCOME BACK:

Two hams recently returned from hospital visits are Lee Zwack, W2WPF, and Roy Driscoll, WB2PMM. Welcome back to the joys and pursuits of family and radio hamming.

February is Novice Month or a sure-fire boost for your fist

by WB2CHO and K2KWK

Just like the January Super Bowl culminates the football season, February is the highpoint of the operating year for all amateur radio's newcomers, regardless of license class. ARRL has sponsored a Novice Roundup every year since the Novice license was born in the early 1950's. And this year Technicians can operate on an equal basis with Novices. If you miss your NR, you may look back years later and sorely regret it.

Check into the latest issue of QST for all the details you need to enjoy and compete in the 1978 NR. This year it runs from February 4 - 12. However this is not a marathon like some other contests, you can operate thirty hours maximum. Most activity is on the weekends and evenings during the week.

What are the benefits to you? First, if your entry has the highest score in your ARRL Section you get a very handsome certificate. Just for sending in the entry your call sign and score will be printed in QST. If you include a picture, it may get printed too. Some of your contacts will undoubtedly be some new states for your WAS Award from ARRL. The biggest reward for you is not quite so tangible though. As you operate you will be under the gun to get call signs and sections correctly copied. Some will be sent too slow and some will be sent faster than your most comfortable copy speed. Point is, it's a rare case when someone does not increase their code speed during the NR. You may hear lots of "old-timers" in your novice band during the NR. They are there for one reason: to help you. There is nothing in it for them . . . no awards, probably no new states and maybe they don't need the code practice.

When the NR is all over you may well wonder how you accomplished so much in such a short time. Your cw skills will be higher than ever before in your ham career. Many Novices plan to take the General exams right after and often the 13 wpm seems slow after some furious flurry in the contest. If you are at a plateau in your code skill try the hot stove and the NR, chase the ill winds of February. You won't regret it!



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The Radio Amateur's Journal

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WR2AOX

This UHF-FM repeater is located on the roof of its sponsor, RF Communications Amateur Radio Club, at 1680 University Avenue. The goals of trustee John F. Davis, Jr., WB2UVJ, are to provide a state of the art communications repeater on the 450 MHz FM band, in hopes of promoting increased activity in that band. From the street level elevation of 475' above sea level the Phelps-Dodge 10dbgain Superstationmaster Antenna rises to a final height of 600' a.s.l. Frequencies are 449.4 MHz input, with the output at 44.4 MHz. Club members involved with installation and maintenance are WB2UVJ, WA2EWU, WA2ZKD, WA2LVO, K2LDU, K2RJ, K2OEQ, WB2YRL, and WA2MZG.

The list of repeater equipment is as follows: Harris/RF YP-4525 Repeater, 20 watts output; Decibel Products Duplexer; Bramco Tone-Touch Control Unit #MD435; VHF Engineering CW Identifier.

Currently under construction for addition are a Harris/RF 80 watt power amplifier, a DK Industries Super-Select Pre-amplifier, and a Data Signal RAP200 Phonepatch unit. In the future the Club proposes to add 24 hour battery back-up and a home brew phone interface. The equipment is controlled by touch tone over phone line and secondary via the input frequency, with hopes of a future auxillary link method.

Our thanks to Jim Lill, WA2ZKD, for the above details. It is our intention to have a story each month on one of our local repeater stations and herewith extend the invitation to each trustee to send details to the RaRa Rag.

ARRL TECHNICAL SERVICE

A total of 967 members used the Technical Information Service offered by ARRL during the three months ending October 31, 1977. It is of interest that two out of five inquired by telephone. About one fourth were from non-amateurs.

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Rochester VHF Group

The February meeting of the Rochester VHF Group will be held Friday, February 10th at 1680 University Avenue.

After your participation in the January VHF Sweepstakes you may wish to see how your score helped the club effort. In order to participate in the awards available you must submit or deliver your log on Friday, February 10th. You do not have to be there but your log sheets must be.

The VHF Group antenna project became a resounding success with 55 hams joining the project efforts. About half of these are the cross-type useful for ssb and oscar, so there might be lots more signals in the lower half of Two Meters.

See you February 10th at 8 p.m., don't forget your log!

Floyd Koontz, WA2WVL

A SMILE

A smile costs nothing but gives so much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it.

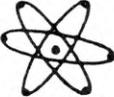
A smile creates happiness in the home, foster good will in business, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.

Tnx HAM HUM

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CQ EMERGENCY

from "Auto-Call"

Tnx: THE HILLTOPPER, Tomkins Co. A.R.C.

What will you do next time the call comes?

Will your equipment be ready to go?

Will you know what frequency to tune to?

Will you know what place you will be needed in?

Perhaps the regular Field Day practice runs aren't quite enough. The locals in Johnstown, Pennsylvania are likely mulling over just this question right now.

It seems that the local authorities in Johnstown didn't really know what to do with all the help available to them from the state of Pennsylvania and neighboring states. What's more, the local Civil Defense authorities apparently couldn't figure out who was running the show, according to well placed local sources.

This kind of a situation obviously will not do. It leaves ready, willing, and capable radio amateurs sitting on their hands wondering, "What am I putting up with this nonsense for?"

It also leaves the public without the communications services that it so desperately needs in time of emergency.

While it seems that the first two questions asked at the beginning of this article must be answered by hams themselves, the answer to the last question should be in hand NOW.

PLANNING on the part of local and state authorities in cooperation with area amateur radio operators is how to get the answer.

PLANNING will determine what areas are most likely to need communications in an emergency.

PLANNING will determine how best to assist local public safety and welfare agencies when they lose their own communications systems - and make sure these agencies know what to expect from the radio amateurs.

PLANNING will keep the collective tempers of a lot of edgy, nervous people under control since everyone will know what is expected of his talents and abilities.

PLANNING, alone, will make sure that the public will be well served next time there is a Johnstown, or a Grundy, or an Agnes, or a Camille.

PLANNING will only be done if you and I work through our local Emergency Coordinators and prod the politically appointed Civil Defense chiefs to do their job.

Let's get to it. We won't know the next time the call "CQ EMERGENCY" will be heard in the ether.

They thought Johnstown was flood-proof! Remember?

RHYME TYME

from Auto-Call

God has given us two ends with a common link,
With the one we sit; with the other we think.
Success in (hamming) depends which we choose:
Heads you win, Tails you loose.

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NOTICE:

Closing date for March issue is February 10th.

QUOTABLE:

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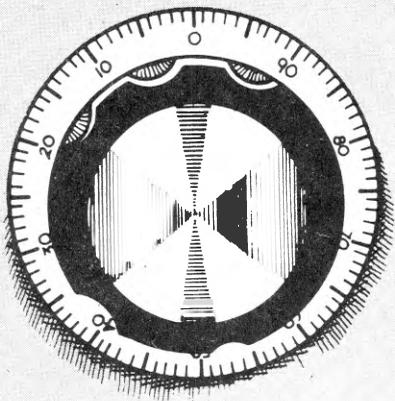
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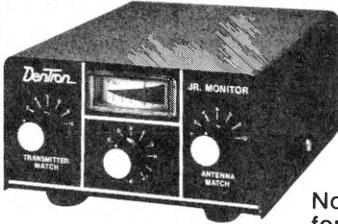
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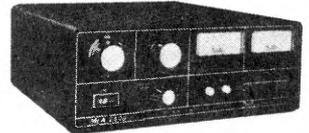
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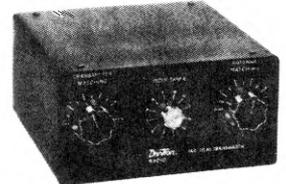
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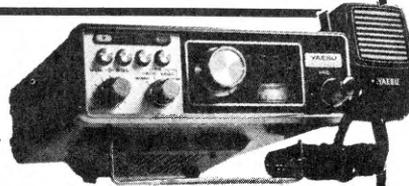
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