

# The RARA RAG

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**Rochester  
HAMFEST** MAY 19 - 21

Soon the greatest amateur radio event in the northeast will happen, the annual Rochester Hamfest on the weekend of May 19-21.

The Rochester Hamfest is also combined with the New York State ARRL Convention. Site of the event is at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. Hotel headquarters is the Rochester Marriott Inn.

A brochure will be mailed the first week of April to all the Rochester area amateurs. An additional 10,000 brochures will be mailed to others outside our area who have attended the Hamfest in the past and who have written for information.

At noon Friday, May 19, the huge Flea Market will open at the Fairgrounds. The Flea Market will operate continuously until Sunday afternoon. On Friday evening, the annual Funfest will be held at the Rochester Marriott. Entertainment will be provided. There is no charge. Meet your friends at the Funfest and in the exhibitors hospitality suites.

On Saturday, all activities move to the Fairgrounds. Doors to the Dome Center will open at 8:30 a.m. for all day exhibits and programming. At 9 a.m., FCC test will begin. Applications for examinations must be submitted prior to May 14 to the Federal Communications Commission, Federal Courthouse, 601 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Mark your 610 form "For examination at the Rochester Hamfest".

Saturday evening, all activities return to the Rochester Marriott for the annual Banquet and Awards Presentation. A main event at the banquet is the naming of an Amateur of the Year. Are you that amateur? Could be!

Also on Saturday, a shopping tour, fashion show and a makeup workshop will be presented for the ladies.

On Sunday, the scene shifts to the Dome Center where doors will open at 9 a.m.

Tickets will be available in April. Unlimited transportation is still only \$3.50 in advance, \$4.00 the gate. Children under 12 are admitted free. Banquet tickets are \$8.50. Indoor Flea Market tickets are \$5.00 for each table while outdoor Flea Market tickets are \$1.00 per parking space.

It is strongly suggested that your out-of-town friends who will need hotel rooms make their

## March 3rd Meeting - Q. and A.

by Len Gessin, WA2ZNC

Our March 3rd meeting will be a question and answer session. There are many many times, in the operation of our station, that questions arise. Copy machine permitting, we hope to have a hand out at the door so each attending amateur can jot down a question to ask. Leave some room to write down an answer.

On stage will be a panel of local amateur operators with special abilities in different areas. These are: antennas, high (hf) and very high (vhf) frequencies, receivers, transmitters, converters, stations accessories, etc. All of these areas may be topics for questions from the audience. The chalk board will be available both for explanations and for those who wish to copy something and try it later. All answers, including verbal ones, may be written down for later reference.

Are there questions that your RaRa Board Members and/or elected club officers can answer?

See you Friday night, March 3rd, at 8 p.m. at the Monroe County Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue.

## JOINT AUCTION: VHF GROUP : REPEATER GROUP

On March 17th at the Police/Fire Training Center, 1190 Scottsville Road across from the Monroe County Airport at 8 p.m. The Auction is open to members and associate members of RaRa, RARRA and VHF Group. Bring equipment for sale already tagged including sellers name and call or address. Anticipated auctioneer will be K2MP. Both VHF/UHF/Microwave and HF equipment is welcome.

reservations early. They should contact the Rochester Marriott (or the hotel of their choice) directly.

To add a name to the mailing list send a card to: Rochester Hamfest, Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603.

Want to participate on a Hamfest Committee? Just contact the committee chairman of your choice. His name will appear in the Hamfest brochure.



# To Build or Not Build, That Is The Question

by WD8DYC, from Toledo Journal

calling the article in last months "Journal" which glorified the wonderment of the Heathkit Micoder II, it seems like a most appropriate time to list those rules developed by the wonderful engineers in Benton Harbor for the benefit of those who have never attempted to construct their very own Technological Terror. Having built about a dozen or so kits, I have found these axioms to be priceless in their wisdom. Among the most important of the Golden Rules is:

"Experience varies directly with the amount of equipment ruined."

This main rule should be foremost in the mind of any kit builder. The more equipment you can ruin, the better off you will be. Think of all the valuable information you will gain by soldering your thumb to the base of a transistor. You will learn for instance, that your soldering iron is plugged in and working. You will gain the knowledge that it does so by transferring heat to an object brought in contact with it. If you have a friend who is a Physicist, he would probably pat you on the head and say "Good".

After the hammer and chisel, crowbar and vise grips have cooled enough and you have put them away, you can remove the contents of the v mangled box. When you dump the millions parts onto the bench you will discover two additional Heathkit axioms.

"The accessibility, during recovery, of small parts which have fallen from the work bench varies directly with the size of the part and inversely to its importance in completing the kit".

And... "The OHMIC value of a left over resistor varies directly to the frustration in determining where it should have been installed".

Now, at last, your fingers are unsoldered, all of the replacements for all the parts you ruined have arrived in the mail, and there is

only the normal number of components remaining, the initial testing can begin. It will be at this time that you will find the last few guidelines to be worth their weight in cut off resistor leads. Namely:

"The probability of a given event occurring is inversely proportional to its desirability."

"If it works; you have done something wrong."

"When all else fails, read the instruction book."

And last but not most important...

"No kit is ever a total failure...it can always serve as a bad example."

## RFI BOOKLET

The U.S. Government Printing Office has just released a new 33 page booklet titled "How to Identify & Resolve Radio-TV Interference". Using color illustrations, this booklet tells the viewer/listener how to identify the interference source and how to resolve the problem as it applies to TV, radio, stereo, electronic organ, or related audio equipment. Lots of helpful do-it-yourself advice is provided, guidelines are included to help decide which problems can be self-fixed and which are best left to professionals, and special technical sections are furnished to help service personnel and neighborhood radio operators eliminate interference. You may obtain this book by sending \$1.50 for S/N 004-000-0034504 to the Public Documents Distribution Center at Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

## FOR SALE

New Wilson T-1405SM 2 meter, 1 and 5 watt switchable handie-talkie. Extras include touch tone pad, crystals, monolithic filter, telephone type microphone, case, manual. Rig was purchased direct from factory. Call Phil Schrage anytime at 271-2699.

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# Local Paper Features Ham(s)

# EQUIPMENT SALE BAN

by HR REPORT, Feb. 10, 1978

We wish to thank Mr. Dave Stearns of the Rochester Times Union for his fine and accurate article, with photograph, which appeared on Friday, January 20th.

Also appearing in the Times Union on Thursday, January 19, 1978 was an interesting article concerning third party traffic to Queen Elizabeth from President Carter via KM1CC, the Marconi 75th Anniversary Station set up in Wellfleet, Mass. We welcome the interest of Mr. Stearns.



The late Mr. Edison certainly had a knack for developing pertinent devices and ideas, we all agree. One of his basic precepts - there is no such thing as a stupid question, only some answers qualify as stupid.



Be sure to consider our advertisers when thinking of expanding or updating your station equipment. You will find them eager to accommodate your questions.

## To Cycle 21 by Dwight Hill, K2KWK

Hooray, Hooray-March has begun, look, they tell us - that's the Sun! The days grow longer, our hopes get stronger. Oh yes! Spring will be sprung, and 'specially for you and me, the delights of Cycle 21 are begun.

What's What? A Cycle 21? Look with care upon the Sun, where those spots begin to heave. Oh solar flux, t'will wax and weave. Joys of meters 15 and 10 t'will improve while afficiandos of 160 begin to grieve.

Hooray, Hooray, here is our Sun! Push that Key - let the "barefeet" run. Cycle 21 hamming has begun, do come out and join the fun.

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QSL CARDS

FCC's ban on marketing 23-channel CB sets also extend to quite a bit of amateur equipment, at least some of which was not intended. In January 30 release explaining the ban, the FCC describes one category of equipment whose sale is strictly forbidden as "Any receiver or transceiver which has a separate band to receive CB signals and which has not yet been approved by the Commission..." This definition includes not only some of the frequently misused types of recent amateur multiband transceivers, but (for example) the Collins 75A receiver series from the 1950s when 11 meters was an amateur band!

When The Question was raised with the FCC the response was simply "We're looking into it." In the meantime, its not only illegal to sell an FT-101 with 11 meters on the band-switch, but also a Collins 75A3 - even amateur to amateur! The FCC's position is made quite clear in their release, with sales between individual level is impossible to achieve.

A Petition To Waive the FCC's marketing ban for used 23-channel CB radios has been filed with the FCC by Davidson Supply Company, Box 5387, Greensboro, North Carolina 27403. Comments on this petition must be submitted to the FCC by February 24."

## FROM THE TOWER TOP

by: Tweety and Little Bird

"You'll have to repeat that transmission. My wife just said something to me also, and both things went in my ears at the same time and got lost!"

"This is the coldest seat in the house" reply - "Do you have a rig in there too?"

"Amateur Radio, 90% repairing - 10% operating"

"I have the bug to get a automatic keyer".

"I wouldn't mind having a C.B. rig but right now I can't afford a linear."

"I guess I'm ready for the test but I don't understand Murphy's Law"... reply - "Well thats Murphy's Law, not understanding."

"I'm going to have to get a farmers almanac or else take the weather just as it comes."



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### The Radio Amateur's Journal

14 Vanderventer Ave. Port Washington, N. Y. 11050

# AMATEUR RADIO

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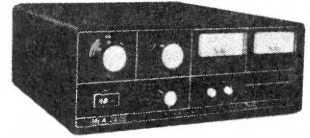
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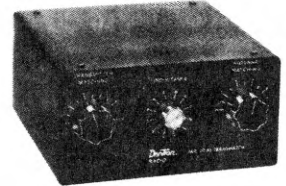
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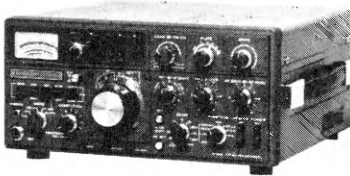


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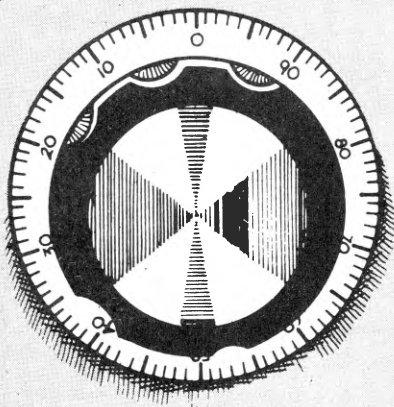
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