

The RARA RAG

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APRIL 1978

NO. 8

AWA - "ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION NIGHT"

by Len Gessin, WA2ZNC

The Antique Wireless Association was founded and chartered in 1952, here in New York State. And, as is our custom for the April meeting, the AWA will present the program for April 7th. Their special presentation will be a film called "Polar Adventure".

This original film is with commentary by Bud Waite, W2ZK, of Oceanport, New Jersey. There are spectacular color aerial views of Antarctica. In addition to the trip to the South Pole, the film has a trip to a Russian amateur station as well as several KC4 stations.

Bud spent over thirty years in the polar regions and was one of the three men who rescued Admiral Byrd in 1934. W2ZK has been mentioned in stories and pictured in National Geographic many times.

Our program will be introduced by Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, RaRa club Historian, AWA Secretary and Curator of the Radio and Communications Museum, East Bloomfield, N. Y. W2ICE will have on display several antique artifacts from the Museum.

See you April 7th at 8 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center on Highland Avenue.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

by Ed Gable, K2MP

I know it may be hard to believe, but that time is drawing near again to elect RaRa officers and Board members for the 1978/79 season.

According to our Constitution, the following actions will take place. A nominating committee has been formed consisting of Bud Young, WA2UGE as Chairman, with George Negus, K2OIU; Tom Woodford, K2TXO; and Len Gessin, WA2ZNC. Mr. Gessin is an ex-officio member of the committee.

The committee will report their slate to the membership at the April meeting. At that time nominations will also be accepted from the floor for the positions of: Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and members for the Board of Directors. Seven Directors are elected. The Vice-President assumes the office of President for the following year.

The actual elections take place at the Association's Annual Meeting in May. The Commit-

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Bob Erskine, W2NVZ, Membership Chairman

Did you know that we belong to the largest amateur radio club in New York State? I have been checking our records and note that we have about 720 paid members. We are still taking applications for membership each day. There are about 535 members with a valid call-sign. One hundred fifty-three members are not yet licensed associate members. Thirty-two amateurs are "life members" of RaRa.

Last year we had about 690 total membership with a similar percentage of associates and life members. Thus far we have had at least 500 of last years members renew. RaRa has expanded its membership tremendously over the three hundred or so members of just a few years ago.

RaRa membership comes from more than just hams in the local Rochester area. We have members from as far away as New Zealand, California, Arizona, parts of New England and many of the southern states.

Our neighbors in Syracuse, the RAGS have a club of about three hundred members. In Buffalo the BARA does not have that many as there are quite a few separate organizations.

I think that most of our growth this year may be attributed to the high interest shown in the RaRa sponsored code and theory classes for Novice and General. The VHF Group and RRRA Group (repeater) are fine examples of satellite clubs to support the varied interests of the Rochester amateur.

I think we should all feel proud to belong to such a tremendous organization as RaRa. It is such because all the members seem to put forth a special effort. Remember . . . without your support we cannot continue our growth as the largest single amateur radio club (and a very harmonious club. ed.) in New York. Next year lets try for the biggest in the country!

Rochester HAMFEST

MAY 19 - 21

Brochures and Program in mail now. Look for your copy soon.

tee's slate and any other nominees from the April meeting will appear in the May issue of the Rag. Only Full Members of the Association are eligible to vote and hold office.

The RaRa Rag

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OFFICERS:

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The Antique Wireless Assn., Inc.

The Antique Wireless Association was founded in 1952 by a group of amateur historians and collectors bent upon exploring and preserving the history of wireless communications.

There are more than 1,700 members in the Association world-wide. Among them are leading scholars, statesmen, scientists and industrial leaders and scores of old time pioneers in the practice of telecommunications, from Marconi ship and shore operators to hundreds of amateur radio operators who earned their expertise in the days of the spark gap and the coherer. In addition there are scores of knowing antiquarians who have saved from oblivion literally thousands of artifacts from earliest wireless days, more than 28,000 of which have found a place in the Antique Wireless Museum, now newly located in East Bloomfield, New York, near Rochester.

The Antique Wireless Museum itself sprang from a nucleus of thousands of pieces of wireless equipment collected over 22 years by Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, AWA's present secretary - an industrial engineer and wireless enthusiast. With generous donations from fellow collectors, the Museum has grown to first rate stature. Housed originally in a reconstructed carriage house in Holcomb, New York, near Rochester, it now has been transferred to much larger and more secure quarters in a newly-restored 136-year-old Academy building owned and shared by the Town of East Bloomfield Historic Society. The Museum is open May 1 to Oct. 31.

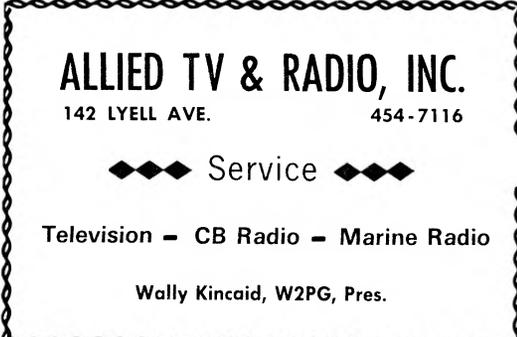
The new Museum quarters in the East Bloomfield Academy Building feature a large general exhibition hall plus complete replicas of early wireless stations, a vast vacuum tube collection and scores of wireless components. The Museum's resources include a large and comprehensive library of books, periodicals, photographs and documents - basic to its research and the sharing of this knowledge with others.

Applications for membership are invited from among those who have the same serious interest in AWA objectives as those who have furthered its work and who are today shaping its future. For details write: W2ICE, c/o AWA Museum, East Bloomfield, New York or in Rochester; K2WW or W2LC.



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EDITOR'S INCH

The previous members of RaRa are transmitting a welcome to the new members of our license class begun on February 20th. You are what is happening in ham radio today. By the mere fact of your presence you have taken a giant step to getting a new or up-graded license. It can be done - it has been done by others before you. But it can't be done until you decide you want to and will do it. That is 95% of the key to the ticket. Of course you should make all the classes you can. I highly recommend you do something with your code each day from now through the course. You will be pleased at the edge this will give you in the test, whenever you take it. If you do this - you need worry little about the problems with occasional letters, or a seeming slowness of speed, or call letters and punctuations. I also advise that in class, if you have the slightest question, see that you ask it. You can be sure that in a class of forty some others will think of it but not ask - and more that didn't think of it will still benefit by the answer. Your teachers are expert and experienced and are there to guide you to the goal, but the power comes from you.

It is real interesting to see your class, intent and hopeful faces all. There is a carpenter grinning proudly who brought his wife to join his hobby. There is a computer man suffering the pangs of the high speed cw for the privilege of using the high grade voice gear at his companies radio club. There is a man who has sailed and navigated his own 23 foot boat to Bermuda and back last year, all on his own. There is another local sailor who has been all over the North Atlantic and Caribbean with his family. There is a YL with a real knack for cw. There are a husband and wife together. There is a plumber who is now so busy in retirement he can't believe the fun this is getting to be... There is a mother and son, tired at the late hour but determined. There is a cb mobile rig with dual antennas, but not the correct distance apart - wonder when one will move to the center of the roof and the other go into storage?

You all have a closeness in the classroom, a camaraderie. Is it the common goal or the common problems? Is it the cw language now becoming familiar enough to be a valuable tool and common bond? Or is it that you are more confident now that the introductory hurdles are conquered?

Whatever - single factor or many factors - you are off on quite an experience in your life.. Your experiences will be a direct result of what you put into it, no matter what happens to regulations, licensing, sunspots, technology, and finished factory equipment, etc. So welcome to our classes, and to ham radio - we are glad to have you join us. .

RaRa FIELD DAY ACTIVITY

by Ed Gable, K2MP

After many years of absence from the Field Day scene, the RaRa Board is again encouraging activity in this annual June event.

To you Old Timers out there, I'm sure many of you remember fondly the old South Hill FD site and the good times had by all. Linc Cundall, W2LC, reports that "open air facilities" were an order of the day!

For you new comers, Field Day is an open contest event held every year in June. This year it is the last weekend in the month. The object is to set up your station(s) in tents, campers, and the like, and contact as many other stations as possible during the weekend period. This is probably the most popular operating event of the year. It started out as a test of emergency preparedness, but is now that plus a guaranteed good time.

Right from the start, let me warn all interested in participating should be prepared to put forth an effort to build antennas, determine the site, locate equipment, assign personnel, etc, etc. This also means a couple of work sessions prior to the event. Now if you're still interested, read on.

Two RaRa co-chairmen have been selected. They are Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB, and Fred Shippey, WA2BQA. Contact either Otto, Fred, or myself and you will be put on the list. All members are welcome. RaRa will subsidize a portion of the cost for this operation, especially with the hardware. However, it is the usual practice for participants to share in the cost of their food and other items of similar nature. CQ FD anyone?

A hearty "Get Well Soon" goes out to Mel Wilson, W2BOC, who is home resting after a serious illness. Mel, a long time RaRa and VHF Group member, is recognized throughout the nation as an excellent speaker on VHF propagation.



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New Communications Technique

The FCC recently announced approval of a new digital voice modulation (F3Y) to increase security of emergency communications. If the scrambled transmission is heard on a non-compatible receiver it resembles static or a slight increase in noise level. The FCC expects this new technique to reduce disruption of safety services communications. Also approved at the same time was (F9Y emission) using high speed digital methods for sending non-voice information. The FCC said that new interim emission limitation standards were now required to prevent adjacent channel interference. FCC stated that the adoption of more complex scrambling methods had become desirable since inexpensive high quality monitor receivers had become available to the public.

FOR SALE

From the estate of WA2YFD, by appointment with Mrs. J. Lautner, call 624-2509 after 4 p.m. Heath SB-102, w/spkr. pwr. sup. Mint, \$350; Heath HW-16, w/pwr. supply, \$75; Heath HM2102, Wattmeter, \$20; Heath T-4, Signal Tracer, \$20; Heath PM-2, Rel. Pwr. Meter, \$10; Heath AK-7, Mobile Spkr., \$5; B&K Coaxial Switch, \$7.50; Yaesu 101B Spkr., \$25; Regency HR-212, w/pwr sup., xtals, \$150. Technicians Delight; boxes and cabinets of radio parts, tools, fittings, etc., best offer over \$50.

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VHF GROUP: April 14th

The Rochester VHF Group will meet Friday, April 14th, at 8 p.m. The meeting will be held in the cafeteria of RF Communications, 1680 University Avenue. The meeting details are not complete at the time of this writing (Mar 17) but will be announced via mailers. If you attend any meeting and get your name and address on the roster that is passed around you will be added to the mailing list for meeting notices. See you April 14th.

R.R.R.A. - LADIES NIGHT

As in the past, one meeting in our yearly schedule is set to provide an evening out for XYLs and YLs, (stags also welcome). The April meeting will take place on Friday the 21st at Strassenburgh Planetarium, 663 East Avenue, in Rochester. The show for that evening is entitled "Perplexities" and it promises to offer some interesting insights into what we don't presently know about outer space. Show time is 8 p.m. but you should arrive at 7:30 as latecomers are not allowed to enter the theater after the show begins. RRRRA will underwrite one-half (\$1.00) of each \$2.00 regular adult admission for this event so how can you lose?

For those who wish to join the group after our March 31 deadline contact the Planetarium directly, make a reservation for that night, pick up your ticket early, enter with the RRRRA group so you can sit with them. Ticket co-sharing may or may not be available aft March 31 deadline, check this with Rich Koehn, K2UW, before the show. (ed.)

FOR SALE - R. F. Encin w/RRRA synthesizer - \$250, Hallicrafters SX101-A Receiver - \$125, Heathkit TX-1 Xmtr, needs repair - \$25, 14AVQ/WB - \$50. Call Dan Jordan, WA2EKT, 482-5098 after 6 p.m.

FLASH --

Newark, N. Y. : WR2AON Repeater frequency change 146.145 mhz input - 146.745 mhz output effective March 19, 1978. Thanks to WB2RJL.

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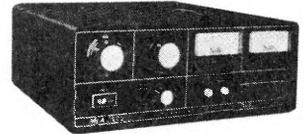
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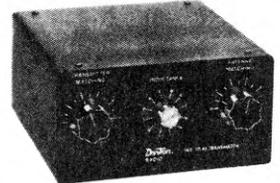
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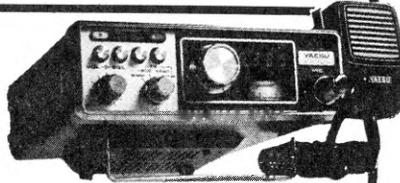
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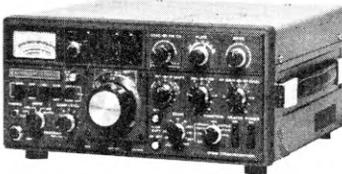
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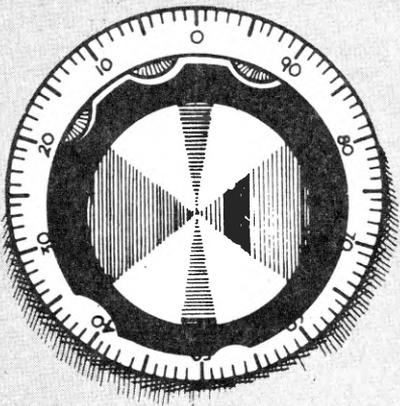
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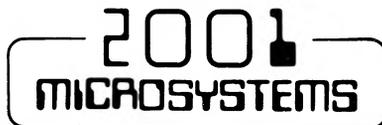
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