

The RARA RAG

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ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

MAY 5th

by Ed Gable, K2MP

In addition to the regular RaRa fare, the May meeting is also the Association's annual business meeting as outlined in our By-Laws. At this meeting we will hold election of Officers and Board Members for the 1978/79 season. Voting will also take place to approve the amount of dues charge for the following year.

The Board of Directors has recommended that the dues remain the same for next year. The Association's financial status is very good at this time due to an increase in dues this year, with a record high number of members, and sound money management. The Board feels no increase is required to provide adequate operating funds for the following year.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Rag is a report on the Nominating committee. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the May meeting. Remember, it is common practice and courtesy, although not absolutely necessary to obtain prior acceptance from someone before nominating from the floor.

For those of you who are new to RaRa, perhaps just a few words are in order on our organization. RaRa is a Non-profit Association under the laws of the State of New York. The Association is governed by four elected officers and up to seven elected members to the Board of Directors. All of the activities, events, meetings, and other matters concerning the running of the Association are decided upon by the officers and the board. Regularly scheduled Board Meetings and special committee meetings are where these decisions are made. Can you imagine over 150 individual members at each and every meeting trying to decide as a group on item after item? I'm sure little would be accomplished. This is why the Association is organized in this manner.

W.A. SPRING MEET

RaRa/AWA members are reminded of the "meet" scheduled at the AWA Museum and dinner at Locust Lodge, Saturday, May 13. There will be a flea market and auction of old equipment in the afternoon with entertainment following the dinner. Call Linc Cundall for dinner reservations, 663-0856.

HAMFEST TICKETS AVAILABLE

Take your choice. There are three ways to obtain your Hamfest tickets this year. The first and probably most convenient is by mail. You all should have received your ticket order forms and Brochure in the mail by now. If not, drop a card to the Hamfest, P.O. Box 1388, Rochester 14603, and one will be sent to you. A second way is to pick up your tickets at the May meeting. A special Registration Ticket price of \$3.00 will be available to members attending the meeting. This is one dollar off the four dollar price at the gate. A third choice is to pick up tickets at JR's, 3327 Lake Avenue, during regular business hours.

Everyone is urged to buy tickets in advance to avoid long waiting lines at the gate.

Oh yes, the Hamfest is May 19, 20, and 21. Your one Registration ticket is good for all three days. Don't forget the free ladies program tickets as well as both Indoor and Outdoor Flea Market passes for those wanting to sell items.

INEXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT

Are you on a limited budget or just getting started in ham radio? Plan to attend the Saturday 10:30 a.m. session at the Hamfest when Jim Fisk, WIHR, will tell how to get on the air with a minimum of expense.

Jim is Editor-in-Chief of both "Ham Radio" and "Ham Radio Horizons" magazines. He has had a vast experience with all types of receivers and transmitters. A question and answer period will follow his talk.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

To the members:

The Annual Meeting of the Membership of Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. will be held at the Monroe County Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester, New York on May 5, 1978 at 8:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

- (1) To elect officers
- (2) To elect a Board of Directors
- (3) To determine the dues for 1978-79.

By Order of the Board of Directors
Otto Bluntzer, Secretary

Rochester, New York
April 29, 1978

The RARA RAG

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OFFICERS:

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Vice-President: Leonard M. Gessin, WA2ZNC
Secretary: Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB
Treasurer: Ronald Jakubowski, K2RJ

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Officers and Board Nominees

President: Leonard Gessin, WA2ZNC
Vice-President: Alan Komenski, WB2ZFM
Treasurer: Ronald Jakubowski, K2RJ
Secretary: Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB
Board Members:

Edward Gable, K2MP
Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH
James Collinworth, N2JC
Harold Smith, K2HC
Robert Erskine, W2NVZ
John Schooley, K2NC
Ash Palmer, K2EAW
Donald Drennan, W2EBF
Virgil DuMond, WB2FGY

OTTO BLUNTZER, WB2RJB, was first licensed as KN5ESQ in 1957, then became WA5IZK in 1962. From South Texas he moved to Rochester in 1964 receiving the call WB2RJB. He, his wife, Ruth, and five children reside at 95 Mariposa Drive in Gates. Otto is employed by the Gates Chili School District as a teacher where he has worked for the past 14 years. He is very active as a member of the VHF Group and holds membership in the other local organizations. Construction of VHF gear is his favorite aspects of amateur radio.

JAMES P. COLLINSWORTH, N2JC, Ginger, and their five children, Mitch, 18, WB2JRX; Troy, 15; Kyle, 13; Gail, 12; and Brett, 6, resides at 2332 W. Walworth Road, Macedon.

At Kodak, Jim's position is Advertising Planning Specialist for Professional and Finishing Markets Division. He serves also as trustee of WA2MBW, Kodak Office Radio Club. First licensed about 1960, Jim has held WA4CLE and WA2LQC. He is Section Emergency Coordinator and Civil Defense RACES Radio Officer, active in Army MARS, active on 80- through 2-meter bands and is preparing for 450MHz operation. A favorite mode is RTTY -- in addition to regular FM, VHF operation.

He continues to serve as one of the original trustees and president of the Macedon Public Library.

DONALD H. DRENNAN, W2EBF, was first licensed in 1939 and was active on 40m. cw until WWII. He was Radio Officer for the VII Corps in 1941 and 42, commanded Hq. Co. of Europe and Rhineland Campaigns and later was



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Assistant Signal Officer - Hqs XIII Corps. Don and wife, Robbie, attended the University of NM where he received a BSME degree in 1949 and joined General Electric Company's Steam Turbine Division. Don's activities are church committees, golf, bowling and ham radio where he can be heard on both phone and cw on the low bands as well as 2 meters. Don, Robbie and son, Donnie (WA2LNZ), reside in West Webster. He joined Eastman Kodak Company in 1967 and is an Engineering Associate in the Facilities Engineering Division where he has been Project Engineer for the design and construction of several steam-electric power plants and refrigeration plants.

VIRGIL C. DuMOND, (Virg - WB2FGY), wife Patricia, home address 152 W. Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450, for the past 17 years. Self employed for past 25 years as licensed private investigator and independent insurance adjuster - working exclusively for insurance companies. General amateur license secured July 1976, through RaRa classes. Veteran WW-2 and Korea, serving with United States Army Military Intelligence, European Theatre and in Continental United States during Korea. Hobbies: camping, fishing, hunting and macro-photography. Five harmonics still living at home.

ROBERT J. ERSKINE, W2NVZ, has been a licensed amateur since 1952, with the same call. Bob resides at 168 Vinedale Avenue with wife, Arlene, and two sons, Stephen and Bob Jr. Bob has been a member of the Board of Directors of RaRa for the past two years. The past year Bob has served as Membership Chairman of RaRa.

Bob is active on 10, 15, 20, phone and also mobile on 2 meter FM. He has been employed in the broadcast industry for the past 25 years and is presently the assistant chief engineer at WHEC-TV. He has been a member of RaRa and ARRL for most of his amateur career. He holds an Advanced Class license and a First Class Radio Telephone Commercial license. W2NVZ is a member of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers and also The Society of Broadcast Engineers.

EDWARD M. GABLE, K2MP, is the current President and past Vice-President, Board Member, and Membership Chairman of RaRa. An Extra Class licensee, he has been a Ham

for over 20 years. He is an ARRL Assistant Director for the Atlantic Division, a past Chairman of the Rochester VHF Group and past Activities Chairman and President of the Rochester Radio Repeater Association. Ed holds the office of Operations Officer and Alternate Radio Officer for Monroe County RACES. He is the General Class theory instructor for RaRa's licensing classes. He's an AWA member and a Charter Life Member of the ARRL. When time permits, and he's not at work as a Test Engineer for Harris/RF, Ed enjoys CW and Contest operating. During the summer he will often QSY from his Latta Road in Greece QTH to the golf course.

LEONARD M. GESSIN, WA2ZNC, of 34 Cullens Run, Pittsford, is married with three sons and a daughter at home. A FCC first phone licensed technician, he is employed by the County of Monroe, Department of Public Safety Communications as an Assistant Superintendent. His interests are fishing and boating. The VHF spectrum is his operating area and you can often hear him on 2 meters FM from his boat as well as mobile. A RaRa Board member for the past six years, a former officer in the VHF Group and active in many of our Amateur activities, including RRRRA.

EDWIN J. HOLDSWORTH, N2EH, was first licensed in 1968 and currently holds the Advanced Amateur Class. He is a Past President and Vice-President, Secretary and member of Board of Directors for RaRa. Ed is currently employed by Rochester Gas & Electric as a Standards Technician. He is active in AREC, RACES, and is Alternate Radio Officer for Civil Defense. Recently he assisted with the RaRa Code and Theroy Class. Ed is trustee of the RaRa Club Station - K2JD. He maintains our club mobile van and station, helps to organize the club campouts and is the awards chairman for the Rochester Hamfest. His other interests are traveling, woodworking and auto restoration. Ed and his wife, Joyce, with their sons, Jim; Steve, WA2EJY; Gerry, WA2IMQ; Cary and Keith live near Honeoye Falls and Ionia.

RONALD J. JAKUBOWSKI, K2RJ (ex-W2HXP) has been active in Rochester Amateur Radio clubs since he came here four years ago. He
(Continued on page 4)

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Nominees

(Continued from page 3)

is an engineer at Harris/RF Communications Division and works mainly with VHF/UHF car telephones. Besides being very active in Army MARS he also finds time to work on his church's Worship Committee and recently designed and installed a new stereo sound reinforcement system for his church. He resides at 446 Cedarwood Terrace with his wife, Kathleen, and two daughters, Rebecca and Deborah. Ron is presently serving a term on RaRa's Board of Directors.

ALAN KOMENSKI, WB2ZFM, is the Supervising Dispatcher in the Monroe County Department of Public Safety Communications. At age 26, he has been the youngest member on the Board of Directors the past couple of years. He served as a member of the Board during 1975-1976 and as RaRa's Secretary for two years. He has been active on both 2 meters and on the HF C. W. Bands, and is an active member of the Air Force MARS program. Alan graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a BA in political science. He lives at 31 Cullens Run, Pittsford.

E. ASHLEY PALMER, K2EAW, was first licensed in 1953. He is a member of ARRL, RaRa, and RRRRA. He also is a Trustee for Webster Scout Radio Club and instructor for Novice and General for the last ten years. His other activities include Scoutmaster (25 years), sailing and camping. He is President of E. F. Ashley Company, general insurance.

JOHN L. SCHOOLEY, K2NC, was first licensed in 1953 as W8PAB in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. John came to Rochester in 1964 where he attended Rochester Institute of Technology and graduated two years later. He and his wife, Sally, and two daughters, Janet, 11; and Susan, 9; live at 329 Fiesta Road in Greece. John is a telecommunications coordinator for Eastman Kodak Company. Formerly John was an official observer for the ARRL. Other hobbies include sailing, bicycling and motor cycling.

HAROLD C. SMITH, K2HC, is Regional Sales Manager for FTC Communications. He and his wife, Helen, WA2YRH, live at 153 Mason Avenue in Greece. He has been licensed since 1960. He is editor of the RaRa Rag and general manager of the Rochester Hamfest. Harold is

as Assistant Director, Atlantic Division, American Radio Relay League and a member of the Board, Antique Wireless Association. He holds an Extra Class amateur license and works all bands, with emphasis on VHF. Flying is a new interest.

NOTICE: Local Ham Store Closes

Everyone, ham and pre-ham, that operates anywhere in the bands looks over new equipment. For too many years a Rochester area ham had to go out of town to really touch something of interest. The last two or three years - local ham stores have been an answer to a multi-wished dream. Now for a 20 minute drive, you and I can examine and operate the real thing! What if this were no longer possible? What if we went there to look but then bought out of town cause we might save \$40 on a transceiver?

Well if you don't support his effort - he won't be there to put forth the effort. But don't feel that you have to have a new rig every year - even though you might want that. The point is to give your local dealer full consideration - plus a little-thought, thanks, and remembering his nice convenient service. You and he have a kind of partnership. Like ah - two can have more fun than one when there's respect and consideration - get it!

DO YOU WORK DX?

If so, you are invited to join the local Dx club. Their next meeting will be a gathering for Vic Ulrich during the Hamfest. Vic is President of the Northern New Jersey DX Association and Head of the 2nd District QSL Bureau. Telephone Ray Leigh, W2SNI, for details at (716) 225-3776.

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QSL CARDS

CQ DX de W3BTX

Via: Horseshoe ARC News, Altoona, Pa.

Now that I have worked him -- how do I get a QSL card?

There is no easy (or cheap) way of getting a high return on DX QSL cards. I can tell you now I have done it over the years, and to date I have had a 99% QSL return.

First of all, get yourself some nice-looking QSL cards (original if possible). I use two types. One type is a postcard of the "local area" with call letters and mailing info printed on front. The other is a photograph of myself and equipment with space for information on the back.

There are two ways to send QSL cards out of the country: "Via the Bureau" or by "Direct Mail." Sending cards by the bureau is the cheapest way out. I would send cards via the bureau to those countries that have a lot of hams (G, DL, OK, JA, PY, etc.). It will take longer to receive a QSL this way, but the odds of getting a return card are very good -- especially if you work a lot of hams from that country. You can send QSLs via the Bureau to just about every country in the world through "outgoing QSL service." Two of these services would be "W3KT" and the ARRL. The price is reasonable, about 20 QSLs for a dollar through W3KT, and any amount for a dollar through ARRL. You must be a member of ARRL to use their service, and you are limited to one batch er month. I would also suggest that you use W3KT's "Incoming QSL Service." Send a few dollars to W3KT (W3KT is QSL Manager for W3 call area. ED.) and request "Incoming QSL service." He will forward any incoming QSL cards to you, and also let you know how many mailings you have left. W3KT is in charge of the 3rd call area stateside QSL service.

The second way of sending and receiving DX QSLs is by "direct mail" with return postage included. This is more expensive, but the time required for sending and receiving DX QSLs is drastically reduced. Sometimes QSLs "via the Bureau" takes up to 2 years for returns! If you want that rare DX card in a hurry. I would suggest going the direct route.

There are several things to remember when going direct. As nice as it may seem, don't address the envelope with anything that pertains to ham radio!

1. Don't use ham radio commemorative stamps on an envelope.
2. Don't use call signs on the envelope.
3. Use air mail envelopes.
4. Take all of the contents you are sending (QSL card, international Response Coupons, stamps, etc.) and wrap some paper around everything before sealing the envelope. Hold the letter up to the light and make sure that you cannot see the contents through the envelope (someone else may be doing the same thing!).
5. Make sure the mailing looks like a plain letter. If you don't, there is a good chance that your QSL card will never reach the DX station.

The reason for all this caution is that over the years the post offices in other countries have been opening up the envelopes and removing the contents. The situation is that any stamps, IRC's, or money is worth a lot of money in that country. It is a proven fact that a lot of countries will tear open the envelope, remove the stamps, IRC's, etc. and throw your QSL in "File 13" (commonly known as the trash can). So you can see the importance of using the "plain letter" approach. Also, when addressing the envelope, use full names if possible, and include the continent* after the address.

EXAMPLE: To send a card to ZS3A in Southwest Africa, you would do the following:

Robert G. Gutshall
5728 California Ave.
Altoona, PA 16602 U.S.A.*

F. H. Aldridge
P.O. Box 1556
Windhoek 9100
Southwest Africa
AFRICA*

When send direct, I would suggest using a "stamp service" for return mail. W2AZX offers a foreign postage stamp service that will save you some money. You can buy a first class air-mail stamp for just about every country there is.

Example: The country just mentioned (ZS3) would require one stamp (costing \$.75 from W2AZX) or five IRC's (costing \$.42 each from the post office) for an air-mail return. Always take the easiest (and cheapest) way out. A lot of DX stations are using stateside managers. In this case you would work the DX station and send your card (don't forget a self-addressed stamped envelope -- SASE) to his manager in the States. This route only costs you two envelopes and two 13¢ stamps.

IN CONCLUSION: These articles that have been presented should give you a little more insight into the world of DXing.

"73's" and see you in the "pile-ups!"

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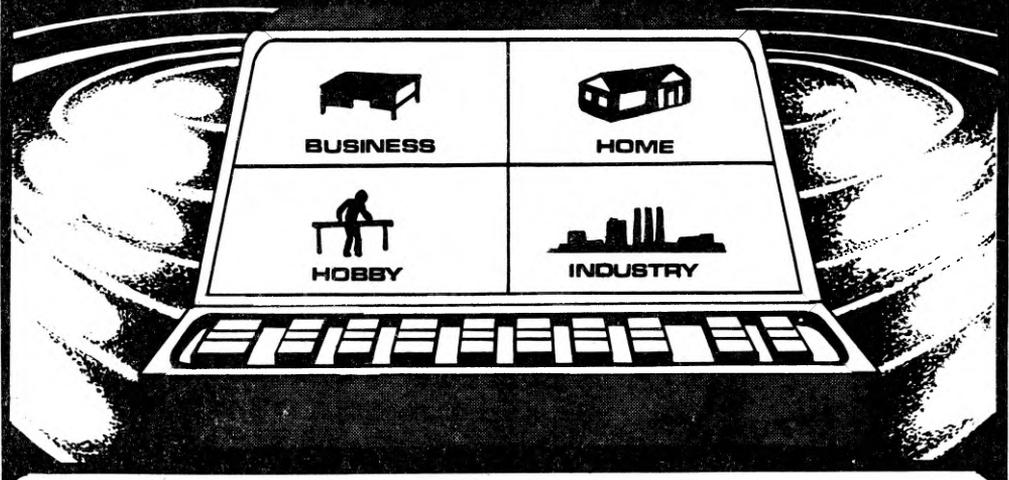
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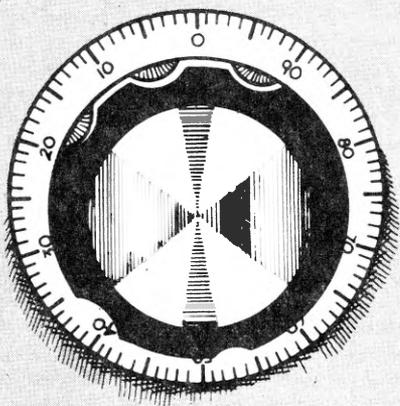
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