

The RARa RAG

Published by

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association
INCORPORATED

VOL. 31

OCTOBER 1978

NO. 2

PASS At October 6th Meeting A New Communications Concept

Our October RaRa Program will introduce you to a new concept in personal communications. This is "PASS", (Personal Alarm Security System), and has been developed as a security system for senior citizens. It will soon be operational in a section of the City of Rochester. "PASS" is an experimental radio system developed by Harris RF Communications for the Police Department of the City of Rochester, and the State of New York. The program presentation will be jointly done by Lt. Roy Irving of the Rochester Police Department and Engineering Staff from Harris RF Communications. See you all at 8 p.m. on Friday, October 6th.

Syracuse Hamfest - Sat. Oct. 7

The Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse will hold their annual Hamfest on Saturday, October 7, at the Art & Home Center on the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

Activities begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday. There will be the usual Hamfest happenings: Flea Market (both outdoors and indoors), commercial exhibits, talks, awards, etc.

Tickets at the gate will cost \$2.00. Indoor flea market space is available for \$5.00 per table and outdoor space is available for \$2.00.

The New York State Fairgrounds is located along route 690, northwest of Syracuse. For most of us who will use the Thruway from Rochester, take Syracuse exit 39 direct to the Hamfest.

SILENT KEY

W2YBK — LAURENCE F. TRIGGS

"Larry" passed away September 5, 1978 at the age of 78. He was retired from Eastman Kodak Company and a Navy veteran of World War I. He was also a member of ARRL, RaRa and the AWA. He was familiar to many as a regular at VHF Group meetings and RaRa meetings. In recent years he became fond of operating at VHF, being active in CD functions, the Finger Lakes Net, and the Medicare Net. He had a close interest in the Antique Wireless Association where he was a Board Member and also Associate Editor of the AWA Bulletin published quarterly. He was former editor of the RaRa Rag. He was an active contributing ham, except during ill health, and missed by many friends.

Canandaigua FCC Monitor Closes

by Dwight Hill, K2KWK

Effective October 1, 1978, the Limited Enforcement Office of the FCC at Canandaigua, NY will cease operation.

The FCC came to Canandaigua in 1960 with the establishment of a "Primary Monitoring Station" under the direction of Mr. Ed Sanders, W2VM. It utilized 13 employees and was involved in direction finding and monitoring from the HF to UHF. This facility was moved from and replaced the old FCC Monitoring Station at Millis, Massachusetts.

During December 1976 the facility was restructured to fit into the new demands upon the FCC. The direction finding equipment and HF monitors were removed. Mr. Sanders retired at that time, and Mr. Richard Holbert, WA2OXJ, came in to head what was now to be known as the Canandaigua Limited Enforcement Office. At one time plans were proposed to have this group of 4 employees and equipment become the nucleus of a new Limited Enforcement Office to be located in downtown Rochester. But new budget restrictions won out and the group maintained its size and location in Canandaigua.

Now, everything will be converted to the FCC Field Office at Buffalo. The employees are seeking other work, some at other FCC locations. The VHF/UHF Mobile Monitor Van is going to operate from Buffalo and should continue to be a familiar sight in this area. What happens to the rest of the equipment, antennas, building, and land now on the north side of the city is not yet known. But the U.S. Government is still the owner. The Buffalo office will take over most of the VHF/UHF monitoring and the enforcement duties, and will share its work with certain other FCC groups. The FCC from Laurel, Maryland will handle most Citizen Band enforcement duties.

Thus closes an 18 year chapter in the history of Canandaigua, that joined the history of the Federal Communications Commission and had an effect on us all. But, if you (sadly) put away your "dummy load light bulbs" eighteen years ago, don't now get them out with easy breath! Don't you reckon that a "cantenna" is a bit more advanced? Few of us use open wire feeders or even twinlead now-a-days, - so tie a "can" to that coax om.

The RARA RAG

Published by
The Rochester Amateur Radio Association
INCORPORATED

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VOL. 31 OCTOBER 1978 NO. 2

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The RaRa Rag is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, N. Y. 14603. Subscription price \$1.00 per year (included in \$6.00 annual membership dues). Second class postage paid at Rochester, N. Y.

The President's Corner

by Len Gessin, WA2ZNC

Our first meeting of 1978 is now history. If you were not on location you probably missed seeing many familiar faces. We had one of our largest member attendances present, for a regular meeting. A shakey start gave way to a nifty meeting. Over 200 people enjoyed the get together. We may even need a bigger hall for future meetings.

Our membership committee did their usual outstanding job. Over 162 signed to renew or join the Club. There were ARRL 1978 Repeater Directory's for each member there who wanted one. Our membership now stands at 776.

The program was terrific: Mr. John Theimer of the FCC had a few tales to tell that had us applauding and laughing. He answered many questions from the assembled multitude. I understand he spent the night in town because of a very late get together at Lum's Restaurant with some of the older boys.

Our refreshment committee did a very good job. First meeting of the year, first time in the kitchen you know. So it's good, better, great and so on, as meetings come and go.

If there are suggestions and comments for the officers, please let us know. As perfect as we are, there is still lots of room to get better. The main business of the Club is carried on at the board meetings. That is where we talk over all the suggestions. If there is any area of concern, or comments you feel our group can "make points at, please let the board know. Each activity we now participate in, started out as an idea of one member or another.

So I hope to see each of you at our October Meeting. We will be at the Farm & Home Center unless I hear of more than 200 people who will show up. Please do not forget that the November Meeting is our annual auction, to be held at the Fire Academy on Scottsville Road. Get your good stuff together, so another deserving ham can get some enjoyment from it.

FOR SALE: Yaesu FT 227-R 2 meter FM transceiver with Larsen antenna and mount, \$285.00. SSTV, Robot 70B monitor and 80A camera with macro lens and hood. \$375.00. Contact Paul Adler, WA2ITK, at 422-3764 or after 6 p.m., 381-8408.

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FCC ENGINEER QUESTIONED

Our September 8th meeting highlight was the presence of Mr. John Theimer, Engineer in Charge, from the FCC Field Office at Buffalo, NY. He was very interesting and informative regarding duties that involve the Buffalo Office, ranging from examinations, ship inspections, monitoring, special studies such as VHF/UHF ducting over the Great Lakes, broadcast station inspections and some interesting TVI investigations. Mr. Theimer found that as a result of some careful follow-up into many TVI cases involving CB transmitters that about 1/3 of the cases can be the fault of a defective TV receiver, 1/3 are traced to illegal CB equipment, and 1/3 to defective or mal-adjusted CB transmitters. Much of his research became the basis for the new and current TVI booklet available from the U.S. Government Printing Office. This book is unique in that actual color pictures show various aspects of TVI.

Our RaRa members asked over twenty questions to which Mr. Theimer replied very clearly: and, in cases where the subject was not in his professional realm he was also forthright.

It is hoped that a specific reading on the re-broadcast of NOAA Weather Transmissions will be decided at the end of September. He said also that FCC funding does not permit the use of volunteer enforcement help and that CBer's can set up a program similar to the ARRL OO program but that neither could have any FCC sanction. He acknowledged that there were several cases in his area where out of band operation has been traced to hams and CBer's. This can, and has, affected any and every FCC license held by that person or any that are applied for later. Currently the FCC is limited to a no-growth budget that cannot even reflect inflation. Mr. Theimer viewed current FCC regulations and the Communications Act of 1934 plus other laws as allowing local governments to control antenna heights. He stated that the present rate of amateur applications was three times the rate of last year at this time. He concluded that CB will always be with us, even if the format changes as may well happen. He then gave some advice on exams and why not to take two the same day; described how to propose a docket to the FCC; and, said that economic hardship for linear amplifier makers due to the recent FCC ruling

has not been "factualized" and the bona-fide makers of bona-fide ham gear were able to obtain the waivers and are still in business.

We thank Mr. Theimer for an excellent meeting and hope he will visit RaRa again.

RRRA MEETING by Tim Magee, WB2KAO

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association will hold its October meeting either on or near the third Friday, October 20th. The meeting program will be announced in the RRRA newsletter published before the meeting and sent to all RRRA members. Also, these details will be announced on the Monroe County FM Net prior to the meeting. Our FM Net meets each Sunday evening at 9 p.m. local time, using the WR2AEI 28/88 and WR2ABF 19/79 repeaters, alternating between them each Sunday. This is an informal net for the purpose of passing local traffic, making announcements of amateur radio activities, and testing equipment, etc. All stations are welcome and encouraged to check in, even if having no traffic for the net. This is a general get together on the air for all area stations, those outside Monroe County are invited and welcomed too. We welcome Canadian checkins also.

VHF GROUP MEETING

by Rich Place, WB2JLR

The Rochester VHF Group will meet on Friday, October 13 at 8 p.m. The meeting will be held in the new building of RF Communications, 1680 University Avenue. Parking is available free in the lighted lot just east of the building entrance. We are pleased to welcome Mr. James Walker who will discuss the ATV operating mode, and put on the demonstration of ATV equipment.

The Rochester Transverter Project is now under way and will continue right up to contest time. We look forward to seeing you on Friday the thirteenth at 8 o'clock.

FOR SALE - Six Meter Hallicrafter Transmitter Model SR-46A, with microphone. Goes to best offer. Contact Florence Kirkbright, WB2QXB, at 663-0267.

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LID OF THE YEAR CONTEST

Competition open to all amateurs. Five points per item.

- (1) Always load your transmitter up on the air while waiting for your receiver to come to life. Do not use a dummy load since this defeats the purpose. Extra points for jamming a net.
- (2) Begin and end each voice transmission with the call signs of every station you have worked in the past half hour. This is as much a test of the other guys' memories as it is of yours.
- (3) Upon receipt of a badly garbled Morse transmission send R and then list the items you have missed such as report, name and QTH. For variety send more than one R.
- (4) When accessing a repeater, cycle the machine a minimum of eight times without identifying.
- (5) When operating according to item (4) it is permissible, even desirable to whistle, blow or make other inarticulate noises into the microphone. This makes it interesting for those who are monitoring the channel.
- (6) Use Serbo-Croatian Mountain Daylight Saving Time when filling out QSL cards. This will demonstrate to the recipient that you are not a run-of-the-mill operator enslaved to the use of GMT.
- (7) Constantly strive to add variety to the phonetic alphabet. Never use the same word twice when identifying a letter. Example: G - golf, george, germany, gnome.
- (8) Upon encountering a newcomer to amateur radio do your utmost to demonstrate your mastery of the hobby. Should he remain unconvinced openly ridicule the fellow, preferably on the air in the presence of his associates.
- (9) When giving RST reports stick with 589 even though the signal is down in the noise and has a chirp like a lovesick cricket. No use making the other guy feel bad by criticizing his signal.
- (10) Show a lofty disdain for equipment grounds, TVI suppression and fused lines. These contrivances are necessary for a greenhorn but a pro like you can look after himself.

Winners of the competition will be given the Leaky Co-AX Award and one hour to get out of town.

Glen VE3CGU

Tnx to "The Ontario Amateur"



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The Radio Amateur's Journal

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

For DX'ers Only? by Bob Roberts, WA2QAU

Before we get back on how to work DX we have a feature story for this month. Our lucky DX station this month, while not extremely rare, does have an exotic QTH. This is the story behind VE8RCS, at the top of the world.

Amateur station VE8RCS is literally at the top of the world. It's exact location is 82 20' N Latitude, 62 30' W Longitude, 450 miles from the North Pole. VE8RCS was established in the middle 50's in Alert, NWT Canada. The call VE8RCS is derived from the Royal Canadian Signals and is a research station in communications. VE8RCS can be found on or near 14.165 MHz from 1300 to 2200Z for phone patch traffic. Try looking just inside the American phone band just before and after the above times.

The temperature in VE8 country will vary from 35-40 F in the summer to -35 F in the winter. The land is desolate and barren, with, according to operator Brock, "a girl behind every tree." Helps pass the time on the cold winter days huh? There are only 2 days to every year, one from early March till October 4. Night lasts from October to March 3rd or so.

The club operates under one ham license and the originator of this story, operator Brock, is not a licensed ham. He can receive Morse at 30-35 WPM and can send about 10-12 WPM.

Did you notice the photo in October QST of some of the VE8RCS operators? That is the story behind VE8RCS, from operator Brock and the crew a very cherry if frozen 73.

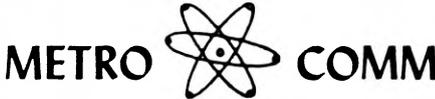
DXpedition News: The DXpedition to Navassa Island appears to be semi-finalized for late November - early December. Last time this one was activated was 1972 and it will probably be quite some time before heard from again. Be sure to work this one.

San Andres (HKO) operation is planned for the CQWW contest by PVRC.

(Continued on page 5)

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For DX'ers

(Continued from page 4)

San Felix, CEOX operation also planned for contest by K1MM.

Possible activity from Bouvet Island 3Y1 during January and February by a four man expedition. Callsign to be 3Y1VC. QSL to LA5NM.

Bear Island, JW4ZJ, supposed to be active from January to June 1979. QSL also via LA5NM.

A few tips on QSL's. There are several ways to send QSLs to DX stations. Some better than others and as may be expected more expensive. The most expensive is direct mailing to the foreign amateur. On the average card to Europe the cost is about a dollar and a quarter. This includes a 31¢ air mail stamp, 2 international reply coupons (IRC) and the cost of the QSL and envelope. Some cards to Africa and Asia can cost as much as \$3.00. IRC's are available at the post office for 42¢ each. Each IRC can be used in any country for the rate of a first class non-registered surface mail letter. The average time for surface mail to the destination is about 6 weeks.

The alternative to the IRC is to send the ham a self addressed stamped envelope using stamps from his country. DO NOT send him U.S.A. stamps. These are no good in foreign countries. Foreign stamps for over 185 countries can be purchased from George Robertson, W2ABX, who runs the DX stamp service. Write to: DX Stamp Service, 7661 Roder Parkway, Ontario, New York 14519. An SASE will get you the latest price list. This service is much cheaper than IRC's and almost guarantees you a QSL. By sending an SASE with your card the DX station cannot take the IRC and use it for something else, unless he steams the stamp off the envelope. Most DX'ers don't have time for this type of activity. My QSL return rate is between 95 and 98% using this method.

Some stations ask for a dollar or green stamp in place of the IRC. I do not like this practice, because in one case a ham in Guyana took the dollar, mailed the card to a friend in Brooklyn along with 15¢ and made 85¢ profit on the whole deal. Most hams aren't like this but it only takes one. Look at it this way; if he asks 6 stations for a dollar and mails them all for 90¢, he takes in \$6.00 and spends 90¢ for a profit of \$5.10 per half dozen. Also a dollar is worth more in most countries so his profit rate is almost 100%.

A cheaper method, but more time consuming, is to send the QSL to the DX stations bureau. The international 1st class rate by surface is 20¢ per ounce. Simply place about 5-6 cards in an envelope and address it to the proper bureau and place 20¢ on it. Some countries have separate bureaus for each call area so care should be taken to send the cards to the proper bureau. These countries are Australia, Canada, Yugoslavia, British West Indies, and Honduras. Cards for most of the French colonies are sent via the French bureau. The prefixes are FB8, FC, FM7, FP8, FY7. Some countries have more than one bureau and cards

can be sent to either one. It would be best to check the latest call book before using this method.

The way I keep the bureau addresses at easy access is to copy all the addresses on 3 x 5 index cards then place them in order by prefix. The cards occupy a small recipe file.

The cheapest method of sending cards is probably through the ARRL. Any ARRL member may send cards through the ARRL outgoing bureau by following a simple procedure. Simply place the cards in alphabetical order by prefix and send with 1 dollar and the address label of your latest issue of QST and send it to ARRL HQ at 225 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut 06111. It should be noted that you can only use this bureau if you are an ARRL member. You can only send 12 shipments a year, one a month. The ARRL mails the cards once per week.

Another bureau used by many hams is the W3KT QSL Service. This is run by Jesse Beiberman, who is our division vice director and runs the 3rd call area incoming bureau. He mails cards once a month and charges 8¢ a card or 15¢ per dollar. He doesn't ship to bureaus stateside but cards for HK6, KL7 etc. are OK. He also said in a QST advertisement a few years back that he will deliver any card even if he had to mail it direct. So you can be sure of his reliability.

So there you have it. Some of the methods to the hardest chore of the DX'er. Getting a QSL for an award is sometimes harder than working the country itself! If you follow these guidelines your QSL return rate should be very good, but remember sometimes you just can't get a card. Good luck and DX until next month.

The Gentle Art of Turning It Over!

Tnx: W1PO via Worldradio News

Well that's about it from here for this time fellows. Let's see, whose turn is it? I've kinda lost track. My memory isn't what it used to be I guess.

Oh, incidently fellows, did I tell you about my antenna falling down? Well, - it did, and it took me a long time to get it back up again. I went out and put it up again in all the rain. Seems to be working but I'd like some signal reports when I turn it over. Okay Joe, over to you, OM - incidently, I must QRT now, the XYL just came in and I must go. She has a job at the local library, you know, and likes it very much. Brings in a little more dough for me to spend, hi! Go ahead Joe - or is it Jim's turn? I kinda forget. There are no many in here I kinda lost track. By the way, I was talking to Bill on this band the other night - or was it 40? Anyhow he's fine. I'll tell you more about him when I have more time. That's about it from here except to say

WANTED - Drake R4A, R4B or SPR-1 receiver. Chuck Oneske, K2YCO, 266-6370.

Once Upon A Turnpike, Dreary. As I Traveled, Weak and Weary.

from The Journal - Greater Toledo Amateur Radio Assn

While driving down the turnpike one evening, I had need to stop and partake of the elegant cuisine of the rest stop eatery. Looking somewhat disheveled after a long day on the road, I staggered in and planted myself securely behind what could loosely be described as coffee. Right color - wrong consistency.

While beating the coffee back into the cup with my spoon, I was approached by a neandrathal like figure sporting a red down filled vest. Firmly placed atop an enormous head which seemed to grow directly from the mans shoulders was a yellow John Deere cap.

I studied this man with no neck long enough for my coffee to get a strangle hold on my spoon and wrestle it from my grip, dragging it down to the bottom of the plastic abyss.

"You got something against 18 wheelers?" said the John Deere cap.

With all of my cunning wit honed to a razor like sharpness from doing battle with the max-well house blob, I was able to look the cap right in the bill and say "Huh?"

I've been calling you for the last twenty minutes said the cap and I haven't heard you come back once. You got something against me?"

It started to sink in. He had mistaken the 2 meter quarter wave for a C. B. antenna.

"I was on a different channel", I said.

"Which one?" asked the vest.

"61."

At this he was puzzled that he smiled and said quietly "One of them souped up rigs Huh? How many channels you got?"

"OH... couple hundred or so in the mobile. I have more than that on the base though."

"Couple hundred!!" He said pushing back his cap.

"Yeah, and don't tell anyone, but I have a three hundred watt linear in the trunk."

"What about Uncle Charlie?" said the cap.

"OH, I don't worry about him", I said trying my best to look viscous.

"I could probably run 1000 watts and they wouldn't even bother me."

"Connections?"

I winked. He nodded approvingly. I decided to let him ponder it all for a while until I notice that my coffee had gotten out of the cup somehow. Remembering that it was now armed with my spoon, I figured it would be a good time to leave. As I was walking towards the door, the temptation came over me and it was too great to pass up.

"Hey Good Buddy", I shouted across the room, "I'll catch you on the flip flop. 3's, 8's, 4's, 92's, and 37's on the little ones. We gone."

"10-4."

10-4? I thought as I strolled out to the car.

He understood that? What did I say? I flipped on the rig and still wondered what I had said to that man with no neck. Oh well "Q R ZED, WD8DYC Mobile."

WHAT IT IS!

It isn't the number of guards you put on
Or the stairs with the well-kept rails,
It isn't the lights that they install
Or the lack of rusty nails;
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Tnx to "Hum Hum"

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