

The RaRa Rag

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Gibraltar DX - at Kodak Dec. 1st

Last month the RaRa Rag carried an article about two local hams planning a trip to Gibraltar where they would operate their radios (a DXpedition). That adventure has become history for Irv Goodman, AF2K, and Russ McKay, WA2CBU. Both Irv and Russ graciously accepted our invitation to speak of the trials, tribulations, excitement and rewards of their trip.

Many of us who use the high frequencies and avidly seek dx stations have often wondered (or even dreamed of) what is involved in planning such a trip. What might appear to be a simple vacation can turn out to be the experience of a lifetime, and a hectic one at that!

The December RaRa meeting will be our annual joint gathering with Kodak and this year is hosted by the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club. We will meet at 8 p.m. on Friday, December 1, 1978 in the Recreation Building at Kodak Park. The entrance to this building is on Ridge Raod, just about a block west of the Lake Avenue intersection. Parking is available in the Kodak Visitors Parking lot just across the street from the entrance.

So See you there,
but not our usual lair.
It's December the first,
where?

Kodak Park, that's where.

73, Alan Komenski, AC2K
(audacious, corking, two kilowatts)

L.P.O.O.C. Seeks Technical Assistance From RaRa

by Jim O'Brien, K2UDP

The Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee would like your help for the 1980 Winter Olympics has asked that RaRa provide technical assistance when needed and possibly as early as January. The project now under way in Lake Placid to provide personal communications for key people may require the expertise of selected members to perform frequency changes, alignment, testing, etc. The request was made by Brian Fovel, W2PBJ, of Pittsford, New York who was appointed Communications Chief recently for the L.P.O.O.C. Brian is a respected member of RaRa and well known in our community. More details will be published as they develop.

RaRa Historian Receives National Recognition

Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, RaRa Historian and Bill Eitel, W6UF, founder of Eimac Corporation received awards at the Radio Club of America Annual Banquet held recently in New York City.

Bill is the recipient of the Sarnoff Citation for his outstanding work in vacuum tube development, moon-bounce and satellite projects. Kelley received the Memorial Award for his documentation and preservation of radio history. The Awards are given annually.

The Radio Club of America is a professional group founded in 1909, making it the oldest active radio organization in America.

Gibraltar Activity Report

by Irv Goodman, ZB2EN (aka AF2K)

Operating under the call signs ZB2EM and ZB2EN respectively, Russ McKay and Irv Goodman, also known as WA2CBU and AF2K, managed to rack up close to 1600 SSB exchanges during their recent 6-day DXpedition to Gibraltar. Besides contacting 93 countries and managing to Work All States under each of the call signs, Russ and Irv also chatted with close to 60 hams back in the Rochester/Western New York area.

Much of the success of the DXpedition can be attributed to the many amateurs around the globe who operated in a gentlemanly fashion allowing Irv and Russ to make the maximum contacts in the minimum frequency space. Special thanks to K2JF, ZB2BL and AB2CF who provided important liaison work and licensing assistance.

If you worked either Russ or Irv at The Rock and need a confirmation from "Gib", just submit your QSL along with an s.a.s.e. to WA2CBU.

Count IS UP!

At the end of September, there were 353,362 ham licenses, up from 324,148 in a jump of 29,214 which is an average of 2,434 per month. License classes have been busy! Extras are up by 4,080. Advanced are up by 6,475. Generals are up by 5,399. Techs are up by 4,213. Novices won by being up by 7,227. If you are among these "ups" congratulations. If you helped another join the "ups" may there be more power to you; also, you can feel justly proud. Thanx to HR Report for November 10, 1978.

The RARA RAG

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The President's Corner

by Len Gessin, WA2ZNC

Our annual November auction was another full-blown success. Over 200 members and their guests attended. I lost count of the number of articles that went thru the block. Ed Gable, K2MP, and Alan Komenski, AC2K, did a super job as our auctioneers. The new twist tried this year worked out very good.

We had the usual number of complaints which means we shall try harder next year. Over \$2500.00 worth of goodies changed hands thru the front table. Many dear friends showed up to say "hello" to everyone. We had amateurs from Buffalo, Syracuse, and Cornell-- Speaking of Cornell, they had the most unusual offer at the auction. A full size, three element, wide space, 20 meter beam. I thought it was a rotatable tower, myself. The meter was worth more than the asking price, I'm sure.

There were a few suggestions for next year's auction and the Board will consider and discuss them. If any member has a thought or two, please let the Board know.

At last report our answering machine has not arrived. Our telephone number will be in the next telephone directory issued in December. The Board needs names and telephone numbers of persons who can and will be on call (on a scheduled basis) for new amateur inquiries. Let us know when you can stand by and take a shift.

We still need a carpenter to make a desk top console type something or other. See N2EH Ed if you can assist at the Club station. The Board is looking into more open scheduling of K2JD also. The SB104 is back from Heathkit and seems to be working in good form.

Our next meeting will be with the Kodak Park Radio Club at Kodak Park on December 1.

The Board has been requested to assist with the Winter Olympics and with the Special Olympic Games in 1979. There will be more Public Relations information in the Rag and local press to follow on these projects.

All our Club projects are in the motion stage and anything we may have missed should be brought to our attention.

See you at the Kodak Park Meeting on December 1, 1978.



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WR2APD On The Air

A new 2 meter repeater is on the air in the Rochester area. WR2APD has an input frequency of 147.78 MHz with an output at 147.18 MHz and carrier squelch access.

This repeater is privately supported and is open to all amateurs. It is currently located in Brighton at the home of WA2ZHD at an elevation of about 540 feet, after being in test mode at WB2AQQ's QTH for several months.

One of the main features of WR2APD is an open autopatch - no dues or contributions are requested for its use. This autopatch is limited to local calls only, but can access any of the exchanges in the county. There is a time limit of 3 minutes per call, with a one minute time-out if a carrier is not detected on the 2 meter input.

Other features of the repeater are an ID command and a CW time clock soon to be implemented.

The repeater itself consists of two separate packages which are linked together on a full duplex UHF link. The remote 2 meter package (currently at WA2ZHD) consists of a GE MASTR PRO 2M receiver with a 90W GE MASTR transmitter, a GE MASTR UHF link receiver and a RF 450 transmitter. Also contained in the box is one small card for audio and COR interfacing. A Phelps-Dodge 6 cavity duplexer is used for 2 meters with a Phelps-Dodge 4 cavity UHF duplexer used for the link. The antennas are a Kraco 6db gain commercial antenna with a KLM 6 element beam used for the link.

The logic package is located at the home of WB2AQQ in Irondequoit where all the control and autopatch functions are connected. A GE MASTR EXEC receiver and RF 450 transmitter complete the link with another KLM 6 element UHF beam and a Sinclair 4 cavity UHF duplexer. All of the logic and autopatch is home brew. Consisting of both TTL and CMOS, the logic handles all timing functions, COR, autopatch, acknowledgment tones and touch-tone decoding. Provisions are made for micro-processor control to be added this winter. A Motorola 6800 based micro system is being readied for this purpose.

The remote package will be moved next spring to a location just north of Bristol, and coverage should expand considerably then. The logic package will stay in the city for accessibility and autopatch connection.

The repeater has two different squelch tail modes: long and short. In long tail mode, the transmitter stays on for about 6 seconds after COR is dropped. A "beep" is sent about one second after COR dropping, however, to indicate that the time-out timer (about 2 min, 45 sec.) has been reset. In "short tail" mode, the timer is reset only when the repeater carrier drops - about one second after COR drops. No beep is sent in this mode.

All touch-tone commands consist of 4 digits - the first digit is always "9". The tones will be muted on the transmitted output of the repeater as soon as this "access digit" is decoded. If a valid 4-digit sequence is decoded, an acknowledgment beep is sent about one second after decoding finishes. Each 4 digit sequence must be entered within 2.5 seconds. If entry is too slow, no acknowledgment tone will be transmitted. The beep does not mean that the particular sequence "did" anything: it simply means that four valid touch-tones were decoded. A partial list of commands follows:

<u>Code</u>	<u>Function</u>
9753	CW ID
9159	Open autopatch - Dial tone if autopatch feature is enabled.
#	Hold for 1 second to hang up.
9376	Enable short tail mode
9224	Enable long tail mode

Note: As required, please log off an autopatch with date and time. Autopatches are recorded.

Several new features and capabilities will be added to the repeater when the microprocessor is added this winter. These will be published when available. Any questions or comments on WR2APD should be directed to Craig Stolze, WB2AQQ. WR2APD is affiliated with the Gridd Radio Network, 4 Quay Drive, Rochester, NY 14617.

FOR SALE: Heath HW-101 w HP 23-C Power Supply (less key & spkr.). Rig is 6 mo. old in excellent condition. \$450. Also for sale Heath HS 1661 speaker and MFJ SSB-CW Filter w/ AC adapter - reasonable. Walter J. McBurney, 7914 Harris Road, LeRoy, NY 14482.

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The Radio Amateur's Journal

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For DX'ers Only by Rob Roberts, WA2QAU

Now that the fishing is over it is time once again to churn out another column of noteworthy DX News. Thanks to all for standing by.

The biggest happening on the local scene was the Gibraltar (ZB2) DXpedition of Irv and Russ, AF2K and WA2CBU. Otherwise known as ZB2EN and ZB2EM. Thanks to Russ and Irv for another rare one for the Rochester gang. The details on this one are below.

I am going to depart from my usual format this month and stand on a soap box for a while as I believe this needs to be said. Subject; Old Institutions: The RDXA had its last meeting in September. We hope it is not truly its last, but no further meetings are known to be scheduled. However, the "new blood" anticipates more meetings to fulfill the primary goal of encouraging dx'ing through a sharing of experiences with new comers. Wouldn't some of the "old timers" like to continue their dx'ing sort of vicariously by aiding new hams and new friends? Or how about encouraging higher quality operating practices for chasing DX? If that new comer can't learn from your good example then don't scorn his fumbled efforts either. Now, hows about it you guys!

I would like to thank the people who helped me get started and while I can not possibly mention every name special thanks go to Al Keltz, W2TXB; Jerry Barlow, K2EUR; and Ed Gable, K2MP, for their help over the last few years. Special thanks also to Bill, W7PHO, for promoting only the highest quality of DX operations on the Asia-Oceania Net. Thanks to all for getting me off on the right foot.

This month's prominent DX'er is Bob Dray, ZD7PV, from St. Helena Island. Bob took the time to fill me in during a not too small pileup. St. Helena Island is located about 1000 miles off the west coast of Africa in the South Atlantic Ocean. It is very rugged and rises almost straight out of the sea with 1000 foot high cliffs covering most of the island. There is no air service and very irregular sea service, which accounts for the very long time it takes for QSL returns. (Bob's card came direct 1 week later than via the bureau.) Mail goes from St. Helena to South Africa via boat then by air to the U.S.

St. Helena Island is 750 miles from its nearest neighbor, Ascension Island which is also a pretty fair DX catch.

Bob's QTH is 1700 feet above sea level and in the clouds most of the time during the part of the year that is our fall. Only 3 roads lead down to the shore line because of the steep cliffs.

Bob uses an FTDX 400 for his transmitter and a TH3 Mk 3 up 20'. He also has a Johnson matchbox. Any of you who have heard Bob's signal know that his set up works. He is usually 20-40dB over at my QTH! His other call was 9V1PV in Singapore about 2 years ago. He has been on the island 19 months and is leaving in February of the coming year. There are 12 licenses issued and now only 3 active hams in-

cluding Bob. The only other ZD7 I worked there was ZD7SS on 20 meter CW.

Bob is found on 21.355 MHz from 1730-1800Z or on 21.280. He can also be found on 10 meters almost any time. Suggested frequency in the neighborhood of 28.550-28.600 MHz.

Thanks for the interview and the contact Bob.

This months hint and kink DX wise is being sure your QSL card is properly filled out. This is most important and saves disappointments of having your card returned with "Sorry, can't find you in the log OM." Be sure the date and time is correct as some DX stations fill up to 20 or more pages of logs every day. As you can see a day either way might be 50 pages of log to go through. Most DX'ers don't have the time and it can cost a buck just to get your own card back. Be sure your card is properly filled out and has your original signature on it as unsigned cards are not eligible for DXCC or other awards credit. An unsigned card of yours is as worthless to the DX station as his would be for your DXCC. Save everyone a lot of time and hassles and make sure your own card is correct before mailing.

That's it for this month so until Santa Claus time 73's es Gud DX.

RRRA by Bill Gillette, WB2KIW

The Rochester Radio Repeater Group will meet at 8 p.m. on Friday, December 15th. The meeting will be at the Pittsford Town Hall. Guest speaker will be Brian T. Foval, W2PBJ.

November begins a new fiscal year for RRRA. Dues for 78/79 are due. The RRRA Newsletter will not continue to be sent if your dues are not paid by the 15th. Contact Rich Koehn, K2UW, WB2SNA, who is Secretary/Treasurer. See You On The 15th.

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

The VHF Group will meet at 8 p.m. on December 8th at the plant of RF Communications, 1680 University Avenue, Rochester. At this time the exact program details were not final. But as the annual VHF Sweepstakes is being held January 13 and 14 we presume might be heavily involved with that event. See you Friday, December 8th.

WANTED TO BUY OR TRADE: Crystals for an RF Comm. Ensign and Regency HR-2 rigs. I have some crystals to trade that fit Ensign, Drake, Motorola and RCA equipment; for the amateur band. Contact Len, WA2ZNC, at 248-2511.

FOR SALE: Wilson handheld 2 meter Transceiver with monolithic crystal filter and touch tone pad. Has following frequencies installed: 16/76, 28/88, 19/79, 52/52. Less nicad batteries. Call Bill Gillette, WB2KIW, at 458-2180 during the day or on the 2 meter band at night.

Code Practice on 2 Meter Repeater

by Irv Goodman, AF2K

Thanks to the efforts of WA2CBU, the Livingston Amateur Repeater Society has begun transmitting code practice sessions on the WR2AFF repeater every Tuesday and Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. The repeater is located near Groveland, NY, 33 miles due south of Rochester. This is computerized code at 20 and 14 wpm, consisting of FCC-type comprehensive text format of 5 minute durations. Actual copies of the exams for self-testing and grading can be obtained by sending an s.a.s.e. to WB2MQV at Box 582, Naples, NY 14512. Questions or comments regarding the program are welcomed and should be directed to WA2CBU, Russ McKay, Punky Hollow Road, Wayland, NY 14572.

Highlights from RaRa Board

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

As time and space allow we will bring you the highlights of the meeting of the Board of Directors, who gather each Wednesday following the regular RaRa meeting. Mostly these meetings include items which need to be discussed for up-coming activities, as follows:

Secretary's Report, from the previous meeting.

Treasurer's Report, the current bank balance is \$3,552.94.

Dinner-Dance, Howard Kingsford, WA2UEB, will take care of plans for our Valentine Dinner-Dance to be held the Saturday evening before Valentine Day.

Hamfest, scheduled for May 25, 26, 27th, the annual Hamfest Committee meeting was held November 15th at the Marriott.

Club Station K2JD, Ed Holdsworth reports that the SB-104 has been repaired and is now in good condition. Ed Gable indicates interest in having the club station open more than just Monday evenings.

Membership, as of November 8th there are 691 members in RaRa including 33 Life Members.

Public Relations, arrangements are being made for a new public service announcement regarding amateur radio as a service to the community. This is proceeding with the folks at Channel 10. RaRa will have a telephone answering service with a recorded message to assist those interested in taking up the hobby. This service will be in effect soon.

Public Service, the O.E.P. will meet Tuesday, November 21st, at C.D. Headquarters. An outline of a "Weather Watch Net" will be discussed. A meeting regarding the "Special Olympics" at Brockport State College is planned, with amateur radio assistance being discussed.

Annual Auction, although there is a clear policy regarding the auction, several problems did arise. Ways to improve these matters were discussed.

RaRa Rag, the printing bill averages about \$110.00 per month. Typically the size of the Rag has been 8 pages.

License Class, has now about 80 prospective hams engaged in preparing for their Novice or General Class licenses at the C.D. Headquarters on Monday nights.

FCC Canandaigua Closing, of the monitoring station also brought an end to the services and friendly assistance of Dick Holbert, WA2OXJ. A RaRa letter of thanks will be sent to Dick for his years of service and contributions to the amateur radio community.

New Business, a suggestion was received that we set up a committee to work with hams who are handicapped. This is now being done but it seems that some might be reluctant to call for such assistance. It was emphasized that RaRa is most willing and more than happy to run a repair service for amateur repairs in general. See our advertisers in the RaRa Rag for that type of commercial assistance.

FOR SALE - Complete ham station, Drake 2-C receiver, Drake 2NT transmitter, Drake 2-CS speaker, Heathkit VFO, with all manuals included. Excellent condition. Best offer. Call N2AGR, 244-5122.

WANTED: Heath HW-12 Transceivers: Aim-for use on AF MARS Frequencies. Good cond. only. Call or write. Ofc. 637-3911; home. 637-6140; Ed Coapman, WA2QNS, 73 Park Avenue, Brockport, NY 14420.

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RaRa CLUB JACKETS

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

Have you seen several RaRa members who seem to look alike at times? Maybe it was the clothes they wore, specifically the jacket. But you did see those jackets at all phases of our beloved climate, didn't you? That's because you can choose your RaRa club jacket with different linings and still have your name and call imprinted upon it.

However, due to an increase in the cost of printing on these jackets, we have to make some changes in both price and ordering routine.

Prices - Winter Lining, \$16.50
Light Lining, \$14.00
No Lining, \$9.95

Ordering will have to be in a quantity of twelve (12) or more. Also there will be an additional charge of \$3.40 for set up and printing, and \$.50 for name and call. These charges will be added to the cost of the jacket. To minimize these extra charges we will probably place only one order per year; and, this will be done in January or February.

If you are interested in getting a RaRa club jacket, you may contact any RaRa Board Member. When the minimum is reached we will place the order.

Glancing Back Duck E. Dengler, W2LK

Did you ever wonder where our present popular and very valuable mobile radio repeater systems originated? If you don't give a hoot just turn the page, but if you're a bit curious, please read on.

In 1937 the County of Contra Costa, California filed an application with F.C.C. for a VHF radio system. The license was issued in the experimental class -- 37.02 megacycles with the call sign W6XOR.

The antenna was placed on the dome of the County Court House in Martinez. Because of limited range, experimental work on the VHF continued for 18 months.

During this period, tests were made from the summit of Mt. Diablo. Results from these tests proved that if a station could be located at this point, maximum coverage could be accomplished.

However, the problem was that of controlling the transmitter and receiver on Mt. Diablo from Martinez.

As a result of these tests an application was filed in 1939 for a license to operate an automatic, unattended repeater station on Mt. Diablo. The stumbling block for this kind of application was the automatic repeater request since this was the first of this kind ever received and there was no precedent established.

After considerable correspondence on the matter, the F.C.C. granted an experimental license for the mountaintop receiver together with a construction permit for the base station at Martinez and the associated mobile units.

The system went into operation in the Fall of 1939. Using the repeater, county-wide coverage of a magnitude never before experienced in police two-way radio communications prior to this time.

The entire system was A.M. with the repeater in the 39 mc. band and the mobile transmitters on 35.20 mc.

While this system was in the public safety services, its a safe bet that hams were leading the way as they had done in many early police radio installations.

As a licensed ham since 1919 involved in police and fire radio from 1931 to 1963 and national historian for 16 years for the Associated Public-Safety Communication Officers I have received many unverified claims of persons or departments being the first to make certain improvements in the radio systems.

But this dope on the repeater I can accept as it came to be back in 1965 straight from the horse's mouth. All new things are not always as we think.

SHORT WAVES

According to HR Report #227, November 10, 1978, the new Russian Satellites are designed for only 3 (three) watts effective radiated power (ERP). Eight watts (ERP) or more will cause RS-1 and RS-2 to shut down. When cut off, they can only be reactivated by ground control. Assuming that the ground control stations are in Russia this could explain why the transponder is off this part of the world. It seems that Russian "technicians" are limited to five watts and thus the lower power threshold makes sense.

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Wilson Electronics Corp.



Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday - - - - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Amateur Radio of Rochester

1185 SCOTTSVILLE ROAD · ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14604 · (716) 235-7540

JR'S

3327 LAKE AVENUE • ROCHESTER, NEW YORK • 865-0430

Fill In And Leave Around For The YL or XYL To Find!

----- CHRISTMAS SHOPPING LIST
CALL

- _____ LOG BOOK
- _____ DUMMY LOAD
- _____ WATT METER
- _____ SWR METER
- _____ CALL BOOK _____ U.S. _____ D.X.
- _____ 1979 HAND BOOK
- _____ DESK MIKE
- _____ HEAD PHONES
- _____ EXTERNAL SPEAKER
- _____ COAX SWITCH
- _____ STRAIGHT KEY
- _____ ELECTRONIC KEY
- _____ PADDLES
- _____ TOUCH TONE MIKE
- _____ TWO METER MOBILE
- _____ WORLD MAPS
- _____ OTHER _____
- _____
- _____