

The RaRa Rag

Published by

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association
INCORPORATED

VOL. 31

JANUARY 1979

NO. 5

JANUARY 5th PROGRAM

"Traffic-How, What, Why, When"

by Alan Komenski, AC2K

Passing messages by Amateur Radio has always been an extremely important contribution of the hobby. It is most important, especially during emergency and disaster situations, to know how to pass a message properly. With the SET a few short weeks away, and with the potential for severe winter storms upon us, it seems timely that we have a program covering the essential points of properly handling traffic via Amateur Radio.

Presenting the program will be Don Partis, WA2AIV, from Batavia, New York. Don is best known to most Rochester area hams as the Director of the Western District Net which operates on the 146.04/146.64 repeater. He is also an Assistant A. R. R. L. Atlantic Division Director, and co-E. C. for Genesee, Wyoming and Orleans counties. Many of us consider Don to be one of the areas authorities on the subject of traffic and we look forward to his sharing his expertise with us.

We will be back at the cooperative extension building 249 Highland Avenue on January 5, at 8 p. m. Hope to see all of you there.
Rochester VHF

FINAL NOTICE

by Robert Erskine, W2NVZ

For some of you this is the final copy of the RaRa Rag you will receive. If you were a member last season and have not renewed your membership you will be deleted from our mailing list. Our membership last year totaled 734. Most of you have sent in the membership application with fee.

If you wish to renew please pick up a new application from me or mail in the copy sent to you, enclosing your remittance.

Our current membership lists 682 members; of these 572 are licensed amateurs. This year we picked up many new amateurs. The large size of the licensing classes contributed greatly to our growth.

If you are a full member you should have a copy of our directory. I did run out of them last month but now have a fresh supply. If you did not receive your copy please check with Irv Goodman, AF2K, or me at one of the meetings. You may also drop a line to P. O. Box 1388.

VHF SWEEPSTAKES - 1979

by Mike McHugh, W2AV

1979 VHF Group Contest Chairman

The ARRL 1979 VHF Sweepstakes will be held the weekend of January 13 and 14 this year, from 1 p. m. Saturday to 11 p. m. Sunday local time.

Please note that the December QST article on page 80 is in error on the contest date. The correct weekend is definitely January 13 and 14, 1979.

We have a real chance to beat the Mt. Airy VHF Club's "Packrats" this year but we need the help of every area ham who can get on the VHF and UHF bands and make as many contacts as possible to dot the job. Last year we came within 92% of the Packrats' score - this year we can win!

Contest rules and regulations appear in December QST. There are no major changes from last year with one exception: Multi-transmitter Multi-operator entries will be officially allowed to assign a block of consecutive contact numbers to each band to avoid confusion.

Due to the prohibitive costs of printing and postage, we are not making a general mailing of contest forms to all of the 2000+ area amateurs this year. A limited supply of all required forms will be available in Rochester area amateur stores after January 1 and at the January Club meetings. To be sure, please write ARRL directly requesting the forms you need. If you use ARRL supplied forms, be sure to enter "Rochester VHF Group" in the club participation block and send your logs, dupe and summary sheets to Mike McHugh, W2AV, by January 21 to qualify for the awards. Good luck and "See you in the contest!"

WINTER REPEATER USERS

Now that the winter months are upon us we ask you to:

- 1) Keep all transmission short, emergencies don't wait for monologues to finish.
- 2) Use simplex whenever possible, leave the repeaters available for those who need them.
- 3) Remember, the best repeater users are the ones who do a lot of listening, and little transmitting.

The RARA RAG

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The Rochester Amateur Radio Association
INCORPORATED

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The President's Corner

by Len Gessin, WA2ZNC

Our December meeting was a full blown success. Over 150 people attended the show as Kodak Radio Club guests. The Park facilities are nothing but luxury. We listened to, and watched, a home movie and slide show, with many historical facts on a DXpedition. Russ McKay, WB2CBU/ZB2EM, and Irv Goodman, AF2K/ZB2EN, went through their trip to Gibraltar with us, and we had a chance to ask lots of questions which got answered with all kinds of details. A super program and movies, thanks to Russ and Irv for rushing to get the program together with such short notice.

Our membership is still growing, largely due to Bob, W2NVZ, and Irv, AF2K, being at all the different group meetings with their briefcases full of supplies. If you have not paid your dues to date, you will be removed from our mailing list as of January 1, 1979. That means this copy of the Rag will be your last one. Better get cracking on renewing your membership.

The club still needs members to answer phone calls from prospective Hams. Please get in touch with any board member to let us know what time of day or night and the week you can assist.

The club station still needs some carpentry type work done. We need a console made for a desk top. Please see Ed, N2EH, or Ed, K2MP, Remember, our club station, K2JD, is open most every Monday night to check you out on equipment operation. Once you get the ID card, you have admission to the station 24 hours a day.

Plans are moving along for our Valentine Dinner-Dance. It will be held at the Airport Holiday Inn. Time, date, cost and menu will be announced. The Chairman, Howie, WA2UEB, is getting things together for final approval of the board.

If there are any suggestions or comments that you think need looking into, please let a board member know. I hope to see and say hello to you at our January 5 meeting.

VOL. 31 JANUARY 1979 NO. 5

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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.

NOTICE - - -

WR2ADG, will go off the air the first of the year for a logic change and over haul.



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ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

January 12th Meeting

Correction: Despite the official Sweepstakes Rules on page 80 of December QST, the contest will be held January 13-14 not January 20-21.

Project Report: As with any project, there comes a time when things just don't go right mainly due to unforeseen difficulties...the 432 transverters are being delayed by a lack of a few critical parts...220 by a lack of engineering time available...6 and 2 are progressing, but slowly...there is also a lack of workers who can give the time the effort needs...many signed up to work, but few are actually showing up to do it...the discount only applies to those who, in the opinion of the respective project managers, have actually done some work...as a minimum he has to at least see your face at a work session to determine whether you qualify...if you have not yet done anything, call the project manager or see him at the meeting...with the present level of cooperation etc., it will be difficult to get many transverters done by contest time...if you can help and had not previously indicated your ability to do so, get in touch with one of the project managers at the meeting...he may be able to use you.

Contest Reports: Congratulations to Chuck, K2YCO, who easily won WNY honors for top single op score in the September VHF QSO Party...second place single honors to Mike, W2AV, who also collected the most sections (23) on 2 meters nationally...a fine second in multi-op was recorded by the group at WB2RJL...in August UHF contest, club members K2LZF, K2EVJ, and WB2ELB, had the top scores for WNY...perhaps we could generate more activity in this one next summer...also noted in the September contest results is the 432 score of K2LGJ-he racked up 19 sections on that band...maybe we should offer a prize to anyone who can convince him to drive in from Buffalo a couple of times a year so we can add him to the club roster.

Station Activities: Tom, WB2IEY, is now up to 19 states on 2...Bill, WB2KIW, will shortly be moving to the new QTH in Hilton...however, the all important antenna system for 2 and 432 is already in- 2 5el twists for 2 and a 4 x 10 H array for 432, all on an az-el mount for tracking birds.

More Beacons: Mike, W2AV, reports hearing the W3VD beacon on 144.040 coming from Maryland...QST's World Above column for December indicates that VE1SIX has beacons on 144.070 and 50.088.

The Past: In case you missed November meeting, Al Katz, K2UYH, gave an excellent presentation on the state-of-the-art of moon-bounce (or EME communication as its devotees prefer to call it)...he pointed out that extremely low noise receiver front-ends are the key to successful EME work...also useful are a few dozen yagis or the dish from a NASA tracking station...a kilowatt doesn't hurt either...Al also noted that EME is the only way to get WAS on VHF...thanks again to Al and his pilot, Marty, for spending a fine evening with us.

The Future: In order to properly celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the VHF GROUP, we are planning a trip 'down memory lane' at the January meeting...more next issue. Contact Chairman Mike McHugh, W2AV, will be available to Light the Fires for January VHF Sweepstakes.

Good Luck in the Contest!

73, K2KGE

RRRA January Meeting

The group will hold its regular meeting on Friday, January 19th, beginning at 8 p.m. in the Pittsford Town Hall. Complete program details will be sent in the newsletter and given on the Sunday night Monroe County FM Net.

CHUCKLES from "IFFR Pilots" Tnx "Hilltopper"

Clerk: How can I stop women from talking of low prices they paid in the good old days?

Merchant: Merely act surprised by saying you didn't know they were old enough to remember.

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Rochester Amateurs Contribute to 1980 Winter Olympics

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RaRa) will be an active part of the 1980 Winter Olympics to be held in the vicinity of Lake Placid, New York. Brian T. Fovel, 41, W2PBJ, resident of Pittsford, New York and an active member of RaRa is Deputy Director of Communications. He is employed at the Xerox Corporation and is a member of the National Ski Patrol, contributing his talents to Ski Valley in the Bristol Hills. Brian has been a licensed radio amateur for about 21 years. He has been active as a ski patrolman for about 19 years and has risen to the level of Senior Patrolman. Brian and his wife have three children.

There are nine different events staged in and around the Lake Placid area and the radio coverage and its co-ordination to run each event smoothly for the Winter Olympic Committee must operate without a flaw. Brian has taken up part time residence near Lake Placid to be on the scene to develop the system. His office is located in the Lake Placid Town Hall, within sight of the new speed skating oval and the refurbished sports arena near the High School building.

Brian is finding his job encompasses several aspects not usually considered to the TV viewer or spectator. He is dealing with government agencies such as the FCC, Secret Service, State Police, etc. Within the FCC, he is in contact with the Broadcast Division to arrange for the special Travelers Information Service (T. I. S.) equipment that enables drivers to get special road and parking information. The Safety and Special Service Branch has assigned about 35 UHF frequencies for the 1980 events, the 1979 pre-game events and the tear down activities. There are also special networks to be arranged for V. I. P.'s (such as the King of Sweden) communications. Brian has found he must also keep track of all the communications equipment brought in by foreign teams, news teams, ski patrols, special security teams, TV teams, etc. Frequencies must be co-ordinated with Canada to ensure non-interference to both Canadian and Olympic activities. The New York City FCC Field Office will participate and aid in the event that some problems creep though. To further aid in location and identification there will be an FCC van on site plus some mobile units for local assistance. Radio coverage for the events will vary from easy for the speed skating, challenging for the downhill and giant slalom skiing on Whiteface Mountain to very difficult for the cross-country ski. Trails are up to 50 km long and weave and go over difficult terrain. Naturally there will be telephone circuits run for the length of the race courses but the prime use of these is for the necessary timing which has to be reliable and accurate to a high degree.

How best can amateur radio help in this very complex activity? Do you recall during the Olympics at Montreal when the Hams handled

over 12,000 messages in two weeks for the amateur athletes from all over the world? Lake Placid area hams are preparing to set up another message handling facility under the direction of Chairman Lincoln Dixon of Saranac Lake. This will be known as the Winter Olympics Radio Amateur Network (W. O. R. A. N.), and more details will be available in the future.

One way the hams of RaRa will participate is to use our technical expertise in VHF/UHF spectrum equipment to convert some 300 plus Pagers from 462 mHz down to near 455 mHz to be used for receiving both tone and voice messages transmitted by the special race committees and Radio Common Carrier (RCC). Due to the upcoming pre-game events being held in 1979 at the Whiteface Alpine Training Center there is an early requirement for about 35 of the Pagers. Leonard Gessin, WA2ZNC, President of RaRa, is leading the local work effort. Those who are interested and technically familiar with pagers, tone testing, receiver tuning etc., should get in touch with Len.

We wish Brian Fovel well in this great venture, and are looking forward to hearing more details in the future. We also hope that Amateur Radio will make a positive contribution in the forthcoming events at Lake Placid.

WR2AHL - 220 mHz!

Yes, there is activity on 220 mHz in these here parts. And now there has been added a fm repeater. There are about ten amateurs making use of the system which is on the air 24 hours each day. There is an emergency power back-up in case of power failure from the commercial source.

In-put frequency is 223.30 mHz.

Out-put frequency is 224.90 mHz.

Modulation deviation is 5 kHz.

Mike Rink, WB2HYP, began his repeater project 2 years ago, and has been through site problems, technical tangles, supplier non-delivery and damaged delivery such that these events must seem quite routine to him now. We suspect the only aspect he hasn't hit is to solder copper plumbing to cool the finals.

Seriously though, WR2AHL basic equipment is from VHF Engineering, Inc. pushing ten watts out of the duplexer. The antenna has 9 db gain and resides at 928 feet in the Town of Farmington. The antenna orientation favors the City of Rochester but mobile coverage is good from Oswego to about ten miles west of Batavia. Mobile coverage within Monroe County is solid. To the south coverage is good to Canandaigua, Geneva and Lakeville. There seem to be fewer shadows for 220 mHz compared to 146 mHz. Mike says it creeps around building very well.

The QSO timer is about three minutes and resets on receiver input. There is a five second squelch tail. WR2AHL is open to all regular amateur radio activity from experimenters to rag chewers. See you on 1-1/4??

SPECIAL NOTES:

VHF Sweepstakes Contest Rules

The complete rules and regulations are located on page 80 in QST Magazine for December, 1978. You will be most helpful to your own score and the club score if you read them too.

Our very close second position is a result of many local contacts on the VHF/UHF bands. But what will get us over the "hump" is section multipliers. The ARRL Section around us are Ontario (ONT), Western Pennsylvania (WPA), and Eastern New York (ENY). The borders for (ONT) & (WPA) are easily found at the state and federal borders. However (ENY) is comprised of the following countries: Albany, Colombia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rensaleer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Ulster, Warren, Washington, Westchester. There is no such section as central New York or northern New York. All other counties in upstate New York are considered within Western New York Section.

It's not impossible to get these other sections, but they only count once - even if you work them twice or more and even if you work them on other bands. Do you have a decent antenna on six or two? If so, don't camp out on the usual FM Simplex channels. That other section you want will be buried in local QRM.

The 146-148 mHz segment has two restrictions. First, only contest contacts may be made on 146.49, 146.52, 146.55, 146.58, also 147.42, 147.45, 147.48, 147.51, 147.54, 147.57 mHz. Secondly, 146.52 mHz has the four hour use limit separated by 15 minute time-offs.

So if you are on 2 fm only, use the other designated simplex frequencies and/or any other segment where fm is a legal mode without time restrictions. And, if you have any sort of a beam get it up. If you can't rotate it, point it toward Canada.

Logs are due to W2AV by January 20th.

Editor

Interested in Electronics Design?

Wemoco Occupational School offers a course in Electronics Drafting. This course provides theoretical and drawing background essential to electronics design and fabrication. Emphasis is placed upon drawing basic views, electrical and electronics schematics, symbols, use of drafting equipment, and PC board design. The successful student will be able to apply what has been learned to his or her own job entry or betterment requirements.

- Enrollments will be accepted by mail beginning December 26, 1978, and in person beginning January 10, 1979.

- Classes start Monday, January 22, 1979.

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10 Metre Beacons

With propagation conditions getting better every day, the following list of beacons might be useful.

9J2BBB	28.2025	Zambia
DLOIGI	28.205	Germany
K4BRD	28.2075	Florida
3B8NS	28.210	Mauritius
ZD9GI	28.2125	Gough Isle
GB3SX	28.215	England
VK2WI	28.2175	Australia
5B4CY	28.220	Cyprus
YU	28.2225	Yugoslavia
VE3TEN	28.225	Canada
F3THF	28.2275	France
ZL2NHF	28.230	New Zealand
ZL2NHF	28.2325	New Zealand
VP9BA	28.2375	Bermuda
PY1CK	28.240	Brazil
PY1CK	28.2425	Brazil
A9XC	28.245	Bahrain
EA2OIZ	28.2475	Spain
WA1IOB	28.250	USA
OA4VHF	28.185	Peru

(Courtesy The Ontario Amateur)

HIGHLIGHTS from RaRa Board Meeting December 6th

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

Committee Reports - The Valentine Dinner-Dance will be held February 10th at the Airport Holiday Inn. Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m. and Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. The Menu includes choice of Roast Sirloin or Stuffed Breast of Chicken.

K2JD - The equipment fund for our club station has a balance of \$634.32. A tower is to be erected soon at the station site.

Membership - At present there are 649 paid members and 33 life members. Final notices will be sent out in January to those who have not renewed. Additional directories have been printed and are now being sent out.

Public Relations - RaRa now has an answering service. The phone number is listed in the white pages and also in the yellow pages under "associations". Purpose of the service is to inform those inquisitive about Amateur Radio who they might call for information on how to become an Amateur Radio operator. Anyone interested in assisting with calls please contact K2UDP.

Jim O'Brien, K2UDP, has arranged for RaRa to be on WROC on the December 28th Toby Gold Radio Program, a two hour call in - talk show.

Public Service - The S.E.T. (Simulated Emergency Test) will be held January 27-28th. On Saturday afternoon, January 27th, there will be a simulated hospital emergency. For Sunday, January 28th, there will be a weather type of emergency simulated. The complete guidelines for participation appear in December QST.

License Class - The new Novice and General Code and Theory classes will begin February 19. Anyone interested in an Advanced class should contact Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, at 624-1929. Several sessions conducted on a question and answer basis may be offered.

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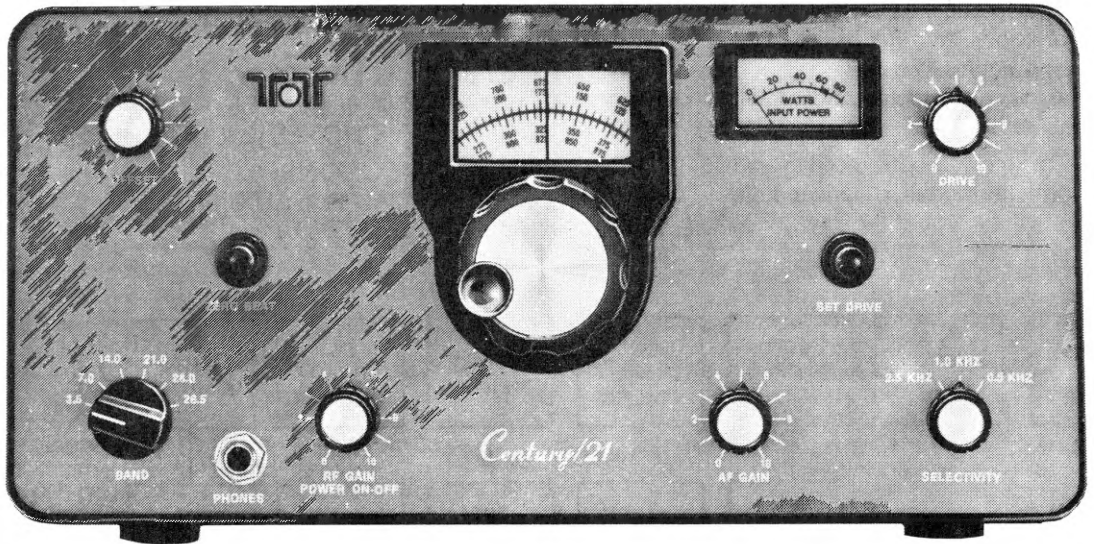
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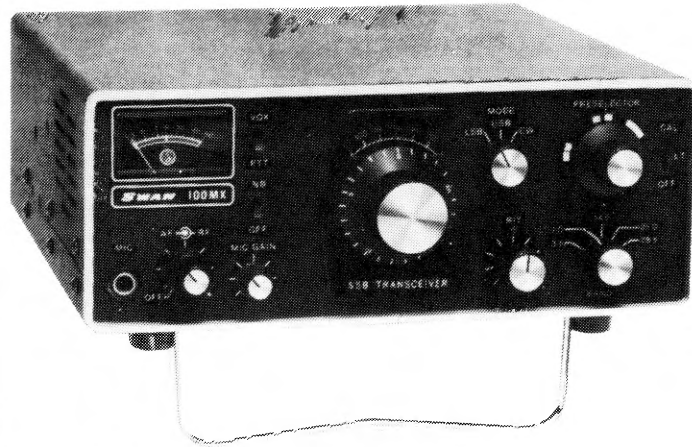
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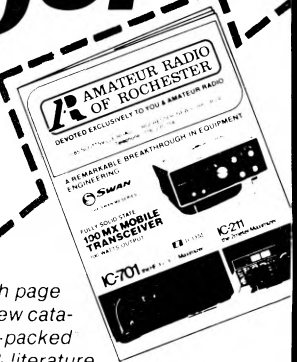
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