

The RARA RAG

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MARCH FROM "MARS" at March 2nd Meeting

by Alan Komenski, AFJ2K, (o.w.k.a. AC2K)

The March meeting of the RaRa will begin at 8 p. m. sharp on Friday evening, March 2. The special feature will be an introduction into the Military Affiliate Radio System, known to most as "MARS." The primary purpose of this network and system is to pass emergency radio traffic for military personnel. Also considered a prime purpose is, in time of emergency, supplementing military communications capability.

Each of the three services will be represented; Air Force, Army, and Navy - by Terry Hahn, WA2AGO; Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ; and Dave Bodner, K2ZFM respectively. If you have been thinking about joining M. A. R. S. , or even wondering what it is, you should find this particularly interesting.

See you all at the Monroe County Co-operative Extension Building on Highland Avenue, 8 p. m. , on March 2nd.

MARCH VHF/UHF AUCTION

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association will again sponsor, jointly with the Rochester VHF Group, the VHF/UHF Auction on the evening of Friday, March 16th. As the two groups hold the auction together, there will be no VHF Group meeting on Friday the 9th. The auction will begin at 8 p. m. , and the equipment offered by members will be on display before the gavel falls. The VHF/UHF Auction will be held at the Monroe County Farm and Home Center on Highland Avenue. The auction is open to members and associate members of RaRa, RRRR, and the VHF Group. Bring equipment already tagged with price, sellers name or call, etc. Any VHF/UHF/Microwave/HF/LF/VLF equipment is welcome, in useful shape, leave the cannibalized junk at home.

RDXA "ON THE AIR"

The Rochester DX Association has been getting together Thursdays at 8 p. m. through the use of the 146.22/82 mHz repeater located in Victor, New York. This is a good opportunity to catch up on the current conditions and available DX stations. For those without 2/FM capability, a cheap monitor receiver and a homebrew beam could get you clued in.



Our president and his wife, Len and Onnalee Gessin enjoy the many delights of the recent RaRa Valentine Dinner-Dance. Thanks to Gary Perkins, WB2MDC, for the photo.

24 HOURS OF MORSE, Is This A Record?

On February 5th, 1979 the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle printed a story by reporter Rich Popely. A University of Rochester sophomore, Chris Reich, claims "a world record after sending Morse Code for 24 continuous hours".

We wonder if somewhere a record has been sent that was not forwarded to the Guinness Book of World Records. How about some telegrapher who got snow or flood bound? What of the traffic handlers for the "Titanic" emergency? How about some of you contesters and field day people? Hows- about- it readers and old timers? Could the record be set in Rochester in 1979?

Local S.E.C. Retires

The ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator job has been relinquished by James Collinsworth, N2JC, effective February 1, 1979. As SEC Jim was the second most important person in the ARRL Field Leadership in the Western New York ARRL Section which comprises all of upstate New York except counties along the Hudson River south of Saratoga. We thank Jim for his years of devoted service, to us, and the general public.

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The Radio Amateur's Journal

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Editor's Inch: QSP Home Truth

"It is operating and technical investigation, not regulatory hassling, which are the essence of amateur radio. Were it not for the sheer enjoyment we amateurs derive from the former, we wouldn't concern ourselves with the latter." (from QST editorial, February 1978 and FT Newsletter, Int. Fox-Tango Club of February 1979.)

The notice is out! Beginning April 1, 1979 our ARRL dues become \$18.00 each year. Whatever the many justifications, this is a very significant amount. It will not be un-noticed in anyone's pocket. Whatever your financial status or situation you will feel it or hear about it from some one who does feel it (like an otherwise normally tolerant family member.)

When Mr. Dannels and Mr. Baldwin came to the ARRL it was like the effect of a too long awaited breath of good air. A lot of new and old blood has seen the new vitality and come back, with some vigor. But what will this new cost do to the membership? What of the young hams, the students, new hams, newly married, those with new family, those older believers on a dwindling retirement sustenance, those unable to function completely in the full time work world but who are on hand at times each day for real purposeful nets, or traffic or emergency? What about anyone, hamming on a shoe-string, who has firmly stuck with the ARRL in thick and thin as the only effective way of dealing with spectrum competitors plus national and international regulators? Will member participation increase in the face of fewer members? Will some significant vitality be lost as some drop off due to cost? Will some of these drop-offs fall prey to the verbal snipers (plenty of talk but no act), form a new splinter group, only to bring non-progress through confusion (as demonstrated by two equal but opposite groups in a neighboring country to the north)?

But this is not to incite anyone's anger toward the ARRL. These do seem to be fair questions, and I believe the total membership is interested in the answers. I trust the leadership has given this move the very thoughtful consideration it deserves. The ARRL has a real chance to be the "best act in town" if we all participate; it should not succeed just because it is the "only act in town".

K2KWK

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Wally Kincaid, W2PG, Pres.

Rochester VHF Group News

Project Report: All production is currently in a hold status while the project teams are re-organized...also, circuit boards need to be made... 2 of the 432 units were tested by K2MP and WA2ZNC during the contest... Ed and Lenny both reported good results.

Power Supplies: The small power supply kits were available at the February meeting... the price was increased to \$15 since everything down to the nuts and bolts has been included... the supply puts out 14 volts at a very steady 2.2 amp and is well worth the price.

Sweepstakes: Conditions on the low end of 2 and on 6 were somewhat less than spectacular... multipliers were indeed hard to come by... 2 FM was once again more like 75... those who fought 'the battle of 52' certainly know what an Excedrin headache is... activity above 147 was very high... many a station indicated making half or more of their contacts there... spreading things out helped increase everyone's score... cooperation in getting logs in has been good... the club score is significantly greater than last year... we won't know the final results for a few weeks yet, but if we don't beat the Packrats, we sure gave it a good shot.

The Past: The 30th Anniversary party was an immensely enjoyable event... our biggest turnout of the year (must have been the free cake)... the meeting was graced by the presence of 1st Chairman Hank, W2UTH, and still active Charter Members Ken, W2UAD; Roger, W2NES; Dick, W2OWF, and Chet, W2VVG... it was also nice to have 1st Secretary John, W2ZHB and near-charter Linc, W2LC... unable to attend were Frank, W2OVE; Bob, W2RTB, and Sam, W2RSL... remembered were Silent Keys W2TKY, W2UXP, W2BCL, and W2SHW... special thanks to Bruce, W2ICE, for dusting off and presenting 'The World above 50 Mc.', a truly interesting, well-done slide show.

The Future: Polish up the old stuff (that you couldn't sell at the RaRa auction) and haul it to the RRRRA/VHF auction in March.

73, K2KGE

RECOVERY WISHES

Ray E. Leigh, W2SNI, who suffered a heart attack, has been convalescing at Strong Memorial Hospital.

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Hams Help New Weather Station to Monitor 'Seven Valleys'

by Vivian E. Douglas, WA2PUU

Although we have yet to experience a touch of "old man winter," the weather always seems to be in the news, particularly with the new broadcasting station on 162.55 MHz strickly for "weather news."

There seems to be a tendency for winter to "sneak up" on us in the Central New York area and amateurs interested in helping keep the information updated are operating as "weather watchers."

WKRT in Cortland will keep a close check on winter storms and cover five regions in the "Seven Valleys," with a nucleus of seven hams. Reports can be conveyed to the station 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Weather Watchers reports can be recorded and relayed directly on the air. Reports also can be used to provide information for the announcers and news persons.

The amateurs "watching" in the five regions will keep in touch and coordinate their reports through 2-meter FM.

The service will not be limited to weather conditions only. It will be alert for traffic jams, accidents, roofs which may have collapsed and other related situations.

These volunteer amateur radio operators offer their help, fully aware that their knowledge of sudden changing conditions can seriously affect thousands of lives in the area.

TO ALL YL's!

This is an invitation to all YL's to join a newly formed YL Net, the SAYLARC's, SECOND AREA YOUNG LADIES CLUB! We meet every Friday 9 a.m. local time on 3944/45. Net Manager is Minerva Fronhofer, WB2JNL. We would like to meet more YL's from 2 Land, please check in and say hello.

33 Lia Zwack, WA2NFY

SILENT KEY

Mr. George A. Biddle, WD2AIB, a recent student in local Ham Radio classes.



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NOTE OF THANKS

A special note of appreciation to Mike Greenlar for his article "Introducing... Julio Ahumada" that appeared in Upstate New York for Sunday, February 11, 1979. In addition to writing a fine article on one very fine gentleman, and a member of RaRa, Mike also managed to cover very well the legal description and justification for the Amateur Radio Service in countries all over the world. Julio, who is LU7BD/W2, is a very real illustration that Amateur Radio is a communication and technical investigation carried on by amateur radio operators. The five principles of our fundamental purpose, skillfully personified in Julio, are emergency communications service to the public, contributions to improvement of the radio art, advancing skills in communication and technical phases, an existing reservoir of trained operators and technical electronic experts, and the enhancement of international good will. We are proud to have Julio as a member of our community and pleased that he should so well represent all radio amateurs in the pages of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. And to Mike Greenlar, our 73.

WANTED: Johnson Viking 6n2 Thunderbolt Amplifier. Prime working condition not necessary, will consider any one available. Contact Bill Gillette, WB2KIW.

FOR SALE: Hy Gain 3806 2m FM - Bat, chgr, Ex Ant Adapt, Flec Ant, 5 xtl prs, Srvc Man. John Golden, W2IRG, 381-4928 or 423-6427 (office).

WANTED: Manual for Heathkit VOM Model IM-16, will borrow or buy as desired. Contact Ed Kohl, WA2UBD, at 223-2872.

BURGLARY caused the loss of Heath Seneca VHF1 6 & 2 meter transmitter, Allied Knight Linear 6 or 10 meters and Lafayette Mobile Linear Amp 100 watts - 6 meters. If any one comes across any one selling any of above please call W2UCF, Art Phillips at 377-1709.

WANTED - Operating manual for Hammarlund HQ 110 Receiver to copy - Walt McBurney, 768-7596 - call collect.



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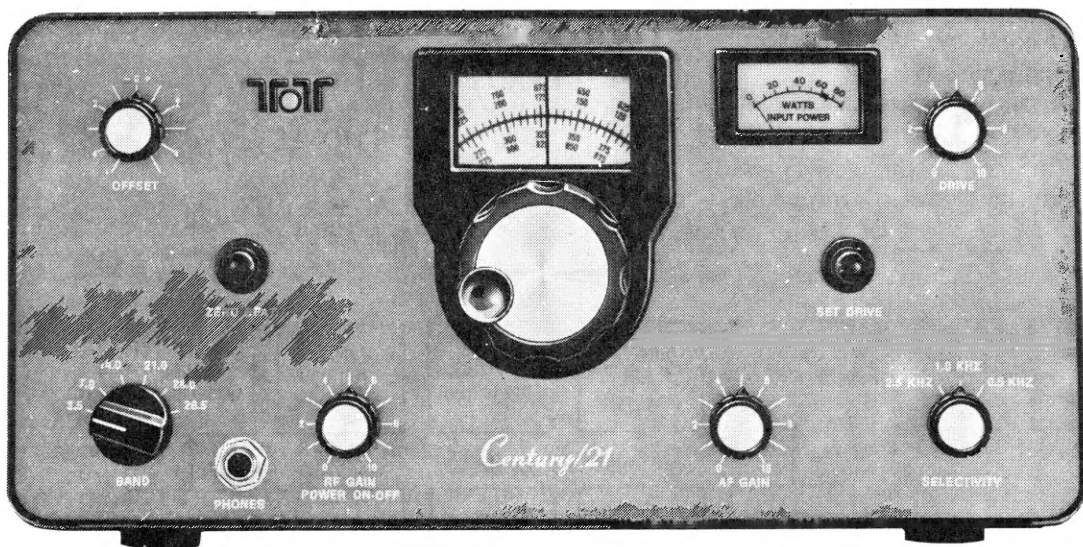
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