

# The RARa RAG

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## OLD TIMERS' NITE WITH EDISON at April 6th Meeting

by Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, Club Historian

At the April meeting, RaRa will join other organizations and celebrate "1979, The Edison Year", to be more exact, the 100th anniversary of the electric light. The short program will feature demonstrations, exhibits and pictures of the world's greatest electrical inventor.

One of Thomas Alva Edison's first inventions was the telegraph repeater (sound familiar doesn't it?). His interest in this field developed during his employment as a high speed telegraph operator. The repeater was soon followed by the electrically operated stock ticker and quadruplex telegraphy, a system allowing many code messages to be sent over a single wire circuit.

Then came the two inventions of particular interest to the radio amateur: the first practical microphone -- the familiar carbon mike -- and the electric light in 1879. It was during his work on the light bulb that the inventor discovered and patented the "Edison Effect", the basis for the modern radio tube and electronic technology. This same period saw the perfection of the phonograph as well as the motion picture camera and projector.

The program will end with a playback of two crack Morse operators handling line traffic at the incredible speed of 110 messages per hour!

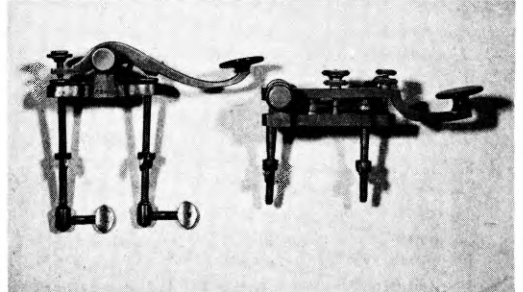
Members of the Antique Wireless Association will provide the program material.

Our April meeting will be on the 6th. We will meet at the Gleason's Recreation Center at 1044 University Avenue. This is the small building set back in the parking lot, between the main plant, and the Burroughs Corporation. Parking will be in the lot in front of the Gleason Works Recreation Center, directly opposite Granger Street.

## Dayton Hamvention Tour April 27-29

There is still time to join a special RaRa tour group going to the Dayton Hamvention on the weekend of April 27-29. We will leave Rochester by air early Friday, April 27, and return on Sunday evening, April 29.

(Continued on page 2)



Type of key used by Edison. They are called "leg keys" because of the long screws used to hold them to the operating table. The key at left is known as a camel-back. Both types are circa 1885 - 1890.

## TIME TO GET READY, FCC EXAMS AT HAMFEST

by John Schooley, K2NC

For the fifth consecutive year, Amateur Radio License exams will be conducted at the Rochester Hamfest. Exams are to be held on Saturday, May 26th. Each year the number of applicants has grown (from 256 the first year to 700 last year) so that we will be unable to admit anyone without an exam appointment sheet from the F.C.C. To assure your seat at these exams get a FCC FORM 610 sent off to the F.C.C., 610 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19106. Mark the space (number 19 on most forms) "City and State where you will take examination" with the statement "ROCHESTER HAMFEST". Our hamfest offers a unique opportunity to take your exam in congenial surroundings, which should relieve the examination jitters; be sure to take advantage of the opportunity.

This year the F.C.C. is issuing code test credit card to those who pass a code test but fail the written exam portion. At the Rochester Hamfest, code test credit cards issued by any F.C.C. Office will be honored. In those cases where code test credit cards are issued at Rochester Hamfest they will be issued for use at any F.C.C. Office.

Start studying now and be sure to get that #610 form sent to the Philadelphia F.C.C. Office as early as possible to guarantee your seat at the examinations.

# The RARA RAG

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## The President's Corner

by Len Gessin, WA2ZNC

With the first sign of spring, also comes thoughts for next year's RaRa Officers. As in every large, active club, there seems to be only a handful of members that are always around to keep the organization going. Our association is not much different from norm. This month a nominating committee will select the members to fill the seven board and three officer positions; only the presidency is not a voting item. Alan Komenski, "AC2K", will be taking over the reins for the 1979-1980 year. At the April and May meetings, I will be asking the assembled membership to put forth any names for the board or officer positions, in addition to those names that the nominating committee have selected. If you intend to nominate a person from the floor, please have that persons permission to do so.

Our Valentine Dinner-Dance was a super success again, Skippy and Cappy Capauldy, K2UXF, have made each event since number one. Many old and familiar faces were there. I was glad to see some of our newer members attending. There were some people that were very conspicuous by their absence also. Sixty-six hardy souls were there to enjoy good food and company. Music and liquid refreshments followed. Each member should mark next years calendar on February 9, for our next annual dinner-dance. You might even get your picture in the Rag!

We are moving right along with our picnic plans. At this writing, June 16 is the date and Powder Mill Park is the place.

In April we will be the guests of the new Gleason Radio Club, called "Gears", and their President, Bill Buchanan, "WA2ELC", and Bill Gross, Vice-President, KA2CFS. This will be a first for RaRa and Gleasons, and maybe, like our Kodak meeting, it can become an annual event.

## Dayton Tour (Continued from page 1)

If you want to visit the largest hamfest in the nation with a group of your Rochester friends, make the arrangements now. Call Harold Smith, K2HC, at 424-1100 during the day or 225-5260 in the evening...or see him at the meeting.

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# VHF SWEEPSTAKES

by Mike McHugh, W2AV

Well, the dust has settled and the 1979 VHF Sweepstakes is now history. Final claimed score this year for the Rochester VHF Group is 903,392 -- 209,216 points more than last year. As this is written, we do not have the final result on beating the Pack Rats, but we sure gave it one heck of a try. Thanks and congratulations to the 229 stations who participated and turned in logs. Next year - over one megapoint!

The winners' circle this year includes: Chuck Oneske, K2YCO (top single op 18,336 points); Hank Blodgett, W2UTH, and the Squaw Island Club (top multi op 20,856 points); Irv Goodman, AF2K (most 2FM 251 contacts); Len McCowen, K2CEH (high CW score 1440 points); Len Gessin, WA2ZNC (high SSB/AM score 7280 points); Nancy Van Grol, WA2YEK (most improved score 9476 points); Stan Hazen, K2SSB (nearest log - much appreciated); Jim Lill and friends at multi op, WA2ZKD (highest score on 220Mhz and above 1436 points); Bob Boyack, K2OXT (random drawing - pure luck). Small awards were also claimed by WB2JLR, N2AJK, K2HRT, WA2MQP, WB2KIW and K2YA for turning in the first six logs - also much appreciated.

We had excellent response from almost all of the area establishments. Our thanks and support goes to: Bob Dean, Inc., Harvey's Ham (Caledonia), Heath Electronic Center, JR's Radio Supplies, Ramsey Electronics, RaRa and The RF Communications Amateur Radio Club. Special thanks also to the following individuals who generously donated their time, services, etc. to help make this year's effort a success: Chuck Bliley, K3NAU/2; Linc Cundall, W2LC; Harold Eskin, W2UG; Tim Magee, WB2KAO; Jim Lill, WA2ZKD; George Muller, WA2IEO; Dave Obrien, WA2YFL; Tom Richmond, WB2IEY; Chester Selbert, WB2ZFS and Harold Smith, K2HC.

Being Contest Chairman for the Rochester Group in a VHF SS Contest is an experience everyone should have once - in spite of the long hours I really enjoyed myself. Thanks again to all involved for an interesting time. See you all in next year's contest!

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## Ivan Loucks, Silent Key

We have just learned that Ivan Loucks, W3GD, is a Silent Key. Ivan was well known to Rochester amateurs as a speaker at RaRa Hamfests and a member of F. C. C. Forums.

W3GD retired as Chief of the Amateur and Personal Division of the F. C. C. It was during his administration that many rules were passed favorable to the radio amateur.

## SILENT KEY: W2UG

Harold M. Eskin, "Harry", passed away suddenly March 18, 1979. He was well known and liked among the local amateur radio community. He was a member of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and the Antique Wireless Association. In 1975, he retired from his long established Eskin Radio and Television business of selling and repairing radios and televisions. After retirement, he worked in electronics at the University of Rochester and Xerox Corporation. He was a veteran of World War II in the South Pacific and a member of the Kaufman Post of the Jewish War Veterans. "Harry" was active on many long distance and VHF amateur bands and contributed many hours of service to the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). His dedication, drive, and thoughtful operating have inspired many and will be long remembered. Prior to getting the W2UG call, "Harry" was known as W2PVK. Friends wishing may contribute to a favored charity in his memory.

## RRRA MEETING

April 20th, a Friday evening, at 8 p.m. is the next Repeater Group get-together. The program will be announced in the group newsletter to be mailed before the meeting date. Announcements will also be made on the Monroe County FM Net Sunday nights at 9 p.m. on 19/79 and 28/88 repeaters.

WANTED: Shure monaural Phono Cartridge model #M-5. Will pay good price. Contact Geoffrey Tilga, WA2YIX, at 637-3623 before 10 a.m. mornings or after 11 p.m. evenings.



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# ROCHESTER VHF GROUP NEWS

Project Wait List: A second reminder to all those who are on the wait list—payment for half or more of the amount required must be received by me at or before the auction...if I don't hear anything from you, we'll have to assume you are no longer interested.

Power Supplies: Several of the small power supply kits are waiting to be claimed...they will be available at the April meeting...those needing theirs before then should contact me.

Ward Visitors: In recent months several members and/or family have been in the hospital...hope all is well or improving with Ray, W2SNI; Dwight, K2KWK; Ed, K2EVJ; Wendel, K2LZF and the xyl of Bob, KB2BY.

VHF GROUP Angels: It hardly need be said that the VHF Group is a non-profit organization...we barely make enough each month on the coffee to buy cups for the next meeting...the auction provides the scratch for the postage for meeting announcements...from time to time we have received unsolicited donations from members who realize our financial situation...a big thanks to Nelson, WA2ZPE; Linc, W2LC; Roger, WB2HWO; and Chet, WB2ZFS who have all helped out this year... anyone else so inclined should feel free to join this select group.

200 blushing VHFers: As you all are probably aware by now, Bill Tynan, W3XO, QST's VHF editor published a very laudatory anniversary greeting to our group in the March issue...well, gosh, let's face it, the Rochester VHF Group is a great organization... thanks, Bill.

Blushers' response: We'd like to send W3XO a thank you and also a picture of the charter members present at the anniversary party... two copies would be nice-one for QST, one for the club archives...if anyone can help, please get in touch.

DX Channel: From recent reports, it would seem that 16/76 is the place to hear repeater DX... a station in Florida was heard coming through the local machine and so was a station in Colorado... at the time, the Colorado station was working a KH6!!!!

The Past: Thanks to Bill, K2HRT, we all know more ways to synthesize than we probably ever before suspected-'twas a fine discussion... certificates and awards were awarded to

all worthy contestants.

The Future: Next month will be, among other things, nomination of officers for next year.

73, K2KGE

## Announcing The Rochester VHF Group Century Club Contest

Dates - 12:00 noon local, April 14, 1979 til April 22, 1979, 12:00 noon local time.

Object - To contact EXACTLY 100 stations, while working as many multipliers as possible, on the amateur bands above 50 Mhz.

Rules - a. Repeater operation, or operation on recognized repeater input or output frequencies, are NOT permitted. b. Contacts can be made only Once per band, REGARDLESS of mode. c. Multipliers count once, regardless of band.

Scoring - a. Each contact, regardless of band, is worth 2 points. b. Each participant shall give out his (her) Post Office Mail code or Zip Code each contact, these will count as the multipliers. Mobile stations give out your home Zip, regardless of present location.

Exchange - Transmit signal report, consecutive serial number, and Zip Code.

Reporting - Use log form available at the VHF Group meeting, or a reasonably neat homebrew form (January SS contest form is fine). Indicating Date and Time, Serial Number sent and received, Signal report sent and received, and Zip Code received (multiplier). Each different Zip or Mail Code acts as a multiplier of the contact score. Send logs by MAY 7 (NO LATER), or bring in person to the May 11 VHF Group meeting. In the event of any ties, the log received first is Winner.

Awards - A very Handsome certificate will be presented to all entrants. Score and standing (overall) will be indicated thereupon.

Thanks and Good Luck.

WB2IEY, Tom Richmond

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# Highlights From RaRa Board

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

On Wednesday, March 7th, the RaRa Board of Directors meeting was held at the K2JD Club Station.

Secretary's Report - Minutes from the February 7th Board Meeting were read.

Treasurer's Report - Total bank balance at present is \$2,014.47.

Hamfest - Pre-Hamfest mailings have been made. All locals should have received this mailing. Discussion regarding location of the "Flea Market" and ticket sales at the gate ensued as there was interest in some possible changes.

License Classes - 32 prospective Hams have signed up for the Novice License Class and 31 members have signed up for the General.

Membership - As of March 7th there are a total of 782 members in RaRa.

RaRa Rag - Assistance is needed in the production of the Rag. Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, volunteered to assist.

Public Relations - Jim O'Brien, K2UDP, reported that RaRa and Ham Radio in general have received good coverage on Radio, TV, and in the Daily Record within the past several weeks.

Ivan Loucks Deceased - Harold Smith, K2HC, read a letter from Mrs. Pearl E. Loucks indicating that her husband, Ivan, former head of the Amateur and Citizens division of the FCC passed away recently. Ivan was well known by many RaRa members. He was in attendance at many of the Rochester Hamfests. RaRa has made a donation of \$25.00 to the ARRL Foundation in his memory.

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WANTED: Want to buy or trade crystals for an RF Comm. Ensign converted to 2m FM; also for a Regency HR2. I have some xtals to trade that fit Ensign, Drake, Motorola, and RCA equipment operating in the amateur bands. Contact Len, WA2ZNC, at 248-2511.

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FOR SALE: Midland 13-500 Transceiver, 2m FM, with DTMF pad, price \$300.00. Contact John, K2NC, at 225-3626.

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FOR SALE: Hy Gain #3806 Portable 2m FM - Bat. Charge, ext. antenna adapt., Flexible Ant., 5 xtal pairs, and service manual. Contact John Golden, W2IRG, 381-4928 or 423-6427 (office).

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

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FOR SALE: 450 reg with 2 frcks (both reprints) mag mt ant included approx. 25 watts - \$250. 1 - 1C230 - 250. Ray Roberts, WA2SSU, 225-2220 or 663-6157.

# Local Club Sponsors National Contest

If you were listening on 80 CW back in January, you may have heard a pileup of motley signals unlike anything else on the band. There were clean crisp xtal notes, some with "tails", others with a decided chirp, while a few had a beautiful bell sound as a result of primary keying.

You were listening to the annual old time transmitter contest sponsored by the Antique Wireless Association. There was nationwide participation with members checking in as far west as W6 and 7. Although not mandatory, most equipment was pre-1939 vintage with the oldest transmitter being W1DM's 1927 set powered by an ancient motor-generator. The earliest receiver was a 2-tuber using a 1924 Reinartz regenerative circuit.

Few stations ran over 50 watts with several running only a few watts to self-excited Hartley oscillators. 1935-39 gear was most popular. W2LC used a 6L6 xtal osc./807 amp. while W2ICE had a 6L6 osc./T-40 amp. with a 1935 HRO receiver.

You may be surprised to know that as a rule these early transmitters cause little TVI with straight-thru xtal oscillators and high-C circuits. Another TVI preventive is the high inter-electrode capacity of some early tubes. The tubes in W2BGN's transmitter may well fall into this category. Ken used obsolete W.E. 205-D and 211-D tubes from WHAM's 1927 broadcast transmitter.

The only modern circuitry one could find in the transmitters was the up-dated antenna coupling system and the antenna. In the old days it was common practice for some to clip the antenna directly to the final tank coil!

Next January listen in, to get a hint of what the old days sounded like. Better yet join the AWA and participate with your own "antique". Incidentally - our National A.W.A. Conference at Canandaigua, NY in September has an antique Flea Market.

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## Nearby Old-Timer Events, Nets

May 12, 1979: Antique Wireless Association Annual Spring meet at East Bloomfield, NY.

August 11, 1979: Antique Wireless Association at the New England Wireless and Steam Museum in East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

VOICE NETS (ssb)  
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. 3903kHz  
Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. 3866kHz  
Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. 14,270kHz  
M-W-F at 9:30 a.m. 3866kHz

CODE NETS (cw)  
Daily at 4:00 p.m. 3584kHz  
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2 X 4	(4 Lines)	\$2.75
Base Station Sign		
2 X 8	(2 Lines)	\$3.00
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MAY 26-27, 1979

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**Remote QTH** - Wooded site, about forty acres, between Naples and Prattsburg. Elevation is about 2200 feet, has 1/4 mile on paved public road. DX from this site is Texas using 90 watts SSB on 2 meters. Price is \$22,000 firm.

The entire radio amateur community is invited to attend the Grand Opening Celebration of our new store on Monday, April 9th from noon until 9:00 PM. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio, Shortwave Listening, or electronic technology is most welcome to visit our unique new facility.

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