

# The RaRa Rag

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## SILENT KEY - EDDIE DUNN, W2XT RaRa PICNIC - Sat., June 16th

by Len Gessin, WA2ZNC



Edward W. Dunn, W2XT, passed away suddenly May 21, 1979 at his home near Fairport. He was 72. He came to Rochester in 1959.

In December of 1960, Eddie performed his first official function for RaRa as Master of Ceremonies at the annual Ladies Night at the Rochester Museum. He was president of RaRa for the 1966-1967 club year. Eddie was also an officer of the Rochester VHF Group and was the Master of Ceremonies at the Rochester Hamfest for many years.

When Eddie came to Rochester, he was a Technician class amateur, active on 6 meters. His "antenna" was the bed spring in his apartment. Soon after he moved to his home in Fairport, he put up a regulation antenna which usually did not work as well as the bed spring. After a short time, he upgraded to General class. He fired up his "low-band" rig and let out with a professional sounding CQ, hoping to snare an exotic contact. His first contact was quick to respond... all the way from East Rochester... about five miles away.

Eddie worked hard and long to upgrade his license. He made Advance class and then eventually worked his way up the ladder to Extra. He also held a first-class radio-telephone commercial license.

Each year our club sponsors a picnic for our members and their families. This is the last club function of the 1978-1979 year.

On Saturday, June 16, at 2:00 p.m., the fun and games will start. Esther Smith (XYL, WA2SOR) will program the games for our young ones. The club will bring everything except ball bats, gloves, baseballs, etc.

The fire will be started at 4:00 p.m. and the hots will go on the grill at that time. To get to Wadhams Lodge in Powder Mill Park, go east on Rte. 490 to Bushnells Basin exit and head east on Rte. 96 for about a mile. Turn right into the park. You will go past the fish hatchery and there the road splits. Stay to your right around the road past the first lodge on the left (Rand), to the next roadway on your left. Wadhams Lodge is behind Rand Lodge.

I hope no one get lost. I would imagine that 2 meter FM will be quite active for anyone lost or in a quandary. See you at the picnic.

He came to Rochester as K5ONX, then was issued WA2KMI. When he became an Advanced class amateur, it was then possible to obtain a 1X3 call. Eddie selected W2ECH... or maybe it was assigned him. When he eventually passed the Extra exam, it was possible to select a call of your choice. Of the available calls, Eddie chose W2XT, the X-Texan. Eddie was a native Texan.

What did Eddie do to mean so much to all who knew him? Each of us will have a different memory of how he touched their life. If you listened to him when he started at WHAM between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day, or when he was the host of the Opinion Show there, or whether you had met him in the hospital and asked him to visit someone who needed an up-lift; he was a sparkplug. He would get, or whomever, going in their own way and for their own reasons. His special brand of Texas sunshine would reach whatever in you needed it and stick with you to be used again. However he would not acknowledge this effect, which made the effect seem even greater.

We hope we gave to him as he gave to us, he deserved it. The amateur and broadcast bands are now missing a special guy.

The Edward W. Dunn Memorial Fund has been established in his memory. Those wishing may send contributions to the fund at 153 Mason Avenue, Rochester, NY 14626.

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## OFFICERS:

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## RaRa Elects Officers, Sets Dues

At the Annual Business Meeting in May, new Officers for the 1979/80 season were elected. Taking over as President in September will be Alan Komenski, AC2K; Vice-President will be Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB; Secretary for RaRa will be Don Drennan, W2EBF; Treasurer will be Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ.

Seven Members were elected to the Board of Directors. Your Directors are James Collinworth, N2JC; Robert Erskine, W2NVZ; Edward Gable, K2MP; Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH; Harold Smith, K2HC; Len Gessin, WA2ZNC; and Jim O'Brien, K2UDP.

The membership approved the dues structure for the coming year 1979/80. The dues will remain the same at \$6.00 per year for Full Members, \$3.00 for Associate Members (unlicensed) and Family Membership at \$6.00 plus one additional dollar for each family member residing at the same household.

Special thanks go to all candidates for their willingness to serve the club. RaRa has lots of willing hands and will continue to need them next year. Thanks to everyone for their fine spirit of cooperation this past season. We can look forward to having a good club in the coming year. 73

## RRRA: June Tx Hunt

The RRRA will hold its last official meeting, until September, on Friday, June 3rd at 8 p. m. The actual meeting place will be announced on the air (2 FM) and by newsletter. Bill Gillette, WB2KIW, reports that a short business meeting is to be held to accommodate the general election of officers for the next year (September '79 to June '80). The Nominating Committee is headed by Dick Bourne, K2MG.

After the meeting there will be a Hidden Transmitter Hunt in which Ed Gable, K2MP, and Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, are to hide the transmitter(s). They won the honor by reason of their dx skills that made them the winners in the last hunt.

FOR SALE: Radio Equipment from Estate of L. F. Triggs. Call Linc Cundall for details. 663-0856.

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# The New Look of an Old Club

by Chris Reich, WB2DYJ

The University of Rochester Amateur Radio Club is at long last becoming an active club. We have been fortunate enough within the last two years to have attracted an enthusiastic bunch of guys (and a gal) and have coordinated some worthwhile services to the University of Rochester community.

Our early history is quite vague, as there are practically no records in our possession. The club seems to have been founded in the late '50's under the direction of the Electrical Engineering Department. We have a few photos which show that we once had an impressive ATV (fast-scan) station in the early '60's, and the log books from '64 to '66 show we were a big DX-ing station.

Our funds are now delved out us by our Students Association, an organization which pools our undergraduate fees and allocates them as they see fit to the different clubs. We operate under very severe financial constraints at this time since our long record of inactivity has seemingly never fully justified our existence. That is the image we are trying to change.

The real hard core of our club consists of about a dozen members, while we presently have about 25 persons involved, including those not yet licensed. Since the beginning of this year, our numbers have increased steadily due to increased exposure on campus. We expect to see a similar growth rate next year due to several factors, not the least of which will be the licensing class we will provide for the third year running. Two years ago this was started as an experiment, and we became much more organized with it this year. Our day long demonstration at the annual University of Rochester Winter Carnival allowed us an opportunity to 'show our stuff' to the masses here. To say we attracted a lot of attention would be a gross understatement!

We have been in collaboration with the University of Rochester Chess Club to organize a radio net for the purpose of playing chess with other college chess clubs. Our first attempt was made in early April with R. P. I. via W2SZ. It turned out to be a great success and we learned a lot. (Incidentally, we won 4-1/2 to 1-1/2!). We are presently in communication with M.I.T., Syracuse University, and University of Buffalo,

and enthusiastically welcome others who wish to join us. We expect to be off with a big start next fall.

Within our small group we are fortunate enough to have a variety of interests, including VHF (WB1FSS, WB2DYJ), RTTY (WA2FHF, WB1FIG), DX-ing (KB2GG, WB1FIG), and contesting (WB2PJM, WB2DYJ, WB2ULC). Even so, I am proud of our good sense of comradery and continued willingness to work together on and learn from each other. Mark, WB1UDS, has instituted 'Solid Copy', the URARC newsletter, which was well received in its three issues this year. We have tried to distribute it off campus, but budgetary considerations dictated we do not. This type of atmosphere has proven to be healthy for upgrading, as three of us this year got our Extras, one went from Novice through Tech to General, and another got his Advanced after a long time away from ham radio. As an extension of hopes for the future, we have begun efforts to form a coalition with the R.I. T. and M. C. C. clubs, which may ultimately include Brockport and Geneseo.

Our station, K2ZWI, is equipped with a TS-250, and SB-200 and a TH6-DXX with dipoles for 80 and 40. I am glad to announce that we have recently begun operation on 2M FM and SSB, so look for us there. When the VHF Group transverters are done, we will be on 6M as well. Our long term project is RTTY, which we can only afford to obtain bits and pieces at a time over a few years. We are making good progress with what we have to work with, and that's what ham radio is all about!

Several of us have been learning the fundamentals of traffic handling, and we hope to begin a weekly message handling service next year for the campus. This should be a good way to attract new members, and increase our value to the rest of our fellow students.

As you can well imagine, it is difficult to keep an organization such as ours going when you have to provide for a rapid turnover in members. Since most of us are here for just four years, it is easy to lose sight of the his-



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# Rochester VHF Group

The Slate: Elected to lead the group for next year are: Chairman, Jim Lill, WA2ZKD; Vice-Chairman, Mike McHugh, W2AV; Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Perry, WB2UTM. These gents are a fine group of VHFers who bring the group to new heights of glory.

Project: Just a word to thank everyone for their patience whilst the project leaders have been working to overcome a number of unforeseen difficulties...hang in there—the transverters will be forthcoming...a project of this scope and magnitude takes a wee bit more doing than most of us had imagined...if nothing else, we've learned a lot about how not to do a big project...again to all, thanks for waiting—it shouldn't be too much longer.

Power Supplies: Several of the small power supply kits are waiting to be claimed...they will be available at the meeting.

More Angels: Thanks to Sam, W2RSL; Lee, WB2JOR; Chris, WB1FSS; Bob, WB2KDW; and Chris, WB2RJL who have joined the ranks of Angels...also to the 24 attendees at the April meeting who put such a high value on the doughnuts.

Contests: Don't forget the June QSO Party on the 9th and 10th...also the UHF contest on August 4th and 5th...the W2CNS gang will be going to Western Pennsylvania for the June contest.

Coax Snippings: Sam, W2RSL, one of the charter VHF group members, now lives in DeRuyter, NY and sends greetings to all...he'll be at the Hamfest looking for old and new friends...Bill, WB2KIW, is on an antenna building binge...he has constructed a 19 element 432 yagi and will share details on how-to...Dayton Hamfest was great...quite a few sessions on ATV in all forms—slow, medium, and fast scan...Mike, W2AV, now has an elevation mount on the 48 el. array...watch out moon.

The Past: Incoming chairman Jim, WA2ZKD, presented a fine overview of antennas of all types...he passes along the following list of references: Orr, William, W6SAI, Wire Antennas, Beam Antennas, Radio Handbook; ARRL Antenna Book, Handbook; Evans & Jesop, VHF-UHF Manual (RSGB); Jasik, Henry, Antenna Engineering Handbook; Kraus, John, Antennas. Jim noted these were the best of many avail-

able on the subject.

The Future: Rich, Tom, and I would like to thank everyone for helping us make this a good year for the VHF group...we have enjoyed the activities...the Rochester VHF group is one of the finest amateur radio organizations undoubtedly because it numbers so many fine amateurs...the group will continue that way if everyone supports the new leaders as well as you have supported us...have a good summer, good contesting and good DX.

73, K2KGE

## Former RaRa Member Aids Ship Rescue

Richard Mainhart, WB2EXR, a member of the U. S. Coast Guard stationed at Rochester Lifeboat Station up until April 1978, obtained his amateur radio license with the help of classes held by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association. He is an Electronic Technician with the U. S. C. G. and was recently assigned to the U. S. C. G. Cutter "Sherman". The "Sherman" was enroute to the west coast via the Panama Canal on April 25th when U. S. C. G. Miami requested they reach a fishing vessel in trouble off the coast of Jamaica. The "Sherman" was successful in rescuing the three crewmen from Key West and towed the vessel into Montego Bay.

The SOS from the sinking ship was picked up in California by 13 year old ham operator Michael Davis, WD6FFV. Mike stayed on frequency all night to act as relay. The Miami Coast Guard could not contact the vessel as the ship had no operating marine radio equipment and Miami C. G. had no operating ham radio equipment.

The rescue details were reported in the Rochester, New York Democrat and Chronicle of Friday, April 27th; and, HR Report of May 4th, prepared by The Ham Radio Publishing Group. Rick has been operating WB3EXR/MM Region 2 while at sea, and has talked to K2KWK in Rochester on 20 meter SSB.

FOR SALE: Yaesu #FT-101-B Transceiver, with #FV-101-V Remote VFO, CW Filter, Fan, Digital Readout. \$700.00. Contact Steve, KB2GG, at 716-328-1427.

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## New Look

(Continued from page 4)

tory and motivation for certain moves that have been made. We are keenly interested in hearing past members who can show us 'what it was like in the old days'. We can be reached by writing to:

U. of R. Amateur Radio Club  
Ruth Merrill Center  
Wilson Commons  
Rochester, NY 14627

or by talking with us on 146.49 Mhz FM, the frequency on which we have settled on for on-campus communication. Please accept this invitation to join us sometime on the air. We're not proud, we'll talk to anyone!

## NEW CATALOG

Hamtronics, Inc. has announced a new 1979 catalog, which is yours for the asking. The 24 page catalog features many types of kits of interest to the radio amateur or two-way shop. One interesting new product contained in the catalog is a new generation VHF FM Receiver Kit with four different selectivity options to suit any application. Other kit products include VHF Transmitting and Receiving Converters, UHF Receiving Converters, FM Transmitters and Linear Power Amplifiers for vhf and uhf, Receiver Preamps for vhf and uhf, and RF Probes for vtvm's.

For your free copy of this informative catalog, call 716-392-9430 or write HAMTRONICS, INC., 65F Maul Road, Hilton, NY 14468.

## NEW ANTENNA

Congratulations to K2OEQ who recently demonstrated a unique disguise antenna. This is to serve as public notice of the completed experiment (in case of patent application) that on Friday, February 9, 1979 there was a fully bonafide QSO via WR2AEI between K2OEQ and K2KWK. Of special note in the antenna used at K2OEQ, that strangely resembled a pair of needle-nose pliers stuck in the antenna socket of a portable hand held unit. The rig was further blended into a common office background by placing it on top of a file cabinet, and thus achieving a fair degree of visual camouflage. Duncan is available to review any marketing plan, but wants to make the first test market offering to radio hams who are also dentists. He feels the extra silver plated model will give 'kuuler operation' and thus be more efficient. There also would be no power lost to inefficient base or phasing coils, and none lost in inefficient high loss whips. Be sure to see this unusual new design, available at the hamfest for the first time ever!

FOR SALE: Swan Transceiver #250-C for six meter ssb/cw, with power supply #117AC and mic. Also Swan Transceiver #500 for 80 - 10 meters ssb/cw, with power supply #117AC and mic. Contact Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, evenings at 248-2511.

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## NOTICE - - -

Those of you who operate 6 meter SSB, there is a new beacon on 50.125 Mhz. It is located in South Elgin, IL with an output of 1W into a halo at 30 feet.

It was put on the air by the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Six Meters.

Any SWL or amateur who hears the beacon and writes with a singal report to SPESM, P.O. Box 768, South Elgin, IL 60177 will get a club QSL card back.

The beacon IDs in CW every 62 seconds, 24 hours a day. It sends SPESM, Illinois, WA9FEF.

Ted Jordan, WA9FEF, is the president of the club, which has almost 300 members across the country. (Via to Bill Ross, WD9CVP)

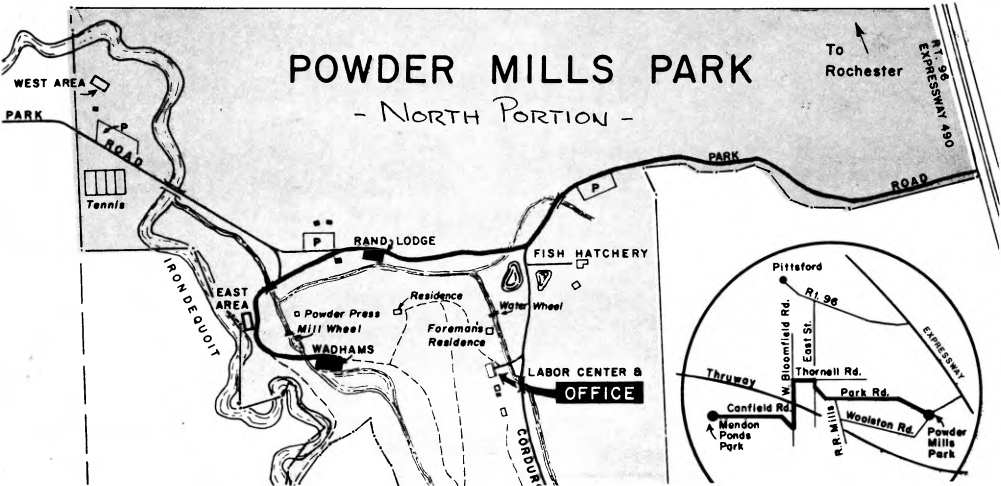
Tnx: CheeseBits, Mt. Airy VHF Club

# Don't Let It Happen To You!

by Erwin S. Cooper, WB2MMU Tnx RAGS Review

A wisp of smoke rose from the rig.  
(My code speed prob'ly blew it!)  
It puffed a ring about so big,  
Before I ever knew it.  
My nose inhaled the acrid whoff;  
I cursed and shouted---when a  
thought occurred: "I wonder if  
I hooked up the antenna?"

## HOW TO FIND PICNIC



# DuX SOUP

by Dwight Hill, K2KWK

Some like it code.  
Some like it not.  
Some like it anyway, ATV or r-tt.  
Some send it QRP.  
Some send it many watts.  
All we want to really hear, our RST is what?  
Some like it near.  
Some like it far.  
Some like it anyway, at home or from the car.  
Oh, please a new sunspot.  
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