

The RARA RAG

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Growth of Silicon Crystals at October 5th Meeting

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

One of the lesser understood facets of Amateur Radio will be dealt with on October 5th at the RaRa meeting. The growth of silicon crystals for applications such as crystals for frequency control, silicon for semiconductor devices and silicon for solar cells will be explained.

Elwin Roberts and/or Dick Lane of Hamco, Division of Kayex, will present their story of how Hamco manufactures this product. Essentially Hamco makes furnaces for growing crystals but several government contracts have challenged them with the task of making "cost effective" solar cells for Jet Propulsion Labs in Pasadena, California.

Although it is not expected that the presentation will include the slicing of a chunk of silicon and grinding for your favorite frequency, be prepared for lots of information on the subject. Lots of visuals should help you to understand better this fascinating art. The normal question and answer session will follow the main part of the presentation.

The meeting location will again be the Monroe County Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue. Meeting time to be promptly 8:00 p.m.

Simulated Emergency Test Scheduled For October 6 & 7

by George Negus, K2OIU, Emergency Coordinator MC

This will be the second S.E.T. for the year 1979. Since our January tests to frequently became entangled with real weather emergencies, it was decided that future tests will be scheduled for October dates.

An emergency scenario involving the simulated interruption of normal power and communication services is planned. In the Rochester area the Saturday afternoon of October 6th S.E.T. activities will be primarily a test of hospital, Red Cross and other medical emergency message handling capabilities. On Sunday, October 7th, other message handling and longer range communication will be stressed.

All area hams are invited to participate. Details will be announced on the 28/88 repeater, describing the scenario on the days of the S.E.T. or telephone George Negus, K2OIU at 586-6922 for further information.

ARRL ELECTIONS

Last month in this space, announced candidates for the upcoming ARRL Atlantic Division offices of Director and Vice-Director were named. Additional candidates have announced that they will seek the post of director. A record number of six have indicated a willingness to serve as director, while only three wish to run for vice-director. Those of you who are members of the ARRL will soon receive your ballots. Included on that ballot are brief resumes of the individuals and their accomplishments. Review them carefully. Vote carefully. The winners will be your League representative for the years 1980 and 1981. At press time, the candidates are:

Director:

Jesse Bieberman, W3KT, Malvern, PA
Harry Robinson, W2AZ, Vineland, NJ
Lawrence Solarczyk, WA3TSD,
Johnstown, PA
Thomas Sundstrom, W2XQ, Willingboro, NJ
George Van Dyke, W3HK, Philadelphia, PA
Dennis Voorhees, AD3O, Millerton, PA

Vice-Director:

Alan Komenski, AC2K, Pittsford, NY
Harold Smith, K2HC, Rochester, NY
Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, College Park, MD

Syracuse Hamfest Sat., Oct. 13

The Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse (RAGS) will hold their annual Hamfest on Saturday, October 13 at the Art and Home Center on the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

The Hamfest will be open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. There will be an outdoor flea market with spaces going for \$2 each and an indoor flea market with tables for \$5 each. Hamfest registration is \$2 at the gate.

The committee have made a few changes this year, all for the good, they say! They promise no hallway congestion; two cafeteria lines; a separate coffee line; and even breakfast to be ready by 7:30 a.m. for the exhibitors and indoor flea market operators.

The Syracuse Hamfest is fun and easy to find. Take the Thruway to exit 39; pay your New York State road tax dues; turn right on route 690 to the State Fairgrounds (well marked with road signs).

Two meter talk-in will be provided on 146.31/91 and 147.90/30.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Alan Komenski, AC2K

I want to thank all of the members and guests who attended our first meeting in September and the event a successful one. Those of you who renewed your memberships by the week following the September meeting allowed us to have taken in the greatest number of renewals ever for that period.

A special thanks is in order to our Membership Chairman Bob Erskine, W2NVZ, and his assistant Irv Goodman, AF2K, who have been putting in many long hours keeping up with membership paperwork. Thanks also go out to George Muller, WA2IED, who has agreed to be our Refreshment Chairman for this year and who did such a fine job his first time out in September.

At the September Board meeting we discussed at length the W2XT Memorial Fund. The fund was established in memory of Eddie Dunn at the time of his untimely death. I would like to bring to the membership's attention that this will be a continuing fund and persons wishing to contribute should send your contributions to our Treasurer. We will be making a determination in the very near future as to how the fund should be applied.

The Simulated Emergency Test (S.E.T.) will be upon us in October 6th and 7th. It provides an excellent opportunity for members of the Amateur Radio Community to both improve their emergency communications techniques and to demonstrate to the public our emergency capabilities. I strongly urge that each of you participate in this year's exercise. The local S.E.T. activities will be utilizing 2 meter F.M., with the local net on the 28/88 repeater. If you do not have 2 meter capability then you should check into one of the many HF nets that will be in operation during the two day period. We never can be sure when we might be called upon to provide communications in an actual emergency so it is important that we keep up our ability to do so.

FOR SALE - Heath SB-303 with AM, CW, SSB filters, and noise blanker and matching spkr. Heath SB-401 with het OSC crystals pack. John Schooley, K2NC, 225-3626.

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CQ Magazine Sold from HR Report

CQ MAGAZINE was sold to three top management people: Editor Alan Dorhoffer, K2EEK, Associate Publisher Rick Ross, K2MGA, and Advertising Sales Manager Jack Gutzeit, W2LZX. The sale had been rumored for the past several weeks. Negotiations had apparently been in progress for at least a month, however, before the final agreement was reached late Tuesday night. Both K2EEK and K2MGA have been with CQ for many years; W2LZX is a relative newcomer, having joined CQ about three years ago.

The only title change among the three new owners is that of Dick Ross, who becomes Publisher, replacing Dick Cowan, WA2LRO. Aside from the owners, all the staff will be completely new — editorial, business, and production — as the "new" CQ begins operation in Hicksville this week. CQ's contributing staff, however, should remain unchanged. The first issue under the new ownership will be December's; October and November were well into production when the deal was made.

CQ appeared at the end of WW II, and from its very beginning has been associated with the Cowan Publishing Company became CQ's publisher. CQ's younger sister publication for the CB market, S-9, has been competing with CQ for the publisher's attention. With the big CB boom that began a few years ago, CQ took a back seat to its broader interest rival, resulting in a steady erosion of readership. However, strong contest and DX content plus some excellent contributing editors have helped keep it going.

CQ's new offices will be at 76 North Broadway, Hicksville, Long Island, NY 11801, and at press time (516) 681-2922 has been promised for the telephone. The new owners plan a 100% Amateur Radio policy, broadening the magazine's present base.

CLUB MEETING

October 5th
November 2nd (Auction)
December 7th
January 4th
February 1st
March 7th
April 11th
May 2nd (Annual Meeting)
June 14th (Annual Picnic)

BOARD MEETING

October 10th
November 7th
December 12th
January 9th
February 6th
March 12th
April 16th

Local Hams Aid In Bike Race

The 14th Annual Canandaigua Lake Cup Bicycle Race was held on Sunday, September 9th. A group of local hams participated by providing 2 meter radio communication as the race proceeded around the 56 mile course which attracted over 100 riders from Canada and the United States. Several high elevations were used to relay information back to the race headquarters at Roseland Park. The local AM station followed the riders but communications was lost at several areas south of the lake. Excellent communications was maintained by the hams and they should be congratulated for the well planned network.

Those that helped Al Kidd, KB2JP, in this operation were Stan Zack, KA2U; Dave Welker, WA2EJP; Herm Auch, KB2CM; Lee Morelli, WB2JOR; Mike Armstrong, K2RDB; Gil Chapin, WB2UTI; Walt McBurney, KB2LY; and Don Ray, WA2PKS.

League Equipment Aids at Dominica

The League's two-meter emergency communications package (base station, antenna, ten mobiles) was shipped to Dominica this past weekend, to be used in the aftermath of Hurricane David. It took three days of work on the part of Bruce Johnson, together with assists from Senator Goldwater's office and an Assistant Secretary of State, to unravel the red tape and clear the shipment. On the local scene, Bruce had the assistance of John Lindholm, Lee Aurick, and Greg Kwasowski to get the material packed and ready for shipment. Ed Persinski, K1ZA, of the Connecticut Air National Guard arranged for an Air Force C-141 to pick up the material at Bradley. Additional help came from the W1AW crew and from Thomas Communications in Newington, who donated some necessary cable.

The original request for the equipment came from the Prime Minister of Dominica, relayed on the Caribbean Emergency Net. Past President Bob Denniston, WØDX/J7, is on the scene in Dominica, rendering assistance. IARU President Eaton has been in close touch with the situation as it developed.



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DX INFORMATION by Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

With sunspot cycle 21 showing its muscles, the 10 and 15 meter bands should become a dxer's paradise. Listening to WWV for propagation information along with the QST magazine charts an interested dxer can pick the best time to be on the air for a particular part of the world and band he chooses to operate.

If you are just getting involved in the dx game and are shy about getting into a pile-up, don't be. The experience will do you good and it may be a surprise to find that with a little practice and patience the ham with a dipole or vertical can succeed in working the rare ones.

Here are a couple of suggestions to those who wish to improve their chances of catching the more exotic dx. During the day there are several dx oriented nets which have many rare and semi-rare check-ins. The Africana net meets at 1:30 p.m. local time on 21.355 mhz. On twenty meters, the YL system runs an afternoon and evening get-together on 14.333. For the insomniac there is the Pacific DX net on either 14.265 or 14.285 mhz at 2 a.m. local time Tues./Fri./Sat./Sun. Before joining into any net, it is wise to listen a few times to become familiar with the way the show is run. Calling out of turn can bring the roof down on you from net control who sometimes can be compared to mother bear who just had one of her cubs disturbed.

If you want a hard copy of dx activity there are two good dx bulletins on the market. The Long Island Bulletin is published bimonthly at a rate of \$10.00 a year. For those who like it hot off the press, the West Coast Bulletin is rifled to you once a week at a cost of \$22.00 a year.

Drop me a line or give me a phone call for further details if you may be interested in either of the above.

He said he didn't but would like to have one. I told him that I would like to be his manager and he called me on the phone the next night to arrange the details. He sent me \$250 to buy him a set of callbooks and QSL cards plus some extra money for return postage. I sent him the callbooks and purchased 3000 QSL cards for him. Every Friday and Saturday night at 0200Z on 14.210 MHz I get on the air and take a list of approximately 100 stations. George gets on the air at 0230Z and works the list I have just taken. While he is working the list I copy down times, call signs, signal reports and other necessary information. Those that work him send me an SASE and their card and I check the logs fill in his cards and sent the confirmation out. When I run out of cards I tell George to send some more money and start all over again. When I am not on with him and he works some stations he makes a carbon copy of the logs and I QSL for him.

I enjoy being QSL manager for OD5FB and am in the process of adding 3D2CS in Fiji and CO2KK in Cuba. I am also working on taking over for stations in Cape Verde, Taiwan and San Marino. It adds another facet to ham radio that is more than just working DX and a lot of fun besides.

How do you become a QSL manager? Next time you work a DX station ask him if he needs a manager. Be sure to arrange all the details as to how often to send him his cards that you receive for him, how often he will send you logs, whether you will take them over the air or by mail and whether or not you or he will pay for the cards. Some managers buy the DX station's cards out of their own pocket and depend on donations from the hams that work the DX station for reimbursement. Be sure all this is done before actually taking on the responsibilities of the job. I am sure that you will enjoy the job as much as I do.


I hope that this clarifies the job of a QSL manager for those that are interested and the next time I work DX I hope I hear QSL via WA2XXX in Rochester, NY at the end of the QSO.

Until next time good DX.

For DX'ers Only? by Bob Roberts, WA2QAU

(Continued from September)

Now, how does a QSL manager do his job? I am QSL manager for OD5FB in Lebanon, so I will tell you about my arrangement with OD5FB I worked George one night on 20 meters and during the QSO asked him if he had a manager.



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Rochester DX Association

by Irv Goodman, AF2K, ZB2EN

Rochester DX Association will hold its second meeting of the season on Tuesday evening, October 9th, at 8:00 p.m. at the Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Blvd. An interesting program of general interest is assured and all area DX'ers are encouraged to attend. The slate of new officers will be presented and elections will take place. Persons desiring to include dinner as part of their evening should contact Ray Leigh at 225-3776 for menu details and reservations. Cocktails commence about 6:30 p.m. See you there.

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.

FOR SALE - Wilson Hand-Held Transceiver, Mark II with touch tone pad - Make offer. Don Ray, WA2PKS, 865-3553.

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Walnut base	\$3.50
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ARRL BULLETINS: ON THE AIR

Each Sunday evening at 8:45 p.m. K2KWK sends Official Bulletins from the ARRL. In addition, details are sent describing the code practice schedule from W1AW. Local bulletins and notices are sent upon request.

Two repeater frequencies are used: WR2ABF at 146.79 MHz and WR2AEI at 146.88 MHz. Transmissions are on alternate repeaters each week to coincide with and precede the Monroe County FM Net at 9:00 p.m. Pauses are made during the bulletins to allow emergency traffic and to re-set the repeater timers. Bulletins of immediate interest are sent as often as necessary or practical.

License Course by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

Our fall licensing course will be starting on Monday, October 1, 1979 and will be held every Monday at 7:30 p.m. It will again be in the County Office building at 350 East Henrietta Road. We will be offering both General and Novice Code and Theory and they should be complete by December 17, 1979.

Cost of the course is: Novice \$7.00 and General \$12.00 which includes Registration, Books and Club Membership.

If you wish to register please contact Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, no later than September 24th at 624-1929 evenings or 546-2700, Ext. 3304 days.

ARRL NET DIRECTORY

The new edition of the ARRL Net Directory is now available to ARRL Members. It lists over 700 public service nets by location and frequency. Also included are the basics of traffic handling and net operation. Your copy can be obtained by sending a self addressed envelope (9"x12") stamped with forty-one cents U.S. postage, sent to ARRL Net Directory, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

Background on Webster Tower Ordinance

Before anyone goes running to their local zoning board with high hopes of getting a tower ordinance on the books, please take note. The Webster law was the outcome of a two year legal battle with the zoning board by W2CR, a resident of that town. The legal expenses were very high and his victory will benefit the many hams in that town, of which there are a few who tried in vain to get a tower permit in the past.

From Either, Ether, or Neither

A "dumb question" is preferable to a dumb mistake.

Today's bargain - - yesterdays' price, for any item!

Where there is a will, there's relatives.

Does one open mind equal a hole in the head?

"Easy Street" is one way and dead end.

Some people keep on knocking after they come in.

Most people could learn from their mistakes if not so busy denying them.

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