

The RaRa Rag

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ANNUAL RaRa AUCTION November 2nd Meeting

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

As is custom each year the November RaRa Meeting is devoted entirely to an auction. Again this year the auction will take place at the Rochester Police and Fire Academy on Scottsville Road opposite the Monroe County Airport. Ed Gable, K2MP, and Alan Komenski, AC2K, will be the auctioneers.

To assist in promoting an effective and efficient operation the following guide lines should be followed.

- (1) Clearly *label or identify each item* or box of goodies.
- (2) Include your *Name and Call Sign*.
- (3) Indicate an *opening price* and whether or not you wish the item to be "Chinesed" should there be no bids.
- (4) State whether the item is in "working condition" or "needs work" etc. Items other than those in common amateur use should include a note indicating any information which will help the auctioneers present your item in an informative manner.

Immediately after each item is sold, both the buyer and seller should step up front where necessary exchange will be made. RaRa will receive 10% of the final price for each transaction. The club welcomes donations of items to RaRa to boost the treasury.

Please note that RaRa does not assume responsibility for the condition of items. That matter is between the purchaser and seller of items. It therefore enhances the quality of the auction if items are carefully inspected by the prospective buyer and properly labeled by the seller prior to auction time.

Auction time is 8:00 p.m., however, the doors will be open at 7:00 p.m. to allow for setup and inspection of items. All RaRa members are welcome and members may bring one guest. The membership chairman will be at the door for anyone wishing to renew or join.

EDITORS INCH

by Dwight B. Hill, K2KWK

Those of us who try to live our lives and activities in compatible co-existence are seeing some shattering disillusion. Fidel Castro has invaded the exclusive portion (by international agreement) of our 40 Meter Band with his nightly broadcasts in English below 7.1 MHz. Our northern neighbors are found in the same band in the mornings at 7070.5 kHz with their AM station CFRB. Thousands of other intruders are now recorded in the files at the ARRL. The "Russian Woodpecker" is another well documented and protested illegal activity. Our own citizens are taking frequencies into their own hands, without right or benefit of privilege, by operating in the region between 27.405 and 28 MHz.

Of what use will this W.A.R.C be? If a certain group wants to communicate on some allocated frequency whats to stop them? There are a large number of people in this country who are tired of paying a large bill for long distance telephone service. What would really keep them from establishing their own system on a bunch of (hf, vhf, or uhf) frequencies? When will the desire to get along peacefully cross the line to the rights of raw power (for the good of the country, company, better profit, etc)?

Once upon a time our right to free speech, a free press, to freely assemble was un-alterable and undeniable. However to those who are familiar with national affairs; the Supreme Court and local courts have given reasons for many of us to wonder about the future of these "rights".

(Continued on page 3)

FLASH

F.C.C. now drawing up Rules and Regulations for the use of the "American Standard Code for Information Interchange (Ascii) by U.S. radio amateurs. The final rules are still several months away so don't jump the gun now! The identification question is still to be resolved apparently. Consult QST and other magazines for details as they develop, but the F.C.C. is now committed to allow it soon.

The RARA RAG

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From The President's Desk

by Alan Komenski, AC2K

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who participated in this years SET (Simulated Emergency Test). While the local net was not activated on Sunday, the hospital exercise which was held on Saturday, October 6, was a great success and demonstrated that Amateur Radio can be utilized to effectively pass vital communications for Monroe County's emergency medical facilities in time of need.

Volunteers are still needed for our hospital teams. If you are interested in having your name added to support this effort, please contact George Negus, K2OIU.

I regret to inform you that our efforts to secure the W2XT call sign which belonged to Eddie Dunn, past president and now silent key, as our club call have been unsuccessful. We have received correspondence from Congressman Horton stating that he had explored all avenues to obtain the call with the FCC and that they would not make an exception to their current policy. Our thanks to Public Relations Chairman K2UDP and to Congressman Horton for their efforts.

November is auction month for RaRa. It will give most of you the opportunity to purchase that particular used item you have been looking for before you have to sock your loose change away for Christmas shopping. We have had a policy of allowing attendance to be limited to members and one guest per member. As this is traditionally a well attended but lengthy event, try to arrive with your goodies early. The auction will be held at the Rochester Police and Fire Academy on Scottsville Road and not at our regular meeting hall.

We are looking for help in the production of our monthly RAG. Many hours go into putting this publication in the ready to print form which you receive. The same dedicated staff led by Harold Smith, K2HC, without whose efforts each month the RAG would not be possible, are looking for a person or persons who would be willing to volunteer just a few short hours each

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month. We value the RAG as a service to you, the membership, and we wish to maintain the high quality of the publication. If you are interested in joining the production staff, please contact either K2HC or myself.

RRRA NEWS

by Roger Williams, W2NES, Program Chairman

In addition to the 146.28/146.88 repeater, the club members at the last meeting agreed to underwrite the maintenance and autopatch costs for the 147.78/147.18 repeater WB2AQQ. This repeater will be affiliated with RRRA by agreement between Craig Stolze, WB2AQQ and RRRA.

The November Meeting will be held at the Gleason Recreation Center on University Ave. We will be the guests of "GEARS" amateur radio club at Gleasons. This meeting will be the annual FM clinic at which time there will be an opportunity to check out your equipment. The clinic will be conducted by Gary Sienkiewicz, W2TR.

The club has been donated a Ramsey Electronics 600 mHz counter. Many thanks to John for his generosity. The counter will be made available on a limited loan basis.

Your 1978/1979 membership expires on October 31, 1979. Memberships may be renewed or a new one may be started at any meeting or by sending the \$5.00 membership fee to Gil Chapin, W2UT1, at 35 Haymarket Road, Rochester, NY 14624.

Regular users of the 146.88, 147.78, and 444.25 repeaters are cordially invited to help defray the cost of maintaining these repeaters and to contribute to their administration by attending the club meetings and by assisting in operation of the club.

SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION !!



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The Radio Amateur's Journal

76 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801

Recent federal court actions in Rochester seem to have methodically removed the right of a man to use his own name to identify his products. Will they next change his ancestors?

How are we going to show a solid defensible benefit for our ham radio activity? Such a benefit should be even more visible than our activities in the past..

It seems that the potential to lose our privileges, - whether by world council, federal decree, or by squatters rights, has gotten large enough to be transferred from the "sand lot" to the NFL. I believe we need to think more and talk more about this so we are still operating in twenty years.

SILENT KEY

Carl E. Jeerings, W2CXO

Macedon, New York

on October 9, 1979, at the age of 78.

Carl was a rural electric pioneer and an inventive and prolific ham operator. The first electric lines to Macedon, N.Y.; machines for the first model electric farm in the nation; wind power for the early days of radio; and, wind power for the present day farm were among his many interest areas. A future issue of the RaRa Rag will include more details of Carl Jeerings ham radio experiences.

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What is a "Low Band Louie"?

by Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

With winter not far away, a dx'er's thoughts turn to the 40, 80, and 160 meter bands for some fun and frustration. Therefore, I thought it would be timely to give a little background on the bands that can prove a challenge to even the most experienced dx'er.

Starting with 40 meters, you will find openings to all parts of the world from late afternoon to an hour or two after sunrise. As you are soon to find out, you are not alone in your efforts to work the world. Foreign broadcast stations are there in number and work their hardest to pin your "S" meter. To get around this, foreign amateurs transmit on ssb below 7.1 mhz and announce where they are listening for callers.

Although 80 meters is free from nonamateur QRM, there is still an uphill fight to be fought. The static level at times makes copy on this band comparable to trying to hear someone talk next to a jackhammer. Also, if you want to achieve some gain and directivity of your antenna, prepare yourself for a life of isolation in the country or buying your neighbors houses on all three sides. As in the case of 40 meters, split frequency is used with dx stations staying below 3.8

mhz. The early A.M. finds 80 the quietest, and checking on 40, you will find the foreign broadcast stations have shut down making life a little bit easier.

Last but not least is 160 meters and the true test of a dx'er's ability. With limited spectrum, power level, and high static level, one had best plan his attack carefully or be prepared to spend a lot of time spinning his wheels and not working much at all. With dx propagation occurring strictly during the late evening and early A.M., the avid 160 man will set up skeds on some other band with dx stations who have top band capability. Even with this to your advantage, you are still going to lose a lot of beauty sleep if you want to rack up a decent country count.

In conclusion, anyone who can work 100 countries on each of the low bands should be congratulated. The job will be a tough one, so may I offer a few suggestions that might help you in your endeavor. Devote most of your time to setting up skeds, looking for dx-peditions who plan low band activity, or be on during the weekends when the ARRL or CQ sponsored dx contests are taking place. Remember, if your eyes are not bloodshot when you look into the mirror every morning, you are not yet a true-blue, low-band Louie!

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