

# The RARa RAG

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## Electronics In Biomedicine December 7th Meeting

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

The use of electronics in medicine has come to include a wide variety of instruments to improve the ability of medical personnel to diagnose, monitor, and in some instances to stimulate or maintain vital body functions.

Ted Wright, KA2EUU, will present RaRa with a general overview of a variety of medical instrumentation to include: Ultra sound equipment involving H. F. Sonar, Cardiac Stress testing, Digital thermometers, Doppler blood flow detectors, Pacemakers and Defibrulators. Ted is recognized for his outstanding expertise in his field of work.

Mr. Wright, the Chief of Biomedical Engineering at Genesee Hospital, will give the presentation at the hospital. Please use the ramp garage off Alexander Street. Specific information as to location of the auditorium where the meeting will be held will be available at the information desk. As usual the meeting time will be 8:00 p.m. sharp, Friday, December 7. Have your parking ticket validated at the meeting. RaRa will pick up the tab for parking.

## VHF GROUP/RRRA HUDDLE FOR CONTEST —

On Friday, December 14, at 8 p.m. there will be a joint meeting of the Rochester VHF Group and the RRRa at Harris Corporation, RF Communications Division, 1680 University Avenue. The program will consist of preparation for the January VHF Contest, presented by the 1980 VHF Group Chairman - Tom Richmond, WB2IEY, of Pumpkinhook, NY. Also on the agenda will be a slide show of previous VHF Contests. See you there! At the December 14th Pep Rally!

## YOUR LAST ISSUE?

by Bob Erskine, W2NVZ  
RaRa Membership Chairman

This is the last issue of the RaRa Rag that some of you will receive. Those of you that have not renewed will be dropped from our current membership mailing list. Please check your membership card: and, if yours has expired see me at one of the meetings or mail your application and dues to me. If your renewal gets in early you will be able to continue receiving the RaRa Rag.

Our club membership is presently at 670 members. Last year we had 802 members. If most of who have not renewed sign up again we may exceed last years figure.

RaRa has the largest membership of a single local amateur radio club (ARRL Affiliate) in New York State. I believe that all of you would like to continue being a member of such a fine organization.

I still have directories available to full members. Please see me, or Irv Goodman, AF2K, at any of the meetings. A few of you may need a binder, they too are available but there is a limited quantity. If you cannot make the meetings and need a directory, drop me a line addressed to our Post Office Box 1388, Rochester, New York 14603.

## VALENTINE DINNER-DANCE

Valentine's Day is really not that far away. And as it approaches its time to start planning to attend the RaRa Valentine Dinner-Dance.

Its our way of saying thanks to the YL's and XYL's for allowing us time with our hobby, and The Friday nights spent away from home attending meetings. Mark your calendar! The Date will be Saturday, February 9, 1980. Details to follow in next month's RAG.

# The RARA RAG

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## From The President's Desk

by Alan Komenski, AC2K

Thanks to all who attended our annual auction and made this years event an overwhelming success. And a special thanks to those officers, directors, and members who helped move things along.

The Board of Directors voted in at the October Meeting to apply the funds receive through contributions to the W2XT Memorial Fund toward the purchase of a new beam antenna for the club station. It was also voted at that meeting to make a contribution to the Memorial Fund from the club treasury to pay for the balance of the antenna and a suitable wall plaque to indicate the source of the funds.

A special note of appreciation is in order to Ed Holdsworth, N2EH; Ed Gable, K2MP; and the other members who spent many long hours of their time in helping to put the tower and antennas in place. The K2JD station now stands a very fine example of what we have been able to accomplish as an organization.

The Board of Directors has voted to establish the position of Corresponding Secretary. The creation of that position will relieve much of the monthly burden which we place on our Secretary Don Drennan, W2EBF. I have appointed Dave Coleman, N2AOB, as our first Corresponding Secretary and wish him good luck in the new position.

To those of you who indicated on your membership applications a willingness to join a committee and help us out on special projects, you will be hearing from us soon. We are currently compiling list of names and we will be contacting you to work on up-coming projects. There is great deal you can do, especially in helping us complete work at the club station.

See you all at the December Meeting..

AC2K

VOL. 32

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# RRRA NEWS

by Roger Williams, W2NES

The December Meeting will be held jointly with the Rochester VHF Group at the Harris RFC plant on University Avenue on December 14th at 8 p.m. The program will include news of the January VHF contest.

The 1978/1979 year expired on October 31st. Memberships may be renewed or a new member may be started at any meeting. Dues may also be sent to the club treasurer Gil Chapin, WB2UTI, 35 Haymarket Road, Rochester, NY 14624.

Please note that membership in the RRRRA organization is not a requirement for use of the three repeaters or for use of the "Fuzz-Buzz" and the two Auto-Patch facilities. Fixed expenses associated with the operation of these repeaters for telephone facilities, postage and printing are approximately \$600 each year. In addition there are from time to time capital expenses such as the \$175 cost of the new antenna needed this year. It takes therefore 155 members dues to underwrite these expenses alone. Fortunately, we do not pay for a meeting place except on special occasions. Meeting places cost about 6 members dues each month. If you are a regular user of the RRRRA sponsored repeaters, please help by joining the group.

## FCC Fee Refund

## Application Still Available

Phase I of the FCC fee refund program is still underway. Phase I refunds are limited to fees paid between August 1, 1970 and December 31, 1976, which were in excess of twenty dollars. For amateurs, this includes fees paid for special calls signs. The second phase which will deal with fees below twenty dollars is currently being developed and should commence late in 1980.

If you qualify under Phase I, contact Alan Komenski, AC2K, for an application.

# DX-PEDITION TO WPA

by Tom Richmond, WB2IEY  
Contest Chairman

On Sunday, January 13, WB2RRE/3 will be operating from Western Pennsylvania section during the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes. Jim will be running 80 watts on 2 meter fm and 50 watts on 6 meter ssb, cw, am. Operations will commence on 147.51 MHz simplex and 50.150 ssb at 3:00 p.m. local time on Sunday. Shutdown will be at 6:00 p.m. sharp, as winter weather conditions will no doubt be prevailing. Tests have shown a very good signal into Rochester from his perch in Pennsylvania. To alleviate confusion; - W2AV will be Net Control on 2 meters. Any stations who send a QSL will receive one in return. (QSL via 5749 Green Road, Macedon, NY 14502.) 73 and good luck.

**BEAM FOR SALE** - Mosley Tri-bander #TA-33 for 20, 15, 10 meters. Contact Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, at 248-2511.

**FOR SALE: TRANSCEIVER** - TenTec #262G Power Supply with vox, #240 Transverter for 160 meters, #242 Remote VFO, plus several extras. A \$1,350.00 value; asking \$995.00. Contact Mary Ballard, W2ZRO, at 244-8364; or John Schooly, K2NC, at 225-3626.

**WANTED** - Power Supply for Kenwood 2 Meter rig, capable of 8 - 10 amperes, continuous duty. Contact Martin Suter, N2AGR, 244-5122.

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## SARG - A Wide Area Repeater

On October 31, 1979 a new repeater station went on the air. The frequency is 146.43 input, 147.03 output. This is a standard -600 split. Repeater station WB2PYI is temporarily located at a site in East Avon. When all of the functions are working to the board of directors satisfaction, it will be moved to a permanent site in Groveland. A 150 foot tower is at the site and a 6 db gain Sinclair antenna has been installed.

The repeater is owned by SARG (Suburban Amateur Radio Group) who governing body is comprised of: Bill Brown, AK2D; Dave Parsons, N2ATY; Ralph Brown, N2BAD; Bob Stevenson, W2PYI; and Jerry Williamson, WA2SNX.

The repeater is a Spectrum SCR 1000 VHF FM solid state with 85 watts effected radiated power, equipped with an auto-patch which will allow members direct access to the *Livingston County Sheriff Department's* 911 phone line. Members will also have, in the near future, access to the following exchanges, 243, 346, 658, 245 and 382. Also included on the repeater is an anti-kerchunker; a time out warning tone, (this should be fun); an invitation to transmit tone, (beep); primary control function, and the NOAA weather report.

Repeater station WB2PYI is an open repeater for the use of all licensed and qualified hams. Feel free to use it at any time, but please use good amateur operating procedures. Remember, a fellow amateur's license is at stake.

We're sure you are aware of the initial cost and continued maintenance of such a sophisticated piece of electronic gear. We are therefore limiting access to many of the above mentioned functions to supporting members only.

If you wish to become a member of SARG, the donation per calendar year, beginning December 1, 1979 is \$10.00. For further details contact: Dave Parson, N2ATY - 2 Crossfield Road, Fairport, New York 14450.

## Fred; He Nearly Got Us All

by Richard Berg, WA2RLQ

One afternoon as I sat reading the newspaper on the front porch steps, Fred, a local QRP'er pulled into the driveway. He jumped out of the car and charged towards me holding an assortment of amateur radio equipment literature. Quickly sitting beside me, he looked me square in the eyes and defiantly announced he was not going to be pushed around anymore when it comes to working DX. Remembering that Fred ran a DX-100 with a ssb adapter into a dipole in the attic, I did not seem too surprised at the way he felt.

He then began to show me the shopping list of weapons he was going to acquire for his frontal assault on the unexpected DX fraternity. When the cost of this arsenal began to touch the low five figure numbers, I tried not to be noticed when I began to check the newspaper's front page to see if anyone pulled off a local bank robbery of lately. Satisfied that this was not the avenue to the financing of Fred's ambition, I figured he was probably going to be indebted for the next 30 years to some ham radio store.

Before Fred could finish his laundry list, I wrenched the material from his hand and asked him to listen to me for five minutes and then decide if this was really the right way to go. "Look, Fred," I said. "DX hunting is like any one-on-one competitive sport in that after you have the minimum level of equipment to participate, your skill then becomes the governing factor in your ability to win the race. One is quick to realize the fellow with the six element beam at 100 feet has got it all over the guy with a tri-bander at 45 feet. So, with this in mind, you plan your attack carefully and don't go feet first into a pile-up where the big guns are still locked in battle. Every DX hunter is quick to find out where he stands in the pecking order when it comes to a head-on with the multitude, and based upon this experience, he will call or wait for a more opportune time.

"A person who wants to be successful in most of his DX hunting adventures would probably be well equipped if he commanded the following set-up. A good tri-band beam at a height of at least 50 feet. Some type of transceiver that allows an optional VFO for split frequency operation. An out-board active audio filter which can be used to clean up a ssb signal on a crowded band and improve the cw selectivity which is usually a 500 hz filter option on most transceivers. Last but most needed unfortunately is some type of power amplifier just to remove the one common denominator every DX'er seems to run these days. Ampli-

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fiers are divided into the one or two kilowatt input category. Depending on the price, they can or cannot easily be driven well beyond that level.

"No matter how much you spend there will be a point reached when the dollars spent gain nothing in your success of working a needed DX station. At that point you will have to rely on something that cannot be purchased from anyone, that being operating technique and experience. These two key items will be yours only after many hours of operating time."

About two months later, I happened to be driving by Fred's QTH and noticed a tri-bander on about a 60 foot tower in the backyard. My feeling of accomplishment in saving Fred from a life of indebtedness was short lived unfortunately. My eyes then came to focus in on the nicest little red car you ever saw in the driveway with his call letters on the license plate. Stopping momentarily I was able to read the word "Lotus" on the trunk lip. Oh well, I guess Fred was bent on burning up something. Luckily for the DX hunters it turned out to be the road, not the ham bands!

## "SHE RETURNS ALMOST A QUARTER CENTURY LATER"

by Jim O'Brien, K2UDP

In June of 1955, I successfully passed the novice test and was given the call of KN2UDP. Like so many other young hams I began the search for suitable equipment that I could afford. A close friend of mine K2OWY told me of a QST project of converting the ARC-5/BC453 surplus receiver for 40 and 80 meter work. I built the converter which was part of the project and completed other modifications and ended up with an absolutely fantastic and inexpensive receiver...for it's day.

One or two years later, I sold the receiver to a friend who showed an interest in amateur radio but who unfortunately never got his license. He has regularly sent me a card every Christmas for almost 23 years and has on occasion indicated on a card that he still had the BC453 that I once sold to him.

With so much time going by and I guess feeling a little guilty for not having gotten together with him sooner, I called him and traveled to New York City to see him.

He shocked me by telling me that he wanted to give me my original BC453 back as he doesn't use it much. I had all I could do to hold back the tears as I said thanks about twenty times.

He asked that he be able to retain a 51% interest in it and that was certainly no problem.

She works exactly the same way today as she did then nearly a quarter of a century ago.

## Correct Repeater Operating Practices

Legal identifying requires that your call sign be transmitted at the beginning and end of each contact and at 10 minute intervals between. It is illegal to key a repeater without identification.

Use the minimum power necessary to maintain communications. This FCC regulation minimizes the possibility of accessing distant repeaters on the same frequency. There are three other repeaters on the WR2AEI frequency which are often heard in the Rochester area.

The FCC forbids using an autopatch for anything that could be construed as business communications. Abuses of autopatch privileges could lead to their loss and place the trustee's license in jeopardy.

Advice for our coming winter -- *be brief*--some one could be waiting for the Fuzz Buzz or autopatch. *Tnx RRRR Newsletter*

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# FOR DX'ERS ONLY?

by Bob Roberts, WA2QAU

The past two columns I have talked about how to confirm DX contacts. This month I will back track slightly and give you DX'ers my thoughts on how to work DX.

The past few months have been loaded with DXpeditions to rare countries. Of these the most familiar should be the expedition to the Northern Cook Islands or Manihiki. However, the expeditions to Market, Revilla Gigedo, Mount Athos, Agalega, Sable and St. Paul, Tunisia, Wallis, and Rodriguez should not have been missed. All of the above mentioned were worked by this author, without operating at 3:00 a.m. A couple of trade secrets made catching these goodies a relatively easy chore with no more than a half hour of time needed to work any of them.

The Manihiki expedition was very well publicized in advance, therefore the whole world was waiting for them to hit the air. The first night was pure chaos and I didn't even attempt a contact. However, by the next morning things had quieted down considerably and ZK1AM was raised on the second call. This expedition was worked 3 more times and by the 4th day they were begging for business, even venturing up into the American phone band, working transceive. The moral to this story is to bide your time. If you can possibly hold off the mike button during the first day of an expedition, chances are an easier time of making the contact is only a few hours away. This technique is not to be used on expeditions lasting 24 hours or less.

The expeditions to Mt. Athos, Sable and St. Paul were all worked using the same technique. To some this might seem to simple but, a number of stations on frequency didn't use it and therefore sat there for two or three hours longer than others. These expeditions operated split frequency and there were many who picked a particular spot in the passband and simply repeated their calls over and over. The hint is this: when trying to work a station using split frequency listening over a 10KHz range, switch between receive and transmit VFO's and find the station he *IS* working. When he gets done with the contact call the DX station the frequency or slightly off to either side. This at least puts you in a smaller ballpark than the entire range the DX is working. You may not work him on the first try, but will cut down on total calling time by careful listening and a quick hand on the VFO switch.

I would like to make my plea here that all DXpeditions use as small a range as possible. I feel

that 5KHz is adequate and anything over 10KHz ridiculous. The Clipperton expedition of last summer listened between 14.200–.250. The whole band was filled with stations calling Clipperton and if you didn't want to work Clipperton all you could do was turn you radio off. I didn't even try to work Clipperton because of the poor operation by the operators.

I would like to comment on the procedure used by the Tunisia expedition under the call 3V8ONU. They worked stations by the last letter in the call. This is fine but they made no distinction between country, continent or call area. Stations with calls ending in A were calling from every U.S. call area, Europe, Canada, and Asia. This multiplied the confusion as 6's were calling with 2's and DL's with WA's. Also this made it easier for the east coast to work them than the west coast and really wasn't fair to everyone. Still the operators did a good job of working many stations in a short amount of time.

Many DXpeditions check into the established DX nets or have their QSL manager form a list. The DX nets are wonderful places to work a DXpedition quickly and orderly. For the night owls the P29JS net run by Jim Smith is an excellent place to find rare DX, especially the Pacific. The net meets nightly at 0700Z on 14.220MHz. That's 3:00 a.m. local time. Call up is at 0630Z or 2:30 a.m. For the daytime DX'er the DX to DX Net meets Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 1730Z on 21.280. This is 1:30 p.m. local time. While the main purpose is for DX to work other DX, state-siders are taken at the end, time permitting. This net usually brings in some of the rare Russian stations as regulars including UI8, UD6, and UL7. I worked 5R8TV on this net. The net is run by Al, WB8ZJW. Incidentally, XF4IX, Revilla Gigedo was worked on the P29JS net.

Agalega Island, 3B6CD worked many stations with the help of a net manager in Italy. The call escapes me but she did a fine organized job of handling the pileup.

The expedition to Market Reef was unpublished until a few days before operation commenced. They operated transceive and the only way to work them was to bide your time and have the kilowatt warmed up. The call was OJ0MA and was manned by friends of Marty Laine OH2BH. The expedition was an offshoot of the Aland Island DXpedition OH0DX.

The DXpeditions to Wallis and Rodriguez Islands were unannounced and were worked by stumbling on them at the right time entirely by accident. Wallis was worked on 20 SSB using the call FWOXN. Rodriguez was worked on 20 CW using the call 3B9CF. These last two prove that

no matter how hard you try, Lady Luck still sticks her fingers into the DX portion of the band.

For those of you who might need it the following QSL information is passed along.

ZK1AM via W0WP  
SV1JG/A via SV1JG  
VE1CR via VE7BTV  
3B9CF via 3B8CF  
OJ0MA via OH0NA  
3B6CD via 3B8CD  
3V8ONU via I0AMU  
XF4IX via XE1IX  
VE4CF/1 via VE4CF  
FW0XN via DK7XN

If anyone has QSL info for 5R8TV please pass it along to me.

Until next month, Good DX.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Have you ever tried reading the Field Day results in QST? Pretty dull wading through all the fine print, right? Wrong. Never mind the scores, concentrate on the names of the contestants. Here is a field of originality that borders on genius. For example --

Frozen Buns ARC, K7FD/7 or  
Spark Gap Wonder Boys, W9TG/9 or  
Bozo and the Lids, W9TG/9.

Or how about --

Chigger Mountain Scratchers, N4WH/4 or  
Dirty Birds, K3MT/3 or  
Frodo's Freaks, WA4NNG/4

See what I mean? Here are a few more --

Willie and the Luckenbach ARC Good Old  
Boys, WA8DRF/5  
Marc, Jeff and Dorns Last Stand, WB4MNJ/4  
Buzzard's Bait, WB4FMB/4  
Seldom Heard AR Keying Society, W3IA/3

Or how about these --

Ten Four Good Buddies, WB4AIN/4  
Non-Cheating Contest Conspiracy, W2RR/2  
The "Never Again" FD Group, W5WO/5  
Chirps Off the Old Block, W1YE/1  
Burned Out CW Operators, N2GC/2  
McMurdo's Moo Meadow Monsters,  
W7XI/5

Here are a couple that I liked --

Texas Chigger and Grasshopper Growers  
Association with The Aradillo Contest  
Operators, K5MW/5 or  
Great Salt Lake Rotting Brine Shrimp Inhal-  
ing Association, N2EX/7.

(Continued on page 8)

## K2JD ENGRAVING

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# What's In A Name?

(Continued from page 7)

It makes a person wonder if our club would have done better if we had used a different name like perhaps "Sylvania Area Mosquito Swatters". For simplicity's sake it could have been abbreviated "SAMS", thereby I suppose, opening the way for legal action against us by the radio Publishing House of the same name. This is not as strange as it seems. After all aren't we living in a wiered age of UFO's, Political Speeches, Water Beds, Gasoline Stations with Air Hoses -- all kinds of Goofy stuff?

All of this sort of reminds one of the second act, scene two, of "Romeo and Juliet" where Shakespeare wrote, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

What does all this add up to? It simply shows that Ham Radio is a lot of fun and a large percentage of Hams look forward to Field Day to have fun, and do just that. Let's hope that in the future, none of us forget the fun side of our wonderful hobby.

73, Al W8BHL

Tnx: Greater Toledo A.R.A. Journal

# For A Code Winter's Night

by Dwight B. Hill, K2KWK

Oh Yes, he is a cw man,  
he never will get a tan.  
His voice is only a croak,  
his ears resemble an oak.  
But bi-onic he's not,  
and his glass arm won't rot.  
His eyes are all red,  
'cause he's seldom a-bed.  
So why can't I QSO at forty in my head?

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