

# The RARA RAG

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## JANUARY 4th MEETING ANTENNAS AND TOWERS

by Bud Hippisley, K2KIR/W2JJ

January may not seem like the optimum time for thinking about antennas, but the purpose of this month's program is to plant some ideas in your head so you'll be ready for those outdoor construction projects at the first trace of spring. (Besides, everybody knows that antennas put up in sub-zero weather work best.)

Our speaker is Bud Hippisley, K2KIR/W2JJ, of Syracuse, whom you may remember as having visited us in 1975 with his KH6 (Hawaii) dx-pedition slides. This time around, Bud has a two part presentation for us. Part one deals with antenna fundamentals and leads to a comparison of dipoles, inverted V's, verticals, beams, and quads. Part two is a slide presentation on installation techniques for guyed towers. You won't believe what one person working along can do until you've seen these shots!

Bud was first licensed in Auburn in 1954. He is an electrical engineering graduate of M.I.T. who designed digital computers for Honeywell and G.E. before joining Texas Instruments as a systems engineer. A former Section Communications Manager of Western New York, he is currently manager of the Eastern Area Net of the National Traffic System and (sometimes) defending champion of the Rochester Hamfest code receiving contest.

For a breath of springtime, come to the January 4th RaRa antenna meeting at the regular meeting place, the Monroe County Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue, near South Avenue. Meeting time: Friday, January 4, at 8 p.m. sharp!

To Robert Erskine and Family;

All RaRa members extend their sympathy over the recent sudden loss of his wife, Arlene.

## RaRa OPEN HOUSE: K2JD STATION

There will be an open house on Sunday, January 20, 1980 at our Club Station facilities located at 350 East Henrietta Road, corner of Westfall Road.

Members of the RaRa Board of Directors will be on hand to answer questions on the station, RaRa, and amateur radio. Refreshments will be served from 2 - 5 p.m.

This is the first opportunity we have had to display our renovated facilities and we are looking forward to seeing you there. The general public (non-members) is invited to see our public service capability. Members and guests are also invited.

## DINNER-DANCE 1980

Mark your calendar now so you can attend the Annual Valentine Dinner-Dance. This years affair is shaping up to be a memorable event.

The Date: February 9, 1980

The Time: 7:30 p.m.

The Place: Hospitality House  
2226 Penfield Road  
*Williamsburg Room*

Tickets will be available at our January meeting for \$10.00 each.

The entree's this year are Chicken Breast, stuffed with Canadian bacon and cheese, or, Sirloin of Beef. Please specify your choice when purchasing your tickets.

While this traditionally been the evening where the y1's have been given special thanks for the consideration which they have shown us, the same enjoyable evening with friends is open to you all, stag or drag, and we encourage and hope that you will attend.

Contact Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, at 248-2511 or Alan Komenski, AC2K, at 248-2497 for tickets.

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## From The President's Desk

by Alan Komenski, AC2K

I'm sure all of you enjoyed our December program at Genesee Hospital. A special thanks to John Helems, WA2PVH, and to Genesee Hospital for making facility available to us and to George Muller, WA2IEO, who provided great refreshments under less than ideal arrangements.

To kick off our entry into the 1980's, I hope to see you all at our January 4th meeting. We will follow that with an open house at the K2JD Club Station on January 20th from 2 - 5 p.m. It will give each of you an opportunity to see how far the Club Station has come along in the past couple of years.

Don't forget the Dinner-Dance, February 9th. I wish to stress that you don't have to bring a date to attend this affair. Each year it has proved to be one of the most enjoyable RaRa events of the year, and this year will be no exception. *Everyone is welcome.* Please try to reserve your tickets as early as possible.

73's

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## CLASSES FOR CODE AND WRITTEN AMATEUR EXAMS

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

RaRa spring amateur radio classes for Novice and General Class Licenses will begin February 25th. The location will be the RaRa Club area at the Monroe County Office Building, 350 East Henrietta Road, at the corner of Westfall Road. These sessions will cover the necessities for the Novice and General/Technician amateur radio licenses. In addition, later in the spring, an Advanced Class group will be held if enough people wish.

If you have not signed up already please contact me at 518 Parish Road, Honeoye Falls, NY 14472; or, call me at 624-1929. If you have already contacted me it will not be necessary to do so again. See you on Monday, February 25th.

**WORKSHOP HINT** — Six-volt dry-cell batteries may be obtained from used Polaroid SX-70 film packs. Even after taking the ten pictures in the pack, these batteries are still good and may be easily removed. Two or more may be connected in series for higher voltages, or in parallel for longer life. So get your friends to start saving all their old used SX-70 film packs for you (they'll probably think you're kookie than ever and want to give you their old grapefruit skins as well) and cash in on this 'free' power.



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# Current QST Now Available For Visually Handicapped

Beginning in March 1980 *QST Magazine* will become available to blind and visually handicapped persons. But the best part is (and the real news) that the issue current for that month will be distributed and available in the month it is printed. In other words, the audio part issued to the blind recipient will no longer be three or four months behind in date, as has been the situation. Any blind person, radio amateur or not, can request this material through the local participating library. The person making the request for this free material must be blind or visually handicapped according to the Laws of the State of New York. Also further information about this can be obtained from the Rochester Association for the Blind, phone 232-1111; or by contacting the New York State Library for the Blind and Visually Handicapped in Albany, New York.

The other new feature of this service is that the recordings will come to the person on the flexible disc system. Thus for the visually handicapped, *QST* need no longer be out-dated. Anyone who wants to receive *QST* this way should sign up for the service now in order for it to begin promptly in March, 1980. The disc fits the 8 r.p.m. record player that is special for those who qualify. The discs are plastic and do not need to be returned as is required for the tape cassettes.

This abrupt change in service is the result of the efforts of Roger Dennis, WB2HWO, who started working with the ARRL last January. As a result the ARRL has contracted with the National Library System to provide the new features.

**FOR SALE:** Bearcat Scanners, Ringo Ranger and Larsen 2 meter antennas.  
ATR Communications, 146 Lyell Ave.  
For deal ask for Wally, W2PG.

# JANUARY VHF GROUP CONTESTANTS HUDDLE

Our program will be Reception of Signals from Communications Satellites, and now that we have your attention, the meeting will take place on Friday, January 11th, promptly at 8 p.m. at 1700 University Avenue. Tom says it's a nifty program and will feature a "well known" person in that area.

The VHF Sweepstakes starts at 1 p.m. Saturday, January 12, and goes through 11 p.m. Sunday, January 13th, local time. We have a good chance of upsetting the Mt. Airy vhf group 'Packrats' in 1980. Why can this year different? If our problem (or yours) has been lack of multipliers the answer is "six meters". If that band opens at all and we are there to take the opportunity it could be the thing to push us over the top. So we are still in need of every station, and every log. Contest rules appear in December *QST*, the changes affect operation on 220 MHz and multi-operator stations. A supply of all required contest forms will be made available at local amateur radio outlets after January first. There will also be a mailing to as many eligible stations as possible. When you use the ARRL forms be sure to enter *Rochester VHF Group* in the club participation block of the form.

See you at the meeting, January 11th. Good luck in the contest!

*Editor*

# WINTER REPEATER RULES

Use Simplex — leave the repeaters open for those who need them. Two fixed stations should be on simplex!

Keep it short. It gets awfully cold waiting for a monologue artist!

*Editor*



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# 24 HOURS OF MORSE, IS A RECORD

University of Rochester student and RaRa member Chris Reich, WB2DYJ, now holds the World Record for transmitting Morse Code. His record is being added to the "Guinness Book of Records" .. The complete details were reported February 5th in the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*. Congratulations and 73, Chris.

## CW TRAINING NET FORMING

This is advance brief notice of intention to form the Western New York CW Training Net which is to help all those in-experienced in handling amateur radio traffic by CW. Everyone is eligible, whether a novice, technician, general or above. The net will operate at 7 wpm. The first meeting of the net is expected to be Sunday, February 3rd, at 8 p.m. Frequency will be on or near 28,160 kHz. More details will be announced in the February issue of the *RaRa Rag*. For additional information contact Chris Reich, WB2DYJ, at the University of Rochester Radio Club, K2ZWI.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** — Be ready with specific definition of Amateur Radio — Amateur radio is a volunteer world wide public service, scientific experimentation and emergency communication service that is recognized in almost all countries of the world by International Treaty.

**FOR SALE** — Signal Generator model #HP-608-D, covers vhf/uhf from 10 - 450 mHz, with calibrated attenuator, in good condition. The surplus price is currently \$895, but call to make your offer. Also have a Heathkit Signal Generator, 100 kHz to 30 mHz, model #10-42. Make offer for both or either one. Contact Gerry Vogt, WA2GCF, 392-6678.

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# RDXA Is Looking For You!

by Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

This month being the start of a new year and decade, it would be appropriate to take a look at the Rochester DX scene as it exists now and what the future may hold. The reason for doing this is to hopefully bring back to life the interest in dxing that once captured many local hams.

Back in the early sixties, there was a very active dx group called the Rochester DX Association. During its better days, it sponsored local dx contests and gave out awards to members for working one, two and three hundred countries. Considering the level of nationwide dx activity at that time, the club had a respectable membership and level of participation. But, as time went on, the RDXA began to run out of steam. Until just recently, a meeting of once a year which attracted only a handful of the original members was all that remained of the organization.

The RDXA is now in the process of making a comeback and is very much interested in soliciting new members and ideas. The club constitution should be discussed, and suggestions brought forth that would support the feelings and goals of the original and prospective new members. A meeting for this purpose can be informal and possibly be part of the agenda at one of the monthly RaRa get together. In any case, the RDXA should be the vehicle for helping the many local hams who want to get started dxing in one form or another but lack the direction and encouragement to do so.

If you are a slight bit interested in DX and would like to join a group that will try to fulfill your needs, please call me at 544-0776. The RDXA is looking for new members that will help put Rochester back on the map as a strong voice in the DX fraternity.

## XYL'S ARE NO MORE

In the interest of being as fair as possible to everyone, Kathy Jakubowski, N2AGQ, tells us that the terms YL and/or Om are now in common use. Didn't you feel a bit funny being addressed as OM when you were a teenager? Now that you are over forty should you be known as the XOM? Should a divorced YL become a YLD? If she is engaged she might then be YLE. Or if she is happily married she could be YLH. You could also add designators for her age, race, religion, number of children and their ages.

But rather than be a bit ridiculous, lets just be YL and OM. How about YL and YM? OK?

# WB2AQQ/R ADDS

## NEW FEATURES

by Craig Stolze, WB2AQQ

Since the middle of September, WB2AQQ/R (147.78/18) has been located on a hill just north of Bristol, NY at an elevation of about 1900 feet. The transmitter is currently running about 45 watts out of the duplexer into a 6 db gain omni-pattern antenna. By doing so, the coverage has been expanded to cover Buffalo to Syracuse and Lake Ontario to nearly Binghamton to the south. The antenna is at the 125 foot level of a 170 foot commercial tower on the hill.

The logic and autopatch remains in Rochester (with a Rochester telephone exchange) and is connected to the Bristol site by means of a full duplex UHF link. A dedicated autopatch line has been installed, and it remains open to all amateurs wishing to use it.

A microprocessor was added to the system during the summer, greatly adding to the capabilities of the repeater. Such provisions as an automated autopatch with re-dial memory, abbreviated dialing, emergency phone number codes, CW playback verification of telephone numbers, touch-tone test capability, multiple ID's and time-of-day on command are now available. Autopatches are automatically followed by the CW time-of-day, and the time comes up automatically on the hour, with a special ID which includes "RRRA" — the Rochester Radio Repeater Association with which the repeater is now affiliated.

Please note that the repeater normally has a 3-minute time limit on autopatches. This can either be overridden by a control operator, or is automatically defeated if one of the special emergency numbers is dialed.

Future plans include the addition of a remote 2-meter receiver located in the city for enhanced hand-held coverage. The two receivers will normally "vote" for the most full quieting signal, or can be locked on either receiver under touch-tone control. A computerized log of autopatches made will also be kept, including information such as date and time of call, duration of call, and number dialed.

Due to the complexity of the system and the number of functions available, it is highly suggested that users obtain a copy of the repeater user operating instructions. These are available at all RRRA meetings, or by mail from Gil Chapin, WB2UTI, secretary-treasurer of RRRA. His address is: 35 Haymarket Road, Rochester, NY 14624. Any questions or comments on the repeater

operation can be directed to Tim Magee, WB2KAO, or Craig Stolze, WB2AQQ.

## VHF SWEEPSTAKES NOTES

The complete Rules for this event, January 12 and 13th, are on page 98 of *QST Magazine* for December 1979. Reading them will be most helpful to your score, and the VHF Club score.

The ARRL Sections around us are Ontario (ONT), Western Pennsylvania (WPA), Eastern New York (ENY). Everything in upstate New York is (WNY) until you get into the counties along the Hudson River. Those (ENY) counties are Albany, Colombia, Greene, Dutchess, Orange, Putman, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Ulster, Schenectady, Warren, Washington, Westchester. There is not a central or northern or southern New York Section.

Understand the rule for restricted use of 146.52 MHz so your log won't become disqualified. Your log and dupe sheets are due to WB2IEY by January 21st.

## RRRA News

by Roger Williams, W2NES

The January RRRA meeting will be held at the Pittsford Town Hall on January 18, 1980 at 8 p.m. The program for the evening is entitled "Titillating Technical Tidbits" by those paragons of repeater cazoology and noiseology Joe, K2YA, and Ron, K2RJ.

If you are not a RRRA member its still not to late to join. We have some good programs lined up for the new year. RRRA sponsors three open repeaters; two with auto-patch and the other with fuzz-buzz. Full details are available from W2UTI — Gil Chapin.

Don't forget the VHF Contest. The Rochester VHF Group needs your support. Tom, WB2IEY, is Contest Chairman.



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## LIBRARY HAS CALLBOOK

Do you need the up-to-date QTH for that QSL card? Call the Rochester Public Library. The Science and Technology Department, at 428-7327, has the current edition and supplements for both U.S.A. and Foreign Callbooks. You can request information by giving only the call letters of the station you need. They will look up any amount you need, no maximum is specified, but do use common sense. If you have a large amount, and are near the library at the corner of Broad Street and South Avenue, stop in and ask to use the books right there. They are located on the desk in the Science and Technology Department. The cost of the Callbooks and supplements is covered in part by contributions from RaRa. We are pleased to thank Virgil Dumond, WB2FGY, who was instrumental in arranging this fine service for all area radio amateurs.

## GOOD LUCK IN CONTEST ! GET IN CONTEST !

## RaRa Club Jackets Available Again

Have you seen some RaRa members who looked alike? Maybe it was the clothes they wore, namely the jacket. But, then you did see them look alike during all phases of our beloved climate, didn't you? That is because you can again select your RaRa jacket with a choice of lining, — — and still, get your name and call imprinted thereon. Our prices are: Winter lining @ \$19.50; Spring lining @ \$15.50; Unlined for \$12.50. These are available in sizes Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large. The above prices include the name and call on the front.

If you are interested in getting a RaRa club jacket, you may contact Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, 518 Parish Road, Honeoye Falls, NY 14472; his home phone is 624-1929. Ed can also be reached during the day at his work location, phone 546-2700, ext. 3304.

FOR SALE — Heathkit Stereo Components for AM/FM/phone, with two speaker enclosures. Contact Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, 248-2511.

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