

# The RARa RAG

Published by

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association  
INCORPORATED

VOL. 32

FEBRUARY 1980

NO. 6

## February 1st Meeting Features DX Forum At Gleason Recreation Center by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

DXing, "The big pileup" is an easy game to shy away from. This facet of Ham Radio is enjoyed by many but few master the art at an early age of radio operation. The "Well Seasoned Ham" in DXing knows the techniques, the tricks which result in outstanding contacts while others are still pounding away to work that elusive country.

To whet our interest in and extend our knowledge of DXing our February program will consist of a forum headed by Bob Roberts, WA2QAU, assisted by Al Ketzl, W2TXB; Gene Fuller, W2LU; Rick Berg, WA2RLQ; and Corny Unruh, WA2EOQ. The program will open with an introduction by Bob and a question-answer session will follow. Questions will be routed to the appropriate members of the panel according to content of question and expertise of the panel members to deal with each question.

GEARS, the "Gleason Employees Amateur Radio Society" have invited us to join them for this meeting at their meeting location, 1000 University Avenue. Welcoming us will be Bill Buchanan, WA2ELC, Chairman and Bill Gross, KA2LFS, Vice-Chairman of GEARS.

As usual meeting time is promptly at 8:00 p.m. but again note the different meeting location which is the Gleason Recreation Center, 1000 University Avenue. Date: Friday, February 1st.

## FCC Exams at RaRa Hamfest

In spite of the recent ARRL Bulletins announcing the demise of F.C.C. trips to hamfests, the F.C.C. will hold exams at the 1980 RaRa Hamfest.

We were fortunate to have received our commitment for Amateur license exams prior to the recent F.C.C. moratorium on such activities. The

## 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*

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 yl'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.

---

same general schedule as used in past years will be followed, and as in past years, appointments are a must to assure your seat at the exams.

With the retirement of Joe Welch, responsibility for the 1980 Hamfest examinations has been shifted to the Buffalo F.C.C. office. Your application for appointment should be sent to the F.C.C., 1307 Federal Building, 111 West Huron Street, Buffalo, NY 14204. Your completed form 610 must reach the Buffalo F.C.C. office by May 1, 1980. Be sure to answer question 19 of this form with "Rochester Hamfest". But *DO NOT* mail your 610 to Gettysburg or Philadelphia. *Mail your 610 to BUFFALO.*

Get your 610 form in early and good luck to all. See you at the 1980 RaRa Hamfest!

73, John Schooley, K2NC

# The RARA RAG

Published by  
The Rochester Amateur Radio Association  
INCORPORATED

Managing Editor ..... Harold Smith, K2HC  
Editor ..... Dwight Hill, K2KWK  
Art Director ..... Herm Auch, KB2CM  
Staff ..... Helen Smith, WA2YRH

Editor's office, 265 Norcrest Drive, Rochester, NY 14617.

Telephone: 716-544-2332.

Managing Editor's office, 153 Mason Avenue, Rochester, NY 14626. Telephone: 716-225-5260.

## HOW TO LISTEN FOR DX

by Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

For anyone who is interested in DX, there are several publications available that explain how to go about working DX with some semblance of logic. In each one, the fact is mentioned that a good DX'er will spend ninety percent of the time listening and the remaining portion transmitting. However, listening a lot is no guarantee you will snag those rare ones. Just as when one goes fishing, if he is not in the right place at the right time, there is a good chance of coming home empty handed. Therefore, a seasoned DX'er will spend most of his time cruising that portion of a band where those rare ones always seem to show up.

Each of the amateur bands between 3.5 and 30 mhz has a section which is considered the DX portion. If a rare DX station operates, let's say, on 20 meters, there is a 99% chance he will eventually show up between 14.200 and 14.250 mhz. On the other bands, you will also come across a section considered DX alley that will be inhabited by the multitude of prowling DX hunters. Most of your pile-ups, list operations, and passing of DX scuttlebutt take place in these areas. A new DX'er who happens to hear a rare station in one of these sections stands a good chance of being scared off by the intensity of the pile-up and rudeness of the callers. If this has happened to you, it would be wise to prepare for the roller derby type DXing that is part of the snagging of those rare ones.

There are several good DX bulletins available these days which contain valuable information about the operating habits of many rare DX stations. You can use this information to adjust your operating time for the best chance to be around when a rare one might show. Based upon this data, you can try some blind calling at the stated time and frequency to get the first shot at the DX station. Sometimes it works, but more than likely will draw a crowd of other DX hunters who may cause interference and ruin your own chances for success. A safer bet would be a calling of a CQ directed at that part of the world where the station is located. If the DX station has committed himself to a list type operation, being around before the scheduled time may assure you of a good spot on the list-takers roster.

A rare DX station must at times feel like a duck in a shooting gallery and will escape the rat race by operating in the non-DX portion of the band. The good DX hunters will from time to time check these band areas listening for clues that may give away a rare DX station's identity. That guy

VOL 32

FEBRUARY 1980

NO. 6

### OFFICERS:

President: Alan Komenski, AC2K

Vice-President: Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

Secretary: Don Drennan, W2EBF

Treasurer: Ronald Jakubowski, K2RJ

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

James Collinworth, N2JC

Robert Erskine, W2NVZ

Edward Gable, K2MP

Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH

Leonard Gessin, WA2ZNC

Jim O'Brien, K2UDP

Harold Smith, K2HC

Club Historian: Bruce Kelley, W2ICE

Licensing Course Director:

Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH

Membership Chairman: Robert Erskine, W2NVZ

Director of Public Relations:

Jim O'Brien, K2UDP

K2JD Engraving Director: Robert Lauzon, K2RL

The RaRa Rag (USPS 605-440) is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603. Subscription price \$1.00 per year (included in \$6.00 annual membership dues). Second class postage paid in Rochester, New York.



Write for FREE COPY of any of our publications.

**The Ham Radio Publishing Group**  
GREENVILLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03048

(Continued on page 3)

# LISTEN

(Continued from page 2)

named George with the German accent on 21.425 mhz may not be a DJ7 from Berlin, but A7XA from Qatar.

As many a DX'er has already found out, there is more brain than brawn involved in achieving a high country count. A big signal is not worth a plug nickel if you are not in the right place at the right time. However taken the time to learn the mechanics of listening for DX, you are going to be in a better position of filling the wall with DX QSL cards than anything a radio store can sell.

73, good dxing

## RDXA Shows DXpedition Film

by Irv Goodman, ZB2EN

Save Tuesday night, February 12th, that's the next Rochester DX Association regular meeting, which will be held in the auditorium near the K2JD RaRa club station in the Monroe County DPW and CD buildings (old Iola complex), 350 East Henrietta Road corner Westfall.

Featured will be a presentation of the color movie of the 7J1RL Japanese DXpedition to Okino-Tori-Shima. You won't want to miss this most interesting film, combined with an evening of comparing notes on the "rare" ones with your fellow DX'ers. In addition, everyone present will be asked to complete a questionnaire form to provide the organization with input about your specific interests, opinions regarding future club-sponsored activities, etc.

Have any questions about RDXA? Don't hesitate to call Rick Berg, WA2RLQ, at 544-0776. See you at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday the 12th.

**FOR SALE:** Bearcat Scanners, Ringo Ranger and Larsen 2 meter antennas.

ATR Communications, 146 Lyell Avenue  
454-7116 Wally, W2PG, Pres.



ONE YEAR

\$14 00

The magazine that  
does more for you...

- Contests
- Propagation
- Antennas
- DXing
- Awards

**The Radio Amateur's Journal**

76 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801

# W-N-Y Starts February 3rd

The Western New York CW Traffic Training Net will begin Sunday, February 3rd, at 8:00 p.m. in the novice ten meter band at 28,160 kHz. Net Control station will be that of George Heron, N2APB, operating from Spencerport, sending codes at 7 to 10 wpm.

The goals of this activity are to increase "your" code speed and proficiency (the easy way); to learn the procedures common to many cw traffic nets; to participate in a 'fun' public service activity; and, to prepare yourself for other CW nets. You will also meet some new area hams.

CW Traffic and CW Nets are not as formidable as they first appear to be. The speed here will be nice and slow. The world will not come to an end when a mistake is made. We will all be there to learn and have a good time. The first few weeks N2APB will try to beam (3 element) pointed southwest from Spencerport. It is suggested that other stations point a beam toward Spencerport or put the dipole broadside toward that town. George will also listen carefully for weak signals so even an all-band or converted CB vertical will probably make it. The net time and frequency are 'on trial' so any comments concerning this or anything else are welcome.

Details on how to check-in plus a list of the Q signals and CW abbreviations for shorthand are available from George Heron, 46 Village Walk, Spencerport, NY 14559 and also from Chris Reich, P.O. Box 6904, Rochester, NY 14627.

NEED FAMILY GOOD GRACES AFTER YOUR LAST ANTENNA PARTY?  
TAKE HER TO RaRa VALENTINE DINNER-DANCE. 

## STOLEN EQUIPMENT

KDK Two Meter mobile/fixed FM rig, KDK model nr. 2016-A, serial nr. 5703. Set is property of Ted Wright, KA2EUU. Contact Ted directly if you see or know of this set.

## HARVEY'S HAM

KB2LB

CALEDONIA, N.Y. 538-4750

TEN TEC — DENTRON

TRITON IV — ARGONAUT

**NEW AND USED — FOR  
SUPER—LOW PRICES !!!**

3154 STATE ST. — Across from  
CHASE MANHATTAN BANK

# Anonymous Author Found

Our *RaRa Rag* for November 1978 carried an important article, "Electricity, It's the Current that Kills". The article was properly titled except there was no author's name, and it was printed on the backside of another article, whose author did not know where the information came from. It looked like just the sort of information to pass on to club members who have been known to put their fingers into electronic equipment. The author appears to be Bill Welsh, W6DDB, who wrote it for the "Navy Log". The following note appears in the LERC Amateur Radio Club Bulletin.

Wanna hear a good one on ye Editor? Well, last month I read an article entitled "Electricity — It's the Current that Kills", in the *RaRa Rag*, written by an anonymous author. This looked like good stuff for our Bulletin, so it got printed. Shortly after publication, I got a note in the mail from a slightly irate Bill Welsh, W6DDB. He wrote, "What the @\$%! do you mean — anonymous?!!!" I wrote that article about 6 years ago for the "Navy Log!" Anyway, after we got together, we finally assumed the article had been stolen so many times by other publications that the author's name got deleted. Sorry about that, Bill, maybe the next editor that steals it will have read this correction and give credit where it is due.

Our apology and thanks to Bill Welsh and Roy Harrison, AA6W, for finding the author and for the excellent article.

LEGALIZE SPARK,  
SHOW HER THAT OLD ELECTRON ARC.  
RaRa VALENTINE DINNER-DANCE,  
BEATS THE PARK AFTER DARK.

YOU KNOW WHAT SHE NEEDS,  
NOW DO IT WITH CLASS  
AN EARLY VALENTINE CHANCE  
AT THE RaRa DINNER-DANCE.

## Heathkit®

### Month's RaRa Rag Special

HW-2036-A Synthesized Transceiver: 2 meter/FM

— NEW REDUCED PRICES —

\$199.95 with P.T.T. Mic.

OR

\$234.90 with Micoder™ Mic.

HEATHKIT ELECTRONIC CENTER    PHONE: 716-424-2560  
937 JEFFERSON ROAD            Open Daily at 9:30  
ROCHESTER, NY 14623         — Thurs. till 9:00 p.m.

# NEW CATALOG AVAILABLE

Hamtronics, Inc. has announced a new 1980 catalog, which is yours for the asking. The 24 page catalog features many types of kits of interest to the amateur or two-way shop. Exciting new products in the catalog include a 435 MHz Transmitting Converter, a new UHF FM Receiver, an AM Receiver for aircraft and Dx warning, a weather tone alert receiver module, a new low-noise vhf converter, and several new linear power amplifiers for vhf and uhf. These new products follow in the tradition of other fine Hamtronics kits, including their famous VHF & UHF Converters and Preamps and FM Transmitters and Receivers.

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

## Ohm in the Rig

Edward Andrews, WBOAKV

(with apologies to "Home on the Range")

Oh give me an ohm  
Where the 'lectron does roam  
Where the volts and the amperes do play,  
Where seldom is code  
A discouraging mode  
And the hams are transmitting all day.

Oh give me a rig  
For it need not be big  
As I yak at the hams on the net.  
To hear a strong voice  
Then will be my first choice  
While I log all the calls that I get.

*Refrain:*

Ohm, ohm in the rig  
Where the volts and the amperes do play,  
Where seldom is code  
A discouraging mode  
And the hams are transmitting all day.

How often at night  
When the band is just right  
And the rig will glow like a big crown  
I sat at the mike  
For the Dx that I like  
But I QSOed the ham across town.

Oh tune with good care  
For a time on the air  
While you're carefully turning the beam.  
The calls will come in  
And you'll have a broad grin  
Like a ham in a heavenly dream.

*Tnx to Worldradio News and Auto Call, Aug 78*

# CLUB ROAD RALLY

The RaRa Spring Road Rally will be held Sunday, April 27, 1980 with registration starting at 1:00 p.m. This will be a beginners rally composed of approximately fifty miles with 3-4 checkpoints. The rally will start at Westmar Plaza with the finish point being included with the route instructions that will be handed out at registration. Registration and check points will be operated with the assistance of members of the Triumph Touring Club of Rochester who have also furnished the Rally route. We have provided communications assistance to the TTCR many times in the past and we are sure they will provide an interesting afternoon to those that participate. If you are unable to or do not wish to participate in the Rally itself, perhaps you would like to assist at a checkpoint or with registration.

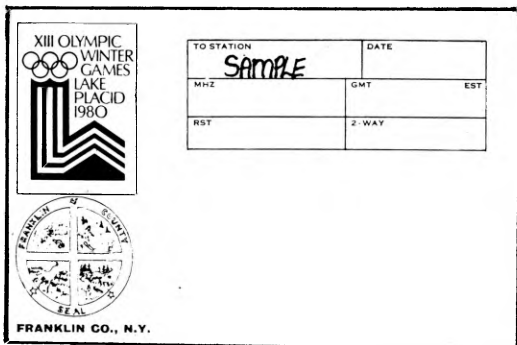
We will have an awards "Banquet" upon completion of the Rally to enable everyone to refuel and to present suitable awards to those that complete the course. For registration or worker details, please contact Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ, or Ed Holdsworth, N2EH.

## 1980 OLYMPIC QSL'S

by Vivian E. Douglas, WA2PUU  
Ham Radio Editor, Syracuse Herald-American

Amateurs in Franklin County will be distributing special 1980 Winter Olympic QSL cards to each of their contacts before, during and after the Winter Olympics next month in Lake Placid. The QSL cards were subsidized by the Franklin County seal, and the standard QSL information. More details on the QSLs can be obtained from Shawn D. McGovern, KA2BSC, originator, 117 Webster Street, Malone, NY 12953.

Lake Placid also will have a second repeater on 22/82 sponsored by the Los Angeles-based SOBER Radio Empire, with WA2UIT, W2SFL and WA9EXP providing assistance.



The 1980 Winter Olympics QSL card.

# WB2PYI/R Has Code Practice Swap Net

by Dave Parsons, N2ATY

The Suburban Amateur Radio Group (S.A.R.G.) is pleased to announce that they will have Herb Penner, AI2R, Computer Code Practice at 22-15-7 WPM starting January 7, 1980 and every Monday night at 7:30 p.m.

Our repeater (WB2PYI) will also have a Swap Net conducted by Roger Dennis, WB2HWO, and Ralph Brown, N2VAD, every Thursday starting January 10, 1980 at 7:30 p.m.

## DRUMLINS CLUB OFFICERS

Vivian E. Douglas, WA2PUU  
Ham Radio Editor; Syracuse Herald-American

Officers of Drumlins Amateur Radio Club for 1979-1980 are: president, Jack Buzzell, Jr., WB2MBO, Sodus; vice-president, Bob Fox, WB2EWR, Clyde; secretary, Ron Faro, WA2MCB, Williamson; treasurer, Bob Everhart, AB2F, Lyons; and program chairman Tony Drabicki, W2ESS, Clifton Springs.

Nine amateur operators from the Drumlins club helped on communication coverage for the Turkey Trot, a 6.7 mile race through Wolcott. Bob Sprague, WB2JSB of Wolcott, was in charge. Drumlins hams meet each Wednesday night for a traffic net followed by a ragchew session. Net Control is WA2GAI, Carl Brennessel of Sodus who urges checking at 146.145/146.745.

**FOR SALE:** Ten-Tec 544 digital dial solid state 200 watt transceiver with power supply, remote VFO, 160 meter transverter plus acc'y's. Contact John Schooley, K2NC, 225-3626.



## SUPERIOR DESIGN

CONTRACT AND PERMANENT  
PLACEMENTS FOR  
**ENGINEERS — DESIGNERS**  
DIGITAL/ANALOG — MICROPROCESSOR  
EXPERIENCE

CALL DICK — WB2EEU  
1354 BUFFALO ROAD, ROCHESTER, NY  
(716) 235-3450

When I was young and my slippers were red  
I could kick my feet 'way over my head.  
When I grew older and my slippers were blue  
I still could dance the whole night through.  
Now I am older and my slippers are black -  
I walk to the corner and I puff my way back.  
The reason I know my youth has been spent,  
My get-up-and-go has got up and went!

But I really don't mind when I think with a  
grin  
Of all the grand places my get-up has been.  
Since I have retired from life's competition  
I find every day an exact repetition -  
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,  
Pick up the paper and read the obits;  
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead  
So I eat a big breakfast and go back to bed!  
(Donated from an unknown author's fine sense of  
humor.)

—WOCAW

*Tnx Denver Radio Club*

WHAT'S YOUR TROUBLE BUNNY ?  
ALL THOSE CONTEST HOURS GOT YOU WASHING DISHES ?  
GET HER TO THE RaRa VALENTINE DINNER-DANCE.

AT THE END OF HER DAY,  
AFTER MAKING YOUR HAY,  
ALL COMPLIMENTS 2 KOMENSKI, AC2K.



## ACHTUNG! ACHTUNG!

Alles Lookenspeepers

Das elektronikermachinen ist nicht fer gerfinger-  
poken und handgrabbin. Ist easi fer schnappen der  
dialwerks, fuseblowen, und finalfrien mit sparks  
spitzen und flyinger. Ist nicht fer usen bei der  
dumpkopfs. Das rubbernecken sightseeren lookens-  
peepers shud keepen deir hands in deir pocketesen.  
Relaxen und watchen alles der blinkenlightens  
mit der experten messerer upperer doing der  
damagen mitout helpen bei udders. Danke!

*Tnx L.E.R.C. Bulletin*

Questions you'd never think to ask and answers  
you'd never hear if you didn't listen to CB-----

- Q. "How many amperes are there in a watt?"  
A. "I don't know, but I would think a lot of  
them."  
Q. "My rig is rated for less than 1.5 amperes.  
Is it O.K. to hook it to a power supply rated  
for 3 amperes?"  
A. "Good heavens, no! You'll blow the rig."

I should know better. I should know better. I  
should know...

That CB rig is on its way to becoming a 10 meter  
rig!

We offer complete on-the-air  
operation of any of our wide range  
of amateur products as well as a  
total service and repair facility.

## JR AMATEUR RADIO

1185 Scottsville Road • Rochester, N.Y. 14624

(716) 235-7540



**OPEN Monday thru Friday 9 to 9, Saturday til 5**