

The RARa RAG

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INCORPORATED

VOL 32

MAY 1980

NO. 9

RARa ANNUAL MEETING MAY 2nd GLEASON RECREATION CENTER

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

The May 2nd RaRa meeting will feature a field day lap dissolve slide program with keyed audio. The program was produced by Scott Simpson, W2UYY, a member of the Fort Wayne Radio Club. Scott has shown the feature at several Dayton Hamventions. His updated format will be shown here by Leo Heiland, N9TE, who lives in East Bethany near Batavia. Leo currently is President and Field Day Chairman for GRAM. ARRL has commented that this is the finest field day program they have seen. We hope that you too will enjoy the May 2nd presentation. At this meeting we hold election of Officers and Board Members for the 1980/1981 season. Elsewhere in this issue is the report of the Nominating Committee. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the May meeting. It is common courtesy and practice to obtain prior acceptance from someone before nominating him or her from the floor.

As usual meeting time is promptly at 8:00 p.m. but again note the different meeting location which is the *Gleason Recreation Center, 1044 University Avenue.*

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

To the members:

The Annual Meeting of the Membership of Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. will be held at the Gleason Works Recreation Center, 1044 University Avenue, Rochester, New York on May 2, 1980 at 8:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

- (1) To elect officers
- (2) To elect a Board of Directors
- (3) To determine the dues for 1980-81.

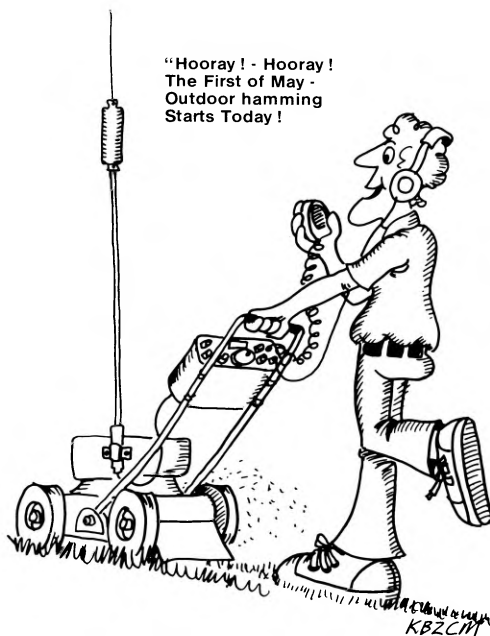
By Order of the Board of Directors
Don Drennan, *Secretary*

Rochester, New York
April 26, 1980

GET HAMFEST TICKETS NOW

There are three ways to get your advanced 1980 Rochester Hamfest and New York State ARRL Convention tickets. One convenient method would be to pick them up in person at the May 2nd RaRa meeting. Another way would be to pick them up at JR Amateur Radio of Rochester at 1185 Scottsville Road. Last but not least, you can order your tickets by mail from Rochester Hamfest - Tickets, 737 Latta Road, Rochester, NY 14612. All advanced registration tickets are \$4.00, a full one dollar savings over the at-the-gate price of \$5.00. Other ticket prices are: Advanced registration and Banquet - \$14.00. Indoor Flea Market table - \$10.00. Outdoor Flea Market space - \$2.00. You can order tickets for the Ladies Program at no charge but a registration ticket is required. Children 12 years and under are free.

Ed Gable, K2MP



The RARA RAG

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The Rochester Amateur Radio Association
INCORPORATED

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Alan Komenski, AC2K

This month we will be electing officers and directors for RaRa's 1980-1981 year. Nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to the election. Voting will be by secret ballot. You will be voting for the offices of Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and seven Directors positions.

The Board of Directors has voted to recommend to the membership at the Annual Meeting in May that there be no increase in the membership dues structure for next year. We have been very fortunate to see a continued increase in our membership again this year which has helped in providing sufficient funds to meet our operating expenses.

It seems as though each spring our participation in public service activities increases, and this year is no exception. In addition to the Hamfest activities, we will be holding a road rally for club members the first weekend of May. June will bring, in addition to our annual picnic, the Genesee Yacht Club race, the Pennsylvania Road rally and Field Day. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the activities please contact Ed Holdsworth, N2EH.

Hope to see you all at our Annual Meeting on May 2nd, and of course, at the Hamfest on the 16th and 17th.

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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

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RaRa BOARD NOTES

Bob Erskine, W2NVZ, current membership chairman reports a great total of 823 members.

The club will provide communications for the Susquehannock Road Rally on June 7th and 8th, about 18 operators are needed. If you would like to join the fun contact Ed Holdsworth, N2EH.

If you would like to join club activities for ARRL Field Day, contact Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB. It is hoped that the group will be able to locate near the Rochester metropolitan area.

Letters to the grand daughter of Clara Reger will be prepared by Harold Smith, K2HC.

The March 12th meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.



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OFFICER and BOARD NOMINEES

President: Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

Vice-President: Donald Drennan, W2EBF

Secretary: David Coleman, N2AOB

Treasurer: Gilbert Chapin, WB2UTI

Board of Directors:

Harold Smith, K2HC

Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH

James O'Brien, K2UDP

Robert Erskine, W2NVZ

John Golden, W2IRG

Irving Walter, WA2SOK

Thomas Richmond, WA2IEY

Alan Komenski, AC2K

DAVID W. COLEMAN, N2AOB - A native of the Rochester area, David currently resides at 311 Hook Road in the town of Farmington. He is Customer Service Manager for Hartman Engineering where he has been employed for the past nine years.

He was first licensed in 1967 and now holds an Advanced Class license. Past calls include WA2YTA. David is presently Corresponding Secretary for RaRa and is Vice-Chairman of RRRA. He is also a member of the Rochester VHF Group, Air Force MARS, and the ARRL. He is chairman of the outdoor flea market at the Rochester Hamfest.

David is Communications Supervisor and a medic for the Victor-Farmington Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

ROBERT J. ERSKINE, W2NVZ - Bob has been a licensed radio amateur since 1952, and has held the same call steadily. He resides at 168 Vinedale Avenue with his two sons, Stephen and Bob Jr. Bob has been active as a RaRa Board member for the past three years, serving for the past two years as RaRa Membership Chairman.

Bob is active on 10, 15, and 20 phone plus 2 meter FM mobile. He has been employed in the local broadcast industry for the past 27 years and is presently the Assistant Chief Engineer at WHEC-TV Channel 10, in Rochester. He has been a member of ARRL and RaRa for most of his ham career. He holds an Amateur Extra Class and a First Class Radio telephone license. W2NVZ is a member of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers and also a certified member of the Society of Broadcast Engineers.

JOHN R. GOLDEN, W2IRG - First licensed in 1955 as KOCHH, John was active in the Des Moines Radio Amateur Association, was instrumental in re-establishing the Caltech Amateur Radio Club

(WGUE) and chased tornados while teaching math at Kansas University. In moving to New Jersey in 1964 to become a member of the research staff at RCA Laboratories, he acquired a WB2 call which he prefers to forget and became W2IRG after coming to Rochester to join Xerox in 1972.

John is currently a senior member of the Xerox Corporation Information Systems Staff having held several management and staff assignments with ITT and Xerox. He is an invited lecturer at RIT, was Board Chairman of the Xerox Management Association and is a member of ARRL, RaRa, RRRA, GRA, AWA, QCWA, ACM, IEEE and AMA!

License: Advanced

EDWIN J. HOLDSWORTH, N2EH - Ed resides at 518 Parish Road, Honeoye Falls, with his wife, Joyce, and have five sons - Jim in Phoenix, Arizona; Steve, WA2EJY, Cary, Gerry, WA2IMQ and Keith, KA2GCG.

Ed was first licensed in 1968 and now holds an Extra Class formerly WN2EKR and WA2EKR. His club activities have included Trustee of K2JD, active in club stations, License Course Director, Novice Course Director, Hamfest Committee Chairman, active in public service, Assistant E.C., Past Secretary, Vice-President, President and presently Board Member.

Ed also likes camping, woodworking and auto-restoration.

ALAN KOMENSKI, AC2K - Alan is RaRa's current President. He has previously served as this organizations Vice-President, Secretary and three years as a Director. For the past three years he has been the code instructor for RaRa's General Class.

An active CW operator, he was first licensed in 1964 as a novice with the call WN2TJR. He received his General ticket in 1965 along with the call WB2ZFM, his Advanced in 1977, and his Extra Class ticket and current call in 1978.

Alan is employed by the County of Monroe, Department of Public Safety Communications as the Supervising Dispatcher. He lives at 31 Cullens Run, Pittsford.

JIM O'BRIEN, K2UDP - Jim is our Public Relation Director. He is very involved in community relations as the Manager of the Retail Department of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce. He is also Director of the Retail Merchants Council, The Downtown Promotion Council, The Civic Development Council, The Henrietta Chamber of Commerce, and the Penfield-Perinton-Pittsford

(Continued on page 4)

Chamber of Commerce. He was formerly Manager of the Heathkit Electronic Center in Henrietta and in the course of nine years with Heath he has built over 300 Heathkit projects. At the Hamfest Jim will be our Dinner Chairman. He has been a radio ham for 25 years and was a novice in the beginning with the call KN2UDP. He currently holds the Advanced Class license. He also is active with radio control model airplanes and has built and enjoyed them since the age of nine.

TOM RICHMOND, WB2IEY - First licensed as WN2IEY, and now holding an Advanced ticket, Tom enjoys SSB and CW operations on 2 meters from his home in Pumpkin Hook, NY. Presently he is employed at Harris/RF as an electronics technician. Tom is a member of AWA, RaRa, RRRRA, in addition to 1979 vice-chairman and 1980 contest chairman of the Rochester VHF Group. He is also engaged in Ontario County Civil Defense, SIARC Novice classes, and volunteer at U. of R. radio station WRUR.

HAROLD C SMITH, K2HC - Harold is Regional Sales Manager for FTCCcommunications and the president and owner of Com Center, a telegraphic message preparation center with headquarters in Rochester. He and his wife, Helen, WA2YRH, live at 153 Mason Avenue in Greece. Harold is the Managing Editor of the RaRa Rag, a job he has held since 1960. He is also General Chairman of the Rochester Hamfest, having performed that job since 1963. Harold is a member of the Board of the Antique Wireless Association. He still holds the call, WA2KND, which he may give up when it expires next year. He holds an Extra Class amateur license and holds a private pilot's license.

FOR SALE: 6 Meter Transceiver - am/cw/ssb; 2 Meter Transceiver - am/cw/ssb/fm; 11 Meter Transceiver - am/ssb, with 10 meter xtals, inst. Contact Len Gessin, WA2ZNC at 248-2511.

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CENTURY CLUB AWARDS VHF GROUP

The Rochester VHF Group award ceremony will be held at the May 9th VHF Group meeting. The meeting place will be announced via the newsletter prior to the meeting. In addition it is hoped the meeting topic will cover Gunnplexers, but final details will appear in the newsletter from Tom Perry, WB2UTM.

The Rochester VHF Group Wednesday Night Nets are going along real fine. Tom Richmond, WB2IEY, reports the session averaging 16 to 20 stations checking in on each band. This is a super way to check over your antennas and equipment before the ARRL VHF QSO Party on the weekend of June 14 and 15th. A welcome checkin from Montreal was VE2BBK, joined by WB3CZG from eastern Pennsylvania on 2 meters. Net Control volunteers are needed each week, anyone running fifty watts and having a fair antenna system are encouraged to help out. Incidentally, stations have checked in using SSB, AM, and CW so don't be bashful!

See you on May 9th.

RDXA MEETS MAY 6th

Next meeting of Rochester DX Association will be Tuesday evening, May 6th, at the Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Boulevard. Regular business meeting will commence at 8:00 p.m. Cocktails at 6:30 for those wishing to include dinner beforehand.

Featured program will be announced in membership mailing. A summarization of the Questionnaire forms will be presented, and nominations for officers for next season will take place.



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RaRa PICNIC SET

The fateful day has been set since last August by the RaRa Board of Directors, it's going to happen on June 14th. What-ever will be will be! More details such as the place and time will appear in the June Rag. The VHF Group, in honor of it also being QSO Party weekend, will have a special team equipped with Dumbplexers for 432, 1296 and 2300. This is so you have a choice of rare, medium, or well done hot dogs. No more chances with charcoal for this bunch, I tell 'ya! This way no single operator gets the blame for feeding us the charcoal instead of the meat. Now isn't that just the finest kind? Do not pass Go. Do not collect two hundred dollars. Go to the RaRa Picnic on June 14th.

DARC News

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club is planning to contribute communications for the New York State Archery Association Mid-Atlantic Tournament dates. The June 21, 22 period requires 4 radio amateurs, July 21 to 25 requires 6 amateurs per day, and the N.Y.S. Tournament August 9, 10 requires 4 amateur operators. The events are held at Sugar Hill near Watkins Glen. Camping and meals are available for those who help. Anyone interested in helping should contact Howard Klino, K2IMO. Howie's address is listed in the RaRa Directory.

DARC Activity Chairman, John Lincourt, WB2TRI, will be gathering volunteers to participate in ARRL Field Day and ARRL VHF QSO Party.

The Newark Repeater will become WA2AAZ/R in May according to Hugh Ransley, WB2LTN. The frequency will remain the same however at 146.145 input and 146.745 output.

ED BARRY, WB2AMC - SILENT KEY

Ed was well known to almost everyone who operated on the 2 and 6 meter bands. He became a radio ham about ten years ago, having been previously active on the CB frequencies. He enjoyed contacting the hams he could meet locally, which led him to arise early for the early morning Liars Net, and he later started the evening Champagne Net. Ed loved hamfests and was seen in Rochester and Hamburg. Because of his love of a cup of coffee, and in spite of his Irish background, he instigated the Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. Ed is well appreciated for his good humor and helpfulness, even while very sick.

WHAT'S A QRL?

QRL? No doubt we have all heard the station that tries to talk to the frequency. It goes something like this: "Q R Zed the frequency." Funny thing . . . the frequency never answers. Frequency talkers are probably seeking the much coveted WAF, Worked All Frequencies award. It's getting the cards that's difficult.

There is one brand of conversation "with the frequency" though that does make a great deal of sense -- the use of QRL? In addressing the frequency, this literally means: "Are you busy?" If the frequency does not talk back with a "Yes," or C on cw, you're golden to proceed. These are the magic words to determine if the frequency can be used without causing interference. You'll hear the phone types sometimes add on the courteous: "Thank you for asking."

Many old timers still tend to use the Morse letter C (didit dit), to check the frequency, with the C response should the frequency be in use.

Dual claim to the frequency can sometimes be the source of consternation. The band can change quickly bringing two existing QSOs unintentionally into conflict. Liaison stations from the eastern area to the Pacific Area Net at 1930Z have experienced a similar problem, as the net is usually weak at that time in the east with a ragchew usually in process between eastern stations. Checking in will surely cause interference to the ragchew on frequency. What to do?

That's not quite the same problem as the 75-meter net that starts exactly on *its* frequency whether there is a QSO in progress there or not. This does not make for friends. It is not condoned. The net can always re-locate a few kilohertz off frequency. The old axiom holds: no one *owns* the frequency.

CD appointee-types (or anyone can) set the pace in courteous operating. We influence best by example. Let's continue to keep it a shining one.

-- W1XX

Tnx: QCD Bulletin ARRL Comm. Dept.

SILENT KEY

JAMES R. FISK, W1HR

Editor-in-Chief

HAM RADIO MAGAZINE

IT'S TIME TO BUY THAT NEW WEAPON

by Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

With the Hamfest only a couple weeks away, many DXer's are thinking about purchasing something to help them in their climb up the DXCC ladder. The list of possible helpers may include a new beam antenna, tower, linear amplifier or perhaps one of those new transceivers with digital memory. For one reason or another, each DXer hopes that one of the above will supply that secret ingredient needed to insure his success in working that rare one that next time around. Depending on your thirst for DX, that ace up your sleeve might cost quite a few dollars. Since very few of us can afford everything at once, it would be wise to take an objective look at your existing station and select the item which will give the greatest possible return.

The ability of working DX hinges heavily upon the ability to hear them with the minimum of QRM. Therefore, an antenna with gain and directivity is very important, especially so on 10, 15, and 20 meters. A good monobander on one of those bands will always out perform a tribander at the same height and surroundings. But, if the DX station you need operates only on 15 meters, that 20 meter monobander won't do you any good. Just to be on the safe side, a new DXer should have the capabilities to operate as many bands as possible to increase his chances of working the rare one no matter where he shows up.

Regardless of what antenna you choose to use, its performance will be influenced by surrounding objects. For proper operation, a beam antenna should be at least forty-five feet in the air and away from houses, trees, and electrical wires. To meet this requirement, a tower of some sort is needed and this will cost anywhere from several hundred to over one thousand dollars depending upon its type and antenna square footage handling capability. If you can climb, a fixed height tower

is many times cheaper than the crank-up variety leaving the choice of physical ability versus the ease and added expense of allowing the antenna to be maintained at ground level.

The linear amplifier has become a common tool for DXer's although its necessity is often questioned. Skipping the pros and cons, linear amplifiers are divided into the one and two kilowatt PEP input class. Figuring about sixty percent efficiency, there will be only about a half an "S" unit difference between the two power levels. Cost-wise, the dollar difference is considerable and the cash saved by purchasing the smaller unit could be spent more wisely on a better antenna or tower.

Lastly, the center of any amateur station is the transceiver unit. Whether buying a unit for the first time or upgrading the variety of special features and options available, one may be left quite perplexed when making a decision on what will do the job for you. To work some DXpeditions you will need split frequency capability via an optional VFO or internal memory circuitry. Provision for a cw filter is important to many, plus such features as a noise limiter, notch filter and adjustable passband are also important considerations to be reckoned with. Some transceivers allow an additional filter for ssb reception that will reduce adjacent channel QRM. But in the end, the hands-on use of a particular radio will provide more information about its operation than you could gather from any other source.

In conclusion, the ability to capture the signals from those DX stations should be of prime importance. Therefore, a good beam antenna at a respectable height will prove time and time again the best place to invest your dollars when thinking of serious DX hunting. With inflation on a rampage, the price tag on that tower you have been eyeing will seem like a bargain a year from now. Check around and you will find out that most DXers sooner or later find out the height and type of antenna play the most important role in the ability to work the DX.

73, DX to U.



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Mike Dimond, WA2JKG, in 'News Fuse'

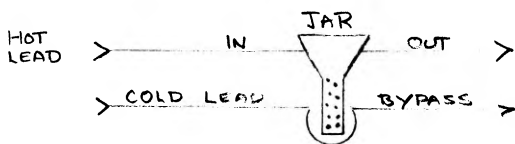
If you've noticed a sludge or clay like build-up inside your tubes or diodes lately, or even if you haven't, but have recently added new equipment to your station; there is a simple preventative step you can take to save lots of bucks down the road.

FILTER YOUR ELECTRICITY

You know how every time the city works on the waterpipes it loosens a lot of rust. Well, the same thing happens when Con-Ed works on their lines, and they are not always careful to drain some off before putting the line back in service. So it's up to you, or it could clog up a lot of diodes!

To test for clogged equipment, loosen and remove one of the easier to get at tubes, invert it and tap it several times against a hard surface. If you notice debris inside the tube falling to the top, the condition is advanced. A good place for the electron sediment filter is at the fuse box. This will protect every electric device in the house. The filter need only be placed across the hot lead since there is no sense in filtering the ground lead.

A typical electron sediment filter, (ESF) ed., looks like this:



You should empty the jar when sediment level is $\frac{1}{4}$ deep. The electrons will jump straight across the jar but the sediment, because of its greater weight, will fall to the bottom. (*This is similar to electronic activity inside a tube vacuum.*) ed. Caution, avoid breathing in the filter dust, especially if you have an asthmatic condition. This filter will add years to the life of the tubes and diodes.

News Fuse Editor's note: "all questions and or suggestions should be forwarded directly to WA2JKG". Thanks to *The Hilltopper* and the *Tompkins County A.R.C.*

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after going all out.

Tnx: Groundwave

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

DARC TO DEMO: WOLCOTT FESTIVAL

Bob Sprague, WB2JSB, reports that Wolcott, NY will again be hosting the Summer Festival in conjunction with the Wayne County Firemen's Convention, July 16-19. The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club will again demonstrate "amateur radio in action" with a booth at the festival with stations set up for operation on the "low bands" (hf) and vhf. All who wish to take part should contact Bob Sprague.

Tnx DARC Bulletin

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Ed Gable, K2MP

RaRa greatly acknowledges the following very thoughtful donations to the Club:

A five element Six meter beam by Doug Wilson, KA8IGS

An 80 watt two meter PA to match the TS-700SP by Ed Gable, K2MP

A complete Motorola Semiconductor Reference library by Bob Crotinger

A teletype printer by George Muller, WA2IEO

All donations are appreciated. However, due to our delicate position as a not for profit organization, we can only issue letters of credit for income tax purposes for items of some substance.

WANTED TO BUY: General coverage receiver such as a Hallicrafters SX-99, National NC-88, or similar vintage. Call Ed Gable, K2MP, 621-6692.

FOR SALE - Collins "S" line station- 75S3B rcvr w/ 800Hz CW filter and 10 M. extals, 32S2 xmitter, 516 - F2 AC power supply, 312 - B4 station control/patch/power meter and speaker and SM - 1 microphone. All ultra-mint w/manuals, cables and cartons. Ask to hear and operate separate or transceive. Contact W2HZ/K2ISP, 436-6089.

RaRa Field Day June 28th and 29th

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

Field Day, 1980 will be held in the Rochester area. Two locations are being considered, one at Northhampton Park and the other at Webster Park. Needed for the activity is one or more generators suitable for emergency type activities. If you are interested in participating please contact WB2RJB at 247-4976 or W2EBF, Don Drennan at 671-3366.

An organizational meeting for Field Day will be held at the K2JD Club Station, Sunday, May 11th, at 2:00 p.m. About a half dozen hams are now signed up. We would enjoy having you. CQFD!

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