

The RARa RAG

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NO. 10

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION MEET

Next meeting of the Rochester DX Association will be on Tuesday, June 10th. *NOTE...this is a change from previously announced date!* Location will be Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Boulevard, Rochester. Regular business meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Persons planning to include dinner should contact Ray Leigh, W2SNI, at 225-3776 for reservations. Cocktails at 6:30.

An interesting program is assured. In addition, election of Officers and Directors for next season will take place. Current nominations are: *Chairman:* Rick Berg, WA2RLQ; Bob Roberts, WA2QAU; *Vice-President:* Jeff Ach, W2HPF; Corny Unruh, WA2EOQ; *Secretary-Treasurer:* Buck O'Connor, N2FI; Van VanDerBrooke, W2OUM; *Directors:* Al Keltz, W2TXB; Van VanDerBrooke, W2OUM; Gene Fuller, W2LU; Rick Berg, WA2RLQ; John Lundberg, W0VU. Additional nominations accepted from the floor at the meeting.

RaRa OFFICERS, DUES for 1980/81

New club Officers were elected at the Annual Business Meeting in May. Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB, becomes President and will preside at his first RaRa Meeting in September. Don Drennan, W2EBF, was elected Vice-President and will serve that capacity for one year before becoming President for the 1981/82 season. Secretary for the Board will be Dave Coleman, N2AOB. RaRa Treasurer will be Gil Chapin, WB2UTI. Re-elected to the Board were Ed Holdsworth, N2EH; Harold Smith, K2HC; and Bob Erskine, W2NVZ. Newly elected to the RaRa Board are Jim O'Brien, K2UDP; John Golden, W2IRG; Alan Komenski, AC2K; and Dwight Hill, K2KWK. Those who are retiring from the RaRa Board are Jim Collinsworth, N2JC; Ed Gable, K2MP; Len Gessin, WA2ZNC; and Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, from the Treasurer job. Mere thanks fall pretty short of what is meant when these fellows step down. There are about ten hours a month as a minimum, and more usually triple that if you factor in count-

(Continued on page 6)

RaRa PICNIC - SATURDAY, JUNE 14th

Our annual picnic is the last club function until the September meeting, except for the August Board meeting. The fun and games start at two p.m. and could last until the cows come home or the TVI stops. The club provides everything except baseballs, bats, gloves, blisters and sunburns. Yes Virginia, Alan promised us sunshine! But he didn't say quite clearly how much, when and where - so there may be little danger that you will lose the popular "Rochester palor".

The fires will be lit at about four p.m. They will be touched off by a torch of local manufacture whose sparker device will be carried by runners from Len's QTH. The last runnee will be W2PBJ to give him all due credit for his innovations in to the Lake Placid Olympics. In spite of Brian being known as the "peanut butter and jelly" ham, Alan assures us that hot dogs will emerge from the blaze in edible condition. Only if you compete with Alan for dx I advise you to stick to the potato chips.

Go east on Rte 490 to the Bushnel Basin exit then go east on Rte 96 for about a mile where you turn right into Powder Mills Park. You go past the fish hatchery and bear to the right where the road splits. The first lodge on the left is the Rand Lodge, go on past this to the next road on the left for the Wadhams Lodge which is around the hill behind the Rand Lodge. We hope no one gets lost, keep a listen on the two meter repeaters to help or be helped.

Actually when you can no longer hear any repeaters you are very close to the Wadhams Lodge as it is well shielded for all frequencies. Apologies to Alan, Brian, Len who really do ok and thus have to get pic'ed on just to show we're glad it's "summer" as they say.

FOUND! - Heathkit Transceiver #HW2036A for two fm. Rightful owner can retrieve it through proper identification. Contact Rich Koehn, K2UW, at 482-0593.

The RARA RAG

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Alan Komenski, AC2K

I wish to congratulate the newly elected officers and directors who you have chosen to lead RaRa for the 1980-81 year. I finish off my term as President confident that the organization is in good hands for next year. I know that we will continue to see RaRa grow and be an asset to our community.

There are many people to whom I owe a special thanks. For it has been with their help that my term as President has been a successful one. The current officers and directors have served admirably in carrying out their individual responsibilities. I thank each of them for their dedication and for the long hours which they have given this year.

Special recognition goes to Len Gessin, WA2ZNC; Ed Gable, K2MP; Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ; and Jim Collinsworth, N2JC, all of who will not be returning to the board next year. Each of them have served several years as officers and directors and have provided invaluable services to this organization.

I would also like to thank Dwight Hill, K2KWK, who helped get this publication out each month, Irv Goodman, AF2K, who served as our assistant membership chairman, George Muller, WA2IEO, our refreshment chairman, and Dave Coleman, N2AOB, RaRa's corresponding secretary. And last, but certainly not least, to Helen Smith, WA2YRH, whose countless hours behind the scenes contributed to the RAG each month and to the success of the hamfest.

Harold Smith, K2HC, and his Hamfest committee put together another fine show for us this year. Membership support not only in attending, but also in the many long hours of your time contributed to the success. Each year we have a great deal to learn about putting together the next years show, and this year is no exception. With continued support from the membership we can maintain the tradition of providing the finest hamfest in this part of the country.

All associate and full members and their families are invited to attend our annual RaRa Picnic, June 14th, at Powder Mills Park. There is no charge. We provide food and beverage, games for the kids, etc. All we ask is your attendance. Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, the picnic chairman guarantees you'll have a good time.

I'll be looking forward to seeing you all on the 14th.

Alan Komenski, AC2K

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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 Collinsworth, 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

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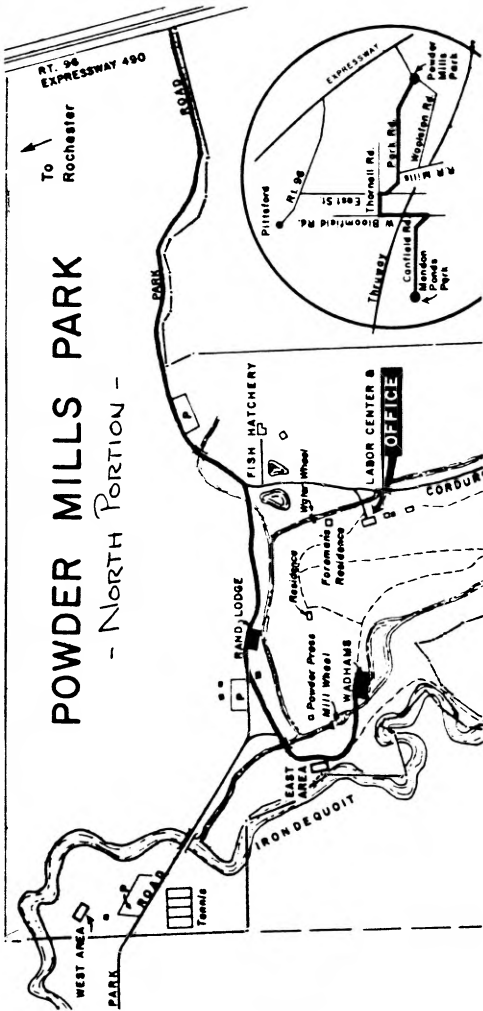
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HOW TO FIND PICNIC



DARC NEWS:

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club (of nearby Wayne County) is still awarding its Apple Country Certificates to hams who work any four club members. To apply you should send your log information, \$1.00, and two 15¢ stamps to Fred Silfer, WA2REC, P.O. Box 22, Sodus, NY 14551, The DARC Field Days just happen to coincide with the ARRL Field Days of June 28 and 29, and will appear at that time in Clifton Springs, New York. Their site is some 96 odd acres of rolling ground plane with natural antenna structures in strategic locations.

The N.Y.S. Civil Defense Commission honored DARC, specifically eleven Members who completed the course in Radiological Monitoring. Certificates were presented to: WA2CQI, K2IMO, WB2LTN, WB2JSB, W2ESS, AB2F, W2EVH, K2ZIF, WA2MCB, WB2MBO, and WB2EWR. Also four DARC members were honored for providing field communications for the 1979 Field Archery Association Tournaments. K2IMO, WB2TGU, WB2TRI, and WA2CQI received attractive certificates in appreciation.

TUBES SUPPLY GETTING LOWER

The International Fox Tango Club has spread the word among its members who use the many varieties of Yaesu equipment all over the globe. The Yaesu Company it seems has had large difficulty in obtaining the once very common TV sweep tubes. In fact some of the sweep tubes are problems to neutralize as they really are not made for rf applications. But the Toshiba tubes that came with many rigs are not available. Tubes from NEC in Japan are now used, except for those rigs with 6146 tubes made in the USA by General Electric. Apparently the 12BY7A drivers are still in good supply, but the differing brands have inter-electrode capacitance variations. At this time or now the situation is not too critical but in another 18 to 24 months it could be entirely different. It seems that because of the reduction in demand all Japanese tubes are now made at one plant which makes them to different vendor specifications for differing products. The prime motivation for this change has been the move to mostly solid state television sets, leaving only the replacement market, which might disappear in four to six years. Thanks to Milt Lowens, N4ML, Editor of the FT Newsletter and to his correspondent Harry Leeming, G3LLL.

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ROAD RALLY — 1980

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

Our first Road Rally was run Sunday, May 4th, under sunny skies and near perfect temperatures. We had eighteen cars start from Westmar Plaza and seven which made it through all check points to the finish line. The remaining cars, for many reasons, suffered through the course making a *Zooky* instead of a *Uki*, making a *Kareen* rather than a *Lurch*, or a *Squeet* at a *Yawp*! But even through this, they managed to limp into the Pizza Hut and enjoyed a pizza, etc. while waiting for the final tally.

The trophy winners were:

- 1st Place Robbin Gibson - Navigator
Neil Gibson - WA2EJU, Driver
- 2nd Place Ken Martin - WB2PLI, Navigator
Doug Wilson - KA8IGS, Driver
- 3rd Place David Payne - KA2J, Navigator
Donna Payne - Driver
- 7th Place Leslie Dibble - Navigator
Steve Holdsworth - WA2EJY,
Driver

*(DLBMACP)

We are indebted to Jim Scorse for writing and administering the rally for us and Mark Letwin and Julie Willsea who assisted at the beginning and also operated the check points. Jim, Mark, and Julie are members of the Triumph Touring Club of Rochester.

We may try to run more rallies in the future, so if you have any comments I would appreciate hearing from you.

*(Dead Last By Making All Check Points)

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ARE THERE REALLY DX'ers IN ROCHESTER ?

Since September of last year, there has been an article relating to some aspect of DX each month in the *Rag*. The purpose of these articles has been three-fold. The first purpose was to bring DXing back to the attention of those who once were very interested but, for one reason or another, slipped away leaving the Rochester area a lackadaisical voice in the DX world. Secondly, the problem of recruiting new members to the DX ranks in hopes of revitalizing the local activity to the level of the Sixties was addressed. Lastly, the Rochester DX Association (RDXA) needed new members if the club was to continue and once again be the gathering point for the local DX community.

The decline in local DX activity from personal observation has seemed to stop, at least for now. Also, others have initiated a program sponsored by the RDXA to recruit new members. The September *Rag* will have the complete details and these will be something of interest for anyone who has or would like to work DX.

Remember, there is nothing magical involved in becoming a DXer. Just as we all one way or another became initially interested in Amateur Radio, so be it true with DXing. No one starts on third base in the knowledge and expertise of being a satisfied DXer. We all have to strike out many times before we are able to get the timing and judgment to hit the ball or, in the case of DXing, working that rare one on Lost Island with only two calls.

Have a good summer DXing.

73's, Rick, WA2RLQ

RECOVERED - 1 stolen HW2036, if you can identify call Dave Jensen at 442-8721.

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FOR DX'ers ONLY?

by Bob Roberts, WA2QAU

The right place at the right time. A common saying, that shows common sense. How many times have you found a piece of gear at a hamfest flea market, just before closing time for a fraction of what it was selling for at 9 a.m.? The right place at the right time.

This saying also applies to DXing. It is possible to aid fate in placing yourself at the right place at the right time. Some helpful hints and techniques follows:

DXpeditions are one of the easiest ways to get the rare ones. While these expeditions take place all year round, they are especially active at or near contest time. Don't wait for contest weekend to try and work these rare countries. Many of them are on a few days early to set up rigs, test antennas, and sometimes a few days after to wind up operations. For example EA8CR, DXpedition to the Canary Islands was a few days before the 1977 CQWW contest, needed a stateside station for antenna information. I came back and called a local radio store. The antenna was a Hygain 10M monobander and they needed to know if the spacing was greater between the director and the driven input element or the reflector and the driven element. I told them the latter was correct. This particular antenna is probably the only antenna in the world that doesn't hold true for. Needless to say when they finally figured out the right way they weren't too happy about it and when I worked them during the contest I was told about it in no uncertain terms. The operator was Marty Laine, OH2BH, and I have worked almost every DXpedition he has been on since. I get a Christmas card every year and he always works me off the back of the beam.

The right place at the right time with the wrong information.

Odd hours are also a good time to work DX. This doesn't necessarily mean 3 a.m. Thursday morning but odd hours at the DX location. For example 7 p.m. here there are many African stations on even though it's 2 a.m. there. Sometimes 3 a.m. here is very good especially for Pacific and African stations. Early in the morning 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. here is good for Asia.

When you hear a foreign sounding CQ don't just say "it's only England or Spain" sometimes it's a GJ, GU, or EA9 and you can miss a chance to be first by being to hasty.

Check the high ends of the bands. Many Africans like the high end of 15 on weekend afternoons. One operator missed a 9Q5AL because

he wasn't paying attention while calling CQ on 21.442MHz. I called him and worked him on the first call. Check 40M in the US phone band. HH2A was worked on 7.210 without using split frequency. It was around 8:30 p.m. here, not exactly the time 40M opens for DX either.

Good things come to those who wait. ZK1MB Manihiki was swamped with calls the first day of operation but was easily worked two days later. Be patient and bide your time, Dx doesn't just disappear.

These tips don't work every time but new countries can be picked up almost by accident. The time when those rare ones are on can be the time you think there's no Dx on at this time of day. In the long run it all amounts to being in the right place at the right time.

Have a prosperous summer DXing. Until September good DX OM.

THIRD PARTY/THIRD PERSON TRAFFIC LIST

Radio amateurs of the United States may conduct third party traffic with amateurs of the following countries only. Where this traffic is permitted it still prohibits traffic of any commercial nature, even for missionaries.

NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT - Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico.

SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINENT - Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

ASIAN CONTINENT - Israel, Jordan.

AFRICAN CONTINENT - Ghana, Liberia.

EUROPE - Amateur Station 4U1ITU at ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, only.

SPECIAL NOTE - so far amateurs of USA and IRAN are still permitted to QSO.



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ROCHESTER VHF GROUP ELECTS

The Rochester VHF Group elected its leaders for the next season starting in September as follows: Tom Richmond, WB2IEY, is the next Chairman; Harold Mundy, KB2ER, will be Vice-Chairman; Peter Sitter, N2AJK, becomes Secretary and Treasurer; and, John Yells, N2JY, is the New Contest Chairman.

The VHF Group sponsored and ran at the Hamfest, its noise figure measuring test, which turned out to be a very pleasant success. We anticipate that this event will happen again at an appropriate time.

RaRa OFFICERS, DUES

(Continued from front page)

ing the club money, setting up the hamfest program, dealing with the club station, club courses, tv, working on equipment for handicapped members, etc. These guys are dedicated to the good of RaRa and ham radio. They show it in many different ways, it has been a distinct pleasure to serve RaRa with them.

The Officers, Board and Members approved the dues structure for the coming year 1980/81. Dues will hold the line at \$6.00 per year for Full Members, \$3.00 for Associate Members (unlicensed) and Family Membership at \$6.00 plus one additional dollar for each family member residing at the same household.

Thanks to all the candidates for their willingness to serve, RaRa will continue to need lots of willing hands in the future. Thanks to all for their fine spirit of cooperation this past year. We can look forward to having a good club in the coming year.

See you at Northampton Park June 28 and 29th for Field Day, its near Brockport where Hubble Road crosses Route 31.

FOR SALE: COLLINS S-LINE equipment; Transmitter 32S3 with power supply and Receiver 75S3B. Also HENRY LINEAR amplifier model 2KD. Contact Bob Kurtz, WA2CYO, 377-2966.

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