

The RaRa Rag

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OCTOBER 3rd MEETING IN NEW LOCATION

by Don Drennan, W2EBF

Our RaRa meeting on Friday, October 3rd, at 8 p.m. will feature a program on heavy duty power supplies, that is those above 30 amperes. With more high wattage solid state amplifiers being used there is a demand for such a 12-14 volt supply. Not many are now available in the market. Those few available are very expensive. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Bob Rabideau, Design Engineer for Sykes-Datatronics in Rochester. Bob is also known as N2AFR, when active on the ham bands. He will tell us about planning and building a good homebrew supply to meet this need. Bob will be assisted by Fred Cupp, W2DUC.

This meeting will be our first in our new home at the Statesmans Club on the 19th floor of the First Federal Savings and Loan Building Plaza located at the State Street/Main Street intersection downtown. If you park under the First Federal Building your parking will be *free, secure and dry*.

Enter the alley marked Corinthian Street between the Americana Hotel and First Federal Plaza, off State Street. The end of this alley is a city parking garage which is available to you but is not free. Driving down Corinthian Street, before you get to the city parking watch for the entrance to the First Federal Parking Garage on your right. Stop at the entrance to take off or lower, or tie down, your antenna. This part is important as an antenna above the car roof may trigger the building sprinklers overhead. "*No free car washes allowed please.*" A guard will observe your car via closed circuit tv and will ask your destination as you approach the gate. You will reply that your destination is the RaRa Meeting. Then the gate will open for you to enter and park. Get to the lobby via one of the nearby elevators.

Upon arrival in the lobby from the garage elevator you must take a different elevator to the RaRa Meeting rooms on the 19th floor. You will be getting off for the "Statesmans Club".

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COMING RaRa ANNIVERSARY

Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, who is RaRa Club Historian last month told us we had a milestone birthday coming. We thought the members might have some fun to mark that celebration. What better way than to hold some sort of operating event? Actually we are interested in some other way to celebrate too. If there are some other ideas please let your *Rag* editor know.

Just let me throw some ideas into the hat to help get the ball rolling. Since we will have accumulated fifty years as a club, use that as a design base. Would you be interested in a special award for fifty state QSLs within a specified time, such as the anniversary year? In case you only operate 300 mHz and down suppose you got together fifty QSLs from fifty different members, after working them two way of course. How about a fifty-fifty-plus seven; that is fifty years for RaRa, fifty states plus fifty countries all worked within the magic year and QSLed. For those who might not be too active now maybe they could put together QSLs from fifty RaRa members that span the actual fifty years of the club existence. See how those ideas just pop right off the frying pan into the fire? Naturally some award worth its salt might be chosen, we are open to suggestions here also.

Put your mind into gear and see what comes out that you like. This is or should be fun so lets keep it light and obtainable. Lets see how RaRa can celebrate its big fifty. Keep in mind that RaRa is one of the largest radio clubs in the nation, our members work appears in national magazines and in various ARRL Handbooks used worldwide. We have some past pioneers and some old timers who are still pioneering. What is suitable and worthy for RaRa?

SYRACUSE HAMFEST : OCTOBER 4th

The Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse (RAGS) are holding their hamfest at the New York State Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 4th. As Saturday is the only day it might be best to arrive early to get the full enjoyment from this fine event held by one of our neighboring ham clubs.

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RaRa AND YOU

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

As we approach the end of this year RaRa will have enjoyed 49 years of fellowship and service to radio amateurs and to the community. Entering the "Golden Anniversary" year we should perhaps look back and explore the many interesting personalities and events enjoyed by so many. For the present, however, what is there for you in RaRa?

As we entered the ranks of Amateur Radio we learned that our hobby involves services to others. This service may involve providing communications in case of emergencies such as floods and hurricanes, but more often this service takes the form of less dramatic events such as providing communications for road rallies, equestrian events and other events which require reliable communications. These functions where we can perhaps involve ourselves to a greater extent not only rendering a service but also learning more about others while perfecting our skills. That is how we can serve others but how are you served as a member of RaRa?

Writing this article is an example of one small bit of service. With input of many such articles each concentrating on some small item of interest we can put together the **RaRa Rag**, our monthly publication which has been serving the membership for many years. Then there is the **RaRa Directory**. How handy it is! When you joined RaRa you received a cover for the directory. My cover now has seen 16 years of use and will be fine for many years to come. In order to make the directory more complete, it now becomes available at the October meeting. Then in November we have the **RaRa Auction**, an event which always proves to be fun, preparing us for the next auction when we can unload that purchase from the earlier one. Really, there are some super bargains at the RaRa Auction. In February we have the "Valentine Dinner-Dance", an event where we can put "Ham Radio" aside and take the YL/YXL out for an evening of enjoyment. This year we are looking forward to the music of Peter Matina and his quartet, a well known group of excellent musicians. Pete along with being an excellent musician is also a member of the Antique Wireless Association. This Dinner-Dance will be held at the Party House on Beahan Road near the airport. The Hamfest our largest single event speaks for itself. Enough Hamfest activities occur simultaneously to keep anyone busy for the duration. Then there is **Field Day**. Again we have an activity which is much fun but also an exercise by which we become a bit better at being

able to handle emergency communications. Our year is finally rounded out by the **Picnic** an event for the entire family. These are some of the events and services provided for members but lets not overlook the **License Class** which provide for the growth and continuity of Amateur Radio. Finally, there is the **Club Station K2JD** which we are all proud of. Make use of these services as they are all there for all of you.

Taking a look now at a more immediate event, the upcoming RaRa meeting scheduled for October 3rd, again, as at the September meeting of RaRa, I would like to express special thanks to the many who called both by phone and one the air offering suggestions for a possible meeting places, one of which paid off. Thanks again John March, W9KFQ.

Shortly after meeting time on September 5th, we had more than 125 members in attendance. Now, "Welcome" to a new meeting facility. The **Statesmans Club Auditorium** will allow us to enjoy, in much greater comfort, the meeting activities. Offer a ride, bring in a new member, bring a friend and save a bit on the "Petro". We look forward and anticipate providing you with a more enjoyable time at RaRa.

FOR SALE: Lafayette #HE45-B, transceiver for 6 meters, am only, with vfo. Hallcrafters #FR-42 2 meter am transceiver, with vfo. Hustler Vertical with Traps- for 10, 15, 20; in good shape except for twisted base clamp. Tecraft Converter for 6 meters, with power supply, IF output on forty meters. Bogen #MX-60-A watt tube amplifier, and Eico FM Tuner to make up a hi-fi monaural audio system. Some "shooting equipment". Many parts, misc. items available. Browsing by appointment. Contact Cappy, K2UXF, at 235-7656.

OCT. MEET

(Continued from page 1)

In case you like a view whilst getting to the Statesmans Club, there is an outside elevator available to you. You are welcome to use your camera for some shots of the city.

In addition to the closed circuit tv monitoring of the *free* parking garage, it is patrolled by the guard service who use two-way hand helds to communicate to their office.

To assist you in getting to the right location we plan to have a member stationed near the garage entrance. You can reach him for talk-in assistance on the 28/88 repeater. Bus service from all parts of the city and some suburbs stop at the State/Main corner. If you come by bus just enter the lobby area and the guard on duty there will point you toward the elevator to the 19th floor.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new meeting facility, it's quality reflects the quality of RaRa. See you there!

VHF GROUP MEETING, NETS

The Rochester VHF Group will meet on October 10th at 8:00 p.m. at the facility of Harris Corp, 1680 University Avenue. The program will be on the subject of RFI. That means radio frequency interference, which has no respect at all and is often mistaken for a relative of Mr. Murphy. The program is being presented by a relative of Pete Sitter, his brother, who has some respect for this subject, having written on it for national publications.

After a lapse of activity near the end of the summer the VHF nets will be back in style. The nets are on Wednesday nights, beginning on 50.120 at 8 p.m., then 144.120 at 8:30 p.m., and lastly 432.120 at 9 p.m. For some of us just getting our gear to run for a half hour is a modest accomplishment. Trying your hand at NCS for a night can also be fun. Cards from VE2BBK and WA2SLY have been received by stations who just happened to be net control on that night.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 10th BOARD MEETING

David Coleman, N2AOB, Secretary

Ed Maher, WB2ZJY, has been appointed as chairman of the Membership Committee. George Walker, N2BIR, has also been appointed to the Membership Committee. Irv Goodman, AF2K, will continue as assistant chairman.

The menu for the Valentine Dinner-Dance was discussed along with other arrangements for this annual RaRa event.

At the request of several members of RaRa, the location for the annual picnic will be moved. Ellison Park has been selected.

The RaRa Teeshirts which were unveiled at the September meeting will be made available again at future meetings.

DX-ING AND ULCERS

by Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

If one listens to a good dx pile-up he would wonder how many of that screaming bunch are candidates for an ulcer. No doubt, when pursuing that 300th country or that long sought one that will bring Honor Roll status those stomach acids of yours could burn a hole in the deck of a battleship. But the wheel of fortune may pass you by, leaving a disheartened soul staring at the empty spot on the wall where that much needed QSL card should be. Just as a professional bowler or golfer will analyze his mistakes so should a dx'er who was unsuccessful in his quest of a new one.

It can be very informative to talk with dx'ers who were not able to work that rare one, and have done such an analysis after the dust has settled. In most instances you will find that big antennas, high towers and multi-kw amplifiers can be factored out in both categories. That leaves only operating technique and listening for late dx rumors the remaining elements in the formula for a sure dx catch. The fellow who says he spent three days chasing a dx station and then came up empty handed better talk to someone experienced in the art of dx'ing and find out what he is doing wrong. That could save him from hitting his head against a brick wall the next time around.

Joining a local dx club, having input from a dx alerting net on the two meter ban, and information from a dx bulletin will be the things to help control those gastric juices the next time a rare one comes along. Adding time, patience and know-how to the above will most assuredly reduce your consumption of "maalox" in your climb up the DXCC Country List.

RDXA : OCTOBER 21st

by Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

The Rochester DX Association will meet Tuesday, October 21st, 8:15 p.m., at the Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Boulevard. The DX Dinner Club members will gather also at the Colonial but at 7:00 p.m. Those who desire to join the dinner group this month should contact "Van", W2OUM at 381-6255 not later than 3 days before the meeting date.

The evening program will feature a slide show of the 1979 expedition to the Spratly Island Group off the coast of Vietnam. Because of possible large deposits of oil in the area many countries have staked out a claim in that region. This made it difficult for the dx-pedition to find an island that was not occupied by trigger happy military personnel. Even if you are not a RDXA member you are welcome to join us to view probably one of the most dangerous dx-peditions of the 1970's.

RRRA MEETING

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association is holding its next get-together on October 17th at the Pittsford Town Hall in the Village of Pittsford. Everyone is invited to hear a talk about the "78/18" repeater operation and some new features that will be added to it.

Welcome to the fall "join-up, re-up season". To make it official for the next twelve months contact Ed Kohl, WA2UBD, at 37 Hogan Road, Fairport, New York 14450.

Come join us on October 17th and get the "78/18" story straight from the horse. See what a computer can do for a repeater with wide area coverage.

RaRa DIRECTORIES

It is hoped the new edition will be available for the October meeting. Previous members are not issued new covers, they are very expensive so old members are expected to use their old covers to help keep dues down.

**DON'T FORGET
SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST (SET)
BEING HELD OCTOBER 18th & 19th
DRILL MESSAGES WILL BE SENT**

ARRL BULLETINS ON THE AIR

Each Sunday evening beginning at 8:45 p.m. Dwight Hill, K2KWK, transmits bulletins of the ARRL, CRRL, local bulletins, and the W1AW code practice schedule for the week. These are sent on 2 meter fm via local repeaters. The use of the repeaters gives the best coverage over a wide area and use of a most popular mode. Even persons without a ham rig can hear the repeaters by use of any of the common receivers that cover the "PSB" or public service band. It is necessary to tune the PSB radio near the 146 mark on its dial. Even though the selectivity is very limited in such a set, this is frequently the way that the non-licensed person learns what hams do by direct reception of their signals.

The bulletins transmission precede the Monroe County FM Net at 9 p.m. The bulletins and the net session alternate between two Rochester repeaters. One week the 146.88 system is used, the repeater call sign is N2JC. The next week, on Sunday, the K2SA repeater is used, its frequency is 146.79. If either of those systems is disabled or in use for emergency or public service functions then K2KWK will use the WB2AQQ repeater at 147.18 after making an announcement on one of the repeaters first listed.

FOR SALE -- Heath SB401/301 w accy's, (VG), \$400 ; GE 30w, 2-mtr TPL (G) w GLB 400B (VG), \$150 ; 30w GE PROG, T-pwr, 4 RX osc's, 12 TX osc's, lots of extras, w accy's, (VG), \$150 ; GE 450 PREPROG (VG), \$15 ; GE 2-mtr PREPROG (G) w GE AC PS (VG), .94 RX, TX xtal's, \$30 ; W4PG, Tom Warren, 872-3462.

SILENT KEY - W2TII

It is with sorrow that we report the recent death of W2TII, Harold Austin Scheer, 74, of Fairville, New York. Many of us remember looking with awe at the huge 100 foot tower supporting giant monoband beams. Visible for miles, they were the highest points in Fairville.

Mr. Scheer was born March 8, 1906 in the Town of Arcadia. He was a member of the NY State Steam Engine Association, Pioneer Gas Engine Association, Rochester Amateur Radio Association, American Radio Relay League, and the Wayne County Historical Society. Howard held an amateur radio license for 54 years and at one time made radio contact with the Byrd Expedition to the South Pole in 1928. In 1942 he received a certificate of honorable service as a member of the Army Air Force's aircraft warning sytem. He served as a representative of the Wayne County Civil Defense to an early atom bomb test in Nevada in 1956. Always a gentleman, interesting to talk with, Harold, we will miss you.

JACKETS

Jackets will be available again this fall for the following prices :

- Winter Lined -- \$20.25
- Spring Lined -- \$16.25
- Summer Unlined -- \$13.25

To order - contact Ed Holdsworth, N2EH.

MEMBERS ADS

Ads in the *Rag* are free to members of good standing, provided they are for or about radio equipment. They are used to fill space, therefore are subject to exclusion if space unavailable.



OCTOBER RaRa SPECIAL

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RaRa SELECTS

Our Refreshment Chairman for the new RaRa meeting season George Muller, WA2IEO. George returns to serve more donuts and coffee and hot chocolate.

Our RaRa Membership Chairman will be Ed Maher, WB2ZJY, our Assistant Chairman is Irv Goodman, AF2K, in addition they will be assisted by George Walker, N2BIR. As in the past they will visit other meetings to be available for those who wish to sign up with RaRa.

Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, who is Chairman of the Licensing class is being assisted by Chris Reich, WB2DYJ; Bud Young, WA2UGE; and Joe Calzaretta, K2VI.

The Party House on Beahan Road has been selected as the location of the RaRa Valentine Day Dinner-Dance.

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