

The RARa RAG

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The Rochester Amateur Radio Association
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VOL 33

DECEMBER 1980

NO. 4

ANOTHER RADIO COMPANY FORMED IN ROCHESTER

In the past several years, several radio companies have been formed in Rochester which have grown and prospered. Perhaps best known are, RF Communications, now a division of Harris Corporation, and Scientific Radio Systems.

Another radio company has now been formed in our city. The new company, Sideband Technology, Inc., located at 3000 South Winton is owned by a group of people who have excellent backgrounds in the radio field and who are mostly amateur radio operators. They are: Niles Barlow, *President*, K2HJQ; Paul Jacobs, *Vice-President/Engineering*, W2IOG; Steven Beeferman, *Vice-President/Business Development*, K2VWI; and Harold Davis, *Vice-President/Marketing*, (no call-yet).

STI has a solution to the a major radio problem. Today both UHF and VHF frequencies are jammed with users. Almost every available channel is overloaded. Private and public land mobile frequency applications – including two-way mobile telephone and one-way paging systems – have more than doubled in the last decade, and are expected to double again by 1990, and again by the year 2000.

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SIDEBAND TECHNOLOGY, INC. (STI) was founded to develop and manufacture ACSB

(Continued on page 2)

COMBINED RaRa/KPARC MEETING DECEMBER 5th at KODAK PARK RECREATION CENTER D. H. Drennan, Vice-President RaRa

The December 5th RaRa meeting will be held at Kodak Park Recreation Center, Building 28, on Ridge Road West. We will be guests of the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club and the Kodak Park Computer Club.

The podium will be shared by Richard (Dick) E. Dodd, WA2SDK, and Jim Schueckler, WB2YZL. Dick will tell us how microprocessors can be applied in the ham shack. A demonstration of receiving and sending C. W., logging and other uses is planned. Jim's talk and demonstration will be on "*Microprocessors for Slow Scan Television (SSTV)*". "*Live*" homebrew equipment will demonstrate the flexibility, capability, and speed of a microprocessor controlled SSTV system. Noise filtering, image enhancement, and many special effects will be shown.

Park in the Kodak parking lot #11 directly across Ridge Road West in front of Building 28. If by chance it is full, drive east about 200 feet to the next light, then right into Primrose Street and almost immediately left into the Kodak Park parking lot #17. Enter the main entrance or Building 28 into the lobby, take elevator or stairs to the 1st basement and Camera Club theater.

VALENTINES DAY DINNER-DANCE

Tickets are available from "Lee" VanGrol, WA2YEK, who can be reached during reasonable hours at 889-2536. The cocktail hour begins at 6:30 p.m., with dinner promptly served at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the evening event are \$10.00 for Chicken and \$12.00 for Steak per person excluding cocktails at the cash bar. See the article in the November *Rag* for other details. Just remember how much soft soap you needed after last years contest effort. RaRa presents the ideal opportunity for you, and on exactly February 14th. See you at the Party House?

The RaRa Rag

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RaRa and YOU

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

The Amateur of the Year Award is presented each year by RaRa at the Hamfest Banquet. This year the selection of this person will come from your recommendations. We are asking you, the membership, to submit in writing the names of anyone you would like to nominate for this distinct honor. An elaborate letter of recommendation is not required. If you feel so inclined however, you may wish to enumerate the qualities you feel appropriate to the individual you nominate. This would aid the committee in making a final choice. The names and information you present along with the final selection is confidential. Naturally it will be necessary for the committee and RaRa to insure that the selected person be present at the banquet to receive the award.

Please submit your nomination by mail, post-marked no later than January 15th to: Bud Young, WA2UGE, 79 Bartholf Road, Rochester, NY 14616. Screening of the candidates will be done by the appointed committee consisting of: Bud Young, WA2UGE; Chuck Brelsford, K2WW, and George Walker, N2BIR.

Editors note: The Rochester Hamfest this year is combined with the Atlantic Division and New York State A.R.R.L. Convention. Candidates should be anyone living within the confines of the Atlantic Division or all of New York State. The Hamfest is on May 15-16.

ANOTHER RADIO COMPANY

(Continued from page 1)

transceivers for the land mobile radio market. STI is the first company devoted exclusively to ACSB technology.

STI plans to offer a full line of ACSB mobile products, anticipating regulatory action recognizing more spectrum-efficient technologies for radio communications. The FCC has issued a Notice of Inquire (NOI) inviting comments from interested parties preparatory to the formal rule making process. STI has also filed application with the FCC for a developmental program using ACSB equipment on certain land mobile frequencies involving both prototype and production model STI equipment.

SALE to settle estate: Kenwood 820S, antenna tuner, Astatic mike, electronic keyer and other items all like new. Call W2CJQ for appointment 315-331-2774.



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JANUARY VHF CONTEST

Well, that time of year is again almost upon us. It's when the Rochester VHF Group tries to out talk the Packrats. It seems that in the past few years it's been second place for Rochester each time. Well, it's time for a change, we certainly have the numbers to make it work, what we need is to be a little smarter this year. As last year's results showed all we needed was a few more contacts to close the gap.

The Packrats, as a club, have an ideal location to grab more sections than we can under normal conditions, so we must increase the numbers of contacts each one of make. If you joined in on the fun last year you can set a goal of 10% more contacts than last year. If each one of us attain that goal we can beat them.

For the newcomer to the VHF contest who might think his station is not good enough to compete let me mention my first contest. I used a Drake portable with only 52 and it's own antenna. I used our bedroom as a shack because it was on the top floor but I amassed a whopping 100 contacts. I'm sure that most of you have at least that capability. Granted my station has improved over the years but three of you doing the same thing I did in my first contest can better any contribution that I can now make.

The one thing that I can suggest that will reduce frustration and increase everyone's total is courtesy. If you hear someone trying to make a marginal contact, back off, let them confirm and then you can continue. As always there will be awards for those competing. So get your station set up, antennas tuned and plans made for the upcoming January VHF contest.

*John Yells, N2JY
Contest Chairman
Rochester VHF Group*

RaRa JACKETS

Our RaRa Jacket man is Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, who advises us that all who want a jacket *must* order it by the *December* Meeting. No orders taken past then, until probably next year. The procedure is to give your money to Gil Chapin, WB2UTI, along with the details of size and he will see that the information is passed to Ed. The pricing is: \$20.25 for jacket with winter lining, \$16.25 for fall/spring lining, and \$13.25 for shell style. Prices include marking for name and call sign.

DECEMBER 12th: RRRR & VHF GROUP

The December feature for both the Rochester VHF Group and the Rochester Radio Repeater Association is a joint meeting. This really comes about due to "holiday pressure". Therefore there is to be a double header sort of program. The RRRR is going to examine the "Care and Feeding of Batteries" for the benefit of all. The VHF Group is going to present "Get into the Contest Mood". But do remember that both groups meet together on December 12th, at 8 p.m., and at 1650 University Avenue in the facilities of RF Communications.

73, Frank Cannan, N2AFP

RDXA MEETS DECEMBER 16th

by Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

The Rochester DX Association will meet Tuesday, December 16 at 8:15 p.m. The Colonial Hotel at 1129 Empire Boulevard will host the group and the DX Dinner Club members will gather at 7:00 p.m.

The new club constitution will be up for a vote at this meeting and all members are urged to attend and cast their vote. Jeff Ach, W2HPF, will announce the club score from the CQ World Wide Phone Contest. Preliminary figures indicate that the RDXA should bring a surprised look from the members of other DX clubs around the nation.

The evening program will be announced in the mailed club meeting notice. As in the past, RDXA members are urged to bring along a friend when they come and we also extend an open invitation to anyone who may want to become interested in the fascinating world of DXing.



ELMER GRABB, W2DOD BECOMES SILENT KEY

Elmer J. Grabb passed away October 30th, 1980, having been one of the more active radio amateurs in the nations. He was employed in the Broadcast Engineering field, and worked at WHAM, WHAM-TV, WROC-TV, WHEC-TV, WOKR-TV and WXXI. Elmer was President of RaRa in 1940 and an originator of the RDXA. He was previously licensed as 8DOD beginning in 1926. He ran up a dx total of 358, which only 70 other radio hams in the world have accomplished. Elmer's passing was due to a sudden heart attack, he was seventy. Our thoughts are with his family.

DX'ers NEED HELP !!

With over three hundred countries on the DXCC list it becomes a nearly impossible task to be aware of everything that is active on the bands by yourself. It is true that there are several good DX bulletins around that report on activity from the rarer places and what DXpeditions are planned for the future. (ARRL also runs DX bulletins instead of other bulletins each Friday utc on W1AW), editor. But even with help of this type a DXer could still use more.

The help of which I am thinking of comes from other local DXers who have DX information and could spread the word locally when that DXpedition to Lizard Reef cuts loose. There are many instances when this help would achieve its full potential if only there was some way to coordinate it. This is where a local DX Club can play an important role in helping to keep a set of ears around at all times to report on the ever changing world of Dxing.

In our town, there is a DX Club who is trying to bring local DXers together and provide assistance in making DX hunting a little easier. This, of course, is the Rochester DX Association who is looking for new DXers both young and old who would like to give the Rochester area again a healthy population of active DXers.

The RDXA is very much interested in international DX contests, a DX alerting frequency and an awards program for its members. If you, or anyone you know, would like to become more involved in DXing and desire to help others please come to one of the RDXA meetings, the date and location of which is published every month in the *RaRa Rag*.
73, Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

STOLEN RADIO

An Icom model IC-215 with cig. lighter plug, mic., and 14 pair of crystals (one blank position) belonging to Chris Reich, WB2DYJ, home phone #232-7599, work #872-2300. Contact Chris if you see it, please.



ONE YEAR

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- Contests
- Propagation
- Antennas
- DXing
- Awards

The Radio Amateur's Journal

76 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801

TEN — TEN and the FLOUR CITY NET

Have you ever tuned up the 28,825kHz and wondered what in blazes that is all about? Have you been asked to exchange a “*ten-ten number*” and had to say sorry?

Back in the not too distant days when our Ten Meter Band was dead and empty, between sun-spot cycles, many hams wanted a way to keep activity levels up, give emergency service, and enjoy their favorite hot band. The Ten-Ten International was formed and now boasts of about 30,000 members all over the world. There are just innumerable certificates for the earning, from both international and local groups. But you will want to start with the local group probably so you will have a “*ten-ten*” number to exchange. Then the rest of the fun is up to you.

The Rochester, NY “*Flour City Net*” meets on the air each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. on 28,725kHz USB. This group started in 1977 with five members. Now, three years later, there are fifty-six local members. But get this, there are now six hundred fifty members outside of our area from every state in the union except North Dakota including several dx members. Yes, 650 members outside the local area. Does that say something about propagation to you?

To investigate this further, just check into the net. The net control station is that of Steve Shideler, WA2JPE. Certificate manager for the group is Sharon Shideler, WA2JPD. They will be glad to give you all the information needed to join the fun both locally and internationally. The activity on 28,825kHz is called the “*Backscatter Net*”. The best part of this seems to be that you can be very active with low power and minimal antenna. Tired of bucking kilowatts, get into the Ten-Ten activity, see if the fun does not snare you and put a new slant on your operating.

Thanks to Warren Ulrich, N2AUV, and Steve Shideler, WA2JPE, for the above information.

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FOR SALE: RG 218/U Coax. Approximately 68 feet plus 2 new connectors. Contact Irv, AF2K, 671-4430.

FOR SALE — Collins 75A4 receiver with 3.1 kHz and 500 Hz filters and with external speaker and manual for \$375. Also this system for purchaser removal; TA33 beam, Ham-M rotor, three 50-60 ft coax lengths (one is RG213), plus all guys, insulators and a sturdy telescoping tower (about 45' waterpipe) and a hy-gain 2 kw balun for \$300.00. This gear from estate of W2DOD. Contact Bob Erskine, W2NVZ, at 266-5055 to inspect or to purchase.

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PS Form 3526 (Page 1)

(See instructions on reverse)

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THE JOHN LONG TROPHY — WHERE IS IT ?

It would be very appropriate to celebrate the fifty years of RaRa by re-instating the Trophy Contest. The John Long Trophy was awarded each year and if won three consecutive years was allowed to be kept by the winner. John Long, W8ABX, was the first President and one of the founders of RaRa in early 1931. He was also an officer of the SRTA, one of the clubs that became RaRa, before 1931.

Several suggestions for an anniversary contest have been offered. We thank Bruce Sanborn, N2BEH; Bob Carlson, KA2BNL; Bruce Kelley, W2ICE; and Hank Blodgett, W2UTH, for ideas and research.

If you can recall anything concerning the whereabouts of this trophy, please contact Dwight Hill, K2KWK, at 544-2332.

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