

The RaRa Rag

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HOW TO MAKE AND USE PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARDS AT JANUARY 9th RaRa MEETING

by Don Drennan, W2EBF, Vice-President

The RaRa meeting January 9 at 8 p.m. will be our second meeting at our new home, the Statesman's Club. The Club is located on the 19th floor of the First Federal Savings and Loan Building Plaza at State Street/Main intersection downtown.

The meeting will feature a program on the usage and making of printed circuitboards. Our guest speakers will be Bob Carlson, KA2BNL, and Mike Borton, KA2AFE. Mike is a Manager Special Products Group, Rochester Instrument Systems. Bob is a Production Engineer in the same group. They plan to cover the basic concepts of circuitboard usage, composition of the boards and the various methods of creating printed circuitboards including tools and materials needed and where to procure them. A live demonstration is planned plus a handout covering the information presented.

Remember parking under the First Federal Building is free, secure, and dry.

Enter Corinthian Street between the Americana Hotel and First Federal Plaza, off State Street. The end of this street is a city parking garage which is available to you but is not free. Before you get to the city parking garage 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.

RaRa Celebrates 50th Anniversary 1931 - 1981

by Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, Club Historian

The history of amateur radio activity in the Rochester area has been covered in earlier issues of the RaRa Rag, notably, a series starting in September, 1963. Additional information was published in September, 1968; March, 1971 and January, 1975.

Briefly, the first club, the *Rochester Wireless Association*, was formed in April, 1913. This club and several other smaller groups, such as the *St. Paul Radio Association*, were phased out at the start of World War I.

The first organized group following that war was the *Rochester Radio Club* (1920) followed by the *Triangle Radio Club*. These two organizations became the *Radio Club of Rochester* (1921) and remained active until RaRa was formed in 1931.

One other group appeared in the 1920's, *The Society of Rochester Transmitting Amateurs* (1927). How these two clubs joined and formed the present-day RaRa will be told in a future issue.

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 "*Stateman's Club*".

Let's make it a big turnout. Bring a friend.

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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DIRECTORS COLUMN

RaRa President, Otto Bluntzer, was pressed by business activity and asked that his monthly column reflect something that all RaRa Directors have been concerned about. "Turnover" is a catch word for the problem, although the word is normally applied to a business. RaRa is a radio club for radio amateurs. As such our activity takes place on a volunteered time-available basis, just like our hamming time on the air or building time does. RaRa is not a business, we do not want "turnover".

RaRa is pleased to have 117 new members among its total of 684 as of the December 10th Board meeting. However, we are seeing a renewal of only 68%. That's considered as two-thirds, who get enough out of the club to continue as members.

The key factor to any volunteer activity is to get something out of it. To do that you need to put something into it. Like, you don't get WAC or WAS unless you *work them* and *QSL them*. As RaRa Directors part of our interest is to have the club run so that as many have a good time as possible at a wholesome activity pertaining to amateur radio. Many of us move away or get overtime or our interest runs in cycles. But for some years I have, as an observer of the Board and now as a member of the Board, seen and heard much concern over our lost members. Was it that they did not have enough to do? Was it that they found no interesting activity or program? Did no one speak to them? Did they find no after-meeting fellowship? Could they never seem to find a Director to represent them? Did they never work a Director on the air, or find one who would work them? Were the phone numbers hidden so the Directors seemed remote? All these topics, or points, have been made in many Board meetings. Both members and Directors have offered advice.

Naturally we wish to see the members have a good time. That's why we have a Valentine Day Dinner-Dance, a picnic, a hamfest, and field day and contest activities. These and our public service activities are the glue of RaRa at present, and were in the past. But what would you like to see next. Have you an idea for us that you would like to help the club carry out? You get into ham radio because you had ideas you could put into action. How about some new inputs for monthly programs, what is your interest? You work hard in a unique community that works hard too. What would you like to do for recreation? You don't need to be a RaRa Director to start an activity. My recollection of the RaRa camping group is that it became a kind of spontaneous fun for every-

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OFFICERS:

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K2JD Engraving Director: Robert Lauzon, K2RL

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one. And, some of its members were not necessarily hams or RaRa members. Could there be more out for field day? How many novices operate K2JD?

Do not be bashful. Yes, it takes nerve to get into that dx pileup, and it takes some grit too. But you finally got his card anyway didn't you? The good memory of that overtook the bad taste of those Kilowatt Kids after a while didn't it? It may be that a similar touch is needed to get RaRa to do what you would like. It may be that many others might like that same thing, but are reticent. We all know it's easier to grumble than to forge ahead into an unknown. We all have done both but probably would not even be hams without some forging ahead from within.

Pick up the phone, call the President or a Director. Tell us everything! Offer your idea, and your talent too. This is your club, only you can keep it that way and we all will enjoy it. Others, seeing the fun being had, will want to join in and carry it on. Best wishes and good hamming in 1981.

Dwight Hill, K2KWK

RDXA : NO JANUARY MEETING

The Rochester DX Association will not hold a meeting in January. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 17th, 1981.

Our club has about thirty-four members with a good portion being newcomers. This might seem like a small number to many, but considering the near-zero level of dx activity in the Rochester area through most of the seventies this is a healthy improvement. In the 1980 CQ WW DX Contests our club members generated a score of around 1.5 million points and had 50 percent of the membership participate.

There will be a re-affiliation of the RDXA with the ARRL and plans are being formed for a strong effort in the upcoming ARRL Phone and CW Tests.

The membership of the RDXA encourages anyone who is interested in DX and contesting to come to one of our future meetings and consider joining a club that wants to give Rochester a louder voice in the DX world.

Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

FORM 610 REMINDER

The FCC has issued an order that all license applications it accepts after December 15, 1980 must be submitted on the most recent form 610 printed in August 1980. Fill this out carefully as the FCC is now into phase III of its callsign re-juggle. See February *QST* magazine for details.

JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST

by H. E. Mundy, KD2K

Let's make 1981 the year the Rochester VHF Group beats the "*Pack Rats*". In this contest, the ham with only two-meter fm simplex capability can make a contribution to the VHF group's attempt, since it is QSOs that build your score and there will be much activity on two-meter fm. At a minimum, each two-meter fm QSO will count 22 points and can be increased by 2 points for each ARRL section beyond our home section of Western New York. (VE-3 is easy to reach, and our Canadian friends are eager to help.)

The contest begins at 1800 UTC (1 p.m. EST) January 17, 1981 and ends 0400 UTC January 19, 1981 (11 p.m. EST January 18, 1981). Contacts on any amateur band above 50 MHz count for score in this contest. There are some unique rules for the national calling frequencies of 146.52 and 223.5 MHz: a maximum total of 4 hours, with a maximum segment of one hour, and at least fifteen minutes between each segment on the frequencies. This year there are some new simplex frequencies available for two-meter fm contacts 144.9 and 145.1 MHz. The old standby frequencies of 146.49, .52, .55, .58, 147.42, .45, .48, .51, .54 and .57 are still available.

Contest rules (see December, 1980 *QST*), score sheets, and log sheets will be mailed. At the January 16, 1981 VHF Group meeting, copies of dupe sheets will be available, and experienced contesters will be there to answer any questions.

At the February VHF Group meeting, awards will be made to those hams who have made significant contributions: highest score, highest two-meter fm score, highest score on each band, and most sections. Certificates will be awarded to each ham with a score above 1000 points.

VHF GROUP & RRRR COMBINE MEETING

On Friday evening prior to the "olde competition" the two groups will hold another joint get-it-together. A special feature is rumored to be a final all-around handshake before the fun begins. Already challenges have flown in the Drumlins club of nearby Wayne County between WA2GAI and WA2AAZ. So come to this final send off, sharpen up your pencils, pick up your log sheets, and take off the gloves. Seriously, we hope to see you at 8 p.m. at the Harris plant on University Avenue. And, good operating in the contest!

ANNOUNCING THE RaRa FIFTY YEARS ANNIVERSARY CONTEST

by Dwight B. Hill, K2KWK

(for the enjoyment of RaRa Members present and past and stations of the Atlantic Division of the American Radio Relay League)

OBJECTIVES and RULES

1. To be the first station to submit confirmation of two-way contact with each of the fifty (50) states or, more states than any other qualified entry, submitted according to the rules of competition. In event of a tie in any category then the earliest dated postmark will have precedence.

2. Only original written confirmations will be accepted. No credit for confirmations on contest log sheets. Only contacts made and confirmed between January 1, 1981 and May 12, 1981 are eligible for entry. Confirmations must show your call sign and definitely indicate that two-way contact was established without any aid from a third, or other station.

3. Contest entries are to be submitted by mail. All entries must arrive not later than 6 p.m. e.d.s.t. on May 13, 1981. During the last four entry days, personal delivery of an entry will be accepted, except that risk of delivery and receipt is upon the entrant. Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure proper receipt and time credit. Contest entries are to include a completed ARRL Form CD-217 W.A.S. Summary Sheet, available from the ARRL or at RaRa Meetings.

4. There are two categories of competitor. One group is composed of RaRa Members, present and past. The other group is open to any ham station operating in the ARRL Atlantic Division. Each group will compete with others in that group, there is no cross-group competition.

5. Also part of the rules for competition are the following ARRL W.A.S. rules; 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10. These rules are printed in the ARRL publication "Operating an Amateur Radio Station".

6. Entries are submitted to Dwight B. Hill, K2KWK, 265 Norcrest Drive, Rochester, New York 14617. Mr. Hill is a member of the Board of Directors of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association.

7. Awards will be made, to each group, for the winning entry in the following categories: A) CW MODE; B) SSB MODE; C) SSTV "A5" MODE; D) ASCII "F1, F2, A2" MODE; and, E) MIXED MODE to include any legal mode and contacts made via an "OSCAR" device.

Thus there are a possible total of ten awards, five to the RaRa Group, and five to the Atlantic Division Group. Entrants may compete in more than one mode category, but may not compete in both Groups, that is - RaRa member vs Atlantic station. The awards to the winning entries will be made at the 1981 Rochester Hamfest, Atlantic Division Convention, and ARRL New York State Convention occurring in Rochester, New York on May 15 and 16, 1981. The "RaRa Fifty Years Anniversary Contest Committee" will decide the winning entry in each category, the decisions of the committee will be final.

LICENSING COURSE

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The General licensing course will commence February 2, 1981, running until Monday, May 11, 1981 under the able tutorage of Ed Gable, K2MP. It will be held each Monday evening, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at 350 East Henrietta Road. If you wish to register, contact Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, at least one week in advance, so that we are able to have materials ready for the first class. Registration fee will be \$6.00 (includes book) plus club membership.

The Novice program will begin the second semester on Monday, February 2, 1981 with an expanded program to include operation of equipment, how to get on the air, antenna construction and other topics of interest. Those that were regis-

(Continued on page 5)



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NEW PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITY

by George Negus, K2OIU

Members of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association have pooled their interests, energy and compassion again. On December 3rd the first activity took place in what is hoped to be an aid to individuals who have had spinal injuries and varying degrees of paralysis. The goal of RaRa is to present amateur radio to these persons so that they can be aware of it and be aware that it can offer many advantages to them as an activity for their future. In full co-operation with Strong Memorial Hospital RaRa members met with the staff of the hospital who have daily contact with these patients and made a presentation. In the future plans are being made to have equipment operating for demonstrations. At this time we are looking forward to doing this activity once each month, so that different patients will be available. At the December 3rd presentation there were Chris Reich, WB2DYJ; "Bud" Young, WA2UGE; Ed Holdsworth, N2EH; and myself. If other RaRa members are interested in joining this activity please contact me. An orientation session is necessary before the presentation. Sincerity and a desire to work with someone on a person to person basis are helpful, and something which our club members possess. Witness the radio amateur "elmer", an old and continuing blessing in our ranks. Our group plans this activity for the first Wednesday of each month. Think about this worthwhile activity.

LICENSING (Continued from page 4)
tered in the fall novice class are eligible for this portion without further payment. If any former members of past novice courses would like to attend, please contact Ed, N2EH, so that we are sure of space.

The next Novice course will be starting in late September 1981.

K2JD ENGRAVING

P.O. Drawer G Pittsford, NY 14534

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1 1/4 x 3 (2 line)	\$2.00
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VHF CONTEST

"IT" happens Saturday, January 17, and Sunday, January 18th. Rules are on page 93 of December 1980 QST. Start time is 1 p.m. local time Saturday. Stop time is 11 p.m. local time Sunday. FM mode is permitted but look into the restrictions noted in the Rules. Every county in New York, except Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Renssaler, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Ulster, Warren Washington, Westchester (which are ENY; and Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmong, and Suffolk (which are NYC & L.I.) are all Western New York.

Any FM operators who continually call "QRZ Contest from ³³³³³" at intervals of twelve to fifteen seconds and thus preventing other stations from completing a contact will receive a wouffhong free of charge with prompt delivery promised, direct to the appropriate spot on their person!

Good operating, good luck.



'81

Rochester HAMFEST

BIGGER THAN EVER!

MAY 15 - 16

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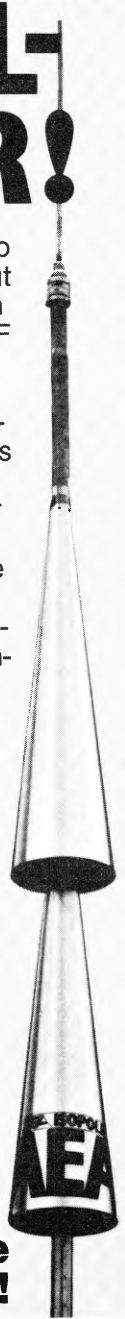


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The John Long (cw) and Marty Jones (phone) WAS trophies are in safe hands. The first person to submit gals for WAS to the club president after the 1981 Hamfest can claim either or both from the present holder.