

The RaRa Rag

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NO. 6

RADIO TELESCOPE FACILITY

ARECIBO, P.R. — FEBRUARY 6th
by Don Drennan, W2EBF

The February 6th RaRa meeting will be held at the Statesman's Club, starting as usual at 8 p.m.

Mr. George Peter, Research Engineer, National Astronomy and Ionospheric Center will present a program on the Radio Telescope Facility located at Arecibo, Puerto Rico. Mr. Peter is a Research Engineer with the Section of the NAIC located at Cornell University. He is supervisor of a group that designs special radio receivers and antennas for use with the radio telescope. He spent two years at the Arecibo facility and will provide us with a description of the facility using slides, and tell what it is designed to do and what the professional people and the hams are doing there.

By now, many of you have attended a meeting at our new home and hence know that the Statesman's Club is on the 19th floor of the First Federal Savings and Loan Building Plaza located at State and Main Streets. Parking under the First Federal Building is free, secure and dry.

Enter the alley marked Corinthian Street between the American 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 "*Statesman's Club*".

Let's make it a big turnout.



taking your special Valentine to the RaRa Dinner-Dance

This year February 14th very conveniently falls on the Saturday RaRa picked for the annual Valentine Dinner-Dance. This occasion is a wonderful opportunity to say a special thank you to the YLs for all their patience and consideration towards your ham radio hobby, which absorbs so much time and attention, as we all know.

The location is the Party House, 677 Beahan Road (west of the airport). Cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. and a cash bar will be set up and operated throughout the evening. Dinner will be served promptly at 7:30. Everyone will be served a Champagne Peach Cocktail as an appetizer. The entree choices this year are: Boneless Stuffed Chicken Breast (stuffed with rice dressing) or Choice Sirloin Strip Steak. Tickets are \$10 each for chicken and \$12 each for steak and will be available at the February meeting, at Heathkit, J.R. Amateur Radio, and from Lee Van Grol, WA2YEK (889-2536). Please try to reserve your tickets as early as possible.

Special this year is a four piece orchestra and vocalist. The orchestra leader is Peter Matina who will play clarinet and sax. On piano will be Ron Terpening, Gary Rathjen on electric bass, Bob Maher on drums and Natalie Flaherty will accompany the group as vocalist. The orchestra,

(Continued on page 2)

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RaRa AND YOU

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

Special thanks to all who made our January meeting at the Statesman Club Auditorium a success. Attendance was very good in spite of the extreme cold snap which made the underground parking a blessing. This was only our second meeting at the First Federal Building. Whereas the accommodations are really fine we perhaps are a bit short of space for the usual "Eyeball QSO" in the lobby. This inconvenience is certainly worthy of consideration and has been the subject of discussion. We would like your feelings, suggestions, or recommendations.

As noted elsewhere in this issue of the RaRa Rag, the 14th of this month is the date of our annual Valentine Dinner-Dance. I would like to take this opportunity to invite each one of you to join us on this festive occasion. The Valentine Dinner-Dance affords an opportunity to express special thanks to your special valentine who so understandingly puts up with our "nonsense" for the remaining days of the year.

As we move into the latter days of February The Board of Directors will be appointing the Nominating Committee who will be charged with the selection of a group of candidates for officers and board of directors for the 1981-82 year. To insure that RaRa is a dynamic organization, that its leadership provide those services you the membership deserve, to provide for your growth as a member of the Radio Amateur Service and to provide for the growth of RaRa as a body in quality as well as in membership; I feel the need for your active participation. If you see that an office needs attention as to the quality of leadership or if you sense that someone you know shows promise of serving in a capacity which suits your interests; then please seek that individual out asking his consideration of the position whether it be for an officer or board of directors. "Talk it up". Ask your friends to support you nominee. Campaign actively for his election. It may be much like the Ham who travels to Buffalo with intent to "upgrade" knowing full well that chances of success are fairly good if he sufficiently prepared himself. Give it a try! Give it a good try! Success if fun!

LOVE IS (Continued from page 1)
all professional musicians, and a well known group, is noted for thier variety and ability to suit the group and occasion. Music for your pleasure will start at 9:00 and will end at 1:00 a.m.

RaRa invites you and your favorite valentine to attend this congenial and delightful evening.

Lee Van Grol, WA2YEK

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EDITOR'S INCH

Shortwave broadcasting is enjoying a rise in its usefulness and popularity around the world. *Time Magazine* ran a one page feature on January 12, 1981 that showed how one reporter was using it and a table full of radios to stay in front of other reporters. The article dismissed us radio hams though as not a part of the audience as "*for the most part they listen to one another*".

I would like to counter that however as it seems to me that shortwave broadcasting has been an old friend of many and perhaps part of the spark that got some of us on the air. Whoever has heard the chimes of "*BIG BEN*" will ever forget them? And those who chase dx on forty in the evening hours get an good earful of Fidel Castro's philosophy and the CBC, right inside the frequency band assigned to us by "*international agreement*".

Have you ever noticed that the VOA is the only broadcasting from the U.S.A.? This past November the FCC shut down lawfully three U.S.A. private shortwave broadcasters. One was near Bloomington, Indiana and one in southern California and the other in the Seattle area. These were not haywire and run operations. The programming was well done and ran for most of 24 hours a day. One station featured VHF (very high fidelity). All seemed to be popular and well listened to.

It appears that the U.S.A. permits only the VOA to speak for it in overseas broadcasts. The U.S.A. permits us hams to speak internationally on a two-way basis, no broadcasting permitted. I wonder what that implies?

RaRa BOARD NOTES

Membership – Irv Goodman reported that membership now stands at 684 – just slightly behind last year at this time. 68% of last year's membership has renewed, with 117 new members. There are no specific provisions for free membership.

Awards – The responsibility for the 'care and feeding' of the ticket cage has been 'awarded' to N2AOB.

Legal – The FCC is beginning phase 3 of its call sign program. Amateurs must now request the keeping of their present call sign when upgrading. Beginning December 15 all applications must be filed on the new (August 80) Form 610. U.S. Amateurs may still continue with earthquake related third party traffic with Italy.

A program introducing Amateur Radio was put on for the staff in the spinal injury section at Strong Memorial Hospital by K2OIU, N2EH, WB2DYJ, and WA2UGE. They would like this program repeated once a month for the patients. This is presently scheduled to take place on the first Wednesday of the month.

A meeting of the OEP was held at K2JD. In the event of an evacuation at the Ginna nuclear power plant we will be asked to provide communications at the various shelters, etc. No specific plan will be made until the evacuation plans are settled.

FOR SALE – Tempo FMH, a 2 watt 2 meter FM Handheld with built-in PIPO Touchtone pad. Set includes charger, rubber duckie antenna and extra set of ni-cad batteries. Has 94/94, 52/52, 28/88, 19/79, 16/76 and 146.93/147.33 (Lake Placid). Price \$150.00. Contact KA2Y Carty or KA2HAB Todd at 482-8771.

Rochester HAMFEST

MAY 15 – 16

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Electronic Center

937 Jefferson Road
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14623

RDXA MEETS FEBRUARY 17th

by Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

The Rochester DX Association will meet on Tuesday February 17th at 8:15 p.m. The Colonial Hotel at 1129 Empire Boulevard has allowed us to use one of their meeting rooms; and, to show our gratitude members from time to time should join the RDXA Dinner Club group which meets at 7:00 p.m.

All members are encouraged to participate in the upcoming ARRL CW and Phone contests now that the RDXA is re-affiliated with the ARRL. Contest forms will be available at the February 17th meeting and if non-members wish to obtain copies please stop in or call Rick Berg, WA2RLQ, at 544-0776.

RaRa DX AWARD

by Len Gessin, WA2ZNC

Those of you who missed our regular January RaRa meeting really missed a "happening". As usual the award program was very well received. As a special for the new year we presented a lucky "ham" a DX Award. This was left to the last item (#11) to be awarded. I am very pleased to announce that "Nate" Minosh, WB2LJG, was the excited winner. Nate hails from Wolcott, New York.

I will always be open to ideas from our members, as to what the awards might be. Just let me know. Hope to see you all next month.

ADVANCED CLASS STARTS

FEBRUARY 11th

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The advanced class will start Wednesday, February 11, 1981 at 350 East Henrietta Road. It will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. each Wednesday until May 13, 1981. The fee will be \$10.00 which includes \$2.00 registration, \$2.00 for a text book and \$6.00 for membership in RaRa. The instructor will again be Harold Mundy, KD2K. Anyone that is interested please contact Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, at the next RaRa meeting or call me at 624-1929 after 6 p.m.

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