

The RaRa Rag

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RECENT ADVANCES IN METEOROLOGY MARCH 6th RaRa MEETING

Mr. Pete Chaston, Director of the National Weather Service Office in Rochester, will be the featured speaker at our RaRa Meeting March 6th. As usual the meeting will be called to order at 8 p.m. in the Statesman's Club meeting room. Pete plans to cover recent weather trends, including ice-age theories and the effect on the weather from the Mt. St. Helens Volcano. He will also tell us about new equipment for recent advances in meteorology. Following a short movie "Tornado" there will be a question and answer period.

The meeting will be our fourth at the Statesman's Club on the 19th floor of the First Federal Savings & Loan Building Plaza, located at 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 sprinkler 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".

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES

by H. E. Mundy, KD2K

I would like to thank all those people who participated in the January VHF Contest. Through their efforts we have a very strong contest entry with well over 900,000 points. At this time I anticipate this year score will be 50,000 points above last years.

At the February VHF Group meeting certificates were presented to the following stations for their achievements in the contest:

WA2ZNC - Highest single operator score
K2YCO - Second highest single operator and/or highest CW score
N2JY - Third highest single operator
K2JFV - Highest multioperator score
W2UTH - Second highest multioperator score
WA2WVL - Third highest multioperator score
WB2KIW - Highest SSB/AM score
AF2K - Most 2 Meter FM contacts
K2RHS - Most improved score
WA2YEK - Highest YL score
K2RHS/WA2YEK - Highest OM-YL
KA2HVQ - Most improved new participant
W2EQW - First log submitted

This year we had 192 logs submitted compared to 182 logs submitted last year, a small but noteworthy improvement. The station with the most sections worked was W2UTH with 23 which included Bermuda, VE1, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.

It was a very enjoyable contest for me and I am looking forward to meeting everyone in the 1982 January VHF Sweepstakes.

Rochester
HAMFEST

Let's make it a big turnout!

MAY 15 - 16

The RARA RAG

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RaRa AND YOU

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

The Valentine Dinner-Dance was indeed a special event for the 70 who joined in. A combination of an excellent orchestra, a fine dinner, and a festive mood set the stage for a very enjoyable evening. Special thanks to Lee VanGrol for taking care of ticket sales, John and Jean Golden for securing the corsages, and Len and Onalee Gessin for taking care of the gifts. Yes, thanks to the many who came. "You made the evening".

RaRa BOARD NOTES

by Dave Coleman, N2AOB

The lights for K2JD are in final arrangement status, and a cleaning session was set up for January 25th.

Additional space for eyeballs at the Statesman's Club is being checked out by Don Drennan.

Joseph Mon, N2BHJ, and Dwight Hill, K2KWK, have been named ARRL Public Relation Assistants.

Discussion was opened for the naming of a nomination committee.

Membership is at 752.

The Novice and General Instruction Classes are running until May 13.

RaRa will not provide beer for the June picnic. Those wishing it may provide their own.

RaRa has aided the VHF Group with some mailing duties.

The January meeting saw 11 awards presented.

RDXA: MARCH 17th

On St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, the RDXA will gather in the green at 8:15 p.m. at the "auld" Colonial Hotel at 1127 Empire Boulevard. The Colonial will provide us with a room to meet and plan a RDXA club effort for the ARRL Phone Contest. Log sheets and contest forms will be available at the meeting for anyone who wants them.

The evening program will be sent to members by mail and we encourage everyone who attends to bring a friend, bring a little green, wear a little green.

FOR SALE — Heath ET-3200 Digital Design Experimenter and EE-3201 Digital Techniques Course. Make offer. Call Lynn McLean weekdays at 424-5870.

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WB2AQQ REPEATER UPDATE

The Bristol end of the system was rebuilt during Thanksgiving time in 1980 and was re-installed during the first week in December. The audio stages were re-done with greatly improved audio quality and things were put into a new Motorola cabinet. At both Bristol and Victor new touch-tone decoders and logic packages were put on line. Hardware was added to facilitate a UHF link to 31/91 in Buffalo, a remote receiver in Rochester, and a remote autopatch line with a Rochester exchange. These last features are not yet functional but the planning is for them to be effective in spring/summer 1981. Emergency power backup facility was added, but as of January 21 the weather has prevented the battery installation. But when this is functional, and the power goes down all the links drop off the system and the output power drops to 3 watts to conserve the battery. In addition the repeater tail will have a touch-tone 1 followed by a touch-tone 9 before it drops to indicate the emergency power mode.

Normally the system is in loose squelch, approximately .18 micro-volt sensitivity for 12db SINAD. In tight squelch a signal *must* be full quieting before it will open the receiver. No tones on the tail indicate loose squelch. Tight squelch mode will have a touch-tone * on the tail for indication.

Here is a table showing the various states in which the repeater may be found.

Squelch	Emergency Power	Simple Mode	Victor Linked
loose	1 & 9	9 & 1	no tones
tight	1209hz & .5 sec. silence	.5 sec. silence & 1209hz tone	* & *

Sub-audible tone decoding has been added to the receiver to reduce the Canadian interference especially during autopatches. Now this feature can only be brought up by a control operator, eventually a separate autopatch access code will

be published which will bring up the "pl" coding for the length of the autopatch only. After the patch clears the system will revert to normal carrier access. The tone frequency is 114.8 Hz.

Time- ON- Command can be brought up by sending 9##9. The time of day is sent in CW at the "slow" rate (about 7 wpm).

A complete "users guide" is available from the Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA) which covers the autopatch and touch-tone test functions, plus the popular "repeaterisms". Of course you can find Craig Stolze, WB2AQQ, himself frequently on the repeater if you have questions. The RRRA is formed to operate and maintain both 78/18 and 28/88 repeaters.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Reports about Directory omissions are heard from time to time. If it has happened to you or a friend, perhaps the information here can explain why.

Only the "2" section of the Callbook is researched for possible additions to our Directory. Then, only addresses with ZIP codes beginning 144, 145 and 146 are used. If you call sign has a digit other than 2 or if your Callbook address has you listed at a ZIP code other than those named here, chances are very good that you will *NOT* be in the Directory.

Whenever the Postal Service returns a mailing addressed to you and we are unable to locate a new address, your file is removed from the Directory. It is senseless to continue your listing if mail is returned.

For anyone who should be listed in the Directory and is not, the fix is very simple. First, make sure you have your current address on file at FCC. Callbook gets their information from them. Second, send changes and updates directly to the Directory editor, Helen Smith, WA2YRH, 153 Mason Avenue, Rochester, NY 14626.



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A PILEUP : LAST PLACE TO START DXING

by Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

I remember the first time I attended a stamp auction. The place was in a large New York City hotel. Over two hundred people crowded into a much too small meeting room for the number of attendees. Several lots caught my eye as I glanced through the catalog and when they came to the floor I would bid on them.

The session started promptly at 1:30 with some lots in the high four figures going on the block first. As these were too rich for my blood, I paid very little attention to the action between the auctioneer and the bidders until the items of my fancy came to the floor. Even though I moved to the front area, to be part of the action, the dialogue between the auctioneer and the seasoned bidders was so quick and mechanistic that the item was knocked down before I could get a word in.

It has been ten years since that first experience at a stamp auction. That one experience did squelch any other buying attempts of this nature for quite some time to come. But eventually I came to realize that there are too many good deals out there to be scared off. Also, I should have been nothing more than an observer until I get the exposure and confidence to go at it with some sense of professionalism.

What this has to do with DXing and the pileups may escape some of you. But, just as there are many ways to obtain stamps for your collection, there are different ways to work DX countries. For the inexperienced DX hunter a pileup can be a real disaster. In many cases a pileup has caused a quick end to someone's DX hunting ambition. The pileup is the last place to learn how to chase DX, especially if you are starting out. But you should observe their operation for the eventual day when a "head-on" with the multitude will be the only way to snag that rare one. There is probably not one member of the DXCC Honor Roll who has not been battle-scarred from the pileups. Just like you, he was once at the bottom rungs of the country-count. Just like you, he wondered if he would make it to the top someday. So don't throw in the towel, but, take your time which will eventually build the confidence needed to battle the crowd under any condition.

FOR SALE – Yaesu Receiver #FRG-7, in mint condition with original carton, operator's manual and schematic. Asking \$225.00 or best offer. Contact James Allen, KB2KY, at 265-9827 or 422-6094.

FROM THE FROZEN GROUND ROD

An egotist is a person suffering from I strain. CB'ers may do their thing all over the road, while amateurs do their thing with more power and frequency.

Dumb questions are easier to handle than dumb mistakes.

We are all little manufacturers. Some make good, some make trouble and some make excuses.

Things are more like they are now than they ever have been before.

*Tnx to Cheesebits, RAGS Review,
KOLIR, U. S. Government*

MISCALCULATED EXPLOSIONS

from Cheesebits and Naval Air Devel. Ctr.

Do you carry a miniature calculator in your pocket? If so, it could knock you off your feet. The Journal of Environmental Health has recently warned that an improperly shielded pocket calculator can explode. Researchers have found that any metal object that inadvertently comes in contact with the unprotected battery/ charge contact points will cause a thermal runaway. (In some circles known as fire) ed. This, in turn, shorts our the nickel-cadmium batteries, and an explosion with enough force to knock a person down will result. Even the lead of a pencil can cause such a thermal runaway. The best way to prevent such an accident: carry a pocket calculator in its case.

VHF-RRRA AUCTION

The Rochester VHF Group and the Rochester Radio Repeater Association will team up again for a joint auction at the Police and Fire Academy on Scottsville Road. *Date – March 20th.* Doors will open from 7 to 11 p.m. Auction starts at 8 p.m. RaRa rules will be followed. The club fee is 10% of the selling price which will be divided equally between the two groups.

Please remember to tag each item with:

- (1) Your name and call.
- (2) Opening price.
- (3) "Chinese" or not.
- (4) Condition of item.

Any other remarks regarding the item which may help the auctioneer display your item would be appreciated. Bring along appropriate manuals and please make sure we remember to remove any items left at the close of sales.

SIMPLE PROTECTION FOR EXPENSIVE RIGS

by Bob Goodsell, K2OOD

Modern solid-state Ham gear costs a lot of money, and semiconductors don't like overvoltages. The quiet rapidity with which they expire is well known. Most operate on twelve vdc (which really means about 13.5 v.) and have separate regulated power supplies.

We have here two potential sources of disaster. Connecting them up backwards (positive lead to negative, etc.) and overvoltage resulting from failure in the power supply. Most rigs state no more than fifteen volts.

For small rigs with correspondingly small power supplies a zener diode of about fourteen volt breakdown across the power input terminals will do nicely. Make sure the zener has a high enough wattage rating to *continuously* dissipate that extra power. The excess current may not be enough to blow the line fuse, which should be external to the rig in the positive power supply line. If the polarity is accidentally reversed, the zener will conduct heavily in its forward direction and again blow the fuse.

In larger rigs, with larger supplies the rating and heat sinking requirements of the zener become impractical so another solution must be found. An electronic crow bar of course! This neat little device senses the overvoltage condition, and fires an SCR which puts a dead short across the power leads. Again, the fuse blows and the crowbar automatically resets itself. Some electronic handbooks have plans for these, and they are quite simple and easy to build. So get busy and save yourself some money and give yourself some peace of mind.

Tnx: The Hilltopper

K2JD ENGRAVING

P.O. Drawer G Pittsford, NY 14534

CALL SIGN BADGES

Size • Up to	Cost
3/4 x 3 (1 line)	\$1.25
1 1/4 x 3 (2 line)	\$2.00
2 x 3 (3 line)	\$2.25
2 x 4 (4 line)	\$2.75

Base station sign

2 x 8 (2 line)	\$3.00
Walnut base	\$3.50
Plastic base	\$1.50
Clip fastener on badge instead of pin add 25¢	

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Design your own stamp using the sample type sizes shown below. \$2.50 for three lines. Add 50¢ for each additional line.

36 PT

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18 PT

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10 PT

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Most color badges are in stock.

ARRL sig on stamp or badge add 50¢

RaRa MONTHLY SPECIAL

HEATHKIT HW-31 "Cantenna"

Dummy Load Kit: Reg. \$19.95
Transformer Oil (Grade 55): Reg. \$ 6.95

Special March Sale Price **\$21.95**
For Kit and Oil with this Ad.



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937 Jefferson Road
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THE AMATEURS

There's something about them you've got to admire.

They work for the love of the task, not for hire. Everyone of them's blessed with the heart of a boy!

What's a job to the drudge unto them is a joy. While we to our regular schedules are keeping, The amateurs do without eating or sleeping.

They worry their wives - since so short is a day - They get to bed when they should but they stay Sending calls on the air: catching calls from afar And I think as I hear them how patient they are! How much better we'd work here if only we knew it,

In that amateur spirit of wanting to do it!

Professionals weary sometimes and they shirk, Since they're paid to perform they look on it as work.

They begin with reluctance; they're glad when they're through -

And they measure in money whatever they do: But the amateur never begrudges a minute: He goes to the job for the joy that is in it.

So here's to the amateurs, brave hearted throng- Though short be their waves, may their lives all be long;

Make up for the nights when they go without sleep;

And may we, in their spirit and deep understanding

Of work and its joy, keep our amateur standing!
.....Edgar A. Guest

Tnx Auto-Call, Hilltopper

FOR SALE — Heath Linear Amplifier #SB230. 1200 watts SSB/1000 watts CW on 80-10 meters. 8873 tube in grounded grid. Mint condx. \$350.00. Heath Station Monitor #SB-614, 80 - 6 meters, \$175.00. Buy both for \$500.00. Contact Al Mumby, WB2MCP, 865-1889.

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