

# The RARa RAG

Published by

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association

INCORPORATED

VOL 33

APRIL 1981

NO. 8

## SPECIAL OLD TIMERS NITE — APRIL 3rd OUR CLUB'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

RaRa Historian, Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, will present another of his fine programs "A PICTORIAL TRIP IN NOSTALGIA." He plans to take us at a brisk pace through:

- RaRa in the '30's.
- Hamfests at "Doud Post" and "Vince's 50 Acres".
- Early RaRa Field Days.
- Rochester VHF stations and DX stations in the '50's.
- Hamfests of the present, at the Fairgrounds, flea market activities and the big banquet.
- Recognition of old timers (pre-1961).

The RaRa old-timers-nite is the annual occasion to meet your old friends and of course new ones.

Since this is our club's 50th anniversary, we request all Past Presidents to be present for some photographs.

We hope to see all of you at the Statesman's Club on the 19th Floor of the First Federal Savings & Loan Building on State and Main. See previous issues of the *Rag* for details on parking, it's free under the First Federal Building.

## HAMFEST TICKETS AVAILABLE

RaRa members and friends can be first to secure tickets for the 1981 Rochester Hamfest. The Hamfest will be on May 15 - 16. It is combined with the Atlantic Division and New York State ARRL Convention. Get your tickets at the April 3rd club meeting from ticket chairman, Ed Gable.

## RaRa CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY

Part II

by Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, ex-8ACY

RaRa was formed by two clubs joining in 1931: The Radio Club of Rochester and the Society of Rochester Transmitting Amateurs (STRA). The following information was written by Ken Gardner, W2BGN, RaRa's first secretary and a member of STRA.

In a future issue of the *RAG*, I will tell you more how members of STRA and the Radio Club of Rochester got together and formed RaRa.

"1926 was a year of turmoil within the Radio Club of Rochester. All activities were open to discussion and vote of membership. Interminable arguments developed regarding running the club, use of Roberts Rules of Order, dues, where to meet, should the club sponsor a station, hamfests, etc. The club at this time was largely controlled by inactive hams.

In early 1927, a group of the more active hams started to meet in one another's homes. They eventually adopted a name, The Society of Rochester Transmitting Amateurs. This original group consisted of Al Balling, Bill DeWitt and Ken Gardner. Others soon joined, and through the efforts of Bill DeWitt and Al Sigl of the *Rochester Times-Union*, a club room was established on the fourth floor of the old T-U building at the corner of Basin and Exchange Streets.

This was also the old site of former T-U station WHQ. Al Sigl was City Editor at the time and Bill DeWitt wrote a radio column for the T-U.

Al Balling was elected the first president and the club functioned without dues; however, all members paid a \$7.50 initiation fee and were assessed for various financial needs.

A club station was assembled in May, 1927, by 8BGN and 8BRD from parts donated by members, chief of which was a 204 high power transmitting tube and a 2000 volt motor-generator set from Joe Hertzberg, 8CYI.

(Continued on page 3)

# The RaRa Rag

Published by

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association  
INCORPORATED

Managing Editor ..... Harold Smith, K2HC  
Editor..... Dwight Hill, K2KWK  
Art Director..... Herm Auch, KB2CM  
Staff..... Helen Smith, WA2YRH

Editor's office, 265 Norcrest Drive, Rochester, NY 14617.

Telephone: 716-544-2332.

Managing Editor's office, 153 Mason Avenue, Rochester, NY 14626. Telephone: 716-225-5260.

## RaRa AND YOU

by Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB

### FIRST CALL for FIELD DAY

"An event designed to test the ability of amateurs to provide emergency communications when the need arises using portable or mobile sources of power away from the usual conveniences of home" may fairly well describe the number one objective of Field Day. Not only is the event designed to test this ability but also to provide newcomers the experience in setting up emergency communications involving circumstance which may unexpectedly come about. The setting up of an effective antenna system capable of covering the desired bands of operation is a challenge in itself.

Whether you are a beginner or a well seasoned FD operator RaRa would like to invite as many as are interested to join in on the operation. An organizational meeting will be scheduled for sometime in early May, perhaps some Monday evening at the K2JD Club Station, in order to discuss strategy. When set, the exact date and time of the formative meeting will be announced in the May *RaRa Rag* and on the Sunday evening 2 meter FM Net.

Your input, suggestions, or desire to participate can be addressed to Don, W2EBF, at 671-3366 or Otto, WB2RJB, at 247-4976. Please call to express your intent to join in or advice to improve upon the purposes of the operation.

Put the date on your calendar now. "June 27 and 28th Field Day 1981!"

## RACES

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The Office of Emergency Preparedness has been reorganized under the direction of Brig-General Edward Smith with Steve Gulack serving as the newly appointed Communications Officer. The OEP-RaRa liaison committee has been working with OEP on an evacuation plan in the event there is an emergency at the Ginna Nuclear plant in Wayne County.

Wayne County RACES, under the direction of Bob Fox, WB2EWR, participated in a drill last year with such impressive results that Wayne County purchased a repeater to be used by that organization. In the event of a future drill, we will be called upon to provide communications support for OEP, Red Cross, Hospitals and possibly the National Guard.

If you are interested in joining the team or wish further information, contact Ed Holdsworth, N2EH.

VOL 33

APRIL 1981

NO. 8

### OFFICERS:

President: Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB, 247-4976

Vice-President: Donald H. Drennan, W2EBF,  
671-3366

Secretary: David W. Coleman, N2AOB,  
315-986-3214

Treasurer: Gilbert R. Chapin, WB2UTI,  
426-0731

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Harold C. Smith, K2HC, 225-5260

Edwin J. Holdsworth, N2EH, 624-1929

Leonard M. Gessin, WA2ZNC, 248-2511

Robert J. Erskine, W2NVZ, 266-5055

James D. O'Brien, K2UDP, 223-6477

John R. Golden, W2IRG, 381-4928

Dwight B. Hill, K2KWK, 544-2332

Club Historian: Bruce Kelley, W2ICE

Licensing Course Director:

Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH

Membership Chairman:

Edward Maher, WB2ZJY, 271-8976

Director of Public Relations:

Jim O'Brien, K2UDP

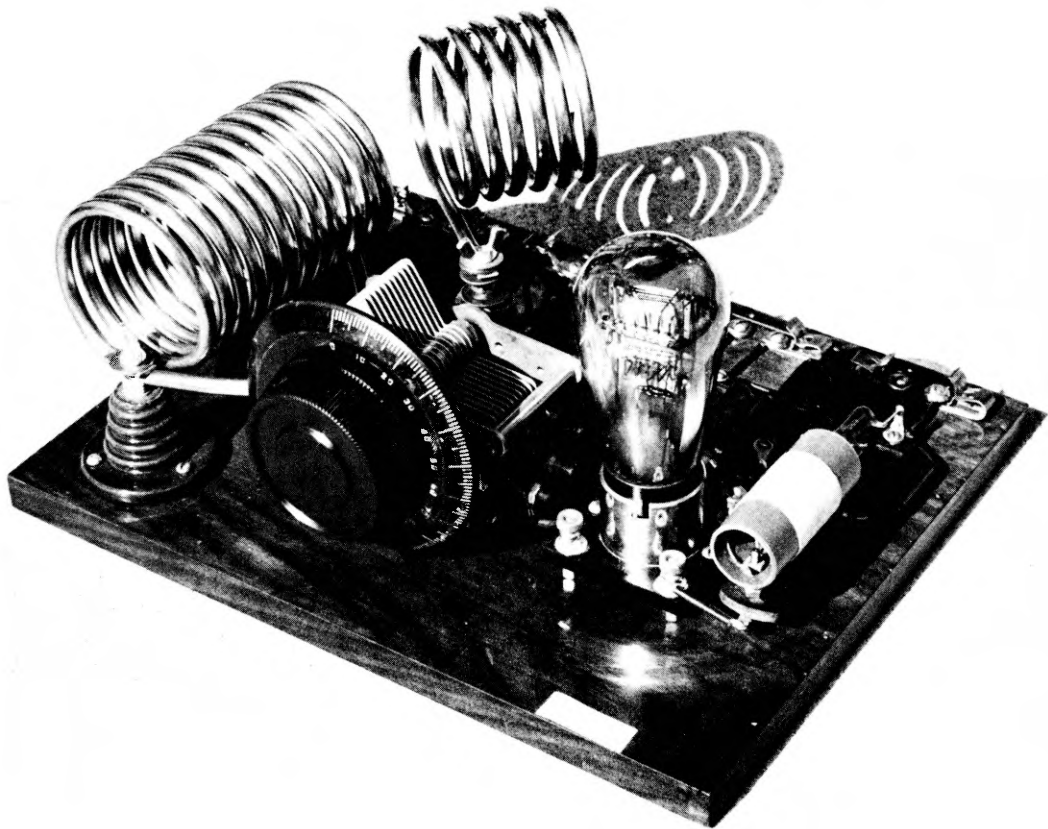
K2JD Engraving Director: Robert Lauzon, K2RL

The RaRa Rag (USPS 605-440) is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603. Subscription price \$1.00 per year (included in \$6.00 annual membership dues). Second class postage paid in Rochester, New York.



Write for FREE COPY of any of our publications.

**The Ham Radio Publishing Group**  
GREENVILLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03048



Pictured is a typical transmitter of the 1929-31 period. It is a TNT self-excited oscillator using a single UX-210 tube. The large plate coil is at left with the un-tuned grid coil at right. Note there was only one tuning dial. An amateur could work the world with this simple transmitter and a 2-tube receiver.

(Continued from page 1)

A Hertz (Windom) antenna with single-wire feed line was strung between the old WHQ 60 foot masts on the roof. The receiver was the then popular 2-tube Schnell consisting of a regenerative detector and one-stage audio. Al Balling, 8ALY, assumed the title of station trustee since he held the club call 8AC in his name."

"Western New York was at this time in the 8th call area; hence, all call letters had an "8". WNY became part of the 2nd district after the War. In addition, the amateur did not use a prefix until 1928. As an example, my call was 8BGN until 1928 at which time I started to use W8BGN. Following the War (1946) I was assigned W2BGN.

Here are the charter members of SRTA: Al Balling (8ALY), Ken Gardner (8BGN, W2BGN), Bill DeWitt (8BRD, now W2DD), Joe Hertzberg (8CYI, now N3EA), Ray Lucia (8BEN), Perry Esten (8BOX, now W6PN), Howie Mouatt (8AZO, now W6BQD), Bernie O'Brien (8DSI), Gerry Hall (8AHK) and John Blum (8CKC).

In time, SRTA numbered about 20 licensed amateurs and were very active in Central and Western New York hamfests and conventions. Although SRTA ceased to function as a club with the formation of RaRa in 1931, members still meet occasionally. The last big gathering was held back in 1965 at the Spring House on Monroe Avenue."

---

## WEEKLY HAM RADIO COLUMN

Would you like to read about ham radio activities each week? Next Sunday find the Syracuse, NY Herald American combined with The Post Standard. That's longhand for the Syracuse Sunday Paper. Discover "*Ham Radio*" written each week by Vivian E. Douglas, WA2PUU, located in the Stars Section, a weekly insert. Vivian was named "*Ham of the Year*" at the 1977 Rochester Hamfest.

## RaRa Trophies Back in Competition

These photographs were recently taken of the Marty Jones Trophy Microphone and the John Long Trophy Key. Both trophies have been in the possession of Jack Williams, K2JFV, who proudly won them both back in the early 1960's. Under the terms of the competition Jack is entitled to retain them until the next winner comes forth. At one time the competition for these was very intense, even though you wouldn't hear much talk about it. Several members have recalled how they won, or got beaten, by a day or a few hours.

Lincoln Cundall, W2LC, was President of RaRa in October 1949. "Linc" was also the proud possessor and the first winner of John Long Key. According to the **RaRa Rag** of October 1949, Volume 2, Number 2, he displayed the Long Trophy at the RaRa meeting to stimulate competition for it.

The Long Trophy can be won by a RaRa Member presenting to the Club, usually the club President, his verifications of **Working All States** within one year. These verifications would be QSL cards with the complete information to prove the contact exchange and date. The year could occur evidently between any set of dates as long as the date of the earliest verification was within one year of the date of the latest verification submitted. That **Rag** issue says "the latest date on the last verification constitutes the winner who remains in possession until another member" becomes winner. The award was traditionally presented at the Rochester Hamfest. Thus, if someone were to lay his 50 verification cards on the President's table at a RaRa meeting, and everything was in order, the Trophy would be presented as part of the next Hamfest ceremonies. The John Long Trophy was awarded for contacts made by CW mode. The Marty Jones Trophy was awarded for contacts made by phone.

Jack Williams recently re-affirmed that he was placing the trophies into club competition. Jack even said he's willing to get back into the fray and



defend them! In case you think this is idler's event; the **Rag** of April 1953 tells us that after four years Sax Ringler, W2SAW, wrested the Long Trophy from Linc Cundall, then W2QY, after some long distance phone calls, several telegrams, some blood and a lot of sweat and tears. Some past winners are Bob McCarty, W2RUI; Bill DeWitt, W2DD; Fred Reynolds, W2VS; and Ray Jobes, W2IM, a recent silent key.

Much thanks to Linc Cundall for his "instant" research, excellent records, wonderful recall, and very long interest in RaRa. The trophy search has been enjoyed by all, including those who knew but waited to tell, and the "wag" who put something over on us: all in our February issue. This is why RaRa traditions are fun!

## Rochester HAMFEST

MAY 15 - 16

### HARVEY'S HAM

KB2LB

CALEDONIA, N.Y. 538-4750

TEN TEC — DENTRON

TRITON IV — ARGONAUT

**NEW AND USED — FOR  
SUPER-LOW PRICES !!!**

3154 STATE ST. — Across from  
CHASE MANHATTAN BANK

# CQ

ONE YEAR

\$14 00

*The magazine that  
does more for you...*

- Contests
- Propagation
- Antennas
- DXing
- Awards

**The Radio Amateur's Journal**

76 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801

## PETE CHASTON SEEKS RaRa SUPPORT

Mr. Pete Chaston, Director of the National Weather Service Office in Rochester was our guest speaker March 6th. In addition to his excellent talk that was delivered to a most receptive audience, he showed us the film "Tornado"! Pete first became famous in Rochester for being the weatherman who came here because he likes snow. He also gathered fame by warning of a blizzard that didn't arrive. Although some may have accused Pete of just indulging in wishful thinking, he was right about the blizzard's presence. In spite of some comments to the contrary, he was justified in issuing the warning. As Pete readily forecasters need a little luck and all the help they can get.

The Rochester Weather Service Office receives some help from individual spotters to supplement instruments to provide information to report and predict weather for our area. There are about 110 spotters between Buffalo and Watertown who use the telephone to call their reports into the office at the Rochester/Monroe County Airport. Pete Chaston is looking for more spotters.

Last year upstate New York saw five Tornados, with one of them touching down in Sodus, Wayne County, on June 6th. We have experienced high winds, high waters, blizzards, electric storms that create conditions dangerous to persons and almost always damage property.

When these conditions occur the telephone usage increases to the point of overloading the system and calls can't be made. Pete Chaston is seeking an alternative means of getting spotter reports into the office. This method should be very reliable as the information would be important in emergency situations. "Ham radio operators" have the one remaining communications resource - their portable battery operated radios. The value of these has been often shown monthly in ham radio publications when violent weather strikes an area.

The National Weather Service is here to serve the "public safety" which nicely coincides with a major purpose of amateur radio, serving public safety with emergency communications. Amateur Radio groups are already working together, aiding the information gathering and relaying, in areas such as San Francisco, the Chesapeake Bay, the Ohio shores of Lake Erie, the "tornado belt", etc. It takes some hard work and steady diligent training to make this a success. Because such efforts were applied in the Chesapeake Bay Weather & Traffic Net, the amateurs of the Anne Arundel Amateur Radio Club are now monitored by the National Weather Service in Washington, D.C. for the purpose of updating their marine forecasts.

Members of RaRa are presented with a opportunity to use their skills for public safety. Such an activity can become a valuable community asset. Radio hams need good public relations, members of RaRa can put this need to work both for our community and us. Contact George Negus, K2OIU, Emergency Coordinator, phone (716) 586-6922.

---

## STRANGE REPEATER ?

Was there anyone who noticed the appearance of the different station on 146.88 MHz a few weeks back. It was on for around seven hours. What happened was the N2JC repeater lost its output entirely due to a complete break in the circuit board of the TX. The coverage that remained however was due just to "leakage". Though the transmitted signal was very low strength, there were many hams around the county still making use of the system. Wonder how many of them can tell us what the call sign of the repeater used on that frequency until the circuit board was bridged inside the N2JC machine?



**HEATHKIT**

**ELECTRONIC CENTER**

◆ Come See Us ◆

**Factory Representative On Hand**  
at  
**Rochester Hamfest**  
Booth 65

---

937 Jefferson Road    Rochester, NY

**REPAIR**

**AMATEUR      COMMERCIAL**

HF	—	VHF	—	UHF
DIGITAL		— ANALOG		

**25 Years Experience**  
10% 20% 30% etc. discounts

**NORM WEBB** **K2PPO**  
716-442-6444 7 - 10 p.m.

## PLAIN LANGUAGE FCC LAW

The FCC proposed to re-write our amateur regulations entirely in all aspects with their Docket #80-729. The complete Docket is available from ARRL for a charge of \$1.00. Copies are also available within RaRa. RaRa is forming a group of its members to examine the implications of the proposed rules in close detail. So far, there are 17 members/ directors/ officers in this group. Due to the complexity of the Docket, additional members are welcome. Everyone, who has been, is now, or hopes to be a ham should be concerned with this proposal. All relevant and timely comments will be considered by the FCC before taking its final action. To formally participate you must file your original document and five copies, including any reference materials. To give each commissioner his own copy, you must provide your original plus eleven copies. Members of the general public may express their interest formally by submitting one copy. According to the FCC all comments, regardless of copies submitted, will be given the same consideration by the FCC. All comments will be available for public inspection during regular FCC business hours at the FCC Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Here are some of the changes that seem to be proposed:

1. elimination of all logging requirements.
2. require each station to have a complete copy of the amateur rules, plus certain other documents, in its possession.
3. allow FCC inspection of a station at any time during a business day or any time while transmitting or when just finished transmitting.
4. re-name us the Amateur Telecommunications Service, no longer to be the amateur radio service.
5. newly listing within the amateur rules, the penalties for violations.
6. delete "quiet hours" in favor of any restrictions assigned by the FCC.
7. stating FCC policy on telephone interconnect, how it is to be operated, with a prohibition of "reverse autopatch" and interconnection with another mobile radio-telephone system or service.
8. re-words the familiar definitions of Part 97.3 into five sentences thereby deleting a number of terms.
9. takes the entire Part 97.1 which states the basis and purpose of amateur radio such as; public service and emergency communications, advancement of the radio art, advancement of skills, and enhancing international good will and eliminates those terms and words from its new statement.

10. gets specific on how to handle third party traffic, how not to handle it, plus a new statement regarding transmitting one way communication for third parties.
11. tells us how the FCC will make technical measurements of our stations when inspected by the FCC. Within the technical section of the proposal there may be some hidden pitfalls that will need some high technical expertise to evaluate.

RaRa is planning to make its comments prior to the initial deadline of June 19, 1981. Reply comments are due at the FCC by August 19, 1981. Each of us has to decide if amateur radio will be well served by these sweeping proposals. Comments will be better received if of a constructive nature...an "*I don't like it*" scribbled on a scrap paper won't do anyone any favor. The FCC, as our regulator, is asking us for input, your input. You owe it to yourself to be involved here.

It does seem like this is the second time in six years that such a broad revision of rules has been set out on proposal. Whether this results from good intent, unknown pressure for our bands, or whatever we are again challenged to provide our own rules to enhance our activity and provide a future for it.

---

## NEW SIX METER REPEATER

W2TR/RPT is up and running on 53.6 MHz. The input frequency is 52.63 MHz. The sub-audible tone is 131.8 Hz, the same as the "bus" units had in their original or previous life. There is a phone patch attached to the repeater, subject to the FCC rules for amateur radio.

---

## APPLE COUNTRY CERTIFICATE

A fine addition to your shack is the beautiful Apple Country Award Certificate. Work any 4 members of the Drumlins Amateur Radio Club on any band. Send your log information and \$1.00 and two first class postage stamps to the Apple Country Award Chairman, Fred Silber, WA2REC, P.O. Box 22, Sodus, NY 14551.

---

**FOR SALE** – Heathkit SB-101 transceiver, with matching speaker, power supply, microphone, pre-amp, code key, extra 6146 finals. Complete manuals and revised circuit diagrams included. Units are in perfect condition, and priced at \$250.00. Contact Bruce Frank, KA2EFR, at (716) 223-4854.

## PUBLIC SERVICE

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

For an opportunity to enjoy the fun and companionship of your fellow Hams, you may want to set aside a few hours of your time this summer and work on one of the many events that require our communications expertise. To assist you in planning for these events, all those that have requested our assistance to this date are listed below:

Susquehannock Pro Road Rally  
June 13-14 in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania  
Cordinators - WB2BWQ & N2EH

Mendon Pony Club Rally  
June 14 in Victor, New York  
Cordinator - Need a Volunteer

National Sports Festival  
July 13-30 in Syracuse, New York  
Cordinators - WB2PUU - Syracuse  
N2EH - Rochester

Scotch Bonnet Boat Race  
July ? in Rochester, New York

Mendon Pony Club Rally  
August 1 in Mendon, New York

Canaltown Days  
September 17-20 in Palmyra, New York  
Cordinators - WB2EWR - Drumlins ARC  
N2EH - RaRa

Some of these events have required our assistance for the past several years and some are new, but they all serve to inform the public of the capabilities of Amateur Radio. If you wish to work on any of the above, sign up at any meeting or contact N2EH.

If you participated in one of these or similar event in 1980, you are eligible for a 1980 Public Service patch, which is available at all RaRa club meetings.

## LEGISLATION TO WATCH

A bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives by William E. Dannemeyer, Republican from California, titled HR-2203. This apparently proposes that volunteers be permitted to assist the FCC in monitoring violations of amateur and CB rules and help in preparing and administering FCC examinations. The ARRL reports that the bill is assigned to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Consumer Protection and Finance, Committee on Energy and Commerce.

RaRa is getting details on this Bill and will make a report to the membership as soon as possible.

## 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¢	

### RUBBER STAMPS

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

**36 PT**

**24 PT**

**18 PT**

**12 PT**

**10 PT**

**8 PT**

Most color  
badges are  
in stock.

ARRL sig  
on stamp  
or badge  
add 50¢

## TO ALL YL'S IN THE ROCHESTER AREA

After looking through the RaRa Directory I found many YL's in Our City, more than 60!

We would like to meet You!

We, the SECOND AREA YOUNG LADIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB "SAYLARC" encourage You to join us. YL's in the 2 Land area meet on Fridays 9 a.m., local time on 3945 ± and Saturday, 9 a.m. local time on 7.245 ±. We would love to hear from You and hope many YL's will check in. For more information and about joining SAYLARCs if You like, call Lia, WA2NFY telephone: 647-1145.

## HUCKLEBERRY ISLAND DXers

The third annual Huckleberry Island mini-DX-pedition is being held this year from an island in Georgian Bay, Ontario, Canada. June 5, 6, and 7th are the dates of operation. Both SSB and CW will be used on 75, 40, 15, 10, and 2 meters. A special QSL card is available to those making contact. Members of the group are WA2KUN, WA2KUP, WA2MST, WB2IGO, WB2FYA, WD2AJQ, VE3CII, with WA2CTC acting as QSL manager. Look for them using either VE3CII or WA2MST/VE3.

---

## RDXA

The Rochester DX Association is meeting Tuesday, April 21, at 8:15 p.m. at the Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Boulevard.

Results of Club participation in the ARRL DX Contest should be available. A decision will be made to show a Club effort in the upcoming CQ-WPX Contests. Consideration will be given, and a vote taken, on use of Club funds for Field Day or other activity.

RDXA meetings are open to everyone, with special encouragement to anyone interested in DXing. Please join us at one of the monthly get-togethers.

73 & DX  
*Rich Berg, WA2RLQ*

---

## QSL STATUS

Everybody is asking, "where are they"? Jim O'Brien, who is following the project for RaRa, informed the Board at its March 11 meeting that they will be available. But at that time he could not give a projected date. He reports that the artist doing the card may be familiar to many using the RTC Directory, and has a involved and committed work load. Thus, what seems to us a delay is apparently normal lead time and we should be seeing a bang-up job when the artwork is completed.

---

'81

# Rochester HAMFEST

MAY 15 - 16

## WHY I LIKE CW

by Dwight B. Hill, K2KWK

It's a thing of its own, that I create. Through rhythm, timing, and weighting I can insert emphasis just as I change the inflection of my voice. I can also use volume and tone to achieve a pleasing effect.

I always seem to be learning it and learning from it. CW gives me information instantly, but allows use of my imagination too at a pleasant pace. I am told things both tangible and intangible. I am able to think before I react, which is frequently useful. I am learning and experiencing on several planes.

That may be why I like music of so many varieties. When it's played in original real-life and real-time, it becomes a special experience.

The many modern devices to make CW, and to read it too, range from mechanical delights - nightmares to some - to a few micro-chips for the pocket or palm of your hand. But I take increasing delight in an antique piece of brass forged by a craftsman who put his name on it! Putting my fingers to it I can make it talk, even to a deaf person I could not otherwise reach. It takes to my fist like a warm pipe to the palm.

A great deal of truly enjoyable hamming is done by voice. It's really neat to hear the accents from way off around the corners of the world. Some others are hamming by sight and sound via television that reaches beyond the horizons.

But the joys of music are not entirely missing from the ham bands for me - not if I go searching for it down in the "other end" of the band. If you sneak down there with me you'll discover a real hoard of creative artists. You may get snagged into it too. Are we there because of similar vibes?

---

## WOUFF HONG CEREMONIES AT HAMFEST

League members will have an opportunity to become members of the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong at the Rochester Hamfest. The order, an honorary "inner circle" of the League will be convened at midnight, Saturday, May 16 at the Marriott Thruway. The ceremony will be conducted by the Radio Amateur Society of Norwich (Connecticut). Become a FULL member of the League by joining the ROWH.