

The RARA RAG

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NO. 2

OCTOBER PROGRAM: FIRE SAFETY

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The October program will feature Captain Gerard McHugh and Lieutenant Jack Murphy of the Rochester Fire Department. These gentlemen will present a program which should be of interest to everyone and will consist of a movie and demonstration followed by a question and answer period. Captain McHugh will present the portion dealing with Arson Awareness and Lieutenant Murphy will present that portion dealing with Fire Safety.

The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m., Friday, October 2, 1981, in the lower meeting room of the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum and Science Center, North Goodman Street and East Avenue.

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST:

OCTOBER 17th

The local S.E.T. occurs Saturday, October 17th. The type of exercise is not yet known, nor is the time that it will happen. The only thing you can count on is that sometime on that day "IT" will happen. "IT" will require two amateur radio operators to be at each local hospital to act as communicators with other operators at other hospitals and other sites involved. Additional ham operators will be needed for test purposes coverage checks the amateur radio emergency communications system and network. All local operation will take place using our 2-Meter "FM" Band. Assistance from mobile and portable stations is desired to aid in the test. The primary frequency used will be 146.28/146.88, the frequency of the N2JC repeater station located at Cobbs Hill near Brighton. Other area repeaters may be used as needed, also some simplex frequencies.

Even if you did not attend the S.E.T. Planning Meeting held September 29th you are asked to participate. Those in that meeting are counting on you, and others, to join in and get prepared.

National Historical Radio Conference OCTOBER 21st - 25th

Our local AWA will again sponsor the National Conference at the Sheraton Inn, Canandaigua. This is the largest gathering of radio historians in the country with attendance averaging 600 from all United States and Canadian districts.

Well known professional and amateur historians will present historical papers Friday and Saturday followed by an evening dinner. A vacuum tube seminar is scheduled Thursday and a huge equipment auction on Friday. A highlight of the event is the large display of rare receivers and transmitters. Representatives from several well-known science museums including the Smithsonian Institution will participate.

Is interest in old radio confined to past amateur operation? Hardly. A contingent of the Northern New Jersey DX Association including their president, W2GK, will be on hand. Call Linc Cundall, W2LC (663-0856) for information. (Note: AWA has over 200 members in this area.)

REPEATER GROUP MEETS

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association will hold a meeting the third Friday of October, the 16th, in the Pittsford Town Hall starting at 8 p.m. Program details will be announced in the regular monthly notice mailed to each member.

Last month our article in the September *RaRa Rag* gave our new Post Office Box Number, rightfully obtained from the post office. Imagine the consternation suffered by Ray, WA2MYG, who upon visiting the box found that the post office had assigned a new box number. In as much as the new stationery was going to press with the wrong number, he did some mighty fancy scurrying. His good fortune prevailed though and the change was made before the stationery was printed. Therefore the new and correct address is to RRRR, Inc. P.O. Box 92031, Rochester, New York 14692. Notice that the last two digits in the zip code must agree with the first two digits of the box number.

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RaRa RESPONDS TO PLAIN LANGUAGE RULES DOCKET

The following response to FCC P.R. Docket No. 80-729 was adopted by the RaRa Board of Directors at their August 5th meeting.

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. hereby files these comments in the matter of the FCC's P.R. Docket No. 80-729 — regarding the revision of the Amateur Radio Service rules into "*Plain Language*".

SUMMARY

It is the opinion of this organization, that the proposed revision contains substantive changes and/or omissions which could result in a change in the structure or character of the Amateur Radio Service and that the proposal should be reconsidered in whole or in part.

THE ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. is an organization of more than eight hundred licensed Radio Amateurs living in and around Rochester, New York and its contiguous suburbs. The views contained herein are a consensus opinion of a committee specifically selected to represent a cross-mix of interest, experience, license class, etc. which has met regularly to consider the proposed revision in its entirety and its individual subparts with regards to the stated purpose of the revision and its possible ramifications to the Amateur Radio Service.

DISCUSSION

It is the stated purpose of this revision "to make these rules less complex and more understandable". Further, it is stated that, except for those instances specifically identified as major substantive changes, it is not the purpose "to change the structure of the Amateur Radio Service in this rulemaking". The "principle interest" being "in developing a plain language statement of the rules as they now exist".

As to the basic purpose, this plain language does, in fact, simplify the rules and make them more understandable, esp. for some individuals such as the very young licensee. However, as to the second premise that the structure of the Service, itself, is not being changed, it is our opinion that the proposed revision does not meet this criteria.

It is felt that several material changes in the rules exist, through error, oversight, or omission, which have the actual or potential effect of a substantive change to the structure of the Service and should be reconsidered. Specifically, we strongly disagree with the proposed changes enumerated as follows:

Proposed Rule - Part 97.1 (AR Rule 1):

The proposed rule purports to define the Amateur Radio Service *does not include* any reference to the aspects of *public service, emergency communications, international goodwill, or self-training*. We consider these aspects to be integral parts of the function of the Amateur Radio Service and inherent to the character of the Service. We further believe that the exclusion of these from the definition of the Service will ultimately result in a "down-grade" of the Service.

Proposed Rule 97.29 (AR Rule 29) & Proposed Rule 97.312 (Tech Rule 12):

It is felt that the two-per-year rule in the definition of "Manufacturing" and the related "type-acceptance" requirement is too restrictive and will severely limit technical aspects, including the

(Continued on page 4)

RDXA: MEETS OCTOBER 20th

by Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

The Rochester DX Association is gearing up for the *CQ Worldwide Phone Contest* that takes place on October 24 and 25th. Last year our club members turned in a combined score of around one million points. With an increase of Dx'ing interest locally there is a good chance of adding a significant point total to last year score.

The meeting will take place at 8:00 p.m. October 20th at the Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Boulevard. Contest rules, entry forms and log sheets will be available there along with tips on how to operate in an event of this type. Remember that in a club effort every little bit counts; and, obtaining a score of 50,000 is really not that difficult to achieve.

The RDXA welcomes new-comers to the DX scene and encourages all to stop by and meet the group members who are trying to make this town a familiar name to Dx'ers around the world.

OCTOBER RAG CALENDAR

- 2 RaRa Meeting, 8 p.m., lower meeting room of the Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum & Science Center, East Avenue at Goodman Street
- 3 Syracuse Hamfest
- 7 RaRa Board of Directors meeting, 8 p.m., at QTH of K2RJ.
- 9 Rochester VHF Group meeting, 8 p.m., Harris-RF Communications, 1700 University Avenue.
- 12 RAG DEADLINE for November issue.
- 16 RRRRA meeting, 8 p.m., Pittsford Town Hall.
- 17 Simulated Emergency Test. (See article)
- 20 RDXA meeting, 8 p.m., Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Boulevard.
- 21-25 Antique Wireless Association National Historical Radio Conference, Sheraton Inn, Canandaigua, NY.

HOW ABOUT A BUS TO DAYTON - '82 ?

It is a bit early to get into the final details for the Dayton Hamvention in April 1982. But right now is the proper moment to show your hand in interest. Roger Dennis, WB2HWO, is trying to gather an idea of the amount of interest in getting together to hire a bus to take a group from Rochester to the Dayton site. Roger has on reservation a block of rooms at a motel that's about five miles from the grounds. He is also willing to organize the bus arrangements. No sign up list is needed now but he would like to hear from you if you would like to take such a trip with your friends and club members. Further details about this activity will follow as the time gets closer and the arrangements develop. Call Roger at 225-6392.

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RAG SEEKS BUSINESS MANAGER

The *RaRa Rag* is searching for a club member who would be interested in serving as Business Manager. The main duties would consist of seeking out advertisers for the *RAG* and servicing present accounts. If interested please contact Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, the *RAG* Editor.

RaRa RESPONDS (Continued from page 2)

traditional "homebrewing" as well as the ever-popular group and club projects.

Proposed Rule 97.36 (AR Rule 36):

The intent of the rule is obvious, however, we would suggest that subpart (a) be modified to read "a person, vehicle, or ship in distress".

Proposed Rule 97.54 (AR Rule 54):

It is felt that subpart (a) is inadequate as to circumstances resulting in interference in as much as it is not restricted to interference resulting to equipment of adequate design. It is strongly felt that the standard of "good engineering design, including adequate selectivity characteristics" should be retained.

Subpart (b) is unreasonable in as much as there is no limitation on the amount of restricted time that can be imposed upon an Amateur Radio Station. We recognize the need for flexibility and suggest that restrictions imposed be in the nature of periods of quiet time interspaced with equal periods of operating time.

Proposed Rule 97.55 (AR Rule 55):

The "screening" requirement "before" transmission places a prohibitive requirement upon the control operator and has the potential to eliminate auto-patch in all but the most sophisticated and expensive systems. Also, the "any restrictions" of subpart 2 (b) grants too much unrestricted authority to the telephone companies and leaves the Amateur Radio Service with no recourse in the case of disagreement with the restrictions imposed.

Proposed Rule 97.57 (AR Rule 57):

It is felt that the present requirement of requiring the notation and signature of the control operator, if other than the licensee, and information on third-party traffic, contained within the Station's records (log) are within the better interests of Amateur Radio and should be retained in the rules.

Further, the word "term" is ambiguous. Does a "renewal" constitute a continuation of a term or does the receipt of a new license with a new effective and expiration date constitute a new term eliminating the necessity to retain any information relative to a period prior to the effective date of the current license in one's possession?

The intent of the "possession of rules" requirement is obvious although impractical because it places an unrealistic burden on both the licensee and the FCC unless the rules are revised on a less frequent basis than they have been in recent years. At the present time, no licensee could be in compliance short of subscribing to the *Code of Federal Regulations* and the *Federal Register*. To obtain the intended result, the FCC would have to restrict itself to revising rules at periods at not less than annually and provide a source of the rules at nominal cost as well as in a form useable by the handicapped.

In addition to those areas enumerated above, it should be noted that some individuals disagree with other areas of the proposed revision that are not being commented upon in this opinion as a whole.

Respectfully Submitted by

THE ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Donald H. Drennan, W2EBF, President

ARRL STOPS FREQUENCY MEASURING TEST

by Dwight Hill, K2KWK

For those who think some things the ARRL does are a bit stale, consider the following.

In consultation with the ARRL General Manager it has been decided to discontinue the FMT after the run made September 13. The original reason for this activity was to help the ARRL Official Observers qualify for different classes of appointment. Now with the ease of obtaining a frequency counter and the ease of making it accurate plus the many digital readout devices and rigs with that feature, this need has passed by the board. It is no longer necessary, to have FMT qualification to be an OO. Further, the measuring test umpire, Mr. Floyd Root, K7AS, has announced his wish to retire as umpire. Lastly, to continue to have a FMT using W1AW would be expensive. There are other frequency standards of far better stability than those at W1AW that could be utilized for a future event. To bring the equipment at W1AW up to these standards would be too expensive for the few contestants, now numbering about 75. Recently the ARRL sent a letter to FMT participants asking for response on the usefulness of the FMT. The consensus of those most active in this event was to discontinue this activity.

TNX to W1XX in QCD

GOLDWATER SAYS PLAIN LANGUAGE RULES DEAD

Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA has told reporters that the plain language rewrite of the Amateur Radio rules is for all intents and purposes a dead issue and will not be pursued further.

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