

# The RARA RAG

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NO. 3

## AUCTION! AUCTION! NOVEMBER 6th MEETING

The annual RaRa Auction will take place at the Rochester Police and Fire Academy on Scottsville Road opposite the Monroe County Airport on Friday, November 6. Chief Auctioneer, "Smilin' Ed" Gable, K2MP, will pound the gavel at 8:00 p.m. *sharp*. The auditorium will be open about 7 p.m. for set-up and browsing. All RaRa members are welcome, and members may bring one guest. The membership chairman will be at the door for the convenience of those who wish to join or renew their memberships.

Please note that the club does not assume any responsibility for the condition of items sold. All items are auctioned "*as-is*" "*where is*" unless the seller specifies otherwise. The club collects 10% of the purchase price from the *seller* after the item has been sold.

## BILL PROPOSED TO EXEMPT HAM GEAR FROM SALES TAX

Legislation will be introduced into the current session of the New York State Legislature to exempt bona-fide Amateur Radio equipment from state (and local) sales tax. The bill will recognize the emergency and public-service communications aspect of Amateur Radio and the technical sophistication of the equipment needed. The passage of this bill would also tend to make Amateur Radio suppliers in New York competitive with the out-of-state outlets and may even cause more of them to spring up. Write your state assemblymen and state senators and ask that they endorse and even co-sponsor this bill.

## RDXA MEETS NOVEMBER 17th

The Rochester DX Association will meet at the Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Boulevard at 8:15 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17th.

The program for that evening will be announced in the meeting notice sent to the members by mail. See you there, if you can tear yourself away from the good "*condx*" lately.

## HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT AUCTION

by Ronald Jakubowski, K2RJ

The following hints, gathered through experience by attending many ham radio auctions should help you get a fair price for the items you put on the block. To be successful at auction, however, you must be willing to take a chance. Hams do not come to an auction expecting to pay list price for a piece of unknown equipment. A ham must be made to believe that he is getting a bargain.

1. Avoid putting a minimum bid on anything. They tend to turn people off. If you feel compelled to state a minimum, either make it the rock-bottom lowest you will consider, or else make it higher and be prepared to "*Chinese*" it. A Chinese auction is one in which the auctioneer starts going *down* in price by some increment and the first person to bid on it buys it. If two or more people bid at the same time, the auctioneer will start to bid it up again.

2. Avoid bringing large boxes of non-descript junk. "Junk" usually gets a good price at auction, but only when it looks attractive and the price is right. Pick out some of the better-looking "*treasures*" from your junk box, clean them up and throw the rest out. You may be pleasantly surprised.

3. Don't sell an item before it is put up for auction. If one person is interested, chances are that several more are interested also. You may sell your item at the minimum when it could have been bid up to several times that amount.

4. Make sure that your item is well-marked with the description, condition, your name and call sign and any other information that will help the auctioneer get top dollar for it.

## SILENT KEYS

W3SW, "Connie Mac" in his home at Bethesda, Maryland. Former Director of our Atlantic Division of the ARRL, also SSB pioneer and engineer with the Naval Research Lab.

K2YMM, Haywood Parker, Jr., Pittsford, New York.

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## HARVEY'S HAM

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## MEMBERSHIP NOTES . . .

As of October 9th, RaRa membership stood at 917, which includes 116 new members this season. If you are among the 345 members who have not submitted a renewal application as yet, you are urged to do so by mail or in person as soon as possible, inasmuch as the membership year ended on October 31st. Contact Irv Goodman, AF2K, or Ed Maher, WB2ZJY, if you desire another application form.

The brand new area Directory, containing over 1500 listings, will be available at the November 6th Auction for all paid-up members. The blue coupons should expedite distribution. Members are urged not to mail back the blue cards for redemption. RaRa Membership Committeemen make themselves available at meetings three Friday nights per month. If you are unable to attend a meeting or have a friend retrieve your Directory, one can be mailed; however a small contribution to help counter rising postage costs would be gratefully appreciated. Many thanks.

— I. J. Goodman, AF2K  
Membership Chairman

## MORE "PLAIN LANGUAGE", ARRL FILING

by Dwight Hill, K2KWK, ARRL P.I.A.

The ARRL made a lengthy comment of 23 pages to the FCC proposal for new amateur rules written in plain language format, question and answer style. Even a summary of the complete filing gets very long so if anyone is interested in what the ARRL had to say to the FCC on our behalf please contact me so a time or meeting can be arranged. A summary written for the *RaRa RAG* was just too long to publish without cutting out some of the important points. What they basically told the FCC was to forget it.

## LIBRARY HAS CALLBOOK TELEPHONE SERVICE

Area amateurs are reminded that the Rochester Rundel Public Library keeps a current U.S. and foreign Callbook with current supplement at the Science Section reference desk. These books are provided to the library by RaRa as another service for the local hams. More unique is a special service provided by the library. By calling the Science Section desk at 428-7372, a librarian will gladly look up any callsign and give you the name and address over the phone. Lets all make use of this service so we don't lose it.

## KOMENSKI SEEKS VICE-DIRECTORSHIP

by Jim O'Brien, K2UDP

Alan Komenski, Past President of RaRa, also known as AC2K, is on the ballot running against the incumbent for Vice-Director of ARRL's Atlantic Division. This is an excellent opportunity to take representation in this important post away from the "big apple". ARRL ballots have been mailed and should be in all ARRL members hands, Return your ballot no later than the 17th of November.

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## HUGH TURNBULL FOR RE-ELECTION

by Len Gessin, WA2ZNC

Full members of the ARRL Atlantic Division have received ballots to vote with in the election for Vice-Director, an active and valuable job. Your ballot must be received at ARRL Headquarters not later than noon of Friday, November 20, 1981. Ballots will only be opened and counted at that time. If you have other things to send the ARRL, *Don't* put them into the ballot envelope.

Our present Vice-Director lives in College Park, Maryland, just on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. Hugh believes in being responsive to the ARRL membership and effectively assisting the Director. Because he is so close to Washington he has also been very active in supporting ARRL's numerous efforts in the Nation's capital. This alone is of constant value to all ARRL members.

His amateur radio operating interests include contesting, DX and just plain rag-chewing. He is active in the Goddard Amateur Radio Club. He is a past President of the Foundation for Amateur Radio. He also belongs to the Green Mountain Repeater Association, the Potomac Valley Radio Club, the QCWA, AMSAT, and the ARRL. He was Assistant Director 1974-79; Vice-Director 1979 to date and ARRL Board Liaison for the Radio Frequency Interference Task Group.

Hugh is a Registered Professional Engineer. He was in the Navy during WWII. As an engineer he was employed with the FCC, Voice of America, and NASA. Although currently retired he is still interested in helping others as a member of the Retired Volunteer Service Corps at the nearby University of Maryland, where he serves as a Learning Center Advisor.

## NOVEMBER RAG CALENDAR

6. Annual RaRa Auction, 8 p.m., Police & Fire Academy, Scottsville Road. (*See article*)
11. RaRa Board of Directors Meeting
11. November RAG deadline.
13. Rochester VHF Group Meeting, 8 p.m., Harris-RF Communications, 1700 University Avenue.
17. Rochester DX Association Meeting, 8:15 p.m., Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Boulevard.
20. Rochester Radio Repeater Assn, Inc. Meeting, 8 p.m., Pittsford Town Hall. (*See article*)

## Technicians

RF Communications Division of Harris is a world leader in the design and manufacture of state-of-the-art military and commercial 2-way radio systems. Increased demand for our products has created exceptional opportunities for Manufacturing Test Technicians.

**MFG. TEST TECH.** Position requires ability to align, test, and troubleshoot to the component level, complex HF, VHF, UHF radio equipment. Experience in one or more of the following: transmitters, receivers, antenna couplers, TTY equipment, and transceivers. Practical experience with analog and digital circuits is necessary as is familiarity with operation of state-of-the-art test equipment. AAS degree, military training, or equivalent experience is required. Amateur radio background helpful. Relocation assistance is available.

If interested in high technology exposure and long term personal growth, please forward resume and salary history to Ms. Ann Francis, Harris Corporation, RF Communications Division, 1680 University Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14610.



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# TOWER APPROVAL GUIDELINES

by Mike Rice, KB2SG

Recently there has been significant judicial activity on a national basis regarding the application of zoning ordinances to amateur radio antennas. This indicates that some guidelines for the ham who wishes to obtain required local approval for the erection of an antenna tower are necessary. With this in mind, and with the assistance of RaRa members, I would like to prepare a suggested set of guidelines for use by the individual amateur operator in preparing and presenting a case for needed re-zoning, site plan approval or zoning variance approval in the erection of an antenna tower.

Below is a questionnaire requesting information which would greatly assist in the preparation of such a set of guidelines. Please complete it and send it to Michael G. Rice, Esq. (KB2SG), Suite 800, 47 S. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614.

- 
1. Name and call (optional) \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Town \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Tower Type (check appropriately):  
freestanding \_\_\_\_\_  
guyed \_\_\_\_\_  
bracketed \_\_\_\_\_  
roof mounted \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Tower Height (incl. mast) \_\_\_\_\_  
if roof mounted, height above roof: \_\_\_\_\_  
If adjustable tower, range of extension: \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Antenna Type (check appropriately);  
yagi \_\_\_\_\_ no. of elements \_\_\_\_\_  
quad \_\_\_\_\_ height above boom \_\_\_\_\_  
Vertical \_\_\_\_\_ length \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
boom length \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Lot size: \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Did you need
    - 1) Zoning Board or other local approval?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
if yes, from what authority? \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) FAA approval? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_(Note: if you needed either approval but did not seek it, you need not answer this question.)
  8. Comments:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# A COUPLE OF DX TIPS

by Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

For those who are getting DX fever, there must be many questions regarding how to snag the more exotic stations that you hear in the pile-ups. Taking into account that you have a station that is competitive with the majority of the average DX hunters, something extra will be needed to provide an edge over the rest of the pack. Here are a few pointers that should give you a jump on the others in your quest for those rare ones.

Each DX band has an opening to a particular part of the world at a certain time each day. Your being around when this occurs will give you a chance to get in there first if a rare one shows. Along with this, you should check DX "window" in both the SSB and CW portion of the band. This will provide a quick indication of propagation conditions to the area of your interest.

When you come upon a DX station that is on your wanted list, don't panic! Listen carefully to the conversation and find out if he is working by call area by a list, or if he is taking anyone who calls next. To many DX'ers jump in before they listen and cause a commotion which upsets both the DX station and others who have been patiently waiting their turn. On CW listen for at least one contact if possible to see if he is working on his frequency or if he is listening up from his transmitting frequency.

Lastly, to keep on top of the DX scene, it would be wise to subscribe to one of the many DX bulletins. These tabloids provide information on current and pending DX activity. This can help you allocate your hunting time most effectively.

I hope the above information, along with your "on the air experience" will increase that DXCC country count much faster than you expected.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The ARRL transmits a DX bulletin each Friday (UTC Time) from W1AW at 18 wmp CW, on 3580, 7080 and 1835 kHz, 8 p.m., 11 p.m., 10 a.m., 5 p.m.)



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## CANALTOWN DAYS

by Bruce Blair, WB2QKO

On September 19 and 20th, twenty-four radio amateurs descended on Palmyra, New York, to assist with the 15th Annual Canaltown Days Celebration. The results were outstanding. The Chairman of the event was surprised, and pleased, with how smoothly the weekend events went.

Amateur radio operators provided communications for the 15 kilometer (9.3 mile) foot race, a parade, canal boat ride, information booth and the "P.A." announcer. Those were the Saturday events. Amateurs also provided communications for the horse drawn vehicle parade, the canoe race and again the canal boat ride and information booth on Sunday. We still wonder if canoe 5 found their six pack? "Runners" were assigned to various committee chairmen and these people literally "ran" as the chairmen seldom stood still. In addition to the event communications, amateur radio assisted with traffic control for the park's one lane road and with safety in the foot race. Al Cook, K2MPE, became an electrician during a power failure in the park, (he found and replaced the blown fuse). Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, and RaRa Vice-President, brought his camper-trailer and thrifty foot mast for the net control position.

Many thanks to the following "hams" for their assistance: N2CSY, N2EH, WA2REC, N2AIJ, WB2JSB, KB2XI, KA2IEL, KA2BNL, K2SQI, WB2TGU, WB2BWQ, N2AOB, W2DHV, WA2UGE, WA2GHQ, KA2BHB, KA2LFW, N2COJ, K2RJ, N2AGQ, K2MPE, KA2J, and WA2CER.

## 220 MHz Repeater on Xerox Tower

The Xerox Amateur Radio Club has installed a 220 MHz repeater atop Xerox tower, the highest building in Rochester. WB2IMT/R transmits on 224.68 MHz and receives on 223.08 MHz (standard 1.6 MHz split) with 175 watts ERP. Reports so far have found coverage to extend out to Oneida on the east, Naples on the south, and the Depew exit of the NYS Thruway on the west. There have been no reports from Canada as yet. There is full-quieting handheld coverage throughout most of Monroe county.

While the repeater does have Autopatch capability, it is currently restricted due to the type of phone service currently being utilized, and must be requested from a control operator. The XARC invites all area amateurs to make use of this repeater.

## RaRa PREPARED FOR GINNA NUCLEAR PLANT EVACUATION

Seventy percent of the RaRa members who volunteered to help provide communications in the event of an emergency at the Rochester Gas and Electric Ginna Nuclear Power Plant could have responded on August 22, according to the results of an unannounced drill conducted on that date. Out of a total of 30 hams signed-up, 24 were able to be contacted and 21 could have participated in an actual emergency that date. Maximum response time would have been 2½ hours.

Amateur radio communications is a key part of both the Monroe and Wayne County federally mandated evacuation plans. There will be a full-scale drill sometime in November to test these evacuation plans. If you are interested in adding your name to the list of volunteers, contact Ed Holdsworth, N2EH.

## RAG WANT-ADS EXPANDED

Starting with this issue, space will be dedicated for individual members want-ads. Previously, want-ad items were used as filler material on a space-available basis only. However, I have decided to expand this feature as an added service to RaRa members.

To qualify, the ads must be non-commercial and from RaRa members. Ads will be free of charge and ads from non-members will not be accepted. Due to space limitations, it may be necessary to limit the number of items in any one individual's ad. A general exception will be made, however, for estate sales of deceased members.

Deadlines for the want-ad items will be the same as for other material as listed in the September RAG. Please send your copy to Associate Editor, Dwight Hill, K2KWK, to reach him as far in advance of the deadline as possible. All items must be submitted in writing. No phone calls please!

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## NOVEMBER RRA PROGRAM ON SWR AND ANTENNAS

The November 20th Rochester Radio Repeater Association, Inc. meeting will feature Ron Jakubowki, K2RJ, Club Technical Director, with a program on the myths of SWR or "where does all the power go?" At the Pittsford Town Hall, Ron will demonstrate the effects of SWR on transmitter matching and antenna performance, explain in general terms the concepts involved and entertain questions from the floor. Ron is a senior electronics engineer with Harris-RF Communications in Short Range Radio Products.

The N2JC/R repeater on 28/88 has been suffering from some external signals causing desensitization of the system receiver. This is why some signals are almost full quieting at one moment and the next moment they are not making the repeater. The combination of transmitters on the Cobbs/Pinnacle hills have not yet been found, and given the number of transmitters in the area, it may never be found. A plan is in the works, however, to get a remote receiver on-line and voted into the system along with the present receiver. With any luck, this could be accomplished before Christmas. If the concept works, in a short period of time we could have several voting receivers throughout the county. So, please hang in there, and when problems arise "Please do not adjust your set."

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## RaRa JACKETS NOW AVAILABLE IN YELLOW

Club jackets can now be ordered in yellow with green lettering as well as in the familiar green with yellow lettering. The price is the same, and the name and callsign can still be stitched on the front as before. Prices of the jackets are \$20.25 for the winter pile lining, \$17.25 for the lighter kasha lining, and \$13.75 for the unlined. Send or give your check (or cash if in person) to the club treasurer, Gil Chapin, WB2UTI, along with the size requested (S, M, L, XL), and the name and call to be placed on the jacket.

**VALENTINE DINNER-DANCE**

WILL BE

**FEBRUARY 13th, 1982**

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!**

## RDXA MEMBERS WINS LOW POWER CLASS: ARRL DX CONTEST

by Rick Berg, WA2RLQ

Fred Groner, W2TZ, came in first place in the phone section and took second place in the CW section for low power entries competing in the 1981 ARRL DX contest. Fred scored an average of 600k points in each event. These fantastic scores are not due to an elaborate antenna system, but are due to an operator who has mastered the art of contesting.

The RDXA, as a club, came in 18th out of thirty-five in the medium class club category with a club score of 2.1 million points. This is the first entry for the RDXA in competition since the late fifties and is only the beginning of an upward climb for a club that is determined to put Rochester back on the DX map.

Other RDXA members took the Western New York Section (WNY) on 10, 15, and 20 meters. They are respectively Bob Maser, W2IJJ; Gary Winkelman, KB2NU; and Rick Berg, WA2RLQ.

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**FOR SALE** - Heathkit SB-102 Transceiver, 80 thru 10, 180 watts p.e.p. SSB with CW filter. Includes Heath digital frequency readout and power supply. \$350.00. Contact Ray DeMers, W2KVP, at 381-8925 or 425-1742.

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**FOR SALE** - Heathkit AC Generator Model GU-1820, 2200 watts, 4 months old. New at \$479.95, selling for \$350.00. Contact Joe Kernaghan, KA2AEY, 392-654.

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**FOR SALE** - Kenwood TR-7400A transmitter for two meter FM, with an "AED" Scanner and "Pipo" touch tone pad. Cost \$450.00, for sale at \$265. Contact Bill White, K2KAD, at 671-5588.

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**FOR SALE** - Bogen Paging transmitter, encoder, 2 pagers, tone and voice, portable antenna and carrying case. RTTY Printer and Convertors ST-5, ST-6, M-15, M-26, M-28. Heathkit IO-30 scope with manual and probes. Hunter 2 KW Amplifier for 10 to 80 meters. Desk Top model with four #872 tubes. Contact Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, 248-2511.

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**FOR SALE** - Kenwood TS-700-A transceiver for two meter SSB. Also two "KLM" amplifiers for the two meter band, PA-10-70 BL, and PA-15-110 CL. Also a Janel model QSA-5 pre-amplifier. Contact Sax Ringler, W2SAW, 671-5616.