

The RARa RAG

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FEBRUARY 1982

NO. 6

FEBRUARY MEETING: MID-WINTER SURPRISE !

The February RaRa meeting will be held Friday, February 5th at 8 p.m. in the lower meeting room of the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum and Science Center, South Goodman Street at East Avenue. As of January 24th, the program had not yet been firmed up, but Vice-President and Program Chairman Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, assures us there will be an excellent program (or two) so come and be surprised !

RaRa PRESIDENT OUT OF HOSPITAL

Don Drennan, W2EBF, RaRa's president, suffering from a kidney ailment, was released from the hospital in time to build up a formidable score in the January VHF contest. He hopes to be getting out to the meetings soon and resuming some of his normal activities. We all wish him a speedy recovery and the very best of luck.

K2RJ

VALENTINE DINNER—DANCE: FEBRUARY 13th

In about two weeks the Valentine Dinner-Dance will be here. If you still haven't purchased your tickets plan on purchasing them at the February RaRa Meeting. Our Dinner-Dance will be at Barry's Party House on Saturday the 13th starting at 6:30 p.m. The tickets are \$13.00 which include your choice of Stuffed Breast of Chicken, Roast Sirloin of Beef or Broiled Fresh White Fish. Our after-dinner entertainment is being provided by the Peter Matina Orchestra. The event this year promises to be very successful, so plan on attending.

Contact Pete Secrist, WB2SUN, or any RaRa Board Member for your tickets.

K2OS ACCEPTS NEW RAG STAFF POSITION

The RAG now has an advertising manager with the appointment of Frank Pollino, K2OS. Frank recently moved to the Rochester area from Batavia and is employed by Harris-RF Communications as the engineering buyer in the Purchasing Department. He is a charter member of the Genesee Radio Amateurs (GRAM) and was at one time the editor of the GRAM Newsletter. He is well noted for his big signal on VHF and UHF and for his many contest expeditions. We wish him the best of luck in his new job with the RAG.

RADIO WORLD TO SPONSOR MINI-FEST FEBRUARY 20th

Radio World of Oriskany, New York is sponsoring a Mini-Fest February 20th at the terminal building of the Oneida County Airport. ICOM will be co-hosting the event and will be showing their latest models. There will be a free indoor flea-market for non-commercial individuals. Free coffee will be served and other food and refreshments will be available. Flea-marketeers must bring their own tables and chairs.

The Oneida County Airport is located 5 minutes from exit 32 of the New York State Thruway.

SILENT KEY

Alvin L. Mumby, "AF", WB2MCP
Past President of RaRa. Member of ARRL, Rochester VHF Group, RRRRA, Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club and AWA. Proud Possessor of the 'secret' formula for RaRa Hot Chocolate. Al was not afraid to think, to do, to be involved. He was not ashamed to show us how to try and try again. He always knew there was a solution, even when it would elude him. He was open, a seeker, and always a friend. /

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RaRa LICENSE CLASSES RESUME FEBRUARY 22nd

RaRa license classes will resume February 22 for Novice and General classes. They will be held at RaRa's new club station location at 111 Westfall Road, the 11-story County Health and Welfare Building. Class starting time is 7:30 p.m. and will continue each Monday until May 10. Those who wish to sign-up can contact Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, at the February RaRa meeting or call him at 624-1929 evenings, or 546-2700 ext. 3304 days.

The fees are as follows:

Novice—\$8.00—Includes associate membership in RaRa, registration and books.

General—\$13.00—Includes full membership in RaRa, registration and books.

(Those already members may deduct the membership dues from above.)

Advanced classes will be offered in the Spring and details will appear in the March RAG.

The COPS COLUMN

by Howie Davies, N2CUN

After much discussion with club members, I thought a monthly article with little tidbits of information would make for interesting reading. Now that winter is upon us and the highways become a test of your driving skills, some things to keep in mind. Remove ice and snow from all of the windows. Next check you car for safe tires and make sure the engine is in good running order. One last item to check before venturing out in the rush hour traffic is the "GAS GAUGE".

For those of you that have 2 meters in the car each time you come on the air, give your location, road conditions and how traffic is moving, this will give everyone a good idea on what to expect and whether or not to use a different route. If you happen to come across a situation on the highway where you believe help is needed don't hesitate to use the *FUZZ BUZZ*, that's what its there for. Every member with a radio is an extra pair of eyes and I can tell you that your help is needed and appreciated. I wish more people would get involved.

Until next month, keep your wheels between the ditches and this here smokey will stay off your britches!!! Hi Hi.

LAST CHANCE:

VALENTINE DINNER-DANCE

K2JD CLUB STATION RELOCATED SUCCESSFULLY

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

Late in October, the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness notified us that they had to move to the basement of the County Health and Welfare Building at 111 Westfall Road and that our Club Station would move with them.

Saturday, December 5th, and Sunday, December 6th, a group of 23 formed to begin the move to K2JD's new quarters. The work force was organized into several small groups that began work in both locations. All equipment was dismantled, removed and made ready to transport to the new location by the demolition experts, while the reconstruction experts prepared the new quarters. Our HF beam, a full-sized Hy-Gain TH6DXX was somehow miraculously moved intact (without dismantling!) from 350 East Henrietta Road to 111 Westfall Road without use of a helicopter.

While the relocation of equipment was proceeding, another group was hard at work installing the necessary cables to link the radios in the basement to the antennas on the roof. In all, over 2000 feet of coax, control cables and phone lines were threaded through the building.

The tower and antennas were installed during the week after Christmas, so that as 1982 began, operation of K2JD was in full swing.

The club owes a great deal to those who assisted with the move and who in-total donated over 500 hours of precious pre-Christmas and post-Christmas time. We owe a great debt of thanks to the following: K2MP, WA2UGE, WB2IEY, KA2GLD, WA2GHQ, KA2KGM, KC2EI, K2RJ, WB2ZJY, KA8IGS, WB2JON, WA2YTM, N2CTB, WA2SOK, K2UW, N2JC, KA0ADV, N2BNE, N2BEL, WB2DPT, Don Dunk, Norm Peters and Steve Gulack. I sincerely hope I have not missed anyone; if I have, please accept my sincere apologies.

FEBRUARY RAG CALENDAR

- 5 - RaRa meeting, 8 p.m., lower meeting hall of the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum and Science Center, South Goodman Street at East Avenue.
- 10 - RaRa Board of Directors meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 10 - March RAG Deadline
- 12 - Rochester VHF Group meeting, 8 p.m., Harris-RF Communications, 1700 University Avenue
- 13 - RaRa Annual Valentine Dinner-Dance, 6:30 p.m., Barry's Party House, 4370 Dewey Avenue
- 16 - RDXA meeting, 8:15 p.m., Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Boulevard
- 19 - RRRR meeting, 8 p.m., Pittsford Town Hall, South Main Street, Village of Pittsford

RDXA MEETS FEBRUARY 16th

by Rick Berg, KS2F

The Rochester DX Association will meet on Tuesday, February 16th, 8:15 p.m. at the Colonial Hotel on 1129 Empire Boulevard. For those who arrive early the lounge provides an ideal spot to get acquainted before the meeting starts.

Log sheets and Check sheets will be on hand for those who wish to contribute to the RDXA Club score in the upcoming ARRL CW and Phone Contests. The RDXA is trying to equal or better its 1981 score. All members are encouraged to participate in these events.

The February 16th meeting agenda and evening program will be announced in the monthly mailing to RDXA members. See *YOU* there!

FOR SALE - RF-1550 2-meter FM transceiver, 100 watts output, crystals for most popular Rochester, Buffalo and simplex channels included, \$175. Contact Roger Pawlowski, WB2GVB at 247-5274.

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RRRA MEETS FEBRUARY 19th

President Ray Pickens, WA2MYG, announces the February meeting to be held at 8 p.m. on Friday the 19th. The Rochester Radio Repeater Club will be back in its long standing meeting location, the Pittsford Town Hall on South Main Street in the Village.

The tentative program is to be put on by Fred Cupp, W2DUC, and his friends and associates. So come on out to Pittsford and join the fun.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS ?

Are you aware that *YOU* could have one, or more, of these for your jacket or collection ? These are awarded to those RaRa members who participate in one of the many RaRa Public Service Activities. They come in a three inch size, with green printing on a gold background surrounded by a green border.

The idea is to recognize those who participate by giving time and talent to a amateur radio public service opportunity. This activity is usually monitored by RaRa Vice-President Ed Holdsworth, N2EH. See Ed about joining some future public service activity.



"SITE EMERGENCY" !!

Everyone agrees ! A civil emergency drill is a good thing to have once in a while. Even on a cold blustery day, it's a good thing. Fortunately our most recent drill involved our friendly and quiet neighborhood "nuke".

I wonder what everyone may think now about all these drills – now that the drill for a site emergency beat out the real-life main event by barely four days ?

Wasn't it great how smoothly the radio hams worked ? Was it luck ? Was it the training that has gone on for over a year ? What foresight installed that nearby civil defense repeater ?

It isn't quite fair to suggest the hams feared an emergency like this when they prepared for it.

Nor is it fair to say they are all macho about it either – for they just won't talk about it much.

Nor do they get paid. Not even for their gasoline, time-off, clothing, etc. These are amateurs – people who volunteer. Their skills come through practice.

They can be proud, if they will be. But I suspect they will just go on practicing, without saying too much. But inside – they should know they have done a fine job for their community.

They are dedicated to provide a voluntary emergency communications service to the public. This kind of job is a major reason for radio amateurs to have all the frequency space we do. These amateurs from Wayne and nearby counties have made us all look good. They have come out looking pretty good too.

Dwight Hill, K2KWK

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CALLING ALL BUSES!

by "Billie" Robinson, WB2FNF

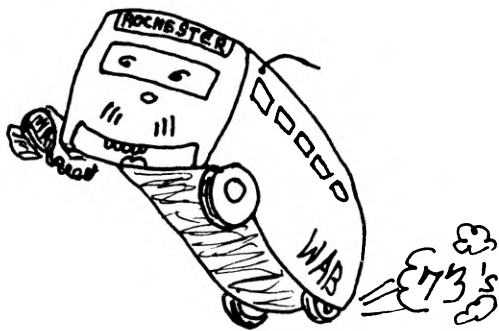
There's been a lot of talk on two-meters recently about the "Bus Rigs" on 6-meter FM and the certificate for working them. I thought you might be interested in how all this madness started.

A little over a year ago the local Transit Authority decided to upgrade their radio equipment. Joe Calzaretta, K2VI, heard about the availability of the old radios and talked to his friend, Bob Boyack, K2OXT, about them. Together they decided to put in a bid for some of them, and as luck (?) would have it, they wound-up owning all 135 or so of them. They resold them to local Amateurs at a nearly break-even price after fully checking and tuning each one. Thus the "Bus Rigs" were born.

During the 1981 January VHF Contest and for a little while afterwards there was a flurry of activity on 6-FM. Slowly it dwindled to only a few hams who faithfully used the "Bus Rigs" for chit-chat to free-up the local repeaters whenever possible. Generally 6-FM activity became pretty quiet and there was talk about some way to increase activity. Bob Neal, W2XG, mentioned to me last spring that there had been talk of issuing a certificate for Worked All Buses (WAB) and wondered if anybody would be interested in drawing it up. I decided to submit an idea for consideration, and those who saw it liked it. But nothing more happened until one night in December when Lee and Ed VanGrol, WA2YEK and K2RHS, were visiting me and the certificate again became the topic of conversation. After thinking about it and getting much encouragement from Lee and Ed, I had it printed. The certificate became available January 1st when the first 6-FM contact of the new year was made.

Interest and activity are growing. Sometimes the pursuits are hilarious. What the poor operator has to go through to find his serial number is worth recording. One guy told me this has been the most fun of any contest he has been in. But some want it to be even more challenging. Right for now it seems to be enough to try to collect more than 25 "Bus" serial numbers in the Rochester area. At this point I have collected a total of 24. One fellow reports talking to 9 people but only getting credit for 4 "busses". He has a unique challenge.

"How do I earn a Certificate" you ask? First you turn on your 6 meter FM equipment. Then you contact and log in, 15 "bus serial numbers"; then the call sign, date, time, and QTH. The 15 collected will earn the *Basic Driver Award*. Just to keep you interested you can become an "*Express Driver*" for contacting 5 more and now you



get to put a Blue Star on your certificate. Another 5 busses will award you a Gold Star as you become a "*Senior Driver*". Then, so we don't leave anyone out, collecting 5 "*Tourists*" will earn a Red Star for you. The "*Tourists*" are encouraged to earn the *Basic Driver Certificate* by making the required contacts. To apply for a certificate send in a copy of your log, with \$1.00 (original) to "Billie" Robinson, WB2FNF.

As a reminder to those who achieve a certificate or star award – don't stop now. You should still stay active on six FM to help out the late starters. Some of us have more than one call per bus serial number. But unless there is true joint ownership, such as a family rig, it isn't quite proper to use one radio under different callsigns from the same QTH. The "*Tourists*" won't have a "*bus radio*" and are pretty rare here in the winter – so keep searching. Everyone is having a lot of fun with this, including me. Now that you are all warmed up and working – catch that bus!

FOR SALE – Tempo S1 T with case, regular and flexible antenna, AC and DC charger. Also have battery eliminator (new) for mobile. Contact John Golden, W2IRG, phone 381-4928.

FOR SALE – Heathkit HW101 Transceiver, Model HP-23C Power Supply, HS-1661 Speaker, Factory aligned - Transmitter section used less than one hour. \$295.00 Firm. Contact: Chuck Tremblay, WB2ACB, 58 Heather Dale Chase, Henrietta, NY 14467, 716-359-1591.

FOR SALE: Test Equipment; Contact Gerry Vogt, WA2GCF, 392-6678

Kay 'Mega-Node' – Noise Figure Meter
SinAdder '3' – Sinad/Audio Voltmeter
Heath 'Cantenna'

Solid State 2FM Receiver (4 channel), rack mounted and fully metered.

Tektronics Oscilloscope #922, dual trace, to 15 MHZ

Wavetek #3000 Signal generator to 520 MHZ

SALES TAX BILL TO BE INTRODUCED SOON

by Harold Smith, K2HC
and Rich McCracken, KA2CVN

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association has been successful in drafting a bill eliminating sales tax on all amateur radio equipment and in receiving a commitment from Assemblyman Roger Robach to introduce and sponsor such a bill in the 1982 NYS Legislature.

If successful, this would be a *FIRST* in terms of receiving an economic recognition of the services provided by amateur radio.

To be successful, every ham in RaRa, every club in the state and every vendor will have to take an interest and show his or her support of this legislation.

Our goal is to restore the viability of the local vendor through the removal of the economic disadvantage of local dealers created by sales tax. And, in so doing, gain recognition of the services provided to the community by amateur radio.

Our success depends upon you –

- Talk about this bill to other NYS Hams
- Copy and circulate it
- Write your legislator and encourage others to do the same
- Emphasize Public Service – help secure support from public service agencies, Red Cross, etc.
- Donate a couple of dollars to help pay for monthly mailings to NYS clubs

This is a club project for the benefit of amateur radio in NYS and the Rochester area. It is *our* project and its success depends upon creating enough interest among NYS hams that each and every legislator in the State will receive a substantial number of letters requesting passage.

A newsletter outlining the events of last year's Hamfest and the subsequent disciplining of sales tax officials involved along with this proposed legislation has been mailed to every club in the State.

When talking to NYS hams outside of Rochester, ask them if they are aware of the bill. An SASE to KA2CVN will get them a copy of our newsletter.

FOR SALE – Wilson “Mark II” Handheld, with TT Pad, speaker-mic., charger and belt clip, crystallized for 52/52, 55/55, 28/88, 19/79, 04/64, 115/715. Price \$125.00. Contact KA2CVN, Rich McCracken, (home - 671-0708), (work - 546-5530, X-165).

BILL PROPOSED TO EXEMPT HAM GEAR FROM SALES TAX

An Act to amend the general business law and tax law, in relation to the sale and use of Amateur Radio Equipment.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Findings. The Legislature hereby finds that the Amateur Radio Service, a radio communication service conducted by volunteer licensed amateur radio operators as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency radio communications during periods of local, regional, or national civil emergencies, provides a public service in the area of radio communications directly relating to the safety of life of individuals and/or the immediate protection of property.

The Legislature recognizes that in order for such radio communication services to exist that considerable expense is incurred by amateur radio operators in obtaining the apparatus used for amateur radio communications. The Legislature further recognizes the highly technical and sophisticated nature of modern radio equipment and the limited availability of such equipment.

The Legislature also recognizes the close working relationship between the Amateur Radio Service and the public safety agencies.

It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature to encourage and enhance the Amateur Radio Service through the elimination of sales and use tax on amateur radio equipment.

The general business and tax laws are amended to read as follows:

EXPLANATION – Matter underscored is new matter.

N Y TAX LAW – CH. 60, ART. 28 –
SALES AND USE TAXES

Section 1115. Exemptions from sales and use taxes. – (a) Receipts from the following shall be exempt from tax on retail sales imposed under subdivision (a) of section eleven hundred five and the compensating use tax imposed under section eleven hundred ten: – (22)

Radio communications equipment, including but not limited to transmitters, receivers, antennas, towers, and electronic peripheral equipment purchased by persons holding a valid “Amateur Radio License”, issued by the Federal Communications Commission, for use directly and predominately in amateur radio communications.

ATTENTION ALL PILOTS ! WANTED:

Advanced, private, and student pilots.

For 18 years I have listened as QSO after QSO have turned to airplanes and flying. For the years that I have been a pilot, I have enjoyed these QSO's immensely myself.

What I hope to do is see if there is enough interest in our amateur community to form a group that could eventually be affiliated with RaRa. As we all know, general aviation in this day and age needs all the organized support it can find.

If you are interested, or even curious, *please* call me or drop me a line. Gary E. Perkins, WB2MDC, 49 Karnes Street, Rochester, NY 14606. Phone (home) 458-8393, (work) 428-5679.