

# The RARA RAG

Published by

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association  
INCORPORATED

VOL. 35

OCTOBER 1982

NO. 2

## OCTOBER 1st MEETING AT FARM AND HOME CENTER

The October RaRa meeting will be at a very familiar location for many of us, the Monroe County Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue, between Goodman and South Avenue. We hope that as of our January meeting, we will have a permanent meeting place so that we will not have to hopscotch around town so much from month to month. If you have any ideas, please contact one of the officers or board members. Of course, the November meeting will be our annual auction at the Police and Fire Academy, and the December meeting will be our annual joint meeting with the Kodak Park ARC at Kodak Park.

The October 1st meeting will start promptly at 8 p.m. The program will be on *Amateur Applications of Microcomputers* by Roland Schindler.

## SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST: OCTOBER 16 IN ROCHESTER

The RaRa RACES/ARES/OEP group will be conducting the annual Simulated Emergency Test as usual on Saturday, October 16th. Be monitoring the 28/88 repeater that morning to find out all the details. In the meantime, brush-up on your traffic handling procedures and net procedures. Try to make yourself available to participate even if for just a little while.

### CORRECTION

ROCHESTER HAMFEST  
MAY 20 - 21, 1983

## AWA CONFERENCE — SEPTEMBER 29, 30, OCTOBER 1, 2, and 3

The 21st annual National Conference of the Antique Wireless Association is taking place as you read this, the rest of this week and weekend at the Sheraton Inn in Canandaigua.

The Wednesday activities are limited to early-bird registration, and of course, the opening of the AWA Museum in East Bloomfield from 7 to 10 p.m. On Thursday there is the outdoor flea market, an indoor flea market, a Junior Wireless Club seminar and exhibit, at 3 p.m. and a vacuum tube seminar at 8 p.m.

On Friday there will be the AWA Amateur Meeting at 9 a.m., a show on Radio Astronomy at 10 a.m., a program called "*Lightning Slings*" on the development of semi-automatic keys at 11 a.m., and a special luncheon at noontime. The general auction starts at 1 p.m. There will be a dinner and special entertainment in the evening.

Activity on Saturday will start at 9 a.m. with a program on the development of the Federal Receiver. DeForest: 1906 - 1919 will start at 10 a.m. and Niagara Falls Power Plants will be presented at 11 a.m. Philco Receivers will be presented at 1:30 p.m. and a "*Show and Tell*" with Mel Comer will start at 2:30 p.m. The annual AWA banquet will conclude the formal activities at 7 p.m.

## K2JD OPEN HOUSE OCTOBER 23rd 24

The club will conduct an open house at the K2JD club station, 111 Westfall Road on October 23, 24 Sunday afternoon, from noon to 5 p.m. As you know, the club station was moved from its old home in the Iola complex last year when the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness moved to the County Health and Welfare Building. The station now has more comfortable quarters, and is again available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to those members checked-out on the station equipment. All members are encouraged to come down to inspect THEIR station and to bring their family and friends as well.

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VOL. 35      OCTOBER 1982      NO. 2

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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. Full permission is granted for reprinting articles provided a credit line is given to the RaRa RAG. The RAG exchanges with other organization's publications.

## HARVEY'S HAM

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The new year has started out with a BANG!— The computer services that have been available to the club for the past several years are no longer available to us. We have been able to make arrangements on a short term basis, but to continue the services to the club, a long term solution is needed. To accomplish this, a committee has been appointed to investigate our needs and will be reporting back to the Board of Directors in the near future. If you have expertise in this field and would like to assist the committee or have any suggestions, please contact Doug Wilson, KA8IGS, or Ed Gable, K2MP.

The other major item on the Board's agenda is the requirement to locate a permanent meeting place. We met for many years at the Farm and Home Center but with a change in their policy two or three years ago — we now are unable to meet there on a permanent basis. We have tried different locations, such as the First Federal Building and last year the Eisenhart Auditorium at the Rochester Museum. This year when we attempted to return to the Museum — they had scheduled it for their use the first Friday of each month.

If you have knowledge of a suitable place that might be available, please contact any Officer or Board member and we will investigate its feasibility. I will attempt to keep you up to date on these items as well as other pertinent items that may arise.

## ARRL COMMUNICATOR

OVS RETIRED — The largely dysfunctional Official VHF Station appointment was addressed in Minute 21 of the July Board Meeting. With experience indicating that this appointment has become irrelevant to those active in this very important phase of Amateur Radio, the Board voted to discontinue this appointment. This was done with thanks expressed to those who have faithfully served and with the recognition that efforts continue to be recognized by more appropriate channels.

*Tnx C.D. Newsletter "QCD"*

## COMPUTERS ANYONE??

If you own or have access to a minicomputer, please contact Doug Wilson, KA8IGS, 275-9702 or K2RJ with the information. Doug is conducting the survey to see what is available in the club.

# PUBLIC RELATIONS

by Jim O'Brien, K2UDP

WEBSTER defines "*public relations*" as:

1. The activities and techniques used by organizations and individuals to establish favorable attitudes and responses in their behalf on the part of the general public or of special groups. 2. The state of the relationship between the general public and an institution of any kind.

One can not disagree that it would be a disservice to an organization that excelled in so many areas of communication if it failed to communicate this excellence to potential new members, state and local government, the media and public in general.

The position of Public Relations Director was created several years ago to do as Webster's eloquent definition states

Simply .... to create added visibility for RaRa and its many activities. This is no easy job and cannot be accomplished smoothly with out your help. As you come upon areas of RaRa activity that you feel are not being brought to the attention of the media, let me know. I can not guarantee that I will always be able to use your suggestion but I can insure that your suggestion will be received and kept on file for follow up at the earliest possible time.

Your suggestions will be looked at from the standpoint of benefit derived for RaRa versus effort that must be expended.

At this point we have several P.R. Irons in the fire and here are just a few.

1. A new P.S.A. to replace the very successful WHEC TV Tape is well underway thanks to the efforts of Paul Tanner, WA2MVK, and Bob Erskine, W2NVZ. Very probably voice over will be that of a very prominent movie personality. This will be completed in the near future.

2. A special Democrat & Chronicle "*Upstate*" Section devoted to Amateur Radio appears to be nearing reality. As we get closer I'll keep you posted as your assistance will certainly be welcomed here.

3. I will institute a system to insure rapid update of RaRa Tapes used on our information telephone line.

4. I'll be exploring the radio talk show area once again in the hopes of doing an hour long show similar to the Toby Gold series done several years ago.

Being the Public Relations Director means developing media releases after information on specific activities has been gathered. Being the spokesperson for the organization and devising

# OCTOBER RAG CALENDAR

- 1 October RaRa Meeting, 8 p.m., Monroe County Farm & Home Center, Highland Avenue between Goodman and South
- 1-3 AWA Conference, Canandaigua Sheraton
- 2 Syracuse Hamfest
- 6 RaRa Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 p.m., QTH of W2EBF
- 8 VHF Group Meeting, 8 p.m., Harris/RF Communications, 1700 University Ave.
- 11 November RAG deadline
- 15 RRRRA Meeting, 8 p.m., WROC-TV, 201 Humboldt Street
- 16,17 Annual Simulated Emergency Test
- 19 RDXA Meeting, 8:15 p.m., Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Boulevard
- 23 K2JD Open House, 12 - 5 p.m., 111 Westfall Road

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## AMATEUR RADIO AT THE JCC

An Amateur Radio Station is in the process of being formed at the Jewish Community Center. The station will add Amateur Radio as an activity to JCC programs. The station is seeking contributions of any Amateur equipment or funds. Anyone interested in participating in or contributing to this activity is invited to contact Dave Rubin, N3CKH, at 442-4318 or Ann Weiss, Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618.



## DX COMMUNICATIONS

AMATEUR RADIO - SHORTWAVE - SCANNERS  
COMMERCIAL - CB - MARINE  
BOOKS - MAGAZINES SALES & SERVICE  
New & Used Equipment  
Tower & Antenna Installation & Repair

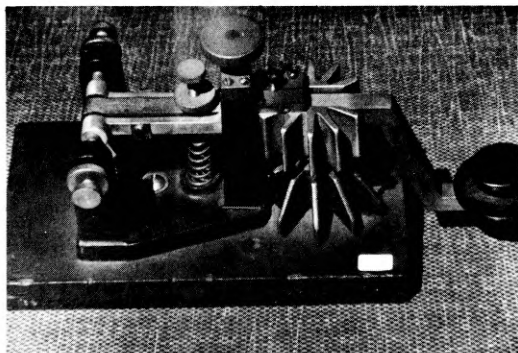
3214 Transit Road  
West Seneca, NY 14224  
(716) 668-8873

Lonnie Keller, WA2AOG  
Owner



methods to keep RaRa visible. Understanding media strategy and having the contacts to be effective are all part of a potential successful P.R. effort.

But no P.R. effort can be successful without input and this is where I need your help. Call me with your thoughts - 244-9905 (home) or 454-2220 (office).



A large key made in 1908 by Dr. Lee DeForest's Wireless Telegraph Company for use at the U.S. Naval Station, Pensacola, Florida. Note the cooling fins. The key was used in the primary of a 10 KW. spark transformer!

## RARE KEYS ON DISPLAY

The A.W.A. Museum (Holcomb) is currently exhibiting 36 rare radio keys, a gift from pioneer commercial operator Ed Raser, W2ZI, of Trenton, New Jersey. The earliest key, of unusual design, is a Civil War hand key used for land-line work. A later military version is one used during WW2 to dispatch flights "flying the hump" from Karachi, India, to Kunming, China.

Another WW2 item is the key removed from Hitler's yacht. The vessel maintained communications with the German U-boat fleet.

Two other "one-of-a-kinds" include the flame-proof model used by Captain Kingsford during the famous "Southern Cross" flight to Australia in 1928 and the key used by W2ZK, while operating with the Byrd expedition at the South Pole in 1934.

The smallest is a French WWI "buzzer" key weighing 3 ounces and the largest, a 18 pounder used by Massie Wireless Company at Point Judith, Rhode Island in 1908.

1982 Museum attendance reached an all-time high this past summer with visitors registering from over 40 states including Alaska and Hawaii as well as several foreign countries. The exhibit is maintained by local radio amateurs, most of whom are RaRa members. The Museum will close for the season on October 24 and re-open next May.

*Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, Curator*

**FOR SALE** – Tower - crank up, tilt over, 42 feet and made by "E-Z Way". Needs paint, no rust, \$575.00.

ICOM #230; for 2fm, a synthesized transceiver – \$150.00.

Contact Jerry Barlow, K2EUR, 301 Bennett Road, Hilton, NY 14468.

## COP'S CORNER

by Howie Davies, N2CUN, RPD

The home of one of our Amateur friends was burglarized while he was on vacation and it was discovered by neighbors while he was away. Yours truly heard the burglary call and responded to assist other officers at his home. I knew that he had his shack in the basement and that was the first place that we checked. I then called him where he was visiting out-of-state and let him know what we found.


When going on vacation or for any prolonged absence from your home, first contact a neighbor, leave a key with him or her along with information on who you can be contacted. Then call your local police or sheriff department and give them the same information. The police will give your house special attention and your neighbor will also. Also, think about installing a security system. They do not necessarily have to be complicated or expensive to be effective. I have just moved into a new home and I plan soon to wire it up with an alarm system.

Another good idea is to write down all the make, model, serial numbers and other identifying information of everything from TV sets, your ham gear to lawn mowers, cameras, etc. These numbers help us ID stolen items and return them to their proper owners when recovered.

In other news, October 1st you may put studded tires on your vehicles. Also, I still haven't heard anything from Albany on Amateur Radio call sign plates for commercial vehicles. Have a safe and happy halloween from badge #347.

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**ESTATE SALE** –Hallicrafters S-108 RCVR with Q-Mult and S-Meter, \$50.00. Also RF Signal Generator, VTVM (two), Tube Tester, and Grid Dip Meter. \$10.00 each or offer. Mearle Ingalls, 663-7157.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ron:

Your RaRa Rag came yesterday and thanks. I enjoy it very much and I do hope you enter it in the ARNS Contest.

As you know, there are a great many stories that get started around which are pure bunk. You may recall the saving of cigarette packages to get a seeing-eye dog, or the stories about the jeeps after the war. These seem to go on and on in spite of efforts to discredit them. You have one of these stories in your latest issue – the one of the origin of the word *HAM*.

This has been going around for many years, but it has proven to be completely false. No record has ever been found of these at Harvard. No record has ever been found of a Congressional meeting such as was supposed to have taken place. But the biggest proof is that the word *HAM* was used in amateur radio many years prior to the time this was supposed to have taken place. The investigation was made by the ARRL.

I wish I lived farther east; I'd like to attend your club activities. I've been to Rochester only once, and that was an overnight stay on a trip. It's a nice city. 73,

Andy Anderson, KØNL, Holton, Kansas  
(Andy is the editor of the Amateur Radio News Service Publication "*The Bulletin*".)



Dear Ron,

I am writing to take exception to Dwight Hill's recent "*editorial*" in the September issue of the "*Rag*". I feel he is overstating the situation with respect to operation in the maritime vhf band. I have sailed extensively in this area for the past three years, and failed to find the "*widespread violations*" he describes. If anything, the service is well and properly used. Granted, procedures are not as crisp and official as NTS, but they are adhered to within the capabilities of the operators. Channel 16 is used as a distress and calling frequency. Those who fail to observe the rule are quickly reminded of the fact by the ever-present U.S. and Canadian Coast Guards. Usually the operator has simply become confused and forgotten to switch channels. The offense is not repeated.

There is certainly little "*rag chewing*" on the band. Fishermen are too busy fishing; and we sailors would just as soon be left alone anyway. As for the use of call letter; I have never worked a U.S. vessel who did not use call letters.

I decided to monitor the maritime frequencies

## HEARD AT "HAMBURG"

Some sayings and observations overheard; some famous and some not so famous.

"I remember when \_\_\_\_\_ had one of these. Boy, those were the days!"

"I sold mine for money to get married on. Now I'm divorced. I sure wish I had it back again."

"How can you walk away and leave that there? --- "Just like this, first I turn this way, then I lift my right foot, then - -"

"They moved this hamfest up a week this year. Now next weekend for sure it's gonna rain. Just wait and see!"

"I'm gonna be candid about this rig".

"This tower", (KC2EI's filled his pickup bed) "doesn't look strong enough to hold me!"

"Warren, if you can't find it here at this hamfest you just didn't need it."

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## ROCHESTER VHF GROUP MEETING

by Tom Richmond, WB2IEY

Come to our October meeting at Harris/RF offices on October 8 for a look into the future, starting at 8 p.m.

Our subject under discussion will be *ACSB Method on VHF* given by Paul Jacobs, W2IOG. Paul is Vice-President, and one of the founders of "Sideband Technology, Inc." located in nearby Scottsville, New York. This will be a very informative talk. Paul's experience should make it doubly interesting. This program will bring you up-to-date on the commercial communications scene.

Those wishing to receive the new VHF Group newsletter should send \$2.00 for postage to Tom Richmond, Secretary/Treasurer, 328 Gibson Street, Canandaigua, New York 14424.

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more closely while cruising between Sodus Bay and Fairhaven on Labor Day weekend. During the daylight hours, there was just the normal ship-to-ship traffic, particularly between many racing yachts. No violations. The band was quiet late at night while cruising offshore, except for some Coast Guard communications. Again, no violations.

I believe Dwight could have chosen a much better example of a "*burden*" on the FCC. Our battery capacity is precious, we don't make a practice of wasting it on violations!

Sincerely,  
Robert R. Keller (K3PCS)

# THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO OCTOBER 1962

by Ed Gable, K2MP

The October meeting was a memorable radio style quiz program hosted appropriately by Eddie Dunn, WA2KMI, of WHAM radio fame. Board Member and Membership Chairman, Cliff Milner, K2SKO, reported the club membership at just under 200 with a goal for the year set at 400. Another new Board Member, Art DeBruycker, W2YGW, has volunteered to head up the TVI Committee. Doc Thompson, WA2EIP, and Ray Springett, WA2AIL, announced the start of RaRa's Novice and Technician Classes. Assisting Doc and Ray this year are Dave Hassett, K2SQI, and Carol McKeithan, WA2SKS.

Ray Leigh's RDXA Column was again full of local achievements by area DXers. RDXA said good bye to an old member, Lloyd Cook, W2VUY, on his move to New Jersey.

Handling the money as Treasurer was Larry McConnell, K2UCI, while Cappy Capauldy, K2UXF, manned the pen as Secretary.

Rochester Radio's ad touted the Globe Electronics HG-602 VHF transmitter as the one to own.

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## RRRA MEETS AT WROC OCTOBER 15th

by Ed Neubauer, N2BXA

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association is pleased to announce that its October program and meeting will be held at WROC-TV.

Following a brief business meeting, group tours of Channel 8's satellite and remote facilities will be conducted. Channel 8 uses a Harris 6.1 meter king post earth station and the LIVE 8 facilities utilize a 2GHz remote unit with a 35 foot telescoping Murad dual disc antenna.

Our hosts for the evening:

John Coon, WA2FZU, Chief Engineer  
Dan Porter, AI2M, Assistant Chief Engineer  
Dave LaBarge, WB2LAX, Remote Technician  
Charley Planert, W2YPR, Supervisor/Chief  
Photographer

The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 15th at:

WROC TV - Studio A  
201 Humboldt Street  
Parking - Rear of Building  
Entrance - Rear (West) Door

Hope to see you at the October meeting for this fine program.

## RDXA MEETS OCTOBER 19th

by Rick Berg, KS2F

The well known Colonial Hotel is again opening its facilities to the RDXA, on Tuesday evening, October 19th, at 8:15 p.m.

CQ WORLD-WIDE DX PHONE CONTEST comes on the 30th and 31st of this month. There will be log sheets, check sheets and cover forms in ample supply at our meeting. There will be a short strategy meeting for those who are going to participate in the contest.

Our program for the evening, as it stands right now, will be a slide presentation of the N2OO (Bob Schenk's) Dx-pedition to Eastern Malaysia where they operated under the callsign - 9M6MU.

I hope to see some new DX'ers from the area at our get-togethers.

---

## 1983 AMATEUR RADIO WALL CALENDAR

The Lockheed Employee's Amateur Radio Club is providing a unique opportunity to obtain a large Amateur Radio wall calendar. These 13.5 by 19.5 inch red-white-and-blue calendars feature the words AMATEUR RADIO in very large lettering. Nothing else is printed in the top half of these calendars. There is plenty of space where personalized information (such as the name, address, and/or telephone number) can be added. There is adequate space in each date block to note operating events and appointments that are of interest to you. Good wall calendars like these are very hard to locate.

The price is \$3.25 each for calendars being mailed to American, Canadian, and Mexican addresses. Each calendar comes in a mailing wrapper.

These calendars make excellent gifts to friends who are Amateurs. If you are sending a calendar to a friend as a gift, show your own name, callsign, and return address on the mailing label you supply. They provide much needed exposure for Amateur Radio when they are posted in barber shops, business offices, public libraries, recreation buildings, schools, and stores where they can be seen by the general public.

Include a separate address label for each calendar. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Lockheed Amateur Radio Club, or W6LS. Send mailing labels and full payment to:  
Lockheed E.R.C. Amateur Radio Club - W6LS  
2814 Empire Avenue  
Burbank, California 91504

# ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

## THE CHAIRMANS LETTER: 1982/83

by Dan Pedtke, WB9EAE

To all VHF, UHF, and Microwave enthusiasts: Welcome to this years VHF Group. As an introduction, my name is Dan Pedtke and my call is WB9EAE – but that is soon to change. I'm a Harris/RF engineer who moved to Rochester 4 years ago after graduating from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, my home state. I am mainly a VHF/UHF experimenter, although I do some HF operating on occasion.

This year the club will hopefully get back on the track and become a more valuable source of information, ideas, and equipment for the VHF operator. We hope to provide meetings that present a more basic how-to for the ham interested in starting or expanding his VHF station.

Future meetings will discuss other bands, noise figure in depth, the commercial sideband VHF techniques and equipment, microwave links in the Rochester area, microwave antennas, and, of course, the January VHF contest.

**START NOW!** Get that station ready for the January test. Lets go for the big score this year! We've come too close in the past to give up trying. Every ham that has any VHF equipment should be on the air! Details on the contest will be the topic of the December meeting, where Bill Gillette, WB2KIW, will be sure to get you all excited.

The club will be a success this year only if you get involved. Come to the meetings, participate in the events, add to the discussions. Lets see some of the super-hams at the meetings, the ones who so rarely show up (Floyd, Bob, Ed, Mike, Frank, Charlie & Charlie, etc.). Lets see some of the FM only people come and learn how to build your own CW rig for the higher bands. Wouldn't it be nice to have 100 people show up at the meetings again? See you there!

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## DX'ing: It's Your Choice

by Rick Berg, KS2F

The September *QST*, in an article by John Lindholm, W1XX, Communications Manager, listed some of the pros and cons regarding DX "*List Operation*". This article was compiled from comments that have crossed the League's desk in the past few years. These comments are in direct regard to the working of DX stations via the aid of a third party or person. The article, a lengthy catharsis, concluded with one hopeful solution. This is that radio clubs themselves could set up a training program to help DX'ers, (new and old),

to work DX without relying on others for help. However, for many of us this remedy would provide little relief; nor would an ARRL edict demanding all DXCC seekers stop using an intermediary in pursuit of those hard-to-work countries.

In the past, the ARRL didn't take sides in this aspect of the matter. They threw the ball back to the players. They let the David and Goliath battle continue until either the "*Divine*" or a "*Ken Kaiser*" stepped in to determine who shall prevail. Even though the ARRL takes a "no-stance" position on this, many others with myself included, do not jump for joy when hearing others work their "dx" via a list.

The DX-ing aspect is something you get involved with because you want to. You got caught up in its excitement. The FCC did not send your license accompanied by an official DXCC country list. There was not an extra notice ordering you to get cracking and be on the DXCC Honor Roll within three years - or else! No - you elected to seek DX even after it was well apparent it would require a big investment of time and money to obtain a coveted high country total. And the rules which have some restrictions have been followed by thousands of other DX'ers before you.

To change the rules to suit your own failings would be about the same as walking into a big league baseball team manager and telling him you can guarantee to hit the ball out of the park every time at bat, if only he could get the pitcher to throw slow, waist high, center plate every time you come up to bat. Now what do you suppose he would tell you? And, how much would the umpire do, assuming such a marvelous feat could be accomplished?

To conclude, if you are after a DXCC certificate it should reflect the fruits of your labor alone. If it were required to have the certificate show the names of all those who helped you along the way to your DXCC how easy would it be to find your name there? Just think about it.

The competitive part of chasing DX will never be everyone's cup of tea. But why should those who accepted the challenge, and played by the rules, now be required to share their personal accomplishment with those who want the same honor without the same sort of effort that has been so long affiliated with the DXCC Award?

---

**WANTED:** A.M. transmitter such as Valiant, Globe King, etc. No homebrew please. For Sale: Drake MN-2000, excellent, \$170. Ollie Steiner, K2BBK, Sunday thru Thursday phone 288-3604.

# 10-Meter FM Equipment Available

by Paul Plack, WA2TOX

If you follow the monthly ham magazines, you've probably noticed a new wave of interest in 10-meter FM. Here in the Buffalo area, there are two repeaters already on 10 FM, and a group of us will soon be putting KB2DQ/R, a third, into operation. Because of the level of interest in the Buffalo area, we are making arrangements here to provide interested amateurs with quantity pricing on all the makings for a 10 FM rig, converted from the now-famous Hy-gain surplus CB boards.

For those unfamiliar with these conversions, you wind up with a fully-synthesized 10 FM transceiver with between 5 and 12 watts out, (depending on choice of final transistor,) super-hot receiver, and true frequency modulation, after a conversion process that can be easily accomplished in an afternoon. We have generated enough interest here to get quantity pricing on the surplus boards, all necessary conversion materials, and even cabinets to house the finished transceiver, for a total completed cost of *under 50 dollars*.

If you're not interested in FM on 10, there are also other great uses for this board. The super sensitivity of the receiver makes the board ideal for use as a satellite receiver, AM or CW rig, SSB receiver, or even for use as an IF for your Gunnplexer! In AM use, there are many "*whistles and bells*" designed right into the boards, and requiring only the filling in of the silk-screen-marked holes. You can easily add ANL on-off, noise blanker, S-meter, relative RF out meter, indicator lights for every conceivable function, delta tune, 5 kHz channel spacing, and more.

There will soon be available from me a whole "*manual*" of conversion ideas, alignment tips, alternate uses, and other information on these board. For those who want it, I can also supply a complete technical description of the KB2DQ repeater system, which should cover Rochester nicely, once it's installed. The conversion kits themselves, whether in FM form or something more basic, will include all the necessary information for proper set-up and alignment.

We have already obtained enough orders in the Buffalo area to get our first batch of bulk parts for the conversions. If there is sufficient interest in your area, we will start putting together another list for the next batch. Once we have enough people to make it worthwhile, (10 or more,) we'll collect up the checks, and the kits will be ready for delivery in about 2-to-3 weeks.

If you need more information about the conversion process, or have any questions about the

# (TOO) FAMILIAR DEFINITIONS

## APATHY

Moaning and groaning about a clique running the club year after year – from the back farthest row with your hands in your pocket.

Proclaiming how the ARRL never does anything for you, how they always goof everything up, how they sold you out, etc.; but not belonging, but not reading about them, but not being a part of them, but not working to change anything, but just laying about grousing about them.

Complaints of "*this lousy repeater is down more than it's up*" on the repeater and, "*I don't see why they don't do something about it. They never seem to and that's why I never send them anything. Gotta QRT now, I'll call you her tomorrow morning on the way to work.*"

## THIRD PARTY TRAFFIC

Asking your friend across the border to call your hotel, tell they you'll be arriving later and hold your room.

Getting on ECARS, asking for any station in some distant city to get him to make a phone patch for you. The phone patch is to a realtor so you can tell him what kind of house your family wants to move into.

Dialing up the auto-patch before noon hour, talking a girl who is not your relative to get her to tell the buyer from your local account when and where to meet you for the lunch you owe him.

---

many technical options regarding frequency programmers, squelch, or conversions for other modes, etc., you can write me at the address below or I would be happy to make it to one of your meetings.

Also, given our growing experience in the hints-and-kinks area, and with the alignment of the boards once completed, it might be worthwhile to arrange a session with all members interested... and sit down some evening en masse to do the actual conversions. The only tools required for alignment are some "*tuning sticks*", a general coverage receiver, a VFO or other source of low-level 29 MHz RF, and a VOM of 20k-per-volt or better.

If interested, you can contact me:

Paul W. Plack, WA2TOX

199 Euclid Avenue

Kenmore, New York 14217



## Are You radioACTIVE?

If you're putting your Amateur Radio license to good use, have helped another person get on the air or would like to share your interest in ham radio, then you can be radioACTIVE!

The Courage HANDI-HAM System is an international service organization bringing Amateur Radio training and equipment to people with physical disabilities who want to expand their world through ham radio. The System provides educational material, close personal supervision, equipment on loan and specially engineered devices to aid disabled hams in station control.

Membership in the System is open to any handicapped person interested in Amateur Radio and any non-handicapped Radio Amateurs wishing to help. The System is supported entirely through private contributions from people just like you!

The Courage HANDI-HAM System is a service of Courage Center, a nonprofit physical rehabilitation organization based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Courage Center provides more than 70 services to people with disabilities of all ages and disabilities.

Thousands of severely disabled people all over the world are being helped by the Courage HANDI-HAM System. We need your help to bring valuable Amateur Radio training and experience to people with physical disabilities and speech, hearing and vision impairments.

Amateur Radio equipment is also needed. Please contact us if you have equipment you'd like to donate.

73,

Bruce L. Humphrys, KØHR

Director, Courage HANDI-HAM System

Courage Center

3915 Golden Valley Road

Golden Valley, Minnesota 5542

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## ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE HAZARDS OF RF RADIATION . . .

from W5YI REPORT

The Commission has numerous inquiries from the public regarding the biological effects and potential hazards to human health and safety from radio frequency (RF) and microwave radiation. "Recently," the Commission said, "there has been a noticeable increase in public awareness and concern over this issue." There also has been much discussion and speculation concerning the alleged "electromagnetic pollution" of the environment. In response to these concerns, the FCC's Office of Science and Technology (Technical Analysis Division) last month authored and distributed a "white paper" dissertation covering the subject.

The following is a highly capsulized version of the OST study.

1. Modern society has developed literally hundreds of uses for RF energy .... including AM/FM radio, television, CB radio, amateur radio, hand-held walkie talkies and other communications services. RF radiation is found near the low end of the electromagnetic spectrum - below 100 kHz to frequencies above 1 GHz.

2. Microwave radiation is a form of electromagnetic radiation given off from frequencies between about 300 MHz and 300 GHz. The higher the frequency, the greater the radiation energy.

3. Some forms of electromagnetic energy (such as X-Rays and Gamma radiation) possess the ability to cause ionization of atoms and molecules and thus are known as ionizing radiation. Ionization is the process by which electrons are stripped off atoms and produce chemical alterations that can lead to genetic damage. Other forms of electromagnetic radiation, such as RF and microwave radiation, that lack the ability to ionize atoms are often referred to as non-ionizing radiation.

4. It has been clearly established that RF radiation can be hazardous due to its ability to heat biological tissue rapidly .... such as in microwave ovens. However, RF environmental levels normally encountered by the public are far below those necessary to produce this effect. It is generally agreed that exposure to levels of RF energy of about 10 milliwatts (mW) per square centimeter or more can cause significant heating of biological tissue.

5. The eyes and the male reproductive organs are

(Continued on next page)

## HAZARDS OF RADIATION

(from previous page)

particularly susceptible to heating by RF energy. Laboratory experiments have shown that acute exposure to high levels of RF energy (100-200 mW per sq. cm.) can cause cataracts in animals and there are some cases of cataract production in humans allegedly caused by exposure to high-intensity RF radiation. Temporary sterility is possible after exposure to high RF levels.

6. At low levels of RF energy, i.e., below the intensities that produce significant heating, the evidence of harmful effects is less clear. Although there have been reports of a wide range of "non-thermal" biological effects, most of these reports have come from the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, and western scientists have, in general, not been able to confirm the existence of these effects. The low level effects reported have included behavioral modifications, blood/reproductive/hormone defects, headaches, irritability, fatigue and cardiovascular effects. Research is continuing to determine whether these effects do indeed occur, and, if so, whether they may be harmful.

7. Data has shown that the human body absorbs RF energy at a maximum rate in the region of the electromagnetic spectrum between 30 and 300 MHz. Because of this phenomenon, RF safety standards are being developed to take this frequency dependence into account. The most restrictive standards will be in the frequency range of maximum absorption. (These frequencies include the 6 and 2 meter amateur bands - plus the 220 - 225 MHz ham band.)

8. There is still disagreement over exactly what levels of RF radiation are "safe", - particularly with regard to low levels of exposure. Soviet

standards are more restrictive than western standards. Soviet standard setting appears to be based on the philosophy of establishing limits at which no effects occur rather than where recognized hazards exist. Western standards generally are based on levels where hazards exist.

9. The U.S. federal guideline of 10 mW per sq. cm. is now being rescinded and may be revised or reissued in the future. There is presently no standard set by the federal government for exposure of the general public to RF radiation. A non-government organization, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), has revised their earlier RF safety standard and proposed a frequency-dependent standard covering frequencies of 300 kHz to 100 GHz. The most restrictive limits included in this standard would be in the frequency range of 30 - 300 MHz where levels of 1 mW per sq. cm. are recommended. Although the ANSI guidelines are advisory in nature and are not enforceable, they do represent the result of several years of study by scientists with a great deal of experience and knowledge in this field.

10. Generally, exposure standards for the public are more restrictive than those for workers. Some local and state jurisdictions have adopted or are considering adopting, population and/or occupational standards for RF radiation.

11. Because heart pacemakers are electronic devices they are susceptible to electromagnetic signals which could cause the pacemaker to misfire and incorrectly regulate the users heartbeat. While the problem has been largely remedied by shielding, there has been concern over the potential for the "leads" of pacemakers to pick up RF signals but this does not appear to be a serious problem.

(To be continued next month)

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