

# The RARa RAG

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The Rochester Amateur Radio Association

INCORPORATED

VOL. 35

NOVEMBER 1982

NO. 3

## ANNUAL RaRa AUCTION: NOVEMBER 5th

Our annual custom of November is the club auction. It will take place at the Rochester Police and Fire Academy located on Scottsville Road. This is opposite the east side of the Monroe County Airport.

We offer the following guidelines to promote an efficient and effective auction:

- 1.) Clearly label or identify each item or box of goodies.
- 2.) Include your name and call-sign.
- 3.) Indicate opening price. Indicate whether or not you wish the item to be "*chinesed*", if there are no bids made.
- 4.) State the condition of the item, such as whether or not it needs work, etc. Items other than those in common amateur use should include a note with information which will help the auctioneer present the item in a correct and informative manner.

Immediately after each sale, both the buyer and seller should step up front to the exchange desk to complete the matter. RaRa will receive, from the seller, 10% of the final price for each transaction. RaRa also welcomes outright donation of items to boost the RaRa treasury.

Please be aware that RaRa does not assume responsibility for the condition of items, that matter being between the buyer and seller of each item. It does enhance the quality of the auction event if items are carefully inspected by prospective buyers and properly labeled by the seller.

The RaRa Auction starts promptly at 8 p.m. However the doors open at 7 p.m. to allow for set-up and inspection. All members of RaRa are welcome. Members may bring one guest. The membership chairman is available and ready to re-new old membership and process new members.

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## K2JD WORK PARTY

NOVEMBER 6 — 9 a.m.

See special note inside.

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## AWA CONFERENCE TOPS ALL PREVIOUS EVENTS

Nearly 700 members from Canada, Austria, Switzerland, France and all U.S. districts convened at Canandaigua for the recent 5-day historical meet. Programming included operation and adjustment of a spark transmitter using an oscilloscope (!) plus papers on DeForest, Philco and other pioneers. A highlight of the event was an auction, with a percentage going to the Museum Maintenance Fund.

Old battery sets sold for as much as \$900, and a rare key for \$750 -- probably the most ever paid for either a radio or telegraph key.

Bill Grenfell, W4GF, former F.C.C. Chief, presented the Association a complete set of amateur radio postage stamps (in a glass frame) from A.R.R.L. President Vic Clar, W4KFC. A similar event is scheduled next year the same time and place.

-- Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, Club Historian

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## SILENT KEYS

KA2EFK, William T. Nixon

Clarence E. Dengler, W2LK, "Duck"

Clarence built his first set before World War I, being interested in radio from his early days. He also built the first police radio (WPDR) transmitter for the Rochester Police Department in 1931 and remained in charge of their system until retiring in 1963. He was the pioneer operator at WHAM in 1924/25, that station being owned by the University of Rochester then and located in the Eastman School downtown.

"Duck" as he was familiarly known was President of the Rochester Radio Club in the 1920's, the club which preceeded RaRa. He also was active in the Antique Wireless Association where he was a Director.

He was National Historian for the Association of Public Safety Communications, formerly Association of Police Communication Officers. He is nationally known for his articles entitled "*Glancing Back*".

# The RaRa Rag

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## HARVEY'S HAM

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## EDITOR REPLIES TO READER

by Dwight Hill, K2KWK

I wish to thank Bob Keller, K3PCS, for his thoughtful letter printed in our October *RaRa Rag* following an editorial in our September issue.

My article was based on the news, and fact, that the FCC is pulling out of its active involvement with amateur radio. My point as directed to the opinion, and hope, that FCC funds would be better applied to a service with day-to-day life saving potential rather than to settling personal squabbles. The FCC has more than amply demonstrated its desire to be free of its "burden" in the ham bands just as its summarily shucked its "burden" in the CB service and in commercial licensing. My hope is that they will now apply themselves to where they seem to be better needed.

I frankly cannot discover a better or wider known example of a communication service where operating discipline so well serves the safety of life and property. I thought no one had forgotten the value lessons of the "Titanic". She provided a most impressive example of the need for discipline and diligence.

I still maintain that the current VHF/FM system, in its present state, shows a need for more discipline by its non-compulsory users. Some users may try on-the-air admonishment, but this too is interference. A better way to accomplish the designed objective is real-time FCC enforcement. As a user of these marine frequencies too, and being employed in that business during the recent change-over period, (from AM channels at 2 MHz to FM channels at VHF), I am sure many would welcome a more active FCC presence. The FCC truck is welcome back at my site anytime, it has been absent for a few years.

Good, and safe, sailing to all!

## PEP POWER OUTPUT LIMIT PROPOSED BY FCC

1500 watts peak envelope power output is the new amateur station power ceiling proposed by FCC. This would apply for any type of emission used by amateurs, except A3 double sideband emission, for which the current one kilowatt final stage power input limit would continue to apply. The method, equipment or degree of accuracy for the P.E.P. measurement would not be specified. Those wishing to comment should refer to P.R. Docket No. 82-624. Comment deadlines were not available as this was written.

TNX, AUTOCALL

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

In the October issue of the *Rag*, I pointed out two items of major importance facing us - The loss of a long standing computer service and the need to locate a semi-permanent meeting place. A committee consisting of Doug Wilson, KA8IGS, and Ed Gable, K2MP, have been working on the computer problem very diligently and at this time are busy sorting out all the suggestions and offers. The two proposals we are putting together at this time are - the short term proposal to enable us to maintain the present level of service at the least expense and then a long term proposal to be able to furnish not only the present level but to possibly increase the level of service in the future. We are working toward a January 1983 presentation at our regular meeting of both packages. If you have any further suggestions - contact either Doug or Ed so they can at least consider all possible ideas.

The problem of a place to meet is also being studied. At the October Board meeting many suggestions were discussed and Bill, K2KGE, will be looking into all suggestions and is to report back to the Board at the November meeting. If there are any further suggestions - call any of the Board members or Bill directly.

### SPECIAL NOTE

There will be a work party on November 6, 1982 at 0900 Saturday to remove the old tower from 350 East Henrietta Road and possibly re-install it at 111 Westfall Road. Rain or Snow date will be November 13, 1982 - same time etc. Call N2EH if you can spare some time.....

## RaRa Best Wishes

Our wishes for speedy return of comfort and mobility to Lia, WA2NFY, who is not sending her cw with her "right foot" these days! Her foot was recently bandaged. Well, she knows our wishes are sincere even though her cw is still credible.



Amateur Radio News Service

## NOVEMBER RAG CALENDAR

- 5 - Annual RaRa Auction, 8 p.m., Monroe County Police and Fire Academy, enter off Scottsville Road next to Burger King.
- 6 - K2JD club station work party, 9 a.m. at both old and new station locations.
- 10 - RaRa board meeting, 7:30 p.m., QTH of KD2K.
- 10 - December RAG deadline to K2KWK.
- 12 - VHF Group meeting, 8 p.m., Harris-RF Communications, 1700 University Avenue.
- 16 - RDXA meeting, 8:15 p.m., Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Boulevard.
- 19 - RRRRA meeting, 8 p.m., Pittsford Town Hall.
- 25 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE RaRa RAG STAFF!

## CENTRAL NEW YORK

### DX GROUP FORMS

by Vivian Douglas, WA2PUU

Following our request for operators interested in forming a Central New York DX Group, Dick Pitzeruse, K2NY, has announced organization of the Salt City DX Association.

Several amateurs responded at the on-the-air meeting and a net will be held at 8:30 Mondays on 147.45 MHz for all serious DXers. The first "eyeball" meeting will be held at the Liverpool Public Library. *tnx to D.A.R.C. Newsletter*

## APPLE COUNTRY AWARD

Contrary to the currently popular vogue, this does not involve any computer of an un-named make.

Work any 4 members of the Drumlins Amateur Radio Club on any band or mode. Send your log information to Fred Silfer, WA2REC, Awards Chairman. Include \$1.00 and 2 \$.20 stamps. Fred's address is P. O. Box 22, Sodus, NY 14451.

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## MEMBERSHIP NOTES . . .

At press time, RaRa membership stood at 927, which includes 60 new members this season. If you are among the 374 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 for additional application forms.

**DIRECTORIES:** We got 'em! Hot off the press. This year's edition contains over 2600 listings, and will be available at the November 5th Auction for all paid-up members. Distribution should be somewhat expedited if you are already holding a pink coupon card. Directories are also available at all RaRa, VHF Group, RRRRA and RDXA meetings, and at the K2JD club station facility. Members are urged not to mail back the pink cards for redemption. With increasing postage rates, it would be appreciated, if you are unable to attend any of these functions, to make arrangements for a friend to retrieve yours for you, in order to avoid unnecessary mailing expenses. Directories can also be picked up at 515 Drumm Road in Webster. Thank you. 73.

— I. J. Goodman, AF2K  
Membership Chairman

## FIRST CABLE TV FIRM FINED BY FCC FOR 2M INTERFERENCE

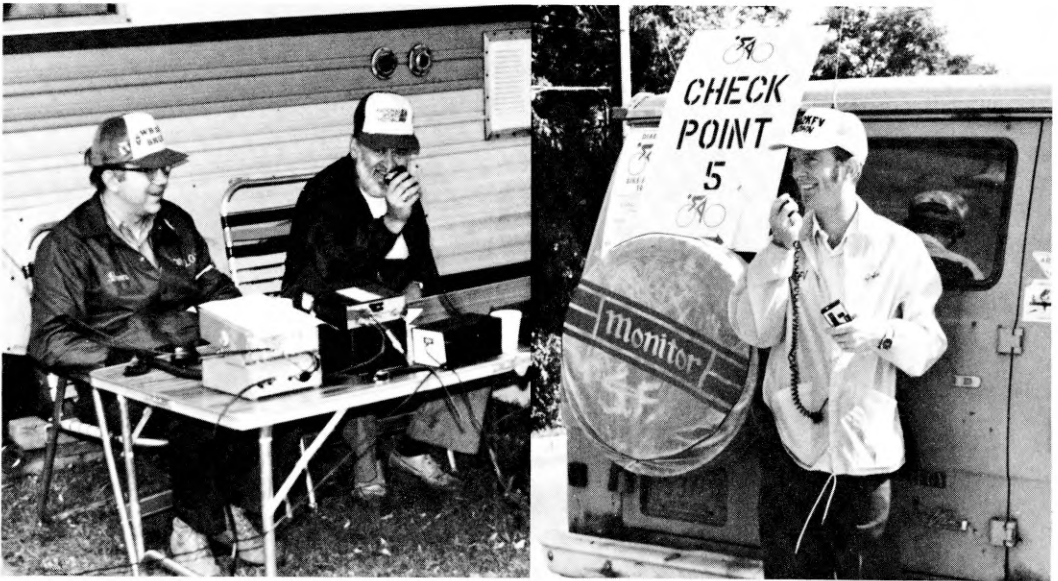
Sonic Cable TV of Auroyo Grande California has been fined \$6,000 by the FCC for excessive signal leakage and interference that this leakage caused to local Amateur Radio operation. According to an FCC release, \$2,000 of the fine was levied for the signal leakage and \$4,000 for the interference. This is believed to be the first time action of this magnitude has been taken against a cable company by the FCC. At deadline it was not yet known whether Sonic Cable would appeal the fine.

*TNX WA6ITF, Editor Westlink Report*

## DONATIONS NEEDED FOR JCC STATION

by Dave Rubin, N3CKN

An Amateur Radio station is being formed at the Jewish Community Center. The station is seeking contributions of Amateur equipment or donations in other forms. All contributions are tax-deductible. Anyone interested contact Dave Rubin, N3CKH, at 442-4318 or Ann Weiss, Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618.



## PUBLIC SERVICE CORNER

Bruce Blair, WB2QKO, of the Drumlin Amateur Radio Club and our own Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, operate net control for the Palmyra, New York Canaltown Days. Another Public Service contribution by many members of RaRa.

John, KA2KFV, mans check point 5 during RaRa's participation in the September American Diabetes Bike-A-Thon.

# THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 1982

by Ed Gable, K2MP

Then as now the November meeting was dedicated to the Annual Auction. The venerable Cappy Capauldy, K2UXF, with his cane waving entertainment provided the expert auctioneering chores.

The Monroe County Civil Defense 80 and 40 meter circuits were greatly enhanced by the addition of a new motorized remote antenna tuner. The station was in the basement of the old County Hospital and used 150 feet of coax to reach the antenna system. Bob McCarty, W2RUJ; Larry Triggs, W2YBK; George Emery, W2PSD; and Chuck Brelsford, W2CTA, engineered the job.

A feature article told of the fine efforts by members of the Antique Wireless Association at the 50th ARRL Hudson Division Convention. Locals: W2QY, W2ICE, and W2SAW were part of the show which had in attendance then Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

Named to the all important RaRa Refreshment Committee were Annie Stewart, WA2DVB, as Chairwoman, along with Lee VanGrol, WA2YEK; Bud Young, WA2UGE; Ted Holtz, K2EAY; Barbara Ehlers, WA2YSC; and Novice Class member Judy Montgomery.

Membership Chairman Cliff Milner, K2SKO, reported membership at 300 strong. Dick Bournel, WA2HUV, in his RDXA column congratulated Hank Blodgett, W2UTH, in reaching 200 confirmed. Picture in this issue were members of the large General Railway Company ARC. Shown were: W2AAU, W2RMS, K2ZWK, WA2AIL, W2FBA, W2MA, W2VUT, K2HME, and W2SGJ.

Jerry Vogt, WA2GCF, reported on the very successful Syracuse VHF Roundup which featured Sam Harris, W1FZT, and Tommy Thomas, KH6UK, of 1296 Moonbounce fame.

# RTTY AT RRRR MEETING

by Ed Neubauer, N2BXA

The November 19th meeting of the Rochester Radio Repeater Association will be held at 8:00 p.m. at the Pittsford Town Hall. The meeting activity will feature Nelson Nail, WA2ZPE, with a program on Radio Teletype (RTTY).

Nelson will describe what is involved in getting RTTY on VHF FM as well as the differences between HF and VHF radio teletype. Nelson will describe the basics including such things as frequency shift keying, terminal units, SSB modulation techniques, modems, half-duplex, as well as other key terms and concepts.

Whether you've been operating RTTY for years or just would like to know a little more about this popular operating mode, Nelson's program will certainly be informative.

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## WB2AQQ/R CHANGES FREQUENCY!

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association announces a change of operating frequencies for its Bristol Mountain system. Effective October 9th, the new frequencies have become 145.11 MHz output with the input occurring 600 kHz lower at 144.51 MHz. The old "78/18" pair is now not in use locally, although it still is being used for a repeater in Toronto. The change has been made due to continued access of the Bristol system by mobile users of the Canadian system. The Canadian users frequently run higher mobile power than U.S. users, and, in addition there were frequent over-water inversions resulting in signal "ducting". The Bristol repeater is mounted at about 2200 feet in elevation and covers an area from Syracuse to Buffalo and reaches into parts of Pennsylvania and Canada.

The Bristol repeater is built and maintained principally by Craig Stolze, WA2AQQ. Its expenses are assisted by members of the RRRR. A users guide to the functions is available to members of the RRRR. The system has a UHF full-duplex link back to the logic/autopatch/micro-processor package in Victor, New York. The antenna is a Sinclair omni-directional pattern with a gain of 6 db. The unique features available are: Repeater ID (four different versions); Weather; Time of day on command; Time on the Hour; Repeater-"isms"; Touch-Tone test; a very sophisticated auto-patch with shorthand re-dialing; and, shorthand dialing of the Cobbs Hill Radio Center and the Directory Assistance Service for Rochester exchanges.



## DX COMMUNICATIONS

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Owner

# COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARD AVAILABLE

A community "bulletin board" is available to computer enthusiasts in the Rochester area. By no small coincidence, it also has a relationship to amateur radio. The service is provided by the local Heathkit store and serviced by Dick Goslee, K2VCZ.

Bulletins of the A.R.R.L. are carried in addition to RaRa meeting information. The bulletins are provided by Nelson Nail, WA2ZPE, who copies them in RTTY and then loads them into the computer at the Heathkit store. Approximately two to three weeks of bulletins are on tap at any one time enabling those who wish to catch up with any they might have missed.

The way to gain access to the bulletin board is calling #424-2576. You then make contact with your own computer via a "modem" which acts as an interface. The Heath computer will then appear on your screen, or hard copy printer, and ask you a series of questions to adjust its output to your system. Answer the questions to proceed. You may either read the material directly or store it in your own system for later reading. Although this figure will vary, with the amount of information, it is estimated that a capacity for anything above 10k to 12k might be ample for using the service. Our thanks to the Heathkit Electronic Center, its Manager, "Jim" Milne, and Dick Goslee, Senior Technician. The Heathkit Electronic Center is a RaRa advertiser.

## RDXA — NOVEMBER 16

The Rochester DX Association is holding its November 16th meeting at the Colonial Hotel. November 16th is a Tuesday and the meeting begins at 8:15 p.m. sharp.

It was reported in QST (October '82) that the RDXA took 10th place in the Medium Class of the 1982 ARRL International DX Contest. The club scored 2.7 million points in the heavy competition.

Forms for those who wish to enter the CQ WW Contest, CW Section, this month will be on hand at the meeting.

Our evening program will be a slide presentation of the VS500 and company DX-pedition from Brunei.

See you there, and your friend too. The RDXA welcomes all to its monthly get-together.

73, Rick Berg, KS2F, RDXA

# HOMEBREW: NOVEMBER VHF GROUP

by Tom Richmond, WB2IEY

Our November 12th meeting will be a bit of "show and tell" for you devoted homebrewers. Awards will be presented and, with consent from those concerned, details will be made available through the VHF GROUP Newsletter in upcoming months. The restrictions are: 1, entries must be completely homebrew, or be a completely homebrew addition to an existing kit or commercial unit. 2, entries are restricted to VHF and above type of projects, no keyers or like-type-doochickies. Get to work now.

Everyone enjoyed the ACSB discussion of our October meeting. Thanks to Paul Jacobs, W2IOG, and the STI crew.

Our VHF Group Newsletter is enjoying good reception. All are welcome to attend our meetings whether they consider themselves members or not.

**FOR SALE - VERTICAL ANTENNA.** Contact Vic, W2RIS, at 663-9141 afternoons or evenings.

**FOR SALE - Bearcat III Scanning Receiver** with 7 Police & Fire Crystals installed. Available for \$100.00, or the best offer. Contact Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, at 248-2511.

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## LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS OF P.L. 97-259

An analysis of HR-3239 (S-929) and its effect on Amateur Radio (by Joe Merdler, N6AHU, President Personal Communications Foundation);

**Section 103** – allows employees of the Commission to accept direct reimbursement for their expenses incurred attending Ham conventions from the conventions' sponsors. This will enable participation of Commission personnel without depending on the availability of Federal funds.

**Section 104** authorizes the Commission to use volunteers to administer Amateur license examinations, and also to recruit and train Hams to monitor rules violations, subject to restrictions. This is one of the most important provisions of the laws. Field offices could use trained volunteers' observations in administrative proceedings without FCC personnel verifying those observations.

**Section 107** clarifies the jurisdiction of the Commission to include intrastate radio transmissions. This will eliminate the need to prove that a given signal could cross state lines.

**Section 108** authorizes the Commission to set shielding standards for home electronic equipment and systems to protect such equipment from RFI. Congress has finally recognized what "Amateurs have known all the time," that TVI and RFI is, in most cases, the result of poor design of home entertainment equipment and not, as some manufacturers' manuals have stated, the fault of Amateur Radio.

**Section 110** lets the FCC suspend the licenses of anyone who caused, aided or abetted the violation of the Commission's rules, etc. This will allow the FCC to act against those licensees who walk the thin line of propriety, but cause others to violate the rules. You can expect this to become a potent weapon.

**Section 112** permits the Commission to issue 10 year radio licenses if in the public interest: a 10 year Amateur license?

**Section 113** authorizes the Commission to eliminate individual licenses for CB and radio control services. If put into effect, this could set a bad precedent.

**Section 114** lengthens the maximum for a "Special Temporary Authority" (STA) to 180 days. This doubles the current 90 days rule and reduces the amount of paperwork for experimenters.

**Section 117** incorporates definitions of "willful" and "repeated". This will tighten the noose around those who make it a practice to violate Part 97; there will be less room left to argue about the meaning of these words.

## COP'S CORNER

by Howie Davies, N2CUN, RPD

### HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

I must start this month with a remark about road crews that many motorists including myself complain about. Many times we who pilot our chariots to and from work are delaying by paving, digging, etc. But my hat goes off this month to the Nory Construction Company who have been working against the weather and many other odds that confront road construction. We now have 3 lanes in both directions on RT 590 north of the "can" and the washboard that used to remind us which RT 47 section we were on is gone at last. I think Nory did one heck of a job and finished ahead of schedule to boot.

Other road work is coming up soon for you motorists who use RT 104 in Webster between Five Mile Line Road and Hard Road. They are going to complete that stretch so be prepared for delays in that area.

Finally, as I sit at my kitchen table drinking coffee, puffing on my cigarette and looking out and watching the sunrise, I'm thinking about all of the fine folks that I have come to know due to Ham Radio. I want to thank a couple of guys who really pushed me along. First, Joe Gambatto, WB2CBX, who started me with a big push and passed me to Novice. Then came Bud Young, WA2UGE, and his sidekick Phil Young, N2CTB, who pushed me further and finally after all 3 of us went to Buffalo, I finally passed my General.

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**Section 121** makes some technical changes regarding the appellate procedure; it becomes the same as all other Federal appeals.

**Section 122** is another technical amendment; it regards pleading.

**Section 123** is one more technical amendment; it concerns effective dates of decisions.

**Section 125** allow the seizure of illegal equipment as a result of search warrant or a legal arrest. This provides for an additional penalty for rules violators -- forfeiture of equipment.

**Section 126** exempts Amateur Radio volunteers from Section 605 secrecy rules. This gives them the same exempt status as FCC personnel.

**Section 128** makes an attack on a Commission employee in the performance of his duties a Federal crime. This amendment gives Commission personnel the same protection as other Federal officials.

It should be noted that most of the changes are only authorization for the FCC to adopt rules changes and do not become effective until the act.

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# HAZARDS OF RADIATION

(Continued from September RAG)

12. Any hazard that exists due to radiation emitted by commercial radio and television broadcasting towers is dependent upon the frequency as well as the intensity (power level) of the signal. While antenna tower maintenance personnel can be exposed to hazardous levels if the antenna is "live" - measurements made by the Environmental Protection Agency and others have shown that RF field intensity levels in inhabited areas near broadcasting facilities are generally far below levels believed to be hazardous to the general public. Antennas on microwave relay towers and satellite earth stations use lower levels than those used by broadcasting and since access to ground station sites are usually restricted, these stations generally result in no danger to the public from excessive exposure to microwaves.

13. "Walkie Talkies" (including amateur hand-helds) are low level powered devices and are generally not considered as possible sources of over-exposure to RF fields. Questions exist, however, since these devices are operated in the general vicinity of the users head. Tests by at least one manufacturer (Motorola), however, have shown that the only potential hazard would occur if the antenna tip were placed directly at the surface of the eye - an unlikely occurrence. Hand held radios do not appear to result in hazardous absorption of RF energy, but the safety of these devices is a continuing area of investigation.

14. The FCC said that they approve equipment and facilities that generate RF and microwave radiation, but that it is the responsibility of the Bureau of Radiological Health (a division of the Food and Drug Administration) and OSHA

(Occupational Safety and Health Administration) to issue standards and exposure levels. In 1971, OSHA issued a radiation protection guide for exposure of workers to RF radiation based on earlier recommendations of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The guidelines, covering the frequency range between 10 MHz and 100 GHz, stated that exposure of workers should not exceed a power density of 10 mW per sq. cm. as averaged over any 6-minute period of the workday. OSHA has now proposed to rescind these guidelines. However, they may be revised or reissued in the future. The responsibility for developing a federal standard for exposure of the general public to RF radiation rests with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA is presently in the process of developing these standards.

15. The FCC's policy has been not to establish its own health and safety standards, but the FCC expects its licensees and applicants to comply with RF health and safety regulations established by other federal agencies.

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