

The RARa RAG

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NO. 4

DECEMBER 3rd MEETING: KODAK PARK — 10 METER FM

It's not too difficult to work VKs and ZLs on 10 meters. How about doing it using FM? Maybe one could actually understand what they are saying! How running an autopatch to Los Angeles from your car to call your long lost cousin! Can I do that?

The answers to these and other questions will be given at our December meeting by Paul Plack, WA2TOX. A former Rochesterian (as Gannett is so fond of saying), Paul now resides in Buffalo where he is active with the large contingent of 10 meter FM aficionados there. He'll be talking about simplex and repeater operations as well as equipment including some very inexpensive ways to go.

Our hosts for the December 3rd meeting will be the Kodak Park Radio Club. The meeting will start promptly at 8 p.m. in the Camera Club auditorium in the Recreation Building at 200 West Ridge Road. There will be plenty of parking space available in the lots directly across Ridge Road. See you all there.

IS THIS YOUR FINAL 'RAG'?

Reminder: Have you overlooked renewing your Club membership? If so, your name will be automatically removed from the *RAG* mailing list on December 31st when the renewal "*grace period*" runs out. Please check your membership card, and if it has expired, renew immediately by mail, or see the membership chairman at any RaRa, VHF Group, RRRR or RDXA meeting. Additional applications available by merely calling 671-4430. Delivery of the January *RAG* to your mailbox can be assured only if you renew right away.

The 1982-83 edition of the RaRa Directory is the best yet, containing over 2550 area listings. Full Members can obtain one at any of the meetings; Associates are eligible for theirs upon becoming licensed. Directories can also be picked up at K2JD and at 515 Drumm Road in Webster.

I. J. Goodman, AF2K

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

I am happy to be able to write at this time that we have finally accomplished the removal of our tower from 350 East Henrietta Road and it is now located atop the building at 111 Westfall Road. A work party on November 6th consisting of K2UW, K2KGE, WA2UGE, KA8IGS, K2RJ, W2DHV, WB2UTI, WB2DJY, WB2JSD, W2LC, KA2KHV, KA2POK, KA2JRK, N2EH and Steve Gulak of O.E.P. removed the old tower and successfully hoisted it to the roof of 111 Westfall Road.

The following Saturday, November 13th, another work party consisting of WA2UGE, K2RJ, KA2POK, KA2JRK, N2EH and Steve Gulak were able to replace the existing tower on 111 Westfall with the stronger tilt-over one moved there the week before. By doing this, the tower height was also increased by 15 feet.

The November 13th work party braved almost all weather conditions including heavy winds, snow, cold and damp weather to finally raise the antennas back to an upright position just as darkness settled in.

The committees concerning a new meeting location and computer applications are still hard at work. There have been several good suggestions for meeting places and we will make a decision prior to the January meeting. A report on the computer system will be ready for the January meeting and will be presented at that time.

I want to extend to each and every one of you a sincere wish for a happy holiday season and a healthy and happy new year!

RDXA: DECEMBER HOLIDAY

by Rick Berg, KS2F

The RDXA will not hold a December meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday evening, January 18, 1983. Until then may Santa's visit leave you with some new ones, some rare ones, and some spare ones (in case of no QSL)!

The RaRa Rag

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Fall has turned out to be a busy time for me with the trade show in Washington, D.C. I went to and my annual Army Reserve training at Fort Gillem near Atlanta, Georgia. Things are almost back to "normal" though (whatever that is!) and I am now sitting at my new TRS-80 Model III computer composing this article, the last I will write tonight. I would like to thank all those who took on special responsibilities with the *Rag* last month in my absence: Dwight Hill, K2KWK, my Associate Editor; Don and Joyce Ray, WA2PKS, our typesetter and printer; Harold Smith, K2HC, who keeps our mailing list up-to-date and prints the mailing labels; and especially Bud Young, WA2UGE, who collated, stuffed, stuck mailing labels on and mailed the *Rag*. I am very lucky to have their help and the help of all those who contribute to the *Rag* with articles, ideas and time. Many exchange papers I receive from other clubs often bemoan the fact that they never get input from club members and officers. As you can see by the number of pages in the last few issues, I have not had this problem. The *Rag* is larger and the articles are more diverse, and I hope to be able to keep it that way. My philosophy is, and the RaRa Board has backed me, that the *Rag* is the *only* club benefit that reaches each and every member. Thank you for your support!

K2RJ

NOVICE TESTING DOCKET #82-727

The FCC has been very busy and productive this fall. The FCC now proposes to have the licensee who voluntarily conducts and grades Novice Element 1A also prepare, conduct and grade the Novice written test Element 2.

In eliminating the mail-back step now in use both delays and inconveniences will be reduced. FCC costs would be cut. The FCC mails up to 30,000 Novice exams in any one year.

The FCC proposes this partly in response to a 1981 Petition of Dennis M. Dutton, WB2CSJ, of Nunda, New York who proposed that eligible examiners be allowed to grade the exams. FCC says such a proposal is in accord with the Amendments to the Communications Act of 1982.



Amateur Radio News Service

ROCHESTER HAMFEST NEWS:

A NEW TWIST FOR 1983

by Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ

The Rochester Hamfest Committee met November 14th to review the 1982 'fest and make plans for 1983. In light of poor economic conditions and the problem with the NYS tax people in 1981, the '82 Hamfest was an iffy proposition at best. However, due to excellent support by RaRa members and sound fiscal management, last year's event was one of the most successful on record. Plans are now in the making to make '83 Hamfest even more so. *Special note: There will be no increase in ticket prices this year!*

One major change this year, caused by a scheduling conflict at the Marriott Hotel, is the moving of the Annual Banquet from Saturday evening to Friday evening. Hopefully, this will bolster attendance at the banquet.

FCC exams will be given again this year, and there are rumors that our Hamfest might be used as a proving grounds for the FCC's new testing program. This may mean that volunteer amateurs may actually administer the tests under the supervision of the FCC personnel. More details on this as they become available. John Schooley, K2NC, heads up this effort.

Advance publicity should be in the hands of the major ham magazine editors by the time you read this, and there is a commitment to get the Hamfest Brochures mailed out by the first week in March. K2RJ is responsible for this effort.

The Ladies' Program will take place at Marketplace Mall with Lee VanGrol, WA2YEK, in charge.

Bud Hipsley, K2KIR, (ARRL Atlantic Division Vice-Director) is again program chairman and is trying to line up some super programs. If you have any ideas, drop him a line in care of the *Rag*.

HEAR YEA !

HEAR YEA !

HEAR YEA !

All hams within earshot and eyeball are hereby jointly and severally advised of the date of the 1983 ARRL VHF/UHF Sweepstakes. This is the event otherwise known as:

YEA - OLDE CONTESTO

Set your clocks to go off on January 14th. Your winter hibernation is to be suspended temporarily for January 15 and 16.

DECEMBER RAG CALENDAR

- 3 - December RaRa meeting, joint meeting with KPARC, Recreation Building, Kodak Park, 8:00 p.m.
- 8 - RaRa Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., QTH of AC2K.
- 8 - January *Rag* deadline to K2KWK.
- 10 - Rochester VHF Group meeting, 8:00 p.m., Harris-RF Communication, 1700 University Aveune.
- 17 - RRRRA meeting, 8:00 p.m., Pittsford Town Hall.
- 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON FROM THE STAFF OF THE *RAG!*

RaRa AUCTION REPORT

The November Auction was typical in many respects and not-so-typical in others. The quality of the equipment was a bit below average, but so were the amount of bids. There were some great bargains to be had, though, and some went begging. The club netted \$220, so multiply this by 10 and you have the gross sales. This figure is down slightly from the last few years, but there were also fewer donation-to-the-club-items this year. The auction night turned out to be the first ice-storm of the year as usual, and the bridges going home were a glaze.

A bit of excitement temporarily stalled the auction, as our Chief Auctioneer Ed Gable, K2MP, suddenly took ill and had to be taken to the hospital as a precaution. The first ambulance dispatched to the scene crashed on the way due to the icy roads and a second one had to be dispatched. Ed was allowed to go home later that night and was back to his usual activities on Monday. Ron, K2RJ, took over Ed's duties after he had to leave and with co-auctioneer Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, the auction was completed by the usual time.



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THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable, K2MP

The December 7th program was an interesting one by Richard Blackburn of the Gannett Radio and Television Stations. Dick spoke on the art of diplexing, or in this case, the use of the same antenna simultaneously by both WHEC-TV, Channel 10 and WROC-TV, Channel 8.

Chairman Cappy Capauldy, K2UXF, announced the Second Annual Valentine Dinner-Dance to be held in the Ontario Room of the Hotel Manger.

A report on the active Monroe County RACES tells of 7 nets operating on ten and six meters. The important job of Net Director for these nets were: Marion Noakes, W2UTF; Paul Samay, K2THK; Bill Kirkbright, WA2HWC; John Chechak, W2WVX; Ray Leigh, W2SNI; John Petrilli, W2ELP; Pat Sacco, K2LLP; and Fred Tompkins, K2DZV, as coordinator.

The Annual Business Meeting of the AWA met at Jack (W2JA) and Helen (WA2YPT) Armstrong's Bushnell Basin QTH. A recorded interview with Old Time Marconi Operator Charlie Ellsworth, W1TU, was the hit of the evening. In a separate article the AWA told of a membership drive with instructions to write the Secretary, Linc Cundall, W2QY. (*Linc is going to keep on this job 'til he get it right !!*)

Ed Hurysz, WA2YFO, reported the election of Paul Modern, K2GWT, as NCS of the Rochester Peanut Whistle Net, 21.4 MC, AM.

Ray Leigh, W2SNI, in his RDXA Column, congratulated Ed, W2CNT, on confirming his 300th country with 9U5ZZ.

Rochester Radio's ad pushed the Hammarlund HQ-110A as a quality laden multi-purpose receiver you would be proud to own.

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COP'S CORNER

by Howie Davies, N2CUN, RPD

Input a suggestion from K2GWT, Paul, who brings up a matter that is first and foremost in our daily lives. Home burglaries are now one of the most frequent and costly crimes in America today. With ham operators we have an additional problem and that is advertising our address over the air. Remember that there are many people listening to us locally and they know where you are and what you may have. Never, and I agree with Paul, *never*, say over the air that you are going to be away from home for any period of time. This is an open invitation and I know of two of my close ham friends, one in the city and one in Greece who were recently victimized, possibly for this reason.

In the news lately I'm sure all of you have heard about the problem with citizens shooting suspects while breaking into or already in their homes. Please, if you own a firearm be sure you know its function and the laws governing the use of deadly physical force. If you have any doubt about using a firearm in protecting your home or yourself, contact your local law-enforcement agency. In my next column I will publish the exact wording regarding these laws.

In closing I wish to send out to all of you a very *safe* and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from my family to yours. 73 (114 paydays to go!)

RRRA MEETS DECEMBER 17th FOR METEOR SCATTER

The December RRRRA meeting will feature Bob Phillips, WA2MXL, speaking on an unusual propagation phenonema called *Meteor Scatter*. Bob is with Scientific Radio Systems. This meeting will be in our usual meeting place, the Pittsford Town Hall, and will start promptly at 8:00 p.m.

The voting receiver project is coming back on the front burner now that our Technical Director, K2RJ, is back from his Army Reserve duty in Atlanta and has a little more time for coordinating this project. By the time you are reading this, the voting logic deck should be all checked-out and married-up with its power supply, and the link transmitter and receiver should be working. A UHF link antenna was recently donated by DB Products due to some fast talking by K2RJ at a trade show he attended. Technical help is always solicited, so if you have the talent and spare time, contact K2RJ.

"PACKET" REPEATER SET FOR ROCHESTER

According to *Westlink Report*, Ray Williams, WA2RYT, has a 2-meter packet repeater to go on 146.46 MHz simplex. A packet "repeater" receives and stores a "block" of digital data called a packet into computer memory, and then retransmits it. Thus the need for only one frequency. The packet "repeater" only transmits or receives at any one time -- not both as in a voice "real time" repeater. Ray is looking for other "packeteers" in the area to get some activity going. He is using a VADCG TNC board, an ICOM IC-22S transceiver, Ringo Ranger antenna, and AMRAD-provided repeater software. Ray's QTH is 305 Barry Road, Rochester, 14617. (*Ed. note* - 146.46 is the input to the VE2RPT repeater in Toronto, Ontario. Caution is advised on this frequency during times of inversion or for those located near the lakefront.)

NEW 220 MHz REPEATER

by Michael Calprood, N2DVH

Effective October 18th, N2DVH/R is active on the air from its location on Mt. Zoar Hill overlooking the city of Elmira. The center of the antenna is at 1755 feet a.s.l. Our antenna is a Cush Craft 4-pole array with a north configured pattern. The antenna gain is rated at 9db. Power is estimated at 50 watts, e.r.p.

The repeater output is at 223.980 MHz, with the input down by 1.60 MHz. The auto-patch feature should be in service by the time you read this.

Future plans include cross-band links to the 10, 6, and 2 meter amateur bands. Our intent is to leave the 6 meter link on at all times for extended repeater range. The expected frequency is 52.535 MHz.

A Technical Net will be organized to allow check-in stations to discuss problems which they are encountering on their projects. A RTTY net is hoped for also. The repeater is made available to anyone wishing to interface any device for the purpose of testing or evaluating performance, including computers. Check-ins from the outlying areas are welcome.

FOR SALE

Bearcat III Scanning Receiver with 7 Police and Fire Crystals installed. Available for \$100.

RM-76. A Microprocessor Control unit for Kenwood 7600 Series 2 meter radios.

Contact Lenny Gessin, WA2ZNC, at 248-2511.

A HARD LESSON FOR HAMS

EDITORIAL by Dwight Hill, K2KWK

You and I hear this every time we listen. We often do this every time we operate. Sometimes we do it repeatedly as we go about our daily chores and errands.

Our everyday conversation has a bad habit. You and I tell where we are. We thereby tell -- where we aren't!

We tell when and where we go.

We tell for how long we are gone.

We tell who is not at home.

We tell, and tell, and tell.

This all comes easily in our conversation. It doesn't matter whether you know the other person or not. We do it so naturally its very hard to interrupt the habit with a preceding thought: "*Should I -- or should I not say this?*"

Why am I picking on our conversations? Here are the sad facts.

It is election day 1982. A Rochester ham is on the air talking to his buddies. He tells them how he is today as he has been sick. He tells them this, and that, and a few jokes. He tells them he is going out to vote at 1 p.m. sharp. Voting is a big event for him this year as he is nearly unable to leave his house. He signed off the air for lunch, then off he went. He voted at 1 p.m. sharp. It was a nice day, he took his time going home.

He came home to an unusual sight, his front door window was broken and the door was unlocked and open. He and his family are victims of a very "*psychological violence*". Their sense of security has been raped. The most valuable things lost to them are not insured -- money and privacy.

He cannot say there is a connection between what he said and what happened. Nor can he say that there is no connection.

My point to you (and to you my friend) is to operate so as not to invite such a violation upon your person and property. Sadly -- you now need to consider this habit in your daily conversation. Yes, this is difficult, -- but it's suggested for your welfare and mine.



VALENTINE DINNER

"HAPPENING"

FEBRUARY 12th

NEW FOR 1983!

Save the date.

16/76 NEWS

by Ray Pickens, WA2MYG, Director, L.A.R.S.

Seasons Greetings from the Livingston Amateur Repeater Society. Many readers are familiar with the very wide coverage given by this repeater located at the south end of Hemlock Lake. The station call sign is WA2DHB/R.

There are plans for an auto-patch facility, a UHF linking network, and a new feedline. However, with only 28 supporting members, (as of this writing), all this can be is a plan. Without funds to implement the plans, the plans will not be able to be activated.

I call on each user to support the repeaters that they use. It costs money to keep them on the air.

OUR HOBBY

Our hobby of Amateur Radio is our lives together, what we have to offer each other - the giving and receiving of Radio units, parts, components, gifts, books, advice, suggestions, etc, just like the exchanges that go on between friends or members of a family, and indeed our hobby, like the family, is in fact a basic social unit of society.

It is made up of many things, the ambition and noise of great driving forces, of curiosity and exploration, of buying and selling, (sometimes without scruples), of greed and haste, of the desire for instant gratification when one buys a new rig, of getting it on the air immediately, of envy and jealousy, of endeavour, and of purpose.

Too often, unfortunately, it is made up of the image of our objectives, rather than the substance, such as engaging in static things, things that lead us nowhere, instead of involvement in the stuff that is dynamic and objective. These are the things of inspiration, progress, and achievement, - the things that nurture us rather than deprive us.

Those things have little to do with antennas, or transceivers or the paraphernalia of ham radio. What they amount to is a third reality of our hobby and of ourselves, - not too easy to express in words. Nevertheless that reality is everywhere, in all countries, among all peoples, but not all of use are necessarily able to recognize it when it becomes visible. Like the ball on the pin-ball machine, the third reality gets bounced around from pillar to post before reaching it's goal, but it never becomes dented, scratched or rusty.

The reality of hobby is also made of steel and it lasts and lasts, changing a little with the times occasionally, but remaining constant in the structure for ever. If this reality ceased to live, our

NEW 30 Meter Band IN USE

All across the country they waited, converted rigs and antennas at the ready. Sure enough, at 3 p.m. of Thursday, October 28th the FCC opened two segments to amateurs on a secondary basis. The excluded segment, from 10.109 to 10.115, is in constant use by a priority government user who is readily protected by FCC in case someone wanders.

Amateur use is limited to input power of 250 watts, and the emission modes A1 (CW) and F1 (RTTY). To operate in the band you must have a license of the General, Advanced or Extra classes. No voice modes are permitted in either segment!

The lower band segment is between 10.100 to 10.109 MHz, and seems to be where most cw operators collect. The upper segment is between 10.115 to 10.150 MHz, and seems to contain mostly RTTY signals.

Did you catch the word "*secondary*" in our first paragraph? If not, here is what this means. - The previous and still present users of the band are licensed in what is classed the fixed service. This is point to point traffic, using stations in fixed locations. These users have priority in the use of the band and the frequency they are on. They cannot change frequency like you and I. They are not to be interfered with. Eventually they will move out of the band, until then they were there first.

FOR SALE -Icom #IC-255-A with touchtone mic. For 12 v.d.c. \$175.00. Contact Rick Berg, KS2F, at 544-0776.

hobby would soon die of undernourishment, and people would give it up.

A good way to sustain it in good health is by performance, but this is not the same thing to all people at every place, and at all ages. The best criterion of performance is the answer to the question, "Have our thoughts been transferred into a positive action?". This leads to mandatory requirements for us to be tolerant of the activities and the aspirations of others, for there is not one single thing in amateur radio that deserves the derisive phrase, "*It's for the birds*"!

Every aspect of our hobby has it's utility and positive elements. It depends on our point of view, and this is always changing as we gather more insight and understanding of the nature of things, and as we grow older, gather a little more wisdom around us.

VE2TD

THE CHAIRMANS LETTER... NOV. 82

by Dan Pedtke, KW2T,
Chairman, Rochester VHF Group

Contests provide the Amateur radio operator with an opportunity for some real big time operating on the VHF bands. Contests test operating skill and teach a different kind of operating procedure. It tests a hams equipment capabilities under weak and strong signal conditions on any VHF band. For some, contests provide the main impetus for equipment construction. They give the venturesome ham an excuse to seek out a mountain with equipment made portable. Disaster preparedness comes to mind here. The HF operator has a chance to use his FM rig for some heavy operating which may be his forte' on the lower bands.

In summary, contests promote amateur radio activity, be it building, testing, or operation of equipment, or testing your ability to operate that equipment skillfully. *Or does it?*

The league has recieved many complaints about the way the contest are run. These are, of course, determined by the rules published by the league in QST. Some examples of complaints are:

– If someone in Austin, Texas worked stations out to 200 miles away, he could only get 2 sections. If he lived in LA, California the same applies. But if that same ham lived in NYC, 13 sections are within that 200 mile circle. Change the limit you had to 400 miles, and you get Austin-4, LA-6, and NYC-22! Now you know why the typical mid-western ham rarely even knows the contests exist! Supposedly a "grid" system would alleviate this inequality.

– Large multi-op stations sometimes operate a "rover" station equipped to give them multpliers on some of the UHF bands where stations are rare. Unfortunately, the rover is rarely used to contact any other stations but its own, even though others may be within range. This is considered by some as unfair operating practices.

– The hours of operation late Sunday night/ Monday morning make portable operation a hardship for anyone who has to be at work at an early hour the next morning. The 'off-time' rules waste valuable operating hours, especially the big multi-op stations who may go to great expense of time, money, and effort, and want to take advantage of every minute. EME may require operation at odd hours of the night when the air is quiet and the moon is up. But the FMer at home doesn't want to stay up. Most single-ops do not want an endurance contest.

– There are some "super hams" around the country that like to call themselves "purists" be-

RUMOR DEPARTMENT

The November 1 issue of the W5YI Report contains an article to the effect that we may expect ham radio operation from a future flight of the space shuttle. Many details remain to be worked out by the ARRL, AMSAT, and NASA. The operation is expected to take place in the 2 meter band, in order to allow international contacts. Although the prospect can be scrubbed at any time, it's anticipated for September/October 1983. If it goes, and if its successful, it may be on future shuttle flights as a regular rider. Keep tuned!

DECEMBER VHF GROUP

On Friday evening, December 10th, the VHF Group will assemble for its first pep rally before the January sweepstakes. Contest Chairman is Bill Gillette, WB2KIW. The meeting is important as it will cover new rules, logging, log entries, frequency usage, operating hints. It is hoped that it will also be told how the "big-ops" do it! Come to the meeting. Get your dander up! Get your antenna up! etc.

FOR SALE – Brand new-never on the air! IC-730S HF transceiver with power supply plus Dentron antenna tuner. First \$800 takes. Bob Lauzon, K2RL, 586-0174.

cause they have home made much of their equipment and are no appliance operators. They favor the elimination of FM activity in a contest entirely, mainly because they think of it as channelized, push and talk mode requiring no skill (such as theirs), just money for off the shelf equipment.

There are many other minor complaints, but they all seem to stem from operating practices that show up during the contest, which bring to light the problems and suggest some possible changes. The Rochester VHF Group and Rochester area hams are not directly represented on this committee, though we are always the 2nd top operating group in January, and many of the area hams appear in the top ten of the national scores in June and September (...and VHF/UHF standing boxes ...). I think it is time we get together a detailed plan based on the ideas of the hams in our area and present this to the Contest Advisory Committee. We need to assure that the rules provide a contest environment which maintains or improves interest and dedication in these valuable amateur radio events.

Bring your ideas and opinions to the meeting this month, or, if you can't make it, make them know to the club officers. This is your chance to influence the activities of your hobby!

THE ULTIMATE DX-PEDITION

by Dwight Hill, K2KWK

October 1981 saw the operation of a memorable dx-pedition. Sadly only one contact was made. Almost everything that happened developed a "Murphy-esque" aura. Some attribute the mis-happenings to a lack of planning. Some say they should have allowed contingencies for such mis-haps. Some give credit to the proximity of Halloween.

Our reader will surely understand why the source of this story has to be protected. It is possible to tell you that I have examined the audio-visual record of events. Many suspect that more detail will be revealed if a subsequent expedition is undertaken, an event strongly desired by the hopeful. This early report is to spread the alert to other seekers of the "Ultimate DX."

Here now is the story – the wayward happenings of a good plan gone very, very bad.

After much time in transit (details of delays unimportant), a fully manned dx-pedition landed at a desirable site in southern California. The spot is very similar to your common every-day suburban tract. The rig and antenna were set up in some nearby woods. I guess this afforded concealment from the emi/rfi authorities, seeming to assure a safe QSL.

Because the first landing was so precarious and made so quickly, no luggage and equipment were off-loaded. Only one talented individual made it off the ship. It became necessary for him to make careful contact with the local gang to get on the air. Getting to know each other consumed much valuable time and only increased the problem of homesickness. Naturally, the ice was broken finally with feasting and quaffing the local beer. After the delaying effects of the beer were noted,

the scrounging for gear began in earnest. It took a few late-night sessions and a little "midnight-oil" to get the rig assembled.

The rig itself was very homebrew. A revolving disc-keyer was used. Power was first solar, but due to lack of batteries it was rigged for lunar too. I am unable to see how it was switched from one mode to the other. The antenna was completely haywire since it was not cut to frequency and lacked the correct parabola. There was no feedline, so mounting right on the rig was necessary. But, by gosh, it worked!

The transportation of the rig to the site is another messy story. The vehicle used was a dirt-bike, a sort of camouflage I guess. Due to a spill, some injuries were sustained which further set back operating time. So the rig was put into beacon operation. Due to some reason, or maybe an FCC law, the operator stayed on site, even though he did sleep some of the time. One contact was made, I am sure, as they delivered the QSL promptly. I rather think the message sent was on the order of, "Get me the heck out of here!"

From my personal observation, it seems that the operator became the favorite of one of the locals and vice-versa. I detected a sort of mutual telepathic empathy. This is why I strongly suspect another attempt to visit in the future. Many hope that planning will be better next time to allow proper equipment, proper site planning, and more time for extra contacts. Evidently this hope is spreading as I daily encounter those still seeking contact. Some try the light wave area of the spectrum using multi-colored bumper stickers. Some are still using the low frequency aural spectrum, raising their voices from various street corners, school busses, etc. They no longer call "CQ-DX." They call, "E. T. phone home!"

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