

The RARa RAG

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NO. 5

BIG DISH AT ARECIBO REVISITED

RARa MEETS JANUARY 7 - 40/8 CLUB

Our January 7th meeting will be at the 40/8 (*pronounced Forty and Eight*) Club, 933 University Avenue, across the street from Gleason Works. There should be adequate parking in the club lot. If not, there is plenty of room at the church on the east side of the club.

About two years ago, George Peter of the N.A.I.C. at Cornell University presented a look at the giant radiotelescope at Arecibo, Puerto Rico. His talk was so well received that we have invited him back for a update on the latest happenings with the big dish. We hope to have a big turnout for his presentation at our new meeting place.

The meeting will start promptly at 8:00 p.m. and there will be the usual committee reports, announcements, awards program, and of course refreshments courtesy of our own George Muller, WA2IEO.

VHF SWEEPSTAKES RULES CHANGE

by Bill Gillette, WB2KIW, Contest Chariman

This January there are two major rule changes to be wary of. First, the traditional exchange of serial numbers has been dropped at the ARRL. Secondly, we are prohibited from using 146.52 for contest point contacts. You must use any other simplex frequency in the two meter band.

To be sure you have a complete understanding of the new rules see page 87 of *QST* for December 1982. Read Section 6 of the rules carefully.

THE CONTEST IS JANUARY 15 and 16.

Now is the best antenna weather, go get them up in the snow so they are used to the adversity to come!

Send your log sheets to Bill Gillette, 321 Frisbee Hill Road, Hilton, New York 14468.

This is it kid - you have all winter to recover. Get our your midnight oil, etc. With you operating and sending us your log we can do it. There is no log too small.

SEE YOU IN MY LOG!

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

I am happy to be able to report at this time that the Board of Directors have agreed on a new meeting place. The location and directions are presented in another article in the *Rag* so I will not cover them here. If you have any comments regarding the location etc., we would like to hear from you. We feel that the hall is centrally located, easy to get to and should have adequate parking.

I also wish to submit a short report on public service activities which have been rather slow recently. I will be having a meeting in the Auditorium at 111 Westfall Road on Monday, January 24, 1983 starting at 7:30 p.m. This is primarily for those people that are signed up to respond to a designated location in an emergency, such as the E.O.C., Hospitals, Monitor Stations or Care Centers. If anyone that has not signed up is interested in attending, the meeting will be open to all, so if you have an interest in Emergency Communications, plan on attending.

The spring licensing course will commence February 21, 1983 at 7:30 p.m. They will be held at 111 Westfall Road, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. on each successive Monday until May 16, 1983. Complete details will be in the February issue.



VALENTINE DINNER PARTY

Bring your favorite date, or come alone, but come, to the Packet Room, Hilton on the Campus, February 12th, 1983 for the RaRa Valentine Dinner Party.

The ladies will receive corsages.

Cash Bar - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner - 7:30 p.m. Choices are roast beef, London broil, or baked chicken.

Ralph Zwald and his banjo group promise us an unforgettable evening of entertainment.

Tickets are only \$15.00 per person. They will be available at the January and February RaRa Meetings.

Dance with the Hotel Band.

See you there!

The RARA RAG

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P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603

Editor Ronald J. Jakubowski, K2RJ
446 Cedarwood Terrace, Rochester, NY 14609 (716-482-6308)

Associate Editor Dwight Hill, K2KWK
265 Norcrest Drive, Rochester, NY 14617 (716-544-2332)

Advertising Manager Frank Pollino, K2OS
149 Whittier Road, Rochester, NY 14624 (716-594-0502)

Photographer Virgil Dumond, WB2FBY
152 West Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450 (716-381-3777)

COP'S CORNER

by Howie Davies, N2CUN, RPD

Now that we're all filled with the traditional Holiday goodies and cheer, its time to make your New Year's Resolution. Mine will be to give up smoking. With the new tax, who can afford cigarettes anymore! Also its healthier. Our YL's are probably hoping that our Resolution will be not to buy any more ham gear!

Rumor has it that plans are being made to finish or re-design that section of RT 31 between I-490 and the Elmgrove area. That will eventually be a welcome change for many Kodak workers.

Have you been Downtown lately? Take a ride someday and visit Downtown Rochester - there's a lot of construction going on. There are several new buildings taking shape in the Cultural District, construction is progressing on the new Conventional Center and there are a couple new roads and some newly-rebuilt roads which make it easier to get-there-from-here. Try it!

Snow is here, so drive only as fast as road conditions permit. Also, I suggest that all motorists turn on their headlights during snow showers. This will help other motorists to see you and maybe if enough of us use our lights, others will catch on. When I'm called to an accident scene, I'd rather not have your name appear on my report so please use caution all winter long. P.S. - I know that Joe, W2DHF, loves the snow so the next time you see him, ask him. I'm sure he will have a comment, and then duck! 73's for now - 110 pay-days to go!

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PACKET REPEATER UPDATE

The input to the WA2RYT repeater is on 146.46 MHz. This used to be the input frequency for a repeater in Toronto. However the input frequency for VE3RPT is now 147.66, with the output on 147.06 as always. So there should be no problem with interference using the 146.46 frequency. Our thanks to Ray, WA2MYG, for the new information.



Amateur Radio News Service

LOCAL HAMS HEAR OF AMTOR VIA TELECONFERENCE RADIO NET

On Thursday, December 2nd, over 250 local Amateurs listened to and had the opportunity to participate in the Teleconference Radio Network through the K2SA 146.19/79 repeater. The local repeater was tied into 12 other repeaters across the country through its autopatch which was called in to a central tie-point in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The local net was sponsored by the Rochester Radio Repeater Association and the Genesee Repeater Association. Local net control station was Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ. The national net was sponsored by the Honeywell Amateur Radio Club of Minneapolis, and the use of the Darome, Inc. *Co-Convenor* multipoint teleconference bridge was donated by Republic Airlines of Minneapolis. National net control station was Rick Whiting, WØTN, and the bridge operator was Lou Appel, KØIUQ.

The program for the evening originated from Reston, Virginia and was titled *AMTOR, Error-Free RTTY for the Radio Amateur*, by Bill Meyn, K4PA.

Repeaters were checked into the net from Phoenix, AZ, Boston, MA, Dallas, TX, Wichita, KS, Atlanta, GA, Newington, CT, Rochester, NY, Madison, WI, Minneapolis, MN, Long Island, NY, Beaverton, OR, and Washington, DC. Audio quality for the most part was excellent, and the entire program lasted two hours.

The next Teleconference net is scheduled for March 3 when Vic Clark, W4KFC, President of ARRL will discuss *The Future of Amateur Radio*. This will be carried in the Rochester area.

MULTIPLIER DX-PEDITION

For the 1983 January VHF Sweepstakes, WB2RRE/3 will trek to Pennsylvania for the third time in a row. They will operate from Eastern Pennsylvania (E. PA) section on Saturday, January 15, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on 147.42 MHz. The QSL Manager is Tom Richmond, WB2IEY. 328 Gibson Street, Canandaigua, New York 14424.

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JANUARY RAG CALENDAR

- 1 - *Happy New Year*
- 7 - January RaRa meeting, 8:00 p.m., 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue.
- 12 - RaRa Board of Directors meeting, 7:30 p.m., QTH of K2NC.
- 12 - February RAG deadline to K2KWK
- 14 - VHF Group meeting, 8:00 p.m., Harris-RF Communications, 1700 University Avenue.
- 15, 16 - VHF CONTEST WEEKEND
- 18 - RDXA meeting, Colonial Hotel, 1127 Empire Boulevard, 8:15 p.m.
- 21 - RRA Family Night, Strassenburgh Planetarium, 7:30 p.m.
- 24 - AREC/RACES Public Service volunteer meeting, 7:30 p.m., K2JD Club Station, 111 Westfall Road. (Park in lot on south side of building.)



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RRRA Family Night at Planetarium

by Ed Neubauer, N2BXA

The RRRA is pleased to announce that on Friday, January 21st, its second annual family night will be held at the Strassenburgh Planetarium on East Avenue.

The show, titled "*In the Deep Shadows of Space*", deals with a phenomenon which has led to the discovery and study of objects from the shadows cast in space.

Showtime is 8:00 p.m. sharp. The doors and box office open at 7:00 p.m. Our group will assemble and informally meet in the 'Multi-Purpose Room' before the show. Be sure to sign-up with any RRRA officer and indicate the number attending from your family.

RDXA MEETS: JANUARY 18th

by Rick Berg, KS2F

The RDXA will gather its brethren and guests on Tuesday the 18th (8:15 p.m.) at the Colonial Hotel, 1127 Empire Boulevard.

Our program will feature the 1981 DX-pedition to Desecheo Island by KP2A and company. Though the island is between the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, and is U. S. Property, under DXCC Rules it is classed as a separate country. Desecheo is a former gunnery target for the U. S. Navy. However it is now a bird sanctuary and landing permission must come from the Department of Interior.

Remember all RDXA Meetings are open to the public so if you are interested in seeing what rock-pile your tax dollar is administering please stop by our meeting on January 18th.

VHF GROUP: JANUARY 14th

Thats right class! Bill Gillette is going to lecture us again on how to beat those other guys. This being the third class on the subject, he must be doing it till you all get a high score. Come and see if his tactics have changed. Will he spare the power and lower the score? Will the giant silence on 146.52 mHz scare them all away? Will they never look for multipliers elsewhere? Will the outlying stations ever get even a low score without 146.52 mHz? Who will win the coveted "*boo-boo*" award for collecting and using all those serial numbers? Will they collect all the logs? Who will send in the first log?

Only time will tell of course. But no matter what Chairman Bill will hold a last ditch skull session starting at 8 p.m. at our usual meeting spot, the Harris/RF building.

THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO JANUARY 1963

by Ed Gable, K2MP

Program Chairman, Eddie Dunn, WA2KMI, promised a fine show for January with Sax Ringler, W2SAW, presenting a DX Slide Show on his recently completed European Tour. Pictured in this issue was Sax operating from the QTH of OH2SS in Finland.

A magazine subscription form was found on page 4 where RaRa members could buy "73" magazine for \$2.00 a year!

News from nearby Batavia, New York, indicated formation of a new radio club. The Genesee Radio Amateurs Association (GRAA) had it's beginning with Don Richardson, K2PBK, as President, and as Directors: K2YXW, WA2CTI, W2CUY, W2GIR, W2TST, and W2MRB.

A large Civil Defense exercise with 63 amateur participants was reported. 21 of which managed mobile contacts. The Towns of Parma and Ogden recently activated RACES Nets headed by John Petrilli, W2ELP, for Parma, and Fred Nixon, WA2RVO, of Ogden. Bill Kirkbright, WA2HWC, was named the Director of the 6-Meter RACES Mobile Net.

A large headline announces the FCC's get tough attitude towards Citizens Banders who are "*hamming*" on 27 mcs. The article quotes the rule to be strictly enforced, "*Channels are to be used between base stations and their own units.... limited to 3 minutes.... and for efficient management of a business or household for the control and movement of vehicles or persons.*"

The RDXA column indicated these area "*Big Guns*" in attendance at the last meeting: W2UVE 306/302, W2SAW 299/297, K2LWR 295/292, W2FXA 275/268, W2DJW 250/250, and W2PDB 247/230.

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FREE AND EASY!

The same people who brought us the wonders of free and easy radio (CB) now wish the same happiness for all in the ham bands. They seem to see hams as masters of some miracle of self-discipline. They are convinced that you and I can really prevent what happened to our eleven meter band. They have conveniently forgotten who erased the rules to make it free and easy when they couldn't control the messy chaos. They seem so sure we can, and will, do what they could not and would not.

The FCC wants more activity and more youngsters getting into ham radio. Are they proposing this because they hear the loud commercial pressure for our bands? If so, you can be sure they could not say it in so many words. But they could say it through their deeds. The FCC is offering an ultimatum; do these things on your own, and now is the time. It looks to me if we don't go along and do it we might be unwittingly giving away our last chance for the FCC to hold our bands for us. If ham activity is not in a growth phase then it is in a decline phase. If our bands are under-used then some of our space could relieve congestion in some other services. Once the precedent is set then it can be easily and readily used again. Good-bye hams, little by little.

I am reminded that there are already two distinct (*no code*) paths leading to the delights of the ham bands. One path is through 1750 meters, a not so easy path using more talent than money so-to-speak. 1750 meters is for the real experimenter, and no license required. The other road is via the present CB band, where all you need is the money for the off-shelf stuff to operate before you have the talent. The next step, easily enough is the novice/technician class via the many radio club classes.

Whats lacking is that not enough effective recruiting is done in the pre-entry levels. QST should be available in libraries and on news



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stands, to tell the up-beat side of the story. Well, - how much do the pulpy CB/SWL rags interest you? From somewhere must come the effort on several fronts, to reach the young persons of today and tomorrow. It will take more than present ham resources to reach them. It's going to be hard to get them away from the computer-games. It's going to be tough to sell a activity with such long term rewards. How do you emphasize perseverance and de-emphasize instant gratification? When English is *the* international language, how do you get them to want to learn the other fellows lingo? This seems like more than any group of hams can do. Will help come from educators and from the government?

Should everyone be able to crawl behind the wheel of any truck, tank or car and drive off without instruction and testing, and how about a license to prove the ability?

Dwight Hill, K2KWK

The RAG would like to print *your* point of view on this and other issues affecting amateur radio. Send your articles or letters to the RaRa RAG, P. O. Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603.

OLD TIME RADIO

The following appears in the schedule of the Rochester Museum and Science Center describing its "Winter Courses 1982-83":

"Take a nostalgic journey back to the days of yesteryear via recordings and scripts of historic radio programs, films and discussions. One class will take place in a "recreated" radio studio with authentic equipment and will include class participation in production of sound effects. Stephen Nash and guest lecturer Pat Walsh of WHAM. Three Tuesdays, January 4-18, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Room 12. ±236 Fee \$25.00."

Contact the RMSC at #271-4320, ext. 501 or 502. At this late date the class could be full so check it out with the RMSC to be sure.

CALLING ALL YL'S

by Lia Zwack, WA2NFY

You are invited to join our net, we would like to meet you all. The SSB Net times are Friday at 9 a.m. (EST) on 3845 in the 75 meter band; and also on Saturday at 11 a.m. between 7240 and 7245 in the 40 meter band. For those who like cw, our net meets Wednesday at 7 p.m. on 7050 kHz.

The YLRL publishes its newsletter "YL Harmonic" every other month. As the chairwoman for the 2nd call district, I would like to include information about you in my column. Our next deadline is March 1, 1983; and every other month on the first.

I will be glad to discuss our group with you at any time. For information please call me at (716) 647-1145.

MORE ON ULTIMATE DX-PEDITION

As nearly everyone was amazed at the details given in our last issue here are some additional facts purloined along the way.

Back in 1924, Mr. Thomas White recalls one night in August when all stations went off the air to allow transmissions from Mars to be heard. The complete story, on one sheet of paper, is available from the IRCA Goodie Factory, P.O. Box 17088, Seattle, Washington 98107. The cost for this page is \$.10 as long as a S.A.S.E. is included. Order #H35, "Extraterrestrial DX Circa 1924".

As to the future; look for more involvement in active listening by the U. S. Government. Private industry and the government are now developing a fantastic spectrum analyzer to use with their computers and "big ear" facilities. Some night you too may have to stay off the air so they can copy with no QRM.

L.A.R.S. NEWS

by Mike Hanna, KA2GEH

At the annual business meeting and dinner of the Livingston Amateur Radio Club the following new officers and directors were elected. They are:

- President - Ray Pickens, WA2MYG
- Secretary - Marilyn Sheedy
- Treasurer - Dwight Tewksbury, WA2ZUG
- Directors - Bob Reynolds, KC2GJ
Lester Wilcox, WA2GUP
Bill O'Donnell, W2XJ

The meeting was held November 16 at the Big Tree Inn in Geneseo. L.A.R.S. operates the W2DHB/R 146.16/76 repeater which covers from Rochester to the Pennsylvania border in the Southern Tier-Western New York area.


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