

The RARA RAG

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VOL. 35

MARCH 1983

NO. 7

WORLD ABOVE 1 Gigahertz — MARCH 4th MEETING

If you don't know what a Gigahertz is, you haven't been there yet. Generating radio signals at 1000MHz and above is no mean feat. But like all electronics, it's getting easier all the time. Two way SSB communication on microwave frequencies is very practical at the amateur level — especially so when antennas with incredible gain can be readily built or bought, if you must.

To give us a glimpse of this interesting world of really short waves, Dan Pedtke, KW2T, Chairman of the Rochester VHF Group will discuss what the bands from 1296 and up are like, show some slides of equipment and antenna installations, and bring along some relatively simple homebrew devices.

Mark the date — March 4th 8:00 p.m. at the Forty and Eight Club, 933 University Avenue (across from Gleason Works).

Bill, K2KGE

LOCAL TELECONFERENCE NET ON 145.11 AND 146.79

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association, Inc., and the Genesee Repeater Association will again co-host the local portion of the Teleconference Radio Network linking-up the WB2AQQ/R and K2SA/R repeaters locally (barring any intervention by Murphy). The program will start promptly at 8:30 p.m. Both repeaters will be locked on the air with the autopatch on local control for the duration of the net. All participants are asked not to transmit unless local Net Control, K2RJ asks for questions from the local area. Each repeater will be polled in turn. Thanks to all for your cooperation.

SILENT KEY

FRANK KRYSS, W2QJM, pioneer amateur who was licensed in the early 1920's under the call 8AKK. Frank was an ardent DX'er and charter RDXA member.

ADVANCED CLASS STARTS MARCH 8th

The Advanced Class this year will start March 8th at 7:30 p.m. in the K2JD Club Station. Registration is \$3, the book used is \$2 and RaRa Membership is \$6. Instructors will be Harold Mundy, KD2K and Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ.

ANNUAL AUCTION — MARCH 11

Take it from a (sob!) 45 year Rochester-ite, there is no better way (save getting out of town) to get yourself warmed up on a cold spring night than a good old-fashion auction. In case you think that sportsmanship has declined, where else can you go to hear two or three competitors get a round of applause after hotly bidding. To a seasoned auction participant, this one is unique. All radio amateurs are welcome, as are their guests. The terms are that 10% of the sale price is paid by the seller to the treasurer, who splits it evenly between the RARRA and the Rochester VHF Group.

The doors open Friday night at 7 p.m. to allow set-up and inspection. The first gavel falls at 8 p.m. The auction is run for the sole benefit of the RARRA and the VHF Group. Bring anything you think would interest a radio amateur, but leave the "junque" out.

LOCATION — the Rochester Police and Fire Academy located on Scottsville Road, opposite the east side of the Rochester/Monroe County Airport.

GUIDELINES —

1. Clearly label or identify each item or lot (box). The auctioneer can't dream up the description you want.
2. Include your name and callsign in your identification.
3. Indicate your desired opening price.
4. Tell auctioneer if he is to take the price up (*usual*), or down (*chinese*) if no bids are made.
5. State the condition of the item.

Neither sponsor group is responsible for the condition of items, condition is solely a matter between buyer and seller. It is the buyers responsibility to inspect, and the sellers responsibility to give correct representation. These details insure the continued quality of the auction.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As my Associate Editor, Dwight Hill, K2KWK has written elsewhere in this issue, the FCC is soon going to act on many issues that can and will affect Amateur Radio in the U. S. for many years to come. One of these issues which strikes near to many hearts is Docket 83-28 which proposes some type of code-free license for use above 30 MHZ.

Several commercial FCC-following newsletters that I receive at work say that the code-free license is a "given" as far as the current Commission is concerned. All that is left is to work out the administrative details.

If a concerned Amateur community is going to turn things around, it is going to take more than emotional rhetoric complaining that "the newcomers should pay their dues like I did" or "look at the CB mess" or "its always been that way, why change things?".

If we feel that learning the Code is important for all classes of licensees, even those on VHF, we are going to have to present a well-documented, factual, non-emotional case to the Commission. What are the benefits to the *public interest of all* Amateurs learning the Code? This is the question the Commission will want answered.

I have some ideas I will share in next month's column, but I would like *your* ideas too. Please write to the *Rag*, P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, New York 14603.

K2RJ

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I. J. Goodman, AF2K, Membership Chairman

February 9, 1983

	This Year To Date	Last Year To Date
Total Members	782	795
NEW Members (included in above figure)	91	156

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Amateur Radio News Service

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

This month I will bring you up to date on our computer program. The direction that has been approved by a vote taken at the February meeting is to purchase our own computer. The Board of Directors, after much study, has voted to go with the TRS-80 Model III. The purchase of a "bare-bones" Model III has been approved by the Board, and by the time you read this, will have been made.

The complete system that we will eventually put together will include disc drives, memory, printer, and other accessories. We will try to secure these items over the next year or so without any increase in dues. We feel that with careful planning and full support from the membership this can be accomplished.

I would like to point out some of the advantages of acquiring our own system:

1. To update the membership file and *Rag* mailing list in the past has fallen on the shoulders of one person, Harold Smith, K2HC. With an in-house system, this work can be spread over more people.
2. The system can and probably will be made available to club members the same as the other station equipment at K2JD.
3. The training programs can possibly be expanded to include some training on computers.
4. We will have supportive information more readily available in the event of an emergency.

These are only some of the applications that have been suggested, and I am sure there will be more.

If anyone has equipment they are not using that would be compatible with the Model III and would like to donate it to the club, please contact me. We are also willing to accept any cash contributions to be used for the purchase of additional equipment. If you wish to contribute, be sure to note it is for the *Computer Fund*. Remember, all contributions are tax-deductable.

Our thanks to KA8IGS and K2MP for their work on the Computer Application Committee.

WHY THE TRS-80?

by Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ

With the great number of small computers presently available, choosing the right one for the job is not an easy task for the novice. There were several reasons that the TRS-80 Model III was chosen.

MARCH RAG CALENDAR

- 3 - Teleconference Radio Network, 8:30 p.m., 145.11 and 146.79
- 4 - RaRa meeting, 8 p.m., 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue
- 9 - RaRa Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., QTH of WB2UTI
- 9 - April *Rag* deadline to K2KWK
- 11 - Joint RRRRA-VHF Group Auction, 8 p.m., Rochester Police and Fire Academy, Scottsville Road
- 15 - RDXA meeting, 8:15 p.m. Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Boulevard

DONATE OLD CALLBOOKS

In 1981, after a QSO meeting, I sent my 1980 US and DX Callbooks to a Czech Ham, OK1PCL, who couldn't buy them. In return, he sent me some beautiful photo and travel books. He now would like '82 or '83 books. I have none. If you want to donate or swap, I'll arrange and pay U. S. postage too. - *Ed Coapman, WA2QNS, phone 637-6140 (after 5 p.m.)*

First, it is a well-known machine that has much outside support in the way of both software and hardware. One only has to page through the 500 page monthly Wayne Green publication *80 MICRO* to realize that there is no end to what is available for the machine now.

Secondly, we were able to evaluate and purchase an excellent mailing list program from Precision Prototypes in Refugio, Texas, that was easily modifiable for our membership and mailing list needs. With this program, one disk-pair can hold over 2400 names with the associated membership records and still give less than 5 second access to any record. You may have also noticed another thing this program can do - the first and last names appear in the proper order on the mailing labels, instead of last-name-first.

Thirdly, the backup for the computer is nearly unlimited. One well-known local radio manufacturer has 8 of the machines at last count which have already been made available to us to enter the RaRa mailing list.

Lastly, the price was right. With some help from our friends we were able to get the unit at a substantial discount. Now with the help of the membership, we should be able to load the machine up with the needed accessories so it will be usable as intended. See the President's article for more details on this.

TELECONFERENCE RADIO NET TO LINK AMATEURS ACROSS U.S.

Vic Clark, W4KFC, President of The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) will discuss "The Future of Amateur Radio" on the Teleconference Radio Net Thursday, March 3, at 8:30 p.m. EST. Over 3,000 amateurs across the U.S. are expected to be tuned in and in full two-way contact with Vic by a teleconference interconnection of amateur radio VHF repeaters. This is the largest and most widespread interconnection of radio repeaters ever accomplished. It demonstrates both the power of advanced multipoint teleconferencing to reach people wherever they are and the technical sophistication of ham radio. The participants will be using their radio stations at home, in the car, and even walking down the street with hand-held radios. Such ubiquity in communications will not be available to the public for several years pending construction and growth of cellular radio service in the U. S. Thus, the Teleconference Radio Net provides a glimpse of the future of public communications.

Repeaters currently scheduled to tie into the net include:

Phoenix	AZ	KA7DSY/R	146.36
Avon	CT	W1NI/R	224.78
Roswell	GA	N4CLA/R	145.47
Wichita	KS	WR0ABB	146.82
Minneapolis	MN	W0TN/R	146.64
Long Island	NY	WB2NHO/R	147.375
Beaverton	OR	W7LJN/R	147.32
San Antonio	TX	WB5FZA/R	146.70
Milwaukee	WI	WB9ZCT/R	145.13
Los Angeles	CA	W6VIO/R	224.04
Washington	DC	WD4IWG/R	147.21
Chicago	IL	W9SRO/R	147.15
Billerica	MA	WR1ABP	147.12
Cherryville	NJ	WB2NQV/R	147.375
Rochester	NY	WB2AQQ/R	145.11
Rochester	NY	K2SA/R	146.79
Dallas	TX	K5JD/R	146.97
Madison	WI	WR9AVT	146.76
San Francisco, CA. repeater T.B.D.			

Teleconference Radio Nets will be held quarterly in 1983. On Thursday June 2 also at 7:30 Central Time the speaker will be Joe Riesert, W1JR. The topic will be "antennas".

The net is organized by the Honeywell Amateur Radio Clubs of Minneapolis, Phoenix, and Billerica. The multipoint teleconference bridge used for the net is a 20-port Darome "Co-Convenor" owned by Republic Airlines in Minneapolis. Bridge operator is Lou Appel, K0IUQ. National net manager and net control operator is Rick Whiting, W0TN.

PUBLIC SERVICE REQUESTS CONTINUE

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The requests for our services continue to come in. The latest comes from KA2JIL at S.U.N.Y. College at Brockport for support at the western regional Explorer Scout Olympic Competition. I will have more details on this in the April issue of the *Rag*.

We had a meeting of all those who are registered in ARES/RACES on January 24th and I am happy to report an excellent turn-out of 38 members. I will have an updated assignment list available at the March meeting. This is made possible with the aid of Ed Gable, K2MP, who has created a file for us in his computer and furnishes me with an updated list a day or two after I give him the new information. I have merged the Hospital list with the Ginna Evacuation Plan list and these changes are reflected in the new listing.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the organizations that sponsor the local repeaters that are available for use during emergencies and public service events. These include, but certainly are not limited to, the Rochester Radio Repeater Association, Inc. and the Genesee Repeater Association.

RaRa MEMBER WANTS TO START USED EQUIPMENT BANK

A local Amateur is contemplating starting a used equipment outlet business for Amateur Radio parts and equipment. Before he lays out a substantial investment, he would like some feedback from the local amateur community. He would carry used equipment, coax cable, antennas, connectors, wire, etc.

If any of you have thoughts on this contact Ken Villone, KC2TR (formerly KA2MIN), Box 13572, Rochester, New York 14613. Phone - 342-0607.

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RaRa NON-RENEWALS

The following 1982 Full members have not renewed their membership for 1983. If you are reading this, your call should not be on this list. If it is, please contact AF2K.

If you know anybody on this list, the RaRa Board would appreciate if you could give them a gentle reminder or convey to them the reasons for not renewing.

WA2ITK	WA2SDK	W2HW	K2CAB
KA2MZE	WA2VVK	KA2MIH	KA2Y
WA2BML	KA2HIL	KA2AIC	W2UTF
KA2LGG	WB2HZX	WA2MPT	K2GAT
KA2JQT	WB2EMS	WA2SWY	N2BZB
KA2APP	WA2YQI	WD8OGR	W4PG
WA2SHN	G4JJO	WB2GUI	W2OL
K1ORY	WA2FTV	WB2TEQ	AI2M
KA2LFK	KA2EFM	K2QGZ	KB2SB
KA2HVX	WB2BSX	KA2POR	KB2CM
WA2HFU	KA2EEL	KA2LFY	AD2V
WA2EJU	KA2HWF	KB2SG	KF2D
WA2ROW	KA2HVO	WA2ZKD	KE2G
WA2BKV	KA2LFL	KA2JQO	KD2X
W2RTX	WB2UAJ	KA2GBO	K2OXT
WB2KAO	WA2QMZ	WB2HZM	W2HZ
KA2GBP	W2IRW	KA2MEB	W2VVU
KA2EGH	KA2CFS	KA2HJN	K2DAS
WA2GIJ	WB2JAR	WA2GAJ	N4TL
WB2ZOC	KA2MBU	KA2BHL	W2EJ
WA2SMI	WA2BMM	KA2LFV	AG2Y
KA2JRD	WB2KGD	WB2YKR	N2AGA
WA2HCL	WB6MTO	WB2KMS	N2RH
KA2LFU	WA2GIH	WB2ELB	KJ2E
KA2HWJ	KA2GGZ	KA2MXT	W2DG
KA2HHH	WA2KIU	WB2UXI	N2APB
KA2JRE	WA2MEI	KA2IZN	N2BWV
WA2ZGN	N2AMH	W2IKD	KC2NG
W2WQV	WB2HWO	WA2KDW	W2IKD

RDXA: MARCH 15

Our Tuesday night meeting is to feature Mike Rice, KB2SG, with an interesting program and discussion concerning the legal ramifications of tower installation. Mike is an attorney and has assisted several local hams in tower matters. He is well versed in local ordinances. Mike is also an active DX'er.

The informal part of the meeting will probably consist of lively discussions of the "who's heard Heard Island" nature. The VK0 DX'pedition has also had to compete with TT8 (Chad) and LU5ZA (South Orkneys) for DX'ers attention in January and February.

You do not need to be a member of the RDXA to attend a meeting. Reports are that you do not even need to be a DX'er. But each meeting seems to have two to three dozen in attendance. That may have something to do with the congenial surroundings of our host, The Colonial Hotel, 1127 Empire Boulevard, where the fare is famous. The more formal meeting begins at 8:15 p.m. The "scuttlebut session" can begin as soon as two or more show up.

SWL PROGRAM

Many are interested in what has long been known as Short-Wave-Listening. But it is difficult, sometimes expensive, to keep up with what is happening. There is a radio program to help you keep informed.

Glenn Hauser, a prolific radio listener, writes monthly articles and does a weekly radio show heard in Rochester on Sunday evenings. His half-hour show begins at 6:30 p.m. on WRNO. But you can't find WRNO on our local AM & FM dial. WRNO transmitters are located near New Orleans, Louisiana. Hauser's program is currently being sent on 11.890MHz. Depending on propagation, etc., they have been on 9.515MHz too. At 7 p.m. the station changes to 11.965MHz, a clearer frequency they might use in the future for the "World of Radio" program. The program has frequently included information of interest to active hams.

NEW FCC EXPERIMENTAL LICENSE GRANTED

The FCC recently granted a license to Detection Systems, Inc., for a new experimental developmental station at Fairport, New York "to operate on various discrete frequencies in the 26, 27, 35, 42, 146, 151, 453, 462, 497 and 825 MHz... to test products for immunity to RFP".



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NO-CODE LICENSE UPDATE

Following information is drawn from ARRL Bulletins 8 and 11. The FCC meeting on January 20th makes official two dockets to change testing and licensing of radio hams.

FCC Docket 83-27 deals with the volunteer examiner and is issued in response to a ARRL Petition regarding that subject. Now that Congress has approved this, and the President has signed it, the FCC will proceed to make this into practical law.

FCC Docket 83-28 contains two FCC proposed alternatives for ham band operation without benefit of a test of morse code skill. One alternative is the Technician Class without its 5 word per minute exam and providing all amateur privileges above 50 mHz. The other alternative is similar to the Canadian Digital Amateur Class Certificate and would be known as the Experimenter Class. The Experimenter test would be a theory only test of digital and other amateur methods and gives complete amateur privileges above 144 mHz. In seeking comments the FCC also wants your views on how the Experimenter test should be made up. FCC also is asking for comments on the amount of frequency privileges to be given to either a Codeless Technician or Experimenter Class.

The Comment deadline is April 19, 1983!

March QST magazine, mailed in late February, is to carry the entire text of the FCC proposals and information on how to file your comments at the FCC. You might have about 60 days to investigate, think, discuss, write.

You may expect to hear ARRL President Clark comment on this action in his discussion "The Future of Amateur Radio". This live presentation will be heard in the Rochester area Thursday March 3 at 8:30 p.m. on the Teleconference Radio Net.

The W5YI Report of February 1 has some details of interest and quotes the FCC as follows:

"We believe that intelligent, disciplined persons can make a valuable contribution to the Amateur Radio Service without proficiency in code. They might include younger persons with a primary interest in computer technology and physically handicapped persons as well as others. The proposed class will be an 'entry' class for which proficiency in radio theory, operation and practice will be required rather than proficiency in code. In that way individuals can prove that they have the ability and discipline to make a serious contribution. There is no intention to de-

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emphasize code as a communications mode in the Amateur Service. The code's attributes of wide recognition and efficiency substantiate the belief the 'code can stand on its own feet' without being made a prerequisite for all Amateur licenses. Codeless Class licensees may develop an interest in code, just as other licensees usually develop interest in greater knowledge of radio theory and greater proficiency in code."

Fred Maia, W5YI, goes on to say that even though 92% of ARRL Members and 71% non-members said the code was important, the FCC sought views from not just the licensed amateur community. He says, the "Commission said its constituents were the public interest". Fred also said the no-code license could never exist without the volunteer exam program. The FCC has no chance of getting funds for more testing and licensing. Evidently the high cost of testing and administration is what stopped implementation of "no-code" back in 1975 with Docket 20282.

Now that Reaganomics has cleared the way Fred was "unable to find anyone within the Commission who didn't feel this way", that is that no-code "appears headed toward sure enactment".

K2KWK

COP'S CORNER

by Howie Davies, N2CUN, RPD

The weather in Rochester has been just great! It almost feels like living down in the Carolina's. For the most part the roads have been clear and accidents are fewer than this time last year. I think you will find fewer potholes in the spring as the road crews have had to only use minimal salt so far this winter.

RT-590 construction is just about completed and it sure is a welcome addition to our expressway network.

With the latest reports of lay-offs a few of our brother and sister hams have received pink slips. Now its time for all of us to really stick together and help out those who have lost their jobs. If I can help out in any way I hope those who are without jobs won't hesitate to call me. *SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW HAMS!*

In the last issue of the Rag the new QSL card was presented by Jim O'Brien, K2UDP. I think it is a very attractive card and by the looks of it a lot of hard work has gone into designing the card. To all who worked on the project a "well done."

Due to a bout with the flu in January I missed the February issue. I hope that won't happen again.

Don't forget to start making plans for our Hamfest in May. I've already started trying to find all those jars buried in my backyard. Hope to see you all there.

With the latest project on Metro Police here in Monroe County many questions are being asked. I will try to dig up some information on the proposal and keep you informed.

73, 110 paydays to go!

WANTED: Heathkit SB-220 with 10m capability. Call KA2KLT "Scotty" at 394-3417 or write 525 N. Main Street, Canandaigua, New York 14424.

LEAKY LINE CORD MONTH

Now that your contest time is past it's a good time to search out all the "zip cords" being used in your house. Most of these cords are plastic covered. Plastic is a good insulator for the purpose. But you should be aware of a major flaw that will occur at some point in its lifetime. As it ages, it develops a brittleness and it then cracks. Just normal movement during house cleaning can aggravate a crack in it. Sometimes it is so brittle that fair-sized pieces will break away, an event that leaves the copper wires exposed. We are sure you can envision enough bad consequences of your own.

While you are snowed in, etc., go through the place where you live room by room and line cord. Do this in good lighting conditions. Unplug each appliance or lamp as you go. Take the cord in both hands and work it slightly as you go over each inch of it. Look at it carefully, but also feel it as its bent. You could detect a crack by either method. While you're at it, check the plug, and check the line cord as it enters the plug.

We are willing to bet you will sleep better after you have done this. And, don't forget the appliances that get occasional use. Get everything before it gets you. Best wishes for a long life!

Your editors, RaRa Rag

STILL TIME TO ORDER QSL'S

If you haven't yet ordered your RaRa QSL's, time is quickly running out. The deadline is this week's RaRa meeting. Since the minimum printing on this card is 250,000, it is quite unlikely that a second ordering will be available. Don't procrastinate - get your order in today. All orders mailed before the weekend will be accepted. Cost is \$25.00 per 1,000. Minimum order is 1,000. The order blank appears below for your convenience.

RaRa QSL ORDER BLANK

DATE _____ NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CALL _____ PHONE _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ QUANTITY (IN 1000's) _____

Shipping is not available - Local pickup is required.

Send Order to: RaRa QSL, P.O. Box 1388, ROCHESTER, NY 14603.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO RaRa QSL. FULL PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER.

HISTORY OF RTTY

In 1906 the first American teletypewriter was invented and a company to market it was formed by the inventor, Charles Krum and financier Joy Morton (of the Morton Salt Company), called "MORKRUM COMPANY". The young company had a pretty rough go of it until 1915 when the Associated Press decided to use the Morkrum equipment. At about the same time, a German immigrant, Edward Kleinschmidt, was independently manufacturing a machine bearing his name.

In 1925 these two companies were merged, and the combined company was then purchased in 1930 by Western Electric - the manufacturing branch of Bell Telephone Company. At this time the company changed its name to TELETYPE COMPANY. Kleinschmidt then came out with a new machine and he formed the Kleinschmidt Company to manufacture his new machine.

In the U.S., Amateur RTTY started about 1946. On both coasts groups started using RTTY on 2 and 80 meters. On the lower frequencies MAB (make before bread) keying was used. It sounded like high speed CW. The pulse length on a teleprinter machine is quite short, and it was soon found that MAB was not as satisfactory as leaving the transmission keyed and shifting the carrier in frequency to correspond to the different letters. This was allowed on 11 meters, and here some of the important contributions were first made using FSK. On VHF, the regulations allowed the use of audio tones. This is used to this day, but most of the VHF use is now FM modulated with tones instead of AM. This is very simple to do and allowed the transmitters to be very simple. This is called AFSK (Audio Frequency Shift Keying).

In 1953, the FCC modified the rules to permit FSK (Frequency Shift Keying) to be used on HF using 850 shift only. However, many commercial stations using RTTY had found that certain problems could be minimized by the use of shifts more narrow than 850. Amateurs also wanted the opportunity to experiment with these narrow shifts, and in March of 1956 it became possible to use "any shift up to 900". With the advance of computers in Amateur Radio the FCC, in 1980, permitted the use of ASCII on the HF and VHF bands.

Ka6NYW - RTTY Journal via MARC TIMES

FOR SALE: Back issues -
73 Magazine - Jan. '81 thru Dec. '82 \$12.00
QST - Jun. '81 thru Dec. '82 \$ 9.50
Complete sets only (approx. \$.50 per issue)
Contact Dave, N2CSB, days - 442-4567, nights - 28/88.

LOCAL LAW #5: REPELLED

A law designed to discourage thefts of valuable metals, gems, stamps, coins, etc. that became effective July 1981 was finally repealed December 21, 1982. The Monroe County Legislature voted 17 to 10.

Specific objections to the law included:

1. Limited transactions to the applicants address only - thus preventing buying and selling the named items at shows, etc.
2. Extensive record keeping was required.
3. A five day holding period was mandatory between acquisition and sale.

As soon as enforcement was attempted by the Monroe County Sheriff, efforts to repeal began, principally by Rochester area antique dealers, collectors, show promoters and their supporters. It was felt by many that eventually all who deal in antique silver, gold plated items, stamped post cards would have to apply for a license to sell in Monroe County. Initially the license fee was \$100.00, but that was reduced to \$25.00 in September 1982. Finally, in a meeting on December 7th, the Rochester Chamber of Commerce added its voice to call for a repeal.

This law would have affected amateurs who casually sell their possessions, along with those who regularly deal in radio equipment. Many older items of radio hardware were plated in silver. Some telegraph keys were gold plated and had gems for bearing surfaces. Collections of QSL cards bear cancelled stamps. Present day circuit boards often have gold plated connectors, or the board devices have gold wires.

MOVING? Let us know. Send you new address to RaRa RAG, P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, New York 14603. If you don't tell us, it costs us \$.25 for the post office to tell us. And if you pay to have your 2nd class mail forwarded, we may not find out until your forwarding notice expires and pay \$.25 for an "addressee unknown" notice. Please keep us informed!



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"HAMS BE AWARE"

Police Cars Just Freak Him Out

Radios interfere with boy's pacemaker, cause him to faint

Associated Press

HOLYOKE, Mass. — When 10-year-old David Weeks, sees a police car, he runs in fear — cruiser radios interfere with his pacemaker.

"Whenever he sees the police, he freaks out," Katherine Weeks said of her son, who was born with several defects, including Down's syndrome and heart trouble.

"He knows," she said.

When David comes within about 20 feet of a police radio in use, the signal cuts off the pacemaker, his heart rate falls suddenly from 72 beats a minute to 6 and he gets chest pains and faints, she said.

Unlike adult pacemakers, David's pediatric device is more susceptible to interference because it operates on a different frequency, Mrs. Weeks said.

"He afraid. Whenever police go near him, he panics. He starts running away saying, 'Stop, stop, stop' and holding his chest," Mrs. Weeks said.

Holyoke police have agreed to try to avoid using their radios near the Weeks' apartment and Chief Harold Skelton has sent memos to the Fire Department, Department of Public Works and the Gas and Electric Department asking their employees to be careful about broadcasts in the area.

CB radios, walkie-talkies and microwave ovens also can cause interference, she said.

Recently, Mrs. Weeks found her son on the ground unconscious. A motorist had apparently been using his CB radio when he stopped at a traffic light.

Although the fainting spells are frightening, he regains consciousness quickly when taken away from the radio signal, his mother said.

"I get him away very quickly. I don't know how long it would take before any really bad damage would happen," she said.

SUPPORT THE REPEATERS YOU USE

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association has a nice map of the central New York State areas from Rochester to Watertown, to Lake George, to Newburg, and to Williamsport. We are sure they will gladly provide a copy in exchange for your contribution to their good efforts.

Rochester HAMFEST

MONROE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
May 20-21, 1983

IT PAYS TO BE ALERT

Waiting in a steamship office to be interviewed for a job as wireless operator, a group of applicants filled the room with such a buzz of conversation that they were oblivious to the dots and dashes which began coming over a loudspeaker.

About that time, another man entered and sat down quietly by himself. Suddenly he snapped to attention, walked into the private office, and a few minutes later came out smiling.

"Say," one of the group called out, "how'd you get in ahead of us? We were her first."

"One of you would have gotten the job," he replied, "if you'd listened to the message from the loudspeaker."

"What message?" they asked in surprise.

"Why, the code," the man answered.

"It said: 'The man I need must always be on the alert. The first man who gets this message and comes directly into my private office will be placed on one of my ships as operator.'"

— San Diego Repeater Association, CA and

D.A.R.C. Newsletter

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1 1/4 x 3 (2 line)	\$2.00
2 x 3 (3 line)	\$2.25
2 x 4 (4 line)	\$2.75

Base station sign

2 x 8 (2 line)	\$3.00
Walnut base	\$3.50
Plastic base	\$1.50
Clip fastener on badge instead of pin	add 25¢

REAL ESTATE AND THE AMATEUR

As a Ham and a Real Estate Broker, I have made some observations on some considerations that should be taken into account when purchasing property. We can't all afford that ideal QTH with a 2-acre antenna farm and sitting up on a hill, but there are locations in all price ranges that would make a good Ham QTH's.

Elevation above average terrain is an obvious factor, especially for VHF and UHF work. For HF, being somewhat above the immediate surroundings and in the clear, would be the most important things. Before purchasing, find out if there are any antenna height restrictions imposed by the city, county or, in the case of many new housing developments, in the form of protective covenants. These covenants would be on file at the court house.

Some of the new developments allow no outside antennas – it might be hard to get a TH-6 in the attic. Being near an airport poses some additional restrictions in antenna height – especially in the flight path.

Look for probable generators of interference, such as power lines, commercial properties or a neighbor with an arc-welder, etc. Are the power lines underground? The noise is usually lower in these areas, however, prices may be higher. How close together are the houses – the closer your neighbor is, the greater chance for you to bother each other. Again, price may dictate a compromise in this area.

Generally, a QTH in close proximity to a broadcast station is not a good idea, especially an AM station. All it might take is one bad connection in the antenna system and you could have Lorreta Lynn singing all over the 40 meter band.



Trees may be a help in supporting wire antennas, but too many can make it difficult to get antennas in the clear. Would you want to remove some trees? A wire antenna should never have to cross a power line. Along this same line, if you are going to put up a tower, it should be in such a place that it won't blow down across a power line.

The house should have at least 220 volt 100 amp service. This is code in most areas. If not, you may want to take the cost of installation into consideration.

Where are you going to put the shack? Does the XYL (or OM) have other plans for the same room? It might pay to discuss this. If the shack is to be in the basement, is it dry? How will the feedlines be routed outside? Also, how close is the nearest Ham? If he is close and active, you may blow each other off the air, or may have to restrict your operation to separate bands sometimes.

I am sure there are other considerations, and of course, the regular ones you would have in purchasing a house as a non-Ham. If you find a good QTH, your next job is to sell the XYL or OM on the place. Hint: with a super Ham QTH, you will be staying home more.

Ray Dennis, W0DQ via W6SD Carrier, Calif.




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