



# the **RA RA RAG**

Published by

**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Rochester, N.Y.

JANUARY 1984

Volume 36 No. 5

## **FCC KILLS CODELESS LICENSE**

The Federal Communications Commission unanimously voted down the code-free license proposed rulemaking at a Commission meeting December 14th.

The Commission went on record opposing the proposal in the strongest language possible.

### **JANUARY MEETING — TECHNICAL Q/A**

by Ray Roberts, WA2SSU

Are you wondering why that antenna you put up last summer doesn't work any better than a clip lead hooked to the antenna terminals of your new rig? Or maybe how to get rid of annoying alternator whine on your mobile rig. Or maybe you've always wondered what the passband tuning really did on your new rig.

You will all have your chance to stump our panel of experts on any technical question at our January meeting. And, if you wish to keep your lack of knowledge from becoming common knowledge, you even may submit your questions anonymously in writing at the start of the meeting.

Our technical panel will be headed by Joe Hood, K2YA, with assistance from Bob Reifsteck, K2LZG; Ed Gable, K2MP; and Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ.

George Muller, WA2IEO, will again provide the best in after-meeting refreshments, and Don Drennan, W2EBF, will present some very interesting awards. See you all there!

### **IS THIS YOUR FINAL RAG?**

For those of you who have not yet renewed your membership in RaRa for 1984, please do so quickly or this will be the last *Rag* that you will receive. Even if you can't come out to the meetings, club membership provides you with many services such as the *Rag*, the *RaRa Directory*, and license classes just to name a few.

For those of you who have renewed your membership, the club officers and board of directors wish to extend their thanks for your support.

### **RRRA MEETS AT PLANETARIUM**

by Howie Davies, N2CUN

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association will present its 3rd annual *Family Night at Strassenburgh Planetarium* January 20th. A short meeting will be held at 7:30 in one of the Planetarium meeting rooms. The show is called *January Skies* and will start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$2.50 for adults, and normal child and student prices will prevail. Let's see a good turnout!

### **VALENTINE DINNER PARTY**

Tickets for the VALENTINE DINNER PARTY will be available at the January RaRa meeting. The cost is the same as last year, \$15.00/ticket. So while you are marking your calendar for the DINNER PARTY itself (February 11 at 6:00 p.m.), also mark it for the January meeting (January 6).

The Menu, at the Holiday Inn Airport, features a choice of three: Roast Top Sirloin, Broiled Sole, or Baked Breast of Chicken Normandy. Entertainment will be by Jerry Argetsinger. You may have seen his magic act at the Marriot during the hamfest a couple years ago. The cocktails begin at 6:00, dinner at 7:00, and entertainment at 8:00.

February 11 is the second Saturday in February. Holiday Inn Airport is at 911 Brooks Avenue. Contact Bradley Wallace, N2BEJ, or any board member for your tickets.

### **SILENT KEYS**

K2RKO, Robert J. Schulze, Webster  
W2OZC, John W. Walrath, Rochester  
W4KFC, Vic Clark, ARRL

# the **RaRa Rag**

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**VOL. 36      JANUARY 1984      NO. 5**

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## HARVEY'S HAM

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I assume all of you have noticed the new masthead on the *Rag* this month. Our art department has been working on this for quite some time, but unfortunately it was not ready for our own 50th anniversary as a club. However, it is ready in time to celebrate Rochester's Sesquicentennial, and we have received permission from the Sesquicentennial committee to use the Rochester 150 logo both on the *Rag* and the *Directory*.

I still have not received any inquiries from anyone interested in taking on the duties of Associate Editor. In a club the size of RaRa, I would think there would be at least one person willing to share their writing skills and a few hours of their time per month for this important job. The job is too important to have to "coax" someone to take it. I need a self-starter who doesn't need to be reminded of his or her duties. If you are interested please call me.

I have a hard time understanding why there are so few Amateurs willing to come forward and make a commitment to work on committees in the clubs. I have seen all of the RaRa membership forms while updating the computer data base, and the vast majority of members indicated that they did *not* want to work on a committee. A club cannot exist without the support of its members. If everybody would pitch in, there would be a lot less work for everybody.

The greatest need in RaRa is in the area of public service. We have been doing such a good job of publicizing Amateur Radio that other service organizations have come to depend upon our communications skills and have been spreading the word. So we need a commitment from every club member physically able to help with these events to give up a few hours of DX-ing or rag-chewing or whatever and sign up to help with the pony rallies, the walk-a-thons, the marathons and the other events that come up. For isn't this how we justify our frequency allocations? Think about it.

K2RJ



# Rochester HAMFEST

MONROE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
**May 18-19, 1984**



## PUBLIC SERVICE

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The most active year for RaRa participation in public service activities is now history. The members of RaRa have been involved in TWENTY-ONE different activities that represent over 3000 manhours of Volunteer time contributed by Forty-One operators and represent approximately Seventy-Five hours per operator. We furnished assistance at many different types of events including - Road Rallies, Auto Cross Races, Pony Rallies, Boat Races, Marathons, Special Events, Interstate Pickups, Drills and Parades. We participated in several events that were repeats and several new ones. I think that the club as a whole should appreciate the image of Amateur Radio that these operators have presented to the public.

We have already received eight requests for our services for next year and include repeats from last year as well as a request from one new organization so far. I have to point out that next year Rochester is celebrating its Susqui-Centennial. We have already been approached by three different committees for our possible assistance. I feel that we are obligated first to assist those that we have worked before and if we are to take on more commitments, we will have to have the assistance of more people. If a few more people would offer their time for just a few hours next year we would be able to assist in this celebration. I don't feel that we can take on any more activities with the same number of people and still be able to perform at the professional level that we have achieved.

Why don't you sign up for one of the projects - the sign up sheets are available at all meetings - YOU will have fun and perform a very useful service to your community.

THINK ABOUT IT!

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## LAST CALL FOR QSL'S

Some of those who ordered QSL cards last spring have not yet picked up their order. Please pick them up at the January RaRa meeting or make arrangements to have them picked-up for you. If all else fails, call club president K2KGE: (\* indicates not yet paid for)

WA2IZC	WA2EJW*	W2WUB
K2CBD*	N2FI	KE2T
WB2DPT*	KA2LGD	WD4DBF*
WA2HVT		

## JANUARY RAG CALENDAR

- 6 - RaRa meeting, 8 p.m., 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue
- 11 - RaRa Board of Directors meeting, 7:30 p.m., QTH of N2EH
- 11 - December Rag deadline to K2RJ
- 13 - VHF Group meeting, 8 p.m., Monroe Monroe County Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Road
- 16 - RDXA meeting, 8:15 p.m., Colonial Hotel, 1127 Empire Boulevard
- 18 - Kodak Park ARC meeting, 12 p.m., WB2WXQ Club Station meeting room
- 20 - RRRRA *Annual Family Night at Strasenburgh Planetarium*, 7:30 p.m.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Bill Thiel, K2KGE

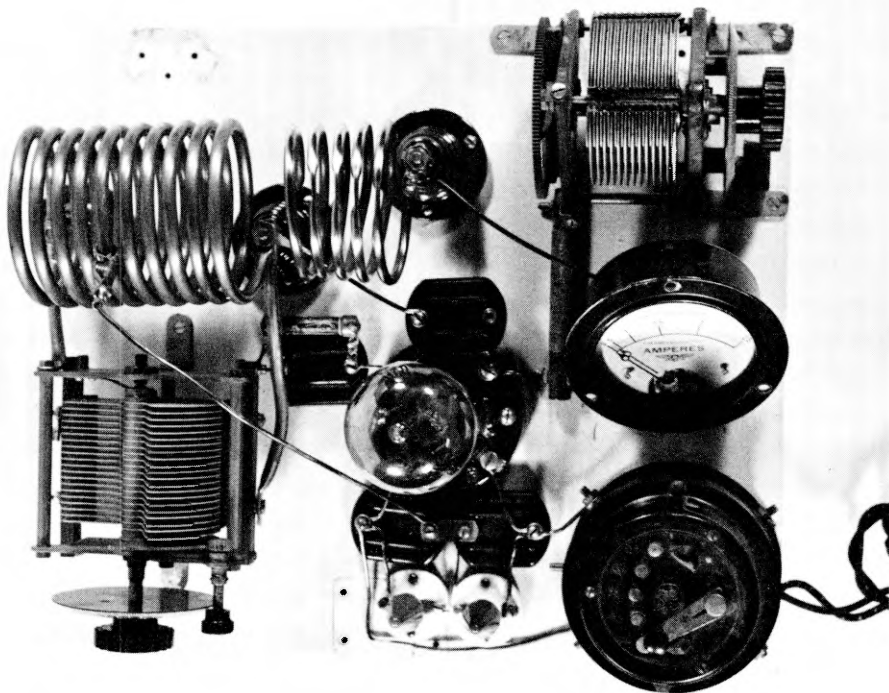
Happy New Year to everyone!

The beginning of 1984 brings a mixed bag to Amateur Radio in general and RaRa in particular.

As most of you by now know, Vic Clark, W4KFC, passed away quite suddenly the day after Thanksgiving. Certainly he was one of the best known and respected amateurs of the past 40 years. His accomplishments in and contributions to Amateur Radio could fill a book. To ARRL and QST we leave the task of eulogy. Suffice it to say we have all benefitted from what Vic has done. Most impressive about the man was his attitude as summed up in a line from his editorial in December *QST* - "...Amateur Radio is worth working for. Having benefitted from it, we wish to do whatever we can to keep it alive and thriving...". He will be missed by the entire amateur community. May he rest in peace.

For RaRa, the new year begins on several bright notes. First of all, it's Happy 150th to Rochester and there will be numerous opportunities for RaRa to participate in the celebration events. Secondly, it is my pleasure to announce that Harold Mundy, KD2K, a former board member, has agreed to head up the Audit Committee and that the annual audit is now underway. Last but not least, our congratulations are extended to club Secretary Al Komenski, AC2K, and his wife on the arrival of a new daughter, Rachel.

Hope you all have a good year.



UV202 OLD-TIME TRANSMITTER

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## AWA SPONSORS OT CONTEST

To encourage interest in and operation of early equipment, AWA sponsors an annual contest with score multipliers for transmitters and receivers made before 1940. Transmitters with less than 20 watts input and 2 or 3 tube regenerative receivers have a greater multiplier. It is nationwide with participants in all 10 US districts and several foreign countries. The objective is to work as many stations as possible.

A favorite transmitter is the 55 year old Hartley with large heavy copper plate coil (see photo). Such a coil in a low power Hi-C circuit give single tube transmitters greater stability. The most popular tube is the UX-210 which was made available in 1925.

Although early regenerative receivers work well, they cannot cope with heavy qrm. The pre-war HRO is commonly used with the Hammarlund 120 also favored. Operation is on 20, 40 and 80 meter CW bands.

It is an experience to listen to participants. Although most of the signals are fairly good, many are chirpy, and some border on a rough T5 note! Among the most distinctive signals heard are those primary keying, which sounds like a bell.

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## ??? QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS ???

Who knows anything about the **John Long** trophies? Who knows where they may be residing?

How about the **Dog Bone** award?

Anybody having any information on the whereabouts of the above trophies and the criteria for winning them, please bring it up at the January meeting. Maybe the current possessor of the awards could bring them to the meeting for all to see.

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**FOR SALE:** Swan 400, VFO, speaker, power supply including VOX unit and new finals; Ten-Tec keyer, Astatic UG9 microphone and Heath SWR meter. Call Gene Pochalski, KC2OQ, 9642064.

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Local participants include: W2ARX, W2GB, W2HYN, KA2JAJ, KA2KGM, W2LC, K2MP, W2OWF, W2PHT, K2RY, W2VVC, K2WW, W2UTH/KH6, WA2UGE and W2AN/ICE. The 1984 event is scheduled January 25, 26, 28 and 29.

## NOT A CHEERY THOUGHT but an excellent reminder

The day will come when we will no longer be here, but our radio equipment will be. This is an awful thought, but very true. Many of us try not to think about it, but we should – all ages included.

Take a couple of minutes and look around your radio station. We certainly have an awful lot of equipment scattered around here and there. If you have a typical station, you would most certainly leave someone in an awful big mess, especially if they knew nothing about it.

Make it a point to show your loved ones around your station, and familiarize them with the equipment and its valuation. It would be very helpful to keep a special folder with a list of the equipment.

Also in the folder, try to answer questions like, Do you owe anybody for any equipment? Does anyone owe you? Do you have gear lent out? Borrowed? Is MARS gear marked? This would help those left.

Of course, most of us would much rather take all our gear with us, but this is impossible. Either there would be eternal 60-over-9 QRM, or all bands would be open for everybody all the time and there would be no challenge.

*WA0GHK, Des Moines Radio Amateurs Assn.  
Via MARC TIMES, Wilkes-Barre*



Dave Hassett, K2SQI, "Up a tree" at Camp Good Days and Special Times. If you want to have fun like this, sign-up with N2EH, Ed Holdsworth!

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# RaRa MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Type of Member	Current 1984	Non-Renewals 1984	Total June 1893
Full	562	151	654
New	55	29	
Associate	49	28	64
New	36	19	
Family	73	31	90
New	9	5	
Life	35		
Total Paid	719	(210)	834
Total Renewals	584	(157)	696
Total New	100	( 53)	138
Honorary Members	0		4
ARRL Members	437	70.1445%	489 65%



Amateur Radio News Service

**WANTED:** Used Novice transmitter in the \$100 or less price range. Please contact John Kasprzak, 288-4443.

**FOR SALE:** KDK-144 synthesized 2-meter FM with MARS capability. \$195 or best offer. Call Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, 482-6308.

## KODAK QSO PARTY — JANUARY 7th

The 4th Annual Kodak Worldwide QSO Party will be sponsored this year by the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club again and WB2WXQ will function as the host station. The Board of WB2WXQ agreed to that during the October meeting and recommends the following:

**Date:** Saturday, January 7, 1984

**Time:** 1200 GMT - 0000 GMT

<b>Frequencies:</b>	CW	Phone
	14035	14280
	21035	21380
	7035	7280

We will try CW once an hour on the half hour.

### Our New QSL Card:

Will be sent to all Hams for contacting WB2WXQ during this QSO Party and after we receive their card.

### Participation Certificate:

Will be issued to all Kodak Hams after receiving a copy of their Kodak QSO Party Log.

WB2WXQ clubstation and host will be on the air during the entire party (12 hrs.).

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## LARS NEWS

The Livingston Amateur Repeater Society met recently and selected officers for 1984 with Ray Pickens, WA2MYG, as President; Dwight Tewksbury, WA2ZUG, Secretary/Treasurer; Pat Sheedy, WA2DHB, Trustee; John Bretz, K2IUT; Val Christian, N2EPO; and Mike Hanna, KA2GEH; as Directors. 1984 dues and new members are now being accepted, applications are available from WA2ZUG at 6629 Woodruff Road, Lima, NY 14485, dues remain at \$10 per family. For other information write LARS, P.O.B. 211, Springwater, NY 14560.

## THAT "TIME" NUMBER

From ARNS Bulletin

Some time ago a phone number (800-957-9999) was given through which you could dial WWV on the phone. This, number was carried in many club newsletters including the *Rag*. Suddenly it disappeared!

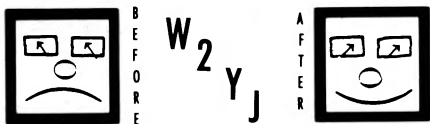
KC8ER, Pete, wrote a note to George Hinds, N8CIX, editor of the Lake Erie ARA Repeater Newsletter as follows:

"I recently called the National Bureau of Standards to find out why the WWV toll-free telephone number was deleted. According to Mr. Smith, the toll-free number was never intended for public use. AT&T required a continuous tone signal for an "800" line test. The test is now over and "feeder" line has now been eliminated.

"I asked whether a toll free line was considered for the future and Mr. Smith said that the \$80,000 cost per year would place that out of the budget."

I guess we'll just have to use our receivers when we want the time.

## COMMERICAL COMMUNICATIONS



All Type Amateur Radio Repairs

Call 716-684-3562 after 5 p.m.

EX DX Communications Repairman

George L. Krickovich  
47 Wren Avenue  
Lancaster, NY 14086

## ROCHESTER HAMFEST

MAY 18, 19, 1984

### RENEW/JOIN ARRL VIA RaRa AND SAVE!

Starting this month, RaRa members who join or renew their membership in ARRL through the club will automatically get a \$2.00 rebate on their current RaRa dues. To do this simply fill out your ARRL renewal or application form and send it along with your check for \$23 made out to RaRa. At this point, the membership chairman will handle the rest.

The \$2 rebate is per application, not the number of years being renewed. For example, if you are renewing or joining for more than 1 year, the RaRa dues rebate is still only \$2. It also does not apply on life memberships or family memberships in ARRL.

For more details or questions about this new service see Lloyd Caves, WA2EFU, membership chairman.

## COP'S CORNER

by Howie Davies, N2CUN, RPD

Many of us are planning winter vacations and I'm going to suggest some ideas you should consider before you leave.

1. Notify neighbors when you're going on a vacation or if you expect to be away from home for any length of time. Ask them to watch for strangers who might be near or around your home while you're away. Cancel newspapers and other deliveries.

2. Ask a neighbor to pick up your mail and packages while you are away or ask the local Post Office to hold them for you until you return.

3. Be sure to make arrangements to have your lawn mowed or sidewalks and driveway shoveled.

4. Rochester as well as many other police departments offer a "special attention" patrol service. You simply notify them of the period of time you will be away and give them a phone number to be used in order to reach you in case of emergency.

5. If your neighbor has two cars, it might be a good idea to have one of those cars parked in your driveway to take the place of yours and give the impression that the house is occupied.

In closing, I would like to extend to all a very happy and safe New Year!

*73, 887 paydays to go.*

## VHF GROUP MEETING NEWS

At the January VHF Group meeting, Rich Place, WB2JLR, will demonstrate and explain 10 GHz communications using converted police radar units.

The meeting will be held in the first-floor auditorium of 111 Westfall Road at 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

### ARRL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (FOR RaRa MEMBERS)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\$23 (includes \$2 rebate on RaRa Dues)

Licensed amateurs, age 17 or under or age 65 or over, upon submitting proof of age, may request the special dues rate of \$18.

For postal purposes, fifty percent of dues is allocated to QST, the balance for membership.

Mail to: ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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## VOICE OF KØONG HEARD

### HERE AGAIN

by Dwight Hill, K2KWK

Many area Hams will remember Michael Wengart from his residing here in the late 1970's. Mike was very active on the 2-meter FM band and became well-liked by the local gang. He left Rochester in June, 1978, heading for the island of Guam and points further west.

This fall he has been heard on local radio stations reporting from Korea for ABC News. At the time of the Korean Airline downing in early September his voice and name were caught by Barb Gillette, wife of Bill, WB2KIW. Then on November 11 he was heard again covering President Reagan's trip to Seoul, Korea. This time he was noticed by Lucille Briemer, W2SCI, whose memory perked-up at hearing his voice and name. Neither Barb nor Lucille knew that Mike was still working in Korea. Perhaps there are other local Hams who will be pleased to learn this too.

## HAMS WIDEN WORLD OF COMMUNICATION

Amateur radio widens the outlook of people who don't get out much. In Maine, an AARP chapter president and a couple of members teach handicapped people ham radio operator techniques. Using the Handi-Ham System, Greater Brunswick Chapter 1465 president Ed Ciampa, public relations director John Squires and the System's cataloger Herb Merrill donate their time and talents to help others - especially handicapped people - become ham radio operators.

The three pooled their expertise in the area of communications, studied and passed the test for

## LICENSE COURSE

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The fall license course will, by the time you read this, be history. We started with 25 in the Tech/General and 34 in the Novice class. There were 19 still in the Tech/General at completion with some that had made the trip to Buffalo and successfully upgraded. The Novice class graduated 24 new Novices that should be on the air about the end of January and ready to start the Tech/General class in February.

The new classes are scheduled to start February 27, 1984 at 7:30 p.m. in the main auditorium at 111 Westfall Road. They will run from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. and will finish with the last class being held on May 14, 1984.

If you know of anyone that is interested, they can sign up at the January or February meeting or by sending a card to: Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, 518 Parish Road, Honeoye Falls, New York 14472. They should do this as soon as possible and not later than February 15, 1984. This will help us to have an ample supply of material when classes begin.


licenses and now are operating from Squires' Topsham home. Ciampa is retired from the U. S. Navy after many years as a radar instructor. He says he likes to help others help themselves and believes the Handi-Ham System can brighten the world of many shut-ins.


Often a handicapped individual is confined to a single room. With amateur radio, four walls can be expanded to encompass the world.


Learning to be a ham operator is not easy. Becoming familiar with the code used is like learning another language. But these chapter members stress the fact that age is no barrier.


  
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
  
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