



# the RARA RAG

Published by  
**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

VOL. 37

OCTOBER 1984

NO. 2

## OCTOBER 5th RaRa MEETING FEATURES ARMY MARS

The October meeting of RaRa will be Friday the 5th, 8 p.m., at the 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue.

The program this evening will be an introduction to the U.S. Army Military Affiliate Radio System, or Army MARS as it is commonly known. We will be privileged to have with us Jason Layton, K2BYL, New York State MARS Director, and Tony LaJoie, WA2SJI, Coordinator of Area 4 which encompasses all of Western New York. They will be explaining the history and mission of MARS, why it is important for our servicemen, especially overseas, and how it fits into local and national emergency disaster plans.

After the program, George Muller, WA2IEO, our resident chef *extraordinaire* will treat us to the finest refreshments in Rochester Amateur Radio circles. So plan to be there and bring a friend!

## LICENSE TESTING NOVEMBER 3rd

The next monthly Amateur Radio license testing session will be Saturday, November 3rd, at the Monroe County Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Road, at the corner of West Henrietta Road, Route 15, and Interstate 390.

Examinations for Technician class through Amateur Extra will be given as follows:

20 wpm code (Extra) 9:00 a.m.

13 wpm code (General) 9:45 a.m.

Written exams only 10:30 a.m.

The charge for taking an examination is \$4.00. Make all checks payable to *Metroplex VEC*. Please bring a *copy* of your current Amateur license (if you have one) plus any code credit certificates or temporary operating certificates along with two forms of positive identification.

*No prior appointment is necessary to take an exam.* The contact person for RaRa Exams is John Schooley, K2NC, 329 Fiesta Rd, Rochester, NY 14626, telephone 716-225-3626.

## RRRA SETS GOAL TO UPDATE 28/88 RC-850 Controller to add Autopatch

At the recommendation of the Rochester Radio Repeater Association Technical Director, Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, the RRRA membership accepted a proposal to begin a fund raising campaign to purchase an RC-850 repeater controller made by Advanced Computer Controls.

This controller is microprocessor based and has a myriad of programmable functions and features that really add class to repeater operation. These include three levels of autopatch which includes up to ten emergency autodial numbers and up to 200 user-programmable autodial numbers. The autopatch modes can have different timers associated with them and can be scheduled to be activated or deactivated at different times of the day and days of the week.

Distinctive courtesy beeps can be programmed for when the repeater is being used for public service events or emergency nets. And, of course, the male and female voices can really give the repeater a personality of its own.

This only scratches the surface of the controller's capabilities. The price tag? With the options we'd need, it goes for a little over \$2000. The more donations the RRRA gets, the sooner we can make the purchase. Also, all donations are tax-deductible. RRRA memberships are \$5.00 - and may be earmarked for the special fund. Write to RRRA, P.O. Box 92031, Rochester, NY 14692, or come to the meeting October 19th, 8 p.m. at Pittsford Town Hall.

### SILENT KEY

W2QYT - John L. Pogue  
July 16, 1984

# the **RaRa RAG**

Published by  
**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603-1388

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**VOL. 37      OCTOBER 1984      NO. 2**

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## **LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

The *RaRa Rag* exchanges newsletters with quite a few other radio clubs across the country, and it surprises me how difficult many of them make it to join their clubs. For instance, many clubs require a membership application to be "read" at three meetings before the club membership votes on that member. There is one club that requests that the prospective member not attend the meeting at which the vote occurs so that there may be "un-inhibited discussion".

I think we are very fortunate that the founders of RaRa did not pattern the organization after a college fraternity, but instead made it possible for any Amateur to become a full member or any person interested in Amateur Radio to become an associate member. In its history, I don't think the club has ever regretted this open-membership policy, but has grown stronger because of it.

Our president, Ray Roberts, WA2SSU, has set a goal this year to sign up 1000 members in RaRa. This is only about 170 more than our total last year of 830. Considering that there are over 2500 licensed Amateurs in RaRa's service area, we should have no trouble attaining this goal with *your* help. If we could all just bring one more member into the club, our goal would be far exceeded. But to just meet the goal we all have to try. How about it?

## **S.E.T. 1984**

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The annual Simulated Emergency Test will be held the weekend of October 20 and 21, 1984. We expect to do the major portion of our local test on Saturday, October 20 and will probably commence around 9:00 a.m. If you wish to participate in this years drill - listen to 146.28/88 or 146.19/79 on Saturday and check in when you hear the activity start.

The scenario for this years drill is being prepared by the local Office of Emergency Preparedness through the efforts of Steve Gulack, N2DZS, and Herb Boedecker, Radiological Officer for O.E.P. They will simulate a disaster of some proportion (mind boggling - no doubt) and will start it all with a call to the local EC or Assistant EC/EC's. This will add a little touch of realism and it is hoped that this will add to the enthusiasm of those involved.

I do not plan to have a critique after the drill this year on Saturday but instead we will operate for a longer period of time. If you should have any questions or comments after the exercise is over - feel free to call me or drop me a note.

-- SEE YOU ON THE 20TH --

## LICENSE CLASS

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The fall classes started on Monday, September 24, for Novice and Technician/General. It is still not too late to register for these classes. If you or someone you know wishes to sign up – they may do so at the next class on October 8th.

The classes are being held in the Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Road, on Monday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and include both Theory and Code instruction.

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## JACKETS

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

I will be taking orders for jackets until the December RaRa meeting. They will be ordered shortly after and should be available in early January. They are available in two different color combinations – Green with Gold letters and Gold with Green letters. Both colors are available in three different styles – Winter Pile lined, Spring Kasha lined or unlined and come in Small, Medium, Large and X-tra Large as well as in youth sizes.

If you wish to order, please send me the size, color, style (specify lining) and name and call that your wish to have on the jacket.

The prices including Lettering, Name and Call:	
Winter Pile Lined	– \$22.50
Spring Kasha Lined	– \$18.50
Unlined	– \$14.50

Please enclose a check in the correct amount made out to RaRa with your order.

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## BEACON REPORT. . . 6 m + 2 m

The six meter VFH Group beacon went through a period of testing over the summer, at 50.071 MHz, under the test call WB2IEY. Actually, our new Vice Chairman, WA2YTM is responsible for the beacons' sudden appearance on the band. Running 3 watts to a halo at 30 feet, QSL's were received from Florida only hours after it was put on the air ... BY PHONE! Chris Johnson, WB2RJL/4, called to say it was coming in 5x7 in Orlando. Reports were also received from N4TL (ex-WA2CQW of Pumpkin Hook) and N4DM.

The 144.051 MHz transmitter, with 2 big wheels at 25 ft and 15 watts, (same location as the 6 m unit ... Pumpkin Hood-FN12), came back on the air, but succumbed to a spur problem in the repeater segment of the band. When remedied, the two transmitters are hoping to move to a site in the vicinity of Geneva (FN12) or Penn Yan. More information as it becomes available ... the 220 beacon transmitter HAD 2 watts out til it got to KW2T's QTH ... oh well!

## RAG OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 5 - RaRa meeting, 8 p.m.,  
40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue
- 10 - RaRa Board of Directors meeting,  
7:30 p.m., QTH of N3DPF
- 10 - October RAG deadline to KB2BU
- 12 - Rochester VHF Group meeting, 8 p.m.,  
Monroe County Social Service Building,  
111 Westfall Road
- 13 - Syracuse Hamfest  
N.Y. State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY
- 16 - Rochester DX Association meeting,  
8:15 p.m., Colonial Restaurant,  
1129 Empire Boulevard
- 19 - RRRRA meeting, 8 p.m.,  
Pittsford Town Hall

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## RDXA OCTOBER 16th

Many obstacles face today's DX'er and they must be overcome to meet the challenge of getting that "new one". One of the most obvious difficulties today, of course, are the band conditions present at this low ebb in the sunspot cycle. The obvious result of these poor bands is a lack of participation both by the DX and the DX'ers.

Recently the Northern California DX Foundation cited another, not so apparent, problem that affects the ability of many hams to work DX, especially DXpeditions to rare corners of the earth. The figures cited were those compiled by VK6FS on the 1983 Heard Island expedition that put VKØHI and VKØCW on the air.

Over 22% of all contact in both logs were duplicates and one K6 callsign appeared in the CW log ten (10) times. Overall dupes by country found over 25% dupes by U.S., W. German, Finnish, Italian, Yugoslavian and French stations.

This high rate of dupes is supposedly caused by stations making "insurance call" to avoid mistakes in logging by the DX operator. Obviously, to anyone listening, it will be noted that many "big gun" stations just want to prove that they can crack the pile-up at will. This type of inconsiderate operation only causes many new and low power DX'ers to miss the opportunity to work the "rare one" and can lead to discouragement or worse.

Come join us October 16th at the Colonial Restaurant, 1129 Empire Boulevard at 8:15 and join discussions on this and other DX topics. Also on the agenda will be a brief contest seminar and a video taped DXpedition show.

73, Fred Gern, KB2SE

# THE RaRa Rag 20 YEARS AGO — OCTOBER 1964

by Ed Gable, K2MP

The program for October was a very enlightening talk on how to make transistors work for you. Floyd Koontz, W9JQA/KØLTV/WA2WVL, of RF Communications, Inc., took some of the mysteries out and gave practical uses.

Ed Tilton, W1HDQ of VHF fame, was the guest speaker at the Syracuse VHF Round-up. This affair was always well attended by the Rochester area VHF enthusiast at the annual Three Rivers Inn event.

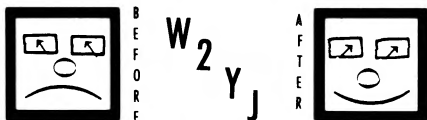
Contest Chairman Ray Leigh, W2SNI, reported the Club placed in 30th position for the ARRL November SS Contest and urges more participation next year.

The RaRa Club call W2QCN, has been replaced with a two letter call K2JD. After much deliberation the officers decided W2QCN had served its purpose well. Ray Kohl, W2QCN, who passed away in 1951, was a very active RaRa member who led the club through a great growth period in the forties. FCC rules in 1964 allowed Clubs to obtain a two letter call if they held in the past. The Radio Club of Rochester held the call 8PZ in 1925 which was issued to Ken Gardner (8BGN, now W2BGN). Thus application was made to the FCC to turn in W2QCN for a "computer generated" call. Thus came K2JD, with Chuck Oneske, K2YCO, custodian.

Other Executive Committee Members for the year include Bill Kuehne, WA2ZQN; Jack Morse, K2KFN; and Russ Heuer, K2PLO.

Quaker Electronics advertisement listed 8400 Kcs FT-243 crystals at 75 cents each. Ever wonder why 50.40 Mcs was such a popular 6 Meter frequency? Well, now we know.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

The FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO is pleased to announce the 1984 winners of the fifteen (15) scholarships which it administers.

John W. Gore Memorial Scholarship — \$900

David J. Schmocker, KJ9I — Oconomwoc, WI

Richard G. Chichester Memorial Scholarship — \$900

Paul D. Sargis, KI6U — Modesto, CA

Edwin S. Van Deusen Memorial Scholarship — \$350

Timothy Wettach, N2TW — Webster, NY

QCWA Silent Key Memorial Scholarships — \$500 each

Bruce A. Wade, N9UR — Glendale, WI

Ian R. McNicholl, KA9KOW — La Habra, CA

Scott Smith, KA2EMO — Malone, NY

Radio Club of America Scholarship — \$500

Doyle B. Johnson, KF6BD — Pleasant Hill, CA

Edmund B. Redington Memorial Scholarship — \$500

David Swiatlowski, KA2KLM — Camillus, NY

Young Ladies' Radio League Scholarship — \$500

Daine E. Willemin, N8CAY — Elyria, OH

Amateur Radio News Service Scholarship — \$500

Marc C. Vernon, KI9V — Hinsdale, IL

Columbia (MD) Amateur Radio Association Scholarship — \$650

Eric J. Smith, KA3KJO — Silver Spring, MD

Baltimore (MD) Amateur Radio Club Scholarship — \$500

Richard A. White, Jr., KA3T — Mt. Airy, MD

Dade Radio Club Tropical Hamboree Scholarships — \$500 each

Wayne F. Poole, KC4XL — Surfside, FL

Craig F. Rodgers, WA4C — Boca Raton, FL

Lewis G. Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship — \$500

David Cheitel, KA2PNR — Bronx, NY

These scholarships were open to all Radio Amateurs meeting the qualifications and residence requirements of the various sponsors. The FOUNDATION is a non-profit organization representing fifty clubs in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. It is devoted exclusively to the scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

Information regarding 1985 awards will appear in the April or May issues of the major amateur radio publications.

## WTAW BULLETIN NEWS

ARRL BULLETIN NR 74 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS, NEWINGTON, CT, SEPTEMBER 14, 1984

IN A SEPTEMBER 10 ORDER, THE FCC DISMISSED TWO PETITONS FOR RECONSIDERATION FILED IN THE POWER MEASUREMENT DOCKET, PR DOCKET 82 624, SEEKING PERMANENT EXEMPTION FROM THE NEW 1500 W PEP OUTPUT RULES FOR AMDSB USERS. IN THE SAME ACTION, FCC GRANTED A REQUEST FILED BY ARRL SEEKING A CLARIFICATION CONCERNING POSSIBLE FUTURE REVISION OF POWER LIMITS AND METHODS OF MEASUREMENT. THE FCC CLARIFIED THAT IT WOULD ISSUE PUBLIC NOTICES ANNOUNCING ANY CHANGES IN THE METHODS TO BE USED FOR MEASURING POWER, BUT THAT ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE POWER LIMITS THEMSELVES WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC NOTICE/COMMENT RULE MAKING PROCEDURES. DETAILS IN NOVEMBER QST AR

ARRL BULLETIN NR 73 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON, CT SEPTEMBER 14, 1984

BILLS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED INTO CONGRESS WHICH WOULD ADD MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE TO RADIO COMMUNICATIONS AS AN OFFENSE NAMED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934, PERMITTING ENFORCEMENT DIRECTLY BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. UP TO NOW, INTERFERENCE CASES HAVE GENERALLY BEEN HANDLED ADMINISTRATIVELY AS VIOLATIONS OF FCC REGULATIONS.

REPRESENTATIVE JIM BATES, D/CA, IS SPONSOR OF HR 6195 AND SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER, R/AZ, K7UGA, IS SPONSOR OF S 2975, EACH OF WHICH WOULD AMEND THE ACT MAKING MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE A STATUTORY OFFENSE. QST AND THE ARRL LETTER WILL HAVE MORE INFORMATION AR

ARRL BULLETIN NR 72 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS, NEWINGTON, CT SEPTEMBER 14, 1984

ARRL HAS REQUESTED THAT THE FCC ISSUE A DECLARATORY RULING OF LIMITED FEDERAL PREEMPTION OF

STATE AND LOCAL REGULATION OF AMATEUR RADIO STATION INSTALLATION AND OPERATION, OR, ANTENNA ZONING RULES, IN SHORT. THE FCC SEEKS FACTUAL, UNEMOTIONAL COMMENTS ON THE LEAGUES FILING. AN ORIGINAL AND FOUR COPIES OF ANY COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY, FCC, 1919 M STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20554 ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 9. PLEASE SEND A COPY TO ARRL. COMMENTS SHOULD REFER TO DOCUMENT NUMBER PRB 1. A COPY OF THE LEAGUES REQUEST IS AVAILABLE FROM ARRL HQ FOR A 9 X 12 INCH S.A.S.E. WITH 88 CENTS POSTAGE.

DETAILS IN LEAGUE LINES IN OCTOBER QST. AR

ARRL BULLETIN NR 71 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS, NEWINGTON, CT SEPTEMBER 14, 1984

FCC HAS PROPOSED TO REALLOCATE HALF OF THE 160 METER BAND, FROM 1900 TO 2000 KHZ, TO NONGOVERNMENT RADIOLOCATION BECAUSE OF AN ANTICIPATED EXPANSION OF THE AM BROADCAST BAND THAT WOULD FORCE CERTAIN RADIOLOCATION STATIONS TO MOVE. ALTHOUGH THE TIMING OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 RELEASE OF DOCKET 84 874 CAME AS A SURPRISE TO THE AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNITY, ARRL REACTED SWIFTLY. ARRL TODAY FILED A MOTION TO HOLD THIS NPRM IN ABEYANCE PENDING THE RESOLUTION OF AN ARRL PETITION FILED TO STUDY THE MF BAND NEEDS OF NONGOVERNMENT RADIOLOCATION STATIONS. DETAILS IN THE SEPTEMBER 13 ARRL LETTER AR

### W2LLS

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October 8th thru 14th

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## TOWN OF RIGA 175th BIRTHDAY SPECIAL EVENTS STATION

I would like to thank the following people for their help in setting up and running the Special Events Station as a part of the 175th Birthday Celebration for the Town of Riga.

W2XG Bob (who graciously let us use his call)

WB2VPH Rich (who loaned us some equipment)

N2EPO Val

KA2OMN Bob

W2TOE Jerry

WA2ALW Ken (a special thanks for all your support and encouragement)

September first, 1984 was a beautiful sunny day. We arrived at the American Legion Post in Churchville around 8 a.m. and while the boys strung wires and hung antennas, I covered tables and set up decorations for the special events station and the Cake Contest. (The contest turned out to be between Bob, W2XG, and Val, N2EPO, to see who was going to buy a certain cake. Hope it was good Bob!)

The station consisted of a Kenwood TS430S connected to a trapped inverted Vee for 80 & 40 hung about 20 feet up on an electric pole with the ends stretched out in the back field and held down with two cement blocks. The RG8S coax then run across the parking lot to a 2x4 which was tied to an iron fence post to allow pedestrian passage to and from the building, underneath. The rest of the 250 feet coiled by the building with the end fed through the window to the rig. It worked very well contacting 10 states and making a total contact of 77 for the day.

The 2 meter station was set up with a Kenwood TR7930 connected to a Ringo Ranger on top of the 2x4 and 50 ft of RG 58 U. We worked stations as far away as Honeoye Lake, several Rochester stations and a few locals.

To commemorate the occasion, we have designed a certificate with the town logo and also have official W2XG cards to send out. Anyone that contacted the station and would like the certificate can send their QSL and dollar donation to either W2XG or me, and we will be glad to send you one.

Once again I would like to thank the guys and especially Bob for all their help. And a big thanks to the amateurs in the area that went out of their way to make contact and even stop by the station to say hi and help with the break down. The day turned out very well and we are very happy to have been a part of it.

73 and 33, Billie - WB2FNF

## FCC RETURNS TO CANANDAIGUA

The FCC monitoring post on North Street Extension in the town of Canandaigua is returning to service this month, according to Buffalo district chief engineer Jim Taylor. Reconstruction of the station, which was closed down over five years ago due to budgetary cuts, has taken place over the summer under Jim's supervision. There will be a real change in the way things will run in Canandaigua, however. New technology will make the station operate by computer ... by remote control!

Monitoring stations around the country will be able to patch into the system on the phone lines, tune receivers, switch antennas, and pinpoint interference sources of locate missing/hidden transmitters. These coordinates will be compared to headings at the originating post, and give instantaneous confirmation on suspected interference sources. One reason for the automated station's creation is obvious ... manpower savings. The station is not, at least as of a few months ago, scheduled to have a full time staff once it is 'on line'. Unfortunately, several hams located within the boundaries of the 'quiet zone' around the post may be in trouble ... the quiet zone rule was not written til after the station was closed before.

*Tnx VHF JOURNAL*

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COLORATURA	473-2334
MINI-SYSTEMS	385-6658
WCMF ROCKCOMPUTER	482-6881
THE POND	458-5278
SAFARI-800	865-5627
INDEPENDANT -800	248-3461
CRYSTAL PALACE	288-1670
R.C.B.M.	232-2712
BARGAIN BBS	467-9416
ONLY SUNDAYS	334-8232
T.B.B.S.	436-9649
KEYCHAIN BBS	254-0418

Caveat emptor and happy dialing!

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## CRUMBS FROM THE COOKIE COMPANY

by Jim Taylor, KC2U

Via RAGS REVIEW

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission.

You all (*y'all as they say back home*) should be aware that we have published a new part 97, dated February 1984. This new publication included all the articles and rules necessary for the implementation of the VEC program. A lot of new things were added and a lot was deleted, and the whole thing is much too extensive to publish in this article. The new versions are available from the Government Printing Office as usual, but they are also printed by the ARRL and by Bash (*wash yo mouth out with soap as Ron Palmer would say*) however source not-withstanding, it is my opinion that the printing from Bash is the best option. You get up-dates for a year (*\*I believe*) with your purchase. I do not know the cost or sources, but with the up-dates, the additional cost of the Bash version is worthwhile. All the changes etc., that I present in these articles are based on the new version of the Rules.

Here is another informative bit of information relative to amateurs and cable interference. The new NOTA/ARRL Committee is now active. Therefore, amateurs should FIRST file complaints of Cable Interference to ARRL. Only after the complaint has been processed by them, with no satisfactory results should the FCC intervene. Therefore if you have interference caused

by a cable system, you should first file your complaint with the League, and only after they are unable to resolve the situation should you complain to the FCC. Another note worth passing along is that reports from the field, cable industry and amateurs are showing a variable number of reasons why interference to/from cable is occurring. Most of which a high pass filter will not "cure". These include but are not limited to; illegal taps, combined outdoor antenna/cable installation, open drops, damaged cable, loose connectors, ingress and radiation problems. So you see, in some cases, the use of high/low pass filters will not solve your IX problems in all cases.

Now to get to the recent correction to part 97 of the rules. This change will not be quoted, since there isn't much to it, but it will be described (*cusssed and discusssed*). In your index, Subpart B, delete 97.32. Also in Subpart C, delete paragraph 97.32 in its' entirety. All this correction does is eliminate the article dealing with FCC issued interim permits. Since the Commish will no longer be involved in the administration of amateur tests this paragraph is no longer required. Have no fear though, we will continue to issue the interim permit for our next two testing sessions (these two sessions will be the LAST performed by our office, and after that it will be up to the Volunteer program). (Ed note: This article was written before the July testing date. Only one session remains for the FCC, November 5-9, 1984.) The Volunteer Examiner will issue the code credit slips and interim permits in the future.

A second correction involves adding a NEW section 97.67 (f). This change is quoted below: 97.67 . . . .

(d) An amateur radio station may transmit A3 emissions on or before June 1, 1990 with a transmitter power exceeding that authorized by paragraph (b) of this section, provided that the power input (both radio frequency and direct current) to the final amplifying stage supplying radio frequency power to the antenna feedline does not exceed 1000 watts, exclusive of power for heating the cathodes of vacuum tubes. Limitations of paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) of this section and limitations of 97.61 still apply.

This is it. So now all you AMers can continue blasting the rest of the world with your wide-band, overpowering "*California Kilowatt*" signals. I'm not saying anything, but Pete can continue running his AM rig that is cooled with that 36" floor fan.

---

**WANTED:** Transmatch for 40 - meters with or without SWR meter. Paul Williams, WA2YHZ, 461-4325.

## GOT TOWER PROBLEMS?

from Broadcast Engineering

The Senior Road (TX) Tower project – a mammoth effort that may point the way for hundreds of FM stations across the country – is not fully operational. After six years of work and \$7 million, the country's first 9-station Class C, 2000' master FM facility is on the air. Partners ranged from large broadcast chains such as ABC, Westinghouse and Viacom, to local radio station owners. The tech group decided on a single 12-bay master panel antenna. The combiner would be capable of combining nine 30kw FM stations.

The antenna and combining systems took more than one year to build and test. The massive combiner assembly cost more than \$1 million by itself. A neighbor and tenant in the SRTG complex is KTXH, channel 20. The station uses a Harris 110kw xmtr.

On December 7, 1982, the Senior Road Tower project suffered a disastrous blow. The entire tower, transmission line and antenna system came down. The crew was just completing placement of the top half of the Harris TAC master antenna. Five workers were killed as the pulley mechanism that was hoisting them and the antenna section to the top of the tower failed, causing one of the guy wires anchoring the structure to snap. The tower then began to wobble, and came crashing down on the transmitter building of KTXH. Channel 20, which had been on the air exactly one month, was totally destroyed, with the base of the tower literally falling across the Harris UHF transmitter. The tower hit the ground with such force that much of it buried itself into the ground.

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## JOHN RILEY VOYAGE — N2ERJ

John's passage to the Azores was quite a difficult one but radio contact was maintained on an almost daily basis through the maritime service net on 14313 KHz. Relays were generally not needed because John was usually 57 or 59.

During the voyage, John had to suffer through several bad storms and one evening was thrown from his bunk cracking two ribs. Luckily his crew member was a doctor and except for some discomfort, he was able to continue. He used his VHF marine radio to pass time with ships in his vicinity and more than once he commented on the delightful QSO he had had that day.

The day of his arrival in the Azores he and two other yachts entered harbor. One had an insane captain in handcuffs who had tried to kill his crew and on the other, the captain had died at sea of starvation.

## VACATION: PORTABLE VE 3

Ken and I would like to thank a couple of special amateurs in our area. It takes a special person to give up an hour a day, *every day*, to fight the qrn just to make contact with vacationing friends. N2AUV – Warren, and WA2ATV – Dick were there for us every day. They would make calls to our family and make sure we and they were all OK. It certainly helped to have a touch of home. Just knowing that we could contact Rochester once a day did away with any hint of homesickness. The "*Vacation Net*" was expanded this year when Rich, WB2VPH, and his family went to Maine at the same time. Warren and Dick kept schedules with Rich too. We also were able to make contact with Rich sometimes not too well but enough to send our thoughts and get well wishes to his little daughter when she caught a bad cold just before the trip home. It was fun making the schedule, because we never knew who was going to pop in and say hello and later hearing of others that were interested enough just to listen in on our adventures in Canada.

So thank you guys, we hope to be able to do it again next year.

WA2ALW & WB2FNF  
Ken & Billie

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After a week of rest and a new crew, John left for Gibraltar. He was becalmed for 5 days and lost a main sail in a storm but arrived in Gibraltar after a two week sail. He also sailed in a school of killer whales for one day and on numerous occasions had dolphins play around the boat.

Again, daily radio contact was maintained with Rochester on 14317 KHz and in 70% of the contacts, John was phone patch quality. During one QSO, my XYL had to explain how to make pancakes. The next night we found out that they did not turn out well at all.

John spent two weeks in Gibraltar, but during most of his stay, contacts were barely readable because of his location among 30 to 40 yachts. However, whenever we could not maintain SSB contact, we switched to CW in every case but once, we were able to have a Q5, QSO.

John will arrive in Nice, France during the month of September and can be heard on 14317 at 2130Z every night when he is at sea. Once in France, we are going to try to equip John's boat with a CW satellite station and an ARQ (AMTOR) terminal.

All stations, WA2GTK Steve Burgdorf, WA2JRV Herb Perkins, and N4ICE Dave, have used modest power 100-400 watts output and single antennas, dipoles, verticals, etc.



# MIDWAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB TO ASSUME MANAGEMENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN TELECONFERENCE RADIO NET

On September 15, 1984, the Midway Amateur Radio Club of Kearney, Nebraska, under the direction of its President "Mert" Feikert, WBØUSW, took over sponsorship of the North American Teleconference Radio Net (TRN). "Mert" announced that Timothy Loewenstein, WAØVW, will be the new Net Manager.

TRN links together over 150 gateway stations (mostly VHF/UHF repeaters) across the United States and Canada to present high quality technical and informational programs of interest to radio amateurs. When available for uplinking from the United States, the OSCAR 10 satellite also transmits the net to one-third of the earth's hemisphere. It is estimated that a single TRN has had as many as 75,000 amateurs tuned in plus uncounted scanner listeners. Past speakers on TRN have included Vic Clark, W4KFC, and Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA. A fact not generally realized is that the technology behind TRN allows any of the amateurs tuned in, whether in Alaska, Florida or New Brunswick, in their car, home or walking down the street with a hand-held radio, to talk to each other or to the featured speaker.

The idea for TRN began with the work of Ed Piller, W2KPKQ, and Charlie Kosman, WB2NQV. In the early 80's Ed and Charlie began linking repeaters by telephone to provide technical presentations to amateurs as a joint project of the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Corps (LIMARC) and the Long Island Chapter of IEEE. However, with the telephone bridging equipment readily available to them, it was difficult to provide high quality audio to and from all participating repeaters. In late 1982 Rick Whiting, WØTN, a telecommunications engineer with extensive experience in developing teleconference capabilities for Honeywell, and an early participant in the IEEE/LIMARC technical nets, became net manager. Rick made arrangements with Lou Appel, KØUQ, of Darome Inc. to use Darome's highly sophisticated multipoint teleconference bridges to provide the "land line" links for repeaters (note that many of the repeaters are, in turn, linked by radio). The result was superb audio quality and a rapid growth in the number and distribution of gateway stations in the net. Lou will continue to be the bridge engineer behind the scenes in TRNs under the net net manager.

"Packet Radio Overview and Prospective" will be the subject on the first TRN to be presented under the sponsorship of the Midway Club, Sunday, December 2, 1984, at 6:00 p.m. CST (local nets may begin earlier). The speakers will be Lyle Johnson, WA7GXD, and Harold Price, NK6K, both highly respected authorities and pioneers in packet radio technology. This net will explain what packet radio is, describe how to get started in it, point out the benefits to you, and outline the pitfalls to be avoided for both the novice and expert alike.

Lyle is President of the Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Society (TAPR) and was the primary developer of the TAPR terminal node controller (TNC) hardware. For his work in developing the TAPR TNC, Lyle was awarded the 1984 Technical Excellence Award at Dayton. Looking to the future, Lyle is responsible for the processor design for the upcoming amateur packet satellite (PACSAT). He became active in packet radio in 1981, the pioneer days for this new technology.

Harold is a Director of TAPR and was on the team that designed the software for the TAPR INC. He is also the AMSAT Project Manager for PACSAT. Harold is another packet radio pioneer, having first become active in that technology in 1982.

Packet radio offers opportunities for both the traditional communicator and for the experimenter. Learn about packet radio from two of its leading developers by tuning into TRN, Sunday, December 2, 1984, at 6:00 p.m. CST (that's 0000Z). For a complete list of gateway station locations and frequencies write the TRN Manager, c/o Midway Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1231, Kearney, NE 68847-1231 (S.A.S.E. please, Canada excepted) or check the CompuServe "Hamnet" XA4 Database.

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# FCC COMMERCIAL OPERATOR RADIOTELEPHONE LICENSES

by Bill Welsh, W6DDB

First and Second Class Radiotelephone Operator Licenses have not been issued by the FCC since November of 1981, when they were replaced by the General Radiotelephone Operator License.

General Radiotelephone Operator Licenses issued to initial qualifiers since 15 June 1984 bear the following endorsement:

*"This license is valid for operation, maintenance, and repair of stations in the aviation, maritime, and international fixed public radio communications services only".*

General Radiotelephone Operator Licenses issued after 15 June 1984 are valid during the lifetime of the license holder.

Current (5 year term) radio licenses may be renewed during the last year of their terms, or during a five year grace period following their expiration dates.

FCC rules still mandate that only FCC licensed radio operators may perform the various technical and operational duties that are required in the aviation, maritime, and international fixed public radio communications service.

## FOR SALE:

National NCX-5 Transceiver - \$275  
 Heath SB-220 Linear - \$500  
 3-Element Yagi - \$ 50  
 Agnes Lanze, 7 Courtney Circle, Pittsford,  
 385-2339.

**FOR SALE:** Heath xmtr and rcvr SB-401 and SB-301. \$300 or best offer. Russel Brush, 470 Backus Road, Webster. Telephone: 671-2409.

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MN-7 Matching Network

RV-7 Remote VFO

MS-7 Speaker

PS-7 Power Supply

Drake Desk Mic

HD-73 Alliance Heavy Duty Rotator

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Rohn Tower (must be removed)

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Jane Nixon (KA2EFL), 115 Clooney Drive, Henrietta, NY 14467 - telephone: 344-2126.



Amateur Radio News Service

**FOR SALE** - Nye Viking Kw Matchbox, Johnson Viking 275w Matchbox, Monitor terminal w/keyboard. Call 865-4477, Pat Hoke, W2DN.

**FOR SALE:** ICOM 211 Multi-mode 2-meter xceiver and microphone, \$250. Roger Pawlowski, WB2GVB, 247-5274.



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