



the **RARA RAG**

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NO. 3

PACKET AT THE BUFFALO HAM-O-RAMA

I just returned from the Buffalo Ham-O-Rama, a large swap meet and convention hosted by several radio clubs in Buffalo, NY and neighboring Ontario. Packet radio was very well represented, both on the technical presentation schedule, and in the indoor display area.

On Saturday morning, I gave a well-attended "Introduction to Digital Communications." I finished the talk with a short discussion of packet radio, and several people in the audience requested more information on packet. Later in the afternoon, Gil Boelke, W2EUP, from GLB electronics, held an in-depth packet-radio seminar and demonstration. It looked like about seventy people attended Gil's talk.

At the GLB booth, a couple of GLB PK1 TNCs were on-the-air. Both of the TNCs were connected to computers running GLB's CP/K program. This is a CP/M program that makes it easy to control the PK1. CP/K provides a menu of commands for the PK1, and also facilitates remote operation of CP/M computers attached to PK1 TNCs. If you have a PK1, contact GLB to find out more about the CP/K software.

In the booth next to GLB's was Bob Richardson, W4UCH, from Richcraft Engineering. Richcraft markets TNC software that runs on Radio Shack computers. (Watch for an upcoming *QST* article by Bob explaining his "software approach" to packet radio.) A program demonstrating Richcraft software and explaining packet radio was running on a TRS-80 at the Richcraft booth.

The number of people at the talks on digital communications and at the two packet-radio booths made it clear that more and more amateur radio operators are becoming interested in packet radio.

via *GATEWAY*

SILENT KEY

W2FN - Vincent J. Lapp
October 6, 1984

RaRa AUCTION NOVEMBER 2nd AT POLICE AND FIRE ACADEMY

Well, it's that time of year again—the first freezing rain or snow of the year always seems to fall on the night of the auction. Will this year be any different?

Divide your excess equipment into the goodies and the junk. Leave the junk at your curbside and bring the goodies to the Police and Fire Academy on Scottsville Road (next to the Burger King) on Friday, November 2nd. Doors will be open at 7 p.m. and the auction will start promptly at 8 p.m.

The auction is open to all RaRa members and a guest. Sellers will pay 10% of the sale price to the club. Club memberships may be obtained at the door.

ALL ITEMS must be marked with the seller's name, a brief description of the item and its conditions, and a starting bid. Be sure to make the starting bid attractive—there will be no chinese bidding this year—in order to try to keep the length of the auction reasonable.

The sale will be conducted on a first in-first auctioned basis. All items will be placed on the tables in the order in which they are received so that this procedure can be followed.

Your auctioneers again this year will be Smiling Ed Gable, K2MP, and Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ.

RRRA FM CLINIC NOVEMBER 16th

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association, Inc. will hold its annual FM clinic at the Pittsford Town Hall, 8 p.m., on Friday, November 16. Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, RRRA Technical Director will head-up the committee offering their services to check-out and perform *minor* tuning and adjustment on FM transceivers. *No basket-cases please!*

The RC-850 Controller fund is growing, and if you have not yet contributed, please consider doing so! We have spent very little money on the repeater over the past 10 years or so, but have depended on items built and scrounged for the most part.

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NOVEMBER RAG CALENDAR

- 2 - Annual RaRa Auction, 8 p.m., Rochester Police and Fire Academy, Scottsville Road (next to Burger King)
- 3 - RaRa Amateur Radio Exams, 9 a.m., Monroe County Social Service Building, 111 Westfall Road
- 7 - RaRa Board of Directors meeting, 7:30 p.m., QTH of ??????
- 9 - December *Rag* Deadline to KB2BU
- 9 - VHF Group meeting, 8 p.m., Monroe County Social Service Building, 111 Westfall Road
- 13 - RDXA meeting, 8:15 p.m., Colonial Hotel, 1127 Empire Boulevard
- 16 - RRRR meeting, *FM Clinic*, 8 p.m., Pittsford Town Hall
- 22 - **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Ray Roberts, WA2SSU

As I mentioned in September's president message, I would like to see our membership hit the 1000+ level this year. One way of doing this is to bring former hams back to the club. I am sure that all of us know at least one ham who may have let his license lapse years ago, or who just isn't active any longer. Try to bring him or her to the next meeting and rekindle their interest. The November meeting is our annual auction where they will be able to find excellent bargains to re-equip their shacks.

If each one of us could bring one former ham back into the hobby our 800+ membership would at least double. Remember that every licensed ham over the age of 18 and who has at least a general class license can administer a novice exam. Let's all do our best to increase our ranks with able enthusiastic people.

Thanks and 73

NEW OHM STANDARD

Recently, the official one ohm standard kept at the International Bureau of Standards in Paris was measured and showed .9999999851 ohms. This came as quite a shock to the world of amateur radio and it sure would be wise to immediately recalibrate your equipment.

Tnx W5YI REPORT

YOUR NOVICE ACCENT . . .

and what to do about it

by Keith Williams, W6DTY, via MARC TIMES

It is increasingly easy to pick out a new General class operator on cw bands. His speed may be up to par and he may have an excellent fist, but his procedure is apt to be rather odd. He has difficulty in understanding just what is going on and his transmissions can be very confusing to the general run of amateurs. Standard ham operating procedure has been established by years of usage. In many cases it is established because it is the most efficient or intelligent way of doing it. In other cases a certain procedure is used because it has always been done that way and everybody understands what everybody else is doing.

When you heat up the filaments and prepare for a session of brass pounding, don't be too hasty. It is not good practice to start calling CQ while you're waiting for the receiver to come to life. Check your gear, and when you're satisfied it's all ready, take a few minutes to listen. See what's going on near your own frequency and then tune back and forth a bit. More than once I've heard some good DX going to waste while the brethren are busy honking out CQ's without apparently having listened more than two seconds after turning on the rig. Pick some station who is already calling CQ and answer his call rather than adding to the bedlam with a CQ of your own. On the remote chance that you hear no CQ's, go ahead and try one.

Two things are important: 1) Your receiver has a tuning dial; use it - it keeps corrosion from setting in and you may hear someone calling you off your frequency. If a fellow calls CQ, signs and says "K" then starts another CQ in ten seconds, you know he's not tuning. He just sits there like a lump, expecting a call on his own frequency. He

has few QSOs and he creates much QRM with his useless calling. (2) Don't make your calls too long. Contrary to your first impression a long call does not attract eager prospects. Rather, just the opposite ... the longer you call the fewer answers you receive. People are a restless lot. After waiting through ten or twelve CQ's, the average operator will lose patience and start looking for someone else. Make your calls short. With a little thought you will realize that if the other station has not heard you in the first minute or less he's probably not going to hear you at all.

A CQ pattern that has proved very successful over a long period is the old three-by-three. CQ three times, sign your call three times, and repeat the whole thing three times. Personally, I punch out four CQ's, sign three times and repeat three. This is more than sufficient and results have been satisfying. When answering a CQ, make your call as short as conditions warrant. For instance, on 40 meters, on a weekday morning about ten o'clock, you hear W6DTY calling CQ near your frequency with practically no activity on the band; you only need call about three times, sign your call three times and you're in. If you're 25 khz away, call a bit longer, but not too long because it doesn't take the receiving operator long to tune through the band when activity is light. On the other hand, when QRM is heavy, make your call somewhat longer because it takes a receiving operator longer to comb through the mess. In other words, make the length of your call suit conditions.

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.

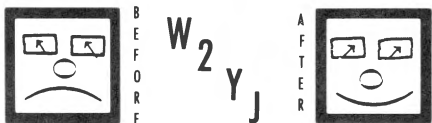
Examinations for Technician class through Amateur Extra will be given as follows:

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.

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THE DX CORNER

by W2FGY, via SJRA HARMONICS

CE0AA, San Felix – Yes, there is definitely an operation from rare San Felix. CE0AA began operation on 2 September, a few days earlier than expected, but then spent the first two days working South Americans on 14,110 Khz.

During the first few days, the Navy operators, Max and Fernando, operated very close to 14.11 and 7.07 Mhz on SSB. The first chance for North Americans came on the 4th on the INDEXA Net, 14,236 Khz. This was undoubtedly one of the most spectacular Amateur Radio disasters in history. If you missed the great spectacle, too bad, for there are no words to adequately describe it. By the 5th, they showed up on CW operating around 14,030, listening up 20 to 60 Khz.

The San Ambrozio and San Felix Islands, a territory of Chile, consists of several islands and rocks of volcanic origin, located on the 80th parallel, about 540 miles off the coast of Chile. For a number of years, San Felix has been at the top of the most-wanted list because travel to the Island has been restricted. Civilians are not allowed on the island. The last legitimate operation was in 1972. Since the CW DXCC only originated on 1 January 1975, EVERYONE interested in that award needs San Felix!! The first operation from San Felix was in 1965 by a group of Americans signing CE0XA.

It will take a lot of patience to work them. QSLs go to: Radio Club de Chile, P.O. Box 700, Santiago, Chile. Do NOT use the Club's regular mailing address.

ZA Albanian rumors continue to flow in. DJ0UJ and OH2BH keep trying. Supposedly, the Albanians are expressing a little interest in ham radio.

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BY5RA, BY4AA and BY1PK, China, have been showing up Saturday mornings with Robin, DU9RG, on 14,180 Khz with BY5RA only. A short list is taken, or work Robin a few days earlier and indicate your interest.

XU1SS, Kampuchea, shows up every Sunday morning with VS6CT as listmaster on 14,245 Khz at 1200 UTC. Phil takes short lists and all it requires is power and strong lungs.

W.E.W.L. – For those of you in the “work ‘em and worry later” crowd who may have worked JH8YDY/S21, 5X5GK, DJ5CQ/SV/A need have no more worries. They don’t count!

As you will notice in the above reports, DX operations are resorting ever increasingly to list type operations. Whether it is to satisfy the ego of the listmaster or some imagined need of the amateur for some sort of organization, lists are everywhere. It is difficult to find justification for them when it has been shown over and over again that good operators and DXpeditioners work many thousands of QSOs without any support of the listmasters and netmasters. Perhaps a proper title would be “Lidmaster” and “Nutmaster”. In any case, since the disease is with us, a list of Traffic and DX nets appears elsewhere in this issue.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

San Felix, CE0AA, 10-160 meters all hours.
Kampuchea, XU1SS, Sundays 1200 UTC, 14236.

China, 14180 Wednesdays, 141 Saturdays, 1200 UTC.

Kermadec, ZL8BA, replaces ZL8AFH.
South Shetlands, 4K1GAG, 20 SSB & CW, also 40/80 CW.

Franz Josef Land, R1O & RZ1OWA, 20 CW.
Sao Tome, WB7FRA, trying for 23 Oct for 2 weeks.

South Cook, ZK1XC/XD, by PA3BKM/
PA3DHH, 23 Oct for 2 weeks.

Burundi, 9U5JBm back on 15 meters for couple years.

ZLIAMO on Pacific Island trip 10 Oct for 3 weeks, NOT Pitcairn. On 30 SSB 7180 most mornings for further info.

Mellish Reef, VK9MR, 25 Oct for 2 weeks.
Oblast 046, U18C, until 30 Sept.
Oblast 049, R18C, until 30 Sept.

Propagation: This has nothing to do with the professional propagation forecasters but is the result of good ole listening. Even if we are around the bottom of the cycle, things are looking up now that fall is approaching. Fifteen opens up a little more frequently to Europe, Africa, Indian Ocean and the South Pacific. Ten still seems dead and interred six feet under for meaningful DX. Twenty has provided the best activity and is getting better.

UTC or GMT?

The time zones which we use, such as EST, MST, etc., or for that matter, Zulu time, are all related to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). For the purpose of radio communications Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is out.

GMT was based on solar time, i.e., the earth orbit around the sun. It was, if you wish, astronomical time. Because the orbit of the earth around the sun is not circular, corrections had to be made, thus creating "mean solar time". The system served us well for many years until something better came along in the form of atomic oscillators.

Atomic oscillators are extremely accurate, and give us the benefit of a very uniform time scale. On the other hand, navigators require a clock tied to the exact position of the earth and are therefore less impressed with uniformity of time. In fact, precise navigation requires conversion back from UTC. So you see, you cannot please all at the same time.

In fact, the new UTC system, which was adopted in Geneva in 1971 and became effective in 1972 is a compromise between the scientist's desire for a uniform time scale and the navigator's need for solar time, which is referred to as UTI. UTC is maintained by atomic clocks at a uniform scale up to an error of 9/10 of a second as compared to the navigator's time. At that point a leap second is introduced as correction. If you listen carefully to WWV, you may hear double ticks or pulses after the start of each minute. This gives you the UTC-UTI correction, in units of 0.1 second. The location of the double tick within the minutes indicates the sign (+ or -) of the correction.

(Peter Van, WE4Q - BARC BULLETIN)
via SPURIOUS RADIATION

BUYING A NEW CAR? BUYER BEWARE!

There was an interesting article in last November *QST* that all hams considering buying a new car should read. Seems Sam Gilliam, KC5XO, bought a new Toyota 'Cressida', a top of the line model. When he installed his 2-meter rig, the car began running rough, stalling and refusing to start. The dealer told Sam he had damaged the 'brain box' by using his 2-way radio. They also insisted that the damage was his own fault and that the warranty did not cover such damage. The cost of the brain box was \$400 so Sam is out that much, plus he has a brand new car in which he cannot use his mobile rigs.

Similar problems were reported on Subaru cars last year. This one resulted in the classic answer from the manufacturer telling the ham involved 'shield your antenna'.

For all the electronic know-how, the Japanese apparently don't have the electronic and auto industries talking together. Could it be that the auto makers need to discover those wonderful things called by-pass capacitors, R.F. chokes and shielding?

Anyway... if you have your eye on one of those shiny new wonders, it would be a good idea to stick a rig in the car (plug it in the lighter socket and stick a mag on the roof) and try it out. If the dealer says 'no way', you had better turn your attention elsewhere.

Tnx MIKE & KEY

FOR SALE: Ten-Tec 544 digital with CW filter, noise blanker and 262 G power supply. \$320. Call Jim, W2PZN, 671-0234.



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