



# the RARa RAG

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

VOL. 37

MARCH 1985

NO. 7

## MARCH 1st RaRa MEETING FEATURES LEAGUE RESTRUCTURING

The March meeting of RaRa will be Friday the 1st, 8 p.m., at the 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue.

The program this month will feature Mr. William Thompson, W2MTA. Bill is Section Manager for the Western New York Section, ARRL. He will talk on the recent restructuring of the League and how it affects our club. He will also discuss the Special Service Club and how it relates to the League and our section.

I am sure you will find this an interesting and informative meeting so lets have a good turnout.

## ROCHESTER VHF GROUP ANNOUNCES VHF SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

DONOR TROPHY/AWARD WINNER

### SINGLE OPERATOR AWARDS

WB2PSI	HIGHEST SCORE	K8ZES/2
WA2CBU	BEST ALL-AROUND EFFORT	K8ZES/2
K2OS	BEST SCORE/QSO RATIO	K8ZES/2
WB2ODH	BEST SCORE/BAND RATIO	K8ZES/2
KA1YE	BEST SCORE/GRID RATIO	K8ZES/2
WA2YTM	HIGHEST UHF SCORE (220MHZ +)	K2YCO
WB2ELB	BEST QSO/BAND RATIO	K2AN
WB2IEY	LOWEST QSO/GRID RATIO	LZF
RVHFG	MOST CONTEST QSO'S	K2AN
RVHFG	SMACK-DAB-IN-THE-MIDDLE	WA2ZNC
RVHFG	25 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL PARTICIPATION	K2YCO
RVHFG	NEATEST SUBMITTED LOG	K2BCL
RVHFG	BRINGING-UP-THE-REAR (LOWEST SUBMITTED SCORE)	WA2SOR

### MULTI-OPERATOR AWARDS

WB2MKN	HIGHEST SCORE	WB2PSI
WA2ZNC	BEST ALL-AROUND EFFORT	WB2PSI

# Rochester HAMFEST

MONROE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
May 17-18-19, 1985

## RRRA-VHF GROUP AUCTION AT POLICE AND FIRE ACADEMY — MARCH 15th

Well, its Kodak Bonus time again – so it must be time for the annual RRRRA-VHF Group auction.

Divide your excess equipment into the *goodies* the junk, and the *real* good stuff you want to donate to the Controller Fund. Leave the junk at your curbside and bring all the goodies to the Police and Fire Academy on Scottsville Road (next to the Burger King) on Friday, March 15th. Doors will be open at 7 p.m. and the auction will start promptly at 8 p.m.

The auction is open to all area hams and their guests. Sellers will pay 10% of the sale price to be divided between the two clubs. Five percent of the highest bid of donated items will go to the other club.

All items must be marked with the seller's name, a brief description of the item and its condition, and a starting bid.

## FIELD DAY DATES

There is some confusion over the dates for Field Day this year. Field Day will be the weekend of June 22 - 23, 1985. Field Day has traditionally been held on the fourth weekend in June – and for the past 11 years, the fourth weekend has coincided with the last weekend in June – this year the fourth weekend is not the last weekend. Field Day will be held, as always, on the fourth weekend in June, the 22nd and 23rd.

Tnx ARRL LETTER

## DISCOUNT AIR FARES TO DAYTON HAMVENTION

Piedmont Airlines is offering a \$98 round-trip fare from Rochester, New York to Dayton, Ohio for the Dayton Hamvention. This offer is good April 25 to 30, and reservations must be made in advance at 1-800-334-8644. Thanks for this special offer go to Maurice Booth, WD5RGU, of Piedmont Dallas, and Fred Maia, W5YI.

# the **RARA RAG**

Published by

**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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

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

Associate Editor . . . . . Don Taylor, KB2BU  
109 French Road, Rochester, NY 14618 (716-586-3158)

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

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

Photographer . . . . . Virgil DuMond, WB2FGY  
152 West Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450 (716-223-7344)

Photographer . . . . . John VanGriethuysen, N2BNE  
61 Olympia Drive, Rochester, NY 14615 (716-663-8192)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As a volunteer fire training captain, I must take exception to the February *Rag* article from the *Ground Wave* about unplugging toasters. I unplug my iron, toaster oven, coffee maker, and other heat-producing devices when they are not in use! The coffee maker even has a tag on the plug asking the user unplug it when not making coffee. Why? Children and pets have a habit of hitting on-switches while climbing on counters searching for cookies or goodies. A covered toaster can start a nasty kitchen or house fire long after the treat has been obtained! The reasoning may have been wrong but the safety-tip was correct!

*Thx, Steve Gulack, N2DZS*



VOL. 37                      MARCH 1985                      NO. 7

### OFFICERS:

President: Ray Roberts, WA2SSU                      663-6157  
Vice President: Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ                      482-6308  
Secretary: John Lloyd, KA2KVF                      254-2394  
Treasurer: John Van Griethuysen, N2BNE                      663-8192

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF                      244-1856  
Howie Davies, N2CUN                      288-3806  
Keith Freeberg, N2BEL                      544-9400  
Dick Goslee, K2VCZ                      334-1762  
Ed Holdsworth, K2EH                      624-1929  
John Schooley, K2NC                      225-3626  
Ed Neubauer, N2BXA                      223-2874

Club Historian: Bruce Kelley, W2ICE  
Licensing Course Director: Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH  
License Testing Director: John Schooley, K2NC  
Membership Chairman: Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU  
Public Relations Director: Ed Neubauer, N2BXA  
Hamfest General Chairman: Harold Smith, K2HC  
K2JD Engraving Director: Robert Lauzon, K2RL

The RaRa RAG (USPS 605-440) is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, 446 Cedarwood Terrace, Rochester, NY 14609. Subscription price \$1.00 per year (included in \$7.00 annual membership dues). Second class postage paid in Rochester, New York. Postmaster - send address changes to RaRa Rag, P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603-1388. Full permission is granted for reprinting articles provided a credit line is given to the RaRa RAG. The RAG exchanges with other organization's publications.

## HEATHKIT ELECTRONIC CENTER

### Amateur Radio Equipment and Accessories

Keyers, Antenna Tuners, SWR/Wattmeters,  
Coax, Connectors, Wire, Test Equipment,  
Educational Courses, etc.

(716) 424-2560

937 Jefferson Road                      Rochester, NY

Sunday September 23, 1984 was a hallmark for the American Diabetes Association. That date marked the most successful Bike-A-Thon we have ever had. Through the efforts of 700 plus riders and a handful of extremely dedicated volunteers we raised \$75,000 in pledges. As of this date \$67,000 dollars of that has been collected and money is still coming in.

A few of the volunteers mentioned above were noteworthy for a very special reason. These few were Amateur Radio Operators. Through there efforts we were able to take an event like the 1981 Bike-A-Thon, with one route, raising \$14,000; and turn it into an event raising \$75,000, with seven routes in four counties. The contribution of Hams cannot be over rated. We have maintained an excellent safety record, which I am sure is attributable to our splendid communications.

I would be neglecting an important duty if I failed to single out one operator in particular. Mr. Stan Zack KA2U, has served as our Communications Chairman on our Planning Committee and has performed in an exemplary fashion. He has done an outstanding job and has made many contributions to the Bike-A-Thon.

Each of the operators involved in the Bike-A-Thon has received a letter of appreciation from the Planning Committee, but I wished to take this opportunity to let your membership in general know that The Rochester Chapter of The American Diabetes Association sincerely appreciates the work done on our behalf. The monies raised are spent on Diabetes Detection, Education, and Research. Diabetes is the third leading cause of death by disease in this country. With the help of Volunteers like your members we will find the answer.

Sincerely,

Dale L. Hatch, Chairman  
Bike-A-Thon Planning Committee

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By now, you have probably heard about the moratorium on new repeater stations imposed by the FCC as part of its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, PR Docket 85-22, which basically looks for comments on how repeaters should be coordinated. Although this moratorium did not affect the Rochester area (Buffalo-Niagara Falls was the nearest Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area affected) there has been much discussion about it on the local repeaters. At the time I am writing this, however, it is possible that the moratorium has been lifted, due to pressures from some Hams high in government circles. Listen to K2KWK's official bulletins for the latest on this.

Also by the time you read this it is possible that the Rochester Radio Repeater Association will have ordered the new RC-850 controller for the 28/88 N2JC repeater. One of the things I hope to be able to do with the controller is bring the *Westlink Radio Network* to Rochester. *Westlink* produces a 10 minute report each week which is available via telephone from the west coast or via satellite through Metroplex. Plans are to broadcast this a couple times during the week after taping it. If you have ever heard it, you know how impressive it is.

The RaRa Family Winter Funfest at Mendon Ponds Park last month was very good and enjoyed by all who came. The weather did not disappoint us – it definitely was winter and there was plenty of snow and ice to be had by all! The food was great, especially the homemade chili provided by Dave Bernheisel's wife.

---

## DURHAM ONTARIO REGION FLEA MARKET — APRIL 13th

The Durham Region Amateur Radio Flea Market will take place April 13th in Pickering, Ontario, Canada. It is sponsored by the South Pickering Amateur Radio Club. For more information contact VE3NBE.

---

## LICENSE COURSE

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

It is not too late to take advantage of our class offerings. Novice and Technician/General started February 25th, Advanced will start March 4th and Extra class will start March 26th.

For full details – refer to the February *Rag*.

## MARCH RAG CALENDAR

- 1 - RaRa meeting, 8 p.m., 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue
- 4 - RaRa Advanced Amateur Licensing Class starts, 7:30 p.m., K2JD Club Station, 111 Westfall Road
- 6 - RaRa Board of Directors meeting, 7:30 p.m., K2JD Club Station
- 8 - Rochester VHF Group meeting, 8 p.m., County Social Service Building, 111 Westfall Road
- 13 - April *Rag* Deadline
- 14 - Rochester Packet Radio Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Tele-Connect Systems, 302 South Avenue
- 15 - Annual Joint RRRR/VHF Group Auction, 8 p.m., Police and Fire Academy, Scottsville Road
- 19 - RDXA meeting, 8:15 p.m., Colonial Hotel, 1127 Empire Boulevard
- 26 - RaRa Amateur Extra Licensing Class starts, 7:30 p.m., K2JD Club Station, 111 Westfall Road
- 30 - RaRa Volunteer Amateur Exam Session, 9 a.m., County Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Road

---

## ANTIQUE WIRELESS CONTEST REPORT

by Steve Sykes, KA2KGM

A weekend in the middle of January was the scene of the premier event of Amateur Radio. The event was the AWA sponsored OLD TYME contest. This contest draws many operators from all over the world. Most use vintage rigs and receivers from before the war. The oldest rig worked by this station was a 1928 Hartley oscillator. It is amazing what kind of note can be had from an old tube and some copper tubing.

One of the more famous stations uses "Primary Keying" which means keying the primary of the high voltage supply. In case you think this activity is dull, bandswitching consists of changing several coils and returning the whole works. If you are lucky you will remember to turn off the power supply while "bandswitching" is in progress.

Some of the participants receive the much coveted "OO" card in the mail a few days after the contest. Usually it has some odd remarks about "signal purity". All in all the contest makes for a very enjoyable two days in the winter. Next year, listen in and experience THE GOLDEN AGE of radio at its best!

## ESTATE SALE

All Proceeds to be Donated to the RRRRA  
Repeater Controller Fund

\* HP-608E Signal Generator, 10-480 MHz,  
AM modulation with calibrated attenuator.

Synscope Spectrum Analyzer Model TSA-  
S/TSA-SX, 910-4560 MHz (Microwave/  
Radar).

Dumont 303-A 5" Oscilloscope.

Boonton 240-A Sweep Generator, 4.5-120  
MHz.

Precision Series ES-500A 5" Oscilloscope with  
probe set.

\* Hickock 534-B Tube Tester.

Radio Receiver R-278B/GR.

VHF Fixed-tuner receiver Type RV-4 (2-ea).

VHF Fixed-tuner receiver - Collins type RUQ.

VHF Remote tunable receiver - Hallicrafters  
type RUP.

Radio Receiver BC-639A type 5032A.

UHF Transmitter type FA 7841 (2-ea).

Communications Receiver type RCQ.

Receiver, R-748A/TRC-47.

(\* Items are available to see locally. Items will  
be sold for the best reasonable offer. All items  
have manuals and are believed to be in operat-  
ing condition. Contact Don Taylor, KB2BU,  
109 French Road, Rochester, NY 14618,  
(716) 586-3158.

## F.A.R. ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIPS

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR  
RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with  
Headquarters in Washington, D.C. plans to award  
nineteen (19) scholarships for the academic year  
1985-86. The Foundation composed of fifty local  
area amateur radio clubs, fully funds two of these  
scholarships from the proceeds of its annual  
Hamfest. It administers without cost to the  
donors, seven (7) scholarships for the Quarter  
Century Wireless Association, two (2) for the  
Dade (FL) Radio Club and one (1) each for the  
Radio Club of America, the Richard G. Chi-  
chester Memorial, the Young Ladies' Radio  
League, the Edmund G. Redington Memorial, the  
Amateur Radio News Service, the Columbia  
(MD) Amateur Radio Association, the Baltimore  
(MD) Amateur Radio Club and the Lewis W.  
Wilkinson Memorial.

## ROBINSON ROCHESTER CYCLES

# TRIUMPH

• MAICO • RICKMAN • CAN-AM  
• OSSA • YANKEE • SWM • BSA • KTM

### MOTORCYCLES

# Onan

### EMERGENCY GENERATORS

2.2KW - 1 MW

Starting at \$500

## ROBIN (FUJI)

### Portable Generators

600W - 5KW

Starting at \$349

COMPLETE MACHINE SHOP & SERVICE

*free parking in rear*

# 436-4775

900 W. MAIN ST.  
(AT BULLS HEAD)

FOR SALE: Hallicrafters HT44 transmitter  
and SX117 receiver. Very good condition and  
operating fine. \$250.00 or B.O. Steve Sykes,  
288-0920.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for  
one or more of these awards if they plan to pursue  
a full-time course of studies beyond high school  
and are enrolled or have been accepted for enroll-  
ment in an accredited university, college or tech-  
nical school. Most of the scholarships require the  
applicant to hold at least an FCC General Class  
license or equivalent. The scholarship awards  
range from \$350 to \$900 with preference given in  
some cases to residents of specified geographical  
areas or the pursuit of certain study programs.

Additional information and an application form  
can be requested by a letter or QSL/postcard,  
postmarked prior to May 31, 1985 from:

F A R Scholarships  
6903 Rhode Island Avenue  
College Park, Maryland 20740

The Foundation is devoted exclusively to pro-  
moting the interests of Amateur Radio and to  
those scientific, literary and educational pursuits  
that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio  
Service.

## NOT EASY TO BEAT

by Paul Modern, K2GWT

A 2 watt rig, a bent vertical, the ground flat as a pancake, and not even a pebble is allowed to hinder the low angle of radiation. Even the tomatoes in season must blossom and ripen "under ground". Only in deference to his lovely bride does the house remain, or else they would be in a cave below the surface. Nothing can or will be tolerated to impede the MIGHTY 2 watt rig. The operator in the true spirit of his effort is a fine understanding individual. He is also helpful and giving of his time and expertise. He is an instructor of "CODE" at RaRa. Here he does quite well. All his qualifications glitter as some tarnished jewels that have been exposed to all the acrid, belching smoke and smog that is commonly found in the environs of a place called "Brooklyn". He eventually got his exit visa and migrated to the pleasant environs of Monroe County and now resides in the FLAT LANDS of Webster, New York.

No doubt the transition was difficult and perhaps caused some brain damage which is now starting to manifest itself in the goal "WORK ALL STATES WITH 2 WATTS". The call NE2B will be wafted from cloud to cloud and to valley and prairie. When you hear him roaring by, give him a break (he will need it). The sooner this operation is over, the better for all concerned. In about two weeks he has 28 states and Puerto Rico confirmed. Don't encourage him too much or he will go for all continents. He told me he just ordered some QSL cards and feels that he might need more. But let Russ tell you how many hearts he has broken and driven to drink. How would you feel if a distant point gives him a 5/9 or 9 plus and NE2B returns the same report to his contact who no doubt has a beam, linear, compressor, and all the goodies so many of us use. Also I hear that a Kansas contact wanted to know if all New Yorkers couldn't afford more, or were they too cheap. This operation calls for close scrutiny before it becomes the menace it really is. The fact he lobes a 20 over 9 on 20 meters into my QTH about three or four miles from his mighty MITT makes me wonder what else might be buried in the ground among those radials.

His task will take more patience and perseverance than I have, but he will succeed. These BROOKLINEES PEOPLE are a rugged and stubborn breed. So a tip of the hat to you and look out for my QR Mary. This is to you from an admirer from the BRONX.

## THE SEVEN-DAY WEEK

One unsolveable mystery of our modern civilization is why we have a seven-day week. All societies function better when they can count on regular days for marketing, worship and time-off from every day chores but seven days is the only week-length unknown to "uncivilized" societies. All lengths from 3 to 11 days based on market and trading days are used.

The seven day period is out of step with both our month and year based on the lunar month that lasts 29½ days. The Greeks divided their neat 30 day months into 10 day periods, as did the Egyptians. The Teutonic tribes lived by a 5 day week. The early Romans used 8 days, starting with market day and ending with a day of rest and festivals. Around 321 A.D. their Emperor Theodosius switched them to a seven-day week, perhaps copied from the Jews or Muslims with their religious observance of one day in seven.

The 7 day week spread over most of the world with the spread of Christianity and Islam. Various Rulers tried to change it, in 1792 the French changed to a 10 day week, but Napoleon changed it back to 7 days. Russia tried twice to change, decreeing a 5 day week in 1929 and a 6 day week in 1932 and going back to 7 days in 1940.

The names of our months are credited to Rome, although the ninth through twelfth months are the Latin septem, octo, novem and decem, (seven, eight, nine, ten). However, we take the names of weekdays mostly from the Norsemen. Tuesday, the day of Tiu, god of war; Wednesday, for Wodin, the god replacing Tiu on Valhalla; Thursday for Thor, Wodin's son; Friday for Freya, wife of Wodin. Their Monday was monnan dagaz or moon day and of course Sunday was named after the sun, called sunnan. By then they were sliding into Rome's seven-day week so they took its name for the seventh day, Saturni, after the harvest god.

R. Willis, Tnx LERC

### MICHAEL G. RICE

(KB2SG)

Attorney At Law

*Land Use/Zoning    Personal Injury*  
*Real Estate                    Matrimonial*  
*Wills/Estates                Criminal/Traffic*

Evening Hours  
(716) 454-6000

# "WHAT TO SAY TO YOUR RECENTLY UPGRADED FRIEND"

by Mike, K2SDD, RAGS

Now that volunteer exams are being given more often, I am hearing a greater number of interims on the air. My heartiest congratulations to all of the new upgrades. It is up to those of us who have been there for awhile to help ease them into their new privileges. Too many of these upgraded hams will buy new radios, install new antennas and be all ready to go but for some reason they will just let their beautiful stations lie quietly idle. How sad. Look at all they are missing. With a little help they could be jumping in with both feet and filling up page after page of logbook and sharing their excitement with you.

I am going to address the case of the ham who has been a Technician for a year and is accustomed to 2-meter QSOs with his local friends. He, or she, has just upgraded to the General class bands and suddenly has the world at his fingertips. But, it is a world of strangers, and strange new frequencies, with unfamiliar band conditions and protocols. What can we say to our friend to help him?

First of all, help him to understand the operation of his radio. He will probably catch on quickly to the receive operation but transmitting could be more confusing. Adjusting the microphone gain can be confusing to anyone and yet it has much to do with the strength and clarity of his signal. After showing him where the controls are, go back to your own station and do an on-the-air check. As you listen, have him adjust his audio, small steps at a time, until you are satisfied with the sound, and make a note of the settings. If you have several microphones, try them all because the characteristics of various microphones can be very different. Poor audio can often be blamed on a poor microphone.

Most newer rigs have some sort of offset tuning to allow the receiver frequency to be varied slightly from the transmit frequency. In this way if you tune your receiver slightly you will not change the transmit frequency and force your contact to chase you around with his receiver. Warn your friend to turn this device *off* until a QSO is already in progress. When you are just searching the band for a contact you want your transmitter and receiver to be on the same frequency because most people will call you on the same frequency on which they hear you. Various names for this device are: offset tuning, RIT and clarifier. On CB radios it is called delta tuning.

Help your friend to interpret his logbook. Little things like the difference between RST-sent and

RST-received can be very confusing if you've never heard of them before. Log a record of everything necessary to accurately fill out a QSL card later. I put a check mark in the right hand margin to indicate that I have sent a QSL card. If I receive one from the other station I put a diagonal slash mark across the tail of my check mark. That way I know what I have sent and received and avoid duplicates. Be sure that your friend fills out the cards in Universal Time. And, he will probably need help knowing when to include an SASE or postage money.

Tell him to keep track of the states that he has worked. The total will add up very quickly, especially in the beginning and is an exciting thing to watch.

When he first gets his radio in operation, you can volunteer to be his first QSO. Then you call a CQ and introduce him to the ham you have contacted as "*your friend who would also like a signal report.*" When your friend signs his "*interim*" call, it will invoke a friendly congratulations and a welcome to the band. If you both have 2-meter radios you can occasionally ask him on "2" how he is doing so that he will not feel all alone during this first QSO.

Check for upcoming contests. They represent a good way to make contacts. Even a person with microphone-fright will find it easy to make contest-type-QSOs when you just exchange state names and signal reports. Then he can say "I worked 10 states today."

Explain the proper use of phonetics to him. He does not have to sign his "*interim*" letters every time; just at the close of the QSO makes it legal. Tell him to speak very slowly and clearly when working a DX-station whose English "*she is not too well.*" And leave out expressions like "*Holy Cow*" and "*I'm so happy I'm going to die*", which may not translate correctly in an English-to-Spanish dictionary. Avoid CB expressions like "*What's your 20?*", "*Breaker, Breaker*", and "*Come-moan, Come-moan*", which doesn't go over too well on the ham bands. Pile-ups can be fun but require a quick, short technique of giving your call letters.

Some days you can feel like the most popular signal on the band, and other days no one will give you the time of day. Your friend should know that band conditions play a very important roll in determining success or failure and that he is not to blame for failures.

Please tell him that QRM from other stations is a fact of life that we must live with and that he should accept this in a good natured way. Too

(Continued on page 7)

## "WHAT TO SAY.." (Continued from page 6)

many signals on the band is much preferred to a dead band with no signals heard at all.

Introduce him to the joys of the Hamfest flea market where careful shopping will yield fantastic bargains in equipment that will improve the enjoyment of his station. Don't let him use poor quality coax unless it is only temporary. An SWR bridge and watt meter can do a lot to help you know if your antenna is working properly. Be sure he attaches his radio to a good ground through heavy wire or coax braid. A single 4-foot ground rod is not good enough. And number 22 doorbell wire won't hack it either. Connect the good ground soon because that first TVI complaint from his neighbor can be very disheartening. I know hams who do not operate at all because of a single TVI complaint received years ago.

Be sure to tell your friend that you welcome his calls at any time because you enjoy helping. His successes are exciting for you too, and you hope he will let you share in them.

For those of you who have no recently upgraded friends, here is what *you* can do. Tune across the general class portion of the bands and when you hear a CQ from a station signing an "interim" call, give him an answer. Congratulate him and tell him how much fun he is going to have. Tell him that in the next few years the band conditions will start to improve and get better and better until he will be talking to DX all over the world every day. Really get him excited. And next year he will do the same for the next group of upgrades and the wonderful Ham Radio spirit will live on.

*Tnx RAGS REVIEW*

**FOR SALE:** HF Station – TEN TEC OMNID with transmatch, wattmeter, power supply, mic, keyer, etc. Contact Walt McBurney at 1-768-7596.

### **Huether Communications, Inc.**

**428 Ames Street, Rochester, NY  
235-5087**

#### **Sales & Service**

2-way Radio-Sound Systems  
CB installs – Amateur Parts  
Larsen Antenna RG8-8x-58 – Nicads

**Open: Monday thru Friday – 8:30 to 5:00  
Saturday – 9 to 1**

## **COP'S CORNER**

by Howie Davies, N2CUN, R.P.D.

**QUESTION:** Can an Amateur Radio operator who holds a valid operator's license issued by the FCC equip his motor vehicle with a receiver that is capable of receiving signals on the frequencies allocated for Police use.

The following law as it appears in the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, Sec: 397.

– A person, not a police officer or peace officer who equips a motor vehicle with a radio receiving set capable of receiving signals on the frequencies allocated for Police use or who knowingly interferes with the transmission of radio messages by the Police without having first secured a permit so to do from the person authorized to issue such a permit by the local governing body or board of the city, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both.

**NOTE:** Nothing in this section contained shall be construed to apply to any person who holds a valid amateur radio operator's license issued by the FCC and who operates a duly licensed portable mobile transmitter and in connection therewith a receiver or receiving set on frequency exclusively allocated by the FCC to duly licensed radio amateurs.

End of Sec. 397 N.Y.S.V.T.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE 1985**

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The public service events for 1985 are coming in. I will, as usual, have the necessary sign up sheets at our regular monthly meetings starting in March. It looks like we will have the usual busy Summer so everybody will again have an opportunity to sign up for one or more of these events. They are listed below so that you can start your schedule early:

Heart and Sole Classic	April 20
Susquehannock Pro Road Rally	June 8-9
Mendon Pony Rally	June 8-9
Scotch Bonnet Light Yacht Race	June 14-16
Mendon Pony Club Regional Rally	August 10
Palmyra Canaltown Days	September 14-15
Pittsford Driving Competition	August 15-18

More to come – Hope to see more of you out this year to join in the fun.

## K2JD ENGRAVING

P.O. Drawer G Pittsford, NY 14534

### CALL SIGN BADGES

Size • Up to	Cost
3/4 x 3 (1 line)	\$1.25
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¢

### RUBBER STAMPS

Design your own stamp using  
the sample type sizes shown  
below. \$2.50 for three lines. Add  
50¢ for each additional line.

Most color badges are in stock.	ARRL sig on stamp or badge add 50¢
---------------------------------------	---

## "DR. RAGCHEW" NOW AVAILABLE

Following on the success of the popular "Dr. DX" computer program which simulates actual DX contacts on the ham bands, GEARVAKF Software Labs have now announced "Dr. Ragchew", a program which simulates typical 75 meter QSOs. Available in an AM and a SSB version, Dr. Ragchew" can carry on a conversation at any time, on any subject such as comparing gear; antennas; how many hundred db over 59 you are; SWR— and it includes a 25-minute-long 73 and sign-off routine. A subroutine program for QCWA members includes questions and comments on "how things used to be", "why transistors don't work", "prostate trouble and other things that get you up in the night", and "why Franklin Roosevelt ruined the country". Dr. Ragchew also provides various types of deliberate and malicious interference such as, "testing, testing, helloooooo radiooo", VFO sweeps, music, catcalls, woodpecker noise, and 20 over 9 power line noise which comes intermittently. Developers are also planning a 2 meter FM version which will include a debate on "full quieting" and how much stronger than "full quieting" your signal is.

—N8JR

Tnx W5YIPES RETORT

## OUR VALUABLE SPECTRUM

Do amateurs realize what a valuable "commodity" we use everyday? Have we thought about what an image we present as a group to government, the public, the news media, the family next door?

Are we aware that the cellular service and equipment— being sold at thousands of dollars per installation— is our equivalent of repeater-accessed-autopatch? And, that we get our licenses, and use of very valuable RF spectrum space for FREE?

Well, freedom of this kind does *not* come cheap— or forever!

One of our fellow Amateurs is, at this moment, waging what had been a one-man-war against Ham apathy.

Dick Knadle, K2RIW, a renowned Amateur and highly respected electronics professional, was our guest speaker at the January meeting. He told his tale of the community-vs.-the-Ham-with-a-tower. Zoning boards are attempting to regulate the freedom of amateurs who want to erect antenna structures.

We, the Ham community, should see this as an omen of things to come. Unless, we, who have the wonderful tool of communications, get together and drastically change our public image, we may be in for harassment, unfavorable laws, loss of frequencies and...?

Dick has already gathered much support, information and action, via D.A.R.T. (Defend Amateur Radio Towers). This organization, from this writer's viewpoint, is moving in the right direction for a technical, electronic, communications-oriented era, which will value the RF spectrum more and more.

If you are not in a position to lobby or use your influence with local, state, or federal governments, the least that each one of us can do is support this far-sighted organization.

Already deeply involved are Barry, K7UGA; Harry Dannals, W2HD; Norm, K2YEW; Lloyd, WB2ZIT; Chris, KC2DP; and virtually every prominent Ham, locally and nationally, including our own President, Burt, K2KLN.

Your support and ideas can be sent to DART, Box 2851, Huntington Station, NY 11746 (a non-profit, volunteer effort).

Tnx METROPLEX

FOR SALE: Mint Collins S-Line Station: receiver, transmitter, wattmeter-phone patch-control console, and Collins microphone. Includes 30 meters and WWV. Call Ollie, K2BBK, 288-3604.



## THE BEST RaRa FAMILY CAMPOUT EVER

As we approach the beginning of March, our thoughts turn to Spring and then longings for the beautiful, outdoors days of Summer. I'm ready for Summer weather, picnics and camping season right now.

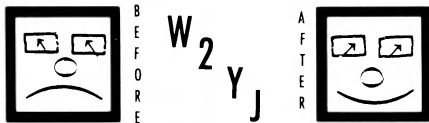
If it's worth dreaming about, then just maybe the time is right to think and plan ahead for a RaRa Campout. I know there are a few stout-hearted souls, amongst our growing membership rolls, who enjoy spending a weekend in the great outdoors. Let's get together for a relaxing, rewarding family weekend away from our traditional homes and exercise our knowledge of outdoor living, cookery and how to have a good time around a campfire. (You might even think about bringing along a QRP rig or a Lovable, "Lugable" Lunch-box.)

Now comes the part where I really need your help whether or not you've been camping a hundred times or just been giving it some thought. What kind of facilities are we looking for? (That's a good question to consult spouse on.) Do we want a pool, playground, gameroom, hayrides, sing-a-longs, or what. Do we want to go near or faraway, public or private campground? If you are an experienced camper, you probably can recommend several places you feel are good and what you like best about each of them. If you are brand-new to camping, don't despair. We need your feelings on what kind of place you think you'd like. Obviously, we can't go to all the kinds of places we come up with in one Summer (maybe), but can certainly pick a place to start.

The other big question is, what month (July, August, September) and then what weekend (first, second, third, etc.) is best as time to shoot for. Again, the timing may not be perfect for everyone. However, it's still snowing out now, so if we plan ahead, almost everyone will be able to come and enjoy all the planned and unplanned fun activities that are part of every campout.

It doesn't matter if you are a seasoned tent or trailer camper, take along a mobile home or have never been camping before in your life! There will be lots of experienced people to draw upon for help in the How-To area. If you need a check list of things to bring along or just want to chew-the-fat about camping give me a call. I'm usually around on 146.76 MHz, 146.88 MHz or 444.70 MHz. If you prefer, give me a call on the telephone (a decidedly non-ham term) at 544-9400 evenings or weekends.

## 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

## WANTED — DEAD OR ALIVE

(taken from August 1984 QRV - Journal of the Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society)

A reward of 1000 microfarads is offered for the capture of Hopalong Capacity, who escaped from the Crompton Primary Cell recently. He is wanted for the induction of an 18-year-old Coil, and was last seen riding a Megacycle in the direction of his Ohm. Armed with a Carbon Rod, he will no doubt offer great Resistance, and is thought to be trying to contact his moll-Milli Volt. The whole of the Magnetomotive Force is now searching the Fields for his sidekick, Eddy Current, while the Electromotive Force is guarding the entrances to all Cathode Ray Tube stations.

*Tnx LERC*

A word of warning for those of you who dread machines. I have an answering machine on the line. I use this helpful device only when I am not at home or so I'll know who (and how and about what) to call back. Please take the time, if you reach my answering device, to leave a message (it has a two minute timer), spending time listening to a bunch of bleeps and blurps when I get home is not my idea of a good time. Besides, if you leave a message, I'll know how I might better be able to help you sooner.

O.K. Let's get on with the poll. Sign-up and show your interest at the March RaRa meeting or give me a call. Let's make this the best RaRa Family Campout ever and the ONLY way we can do that is if you tell me what, when and where we ought to have the best RaRa Family Campout ever. Alternatively, you can jot me a note addressed to:

RaRa Family Campout  
P. O. Box 1388  
Rochester, New York 14603

Call or write TODAY.

*73's, Keith Freeberg, N2BEL*

## NTS NETS AND PACKET RADIO

Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager Luck Hurder, WA4STO, adds these facts to the ongoing discussion of NTS recognition for packet-radio traffic nets:

“I was startled to see the article regarding NTS packet nets in the December 4 issue of *Gateway*.

“According to the article, the STM of the Southern Florida section has stated that monthly net reports are the key criteria for acceptance of a packet net as a NTS net.

“I certainly don’t wish to be a wet blanket about all this; please understand that I am an active packet operator. To be fair to anyone wishing to attempt to have their packet net become an official part of the National Traffic System, however, there are a few ground rules that must be taken into account. Some of them are:

“1. The Net Manager must be appointed by the Section Manager or his Section Traffic Manager.

“2. The Section net must adhere to section boundaries.

“3. The net must function on the basis of a prescribed, orderly traffic flow.

“4. The net must interface in a prescribed manner with the higher and lower echelons of NTS.

“Points 3 and 4 are the real stumbling blocks for a packet net. Regular interfacing to NTS is a chore! Stations must be available at prescribed times on a reliable, regular basis in order for the traffic flow to be effected properly.

“None of the above is to insinuate that a packet network cannot become officially affiliated with NTS. I just wanted to point out that a monthly net report is NOT the sole criterion for NTS affiliation.”

Ed Note:

Reflecting on the above article, I wonder if this attitude is another instance of the “*tail wagging the dog*”. It seems to me that the purpose of NTS is passing traffic, and passing it in the most reliable and expeditious manner. It can be inferred from the above article that NTS may be more interested in perpetuating its rigid structure than passing traffic or training Amateurs on the most effective ways of communicating third party traffic. This high-handed attitude may be what turns amateurs off when it comes to traffic handling. Any other comments out there? *K2RJ*

*Tnx GATEWAY*

## METROPLEX-TRIVIA

### Landsharks

Researchers have discovered that ordinary liquid detergent makes a better shark repellent than the chemicals normally used for that purpose. That would explain why you hardly ever see sharks in laundromats.

### Burro and Burrow

What’s the difference between a burro and a burrow?

A *burro* is an ass. A *burrow* is a hole in the ground. As an amateur operator, you really should know the difference.

### Instant Success

The song “Happy Birthday to You” was written in 1936. It probably is the most well known song in the world among hams. It took the songwriters, Mildred and Patty Hill, exactly 17 seconds to write the lyrics.

### How Murphy’s Law Originated

One day an electronics teacher named Murphy wanted to demonstrate the laws of probability to his class. He had 30 of his students spread peanut butter on slices of bread. He then had them toss the bread into the air to see if half would fall on the dry side and half on the buttered side.

As it turned out, 29 of the slices landed peanut-butter-side down on the floor. The 30th stuck to the ceiling.

### Think

The average Ham has 76 pounds of muscle, 52 pounds of bone and 3½ pounds of brain. Which probably explains a lot of things.

---

## FOR SALE:

### COMPLETE AMATEUR RADIO SHACK

1. SB-102 5-band voice w/filters
  2. DX-60B w/VFO and QSK
  3. HR-1680 Receiver
  4. Ultimate Transmatch
  5. Teletype; press type
  6. TU-7 Teletype Demodulator
  7. Heathkit Microphone
  8. HW-2036A with patch and antenna
  9. SW-717 General Coverage Receiver
  10. Shack w/ant. Relays, Meters and more
  11. Tektronix 511-D 8Mhz Oscilloscope
- Best offer. Dick Sprenkle, 716-381-8990, home – 716-724-2557, office.

---

**STOLEN RIG**— An ICOM IC-4AT, s/n06480 was stolen from my apartment on January 31st. If anyone has any information, contact Paul Williams, WA2YHZ, at 461-4325.