



the RARa RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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NO. 10

VHF GROUP CHANGES CONSTITUTION; MEMBERSHIP/OFFICERS AFFECTED

At their Annual Meeting in April, the VHF Group voted to add two changes to their constitution. Firstly, requirements for membership were modified to require prospective members to register with the club secretary for the reception of club mailing. (Under the authority of section 5(B) of the constitution, members each cover the costs incurred by the club for these mailings.) As a result of this change, the VHF Group presently has a membership of 107. The second modification officially established the position of treasurer. Further information on these changes can be found at the VHF Group booth at the Hamfest, or via P.O. Box 106, Canandaigua, New York 14424. (A "Constitution and By-Laws" committee was established at the meeting also. Contact W2KFU, Sherwood Snyder, if you would like to serve.)

The following are officers for 1985-86: KS2Z - Chairman; K2SPO - V. Chairman; WA2YTM - Secretary; W2UAD - Treasurer; WB2ELB - Newsletter and VHFSS 1986 Contest Chairman.

The VHF Group picnic will be held May 11, 1985. Call 924-3677 (WA2YTM) or 394-3712 (WB2IEY) for information.

RAG TAKES SUMMER VACATION

Don't bug your postman for the July or August *RaRa RAG* - There are none! The *RAG* takes its annual summer vacation for the next two months to recharge the staff's batteries. But the *RAG* will return to September better than ever ... so watch those mailboxes!

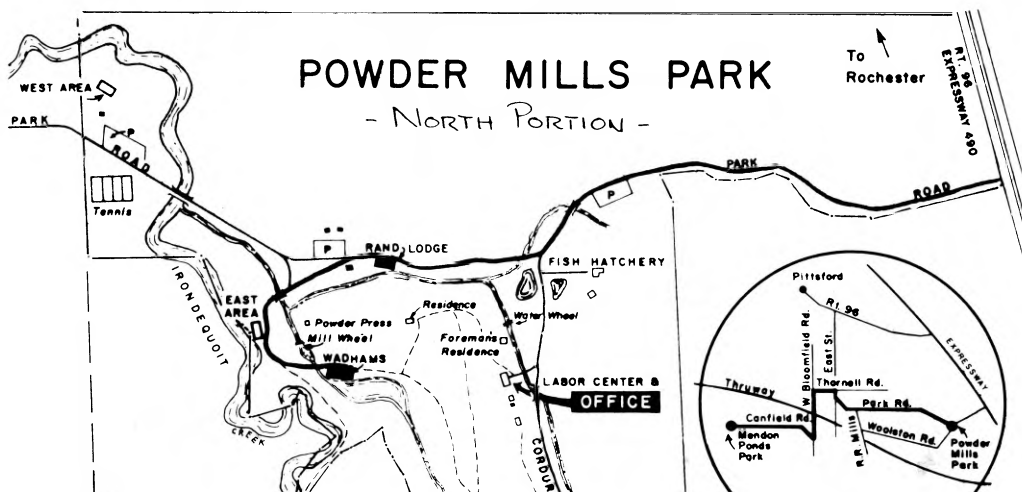
K2RJ

RaRa PICNIC - POWDER MILLS PARK JUNE 1

The Annual RaRa Picnic will take place Saturday, June 1st, at Wadhams Lodge in Powder Mills Park in Pittsford. The picnic will be from 2-5 p.m. and as always there will be plenty of games, fun and food.

The hot-dog tongs will be passed from outgoing President Ray Roberts, WA2SSU, to incoming President Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ. (Ron proved he could handle them during the RaRa Winter Cabin Party!)

The picnic is open to all members and their family or a guest. There is no charge. The annual picnic is one of the membership benefits of RaRa. See you there!



the **RARA RAG**

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RaRa ELECTION RESULTS

At the May 3rd Annual Meeting, the following were elected to office:

Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, *President*
Dick Goslee, K2VCZ, *Vice-President*
John Lloyd, KA2KfV, *Secretary*
Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF, *Treasurer*

Directors:

Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU
Howie Davies, N2CUN
Keith Freeberg, N2BEL
Ed Holdsworth, N2EH
Ed Kohl, WA2UBD
Ed Neubauer, N2BXA
Charlie Planert, W2YPR

Lets wish them all the very best for next year!

VOL. 37 JUNE 1985 NO. 10

OFFICERS:

President: Ray Roberts, WA2SSU 663-6157
Vice President: Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ 482-6308
Secretary: John Lloyd, KA2KfV 254-2394
Treasurer: John Van Griethuysen, N2BNE 663-8192

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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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

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RRRA ANNUAL MEETING MAY 31st

The Annual Meeting of the Rochester Radio Repeater Association, Inc. will take place Friday, May 31st, 8 p.m., at the Pittsford Town Hall. The main business of the meeting will be the election of officers.

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate of officers:

Art DeBruycker, W2YGW, *President* (automatic accession)
Bernie Agins, KD2CU, *Vice-President*
Ed Maher, WB2ZJY, *Secretary*
Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, *Treasurer*

Nominations will be open from the floor at this meeting.

THANKS!

A special thanks to all of you who contributed so much time to make this year's Hamfest the success that it was. I am sure I have not expressed my thanks in person, to all that helped so I extend my appreciation to all of you now. The assistance with everything before, during and after the Hamfest was just SUPER.

Again - Thanks for a job well done.

Ed, N2EH

NORTH AMERICAN TELECONFERENCE RADIO NETWORK — JUNE 14th

With the declining sunspot cycle and the worst is yet to come, you will not want to miss the next North American Teleconference Radio Network on June 14th. New and exciting developments in the Amateur Radio Space Program will be reviewed. Basic information on how you can get started in satellite communications will be provided.

Some of the topics to be covered include:

What are satellites?

How can they be used to QSO?

How can you get started?

How do the amateur satellites get built and launched?

Where can you go for help in getting started?

What kind of activities are planned for the future in the Amateur Space Program?

These, and many other questions, will be addressed in the teleconference. Many opportunities for questions and answers will be provided. No questions will be considered too basic, so if you have been trying to get started in this area because you're frustrated with present HF band conditions, now's your chance to get some help. AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corp., will have some of its top volunteers available on the teleconference:

John Browning, W6SP

Vern "RIP" Riportella, WA2LQQ

Tom Clark, W3IWI

John Champa, K8OCL

Bill Tynan, W3XO

Harold Price, NK6K

Jan King, W3GEY

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the fantastic activities in the works in the Amateur Space Program.

Under the direction of Net Manager WA0IVW - Tim Loewenstein, the net will begin at 9:00 p.m. on June 14th, 1985. Over 235 amateur repeaters throughout the North American Continent will participate.

FOR SALE: Heath IM-17 solid state Vom. Call Jeff, WA2YIX, after 6 p.m., 244-2333.

FOR SALE: HQ170AVHF, Viking II, Eico-scope. Call W2WQV, 377-7401.

FOR SALE: Johnson Viking Invader \$150, RME 6900 Receiver (need work) best offer. Joe, W2SKA, at 889-4424.

SUMMER RAG CALENDAR

MAY

- 31 - RRRA Annual Meeting, 8 p.m.,
Pittsford Town Hall

JUNE

- 1 - RaRa Picnic, 2-5 p.m.,
Wadhams Lodge, Powder Mills Park
- 2 - Rome Ham Family Day, Rome, NY
- 8,9 - *SUSQUEHANNOCK*
public service event
- 8, 9 - June ARRL VHF Contest
- 9 - Mendon Pony Rally
public service event
- 14 - Teleconference Radio Net,
146.79, 9 p.m.
- 14-16 - Scotch Bonnet sailboat race
public service event
- 23-24 - Field Day Weekend

JULY

- 13 - Mt. Beacon Hamfest,
Poughkeepsie, NY
- 14 - Batavia Hamfest, Batavia, NY
- 20-21 - Heavy Hitters Hamfest,
Topsfield, Massachusetts

AUGUST

- 7-11 - Empire State Games, Buffalo, NY
- 10 - Mendon Pony Rally Regional
Competiton public service event
- 15-18 - Pittsford Driving Competition,
Walnut Hill Farms, public service event

COP'S CORNER

by Howie Davies, N2CUN

Summer time is fun time and many folks pack up the Family Car, with hot dogs, grills and head towards one of our many Parks in the Rochester area. Also many people dress up for the beach and the outside recreation season is in full swing. Wouldn't it be nice to go down to either the beach or park and not worry about stepping on glass, cans or just plain trash. Everyone can do their part and clean up their own picnic area when you're loading up your car to go home. If you take the family dog, keep him/her on a leash and clean up any mess they leave. Most of the areas do supply trash barrels, use them. Park Police will be on patrol this summer, keeping the peace and enforcing Park Rules. So let's all enjoy the warm weather and outside recreation. Be neat and clean and have fun. See you in the fall.

RED CROSS NEEDS YOU

by Dave Stark, NF2G,
Red Cross Disaster Communications Coordinator

Each fall Monroe County participates in an exercise involving a simulated emergency at the Ginna nuclear power plant. This drill includes such agencies as the American Red Cross and the local ARES/RACES group. The County recognizes the potential need for backup communications for Red Cross and causes RACES operators to be assigned to us.

Red Cross is responsible for relief to victims of other natural and man-made disasters as well. We define a disaster as "*an occurrence ... that causes human suffering or creates human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance.*" This definition says nothing about the number of people affected or the size of the area involved. A house fire affecting a single family is a disaster as far as Red Cross is concerned. Hence the existence and regular activity of our Disaster Action Team.

On a larger scale, the Rochester-Monroe County Chapter of the Red Cross can and must respond to all disasters occurring in Monroe County. We are mandated this responsibility by Congressional Charter issued in 1905 and by the Disaster Relief Act of 1974. This all means that Red Cross can be operating on a disaster footing even though local government has not declared a "disaster".

How does this relate to ham radio operators? First, RACES can only be activated by governmental action. That means that in a medium to large disaster Red Cross may be in need of communications support that RACES cannot provide until a governmental body gets around to activating them. In some types of disaster that may never happen.

Besides that, the American National Red Cross has a Statement of Understanding with ARRL to encourage cooperation between local Chapters and hams. Until now the Rochester Chapter has no formal plans to allow hams to help out in a disaster unless Monroe County sends them to us. This is about to change.

On Wednesday, June 26, 1985 the Red Cross will be offering a 3-hour course to Rochester area amateur radio operators called "*Introduction to Disaster Services*" at 7 p.m. in our Chapter House at 50 Prince Street. Everyone attending will be issued a Certification which is a prerequisite to all other Disaster training. All ARC Disaster courses are free. If you plan to attend, call me at 594-2065. Further info will follow on some of the upcoming FM Nets.

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MUSEUM SUMMER HOURS

The AWA Radio Museum at East Bloomfield Holcomb (south of Victor) will be open Saturday and Sunday (2-5 p.m.) and Wednesday evenings (7-9 p.m.) during the summer months. The club had many new amateur and commercial exhibits including a large display of old National receivers. Shipboard equipment of 1905-1915 vintage and 1930 television sets are prime attractions as well as several working spark transmitters. Admission is free. For more information and club membership, contact K2MP, W2ICE or K2WW.

SURPLUS SALE — JUNE 16

AWA has been given a large quantity of material to sell with proceeds going to the Museum Maintenance Fund. The sale will take place Sunday, June 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the club's storage building located on the American Legion property, Route 5 & 20, Holcomb, New York.

QST, CQ and other magazines: \$1 per year, used tubes 4 for \$1 (tube checker provided) and other items.

SUSQUEHANNOCK — JUNE 8-9

One of the very best opportunities for practicing our emergency communications preparedness comes next weekend in and around Wellsboro, Pennsylvania – The *Susquehannock* pro road rally sponsored by the Finger Lakes chapter of the Sports Car Club of America.

This will be the 10th year that RaRa has been fielding a crew of over 30 amateur radio operators to the mountainous state forest land in north-central Pennsylvania to provide safety related radio communications to the rally. Thanks to the assistance of several amateurs from the Tioga county, Pennsylvania area, the newcomers do not have to worry about getting hopelessly lost, for they will have good company!

A portable repeater provided by the Rochester Radio Repeater Association is set-up on one of the centrally located fire towers for the duration of the rally. It operates on 146.28/88 and covers most of the rally area like a blanket.

The rally sponsors and especially the participants really appreciate the radio communications we provide. They know that without this communications there would be no rally. Why is this communications so important? To understand this, you must first understand how a rally of this type works.

The rally course is broken down into timed stages that in this rally are all on Pennsylvania state forestry roads and are closed to the public for this event. The rally cars proceed through the stages each starting the first leg of a series of stages one minute apart. The object is to get the fastest time through the stage.

Each stage is opened by the *course opening car* which has a radio operator who can give the all-clear to the radio operator at the stage start. If an accident occurs on the stage, the finishing drivers report it. If there are injuries the stage is closed until the injured persons are taken care of. This is where the necessity of good communications comes in. Each stage has a radio at the start and finish who can talk to each other and the rest of the rally either directly or through the portable repeater. When a problem like this arises, the stage finish radio operator must contact the stage start and tell them to shut down the stage so that medical personnel can safely get to the victim. If the situation is serious enough, it may warrant stopping the whole rally to keep the cars from backing-up at the closed stage. The stage radio operators then communicate with the sweep crews who locate the crashed car and assess the situation and the medical teams in the area who will treat or evacuate the victims. At the speeds these vehicles

travel this is serious business and fully appreciated by the participants.

Other serious functions of the radio communications include advising of civilian vehicles on the rally stages and helping service crews find their rally cars.

All this communications work notwithstanding, the main reason so many hams mark the date on their calendar a year in advance and come down to Wellsboro a day or two early is *fun*. Working the rally is a lot of fun that you have to experience to appreciate. And talking about appreciation, we are thought of as miracle workers by the rally organizers and participants. They know how far they got when they tried to communicate through the mountains on CB and they look on in amazement as we talk across the rally and into Wellsboro with a handheld or mobile unit.

Not in a small part due to the communications we provide, the *Susquehannock* Rally was voted number 2 in the country on last year's SCCA circuit by the rally participants and number 1 the year before. This is a great honor and a tribute to all the organizers and workers.

Its never too late to sign-up to work and get in on all the fun. Call Ed Holdsworth at 624-1929 to get your name on the list!

XEROX ARC REPEATER UPDATE

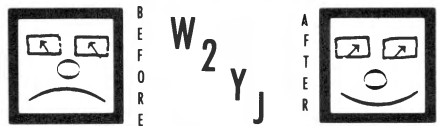
by Pete Sechrist, WB2SUN

There has been overwhelming financial support by the club membership for purchase of a replacement 220 mhz repeater. The new repeater will be on 224.26 output –1.6 offset.

Linking to 440 and autopatch will be done after additional funding is available to the club. The new repeater should be installed late June or early July. Linking and autopatch to follow.

Thanks for your patience during this transition period.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL YL'S

by Ann M. Kelly, XB4LRO, Editor, AUTOCALL

Dear Reader,

Let me begin by apologizing to all of the ham radio operators in the world; I am sorry. I used to think it was pretty silly the way you would say your name and then immediately following give those letters. I have those letters now (KB4LRO) and I LOVE THEM! I want a name plate, hat, T-shirt, tote bag, etc., reflecting my Call Sign.

It all began last summer when a friend of ours Bob Milligan KI4MB said he was sure I could pass the tests needed for a license. My husband, Randy WB4MJF sat back and kept his mouth shut (not easy to do). Bob pushed (gently), I passed the Novice test during the summer. Bob pushed (a little harder), he said you must at least go for the Tech. He gave me all sorts of study guides including Ham Master tapes. He even drove me to Baltimore in September 1984. I missed by ONE question. His teenage son Leonard passed that day so not all was lost. Bob kept saying don't give up, keep trying. The day after my test Bob showed up at my house with a 610 form all filled out, all I had to do was sign it. He sent it to the Mt. Vernon Club. They were giving the exam in December.

The December exam was an easier failure to take, because I missed by a lot more than one. I drove home alone thinking I'll just be a Novice the rest of my life. There's nothing wrong with that, at least I had my call sign. I told my husband that I was finished, no more. I told our friend Bob, thank you but I just did not have time to study like I should. I had a baby due in February, four other children, the magazine and all kinds of reasons.

Bob showed up with another 610 form the next day all filled out all he needed was my signature. If my husband had done that I would have said FORGET IT BUSTER! Bob said; "Take it in January BEFORE the baby comes. Here is some more study material, you CAN do it." I could not say no. Our friend had all the faith in the world that I could do it.

I left for Mt. Vernon that January morning with mixed feelings. My husband (I finally let him help me) had been drilling me with questions for a week. He felt positive about my chances of passing. He even showed me how to operate the 2 meter rig in the car so I could call him on the way home with the good news. I just listened, thinking it will never happen.

I walked into the testing room, sat down, opened the test, and started in. This time the questions did not look Greek to me. Could it be that I finally had understood some of what I had been studying.

I turned the test in when I had finished, next thing I remember was Gerri Sweeny (N4GHI) smiling. "Ann, you did it, you only missed 4." I came very close to screaming (maybe I did). I wanted to hug everyone in the room.

I ran (very pregnant) to the car, flipped the switch on the 2 meter rig, and tried to call my husband Randy WB4MJF. He was on a call at work, he is with the Arlington Fire Department. My first contact that day was Don Dunlap (WB4QAX), founder of the Arlington Amateur Radio Club and also a friend. He made me feel less nervous about talking and I could transmit my excitement easily to him without feeling embarrassed. Mary Milligan KA1KWP (Bob's wife) came on the air to congratulate me. I wanted Bob to know the great news, it wasn't long before I got to tell him. Randy soon came on, my morning was then complete.

Since that wonderful day my excitement has increased even more. I had my beautiful daughter Ginny in February. Randy set up my 2 meter HT next to my hospital bed so I could contact him anytime. You should have seen the maid running out of my room wondering why that little machine just started talking when she bent over to pick up my trash can. The nurses got daily demonstrations. It was fun sharing MY new hobby and yes my CALL with them.

My car broke down (with me and the children in it) the other day. Randy was there in minutes to assist us, all through the aid of our 2 meter rigs. Randy and I will celebrate 14 years of marriage on April 24th. He has stopped PUSHING me towards my ham license in favor of marital bliss, never giving up hope that some day I would do it.

If you have revolted as I did (to be stubborn) give it another try. Find a friend (not many like KI4MB) to assist. It is a wonderful hobby, and I am very PROUD of my CALL SIGN.

P.S. Next - GENERAL!

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SIGHTLESS HAM NOW ON PACKET RADIO!

by Fred Cupp, W2DUC

April 25, 1985 marked an important event to hams in the Rochester packet radio fraternity. 1985 has seen a rapid growth in packet radio activity, but the highlight has to be the appearance on the air of Walt Keleher, KA2ASL. We have been anticipating this event for some time, wondering how the operation would go.

What is so unusual Nothing much, except that Walt is blind, having lost a battle with glaucoma years ago. Operating on voice or on CW without sight presents little challenge, but think about operating on packet radio without your sight. Sending is not too big a problem, since Walt can touch type. Receiving is another story!

Walt has been fortunate enough to have acquired an Apple IIe computer, an "Echo" voice synthesizer by Street Electronics,* and a specially developed software program. This program, by Quinset,* of Lexington, Massachusetts, The Talking Terminal Exec, ties the operation of the computer, as a terminal, to the text-to-speech functions of the voice synthesizer or "talker".

Whatever appears on the screen of the computer is "read" by the talker in nearly perfect speech. If errors are made in pronunciation, Walt can back up to get a repeat or have the unit spell out the unknown word or phrase. A standard modem permits Walt to access the data in computers at the library and at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

On the evening of April 15, Dave Denz, N2DWL, and Mark Winrock, both members of the Rochester packet group, went to Walt's home and set up his PK-1 packet unit, with a Midland 13-510. They had previously made up the cables and tested the gear out. After a short period of instruction and coaching, the big moment arrived.

The equipment worked perfectly. Walt worked WB2NBU, K2YNW and W2DUC in rapid succession. While Walt was taking his time learning the operation, the rest of the gang was taking turns sending to him. Walt reports that we are perfect copy, but we all seem to have a Swedish accent, yah? (This is a common trait in text to voice systems.)

Words fail to express the excitement we had in participating in what may well be the first contact on packet radio involving a sightless ham. More important is the knowledge that we have witnessed a demonstration of indomitable willpower overcoming a seemingly impossible barrier.

Thanks go to Mark Winrock and Dave Denz for taking their time and effort to assemble and check out the equipment. We certainly welcome Walt into the select (but as yet nameless) Rochester Packet Radio group.

* "ECHO" Voice Synthesizer by:
Street Electronic Company
1140 Mark Avenue
Carpenteria, California 93013

"TALKING TERM EXEC" by:
* Quinset Company

Box 216
Lexington, Massachusetts 02173

P.S. The Midland 13-510 was loaned by John Schooley, K2NC.

SQUIRRELS

Recently, we have noticed a squirrel baiting some of the folks using the repeater. They reacted just like he wanted, they called him names, told him to get off the air, etc. This only egged him on. He was having his warped fun and the victims were the repeater users whose blood pressure was raised and surely had that part of their day ruined.

When these squirrels come on, don't fall into the trap. *Don't mention you even hear them.* Carry on your QSO just like he wasn't there. If you have to make up things to make him think your copying solid, go ahead.

Remember, once either side of the QSO recognizes his presence - you have lost and he has won. If he can't get anyone riled he will go away. Sounds odd but it works!

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(To RaRa members)

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THE BLOWN FUSE

by Bill Clarke, WA4BLC

Several months ago I talked about some uses for computers in amateur radio. Since that time I have been approached by several readers to expand on this subject. I have been rather reluctant, as I am involved in writing software for the Commodore 64, and felt this might be a conflict of interest. However, having gotten over the guilt feelings of reviewing and pushing my own product.

There are four basic uses for computers in the typical ham shack. These are:

1. logging
2. RTTY/CW
3. antenna design
4. learning

Of course each category requires a computer program to operate and, in the case of RTTY/CW, an additional interface unit.

There are several logging programs available. They all basically do the same thing. Entries are made on the screen, as you would in a log book, then filed on disc for later usage. Some programs include sorting for contest purposes, WAS, WAC, 5BWAS, etc. The really nice feature of a computerized log is "*instant recall*". When you have QSO you can check with your computer to see if/when you ever worked the other station. If you have, the information about the previous QSO will be seen on the screen. Refreshing your memory with the log information will allow you to start your new QSO where the old one left off, or perhaps to cut it short.

RTTY/CW usage requires an interface between your radio and the computer. There are several makes/models, and the assorted software for them, available. Some can only handle RTTY, while others go so far as to utilize AMATOR. I suggest you go to a good ham store and try this equipment before you make any purchases. Plan to spend some time to check this stuff out. It is complicated, and there is quite a choice of equipment on the market. SEE IT DEMONSTRATED BEFORE YOU BUY.

For antenna design there are several programs available. Some merely generate the numbers for cutting dipoles, while others give you all the numerical information, then will draw pictures of several types of antennas. These pictures (diagrams) are labeled with dimensions. There is another antenna design program that will design a shortened antenna. This is particularly useful for the 80 and 160 meter crowd that don't have enough room for full size dipoles. One such very complete antenna design program is UNCLE BILL'S ANTENNA SYSTEM.

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In learning, I don't think the computer can be beaten. Morse code can be generated or sent by the computer, allowing the student to hear perfect code. There are several code learning programs available, some are quite complete, while others merely generate random code. If you are serious about learning CW then opt for a complete system that allows you to hear properly sent code directly from the keyboard, sends code to the student that requires a keyboard response and, will give final tests at various levels. Don't get fooled into buying a code course that stops at NOVICE, or even 13 wpm. Get one that goes all the way to Extra and beyond.