



# the **RaRa RAG**

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

VOL. 38

SEPTEMBER 1985

NO. 1

## **HUGH TURNBULL, ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION DIRECTOR FEATURED AT SEPTEMBER 6th RaRa MEETING AT FARM AND HOME CENTER**

The first meeting of the 1985-86 RaRa year will feature Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, ARRL Atlantic Division Director who lives near Washington, D.C. Hugh will discuss some of the changes occurring at the League and in Amateur as a whole and will field questions and take input from those present. Members from other Amateur Radio clubs in Western New York have also been invited which is one of the reasons that this meeting will be held at the Monroe County Cooperative Extension Building (Farm & Home Center to the old-timers) at 249 Highland Avenue, just east of South Avenue.

Also at this meeting be prepared to bring your membership renewal form and visit Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU, our Membership Committee Chairman. He will be happy to take your \$7.00. Howie, N2CUN, will have another outstanding awards program and our resident chef *extraordinaere* George Muller, WA2IEO, will be providing the refreshments again this year.

## **ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE SEPT. 25-29**

The AWA Annual Conference will be held this September 25-29 at the Sheraton Inn, Canandaigua, New York. This will be the 24th annual conference and is an occasion when radio historians from around the world convene to exchange equipment and learn more about the development of radio.

Registration *with meals* must be made through Secretary Richard Ransley, 17 Sheridan Street, Auburn, New York 13021 before September 15th. There will be unlimited registration at the door. Write Richard or contact any AWA member for more information.

## **WELCOME TO RaRa**

If you've received this issue of the *RaRa RAG* by third class mail, it means that you are one of the 1700+ amateur radio operators in the RaRa service area (144 - 145 - 146 zip codes) who are *not* a member and we cordially invite you to join the largest ARRL-affiliated Special Service Club in the country.

RaRa is dedicated to providing the maximum amount of services to the Amateur community as well as the community at large. We provide communications for a multitude of public service events, sponsor licensing and upgrade classes and can now offer regularly scheduled Amateur Radio examinations for all classes of licenses. We conduct the largest Hamfest east of Dayton and print a directory of all Hams in the Rochester area.

For only \$7 you get all this plus a subscription to the *RAG*. Why not join us? We'd love to have you! A membership application is included for your convenience.

## **RRRA MEETING TO FEATURE HISTORY BY K2MP**

The September meeting of the Rochester Radio Repeater Association on Friday, September 20th, will feature the club historian, Ed Gable, K2MP, with a presentation on the history of the RRRA. Come and see what things were like in the days of 41V's, MOTRAC's, Prog Lines and maybe even ask Rich, K2UW, about how he got his handle "*Buzz*". The RRRA meets at 8 p.m. at the Pittsford Town Hall near the 4 corners of the Village. See you there!

### **SILENT KEYS**

**KC2XP - LCDR Andrew M. Suter, USN,**  
son of N2AGR, Martin L. Suter  
May, 1985

**W2SKA - Joseph K. Murphy**  
July 19, 1985

# the *RARA RAG*

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

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

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## AS I SEE IT . . .

by Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, President,  
RaRa and Editor, RaRa RAG

When the ARRL Executive Committee met last May at the Rochester Hamfest, one of the more controversial items they proposed was an increase in privileges attached to the Novice license. This proposal, which was subsequently accepted by the full ARRL Board of Directors at their July meeting, would basically give Novices voice privileges from 28.3 to 28.5 MHz, CW and digital modes from 28.1 to 28.3 MHz, full privileges in the 220 MHz band and all voice, CW and data privileges between 1246 and 1260 MHz.

I have suspected for some time that the present Novice license did little to encourage the newcomer and move him or her into the mainstream of Amateur Radio. Few Novices I have known over the last 10 years or so operated as I did when I was in their shoes using makeshift homebrew equipment. I see new Hams more interested in *Communications* than in making radio equipment work. So instead of using their Novice license, they wait until they upgrade either to Technician or General. Most of those choosing the Tech route never experience a transcontinental or DX contact in their entire Amateur careers!

I think that the ARRL proposal will get more Novices into the mainstream of Amateur Radio faster and will be more of an enticement for those wishing to experiment with digital communications to consider Amateur Radio seriously.

Certainly there will be those who never upgrade. The Callbook is full of them now. I tend to be more concerned about those who have never *operated* as a Novice because they felt that they could not carry on meaningful communications. Who wants to spend hundreds of dollars on a rig if you're not sure you'll be able to have fun using it?

We owe more to newcomers to Amateur Radio than the empty promises of the current Novice license. The ARRL proposal is well-conceived and worthy of our support, and will do much to ensure that Amateur Radio will still be with us in the next century.

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Amateur Radio News Service

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This is to inform you of the death of my son, LCDR Andrew M. Suter, USN, KC2XP. Andy died suddenly last May in the Philippines.

During the 1960's Andy was active with RaRa and his call was WB2WSP. He went away to college, became an officer in the Navy, and in 1977 operated as KC6KO on the island of Kosrae in the East Caroline Islands. Just five months ago I received a QSL card for a contact made in 1977.

In 1980, Andy was Officer-in-Charge of McMurdo Station in Antarctica and operated with the callsign KC4USV.

Every month I forwarded the *RaRa RAG* to him and he enjoyed them.

*Martin L. Suter, N2AGR*

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## LICENSE CLASS

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The fall series will commence on Monday, September 23, 1985 at 111 Westfall Road. They will be held each Monday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. until December 16th on which date we will hold the usual commencement exercise for those that successfully complete the prescribed course of study.

The general course will be conducted under the usual competent instructors - Ed Gable, K2MP - Theory and Bud Young, WA2UGE - Code. Russ Foster, NE2B will be on the key for the Novice Code and N2EH will be making the usual attempt at Novice Theory.

The cost for all this high grade instruction is a nominal \$12.00 for Novice and \$18.00 for General. This includes the items listed below:

### GENERAL

Registration	\$ 3.00
Membership (full)	7.00
Books etc.	8.00
Total	\$18.00

### NOVICE

Registration	\$ 3.00
Membership (Associate)	4.00
Books	5.00
Total	\$12.00

As usual, I would appreciate advance notice if you plan or know of someone that is planning on attending either Novice or General class. Please send a card to my home address - 518 Parish Road, Honeoye Falls, New York 14472, or sign up at the September meeting. This will help me to have sufficient supplies on hand for registration on the first night. Registration on the 23rd will open at 6:30 p.m.

## RAG SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 6 - RaRa meeting, 8 p.m.,  
Monroe County Farm & Home Center  
259 Highland Avenue
- 11 - RaRa Board of Directors meeting,  
7:30 p.m., K2JD Club Station
- 13 - October RAG deadline to KB2BU
- 13 - Rochester VHF Group meeting, 8 p.m.,  
County Social Service Building,  
111 Westfall Road
- 14-15 - Palmyra Canal Town Days  
public service event
- 14-15 - "HAM-O-RAMA", Niagara Falls  
Convention Center, Niagara Falls, NY
- 17 - Rochester DX Association meeting,  
8:15 p.m., Colonial Restaurant,  
1129 Empire Boulevard
- 20 - RRRRA meeting, 8 p.m.,  
Pittsford Town Hall
- 21 - Amateur Radio Exams, 8 a.m.,  
County Social Service Building,  
111 Westfall Road
- 22 - Bike-A-Thons Public Service Event,  
Greece and Perinton
- 23 - RaRa Licensing Classes start, 7:30 p.m.,  
County Social Services Building,  
111 Westfall Road
- 25-29 - Antique Wireless Association Annual  
Conference, Sheraton Inn,  
Canandaigua, NY
- 26 - Ginna Drill, Public Service Event

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## VALUABLE RaRa HISTORICAL INFORMATION MISSING

The late Linc Cundall, W2LC, had for many years been collecting issues of the *RaRa Rag* for historical purposes. One of Lincoln's numerous talents was bookbinding. He applied this trade to RaRa's collection of back issues and professionally bound the copies in nine hardcover books covering the period 1949 to present. However, Volumes 9 and 10 (in one book) covering 1958 and 1959 is missing. This volume is probably light or dark green in color and is marked with white printer's ink on the binding. Lincoln probably loaned this volume out to someone wanting to do some research. RaRa would very much like to have it back. Please contact RaRa's Assistant Club Historian, Ed Gable, K2MP, at 621-6692, if you have any ideas on where this copy might be. Thank you.

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

For the 1985-86 season we have scheduled Amateur Radio Exams to be held on every third Saturday of the month from September 1985 through April 1986.

The dates are:

Saturday, September 21, 1985  
Saturday, October 19, 1985  
Saturday, November 16, 1985  
Saturday, December 21, 1985  
Saturday, January 18, 1986  
Saturday, February 15, 1986  
Saturday, March 15, 1986  
Saturday, April 19, 1986

Times for the exams are:

8:00 a.m. – Novices  
9:00 a.m. – 20 WPM code  
9:15 a.m. – 13 WPM code  
9:30 a.m. – all written exams

Location:

The exams will be held in the Monroe County Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Road (corner of West Henrietta Road (Rte 15) and Interstate 390, Rochester, New York.

We request 10 days pre-registration to allow the VE-team to prepare for the test session. We will allow walk-ins, if the candidate arrives before the exam starts early enough to fill in the 610 form and only if space and testing material is available.

Send all correspondence to:

A. G. "Albert" de Blieck, KW2X  
59 Bay Knoll Road  
Rochester, New York 14622

Preregistration must include a completed 610 form and a copy of your current Amateur Radio license. We will return your SASE the same day with a 610 form in it. The charge for taking an exam is \$4.00 which must be paid on the day the test is taken. Please pay by check or Money Order payable to Metroplex/VEC.

**THE MAY 1986 EXAMS WILL BE HELD DURING THE ROCHESTER HAMFEST. DETAILS OF THESE EXAMS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY.**

All tests are RaRa sponsored, coordinated by Metroplex/VEC and taken under the direction of J. L. Schooley, K2NC, VE team director.

We trust that this will provide sufficient opportunity and satisfy the need for Amateur Radio exams in the Rochester area.

*73 and UPGRADE  
Albert G. de Blieck, KW2X*

## COP'S CORNER

by Howard Davies, N2CUN, RPD

### You Can't Get There From Here!

Lately it seems like everyone from all walks of life are running into DETOUR, CONSTRUCTION AHEAD, or USE ALTERNATE ROUTE signs. A lot of work is being done *everywhere* around the Rochester area. If you plan on driving from one side of the town to the other, go over the route carefully at home to find any delays and to plan possible alternate routes.

The removal of the Route 18 Irondequoit Bay outlet bridge will further complicate travel.

Work on the Can of Worms will start shortly. Sit down and map out an alternate route. It will save time.

Patience is the only suggestion I can give to cope with the existing problems around town. Police officers on duty who are confronted by huge traffic jams do their best to relieve the problems. We're not magicians, but sometimes I wish we were!

So plan ahead, keep a cool head, and smile!

## PUBLIC SERVICE

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The season has seen the usual activity in Public Service and by the time you read this we will have assisted with eight events and still have, at this time, five events left on the calendar. We participated in the usual Pony Rallies, Auto Rallies, Yacht Races, Bike Races, Foot Races and the Triathlon. We have had events that have lasted 3-4 hours and ones that have lasted 2-3 days. Some of these have required 3-4 operators and some as many as 40 operators. We have participated in events that have had our operators scattered from Canada to the mountains of Pennsylvania and have performed this service in all kinds of weather. These events are the best and most innovative type of training that can be performed short of a real emergency.

I have seen an increase this year, as in past years, in the number of people that come out for the first time and hope to see this trend continue. We need new people to operate during these events if only for a short time on one event or several hours on many events so that we can maintain the high level of skill that has been achieved during the past years. If you have thought about participating in one of these events. Don't Hesitate! the purpose is two-fold – the first is training and second is to get out and meet people – tell them about Amateur Radio and have FUN!!



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Monroe County

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July 1, 1985

A. Leland and Cecilia H. Zwack  
138 Flower City Park  
Rochester, NY 14615

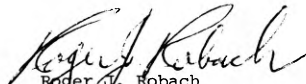
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Zwack:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning my Assembly Bill 1429, which would exempt amateur radio equipment from the State sales tax.

Unfortunately, I was not able to get this bill passed the Assembly this year. However, next year the Assembly will be looking at a comprehensive reform of the State sales tax code, looking at a variety of goods and services and the appropriateness of the sales tax as it relates to them. I have been able to receive a verbal commitment from the Assembly leadership that amateur radio equipment will be looked at in this study, and I will let you know if there is any further action in this area.

Once again, thank you for contacting me with your support. If I may be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Roger J. Robach  
Member of Assembly

RJR:rcb

## YLRL CONVENTION IN LAS VEGAS, NV

by Lia Zwack, WA2NFY

The Young Ladies Radio League gathered in Las Vegas, June 20 - 23, 1985. 255 YLs plus some OMs came from many states plus Alaska, Hawaii, India, Switzerland and Poland. Thanks to N7YL, KØEPE and many YLs it was a big success and they did a super job of planning and organizing.

After years of contacts on the nets and in contests, we finally met the faces behind the mike! The QRN was unbelievable, laughter and talking everywhere in the Sahara Hotel until late. We had a long list for discussions and the time was just too short to solve every problem, but it was great to meet and see the YLs and the future will bring more meetings and the time to be together again.

The YLs from 2-land donated a Statue of Liberty Radio and there were many awards and the program was interesting with shows about birds and dxing. To see the country we had two bus trips, one to the Hoover dam and the other to the desert and valley of fire. It was hot, but it was interesting to see all the wonders and different parts of this great land.

The OM, Lee, W2WPF, and myself could also see the Grand Canyon, thanks to our Ham friends and everywhere we experienced the great friendship found through Ham Radio. It was an unforgettable trip and we thank all YLs who helped to make it so wonderful.

The next YLRL Convention is planned for Hawaii in 1989! It will be the 50th Anniversary of YLRL and we think it should be in the 50th State!

# AMATEUR RADIO CALLSIGN HISTORY

by WB4FDT

(Reprinted from April 1985 Virginia Ham)  
via AUTOCALL

When I worked for the FCC in the Amateur Radio Division, our biggest headache was amateur radio callsigns. There was an "in-house" joke to the effect that no amateur was satisfied with his or her callsign. Hams with "non-preferred" (WA and WB callsigns) all wanted "preferred" one by three callsigns. The hams with preferred one by three callsigns (like W4ABC) wanted two-letter suffixes (like W4AB). Various amateurs wanted the callsign of a deceased friend or relative. And so on ...

The following is a short chronicle of the history of amateur radio callsigns, with an eye toward Virginia's callsign area, which, as you are about to find out, was not always the fourth call area.

Prior to 1912 there were no required callsigns, simply because there was no licensing of radio stations in the United States. Pioneer amateurs used their initials. Since the range of the average spark station was only a few miles, no further identification was needed.

With the passage of the Radio Act of 1912, amateurs had to be licensed to operate and were assigned their first government issued callsigns. The United States was divided into 9 callsign areas. All amateur calls began with a number, followed by 2 letters, such as 4FD. The number of these "two-letter" suffixes quickly ran out, and a third letter was added, e.g., 4FDT. Since there were many "two letter" callsigns in use, it was generally not considered prestigious to have a two letter callsign until the mid-1930's. In some call areas, two letter callsigns were available upon request. Virginia was a part of the third call area until 1946.

The third call area reissued many two letter callsigns as they became available. The last two letter callsigns to be issued, as far as I can determine, were in 1927 in the third call area. It is also interesting to note that after the first World War, many amateurs considered the longer three letter callsigns to be more preferable to a shorter callsign and specifically requested a longer callsign.

As the state of the art moved forward, amateurs began experimenting with short-wave frequencies, and international QSO's became more commonplace. European amateurs were using the same system of callsigns that the United States was using, and it was impossible to tell if the station was in the States or in Europe. Thus, to avoid confusion, many amateurs began to use a

*unofficial* two letter prefix. In the US, amateurs used "NU". The first letter stood for the Continent "N" for North America, the second letter stood for the country "U" for USA. Canadian amateur used "NC" for North America-Canada. Australian amateurs used the prefix "OA", "O" for the continent Oceania, and "A" for Australia.

In the late 1920's it was apparent that some sort of international system of callsign prefixes was needed. The International Radio Conference of 1928 assigned world-wide prefixes to all radio services. The Department of Commerce decided that radio amateurs within the continental United States should use the prefix "W". Amateurs in US territories or possessions would use the prefix "K".

In 1946 a tenth callsign area was added. This was the zero, 0, call area. At this time, the boundaries of several callsign areas were changed, Virginia was moved into the fourth callsign area. I do not know the reason for this. In some instances, amateurs were able to receive the same suffix, or a similar one, but most received new callsigns.

The new 0 callsign area was assigned to the mid-western states, which formerly had been part of the ninth call area. Also, various U.S. possessions and territories were assigned their own special prefix (KL7, KH6) for the first time. This prefix still began with a "K".

By the mid-1950's, many call areas experienced a shortage of 3-letter suffixed calls beginning with "W", so the Commission began issuing 3 letter suffixed calls beginning with "K" (e.g., K4AAA). In the fourth call area, "K" prefixed calls were issued between 1955-1959.

The addition of the Novice Class license in 1952 brought the first 2-letter prefixed, 3 letter suffixed callsigns (also called "two by three" callsigns) into the amateur radio service. All Novice licensees were assigned WN prefixes, unless they were issued in U.S. possession or territory, where their callsign began with a "W" instead of a "K" (e.g., WL7AAA was a Novice in Alaska). In the late 1950's the Commission also issued a few "WV" prefixes to Novice class licensees in the second and sixth call areas.

By 1960 the "K" and "W" prefixes nearly filled in some callsigns areas the Commission began issuing its first "WA" prefixed callsigns. (The last callsign area to begin issuing "WA" prefixes was the third call area in 1963.) In the fourth call area, "WA" prefixed calls were issued between 1960-1964. The first "WB" prefixed calls were

(Continued on page 7)

## CALLSIGN HISTORY

(Continued from page 6)

issued in 1965 in the fourth call area and continued to be issued until 1970.

Between 1970-1976 in the fourth, second and sixth callsign areas, the Commission *reissued* all vacant "WA" and "WB" prefixed callsigns. (At the Commission we received many complaints to the effect that "I've been licensed 10 years, have a "WB" prefix, and this new kid down the block gets a "WA" prefix".) Between 1976-1981 new licensees in the fourth and sixth call area received *WD* prefixes.

As a footnote, I might also add that between 1960-61, in the fourth call area, if one by-passed the Novice license, and went straight for the general class instead of being assigned a "WA" prefix, you were assigned a preferred "W" prefix.

### EXTRA-CLASS CALLSIGNS

In 1969 the Commission allowed any Extra class amateur who had been licensed 25 years to request a one letter prefix, two letter suffixed callsign (e.g., W4AA). This rule was later modified, so the beginning in July 1977 through 1980, any extra class licensee could request a two letter suffixed callsign *of their choice*.

### SPECIAL EVENT CALLS

These callsigns were formerly available to organizations and individuals to help publicize an event or happening. N6V, WW50OU, KK6BSA are examples of special event callsigns. These calls were usually temporary, only for the duration of the event. The most popular event calls were those issued to any amateur requesting them during the International Telecommunications Union Week in mid-May. Between 1976-78 over 100 of the special calls, with the suffix "ITU" were issued each year. (In 1977 I requested and received the callsign NQ4ITU.)

### TEMPORARY CALLSIGNS

Between 1976-1978 about 100 of these temporary callsigns were issued. Their prefix was always a "WT" (temporary) (e.g., WT4AAA). They were only issued when the licensee had a priority need to have a license immediately. (In those days there were no interim permits - you had to wait until you received your license to use your privileges.) The callsign expired upon receipt of the regular license.

### REPEATER CALLSIGNS

Beginning in 1973, repeater stations were assigned the prefix "WR". The Commission in 1978 eliminated repeater callsigns and did not renew those outstanding.

## SOMEWHERE A CHILD IS WAITING

St. Joseph's Villa has contacted us with a proposal to show emotionally handicapped children more of the exciting world of radio and electronics. There are children waiting to learn what you have to share with them of your hobby, interest and time.

**WHAT IS NEEDED** - Any adult willing to spend a small amount of time with a small group of 12 year olds, once a week for 15 to 30 minutes, with material planned for 5 or 6 weeks. (Help planning your material will be available.)

**WHEN NEEDED** - Any evening during the week you have available starting this fall. (Exact start date will be determined by your schedule.)

**WHERE NEEDED** - St. Joseph's Villa, 3300 Dewey Avenue, Rochester. (A supervised space will be provided.)

**WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION** - Contact Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, at 544-9400 evenings or weekends to discuss any questions or suggestions you might have regarding such a program.

**CALL TODAY - THE PROGRAM NEEDS YOU TO MAKE IT WORK.**

## MICHAEL G. RICE

(KB2SG)

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### REVENGE OF THE NERDS

There is a feeling in the Commission that since amateurs are now licensing their own, why not let amateurs assign their own callsigns? In this age of deregulations, why not let an amateur pick his own callsign? Thus, the Commission might throw the callsign problem back at the amateurs and their organizations. I'm sure revenge would be sweet indeed!

(When am I changing my callsign? I'm holding out for *W4A* and nothing else!)

## CLUB STATION— K2JD

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

I have not written much lately about our station, so I thought I would bring you up to date on what we have. We still have the basic H.F. station consisting of the Drake TR-7, Heath SB220 Amplifier, Antenna Tuner and the Beam Antenna 175' above ground. We were able to upgrade the Novice station last year with the addition of a Heath HW-10 which was donated by a club member. This replaced the HW16 which was the first piece of gear purchased by the club several years ago. We also have the TRS80 computer with a Gemini printer coupled to the TR-7 with a Kantronics Terminal unit.

We also have three VHF stations which includes three 2M transceivers, one 6M transceiver and a UHF station which has a 450 transceiver. We have one tower on the roof with five antennas on it with six other antennas mounted in various locations on the building. We have also just received a donation of a Robot SSTV receiver which has not been installed at this time.

The station is available to members of the club on a 24 hour—seven days a week basis. The only requirements are Club membership and to be checked out on the equipment. The station is also open on Monday evenings while the classes are in session from about 6-9:30 p.m. If you would like to see it, come down any Monday or if you would like more information—feel free to contact me.

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## PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR INPUT

by Dick Goslee, K2VCZ, Vice President

This year the program for the monthly meetings are being planned by the program committee. In an effort to make the programs both interesting and informative to all the members no matter what their particular operating habits are, the committee is seeking ideas for different programs. Perhaps there is something that you would like to see or someone that you would like to hear talk at a RaRa meeting. Maybe there is a subject that you would like to know more about. Or, maybe you have a subject that you would be willing to show the group at an upcoming meeting. If so contact Dick, K2VCZ, or Keith, N2BEL. They are part of the program committee and they are looking for new and interesting ideas. Any and all suggestions will be welcome and will be considered for future meetings.

## THE RaRa Rag — 20 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 1965

by Ed Gable, K2MP

The 1965/66 RaRa season was led by President Harold Smith, WA2KND; VP Jack Morse, K2KFN; and Hank Kreutter, WA2IKB, as Secretary. After many years of service Larry McConnell, K2UCI, is replaced by Hank Schwalenstocker, WA2RXL, as Treasurer.

The September RaRa meeting featured Cy Staud, K2DQ, retired Director of Kodak Research Labs, speaking on microwatt QSO's using transistors in QRP transmitters. The Farm and Home Center gathering place also found Eddie Dunn, WA2KMI, continuing as awards chairman.

The Society of Rochester Transmitting Amateurs (STRA) has been reactivated with Ken Gardner, W2BGN, as President and Bill DeWitt, W2VZV, as Trustee for the club call W2SA. SRTA was started in 1927 by Ken Gardner, 8BGN, Al Balling, 8ALY, and Bill DeWitt, 8BRD. Through Bill the gang secured a room at the Times Union Building where the old WHQ transmitting masts were used to support a Hertz antenna connected to the club's 8AC transmitter. SRTA's roster included many of Rochester's Commercial Broadcasting engineers.

Code and Theory classes begin once more headed by Ray Springett, WA2AIL, ably assisted by Pat Hennessy, WB2FGV; Dave Hassett, K2SQT; and Bill Kuehne, WA2ZQN. New this year is an Extra Class session. Classes were held at the Eastridge High School.

Gil Boelke, W2EUP, spoke before the Rochester VHF Group on a VHF FM Repeater Network to connect all of New York State. In Dick Bourne's (WA2HUV) RDXA Column raves were given on Bruce Elle's (W2VTR) hosting of the year end party. Don Bramer, K2ISP, was a new RDXA member. Catches of the month included Gus Browning as AC3, AC4, 4XI, and 4X0, while Don Miller, W9WNV, started his Pacific/Asia DX-Pedition as 5W1 and YJ8. The AWA celebrated its tenth year of operation after being started by W2GB, W2LC, and W2ICE in 1953.

R. A. Larson was a new advertiser offering custom QSL printing service for the Amateurs.

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**WANTED:** Older tube type Ham or Communications receivers made by Hallicrafters, National, RME, etc. Literature, historical information and advertising items also desired. Ed Gable, K2MP, 716-621-6692.



## LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE RADIO

by Keith Aldrich, Publisher, RD Design

I was born in 1929 – just 56 years ago, July 29. While that year may be better known as the year of the crash that launched the Great Depression, I prefer to think of it as the eve of the era of radio... a golden, miraculous new medium that informed, entertained and even bolstered a beleaguered people for free, when they couldn't afford nothing else nowadays.

The first round-the-world broadcast was heard in 1930. It would be difficult for younger readers to appreciate how quickly and completely after that the little broadcast box became the focal point of world civilization. One might be inclined to say I was a little young to remember that myself, but that's just the point. Even the haziest memories of the thirties are replete with radio references: Fiorello LaGuardia, New York City's Mayor, reading the Sunday funnies to me, a kid in Shawnee, Oklahoma; the family coming together as if for prayer to hear Franklin D. Roosevelt's latest, tender, Fireside Chat; a news announcer, McLuhan-cool, suddenly shrieking in anguish when the Hindenburg bursts into flames; the careful reading of code messages on Orphan Annie, invariably decoded as "*Drink your Ovaltine*". The pervasiveness was more complete, I think, than that of TV, since all this brave new world went with you in your car, stayed with you on the job: I shall never forget the muted, bitter, on-the-spot account of the Nazi occupation of Vienna after the Anschluss, heard during a Saturday afternoon drive in the country.

A favored hobby among scientifically-minded youths of the time, I remember well, was building "*crystal sets*", or radios, and operating them as radio "*hams*". Such enthusiasts were the closest approximations at the time to today's electronics engineers. The word "*electronics*" itself did not exist. It was invented after World War II by McGraw-Hill to re-title its magazine called, till then, *The Radio Engineer*.

This experience, nostalgic to older readers, may seem quite foreign to younger ones. Instead of a crystal set, they may have fooled around as youngsters with a computer kit. And instead of trying to reach China by short wave they may have been writing programs to balance Mom's checkbook.

Ironically, those same computer kids may now be working as RF engineers, developing incredibly sophisticated versions of the old crystal sets. As Levy-Strauss observed, history has a way of moving in cycles, not in a linear progression – and

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600W – 5KW

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COMPLETE MACHINE SHOP & SERVICE

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900 W. MAIN ST.  
(AT BULLS HEAD)

today, radio is in again, not to bring us Jack Benny, but to give us cordless phones, pagers, over-the-horizon radar and sonobuoys. It is probably no exaggeration to say that RF technology today is the most flourishing market in the entire electronics industry. It is certainly no exaggeration to say that the computer sector, so long and so recently the star of the show, is not.

I have noticed a slight tendency, on the part of some high-tech people, to look down on hams and ham activity – as if such a hobby somehow lessened the professionalism of those whose livelihood is RF engineering. I challenge that notion. Quite to the contrary, experience as a practical operator cannot but deepen one's understanding of electromagnetic wave generation and propagation. In fact, if there are any computer kids among our readers who are not hams, we urge you to give it a try. It will give you much of the education, in this strange "*new*" field, that you're looking for.

In the meantime, old and young alike, let's hear it for radio. Guglielmo Marconi's invention has come into its own. Again.

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# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Lloyd Caves, WB2EFV

The 1984-1985 season finished with 860 members. This was a 3.6 percent increase over the 1983-1984 season. Our Club is still growing in size every year, so let's make the 1985-1986 season the best one yet! You can help by sending your renewals or new applications early to:

RaRa

P. O. Box 1388

Rochester, New York 14603-1388

or bring them to one of the General Membership meetings.

Remember that RaRa is a special service club of the ARRL. If you are renewing your ARRL membership or would like to join the ARRL for the first time, you should look into doing so with the RaRa Membership Chairman. This could save you \$2.00 on your membership cost.

RaRa is an organization that is here to serve you and the community. It needs your help and support. Join now and become active in the various committees.

Looking forward to seeing you Friday, September 6th.

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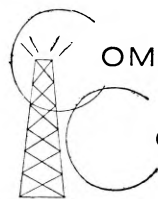
## WHY ARE THEY SENDING UP DISTRESS FLARES?

One cold night, as ships lay stalled in a North Atlantic iceberg pack, an officer asked his captain why a nearby ship would be sending up white rocket flares—the kind used only in an emergency. They stood there on deck, speculating as rocket after rocket went up. When the mystery ship's lights reached the horizon, they decided it was merely entertainment for the passengers, then steamed away. The ship was, of course, the *Titanic*. No one thought to take its distress flares for exactly what they were, a ship in trouble. The non-responsive captain spent the rest of his life trying to convince people that he was really nowhere near the *Titanic*, although his officers said they were.

A MARC member was in an accident recently, one which required an ambulance. He reached for his radio and sent three "*MAYDAY*" calls out on one of the popular local repeaters. No one answered. Unknown to him, at least two club members were speculating about this *MAYDAY* call, about who might be messing with stolen gear, and what it all meant. The distressed ham switched to another repeater where someone answered and was able to dispatch an ambulance.

We have alerted nets because of (a) threatening

W2YJ



COMMERCIAL

COMMUNICATIONS

47 WREN  
LANCASTER, NEW YORK 14086

GEORGE L. KRICKOVICH

(716) 684-3562

**FOR SALE:** Complete low band contest station of K2VCZ. Heathkit SB-102, with additional SSB and CW Filters installed variable AGC, RF and IF gain controls, digital readout, Speech Processor, RIT, and many more additions. Accessories include: SB-640 Remote VFO, SB-600 Speaker, HP-23 AC-Supply, SB-630 Station Console w/clock and SWR Bridge and phone patch. The package is the one used in many contests by "Goz's Gang" and has produced many winning scores. Also included are extra tubes and a spare LMO assembly. Rig is set up for RTTY and will work with both AFSK or FSK keying. Over \$1200 invested, will sell for \$450.00/b.o. Contact Dick, K2VCZ, at Heathkit Store days 424-2560 or nights 334-1762.

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weather; (b) a massive traffic jam; (c) a riot at the county prison. This time, it was hard to get even one person to respond. "*His voice sounded different,*" we heard; wouldn't yours?

In our attempts to be one step ahead of bootleggers and crackpots we may miss the obvious: someone calling "*MAYDAY*" is in serious trouble. But as the white rockets went up, people were saying, "*hey ... get a load of that ... I wonder what's going on?*" Someone needed help, and badly enough to use the ultimate distress call; that's what was going on. As I learned in CPR training in a little country town, when the issue of hesitancy came up: "*Do you want to be embarrassed, or do you want to be dead?*"

We train for the big disasters, but maybe we should keep in mind that while we're waiting for the nuclear power plant to melt down, the river to engulf us, or all electrical power to go off—maybe we should remember that we're being trained to respond quickly. Hear what is happening and act: answer the station, call the appropriate agency (numbers are in the front of the phone book), or if mobile, stop at any place of business and report it to the local police by telephone.

We want to be trained communicators, and the price for that is to be vigilant and prepared. You never know just what the emergency will be.

- KIPZU - Tnx MARC TIMES

## ARRL BULLETINS CONTINUE ON 2 fm

Because of the constant popularity of the two meter fm mode, voice bulletins will continue to be sent by K2KWK. Many people enjoy this method of keeping track of happenings involving amateur radio. While most listeners have their ham license, there are many pre-hams and would be hams. Anyone with a "scanner" receiver can take part.

Bulletins are sent each Sunday evening beginning at 8:45 p.m. Two Rochester area repeaters are used alternately, one Sunday it's the 146.880 - N2JC repeater, and the next Sunday it is done on the K2SA repeater at 146.79. The bulletins are done prior to the popular "Monroe County FM Net" that begins at 9:00 p.m. These two stations cover Monroe County, and its close neighbor counties, very well.

Tuesday bulletins start at 7:30 p.m. on the WB2IID repeater transmitting on 145.31 mHz. This repeater is located near Attica, New York and is heard and usable from all of western New York and parts of adjacent states and provinces. If the worst happens and the un-expected "Murphy" gets into the schedule then the Tuesday night bulletins are sent Wednesday night on the WB2IID machine.

*Dwight Hill, K2KWK*

FOR SALE: HQ-170A VHF, \$155. W2WQV, Earl Holtz, 377-7401.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ron,

I bought a TR-2500 two-meter HT in December, 1981, and over the years, the LCD display gradually went black in the center.

When I finally wrote Trio-Kenwood for a replacement, I didn't get a reply to my letter. I got a small box containing a brand new LCD, no charge.

I believe that Trio-Kenwood is to be recommended for having the longest 90-day warranty in ham radio.

*Ray Foster, KB2UN  
111 Crosby Lane  
Rochester, NY 14612*

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ESTATE SALE - From estate of Jerry Fink, W2TTQ: 3-element tri-band beam - \$100  
Heavy Duty Rotor w/ Control Unit - \$100

Call Mrs. Fink at 271-1445.

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ESTATE YARD SALE - Oct. 12th and 13th

A collection of electronic parts, old and new test instruments and Hi-Fi and video equipment will be on sale in the yard of Mrs. Jerald Fink, widow of W2TTQ, on October 12th and 13th from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 60 Seminole Way in Brighton. All area Amateurs are encouraged to help her dispose of these treasures.

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## ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Call(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose \$5 dues for myself and \$1 for additional family members who wish to join. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The following information would be useful for our files but is not necessary to join:

Phone — Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

License Class \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member? \_\_\_\_\_

2-M FM Equipment \_\_\_\_\_

220 FM Equipment \_\_\_\_\_

440 FM Equipment \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: RRRRA, Inc., P.O. Box 92031, Rochester, NY 14692



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Send to:

**The American Radio Relay League, Inc.**

225 Main Street  
Newington, CT 06111

Cut along fold and detach

\*Enter 4-digit code for sponsoring club, if any:

0	3	5	2
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov./State \_\_\_\_\_ PC/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 in U.S./\$30 in Canada/\$33 elsewhere (U.S. funds)

Persons, age 17 or under or age 65 or over, upon submitting proof of age, may request the special dues rate of \$20 in the U.S. (\$25 in Canada, \$28 elsewhere in U.S. funds)

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

Charge to AMEX, VISA or MC No. \_\_\_\_\_

Valid from \_\_\_\_\_ Good through \_\_\_\_\_

CL 1-85

# K2JD

## ENGRAVING

P.O. Drawer G Pittsford, NY 14534

### CALL SIGN BADGES

<b>Size • Up to</b>	<b>Cost</b>
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.

# 36 PT

# 24 PT

# 18 PT

# 12 PT

# 10 PT

# 8 PT

Most color badges are in stock.

ARRL sig on stamp or badge add 50¢

## CORDLESS PHONE COMPANIES RECEIVE FINES

Three distributors of cordless telephones have been fined \$2000 each for repeated sale of telephones that fail to meet the FCC's radiated power limitation. Based on measurements taken by the Office of Science and Technology, the Field Operations Bureau has sent Notices of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture to TAD Avanti, Dynascan and Uniden.

The staff of OST's Sampling and Measurements Branch is continuing to test cordless phones and other devices in order to determine whether equipment, once approved for marketing, continues to comply with the technical standards throughout its manufacturing period.

*Thx ARRL LETTER*



FOR SALE - Heathkit SB 301, Receiver, all filters installed, Matching speaker, Manual. Very good - \$250.00 or BO. WA2ZNC, 248-2511.