



the RARA RAG

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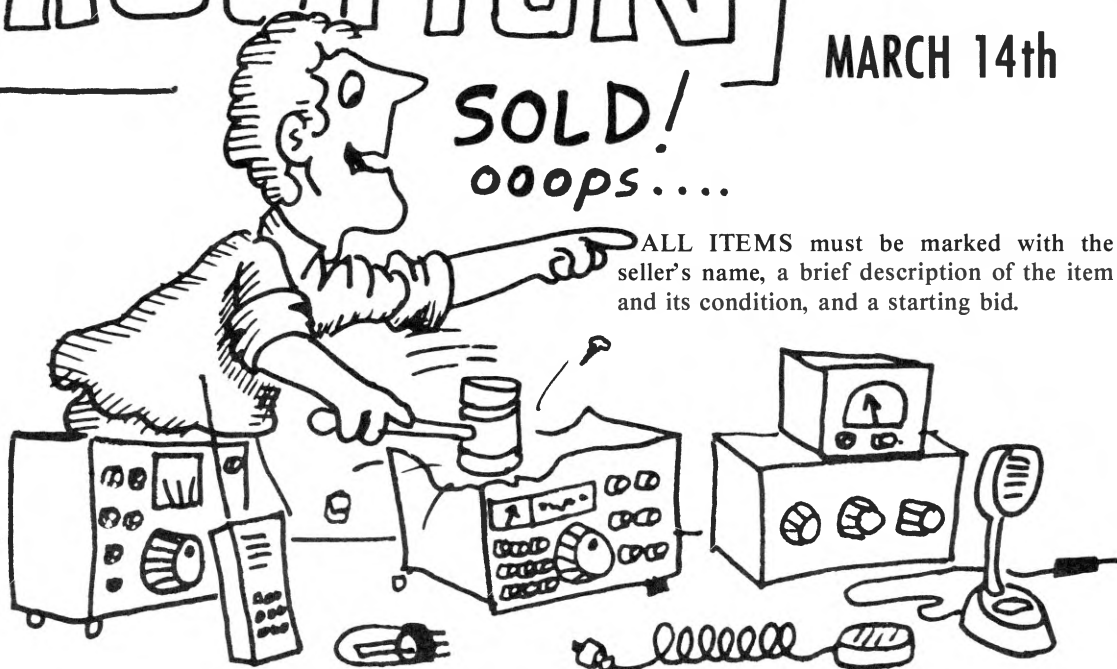
NO. 7

AUCTION

MARCH 14th

SOLD!
ooops....

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



RaRa MEETING MARCH 7th

The meeting of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association will feature an update on Packet Radio by the RaRa Packet Committee. Not since the advent of single-sideband has a new mode of operation been developing as fast as packet. It has the potential of revolutionizing Amateur Radio traffic handling and has been used very effectively in recent natural disasters requiring Amateur Radio help. Come see just how far Packet Radio has come in one year!

Besides the excellent program, there will be refreshments prepared by our own Chef-Extraordinaire George Muller, WA2IEO, and the awards program hosted by Howie Davies, N2CUN. Don't miss this one - see you there!

RRRA-VHF GROUP AUCTION AT POLICE AND FIRE ACADEMY —

Well, its time for spring cleaning again, and just in time for the annual RRRA-VHF Group joint auction! Scour the shack, the attic, basement and garage: divide your excess equipment into the *goodies* and the *junque*, trash the *junque* and bring all the goodies to the Police and Fire Academy on Scottsville Road (next to Burger King) on Friday, March 14th. Doors *will* be open at 7 p.m. this year 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.

the **RARA RAG**

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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A BIRD STORY

Rewritten from AUTOCALL

I once heard a story concerning a small bird. The bird would sit on a tree limb all day and sing a very beautiful song. The song was so beautiful that people from miles around would come to listen to the little bird. Often, some people who were depressed about their situation in life would listen to the bird's song and find their spirits lifted. The song would remind them of the *wonder of life* and how little their problems were in the giant scheme of the world. These people would then resolve to solve their own problems and to better themselves. For such services, the little bird might have been rewarded with wealth of fame, but he never requested or wanted any. Why then did he sing, someone asked him. "*For the joy of it,*" the bird replied.

There are many such birds in Rochester area clubs. They are the ones who are always ready to pitch in, serve as officers and contribute their time and efforts, not for fame and fortune, but "*For the joy of it*". Let's take time to remember them and pitch-in to help them when we see the opportunity.

LICENSE CLASS BULLETIN

Advanced Class starts March 10th

Extra Class starts March 25th

At K2JD, 111 Westfall Road

For more information call N2EH

K2JD ACTIVE DURING VHF CONTEST

by Larry Fischbach, KA2NME

The weekend of January 11th and 12th brought a handful of amateur radio operators together at the RaRa Club station, K2JD. All who gathered were new to the world of VHF contesting. We had to familiarize ourselves with the station equipment and also learn to cope with such strange and frustrating phenomena as "*capture effect*" during pile ups. Two meters yielded 149 QSO's and 6 grids. On 70 cm, we had 36 QSO's and 2 grids worked. TNX to all who showed up, operated, and logged: N2FTQ, K1JUL, KA2PJM, KA2WNF, KA2VZH, KA2YMZ, and KA2WNG.

FEBRUARY RaRa MEETING CANCELLED

Homebrew Nite Slipped To October

by Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, President

Due to the rush-hour snowstorm Friday, February 7th, the decision was made to cancel the February meeting. The officers and board of directors apologizes to anyone who may have been inconvenienced by this action, but the word was promulgated on as many different repeaters as possible and remained on the N2JC/R 28/88 machine until 8:30 p.m., thanks to the little guy in the RC-850 controller.

Much time at the February board meeting was used discussing how we could most effectively fit this program into our schedule. Since our program schedule is firm through May, we felt the best solution was to postpone homebrew night until next season at the October meeting.

Somebody even came up with the idea to add a new category, the project that sells for the highest bid at the November auction! – But cooler heads prevailed and that idea was dropped.

No-one seems to remember the last time a RaRa meeting had to be cancelled because of the weather, and I hope we don't have to do it again for a long time.

WI AW BULLETINS

NR 13, FEBRUARY 12, 1986

THE COMMISSION HAS INITIATED A RULEMAKING PROCEEDING TO DETERMINE WHETHER EXAMINATION CREDIT SHOULD BE GIVEN FOR WRITTEN ELEMENTS FOR AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR EXAMINATIONS COORDINATED BY VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COORDINATORS, VECS, UNDER SUBPARTS OF PART 97 OF THE RULES. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO A PETITION FOR RULEMAKING FILED BY ROBERT A. SCUPP. AT PRESENT, CREDIT CAN BE GIVEN ONLY FOR TELEGRAPHY EXAMINATION ELEMENTS.

THE COMMISSION ALSO ENQUIRED WHETHER IT IS NECESSARY TO CONTINUE TO REQUIRE THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE EACH TIME A PERSON TAKES AN EXAMINATION. THE POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANDING THE USE OF THE CERTIFICATE OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF AN EXAMINATION WILL ALSO BE EXPLORED.

COMMENTS ARE DUE BY APRIL 30, 1986. REPLY COMMENTS BY MAY 31, 1986. DETAILS WILL APPEAR IN QST AR

NR 12, FEBRUARY 11, 1986

FCC HAS DENIED A REQUEST FOR WAIVER, PRB 2, BY LEE SHOBLUM, K6ADA, OF LONDON BRIDGE BROADCASTING, INC., TO PERMIT HIM TO USE AMATEUR RADIO IN NEWSGATHERING FOR BROADCAST OVER HIS COMMERCIAL LOW POWER TELEVISION STATION. THE LEAGUE HAD FILED COMMENTS STRONGLY OPPOSING THE WAIVER. IN DENYING THE WAIVER, FCC INDICATED THAT

MARCH RAG CALENDAR

- 7 - RaRa meeting, 8 p.m., 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue
 - 10 - RaRa Advanced Amateur Licensing Class starts, 7:30 p.m., K2JD Club Station, 111 Westfall Road
 - 12 - RaRa Board of Directors meeting, 7:30 p.m., K2JD Club Station
 - 13 - Rochester Packet Radio Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., County Social Services Bldg., 111 Westfall Road
 - 14 - Annual Joint RRRR/VHF Group Auction, 8 p.m., Police and Fire Academy, Scottsville Road
 - 14 - April Rag Deadline
 - 15 - Auburn Winter-Fest
 - 15 - RaRa Volunteer Amateur Exam Session, 9 a.m., County Services Building, 111 Westfall Road
 - 18 - RDXA meeting, 8:15 p.m., Colonial Hotel 1127 Empire Boulevard
 - 25 - RaRa Amateur Extra Licensing Class starts, 7:30 p.m., K2JD Club Station, 111 Westfall Road
-

RaRa WINTER FUNFEST A BIG HIT

The snow that was responsible for cancelling the February RaRa meeting made the Winter Funfest a smashing success! Attendance was in the 70's, and sledding and skiing were the sports of the day. The pond was not safe for ice skating this year, but there were several youngsters who skated on the road in front of our lodge! Many cars got stuck (none of our group's, however) and we had fun going up the hill to get out of the park. But the weather was significantly warmer than last year, and the food was just as bountiful.

There were 7 or 8 entries in the baking contest, and the top award went to Karen Lloyd, daughter of John, KA2KFV. Judging this year was by the team Muller and Muller – yes, our own chef-extraordinaire and his lovely wife.

The Trivial-Pursuit tournament was won by the men this time. This makes the score 1 and 1. Next year will be the tiebreaker!

THE REQUEST WAS INCONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSE OF AMATEUR RADIO, THAT THERE WERE BROADCAST FREQUENCIES AVAILABLE FOR THE PROPOSED USE, AND THAT THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF DETRIMENTAL INTERFERENCE TO OTHER AMATEURS IF THE WAIVER REQUEST WAS GRANTED AR

AT LAST ! ROCHESTER HAS A DIGIPEATER !

It has always been a bit of a paradox that Rochester, having a high density of hams, as well as many high-tech and R.F. type companies did not have a digipeater. Packet radio in Rochester is about two years old, but seems to lag behind other areas in getting things going. I guess we have always been too busy tinkering around with the gear to worry about setting up a dedicated digital machine.

Enter the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club, agitated by Ray Williams, WA2RYT. Ray is without a doubt the pioneer packet guru of Rochester. He started out in the days of the early Vancouver (VADCG) boards. I know I talked with him about getting into packet some four years ago when I first read about the subject.

Anyway, Ray had been trying for some time to almost single handedly put up a digipeater at Kodak, using one of his old VADCG boards. I guess the limitations of the state of the art were just too much for it.... The old machine just would not perform properly despite many evenings in the basement. On the air tests were of varied results. Sometimes contacts would hold up ok, other times you could connect and then barely send a line or two thru it. The trouble seemed to be mainly in the receiving PLL, being very critical of input signal quality.

Finally Ray threw in the towel. Knowing that a GLB PK-1 does an admirable job in digipeater service, Ray leaked the word that he was ready to change. Within about one week, the PK-1 from W2DUC was re-programed to WB2WXQ-0 (and up-graded to rev. 3.9), installed in the machine and under test at WA2RYT. The next week it was in full operation.

A bad section of co-ax (inside the shack) reduced the signal for a few days, but now it is pushing out a full 80 watts from the location atop Building 28 at Kodak Park. As of this writing I don't have any reports as to the possible coverage to the west, but I am looking forward to doing a little better in that direction from my below average ground level QTH !

Ray Williams is to be commended for his dedication and drive in getting the job done, as well as Bob Reed, N2AX, president of the Kodak Park Amateur Club for providing the location and RF equipment to complete the installation.

The rig is a KDK, into a Mirage 80 watter at 80' above ground level. It is operating on 145.010, using a Ringo Ranger omni-directional antenna

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO AMATEURS

Hugh A. Turnbull, W3ABC, Chairman of the *Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc.*, writes that F.A.R. plans to award twenty-one scholarships for the coming 1986-87 academic year.

The Foundation, composed of fifty Washington, DC, area amateur radio clubs fully funds two of these scholarships from the proceeds of its annual Hamfest and administers the others without cost to the donors.

Available are seven scholarships from the **Quarter Century Wireless Association**, two each from the **Dade (Florida) Radio Club**, the **Baltimore (MD) Amateur Radio Club** and the **Department of State Amateur Radio Club**.

Scholarships administered by F.A.R. are also available from the **Radio Club of America**, the **Richard J. Chichester Memorial**, the **Young Ladies' Radio League**, the **Edmund Redington Memorial**, the **Amateur Radio News Service** and the **Columbia (MD) Amateur Radio Association**.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a fulltime course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled or have been accepted for enrollment in an accredited university, college or technical school.

Most of the scholarships require the applicant to hold at least an FCC General Class license or equivalent. The scholarship award range from \$350 to \$900 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or 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, 1986, from:

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

FOR SALE: Eico Scope. 5 yrs. "Ham" Magazine. 2 GL-872A Tubes. Call Earl, W2WQV, 377-7401.

and 24 hour service. ID beacons every ten minutes, giving the call and location. I am sure Ray would appreciate reports from users as to the coverage and general performance. Leave your comments to Ray on the W2DUC BBS on 145.030.

Tnx PACKET-EAR

CANADIAN RFI CASE GOES TO TRIAL !

In Canada, the big news is the Ravenscroft QRM trail ! Ottawa's **Jack Ravenscroft, VE3SR**, is being sued by neighbors, Tim and Dale Houghtby for interfering with their home electronic appliances ! An injunction against all Ravenscroft amateur radio operation forced Jack off the air over six months ago.

It is charged that Ravenscroft's amateur radio station interferes with the Houghtby television, organ, microwave oven and furnace. They seek \$35,000 in damages ! The Canadian amateur community isn't taking it lightly. Thousands of donated dollars have supported Ravenscroft's legal defense.

The trial lasted for three days – from January 14 to 16 – and the *injunction remains in effect*. The trial started with counsel for the Houghtby's demanding that a contempt charge be issued against Ravenscroft for breaking the injunction banning transmitting. It seems that the plaintiff's oven continues to be turned on by his alleged transmissions. Ravenscroft denied breaking the injunction and the judge denied the contempt request.

Interestingly, after the plaintiffs had a supplier change some of the faulty microwave oven components, the problem did not reoccur !

The judge seemed to be of the opinion that money spent on interference proofing the appliances might have been better spent and preferable to legal and court costs. He suggested that the two parties work out a settlement. The Houghtby's flatly rejected this.

At one point in the trial the plaintiff introduced a CW tape recording taped off of their electronic organ as damaging evidence against Ravenscroft. Amateurs attending the trial were highly amused when they copied the code in the courtroom. It was a transmission made by VE3OAI – another amateur about 500 feet away from the Houghtby residence !

There are about 150 amateurs in Jack's suburb. The following day, the defense asked VE3OAI to take the stand. He showed his log and he did indeed make the transmission. The plaintiff's counsel was very embarrassed since it indicated that the problem was wider in scope than alleged.

The Houghtby counsel raised the question, "*Who has the right to enjoy their hobby – Ravenscroft with his 47 year pursuit of amateur radio and three year residence or the plaintiffs with their lifetime enjoyment of playing their organ and watching TV and ten year residence?*" Implied was that prior residence rules.

W2YJ

AMATEUR RADIO REPAIRS
ALL MAKES OLD/NEW
BUSINESS 2 WAY SYSTEMS



GEORGE L. KRICKOVICH

(716) 684-3562



Amateur Radio News Service

Taking the stand, engineers from Canada's **Department of Communications** (similar to our FCC) all stressed the deficient design of today's consumer electronic appliances. They said the interference probably could have been eliminated by additional filtering.

While Ravenscroft agreed to carry out further RF testing, the Houghtby's rejected any further RF suppression work on their appliances as an invasion of their privacy. They also said that there would be no guarantee that any additional equipment purchased would not experience the same problem.

The DOC said that they had inspected Jack's ham station and it met all required technical standards. The DOC witness said that he thought the goal of the proceeding was to get Ravenscroft off of the air permanently. The plaintiffs had even written the Prime Minister asking that Jack's license be revoked. DOC engineers testified that even their own hand-held transceivers created problems with the plaintiff's equipment.

CRRL (Canadian Radio Relay League) Director **Ray Perrin, VE3FN**, testified that Jack could not be held responsible for the interference. He compared the problem to rain entering a hole in the roof. There will always be rain. You have to fix the roof. It was a good analogy.

Due to the technical nature of Rf interference, the judge has now asked for written briefs from each party which we understand were submitted last week. A decision will be handed down later on this month at which time it will be determined who will be responsible for court costs and damages.

Tnx W5YI REPORT

Census of Amateur Radio Operators

from W5YI REPORT

YEAR ENDING 1984

At fiscal year end, there were 412,587 U.S. licensed amateur radio operators. Census one year ago - 410,066; ten years ago - 254,683; twenty years ago - 260,301.

AMATEURS BY CLASS:

Novice.....	76,337....	18.5%
Technician.....	83,117....	20.1%
General.....	117,340....	28.5%
Advanced.....	97,825....	23.7%
Extra.....	37,968....	9.2%

MOST POPULATED STATES:

California.....	56,960
New York.....	25,833
Florida.....	24,518
Texas.....	24,408
Ohio.....	20,276

LEAST POPULATED STATES:

Wyoming.....	938
Delaware.....	991
North Dakota.....	1,026
Vermont.....	1,027
South Dakota.....	1,088

PRECIPITATION STATIC

During a heavy snowfall, especially one associated with a frontal passage, snowflakes falling to earth carry a hefty electrostatic charge. I had this borne out one day at State College, where I had erected a 250 foot 80-meter full-wave antenna. I was receiving nothing but an S-meter full of noise, and decided to disconnect the antenna for some reason or other. Much to my surprise, the rig quieted with the antenna connector unplugged. Suddenly, 4-inch sparks arced from the antenna connector to the chassis of the rig!

Immediately shutting off the power was of no help, and I watched, along with an EE-type roommate as the light show continued. Every 5-10 seconds, "Crack!". When the snow let up, so did the arcing.

What this means to you is, watch it! Be especially careful when connecting and disconnecting antennas during snowfall, particularly if using solid state equipment.

(*tnx Joe Shupenis, WA3IHK and Quad Counties Parasitic Emission*)

Footnote: I think this sometimes is the cause of noise that blanks out weak signals on the repeater on 2 meter FM at times.

Tnx NARC NEWSLETTE

AND THE WINNER IS . . .

The winner could be you. What could you win? Why, the *Long John* Trophy, of course. The contest was announced by Bruce Kelley our club historian last spring and is open to any RaRa member. All you have to do is get a Worked All States Award (WAS) within the last year and the award is yours. Cutoff is May 1st. The award will be made at the Hamfest banquet.

So, get busy, get QSL's from those hold-out states and send a copy of your certificate to the club. Earliest date (back to May 1, 1985) wins.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN . . .

The Atlanta (Ga.) Radio Club reports that due to a snafu, no-one had the key to the building for their January meeting. So what did they do? They held their business meeting on the lawn and postponed their program on Halley's Comet for a month. --
On the lawn - in January - Oh, it must be nice!!!

AUBURN WINTER-FEST, MARCH 15th

The Auburn Amateur Radio Association is holding its annual Winter-Fest at the Farm/Home 4-H Center on Grant Avenue/Route 5 in Auburn. Doors open at 9 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. Admission is \$3, indoor tables are \$5. Talk-in on 147.00, club call K2BFB.

QTH & ANTENNA FOR RENT: Full year round home available, ham antenna welcome! Three bedrooms, two full baths, large dining room, open deck, children and antennas permitted. Rotary beam for 2 meter ssb or fm provided with space for 80 meter dipole. Located in Sodus Bay resort area with large view of water, nearby to golf, boating, swimming, skiing, fishing, Great vhf/uhf/shf site... Contact Dwight B. Hill, K2KWK, 716-544-2332.

HELP! Need Rollchart valves for old Heath Mod. TC-3 these tubes - 6GE5 and 6HF8. Carle, KA2ZYA, 381-6736.

Rochester HAMFEST

MONROE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
May 16-17-18, 1986