



the RARa RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 39

DECEMBER 1986

NO. 4

FCC TO ALLOW WRITTEN EXAMINATION CREDIT

Beginning December 1, the Commission will allow re-examination credit for written elements passed during an otherwise unsuccessful amateur examination, according to an FCC news release October 9. Currently the Commission only allows credit for code examination elements. The FCC also clarified that examiners who administer a Novice examination are not required to issue a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE). Instead, applicants may produce a photocopy of a pending application which indicates the applicant has qualified for a Novice license. These rule changes are contingent upon Office of Management and Budget approval of revisions to FCC Form 610.

Tnx ARRL Letter

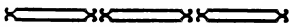
WHERE HAS THE RAG GONE?

If you are one of the 150 people who have not renewed your membership, this will be your last *Rag*. Please don't wait until you miss your January *Rag* to renew. You can renew either at the December meeting or through the Post Office Box.

SILENT KEYS

Tom Engle
K8RAX

October 19th, 1986



HENRY BLODGETT, W2UTH, past RaRa president and one of the founders of the Rochester V.H.F. Club. His numerous activities included ARRL Assistant Director and Emergency Co-ordinator, charter member of RDXA and president of S.I.A.R.C. He was currently a director of the Antique Wireless Association.

RaRa DECEMBER 5th MEETING KODAK PARK

RaRa will be the guests of Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club on December 5, 1986. The meeting will be in Building 28 on West Ridge Road in the Camera Club Auditorium. Parking is available in the lot on the south side of Ridge Road opposite the entrance of Building 28.

The program will be a presentation of the Amateur Space Telescope by Jesse Eichenlaub of the Independent Space Research Group. Meeting time is 8:00 p.m.

WINTER FUN FEST

by John Lloyd, KA2KFV

It's time to start thinking about the good time we're all going to have come February 14th. Rich Koehn, K2UW, has reserved a nice cozy lodge in Mendon Ponds Park for the day. Festivities will again get underway officially about 1:00 p.m. But you are all welcomed to come early. In addition to the bake food contest that has proven to be very delightful for all attending we would like to encourage a cross country ski trek. Last year I discovered a ski rental lodge off to the left of the swimming area. The most cost effective measure is to rent the skis for the day and if perchance the pond is frozen over you can take a shortcut back to the lodge if your so inclined. We have generally charge a minimal fee to cover the cost of the hamburgers, rolls, etc.

I understand that there has been a little contest going on the past couple of years between the XYL'S and the OM'S over a Trivia board. It's also my understanding that the women won one year and the men won the other. This years winner will be appropriately recognized as superior. Study those cards and may the best team win.

One last thing: is there anyone familiar enough with the cross country trails that can lead a bunch of us novices on a leisurely tour of the park. Give me a call.

the *RARA RAG*

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YE PAST PREZ SEZ . . .

by Ronald J. Jakubowski, K2RJ

Greetings from Solon, Ohio! As I'm writing this, it's been a little over a month since we've moved into our new house, and our old house on Cedarwood Terrace is due to close later this week. It seems like a year has passed since the whole moving process started late last spring, but some degree of normalcy is finally returning to our lives.

I have just started trying to set up the new ham shack, and those of you familiar with my old one know what a job that can turn out to be. I don't know how I accumulated so much over the years – I know that I threw out or gave away over a ton of things before I moved – but it is still a challenge to find a place for everything!

For those of you not acquainted with the Cleveland area, Solon is a city-suburb in the southeast corner of Cuyahoga county. Downtown Cleveland is about 15 miles away, and it is about the same distance to Akron. It is difficult to compare Solon to any of the suburbs around Rochester, because the ones with central shopping areas are much older and were built around the Erie Canal, while the newer ones don't have a central business core. The only thing I could compare it to would be a thirty year old Webster. Solon is easily accessible from I-271 and is only a few miles from Sea World and Geauga Lake in Aurora.

The Amateur Radio scene in the greater Cleveland area is much different than Rochester. There are many special-interest clubs and repeater groups but no large homogenous group to rival RaRa. About the largest group that I know of is the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association (LEARA) which came about as a merger between the 146.76 and 146.88 repeater groups. It's membership numbers around 450. This is the group I have joined and have become a bit active in, such as helping on public service events and with the printing of the monthly bulletin. I've also been involved in some antenna projects with the 76 repeater.

I do miss RaRa and all the friends I've made over the years in RaRa and RRRR, but I find that it is easy to keep in-touch. Just a couple weeks ago I was called upon to work out a bug in the RaRa membership recordkeeping program. I am presently in the process of printing the masters for the RaRa Directory that should be ready to mail around Christmas time. The directory is one job I opted to keep for the time being, especially since I have access to the same type of printer that has been used over the last several years.

(Continued on next page)

VOL. 39 DECEMBER 1986 NO. 4

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Amateur Radio News Service

Our new house is plenty big enough for visitors, so if any of you find yourself in this area or need a place to crash on your way to anywhere, please give me a call. My address is 6512 Brookland Avenue, Solon, Ohio, 44139. The home phone is (216) 349-3709. I monitor 76 when I am in the car, but haven't gotten into the habit of monitoring anything in the house yet. When I get my antennas up, however, that should change.

73 and a happy holiday season to all!

GWEN

Have you heard of an Air Force communications system named GWEN? GWEN stands for Ground Wave Emergency Network. Its purpose is to provide an EMP-immune communications network to carry "attack warning data" between the nation's military command authority and strategic military forces. Right now, a "Thin Line Connectivity Capability" is under construction which includes 56 unmanned VLF (150-175 kHz) relay nodes. The primary feature of one of these nodes is a 300-foot tower hooked to a 2-3 kW VLF transmitter; when GWEN reaches "Final Operation Capability" there will be approximately 70 such nodes scattered across the nation. If one is planned for your area, you're likely to hear a wide variety of concerns expressed by the general public, such as aesthetic impact, RF radiation hazards, environmental impact, creation of a nuclear-strike target in your back yard, and so on. The Air Force is not required to comply with local land use regulations, so logically GWEN should not set off a spate of anti-tower ordinances; but one never knows the thinking of the local zoning board!

Tnx ARRL Letter

THIRD PARTY AGREEMENT WITH SIERRA LEONE

The United States has entered into a third-party traffic agreement with Sierra Leone (9L). FCC-licensed amateur stations may exchange messages with third parties in Sierra Leone effective July 18, 1986. Remember, messages must be in plain language, and the text must consist only of communications of a technical or personal nature. As always, business communications are prohibited.

Tnx ARRL Letter

FOR SALE - Collins 75S-3B. Excellent condition - \$275 Firm. K2BBK, Ollie, 461-4246.

RaRa DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 5 - RaRa Meeting, 8:00 p.m.,
~~4078 Club, 933 University Avenue~~
 - 11 - Rochester Packet Group Meeting,
7:30 p.m., Monroe County Social
Services Building, 111 Westfall Road
 - 19 - Rochester Radio Repeater Association
Meeting, 8:00 p.m.,
Pittsford Town Hall
 - 20 - Amateur Radio Exams, starting at
8:00 a.m., Monroe County Social
Services Building, 111 Westfall Road
-

RRRA DECEMBER MEETING — FAMILY NIGHT

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association would like to invite all local amateurs and their families to attend our December meeting, Family Night at the Strassenburgh Planetarium.

The date is Friday, December 19th and the shows are "The Sky's of Winter" and "The Story of the Star." Tickets are \$4.00 for adults and \$2.50 K-12 and are available the night of the show.

Show time is 8:00 and we ask everyone to arrive by 7:30 for socializing in the lobby. There are tickets on reserve for the group which will be held until 7:45, so plan to be there early. (The planetarium asks us to inform you that children under five are not permitted.) Usually, a group gathers at a nearby restaurant for treats after the show, so take an evening off from your busy holiday shopping schedule and join us.

A last minute reminder to RRRRA members, memberships expired October 31. So if you have not done so, send your renewal to Ray Pickens, WA2MYG, at:

Rochester Radio Repeater Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 92031
Rochester, New York 14692

Phone patch access codes will be changed as soon as current members are notified of the new ones, possibly before you read this, so don't delay.

73's - Bernie Agins, KD2CU

FOR SALE - Heathkit HW-101, HP23P Power Supply, CW Filter; just repaired and aligned by Heathkit Electronic Center - \$275.00. Jack Heveron, KJ2P, 342-3476.

FROM THE CO-EDITORS . . .

December is a month for many happy events that we all remember for years and years. A first snow, a child's first Christmas, and the RaRa RAG. Well that may be overstepping it a bit, but in this month's issue we have a very nice surprise for all RaRa members. Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, last year's RaRa president and RAG editor, has sent us a letter to tell all of you how he and Kathy are settling down in Ohio. We've re-printed it for you all to be able to read as our "*Christmas present*".

Christmas presents came a little bit early last month at the annual Auction at the Police and Fire Academy. No, we don't mean all those "*boat anchors*" that were unloaded, ... er, ... bought at the Auction, but in your tremendous response in what you want to see in the RAG. We won't be able to fit every idea into this month's RAG, so for those of you who had some very fine suggestions, thank you and please wait for your ideas and articles to be used.

So from all of us who help to put the RAG together each month, not just Neal and Jack, but Bud Young, WA2UGE, the "*courier*" who gets the RAG to the printer each month, Dick Goslee, K2VCZ, and the rest of the envelope stuffing crew at K2JD ... A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

73's from Neal and Jack

Amateur Radio Wall Calendar Offered

The Lockheed E.R.C. Amateur Radio Club offers a large Amateur Radio wall calendar. These 13.5 by 19.5 inch red-white-and-blue calendars feature the words AMATEUR RADIO in very large lettering in their top half. There is plenty of space where personalized info can be added. There is adequate space in each date block to note operating events and appointments. The price is \$5 each in a mailing wrapper, if mailing is desired include a separate address label for each. Checks should be made payable to Lockheed Amateur Radio Club or W6LS. Send mailing labels and full payment to: Lockheed E.R.C. Amateur Radio Club—W6LS, 2814 Empire Avenue, Burbank, CA 91504.

FOR SALE – Astron RS-12A Power Supply, Virtually new, used less than 15 minutes, original carton, \$55. N2GLH, 637-2376.

YL COMMENTS . . .

by Marcy Kessler, WA2URE

After finally becoming more "*radioactive*" in the past year, I have just recently been enlightened about the various YL activities available, and it has occurred to me that there might be other YLs in our midst who are still unaware of these organizations.

YLRL (Young Ladies Radio League), established in 1939, is an international organization exclusively for women amateur radio operators. This organization offers annual contests, certificates, YL nets, etc. and issues a bi-monthly publication with information about their activities as well as YL news from all over the world. Anyone interested in obtaining information about this organization or becoming a member should send a note to Minerva Fronhofer, WB2JNL, RD #1, Box 45, Salem, NY 12865.

Another group available to YLs is SAYLARC (Second Area Young Ladies Amateur Radio Club), which consists primarily of women amateur radio operators residing in the eastern United States and Canada. This group has weekly nets, certificates for off-net contacts with other members, and a publication with news about the various activities. Anyone wishing more information about this group should contact Herminia Batchelor, P.O. Box 98, Rt. 42, Shandaken, NY 12480. In addition to the SAYLARC nets, Pat Fountain, WA2DDD, is trying to establish a ragchew group to meet daily, Monday through Friday, at 1:00 p.m. on 3945 khz. This is a time for anyone who wants/needs to take a pleasant break from housework, laundry, kids (OM?) to get away from it all and relax a bit. This also would be a good time for SAYLARC members to make contacts with other members for certificates, but all YLs are welcome whether they're SAYLARC members or not. Depending on her schedule, Pat may not always be there promptly at 1:00 p.m. everyday, but anyone else is welcome to call the group together. It is very informal! Just call "*CQ YL Ragchew*". So, come on and join in when you have a chance.

FCC IS NOW ISSUING MOST AMATEUR LICENSES IN 17 CALENDAR DAYS

"It was taking 30 days just last month." (You have to add 2 to 3 weeks for the application to filter through the VEC channels.)

Tnx W5YI Report

THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — DECEMBER 1966

by Ed Gable, K2MP

The annual Eddie Meath Pennython was announced with this year's effort being taken on by both RaRa and Canandaigua's Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club. This charitable event collects pennies from which toys are purchased for hospitalized children. Radio personalities Eddie Meath and Eddie Dunn, WA2KMI, run the drive from their show on WHEC radio and take calls from people wishing to donate. The calls are then relayed to Ham networks set up throughout the counties. Leading the Amateur effort were Ed Perkins, WB2MAC, General Chairman; Bill Kirkbright, WA2HWC, 6 Meter NCS; and Dave Hassett, K2SQI, with the ten meter net.

The December meeting will feature Bill Stolze, WB2LFR, one of the four founders of RF Communications, Inc. Bill will tell of RF's newest line of SSB communications equipment. Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, supplied another of his famous articles on early wireless operation in the area. Featured this time was a photo and description of Cy Staud's (K2DQ) 1914 station complete with a DeForest spherical audion detector unit. Those funny 3C3 calls heard on the band are really VE3's in disguise to celebrate Canada's Centennial year. Dick Fry, WB2QOD, reporting in his Rochester Peanut Whistle Column, announced that Bill White, K2KAD, would soon be a new NCS. At a recent "Know Your Museum Week" held by the Rochester Museum of Arts and Science, Amateurs Chuck Witmann, WB2FZB; Dick Fry, WB2QOD; and Harold Smith, WA2KND; presented a display of our hobby. Roy Ruske, W2AFN, an active Amateur for over 45 years, was reported as a silent key.

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ARRL TO FCC: RECONSIDER QUESTION POOLS

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Reconsideration with FCC requesting the Commission reverse its decision in PR Docket 85-196 delegating to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) the responsibility for maintaining the question pools for written examination elements. The ARRL comments state that it was the intent of Congress that the FCC supervise the examination process through the maintenance of question pools, and that the FCC's maintenance of them is the only way to ensure standardization among the 25 VECs. A number of other petitions for reconsideration have also been filed.

In this Docket, the Commission will replace the question pools with what the ARRL Petition calls a "vague, generalized algorithm" which specifies a list of nine topics and the percentage of questions on each topic which each VEC should include in its question pools for each examination element. The list of topics in the algorithm is so general and vague that it permits radically different question pools to be maintained by the various VECs. For example, it asks VECs to design questions for the Extra Class written examination on the topic of antennas and feedlines which relate to the extra privileges granted over those of an Advanced Class licensee. There is just no practical way to comply with this. "There is no guidance in the algorithm. The League is completely at a loss as to how to apply it."

The petition states that the FCC expectation that the 25 different VEC organizations will somehow band together and establish one question pool is unrealistic. "The volunteer nature of the VEC program generally suggests the relative independence of VECs and a multitude of different question pools." Should different question pools arise, candidates for the same class of license may be required to take examinations of widely different levels of difficulty and quality. For example, applicants with equal levels of understanding of the material may pass exams by one VEC, and fail exams by another VEC solely because of different question pools. The League concludes that "there must be only one question pool per written element, approved by the Commission, so that candidates are uniformly qualified and that examinations are fair to each candidate."

Should the ARRL's Petition be denied, the ARRL may appeal to the US courts.

Tnx ARRL Letter

FCC LICENSING FIGURES

The FCC amateur licensing figures for fiscal year 1986 (October 1985 through September 1986) are out. They show an increase in licensees of 8,495 over one year ago. This is a 2.1% rate of annual increase.

By license class, the figures (with comparison to a year ago) are:

	Sept. 30, 1986	Sept. 30 1985
Novice	79,107	76,337
Technician	86,148	83,117
General	116,864	117,340
Advanced	98,195	97,825
Extra	40,768	37,968
Total operators	421,082	412,587

There were 20,979 new licensees entering the Amateur Radio Service during this fiscal year compared to 17,373 during the previous year. During fiscal year 1985, 1,460 of the newcomers went directly to a Technician or higher license, and bypassed the Novice stage; during the fiscal year just ended the figure was 1,832. Thus, there is a slight trend toward entry at the Technician or higher level, but it still constitutes less than 9% of the newcomers.

Tnx ARRL Letter

HOW TO KILL A RADIO CLUB

(from Fulton A.R.C.)

- Don't participate. Let "them" handle things. Then complain that the members have no voice in running the club.
- Decline all committee appointments – you're too busy! The offer vociferous advice on how "they" should do things.
- If appointed to a committee, don't work – it's courtesy appointment. Then complain the organization has stagnated.
- If you do attend club meetings, don't initiate ideas. Then you can play "Devils advocate" to those submitted by others.
- Don't encourage others to become members – that's selling. Then complain that membership is not growing.
- Don't read the club newsletter – it's not important. Then complain that you're not kept informed.
- Don't volunteer your talent – that's ego fulfillment. Then complain that you're never asked, never appreciated.
- Always act like you are an authority on all subjects but never give anyone any help. Newcomers to the hobby are always impressed by such behavior.
- And if by chance, the organization grows in spite of your contributions, grasp every opportunity to tell the youngsters how tough it was; how hard you worked in the old days to bring the club to its present level of success.

Tnx MetroPlex

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION		1986	
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8. PUBLISHER'S NAME AND COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS (This must NOT be blank)		9. FOR COMPLETION BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL RATES (Section 3752, Internal Revenue Code)	
10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION		11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete	

COAST GUARD LOOKING FOR HELP

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 04-08 is looking for members to operate an auxiliary radio station located at Hamlin Beach State Park. All amateur radio operators are eligible to become members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and assist in the operation of this station.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a civilian organization that aids the Coast Guard in its mission of boating safety and search and rescue.

If you are interested in using your skills as a radio operator in real life search and rescue missions, please contact James H. Fisher at 964-3581.

Mr. Fisher will be attending the December RaRa meeting at Kodak Park and will give a short talk about this project.

ECPA PASSES CONGRESS AND SENT TO PRESIDENT

Congress has finished its work on the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 and sent it on to the White House for the President's signature. On October 2, the House concurred with the Senate text and adopted the bill, HR 4952. The final version is said to be solidly supported by the Department of Justice.

The legislation will prohibit eavesdropping on certain communications such as electronic mail, computer-to-computer data transmissions, private video conferences and cellular radio. The bill still creates an unwarranted expectation of privacy on the part of, for instance, cellular telephone users, but penalties for a first offense of intentionally listening to that service have been dropped to a \$500 fine only. Scanner operators who hear a protected communication and tune away from it without acquiring its content will not have violated the new law. The bill also toughens penalties against video pirates such as "*Captain Midnight*," a man who briefly jammed a satellite TV signal to protest signal scrambling. Sections of the bill about which amateurs were most concerned at the outset have been modified, and it does not appear to inhibit amateur operation as such.

Tnx ARRL Letter

HAM ISSUED \$1450 FORFEITURE

The San Juan FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability to Monetary Forfeiture for \$1450 to David G. Ackley, W4UWH, of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. The forfeiture was assessed for violation of several sections under Part 97 of the Commission's Rules.

Ackley was allegedly found to be causing willful and malicious interference to ongoing amateur communications on 7258 kHz, constituting a violation of Section 97.125. He also allegedly violated Sections 97.7(a) for transmitting on a frequency not authorized by his Technician class license and Section 97.84, for failing to identify his transmission.

Tnx ARRL Letter

WANTED: SCHEMATICS -

"E.R.A./Transpac" - Power Supply Models LC-3210 and LC-325. These units are programable, linkable and sensing. They supply voltages 1.0 to 32 at ten and five amps respectively. Possibly some local factory is using these in products or production testing. Their original manufacturer is very resistive. Appreciate any information. Contact Dwight Hill, K2KWK, 544-2332.

COPS CORNER

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

"Oh Smokey The Bear, Where Are You?"

Back in June 1986, I noticed a push in the sales at many of our local stores selling **Radar Detectors**. Could that have anything to do with our sudden enforcement on Rt 490 when the speed limit was reduced from 55 to 40 mph?

Most motorists don't realize that their chances are still 50/50. A Radar Detector is like a bullet. The primer in a bullet sets off the main charge. In a Radar Detector the primer is a radar beam, sent out by the radar antenna, which strikes the detector and sets off the detector. Motorists who see fit to invest a lot of money, buy the Radar Detector and think, "*Now I'll be safe and won't get a ticket.*"

I recently completed a week-long New York State Certification Course for operating Police Radar and Enforcement. The number of new Radar Guns and Units (all solid-state) have tripled in the last few years. One of the newest items added to these units is called The R.F. hold switch. When activated, this switch stops the beam from being transmitted from the Radar Unit, but the Radar Unit is still on. Once the operator spots a car visually exceeding the speed limit, the operator estimates the speed of the target vehicle, then flips the R.F. switch off and the Radar Unit will instantly pick-up and read out the speed of the target vehicle.

The operator then locks the speed into the unit and stops the violator. By the time the motorist hears his radar detector go off and tries to slow down, his speed is already locked into the Radar Unit in the police car.

I have stopped many motorists equipped with Radar Detectors and their questions have all been the same, "*Are you guys using a new radar gun?*" Presently, the Radar Units used by the Police Departments are the X-Band (10.525 GHz) and K-Band (24.150 GHz). My department also has a current FCC License for the use of these Radar Units as required by law because the Radar Unit is actually a transceiver and must be licensed, as too the operator.

With Christmas coming up many motorists will be purchasing Radar Detectors. Is this a wise investment? Virginia passed a law years back forbidding the use of Radar Detectors, New York might do the same.

I'll be waiting and watching - Drive Carefully.

73's

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS . . .

The next set of Amateur Radio Exams will be Saturday, December 20th, 1986, in the Monroe County Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Road (at the corner with West Henrietta Road/Route 15). Novice exams start at 8:00 a.m., 20 WPM Code Test at 9:00, 13 WPM at 9:15, and finishing with all written exams at 9:30 a.m.

It is requested that those who want to participate in the next set of tests pre-register for the tests at least 10 days ahead of time to allow the Volunteer Examination team to prepare for the test session. They will allow walk-ins, if the candidate arrives before the exams starts, early enough to fill in the F.C.C.'s 610 form, and only if space and testing materials are available. Pre-registration must include a completed 610 form and a copy of your current Amateur Radio license. Send all correspondence to: A. G. "ALBERT" De BLIECK (KW2X), 59 BAY KNOLL ROAD, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14622. He will send you a 610 form if you send him a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The charge for taking an exam is \$4.25, which must be paid on the day the test is taken. Please pay by check or money order, payable to: W5YI/VEC. All tests are RaRa sponsored, coordinated by W5YI/VEC and taken under the direction of J. L. Schooley, K2NC, VE Team Director.

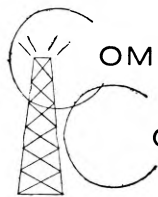
ANOTHER NEW COSMOS ON 2304 MHZ

WB5LUA and W4HHK report reception of a new Cosmos satellite on 2304 MHz beginning October 2. This second satellite almost identically follow by 13 hours an earlier new Russian bird that was reported in the *ARRL Letter* of September 15. The first satellite is being received for five hours beginning at sunrise. The second is heard in the evening with a maximum elevation of 16 degrees at the end of a pass. For more information contact Paul Wilson, W4HHK, P.O. Box 73, Collierville, TN 38017.

Tnx ARRL Letter

W2YJ

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(716) 684-3582

RaRa RAG 8

CALLING ALL YOUNG ARTISTS

If you're an artist between the ages of 8 and 18 and have an interest in electronics, here's an opportunity you won't want to miss. We'd like you to showcase your talent and originality in our national art contest. And, if your entry is one of the winners, your artwork will be forwarded to a worldwide contest for judging. Our contest features awards along with the possibility of national and international recognition for you.

The ARRL is sponsoring a national art contest with the theme "*Youth in Amateur Radio*". It is a wide-open theme, which allows you to use your imagination in the following mediums: photographs, drawings, paintings and other illustrations (excluding written text). You choose the medium; all we ask is that no artwork be larger than 11 x 14 inches.

There are three age categories, and a first, second and third prize will be awarded for each one. They are: Group 1 - ages 8-12, Group 2 - 13-15, Group 3 - ages 16-18. Forthcoming issues of *QST* will announce winning entries and awards. Winning entries and other entries deemed appropriate will be forwarded to the "*Youth in Electronics*" contest being sponsored by the International Telecommunication Union, Geneva, Switzerland.

Every contest needs some rules:

- All entries must be received at ARRL HQ no later than February 1, 1987.
- Entrants must be League members or be sponsored by a League member. (If you don't know any members write to ARRL for a list of possible sponsors.)
- Each entry must be accompanied by a completed application form (available from ARRL).
- Each entry must be the original creation of the entrant.
- Entries become the property of ARRL, and cannot be returned.
- Artwork must be no larger than 11 x 14 inches.

We're looking for your impression of Amateur Radio - any way you see it. Send for an application today to American Radio Relay League, Dept Y, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

Good luck in the contest!

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STOLEN ITEMS NOTICE: Ithaca Shotguns (two). Model 51, Serial 510028878 and a Model 37. From behind Willow Inn, Braddocks Bay area October 15 about 10 a.m. Reward - no questions asked - Sheriffs report filed. Contact WA2ALW by radio or 293-1405.

THAT PHONE IN YOUR CAR IS A NEIGHBORHOOD TALK SHOW

by Jack Anderson & Joseph Spear
September 23, 1986

WASHINGTON – Lobbyists for the cellular phone industry have been spreading misinformation on Capitol Hill to boost the image- and sales- of their trend product. And the campaign is working.

A compliant House has already passed the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986, which, among other things, would make it a crime to eavesdrop on cellular phone conversations. But even the law's supporters acknowledge that it would be unenforceable.

The simple truth is that cellular phones, by their very nature, cannot assure strict privacy. They use FM radio frequencies that overlap UHF television bands, and thus can be monitored by anyone who tunes into those frequencies.

In fact, an "all-channel" UHF television set can pick up cellular phone conversations if it's tuned to Channel 80 to 83. If the cellular phone caller is stuck in traffic – as the TV ads depict – and the traffic jam is near your house, you could listen to an entire conversation that the proud phone owner thought was private.

What is the point in passing legislation that will make criminals out of anyone who tunes to these frequencies?

"There will be an illusion that these conversations will be private. They are not," explained Ben Kobb, editor of *Personal Communications Technology*.

Obviously, the lack of privacy is not a feature the cellular phone industry emphasizes. Even the trendiest customer might boggle at buying an expensive device that has all the privacy of an office intercom with the switch left on.

So industry representatives do their best to convince the public – and Congress – that cellular phones offer privacy, or can be eavesdropped on only with expensive radio equipment.

The major opposition to the communications privacy bill has been provided by a small group of radio hobbyists, the Association of North American Radio Clubs. The group's only lobbyist, Robert Horvitz, said the cellular phone advocates are "misleading the public ... and Congress."

One congressional aide recalled that eight cellular phone lobbyists begin giving him the spiel about privacy, and he told them he had monitored cellular calls just the night before on his TV set. He said they didn't believe him.

Our reporter Courtney Brinkerhoff was assured by a saleswoman for AT&T that it is impossible to listen in on a cellular phone conversation. Another saleswoman, informed of the ease with which calls can be overheard, suggested that the phone had been installed improperly.

Justice Department officials said they're not planning to enforce the bill if it becomes law.

Why have the law, then? The legislation "will discourage an attitude," said Barbara Phillips, an industry lobbyist.

A congressional aide who favors the legislation said, "There are often bills passed that the Justice Department does not enforce. They use them as a message." The message here, the aide explained, is that eavesdropping is improper.

(Condensed for packet transmission by KT7H)
via LERC ARC, HAM HUM

FCC Authorizes Automatic Control For Packet Stations When Retransmitting Third-Party Traffic

The Commission has acted in PR Docket 85-105 to make permanent the provisions of the temporary waiver issued earlier in the year permitting network amateur stations, transmitting digital communications on VHF and above, using the AX.25 packet protocol, to be operated under automatic control while retransmitting third-party traffic.

Although the FCC acknowledged assurances of safeguards by the ARRL for the AX.25 packet protocol, the FCC noted that control operators capable of monitoring such transmissions must alert the control operator of any intermediate retransmitting station, under automatic control, of any station misuse so that corrective action can be taken.

The Commission deferred action on requests for automatic control for digital communications on HF until its feasibility can be determined. HQ has received only the press release, not the actual rulemaking, so no further details are available. More details will be in our next issue or monitor W1AW.

Tnx ARRL Letter

FOR SALE – COMPUTER PAPER: 2-part with green bands, for 14 $\frac{7}{8}$ " wide Printer, commercial or home use. 1400 per carton. Supply limited; make offer. Irv Goodman, AF2K, 671-4430.

FCC CHAIRMAN TESTIFIED FOR SPECTRUM AUCTIONS

On October 1, FCC Chairman Fowler testified before the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Consumer Protection and Finance on the subject of "*Spectrum Auctions: Proposals for FCC Management of the Airwaves.*" Chairman Fowler sought legislation giving FCC limited authority to use auctions to award spectrum to various commercial FCC licensees, arguing that this approach would generate revenue for the government and reduce administrative expenses and delays without altering the obligations or rights of licensees. This will not affect the amateur service. "*Auction authority would not be granted for use in the amateur service or in any mass media or public safety service.*" The FCC estimates it could raise over 2 billion dollars by "*auctioning off*" some remaining portions of the UHF spectrum to potential licensees.

Tnx ARRL Letter

RADIO NAVIGATION SYSTEM ON 432 IN CANADA

CRRL has become concerned about a new radio navigation system operating from the west end of Lake Ontario on or about 432 MHz. The frequency assignment appears to be legal. Amateurs use the 430-450 MHz band on a secondary basis. However, the assignment appears to have been made without regard for potential interference. The wideband nature of the system's signals threatens weak-signal terrestrial and EME communications near 432 MHz and satellite communications near 432 MHz. Also, amateur signals could inadvertently interfere with the system, creating possible danger for ships that rely on it. CRRL is pursuing the matter closely.

Tnx ARRL Letter

SOMETHING WE CAN LEARN FROM CANADIAN GEESE

For many years specialists in aerodynamics wondered why Canadian geese usually fly in the "V" formation. Finally, two enterprising engineers solved the mystery. As each goose flaps his wings, it creates an upward draft for the goose following behind it. The combined efforts of all the geese in the "V" give the entire flock a 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird took to the skies alone. Each one depends on the others to reach its destination.

Tnx, RAG REVIEW

ARRL SUBMITS RELAY COMMENTS ON NOVICE ENHANCEMENT

The ARRL has submitted its reply to comments filed in the "*Novice Enhancement*" FCC proposal, PR Docket 86-161. In its reply comments, the ARRL stated "*Most in the amateur community seem to agree that some expansion of the privileges available to Novice class licensees is desirable. The level of support in the comments for the Commission's proposals was high . . . it would thus appear that the Commission's proposal is on the 'right track' and should be finalized essentially as is.*" The ARRL further commented that "*The limited scope of the additional privileges would not reduce the incentive to upgrade one's license class. It would, however, offer a more exciting introduction to the avocation for the newcomer, encouraging more extensive involvement in amateur radio generally.*" The ARRL's comments also requested the Commission change the proposed Novice subband at 1246-1260 MHz to 1270-1295 MHz to correspond with the existing voluntary band plan. The ARRL also again requested that a two-examiner requirement for the Novice class license be required by the Commission, in view of the increased privileges to be made available to Novice licensee. "*One examiner is no longer sufficient. There is no question but that the character of the Novice class license will be . . . more desirable than heretofore. The incentive to obtain such a license without a full demonstration of qualifications in thus greater*".

ARRL concluded that, with the above two modifications, the Commission should implement its proposed rule changes at the earliest opportunity.

Tnx, ARRL Letter

The W5YI Report has filed a Petition for Reconsideration with the FCC requesting a change in the new VE Morse code testing rules. New Park 97.17(b) requires that the telegraphy examination contain *all* of the letters of the alphabet, numerals, 0-9, period, comma, question mark, AR, SK, BT and DN. The previous rules did not require code test to contain all of these characters. This change obsoletes all VE/VEC code message tapes. It is also difficult to use both SK and AR in the same QSO code message. We asked for either a good mix of characters (such at 75%) be contained in any one code test or a future implementation date of the new rules.

Tnx, W5YI REPORT