



the **RARA RAG**

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 39

FEBRUARY 1987

NO. 6

RaRa FEBRUARY 6th MEETING

The February meeting of RaRa will be at the Forty and Eight Club, 933 University Avenue across from Gleason Works. Meeting time is 8:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 1987.

Program for the meeting is a presentation on "Emergency Communications California Style" by John Murphy, K6ILN. There will be a Video Tape of Fires in the San Francisco Bay area showing Amateur Radio's role.

\$50 TO RENEW YOUR HAM TICKET?

A private company is sending official-looking literature to amateurs offering assistance with their license renewal, and it is possible some amateurs may think the literature is from FCC. The catch is that the fee the private company charges for this service is \$50. Of course, FCC does not charge a fee to renew an amateur license, and the renewal Form 610 is available free from any FCC field office or ARRL HQ upon receipt of an SASE. FCC or ARRL HQ can also provide answers to any questions you may have about renewing your license, so save your money!

Tnx ARRL Letter

WHERE WERE YOU?

Last year the RaRa club station, K2JD, made it into the action of the January VHF Sweepstakes, and came away with a respectable score for a bunch of guys who never entered a contest before.

Last month, however, K2JD was only on the air for about 2 hours manned by Dave Payne, KA2J. While he did a respectable job with 88 total contacts and four grids on each of 3 bands, there was the capability there for many more points for the club station as well as individual operators. Thank you Dave for the fine effort!

WINTER FUN FEST

by John Lloyd, KA2KFV

Saturday, February 14, the third Winter Fun Fest will be sponsored by RaRa. The location remains the same: Mendon Ponds Park, Hopkins Point Lodge. General festivities will get underway at 12 noon however if you are interested in participating in the first ski trek we will be starting from the lodge at 11:00 a.m. We will see how far we can get in a half hour and head back for the lodge. Carle, KA2ZYA, will provide the necessary support for the trek.

Besides the ski trek, a baked food contest will be a featured activity with three categories: cakes, cookies, and pies. An important assignment has yet to be made: that of judge of the baked food contest. Anyone interested in attaining this valued position please give me a call. Based on the response we may have more than one judge.

Everyone is urged to bring a log for the fireplace. This might even start a new tradition. You might even consider carving your callsign in the log.

Hopkins Point Lodge is on Hopkins Point Road. Couldn't be simpler. Hopkins Point Road is the second entrance to the park from Clover Street if you are heading south and second entrance to the park from the south from Clover Street. There will again be a charge of \$2.00 per person or \$5.00 per family at the lodge. If you think you may be coming don't forget to sign the sheet at the back of the meeting so that we can have a guesstament of how many people to expect. See you on Valentine's Day at Mendon Ponds Park.

**MAP
TO
FUNFEST**
on back page!

the RARa RAG

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FEBRUARY RaRa CALENDAR

- 6 - RaRa Meeting - 8 p.m. - 40/8 Club,
933 University Avenue
- 13 - VHF Group Meeting - 7:30 p.m.,
County Social Services Building,
111 Westfall Road
- 14 - Winter Funfest
Happy Valentine's Day!
- 14-16 - YL-OM (Phone) Contest
- 20 - RRRRA Meeting (tentative)
Pittsford Town Hall - 8 p.m.
- 28 - YL-OM (CW) Contest starts

VOL. 39 FEBRUARY 1987 NO. 6

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Amateur Radio News Service

LICENSE COURSES

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The Fall Courses that started in September 1986 ended on December 15 with the addition of 32 new novices to the ranks of Amateur Radio.

The Spring Classes will commence on Monday, February 23, 1987 and will again be held at 111 Westfall Road from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. each Monday until May 11, 1987. We will be offering Novice, General/Technician and Advanced classes. The fees for each class will include club membership, a nominal registration fee and books needed for the various courses.

The fees will be:

Novice	\$15.00
General/Tech	20.00
Advanced	20.00

All registrations will be in advance and can be mailed to Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF, 180 Eastland Avenue, Rochester, New York 14618. If you are already a paid up member, you may deduct the membership fee from the total registration fee. Deadline for registration will be February 2, 1987. Applications received after this date will be on a space availability basis.

WANTED!

Novice Theory Instructor for the Spring Class. Please call Ed Holdsworth for information.

FOR SALE: 4-125, 813, 811, etc. tubes and miscellaneous amplifier parts. Jim, WB2WVW, 227-3084.

REPORTS ARE BEING RECEIVED "...ABOUT AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS WORKING DX THROUGH AN UNUSUAL SPECTRUM COMBINATION OF 75 METER HAM BAND FREQUENCIES BEING UP-LINKED TO A COMMERCIAL SATELLITE TRANSPONDER" ...

"It seems that a (member) of a Salt Lake City, Utah, group calling itself 'FM America' was uplinking amateur transmissions to hams around the country who also owned TVRO backyard satellite dish set-ups. "Transmissions on 20 and 75 meters are uplinked from Murray, Utah, to the Telstar 303 satellite. "Only the audio is transmitted on Transponder 18's 6.2-MHz audio channel. "Amateurs have long distance two way communication by talking on 20 or 75 meters and listening to their TVRO earth station." When asked about such use of common carrier satellite - delivered signals, an FCC official responded in part with: "I would say that common carrier up-linking of amateur signals will certainly focus a great deal of attention in the area and could lead to some interesting precedents. "Every time you get our attention with a particular mode of conduct, all related modes of operation come into question and you take the consequences."!

Tnx W5YI Report via Autocall

NARTE TO ISSUE COMMERCIAL TICKETS TO AMATEURS . . .

The National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers (NARTE) is one of the groups which stepped in to fill the void when the FCC decided to stop issuing broadcast radiotelephone licenses. NARTE offers exams at over 100 colleges and universities to certify broadcast engineers. The Board of Directors of NARTE has determined that the technical complexity of the Advanced and Extra Class licenses is equivalent to the NARTE Technician 4th class entry level exam. Effective immediately, NARTE will grant its entry level, 4th Class, certificate without endorsement, to persons holding the Advanced license, and to Extra Class licensees, the 4th Class certificate with one endorsement.

Before you run to NARTE for your 4th Class Certification, note that NARTE charges a \$15 annual fee for Advanced Class certification and a \$20 annual fee for the Extra Class certification. NARTE hoped that this certification program will provide for an easier transition for radio amateurs who are interested in a broadcasting/commercial career.

Tnx ARRL Letter

THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — FEBRUARY 1967

by Ed Gable, K2MP

Vice-President Charlie Hooker, W2SXV, announced the February 3rd meeting to be the story of the famous 60KW spark transmitter located at Arlington, Virginia. In operation from 1913 to 1924, this historical station was copied by every Amateur for time signals and just to hear what the "big boys" were sending. Chuck Brelsford, K2WW, AWA President, will make the presentation. (Editor's note - Chuck, do it again.)

The big news concerned President Eddie Dunn, WA2KMI, who was just recently hospitalized for a slight heart attack. He was reported as doing well and feeling good. The VHF Sweepstakes contest is history with good Aurora conditions helping the local score. More logs are yet to arrive and additional forms can be had by seeing Vic at Rochester Radio's Ham Emporium. Hamfest activity is already being promoted with announcements of a Hamfest-Breakfast and a special series of VHF related programming. From Bill Kirkbright's (WA2HWC) VHF column we learn that Chuck Oneske, K2YCO, worked what is thought to be a first when he successfully operated extended propagation on 432 Mcs via aurora. Bill further mentioned that Joe Huie, K2PEY, presented an excellent technical talk on noise figures at VHF. The FCC introduced a new 610 form and for the first time a photocopy can be sent instead of your original license.

In closing the February 1967 issue (almost for good) Eddie Dunn published an original poem with such notable lines as:

I love you in the Spring
I love you in the Fall
But when you QSY
I love you most of all

Your love is true, your love is great
But why must you over-modulate

Why don't you hear me call, my pet
Must love be just a dream
Take down that stupid dipole
and let's put up a beam

WANTED: Collins 75A4 or 75A3 in very good or better condition. Call C. F. Stafford, W2AAU (716) 621-6692.

Will sell either Heathkit HW101 or Kenwood TS830S both in excellent condition. Jack, K2JP - 716-342-3476.

YL COMMENTS . . .

by Marcy Kessler, WA2URE

The YLRL is sponsoring a contest in February that is not just for YLs. This is the YL-OM Contest which will be held on the following dates:

Phone: from 1400Z on 2/14/87 to 2/16/87

CW: from 1400Z 2/28/87 to 0200Z 3/2/87

All licensed YLs and OM's throughout the world are eligible to participate in this event. OM's call "CQ YL" and YLs call "CQ OM". All bands may be used. There is to be no cross band operation, no net contacts and on repeater contacts. Each station is counted only once in each contest. The total operating time may not exceed 24 hours out of the 36-hour time period and breaks must be indicated in the logs.

Exchange:

Station worked, QSO number (e.g. QSO #1, QSO #2, etc.), RS or RST and state, province or country.

Scoring:

A) Phone & CW are scored as separate contests and logs are to be submitted separately.

B) Count one (1) point for each station worked—YLs count only OM's and OM's count only YLs.

C) Multiply number of QSOs by the total number of states, provinces or countries worked. If running 150 Watts or less on CW or 300 Watts PEP or less on SSB, multiply the above results by 1.25 (low power multiplier).

Logs must show state, province or country. Do not send carbon copies. Logs must be printed or typed and must be signed by operator. Separate logs must be submitted for each contest and show claimed score. Logs must be postmarked by 3/16/87 and received by 3/31/87. Logs will not be returned. Logs must also show time, band, date and transmitter power. They should be sent to:

YLRL Vice-President

Mary Low Brown, NM7N

507 Channel View Drive

Anacortes, VA 98221

Duplicates:

For each duplicate removed by the vice-president, there will be a penalty of 3 additional and equal contacts.

Suggested frequencies:

Phone – 80 Meters: 3.940 - 3.970 MHZ; 40 Meters: 7.240 - 7.270 MHZ; 20 Meters: 14.280 - 14.310 MHZ; 15 Meters: 21.380 - 21.410 MHZ; 10 Meters: 28.580 - 28.610 MHZ.

CW – 80 Meters: 3.540 - 3.570 MHZ; 40 Meters: 7.040 - 7.070 MHZ; 20 Meters: 14.040 - 14.070 MHZ; 15 Meters: 21.180 - 21.210 MHZ; 10 Meters: 28.180 - 29.210 MHZ.

So, all you folks who are adventurous enough to try contesting on the HF bands, might want to try this one out. Hopefully, by the time this one rolls around, we will have recovered from January's VHF contest and may be able to take on another challenge. Good luck.

ANTENNA CASE UPDATE

Carl Emerson, W2RWH, who lives in Pittsford, wants to put up a 58-foot tower. In December, he went before the Perinton Town Board meeting to seek the local approvals he needed to erect the tower. Carl has a corner lot, about ¾ of an acre, and thought he would have no problem to gain the local permits he would need.

Accompanied by Mike Rice, KB2SG, and Elmer Wagner, WB2BNJ, they presented a strong case before the board at their December meeting. About 35 of Carl's neighbors came out to the meeting, on both sides of the issue. Those objecting to the antenna complained about the "unsightliness" it would create in the development Carl lives in. Mike and Elmer presented a stronger case for Amateur Radio—about its public service aspects which we are all aware of.

The board tabled its approval process until its January 26th meeting. Carl says he expects approval from that meeting. He'll let us know at the February meeting.

Jack, KA2PJJ

ARRL/VEC DISACCREDITS FOUR VE'S

The ARRL/VEC has discredited four of its Volunteer Examiners owing to apparent testing "irregularities" at two sessions conducted by the four VEs. [Although only three accredited VEs are needed to conduct a test session, this VE Team used one VE to serve as "liaison" between the ARRL/VEC office and the team who was directly responsible for the security of the test materials. The other three VEs administered the exams.] The problems surfaced when VEC staffers noted that some exams administered to 50 candidates at the session held by the four VEs have been voided and the Certificates of Successful Completion issued to the candidates at the sessions were recalled. At the request of the FCC's Personal Radio Branch, the ARRL/VEC has submitted to the PRB copies of all the paperwork involving the sessions for review and possible further action.

Tnx ARRL Letter

HOW DO YOU CATCH A CAR THIEF?

Simple. Call him on the stolen car's cellular telephone. According to Personal Communications Technology magazine, that's exactly what Milwaukee insurance agent Kurt Voss did when his cellular telephone equipped Oldsmobile was stolen from a service station parking lot.

Voss was shocked when the 16 year old who had stolen the car answered the phone. He also realized that he might be able to trace down the thief if some strange telephone numbers showed up on his cellular telephone bill. Sure enough, one did and it turned out to be the friend of the boy who had stolen Voss' car.

It took persistence on his part, but after calling six times Voss finally coaxed the name and address of the alleged car thief out of the friend. That information he gave to the police who in turn arrested the suspected auto thief.

But there's no happy ending here. By the time that Voss' car was finally found, it had been stripped and set afire by the thief. Voss told the newspaper that he went to the extremes he did because, "I was so upset and angry at my car being stolen that at whatever expense, I wanted to catch the guy." He did! *Tnx RAGS Review*

INSTANT AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES ISSUED THROUGH THE ALL VOLUNTEER TESTING PROGRAM IS THE SUBJECT OF A RULE MAKING REQUEST FILED WITH FCC

The petitioner "...proposes that the FCC end the waiting period between the time an unlicensed person takes a test and receives a license by having the Commission issue random blocks of unassigned calls to VECs for distribution to candidates who successfully pass an amateur exam." "The FCC would continue to use its current 'sealed envelope' technology for distributing callsigns, with the callsigns printed on the license form by the commission computer."

Tnx Westlink Report via Auto-Call

W2YJ

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



COMMERCIAL

COMMUNICATIONS

47 WREN
LANCASTER, NEW YORK 14086

GEORGE L. KRICKOVICH

(716) 684-3562

REGIONAL MONITORING STATIONS WANTED

The Regional Monitoring Station (RMS) is a key element of the Amateur Auxiliary. The volunteer RMS works closely with FCC Field Operations Bureau enforcement staff on hard-core cases that are beyond the scope of the normal work of the ARRL Official Observer. Because of the sensitive and important nature of the job, the RMS appointment is made only by the ARRL President. Impeccable credentials including experience, maturity, time and equipment resources, and technical knowledge are absolute prerequisites for this position.

Presently, Regional Monitoring Stations serve the Amateur Auxiliary in the following regions: Mid-Atlantic, Mid-Pacific, New England, Northwestern, South Central and Southwestern.

HQ is seeking applications for RMS appointments for the following regions: Alaska, Great Lakes, Hawaii, Mid-Central, North-Central, and Puerto Rico. *Tnx ARRL Letter*

WANTED: Power Supply for Collins 32S-1. Also, 32S-1 and 75S-3 manuals to copy and return. Vic, K1JUL, 381-8936. Kelly Gauvin.

ESTATE SALE, PLUS - New 2M, FM Amp. 15 to 30 in, 75 to 100 out - \$125.00; 2M, FM, portable, 5 ch, w/case and charger - \$60.00; Hal 1550 Electronic Keyer and paddle - \$75.00; Gonset, 2M FM Communicator II - \$25.00; Uitica, 6M, AM w/vfo M-650 - \$20.00; Regency, AM/FM Receiver M-10 - \$20.00; Regency, AM/FM Receiver - \$25.00; Mosley TA-3, 1Kw Tribander dipole - \$50.00; Lunar, 6 meter, FM-SSB, 10 in, 100 out + w, Preamp solid-state, P.A. Amp - \$150.00. Len, WA2ZNC, 248-2511

MICHAEL G. RICE

(KB2SG)

Attorney At Law

Land Use/Zoning Personal Injury
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Evening Hours
(716) 454-6000

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE A HAM NEARLY 30 YEARS AGO?

Were those better days? In the event that you were not there, I will tell you what you missed.

The sizes of our HF bands were much like they are today with but a few exceptions. The 20 meter phone band was only 100 kHz wide and there were two cw segments as the top 50 kHz was just cw, not phone as it is today. The eleven meter band was ours because citizen band had not yet come into existence. But 10 meter antennas worked rather poorly on eleven, so the band was not very heavily populated, and eventually we lost it! To soften the blow, the FCC opened up phone operation in the top 50 kHz of 20 meters.

Although our ham population was only about one third of what we have today, the bands seemed more crowded and filled with noisy QRM because phone stations were almost exclusively using AM, which not only occupies a much larger band width than does SSB, but produces high pitch hetrodynes that would whistle away whenever two stations were operating on nearby frequencies. But the audio quality of those old AM signals was fantastic; just like broadcast stations. When signals were strong, you could hear home background noises and even cars driving by. Just like being there. We worked a lot of good DX back then but it wasn't as easy. Most DX stations avoided operating in the crowded U.S. phone bands and instead would call CQ from below our band and tune up to look for answers. All of those answering would cover a wide range of band frequencies and produce plenty of annoying QRM. But back then the world seemed bigger, and foreign countries farther away and more exotic and we wanted them more. And there were far less DX stations then, and most of them had rigs that were inferior to ours. U.S. and Canada hams felt sorry for them.

In those days people made long distance phone calls only in an emergency so nearly everyone had a phone-patch connected to his rig. You would tune across the band anytime on a Sunday afternoon and find a dozen stations calling directional CQ's to a particular city "*with phone-patch traffic.*" I used to be asked to run several patches each week. Now, it is about one every other year, and then only from overseas stations.

A very high percent of hams used to be teenagers. It was common to hear round-table QSOs with five or even ten teenage stations. The older hams never avoided the kids and were always welcome. Hams were extremely friendly and very polite. Foul

language and anger were never heard over the air.

Although the power limit was 1000 watts input, almost no one ran more than 200 watts input and we never thought about output power at all. The SWR of antennas seemed unimportant and the transmitters back then could tune up nearly any length of antenna. Most beam antennas were placed on little television rotators which were really stressed to the limit. I had one snap in half.

Television interference was a much bigger worry then, than it is today. Neighbors could actually hear your AM audio crystal clear for many blocks away and they could identify exactly who you were. The old TV sets used 20 MHz for an intermediate-frequency and that is our 15 meter band, so when you were on 15 meters, you could expect the telephone to ring. Hams learned to be very diplomatic with the neighbors. Back in those days when life styles were less technical, people thought of talking on the radio as mysterious, and hams as scientific masters. Of course, today when every five year old kid has a toy walkie-talkie, this is no longer so.

Most rigs consisted of a separate receiver and transmitter connected to an outboard coax switch. If you could read the VFO to the nearest 5 kHz, you were happy. We could never have imagined how much better the radios of the future would become. We thought bells and whistles really were bells and whistles!

There were no transistors. A good rig might contain a total of 40 to 50 vacuum tubes. It was fun to operate in the dark and see them glow. And they always kept the shack warm in the winter. My cat would sit on top of the transmitter when she saw them light up. She would meow into the microphone if I held it up to her and gave her a poke. Eventually she would meow when she saw the microphone coming before I gave her the poke. Smart cat!

The rigs were more expensive back then if you compare the cost to the average income. And many of the rigs we were satisfied to use would be considered garbage today. Hams did not insist on having only the latest state-of-the-art radio. We were just happy to be on the air.

Although radios were physically larger, mobile operation was just as popular as it is today. There were no 2 meter repeaters. Most local QSOs took place on 10 meters and 75 meters. It was as easy then as it is today to locate your friends on the radio. But absent was the hand-held rig that could go anywhere.

The General Class FCC exam was quite difficult. The main theme was to know how to design radios, transmitters, power supplies, and oscillators, unlike today's exam which mostly wants to train good operators. The questions were free-response-essays instead of multiple choice. We actually had to draw the schematic circuit diagrams. There was no instant grading of exams and no instant upgrade. The General Class license had all privileges.

The good radios were very well made and would have been trouble free if it were not for the fact that the vacuum tubes had a life span and sooner or later had to be replaced. If you had 50 tubes in your rig, one or two would always be on the verge of expiring. Today's radios are far superior in selectivity, sensitivity, have more features to play with, are smaller, cooler running and have no parts that require periodic replacement. And they cost a smaller percent of your income. Today the price of a linear amplifier is within reach of most of us if we should want one. Not then.

Today's single sideband signals are narrower than AM so more can fit into a given band of frequencies. Squealing heterodynes are almost gone. I guess the only thing the newer hams have to regret is that they never experienced our hobby 30 years ago so they cannot so easily appreciate all of the marvels of today.

I wonder what they will be telling their young friends about the ham radio of the 80s, 30 years from now.

You are now living in the good-old-days that in the future you may wish that you could go back to. But perhaps you may not wish for that at all, because the future's going to be great.

Tnx K2SDD via RAGS Review

NOVICE ENHANCEMENT AND WRITTEN EXAM CREDIT

Novice enhancement: Novice enhancement may be out by February. That's the word from Michael Fitch, new Chief of the FCC's Personal Radio Bureau. In an interview to be published in February *QST*, Fitch said that the Report and Order "*may even be out by the time this interview is printed.*" **Written Exam Credit** There is none – yet. As of this writing, the FCC has still not received the go-ahead from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) concerning the proposed changes in the Form 610. The new rules for written exam credit do not go into effect until OMB approval is secured. As soon as the approval is made, W1AW and this publication will carry the effective date.

Tnx ARRL Letter

OLD TIMERS LUNCHEON — A POSTSCRIPT

Several have asked, "*Why the different categories in years for the old timers noted on page 6 in the January RAG?*"

Early amateur operation is usually identified by equipment used (with some overlapping either way by a few years).

-- 1921 and earlier: spark transmitters and crystal sets receivers.

-- The 1920's: self-excited transmitters and regenerative receivers.

-- The 1930's: Mopa/xtal controlled transmitters and superhet receivers.

-- The 1940's and 50's: Use of VFO and the real beginning of VHF/UHF operation.

Bruce Kelley, W2ICE (Club Historian)

HEATH/ZENITH

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FCC DECLINES TO FINE ELECTRIC COMPANY

In August, ARRL Counsel Chris Imlay filed a Petition for Imposition of Forfeiture and Other Relief against the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), on behalf of two ARRL members living in Anderson, California. WB6SXL and W6VLE had both experienced noise from the PG&E's power lines of up to 10 db over S-9 on 160 through 20 meters. Richard Santos, WB6SXL, had first complained of heavy power line noise to PG&E in 1977, but no action was taken by the utility. More complaints were made in 1978, and finally in 1979 PG&E began a serious investigation of the noise. After many tests, the source of the noise was found to be high voltage lines one-half mile away from the Santos' home. Since then PG&E has refused to eliminate the interference, claiming high replacement costs. Complaints to the FCC Field Office in San Francisco have produced no response.

Another amateur, W6VLE, is also experiencing high noise levels, and has written letters to PG&E and FCC without the problem being solved. In both cases, there has been no reduction in interference, despite PG&E's claim that over \$20,000 has been spent trying to solve the problem. Having exhausted all other remedies, the ARRL filed its request for imposition of forfeiture before the FCC. It asked that the Commission issue a notice of violation against PG&E as the result of their repeated refusal to rectify the

interference. On November 21, the FCC Chief Scientist, Dr. Thomas Stanley, denied the petition. "The Field Operations Bureau (he wrote) "has found that the radio noise is due to the Corona effect (an electrical discharge resulting from a partial electric breakdown in a gas, such as that which happens in the air surrounding a wire of a high potential). This is typical of the old chain-like cable that is used in this transmission system. The FOB has further determined that the only way to eliminate completely the remaining interference would be by replacing the existing conductors of the families."

"The Commission's past policy" Dr. Stanley said, "with regard to this type of interference has been to require power companies to correct problems if the RFI is caused by defective line insulators, loose/unbounded hardware, discharges from defective lighting arrestors, or defective transformers. However, the Commission has not required power companies to correct RFI on properly installed transmission lines, if the interference is caused by Corona, if the interference is to only a few individuals, and if correcting the problem would constitute a major financial burden to the power company, which would be passed on to the public."

At press time, WB6SXL and W6VLE are undecided about pursuing other remedies.

Tnx ARRL Letter

WANTED - Ride to Dayton Hamfest. Call Neal, WB2EKP, 359-2672.

See you on Valentine's Day at Mendon Ponds Park.

