



the RARRA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 40

OCTOBER 1987

NO. 2

RaRa and AWA OLD TIMERS LUNCHEON

Old time radio amateurs and guests are invited to an informal luncheon at the Maplewood Inn, East Avenue, 12 noon, Tuesday, October 20. It will be an occasion to meet old friends and reminiscence.

A short program with pictures will highlight the early days of broadcasting at stations WHAM and WHEC. Then as now, a large percentage of the staff of the stations were radio amateurs. In fact, the original RaRa officers were employed at WHAM, except one who was at WPDR.

Luncheon including gratuity is only \$6 with a choice of chicken salad or baked haddock. Make check payable to Bruce Kelley and mail BEFORE October 15. Indicate dinner choice. Absolutely no reservations on day of luncheon.

Bruce Kelley, Rte. 3
Holcomb, NY 14469

TOMPKINS COUNTY

The Tompkins County Radio Association is sponsoring exams on October 15th, November 16th, and December 21st. Hopefuls will need a \$4.35 fee, two forms of I.D., their original license, any certificate or credits from previous exams, and a photocopy of their license. Exams begin at 6 PM at the BOCES Center, 555 Warren Road, Ithaca. Talk-in is on 146.37/.97.

The Tompkins club meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at the BOCES Center. Their "Swap & News Net" is every Sunday evening at 8 PM on 146.37/.97.

NEXT RaRa MEETING

October 9, 1987 - 8:00 P.M.
40/8 Club
933 University Avenue

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT MALIGNS HAMS

An inappropriate reference to "hams" appeared on the first feed of the ABC World News Tonight program August 17 anchored by Ted Koppel. Koppel reported that a "ham radio operator" was transmitting false air traffic control instructions on a La Guardia airport frequency.

The story went on to say the individual responsible had not been identified, so of course the idea that he might be a ham was pure supposition. In fact, the original story came from AP, which quoted an FAA spokesman as referring to a "phantom" radio operator; somehow ABC turned "phantom" into "ham". The reference was corrected on the second and third feeds of the same program, so only parts of the country heard the slanderous reference. Unfortunately, despite repeated phone calls, telegrams, and other messages from ARRL HQ and individual amateurs, ABC so far has declined to air a clarification.

ARRL EVP David Sumner, K1ZZ, has sent a letter to Roone Arledge, President of ABC News, recounting the incident and pointing out that "simple justice requires that a clarification be carried on ABC World News at least as prominently as the original offending item. While the damage can never be fully repaired, we believe this is the least you can do in recompense".

Tnx ARRL Letter

RADIO SHACK ENTERS NOVICE RACE

from W5YI Report

Radio Shack, with the assistance of W5YI and Gordon West, will be marketing a "Novice Voice Class" package this fall. The package includes a 112 page illustrated textbook and two audio cassette tapes that teach the fun method of learning Morse code. This Item No. 62-2402 will cost \$19.95 and will be the widest distributed amateur radio training manual of all time.

the **RaRa Rag**

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FROM THE WESTLINK REPORT AUGUST 7, 1987

AEROTRON, INC., the principal factor outside the FCC's own Office of Science and Technology attempting to reallocate the lower 40% of the 1¼ meter band to land mobile use, has taken to name calling in its battle with radio amateurs.

In a portion of the company's reply comments on Docket 87-14, Aerotron leaves no room for imagination when it declares:

"Aerotron believes the many comments filed by or on behalf of the Amateur Radio Service licensees represent the bias of one user group only, and that, overall, they are extremely short-sighted. The Notice gives the amateur community a permanent place for them to expand their use. Now is the time to reallocate the 220 - 222 Mhz spectrum while it is lightly used not five years down the road when the amateurs may have made significant investments in equipment but still not be making an efficient use of that portion of the spectrum".

Aerotron's attack on the integrity of members of the US Amateur Radio Service does not end there. Obviously concerned that their attempt to appropriate that which is ours might fail, the company ends its reply comments to the FCC thus: "As the Commission is well aware, it is typical in allocations proceedings affecting the Amateur Service for the Commission to be inundated with mostly brief and conclusionary comments from the amateurs who resist any change in the rules, however slight, that they see as adverse to their interests. Such is the case in this proceeding. Aerotron is confident that the Commission will see through such tactics and that it will preserve its proposed reallocation".

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THE NEW WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO VIDEO

Get your satellite receiver and VCR ready for the world premiere of a new ARRL videotape, *The New World of Amateur Radio*. The one-hour program will be uplinked at 6 PM EDT September 20 on GTE Spacenet 1, Transponder 12H. On most home satellite receivers the show will be on Channel 23. Audio will be stereo/compatible monaural with subcarriers listed on-screen just prior to the start of the show, so tune in early.

The complete program includes a 10-minute introduction, the 28½-minute main presentation entitled *The New World of Amateur Radio*, followed by some special related material.

In a fast-paced TV magazine format, the show portrays the excitement and person-to-person contact that only Amateur Radio can provide. We expect it to be an outstanding recruitment tool. Viewers will meet Joe Fairclough, a New York City teacher whose junior high class – “*The Crew at 22*” – learn vocabulary in Morse code. And there’s a chat with Astronaut Tony England WØRE, the first ham to sent SSTV pictures via Amateur Radio to and from space, who walks the viewer into the future of ham radio while inside NASA’s newly constructed space station simulator in Houston.

Since ham radio is a truly international hobby, the video includes tape from more than a dozen foreign countries. There’s the sport of hidden-transmitter hunts in China that are also foot races; aviators Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, two hams making history in the nonstop around-the-world flight of *Voyager*; and a group of Dutch hams who communicate with other hams around the world using the giant international shortwave antenna system of Radio Netherlands near Amsterdam.

The League produced the videotape in cooperation with three manufacturers, ICOM America, Kenwood USA Corporation and Uaesu USA. ARRL is encouraging extensive use of the video to introduce ham radio to groups of all ages and backgrounds. It is available on the September 20 satellite feed and on a free-loan basis to all interested organizations. Copies for personal use are available for \$20.00 prepaid from ARRL, Box NW, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

Watch for further details in October *QST*.

WANTED: Collins S line, KWM2, 30L1, filters for 75A4. Bob, 334-1103.

OCTOBER 1987 CALENDAR

- 9 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue
- 12 - Columbus Day
- 16 - Rochester VHF Group meeting
7:30 p.m. - (*tentative date*) -
Monroe County Social Services Building -
111 Westfall Road
- 17 - Syracuse Hamfest
- 23 - RRRRA Meeting - Pittsford Library
(basement meeting room) - 8:00 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

ARRL SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST October 17 - 18

The weekend of October 17-18 will be the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET). The SET weekend gives you the opportunity to focus on the emergency-communications capability within your community while interacting with the National Traffic System.

The main purpose of SET are:

1. To find out the strengths and weaknesses of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, National Traffic System, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, and other groups in providing emergency communications.
2. To provide a public demonstration – to served agencies such as Red Cross, Civil Preparedness, Salvation Army, etc. and through the news media – of the value to the public that Amateur Radio provides, particularly in time of need.
3. To help radio amateurs gain experience in communications using standard procedures and a variety of modes under simulated emergency conditions.

In a real emergency we find amateurs with all sorts of varied interests coming out of the woodwork. Let’s get them involved in SET so they will know more about how emergency communications should be handled. They may like it so much that they will become a permanent fixture in our ARES or NTS groups.

Although October 17-18 is the official weekend, ARES units and other groups are free to conduct their SET’s anytime between September 1 and November 30. Participate, and get as many people involved as possible.

From ARRL Field Forum, July 1987

POSSIBLY DEADLY ILLEGAL RADIO USE

Investigators from the F.C.C. and the F.B.I. are trying to track down a wayward radio operator who has been jamming an air traffic control frequency at New York's busy LaGuardia Airport. According to several reports, the radio operator gives false landing instructions to jets coming into LaGuardia. As a result, aircraft approaching the airport are being issued the following warning:

"CAUTION: LAGAURDIA AREA: OCCASIONAL UNAUTHORIZED RADIO TRANSMISSIONS FROM AN ILLEGAL TRANSMITTER HAVE OCCURRED ON A.T.C. FREQUENCIES. PILOTS SHOULD BE ALERT TO NON-STANDARD PROCEDURES AND PHRASIOLOGY".

On Tuesday, August 11th, the same unidentified voice told a pilot to "*pull up, go around, and try again*". Thankfully, the pilot never heard the false instructions, and landed his plane without incident.

A report on the August 17th ABC's "**WORLD NEWS TONIGHT**", identified the intruder as a "*hamradio operator*". But a spokeswoman for the ABC News Bureau in Washington admitted to WESTLINK that ABC had no proof that an Amateur Radio operator was involved. She told WESTLINK that the story had been revised in a later feed that had deleted the reference to ham operators, and she was at a loss to how the original version got on the air.

Since the F.C.C. claims to have little in the way of money and manpower to solve radio related crimes like this, hams in the New York - Metropolitan area might want to think in terms of helping to track down this menace to commercial aviation.

Tnx WESTLINK

MICHAEL G. RICE

(KB2SG)

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QUESTION POOL

SCHEDULED OUTLINED

The VEC Question Pool Committee, chaired by the ARRL/VEC has now determined the schedule by which the five written elements are to be revised. The schedule is in response to the 1987 VEC Conference in Atlanta, which voted that all five pools be revised within a three-year period. The main dates in the schedule are:

	<i>Element 2/3A</i>	<i>3B/4A</i>	<i>4B</i>
Begin Review	2-1-88	2-1-89	8-7-87
Release final pool	2-1-89	2-1-90	3-1-88
Implement tests	11-1-89	11-1-90	11-1-88

During the revision cycle, the Question Pool Committee will review and modify, the syllabus and question stems for the appropriate element(s). Finalized question pools will be distributed to all VECs and publishers of Amateur Radio training materials with at least eight months lead time before the new tests go into effect.

Although the committee members will decide which changes to effect, they will consider all input submitted by other VECs and individual hams who meet the license class minimums set up in Section 97.517. All syllabus input must include the name of the syllabus topic to be considered, the suggested change(s) to it, and the reason changes are warranted. All question pool input must include the question being revised (or number of question), the suggested change(s), a suggested answer, plus a reference that the "*average*" ham or ham-to-be can find easily.

The initial solicitation for input to the Element 4B syllabus and question stems went out to all VECs on August 7. Input for the syllabus is due on September 15, but input to the questions themselves isn't due until October 1.

Tnx ARRL Letter

MAKE MY DAY?

On the West Coast, hams angered by the recent series of unprovoked shooting on the Los Angeles freeway system are adding their eyes and ears to help law enforcement. Since many hams are equipped with autopatch capability, hams are reporting aggressive drivers and other highway problems directly to the highway patrol in ever increasing numbers. There seems to be no organized effort to help law enforcement, rather it seems to be the matter of hams as concerned citizens. It is estimated that there are at least 15,000 autopatch equipped hams mobile in the Southern California area. That's 30,000 extra eyes watching the freeways every day.

THE RaRa EXPRESS

Someone questioned me the other day that if the Schenectadyhams could charter a bus to get to the Rochester Hamfest each May, why couldn't we in Rochester get enough people together to get to the Dayton Hamvention each April?

Certainly we could get at least 40 to 50 people out of a club our size (875 at last count) to charter at least one bus to go to Dayton for at least a one-day outing. If you figure it's 950 miles round-trip to Dayton, and your gas-guzzler gets 20 mpg on a good day, and if you could get no-name gasoline at 90¢ a gallon, it would cost you \$42.75 in gas alone to get out to Dayton and back. Throw on the cost of tolls at \$15 or so, that raises just the cost of the cr trip to \$57.75.

We can charter an entire bus for \$40 to \$50 per person! So how about it? Just give me a call to tell me if you are at least a bit interested. The bus companies don't need any firm commitments until at least January, and that would be the time you would have to put any money down. My phone numbers are (work) 461-8630 or (home) 424-1637.

-- Jack, KA2PJJ

OSCAR 10 IN TROUBLE

AMSAT-OSCAR 10 can no longer be used for communications for at least three months. Due to the low angle of the sun there will not be enough illumination to recharge the satellite's batteries. It is estimated the next period of communications via the satellite will begin around November 20 when the sun's angle will be enough to charge the battery. Meanwhile, total abstinence is required.

Tnx ARRL Letter

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TORNADOES AND TV

The season of violent storms is here!! People may not realize it, but they already have a reliable warning system in their home. Television sets and portable radios make excellent tornado detection devices, according to the Perth County 4H News Letter.

If a radio is tuned to 550 khz, lightning will cause intermittent static. A tornado will cause continuous static. To use a television set as a tornado detector, warm up the set, and tune it to Channel 13. Turn the volume down, and turn the brightness control down until the screen is almost black. Switch over to Channel 2 and leave the volume turned down. Lightning will produce momentary light bands of varying widths across the screen of a black and white tv set. Colored bands will appear across the screen of a color set.

A tornado that is within 15 to 20 miles will produce a totally white screen, and will produce a single color in the case of a color set. Should this occur, switch off the set, take a portable radio and immediately seek shelter.

How does this TV detection system work? Channel 2 has a frequency of 55 MHz. Lightning and tornadoes generate a signal near this frequency which overrides the brightness control. Channel 13 is at the high end of the VHF band and is therefore not effected. That's why the darkness must be set on channel 13!!!

The next time a serious storm threatens your area, try this trick. It just might save your life.

*Taken from the Milverton Sun, July 8, 1987
Reprinted by VE3AMZ, John*

FOR SALE— Complete ham station, Swan 700 CX 700 Watt Transceiver with 117 XC power supply, speaker & mike, Heathkit HM-102 RF power meter, Mosley TA33JR trap master antenna, CDE HAM III rotor system, all cables, everything in excellent condition, asking \$600. Marty Suter, N2AGR, 244-5122.



WESTLINK REPORT AUGUST 21, 1987

THE SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS has filed comments supporting amateur radio. The highly prestigious and politically influential Society said "No" to the FCC Office of Engineering & Technology's proposal to reallocate the lower 40% of the amateur 1 1/4 meter band to the Land Mobile Service. Their contrary stand to the reallocation proposal come in reply comments filed before the FCC in the matter of General Radio Docket 87-14. The SBE began by pointing out that it has a high regard for the Amateur Radio Service: "SBE recognizes the importance of amateur radio communications. Broadcasting began as a hobby built upon amateur radio. It is on the amateur bands that many engineers first experience the rewards of mastering the theory and practice of electronics and communications. SBE estimates that 40% of its members are amateur radio operators".

SBE next established its own credentials to comment on the docket: "As a pioneer in Part 74 frequency coordination and a key participant in the newly formed National Frequency Coordinating Council for broadcast support spectrum under Part 74, SBE has had germane experience in spectrum planning, use of spectrum - efficient technology and coordination of bands and critical band adjacency problems. SBE feels that its experience is extremely relevant to the proposals of the Notice".

From this point on, the SBE remarks were directed very sharply at the overall issues outlined in General Radio Docket 87-14: "SBE believes that the reallocation of the 220 - 225 Mhz band to the land mobile industry is unnecessary and would result in under utilization of the band. The Commission's assumption that the land mobile industry needs this additional spectrum is unfounded.



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THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — OCTOBER 1967

by Ed Gable, K2MP

The October meeting brought the group into the forefront of technology with the introduction of Lasers and holograms. Ken Snow, of Bausch and Lomb, was the speaker.

A big announcement from the FCC confirmed the new Advanced Class License as a result of the so called Incentive Licensing Program. New frequency allocations are to start November 22, 1968, with FCC exams available September 22, 1987. Also new are two year Novice Licenses.

On October 28th the Antique Wireless Association honored Bill Fay, WHAM's General Manager for many years during the station's period of being one of the best in the country. As such, WHAM was able to draw and employ many excellent engineers. One of these was John Long, W8ABX, an outstanding 5 Meter enthusiast and RaRa's first President.

A supplement to the *Rag* included a new page to be inserted into the new RaRa Directory. It seems as though no Calls starting with the suffix "Z" were printed by the computer. R. C. Cagan Sales continues to advertise "Unusual, Unique, Bizarre and Queer" equipment for sale.

WHO SAYS FCC NO LONGER ADMINISTERS TESTS?

Amateurs do not have to suffer through an afternoon of sweaty palms under the watchful eye of an FCC examiner, but that is not to say that the FCC isn't still in the testing business. Recent victims of SPS (sweaty palm syndrome) are the manufacturers of computers and VCRs.

Fifteen Class B computing devices were tested for radiated and ac-line-conducted RF emissions. The results? Four of the 15 failed the conducted emission limit test and four failed the radiated emission limit test. The bottom line? A total of six computers were tested non-compliant, since some devices failed *both* tests.

On the other hand, VCRs were put through five tests - video and audio output power levels, output conducted emissions, antenna transfer switch levels, radiated emission levels and ac-power-line conducted levels. Of 15 devices tested, only *one* failed to comply with regulations.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if consumer electronic devices were tested by FCC for RF susceptibility as well?

Tnx ARRL Letter