

the PAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 40 NOVEMBER 1987 NO. 3

GOING, GOING, SOLD

You guessed it! The November meeting will be the annual auction. We will have the pleasure of watching auctioneers Dick Gosley, K2VCZ, and Ed Gable, K2MP, create happiness all around on Friday evening, November 6, beginning at 8:00 p.m. As in recent years, the auction will be held at the Police and Fire Academy on Scottsville Road. There is a sign on the East side of the Road and the driveway is located just North of Burger King.

The doors will open at 7:00 p.m. for sellers to bring in their goodies and for buyers to inspect the bargains. Current RaRa membership is required to enter the building and you may pay your dues as you enter if you have not already done so. Each member may bring one guest.

The auction is meant as a vehicle for amateurs to exchange used equipment, so please leave the boat anchors at home or by the curb in front of your house. All equipment sold at the auction will be subject to a 10% donation of the selling price to RaRa.

Come out – watch the excitement – join the bidding – take home a treasure – support your club.

KODAK PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The next meeting of the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club will be Wednesday, November 18th at 12:00 Noon in Room 111 of Building 28. The topic of the meeting will be *Cellular Radio Technology*.



RECIPROCITY?

The relationship between radio amateurs and the FCC over the years has been cordial: hams have recognized the importance of regulation and have looked confidently to the FCC for it.

When the FCC, chronically underfunded and understaffed, wanted help, hams stepped forward and manned the Volunteer Examination program, thereby relieving the FCC of a serious personnel and financial burden. Has there been anything but lip – service appreciation of this? None you can notice.

Item: A recurring thorn in the side of ham radio has been the problem of radio frequency interference when hams' neighbors complain of receiving ham emissions in the broadcast receivers, telephones, television sets, computers and other electronic equipment. In nearly every such instance the fault lies in poorly designed equipment owned by the neighbors — not in the ham's equipment. The FCC could actively stick up for hams, but aside from issuing a leaflet it has done nothing.

Item: Amateur two meter operation relies on coordination in the allocation of repeater frequencies. While upholding this arrangement, the FCC will not adjudicate conflicts when two separate coordination groups lay claim to a single frequency.

"Hold an election," says the FCC, "or take your squabble to court." Either procedure would involve considerable expense. By acting as judge, the FCC could avoid the wrangle and the expense.

US law requires the FCC to uphold "public interest, convenience and necessity." Why doesn't it do so in these instances?

Louis R. Huber, W7UU Westlink Report

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

The next set of Amateur Radio exams will be Saturday, November 21st, beginnig at 8:30 a.m. at 111 Westfall Road. Walk-ins are permitted if space allows.



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Amateur Radio News Service

THE Rara RAG 20 YEARS AGO — NOVEMBER 1967 by Ed Gable, K2MP

This issue announced the annual auction to be held on November 3rd. A strange auction it will be as long time auctioneer and humorist Cappy Capauldy, K2UXF, is down with a bad back. It took two people to replace Cappy; Lew Stadtmauer, W2HNE, and Paul Modern, K2GWT.

For the third year RaRa will support the Eddie Meath Penny-thon, a local charity for hospitalized youngsters. Eddie Dunn, WA2KMI, will go on-the-air at WHEC radio and receive telephone donations. Then the Hams take over and dispatch volunteers to pick up the pennies. Ed Perkins, WB2MAC, is asking for operators to assist. At the Greece Central School District, Superintendent Lawrence Watts has enlisted the help of area Hams to set up communications for a social studies class. This pilot program encourages students to contact people of various countries via Ham radio to enhance their studies. Ken O'Brien, K2DHR, and Bruce Olcott, WA7EMP, are heading up the program for RaRa. Twenty-one new members were reported by membership chairman Ed Gable, W2MPM. Some notables are: Larry Jacobs, WB2NXL; Alex Uhmichuk, WA2AQW; Wendal Baker, K2LZF; and Gerry Evans, WA2PWT. Running for Atlantic Division Vice-Director was Rochester's own Harold Smith, WA2KND. Harold lost to well known Jesse Bieberman, W3KT, with Gil Crossley, W3YA, as Director. Harvey Prace, WB2IUM, in his VHF News column, reported that Mel Wilson, W2BOC, WOW'ed the crowd with his discussion on 50 MHz propagation modes. Wally Kincaid, WB2HZG, reports the RaRa code and theory classes are going well. Assisting in this fine effort are Dave Hassett, K2QSI, and Kermit Reid, WB2ZNF. A new advertiser is a new company on University Avenue. RF Communications ran an employment ad saying that RF is a great place for Hams to work and that they have openings in all fields.

FOR SALE- Icom IC-290A all mode 2m, with mic and manual and Advanced Receiver Research (ARR) SP144VDA DGFET Preamp. Both for \$350.00. Call Joel Swartz, 235-4928.

FOR SALE – Kenwood 6 meter transverter model TV-506 - \$175.00; Kenwood 2 meter transverter model TV-502 - \$175.00. Both Good Condition. Heathkit - SB200 Amp 1 KW, Very Good Condition with New Tubes - \$350.00 or B.O. Frank Nicosia, N2HFP, (716) 342-8305.

GENESEE REPEATER ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 15 YEARS IN OPERATION

In late 1972 the first signals were heard from the 146.19/146.79 MHz. repeater. First operating from the North Chili area, then moving to its present site in Henrietta.

Since the beginning of its operation many, many things have changed with the repeater; new transmitters, new receivers, preamps, antennas, coax, autopatches, control links, etc. However, one thing has not changed, its housing. We have used a circa 1950 refrigerator since its beginning as a climatic control for the equipment and as a deterrent to the mice that seem to chew on everything.

Presently we run about 45 watts to the antenna which gives the repeater about a 40 mile radius coverage from Henrietta. The repeater supports 2 autopatches, one at the site and another linked via UHF.

Many new and exciting things are happening with the group. A complete new replacement repeater is being built. It will become our primary 2 meter repeater and the present one will be revamped and held as a backup system. A UHF repeater is now under construction and will be operational in the near future at the site on 448.7/443.7 MHz.

Everyone is welcome to use the repeater(s). Please feel free to get on and make new or renew old friendships. If you feel you would like to join us or would like to help in some way, or if we could help you, please feel free to contact one of the following board members: Joe (K2VI, 594-2530), Rick (K2SA, 594-1114), Dick (K2VCZ, 334-1762) or Bob (W2XG, 494-1022).

The success of the Genesee Repeater Association is dependent upon your support and the help of many amateurs, and we would like at this time to thank everyone for their past and future support.

AND THE BANDS PLAYED ON . . .

On Halloween Night members of RaRa and the Xerox Amateur Radio Club will help to coordinate communications during the second annual Webster High School Marching Band competition.

Amateurs will used 2 Meters, 440 and 220 Mhz equipment as they had done last year in what is becoming an annual event.

Thanks, Pete Secrist, WB2SUN

NOVEMBER RaRa CALENDAR

- 3 Election Day
- 5 Full Moon at 1646Z
 - West Coast Qualifying Run 0500Z
- 6 RaRa Meeting 8:00 p.m.
- 7 ARRL CW Sweepstakes 2100Z
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 12 Packet Group Meeting 7:30 p.m.111 Westfall Road
- 13 East Coast Qualifying Run 2200 EST
 - Rochester V.H.F. Group Meeting
- 18 Kodak Park A.R.C. Meeting 12 Noon Building 28, Room 111
- 20 RRRA Meeting 7:30 p.m. Pittsford Town Court
- 21 ARRL Sweepstakes Phone 2100Z
 - New Moon at 0633Z
 - Amateur Radio Exams 111 Westfall Rd exams begin at 8:30 a.m.
- 23 East Coast Qualifying Run 1600 EST
- 26 Thanksgiving Day!
- 28 CQ WW DX Contest CW 0000Z

THE RaRa EXPRESS

Just a reminder that if you are interested in going to next spring's Dayton Ham-Vention, that we still need quite a few more names to start the ball rolling. We need a total of at least 40 people to charter a bus at a cost that would be less than driving out and back on your own.

Again, the bus companies don't need any firm commitments from us 'til at least January, but we would like to have at least a list of people by the end of the year.

If you are at least a bit interested in going (travel dates would be between April 28th to May 2nd, 1988 --- anywhere from a one to three day trip depending on the amount of interest from those who sign up), give me a call at 461-8630 (work) or 424-1637 (home).

Jack, KA2PJN

FOR SALE – Icom IC2AT - \$125.00; Heath I010S Oscilloscope - \$100.00; 64K Z80 Computer 2 DSDD 8" Disk Drives CPM - \$300.00; QUME Sprint 9 Daisy Printing Terminal - \$150.00; IBM PCJR - \$350.00; Prom Programmer - \$200.00. Mike, KC2NM, 385-6563.

K2SDD RAMBLIN'S "CINDERELLA"

Once upon a time, in a valley not too far away, there lived a ham. This ham had a very nice radio that ran about 100 watts. He even had a 3-element beam antenna mounted on the chimney of his house. And with this rig he liked to work DX on 20 meters. His success from this valley location was okay but nothing special. When fighting to work a rare country in a big pileup, the big boys would step all over him and throw sand in his face. What they could work on the first call would take him two hours. Oh, how he yearned to become a big-gun DX-er also. He wished for it; he hoped for it; he would even dream of it.

And then, a great miracle happened and his wish came true. In just a short few months he was transformed from Cinderella into a Big-GUN, KILLER, DX-hunter station. What was this great miracle? Well, in this world where so many ask for advice but very few get around to following through with it, our Cinderella actually followed the suggestions of people who learned how to find success by traveling along the rocky road of experience.

Let us give our Cinderella the call letters KC2YW and name him Doug. What did Doug do? (say that carefully).

Now, nothing is free. The cost of our metamorphosis was about 1500 dollars. The first step was to retire the little free-bee microphone that Icom throws in with their radios for nothing, and get a DX-element with a high-pitch, piercing audio that cuts through nerves. The element is manufactured by Heil and sells for \$22.

Next, Doug replaced a junky little 2-pole unit for \$65 used (new it would have been \$140. Always watch for bargains!). This served two purposes. Selectivity was vastly improved so it was much easier to copy with QRM when he was trying to tune for the weak ones. And also he could now turn up his microphone gain for stronger transmit audio without splattering onto adjacent frequencies.

One hundred watts is fine for casual country hunting, but remember, we want real music here. Many linear amplifiers were considered but the final choice was a Henry desk model called the 2 KD-Classic, which is probably the best buy for the money at \$1,000 new. This rugged monster will put out 1500 watts all day and yet acts as if it is loafing. When this was put in line, the results were startling to say the least. Nearly everything would come back on his first call.

But there is more.

A Big-Gun destroyer just does not have his beam antenna on his chimney. A tower had to be found. New towers are expensive, but there are always people who have towers and just want to get rid of them. They don't want much money; they just want to see the tower gone! You only have to locate one of these people as Doug did. For \$200 he had himself a very nice 50-foot tilt-over tower. Installing a tower can be a lot of work but thinking of the rewards makes the job go quickly. And now we can say that Doug's house may be located in a valley, but his antenna isn't.

And now the big question. Does it really work? How does 100 countries (DXCC) in two months sound? What does it feel like to tune across a rare station from some remote corner of the world and listen as hundreds of red-faced contenders scream into their microphones in hopes of being the lucky one that Mr. -DX can pull out from that mash of signals? Some of these hopefuls may have been calling for over an hour. Their fingerprints are burned into their microphone PTT-buttons. And then our Big-Gun calmly picks up his mic, quietly whispers "KC2-Yankie-Wishey" and gets him on the first call. What's it like? It's like magic. It's heaven. A dream come true.

But does Doug miss the old days when he was Cinderella? Does he miss the endless calling? Has it all become TOO easy? You've got to be joking. Being a DX-tiger is fantastic! The world at your fingertips, the feeling of power, the competition and YOU the winner! Once tasted, you never want to go back. But the simple beginnings are very important because they help you to appreciate where you are.

Doug also attended to a few more simple details such as a good ground with heavy wire and high quality coax-cable that won't be damaged by sunlight's ultra violet rays.

So how good is station KC2YW? Let us be realistic. You can be very, very good but someone out there will always exist who is better. And yet,

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if your signal packs more punch than 98% of the competition you will usually get your man or YL. Even so, if there are 200 stations in the pileup, you may be fourth on the list instead of "numero uno", but you are still going to score your goal. And to Cinderella, I would like to say: "Congratulations, Doug! You did it, I am grateful that I had the chance to help because now I too can share in your successes ... and the future holds many. Has anyone told you that we are at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. When we get to the top, band conditions will be so much better that ... well ... you won't believe it."

Just a brief message to you who are new to ham radio who may be reading this. Yes, YOU can work the world on low power and a dipole antenna in your attic, but there are many ways to make your station better and your signal stronger. If you really want too, you can become one of the best. But you have to want it enough to go the extra mile. And you kids in school, with little or no income, what can you do? What you learn in school today will determine how much money you will have in the future and how many radio-toys you will be able to buy. So, don't just be a dreamer, but study hard, get good grades, and tomorrow your dreams will come true.

And meanwhile, learn to be a good bargain hunter because there is excellent used gear available at affordable prices for those who know how to find it. And finally, ask for advice when you need it, and one day may all of your dreams come true and you will live happily ever after.

The E N D.

73, Mike, K2SDD Tnx RAGS Review

RFI AT RETAIL PRICES

Last month, due to the alignment of the sun, earth, and orbiting man-made satellites, many cable television and communication systems experienced periods of disrupted service.

Locally, one of the more obvious effects of this natural interference (QRN to us hams) came on October 6th at The Marketplace Mall when the Muzak-system suddenly cut out at one of the major department stores, and somehow picked up and played a heavy-metal rock-and-roll station at a much increased volume.

(Editor's note ... and you thought you had problems when your neighbor said he could hear your "CB radio" on his bargain-basement-special television.)

CONGRATULATIONS

Ernie Brown, K2BWK, president of the Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club, has been appointed by the ARRL as the Emergency Coordinator for Ontario County.

Ernie, already the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) Radio Officer for Ontario County, completes his emergency coordination credentials with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) as well.

Tnx, "Smoke Signal"

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PIRATE REPEATER UPDATE

A highly developed repeater system is operating on 11 meters in the Los Angeles area.

In response to our article about this phenomenon appearing in our December 26th issue, Westlink Report has received numerous telephone calls from individuals claiming knowledge of this repeater, and this reporter has even received an invitation to join in and operate on the system from one of the callers!

The repeater is more than a simple in-band "ker-chunk box" and is not new to the Los Angeles area. In fact, the "Pirate Radio Network," the organization claiming ownership of the intertied system, apparently has been operating with virtual immunity from FCC enforcement since sometime in 1982.

Information supplied to us indicates that early configurations consisted of inputs in the 49 MHz band and 27 MHz outputs. The repeater has since grown into a complex network of multiple 11 meter inputs/outputs, multiple 49 MHz inputs/ outputs, an ever increasing number of UHF inputs and even autopatch facilities!

The entire system is FM, including all gear operating in the 27 MHz band. It also appears that the main "CB" output channel of 27.275 MHz has multiple site transmitters operating from several mountain tops, with linking taking place at 49 MHz. A 103.5 CTCSS tone is required to access the imput ports on the illegal system.

Why hasn't the FCC cracked down and taken it off the air? That's a question we intend to get Tnx WESTLINK answered.



W2YJ

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PESKY EMI PROBLEM SOLVED

In the nearby village of Spencerport, Mr. C. Friend Stafford, W2AAU, dealt with a persistent and severe case of interference. The rough sounding signal was well over S9 on 20, 15, and 10 Meters, slightly less on the lower frequencies. At first power line noise was suspected due to the roughness of the signal. For three months the Spencerport Power and Light Company performed heroic efforts and displayed an outstanding cooperative attitude, but to no avail. Now desperate, Friend Stafford wrote to RaRa asking for help. Ed Gable, K2MP, was assigned the task. Ed went to Friend's shack and verified the terrible rough sounding signal. Upon careful listening, however, it was determined that the signal was present in very specific frequency bands, 25 to 175 KHz wide, depending on the band. Clearly line noise would not behave like this. Using his HF mobile rig and a SONY IC-2010 digital receiver, Ed and Friend searched the area. One house seemed "hot" and the owner said he had a mast mounted TV pre-amplifier that seemed to be giving problems. Ah-Hah!!! But no, that wasn't it. Three houses down the signal got stronger yet until one house was pinpointed. When the antenna from the IC-2010 was placed near the Cable TV coax leading to the house the S-meter pinned! But, when tracing the coax from the house towards the distribution box, the signal got much weaker. The interference was coming out of the house via the cable. Well, bad TV converter box, oscillating amplifier or something - easy fix!! Nope, wrong again. Pull plug on CATV box, signal remains. Pulled main circuit breaker for house. Signal goes away!! Close now ... Room to room search ... Find it. One very fancy, all brass, state-of-the-art, table lamp – with capacity operated touch switch. If you could key it, you could probably work DXCC with that thing!

There was no brand name anywhere on the lamp. Solution - the owner is moving to Florida in October. Watch out 4-land. If anyone has any idea as to the failure mode or cause, Ed, K2MP, would like to hear from you.

FOR SALE: Novatel 300T Cellular Telephone, Portable/Mobile, Handsfree. New unused unit. John, K2NC, 225-3626.

WANTED - Older D-104 (with label riveted on rather than glued on), Manual for Johnson Adventurer (photocopy ok), literature on U.T.C. VM-3 modulation transformer. Phone Ollie, K2BBK, 461-4246.

THE ART OF DX QSL

Hear An Unusual Prefix On The Air?

- 1. First Ground Rule W.F.W.L. (work first worry later). This means that, even if you suspect this may be a bootlegger (also called pirate or "slim"), it may come out in QST or CQ, etc. As being a legitimate operation.
- 2. To find out the Country of the Station, consult the "Table of Allocation of International call Sign Series" in the call book.

Example: LP2AA is in the range LOA-LWZ, and would be Argentina, 8J51TU would be Japan.

Want A QSL?

1. If you do not want speed on a return card, use the Bureau. The Bureau is the only way for some stations, as no direct address is given. Three months to two years is return time for Russians, but this is the only way. There are many Russians on the air.

To use the Bureau, get some 6 x 9 manila envelopes, and send 3 or 4 of them to the address in front of the Call Book. Address the envelopes to yourself and place your call in the upper left hand corner in large letters (one inch or so high), place at least 22¢ on each envelope, and send to the address shown. They will send them back to you periodically and let you know when you have used the last envelope. This takes care of incoming procedure.

Now, As For Your Outgoing QSL's?

- 1. You may send your cards out by mail (Air Mail is best) to the DX Bureau in front of the Call Book, outgoing Bureau Systems for all DX including Canada and U.S. Possessions (No U.S.A.) (KH6 and KL7 are considered as DX).
- 2. If you are an ARRL member, you may package up your DX cards, arranged alphabetically by prefix, and send them to ARRL (out going QSL Division). Include the membership address sticker which was on the wrapper of your QST and \$1.00 per pound or fraction (1½ pounds costs \$2.00). You should send this money by check or money order made out to "ARRL". They will then send your cards to the respective Bureaus by First Class Mail monthly. I use this system extensively and have very good results. You may make these mailings once a month if you wish.
- 3. Send QSL direct: Send QSL to station by air mail, including a self-addressed envelope, preferably 4½" x 6" "Tall" envelope. A lot of DX cards are taller than U.S. Cards and it is a shame to have the QSL for you folded and spoiled just because you did not provide a large enough envelope.

There are three ways to cover this postage back to you (sent along with the tall envelope.):

- A. If he suggests, you may wish to send a dollar. This is not a good idea normally, as mailing currency is frowned on and a lot of Countries have dishonest postal employees who like to steal money from the mail. Also, in some Countries it is illegal for people to have other Countries' money in their possession.
- B. Send I.R.C. coupons, available at Post Offices for 80¢ each. One I.R.C. is sufficient for sending your QSL direct, more than one is required for return Air Mail (see front of Call Book).
- C. The cheapest and best way is to send W2AZX a S.A.S.E. (self-addressed stamped envelope) and request his stamp list. He provides stamps on DX Countries for fraction of the I.R.C. costs. All you have to do is put the stamps on your envelope which is coming back to you, and he does not have to worry about buying stamps, which should shorten the time coming back.

The only reason I use direct is if he says this is the only way or I need his card for DXCC. Some newer amateurs may, however, want to get that first "GHANA" card in a hurry for example.

Now, if he says QSL VIA manager W2XXX, you want to send along with your card to W2XXX a S.A. S.E. with a normal sized return envelope. Place on the back of your envelope going to W2XXX the call of the DX station and the date of QSO. This allows W2XXX to sort his incoming mail easily so that he may process your card quickly.

To Important Rules For All DX QSLs

- 1. Use GMT on all your DX QSLs. He uses this system, and it is hard, if not impossible, for your QSO on his log if you use your local time. This is especially complicated if it is a contest where he has worked 5 to 10 thousand stations. It is a good idea to use GMT in all your logs. It is EAST plus 5 hours. Remember, new day at 2000 EDST. 2001 EAST Friday is 0001 UTC Saturday.
- 2. Use month spelled out or use day/month system. To a DX station, 8/2/83 is not August 2, February 8. August second is best written 2. Aug 83, 2.8.83 or 2. VIII 83, the use of Roman numerals rules out any doubt.

In fact, keeping a clock set to GMT, is not a bad idea. When making skeds or QSLs (DX or not) it sure cut down on confusion.

John M. Hugentober, N8FU via The Mike and Key

MORE FROM THE OLD TIMER

Contrary to what was reported about me last month, I was not sleeping I was only resting my eyes!

As you know well, packet is all the rage these days. There's a lot of "hacking" activity on two meters. So I thought I would try it. Being rather thrifty (some call it cheap), I searched high and low for the least expensive TNC (terminal node controller*) available. Finally I found one for \$39.95 from some outfit in the midwestern desert named "Trapper". No sales tax and prepaid shipping. Boy, I thought "what a great deal!"

Alas, when the TNC arrived, I found that the unit contained a send-only modem, and the resident firmware was installed on a write-only EEPROM CHIP. So, I am saving up again for a TNC that really works – one with 4 ports and one starboard.

All was not lost, because the instruction manual sent with the TNC was very informative, although slightly obscure. If any of you could help me understand their list of default commands and parameter settings, some of which are shown below, please write the editor.

FRACK AFTER FRICK'N XENON GASSED MAXOUT 12 TAXDELAY

FEDERAL/STATE/COUNTY/CITY CONOK CONOK WHO'S THERE STREAMSWITCH ON GET MOP ALAMODE ON HAIRSHIRT OFF **BACON EVERY 10** EGGS EVERY 5 MYRESPONSE NEGATIVE KILL EVERY CONTROL-G MALL CLOSED SHOP EARLY BED CHECK XMITOK AFTER XMITIK SENDPAC COOKIES BUG OFF SUPLISP THERTAINLY SWEDEDETECT ON DANE DETECT OFF RAGTIME AFTER 1 **PERM \$20** MANICUR \$5 UNPROTON NEUTRON MYDILEMM ON **CSTAMP OUCH** TEATIME OFF CANPAC CHOO CHOO

ABAWD DIRTY
HBAWD DIRTY
AXDELAY EXECUTION OFF
BTEXT BZZZZ
BUDLIST ANHEUSER/BUSCH
MONITOR SUNK
ENUF ALREADY

If anyone can, please help! I knew I should have stayed with twenty meter CW!!

Tnx RAGS Review

FCC PROPOSES FREQS FOR WIRELESS HOME DEVICES

by Robert Homan, "Electronic Media"

FCC has proposed to permit consumers become broadcasters of sorts in their own homes. The agency's proposal, which would permit use of frequencies in the 902-928 Mhz band for transmissions to wireless speakers and unconnected home computers may even allow consumers to transmit video signals to their neighbors. Under the proposal, no broadcast licenses would be required.

One of the reasons the agency wants to earmark spectrum for these sorts of uses is to create an outlet for pirate broadcasters who have been broadcasting on a variety of frequencies illegally. Wireless VCR operators could encounter interference from current users of that band, including Amateur Radio and the federal government, FCC engineer John Reed said.

But wireless telephone transmissions will not interfere because they use different frequencies, he said. Mr. Reed said final rules on the proposal may not be released for two years.

Tnx MARC Times

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