



the RARA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 40

DECEMBER 1987

NO. 4

COME SEE THE LIGHT!

by Dave Berhneisel, N2DPF

The December meeting of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association will be held on Friday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. We have been invited by the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club to meet with them in the Camera Club Auditorium. The auditorium is in building 28 which is located on Ridge Road ¼ mile West of the junction with Lake Avenue. Parking will be available in the visitors parking lot across the street.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Gregory Pierce from the Institute of Optics, a facility of the College of Engineering at the University of Rochester. Mr. Pierce is a Senior Technical Associate at the Institute and is responsible for the teaching laboratory.

The program for evening will be *An Electro-optic Cable TV System*. The system will be demonstrated during the meeting and there will be time for questions and closer inspection following the formal presentation. This will be an excellent opportunity to see the hardware and techniques which are just now appearing in some of the newest rigs for low power information transmission without RF interference. By all means come see the show and stay for the social period following the meeting.

Please note this meeting starts ½ hour earlier than our normal monthly meetings.

SILENT KEY

JAMES E. TAYLOR, JR.
KC2U

FCC Office Buffalo, NY
November 1, 1987

MEMBERSHIP

Is this the last *Rag* that you will receive? We hope not, however, if you haven't renewed your membership for this season it will be.

At the end of the 1986-87 season RaRa had 935 members. At this point in the 1987-88 season there are 775 members plus 270 that have not yet renewed their membership. If you are one of these 270 and recently received your final notice in the mail don't delay!! Send it back to RaRa along with your dues. Lets make this season the largest membership ever.

After renewing your membership come and join in on the fun. At the monthly meetings you will have a chance to meet new friends and talk to old ones. I know as membership chairman for the past few years that I have seen a lot of names and calls on the applications and would like the opportunity to meet more of you in person. So why not drop in to say hello. I will be looking for you.

Don't forget! Your membership dues also include the RaRa directory due to be mailed in December.

Lloyd, WB2EFU

AN AMATEUR VICE PRESIDENT?

Wayne Green (W2NSD), the publisher of *73 Magazine*, wants to be the next vice president of the United States. On the 3rd of September, Green entered the New Hampshire primary, running as a Republican.

In an interview with Westlink Report, he said that this is not a publicity stunt: "*I have been concerned... about the situation in the United States where we have been losing technology to Japan, and we have lost the number one place in finance to Japan; and I believe that there should be someone down in Washington with the responsibility of seeing that the United States is number one in the world.*"

tnx Westlink Report via RF Carrier

the **RaRa Rag**

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P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603-1388

Co-Editors **Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP**
80 Authors Avenue, Henrietta, NY 14467 (716-359-2672)

. **John J. ("Jack") Dempsey, KA2PJN**
357 West Squire Drive, Apt #4, Rochester, NY 14623
(716-424-1637)

Contributing Editor **Dwight Hill, K2KWK**
265 Norcrest Drive, Rochester, NY 14617 (716-544-2332)

Advertising Manager **Dick Goslee, K2VCZ**
24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716-334-1762)

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OFFICERS:

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Vice President: Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF 244-1856
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Amateur Radio News Service

JR. HIGH RADIO CLUB FORMING

Harry Stanton, N2GHG, a teacher at Webster Junior High School is planning to start a novice class this February. The class will be composed of those students who wish to form the Junior High's first Amateur Radio Club. Harry hopes that this club will be an incentive for these students to continue in amateur radio and become active members in RaRa. He is requesting help from the ham community to help these youngsters get a good start in radio. If any one has equipment that they no longer use or want, would you please consider donating to this young group. They are looking for but not limited to the following things: straight keys, headphones, code practice tapes, apple computer programs, FCC Rule Books, license manuals, maps and atlases, log books, wire, key oscillators, operating manuals, fairly recent callbooks, HF receivers, HF transmitters, UHF and VHF equipment.

But even more than equipment, the club is going to need your time and interest. Is there anyone out there who would like to help with this project? This is your chance to share your interest and enthusiasm with some future Hams. How about some of you retired hams, wouldn't you care to be an Elmer to one of these kids.

If you are interested in this project, or can donate some equipment, give Harry a call at home (323-2142).

HOW CAN YOU TELL WHEN IT'S GOING TO BE A ROTTEN DAY?

- You wake up face down on the pavement.
- You call Suicide Prevention and they put you on hold.
- Your income tax check bounces.
- Your pet rock snaps at you.
- You put both contact lenses in the same eye.
- You see a "60 Minute Team" waiting in your office.
- Your birthday cake collapses from the weight of the candles.
- You turn on the news and they're showing emergency routes from the city.
- You wake up and discover your waterbed broke and then realize that you don't have a waterbed.

tnx Metro Atlanta Ladies ARC via RF Carrier

THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO —

DECEMBER 1967 by Ed Gable, K2MP

This issue continued where the November *Rag* left off in describing the Eddie Meath Pennython event. Eddie Dunn, WA2KMI, and Ed Perkins, WB2MAC, were the Amateur committee chairmen. The event committee meetings must have been fun when anybody said “*Hey Ed!*”. The December meeting announcement told of an interesting meeting featuring Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, speaking on Public Safety Radio. Len told of the past, with Ducky Dengler, W2LK, pioneering Public Service Radio here and throughout the country, as well as what Cobb’s Hill is all about in current times.

Local Amateurs received a good PR boost when the Rochester Times-Union’s *TIME OUT* section featured a full photo session of a Ham Radio family. Mr. Cox authored a truly fine article which did well to outline the difference between Amateurs and CBers. Who was the family? Well, the Vogts and the Kirkbrights. Shown in front of his all home brew ham shack was Jerry Vogt, WA2GCF/WB2DRN/WB2KFC, his wife Joan (Kirkbright) WA2YTK, Jerry’s Mother and Father-in-law, Florence Kirkbright, WA2QXB, and Bill Kirkbright, WA2HWC. *AWA’s Pioneer Night* was reported to be a great success with over 100 people at the Locust Lodge to honor WHAM’s Bill Fay. A fun part of the evening included a contest to see who could tune in WHAM on a 1925 Freed-Eismann Neutrodyne radio in less than 3 minutes! Bill DeWitt, W2VZV, had some trouble with a shorted speaker cable, but did the job in short order. Membership Chairman Ed Gable, W2MPM, reports 27 new members for a total of just over 400. Glenwood Sales continues as a long time advertiser of parts for Amateur home brew work.

RaRa CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

- 4 - RaRa-KPARC Joint Meeting - Kodak Park - Building 28 - 7:30 p.m.
- ARRL 160M CW - 2200Z
- 5 - Full Moon - 0801Z
- 10 - Packet Group Meeting - 7:30 p.m. 111 Westfall Road
- 12 - ARRL 10M Contest - 0000Z
- W1AW Qualifying Run - 2200 EST
- Marconi’s First Transmission Received 1901
- 16 - HANNUKAH Begins
- 19 - Amateur Radio Exams - 111 Westfall Tests begins at 8:30 a.m.
- 20 - New Moon - 1825Z
- 22 - Winter Starts - 1000Z
- 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY
- 28 - W1AW Qualifying Run - 0900 EST
- 31 - NEW YEAR’S EVE!
- ARRL Straight Key Night - 2400Z
- Deadline for RaRa EXPRESS to Dayton HAMVENTION

RDXA

There will not be a meeting of the Rochester DX Association during December.

The next scheduled meeting of RDXA is set for January 19th, 1988.

RRRA

The December meeting of the Rochester Radio Repeater Association will be “*Family Night*” at the Strassenberg Planetarium of the Rochester Museum and Science Center.

VHF GROUP

During the December meeting of the Rochester VHF Group, testing facilities will be available for 10 to 1500 mHz preamps for characterization and tweeking.

FOR SALE— Drake R7 digital receiver in excellent condition. Receiver tunes from 0 to 30 Mhz and is equipped with optional AM filter, CW filter, noise blanker, R7/TR/7 interconnect cables, and service manual. Including original packing and manual. \$500.00/BO, K2YCO, 266-6370 after 6 p.m.

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RADIO TVI SHOES BEING RECALLED!!

Our readers are constantly forwarding us leads and tidbits of information. This one, a TVI story takes the cake! We were sent the front page of the Zimbabwe *Harare Herald* where it was featured. Zimbabwe is the African country that previously was Rhodesia.

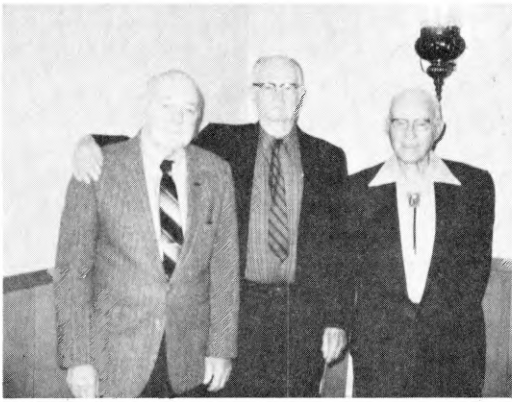
It seems that strange source of television and FM radio reception interference has been discovered. According to a spokesman for three leading footwear manufacturers, the TVI has been traced to the shoes worn by viewers and listeners!

The problem is confined to some shoes made during the last two years using hides from cattle and elephant that came from certain drought stricken areas. Because of the lack of grass, the animals had been forced to eat a certain type of weed that contained a large concentration of aluminum salts. Acting as tiny transistors, the components of the contaminated hides interacted and set up static discharges on shoes that were worn in dry carpeted rooms. Viewers and listeners were forced to move their feet to stop the TVI.

The "radio shoes" came to light, the *Harare Herald* said, when a senior technical executive of one of the shoe companies was dancing to FM "Radio Three" in his living room. He was astounded when, as he moved back and forth, the FM radio interference level synchronized with his dancing. Discreet contact with other shoe companies confirmed his suspicion.

A phone number was published (Harare 702218) where, in the most serious cases, the shoes are being replaced. It all goes to prove that interference can (and does) originate from almost anything. You might ask your TVI complaining neighbor if they are wearing imported shoes. Let me know how you make out.

tnx W5YI Report - Oct. 1, 1987



Al Crum, W2BWK center, flanked by Sax Ringler, W2SAW (left) and George Batterson, W2GB (right) can add up a total of 216 years of radio operating!

MEMBERS HONOR W2BWK

46 members attended a recent luncheon honoring pioneer amateur and commercial operator Al Crum, W2BWK, who is celebrating his 73rd year in radio.

Al's interests began in 1914 as an amateur. A year later he obtained his commercial operator's license and found employment with the Goodyear Company at their 15 kilowatt spark wireless station at Toledo, Ohio. In 1916 he was a wireless operator for the Marconi Company, a position he held until we entered the War.

His interest in radio has never lessened and today one can find him operating regularly on 40 and 75 meter SSB. A retired commercial photographer, his pictures have appeared in both *RaRa RAG* and *AWA OTB*.

Also honored at the luncheon was Rochester's pioneer dance band leader Carl Dengler. His interest in dance bands started in 1928 while attending West High School making him the oldest continuous band leader in Rochester. His career at various radio stations and popular resorts was highlighted by Art Kelly, W2ROB, former general manager of WHAM.

Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, Club Historian

DICK SMITH USA SOLD

The US interests of Dick Smith Electronics, the Australian firm which marketed low-cost amateur transceivers in the US, have been sold. The buyer is American Electronics, of Greenwood, IN, who will continue the business. Address and phone number: 173 East Broadway, Greenwood, IN 46142, (317) 888-7265.

tnx ARRL Letter

MICHAEL G. RICE

(KB2SG)

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PRB-1 WINS IN LONG ISLAND CASE

A federal judge has relied on PRB-1 to void a local height limitation as applied to an Amateur Radio antenna. Andrew Bodony, K2LE, erected a 86-foot crank-up tower at his home in the Village of Sands Point, in Long Island, NY. The tower was located in a wooded area of tall trees which would shield the tower from view even when it was fully extended. The Village has an ordinance which limits the height of accessory buildings, a category which includes antenna towers, to 25 feet.

The Village issued Bodony a summons charging him with a violation of a village ordinance requiring a building permit for the tower. Bodony applied for the permit, which was denied. Bodony then appealed to the Zoning Board of the Village seeking a variance.

After conducting a public hearing, the Zoning Board denied the variance saying that Bodony could still operate his station with a 25-foot high antenna and that an 86-foot tower would depreciate property values and be detrimental to the character of the neighborhood. Bodony then brought suit in the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York to overturn the denial by the Village of his application for a building permit, citing PRB-1 and violations of his constitutional rights.

In granting partial summary judgment in K2LE's favor, the District Judge found PRB-1 to be a proper exercise of FCC authority and found that the Village was precluded from applying its 25-foot height limitation on accessory buildings to K2LE's antenna. The Court said: "*The fact that (the Village ordinance) ... does not prohibit amateur communications is not the answer to a claim of preemption. An absolute limitation of height affects Bodony's right to the full use of his amateur radio station issued by the FCC.*

"The Zoning Board did not consider a height above 25 feet ... The FCC, (in PRB-1) placed upon the Zoning Board the duty of striking a balance between the federal interest in promoting amateur operations and the legitimate interests of local governments in regulating local zoning matters.

"The record fails to show that the erection of the proposed antenna will endanger the health, safety and general welfare of the residents or be detrimental to the character of the neighborhood or to the residents. The Zoning Board did not determine the height above which the antenna would endanger the health, safety and general welfare of the residents ... The action of the Zoning Board is devoid of any effort to make a

reasonable accommodation ... between the two sides."

The Court ruled that the 25-foot ordinance was invalid as it applied to Bodony. Now Bodony and the Zoning Board must renegotiate his antenna height.

This court test of PRB-1 represents the first time a local zoning ordinance as applied to an Amateur Radio antenna has been declared invalid on the basis of PRB-1, and further strengthens the position of radio amateurs fighting unreasonable local ordinances.

tnx ARRL Letter

REACCREDITATION OF VEs IN CARIBBEAN

The FCC has advised the three Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) in Region 12, the Caribbean region primarily serving Puerto Rico, that the FCC will no longer accept the services of any currently accredited Volunteer Examiner (VE) in that Region.

According to the FCC, this action is taken "*because of widespread irregularities occurring in the volunteer examiner system in Puerto Rico.*" The FCC action was taken pursuant to Section 97.515(b) of the Amateur rules and is effective immediately.

The FCC has further advised the three VECs, ARRL/VEC, W5YI VEC, and DeVry VEC, that reaccreditation is possible for those VEs "*in whose integrity you have absolute confidence.*"

Applications based on examination sessions already held will be processed, but future examinations in this region have been placed on temporary hold.

David Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL Executive Vice President, has issued the following statement:

"The Volunteer Examiner Program has been serving Amateur Radio well for more than five years. The problems in Region 12, as serious as they maybe, are a rare exception in a program that has earned a reputation for integrity that exceeds the expectations of even the optimists. Nor should the Commission's action be considered an indictment of all examiners in Region 12, the vast majority of whom have exhibited the highest of standards. Rather, what the Commission has done is a welcome sign that these high standards can and must be maintained by all participants in the Volunteer Examiner Program, in all regions."

tnx ARRL Letter

AMATEUR BULLETINS FROM K2KWK

Bulletin programs are provided three times each week on many VHF frequencies for radio amateurs and listeners of western New York State and the Rochester area. They are transmitted by Dwight Hill, K2KWK, of Rochester. He is both an Official Bulletin Station and Public Information Assistant for the American Radio Relay League. The programs are available Sunday and Tuesday evenings, but new frequencies and repeaters were added in April.

SUNDAY NIGHT: 8:45 p.m. appearing on N2JC repeater one Sunday, then on the K2SA repeater the following Sunday, then back to the 88 repeater the third Sunday. This precedes the Monroe County FM Net beginning at 9:00 p.m. on the same rotating schedule. Also, the bulletin program is picked up by WB2SUN and transmitted on that repeater system at 224.26/444.8 mHz.

TUESDAY NIGHT EARLY: 7:30 p.m. on the Attica, NY repeater system at 145.31 mHz with a wide area coverage from roughly Geneva, New York to the Niagara Falls area and the border areas of Pennsylvania and Canada.

TUESDAY NIGHT LATE: 8:15 p.m. simultaneously as follows:

- WA2DHV/r Springwater, NY - 146.76 mHz output, linked to,
- WA2DHB/r Springwater, NY - 223.5 Mhz output, linked to,
- N2CEH/r Hammondsport, NY - 145.19 mHz.
- WB2IMT/r Canadice, NY - 224.68 mHz output, linked to,
- WB2IMT/r Canadice, NY - 443.6 mHz output.

Bulletins have been sent by K2KWK for two meter ham listeners in the Rochester area since September, 1975. This activity has its roots going back to 1954 when the Rochester Peanut Whistle Net gathered Sunday evenings to share information among local hams using 15 meters. The purpose of the bulletin programs is to provide recent information to participants in several area FM Nets, and for others who are just listening. Since 1976, when FCC proposed to split ham radio into two separated license areas, the value of spreading up to date news has been very apparent. Magazines still have about a three month lead time for news. Other short lead time news sources are "ARRL LETTER", "W5YI Report", "Westlink Report", etc.

The first Bulletin programs on local repeaters were done by WB2WPA, Gary Arnold. When Gary's work moved him out of town K2KWK was able to pick up the bulletin microphone.

Today the bulletins still rely on the ARRL for most of the current news information. The morse code bulletins from W1AW are copied each week by hand and edited into reading shape. (A subtle way to keep your dxing code speed up there!) Sometimes to help understanding extra story information is supplied by other commercial services. Once in a while, help of friends with computers is needed and the bulletins are real fun to read when printed by computer. As always, information is invited from others regarding ham-fests or special events or activities. Questions and discussion of bulletin subjects are still welcome after each program. After twelve years, the K2KWK Bulletin Service continues to serve western New York amateurs and we look forward to the expanded schedule, frequencies and the new wide area coverage made possible on the WA2DHB, N2CEH and WB2IMT repeaters.

Thanks for listening, "73", and good hamming from Dwight, K2KWK.

FCC PUBLICATIONS

The FCC has the following publications available from the Field Operations Bureau. Federal Communications Commission, 3711 Long Beach Boulevard, Room 501, Long Beach, California 90807. Telephone: (213) 426-4451.

- Booster Amp. Interference to TV (FO-9)
- Home Satellite Dish Installation (FO-3)
- Interference Handbook, Locating and Eliminating Electrical Interference to TV and Radio Reception (FO-12)
- Radio Tower Painting and Lighting (pending)
- Telephone Interference (FO-10)

tnx LEARC Bulletin

FOR SALE -Eprom Programmer for Commodore 128, 64, 20. Promenade C1 Mfg by Vason & Rawheim. N2AUV, phone 467-2360.

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"To all my valued customers, I will not be able to accept any repairs until February 1, 1988 due to a change in address. I will still reside in Lancaster, New York with the same phone number. Thank you.

**George L Krickovich, W2YJ
Commercial Communications"**

Advertisement
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

BACK IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

When one thinks about the radical evolution of the computer industry, have you ever wondered about ham radio?

As we all know, spark was the real thing when ham radio first started. Along about the 20's tubes became available and the major change started.

All amateurs built their own equipment, both receivers and transmitters. The receiver was usually a one tube affair although some wealthy amateurs added one or two tubes as audio amplifiers. The receivers were regenerative. For phone it was set on the ragged edge of oscillation and for code it oscillated. Regeneration was controlled by a variable condenser (that's what they were in those days!), a rheostat or a variometer which was a coil that turned inside another coil. Some even had a loose coupler which permitted tuning to the very low waves.

The transmitter was a single tube. Even if only a half watt the plate coil was made from 1/4 inch copper tubing (you had a high Q this way and drifting was little). Two glass curtain rods were mounted as a track and the antenna coil could be adjusted by sliding it on the track. In those days almost everyone used 160 meters because those higher frequencies were not good for anything!

Initially a long wire and ground was used for the antenna. About this time the Graf Zeppelin appeared and how do you get a ground on a Zepp? Their antenna type leaked out and the amateurs used it. There were two parallel feed wires about 6 inches apart. At the antenna, one connected to nothing; the other to the long wire.

The power supply was usually a couple of 45 volt B batteries and a storage battery for the filaments. You could legally use ac on the plate but it was difficult to read so a half-watt station could beat the half kilowatt ac signal!

There were very, very few varieties of tubes. All were triodes. The main one was the UV201A. There was also the 99 series which had a base about 3/4 the diameter of the others.

At the beginning it was not known that the higher frequencies could be useful and so the amateurs were allocated all of these frequencies since "they were no good for anything else; give the whole works to the amateurs". Well, the amateurs soon discovered that they did work, and a band system similar to that used today was created.

Commercial receivers were also one tube affairs unless you had a lot of money, then you could get a 3 tube affair with a loud speaker. Good perma-

nent magnets were not available so the field had to be energized with the battery. A popular one was the Westinghouse which came in two cabinets. Another used a WS-11 tube (1.5 volt filament) and had 1 tube. Crosley was another popular brand.

Since BC receivers used a storage battery and had to be taken to town for recharging, garages had systems that would charge many at the same time!

Kind of like going back to those days when computers used cards for all their operations!

tnx ARNS via LEARC Bulletin

HOW'S MY AUDIO?

Does a 5 x 9 phone signal report always mean "perfectly readable"? Based on 30 years of operating experience, Pete Kilingsworth, KD7WZ of Seattle, Washington offers a humorous look at what the HAM at the other end of the QSO might (really) mean.

SUPERB AUDIO ... It doesn't sound like you, but at least it sounds human.

EXCELLENT AUDIO ... Sounds like your head is down in a barrel and you are talking into the wrong side of the mike.

GOOD AUDIO ... You do a great imitation of Donald Duck, with the hiccups.

VERY PUNCHY ... Are you using a speech processor or a garbage compactor?

A LITTLE HUM ON YOUR SIGNAL ... Is that a Boeing 747 warming up in your back yard?

YOU MAY BE OVERDRIVING A TAD ... I can hear your teeth hitting the mike.

SLIGHTLY TINNY ... I can't tell which side-band you are on.

A BIT GARBLED ... Am only getting every third word, but that's ok, because I'm not listening anyway.

SCRATCHY AUDIO ... Sounds like your mike cord is shorted to your cars ignition system.

tnx LEARC Bulletin, from WA6LOD via Hughes Bulletin via Nittany ARC

FOR SALE - Janel 144 MHZ receive converter. Covers 144 to 148 MHZ. (two LO Xtals) 28 - 30 MHZ output \$20.00. Parks 432 MHZ receiver converter. 432 - 434 MHZ in 28 MHZ output. \$20.00. Buy both and get a converter switch box. K2YCO, 266-6370 after 6 p.m.

HAIRY CONVERSATIONS

The Communications Center of Anaheim's NEWSLETTER recently reported of a woman living in the nearby community of Fullerton, California. It seemed that she complained to the FCC about some obscene Citizen Band talk that she was hearing. That's nothing new, except that in this case she was hearing the nasty words on her curling iron! She said that it nearly scared her to death the first time a conversation came through. Well, she called the local FCC office. They advised her that it was probably interference from a nearby high power illegal CB station. They also told her that it would take them at least 3 years before they could get around to investigating the matter. Another example of your tax money at work for you.

*tnx WESTLINK REPORT via Reading
Radio Club Bulletin via Nittany ARC*

CAPTAIN VIDEO RETURNS?

Meanwhile another satellite television programmer has been jammed. An uplinked pirate signal overpowered "The Playboy Channel" on Sunday night, September 6, and replaced the movie "Three Daughters" with the message, "Repent your sins. Keep the Sabbath Holy". The FCC's Field Operations Bureau is investigating. Maximum penalty for this type of offense is a one-year sentence and a \$10,000 penalty! *tnx W5YI*

FOR SALE - HUSTLER 5BTV 80 - 10 meter antenna. Good condition with SS ground ring. \$50.00/BO, K2YCO, 266-6370 after 6 p.m.

FOR SALE - HW101 - CW and SSB filter 100W out 115V and 12 volt power supply and speaker. \$200.00 start. Dave Hassett, K2SQI, 621-1846 after 5 p.m.

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TADA COMMUNICATIONS

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RaRa EXPRESS TO DAYTON HAMVENTION

December is the last chance to sign up for the RaRa EXPRESS to the Dayton Hamvention next April. We need several month lead-time to arrange a charter-bus with the bus companies since the HAMVENTION is the week-end after Easter.

Call Jack, KA2PJN, at 461-8630 (work) or 424-1637 (home) to sign up before it's too late!

GET THOSE BEAMS READY, BETTER DX DAYS ARE COMING!

The consensus is that we are well on *on the upswing of Sunspot cycle 22*. Periods of extreme ultraviolet radiation (and a more closely packed ionosphere off which to bounce radio signals) run in approximate 11 year cycles. Peak long distance communications propagation is now predicted for the year of 1989 to 1992. At the end of this year you will note a marked propagation improvement. Happy hunting!

tnx W5YI

FOR SALE - From the estate of K2CD:

Transmitters, receivers, transceivers, keys and keyer, tubes, meters, test gear, transmitting/receiving filters/high grade surplus parts. Many more items to giveaway prices. "Sax" Ringle - W2SAW - 671-5616.

FOR SALE - Complete Home brew KW VHF power amplifier rack. 500+ watts output on 50, 144, 220, and 432 MHZ. \$500.00/BO. Trades? K2YCO, 266-6379 after 6 p.m.

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