



the RARA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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NO. 6

RaRa LICENSING COURSES

by Ed Gable, K2MP

The 1988 Spring Licensing classes begin February 22, 1988, at the Monroe County Office building at 111 Westfall Road, corner of West Henrietta Road. Registration begins at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

In this session we are offering all classes except the Amateur Extra. This course is not being considered at this time due to pending changes in the Extra Class question pool. Returning is Bob O'Connell, NF2Z, as head of the Novice Class group with Joe Phillips, W2DHF, as the 5 WPM code instructor. We are also very pleased to have Dave Hassett, K2QSI, back at the chalk board for the Advanced Class theory portion. Bud Young, WA2UGE, will key the General code practice while yours truly attempts to get the Tech/General theory across.

Those familiar with the administration of these classes are continually amazed at how the classes are always full with no advertising! So it is up to you to pass the word to your fellow Hams and radio enthusiast who may want to join our ranks or upgrade to a higher class ticket.

No pre-registration is required. Simply show up on Monday, February 22, and everything will be taken care of that night. As usual, there is no separate charge for the courses. We do ask that everyone joins the Association and a small registration fee is assessed. The total cost, then, for all registrations and material is \$20.00 for Tech/General and Advanced and \$17.00 for Novice. Subtract the cost of dues if already a member. Remember too, that the Club station, K2JD, is always open on Monday evenings during the 13 week spring session. "Come on down."

SILENT KEY

CHARLES CONA
KA2HWB
December, 1987

READY TO COPY

The next meeting of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association will be held on Friday, February 5, 1988 at 8:00 p.m. We will be meeting at the Forty & Eight Club, 933 University Avenue.

The program for the evening will be presented by Art Debruycker, W2YGW, Assistant Manager, NYS Traffic Net. The title of the presentation will be *The National Traffic System*. Art has promised to explain how you can become involved with traffic handling and the benefits of traffic handling to each net participant. If you have any questions about traffic handling, be sure to bring them to the meeting so you can take advantage of Art's experience and knowledge.

In addition to the program, refreshments will be provided by George Muller, WA2IEO. Please join us for an evening of significant educational and social pursuit for the Rochester Amateur community. See *YOU* there!

INTERNATIONAL SISTER CITIES OF ROCHESTER

We have had a request from SP9JPA, in Krakow, Poland, to arrange regular schedules. You may be aware that Krakow is one of Rochester's seven Sister Cities. I will appreciate a call from anyone interested. Call George, K2OIU, 586-6922 to take part or to get further information.

For the Krakow communication it seems to me that it would be helpful if at least a few of the Rochester hams taking part were from families with some Polish background, especially if they had some knowledge of the Polish language.

Another of Rochester's seven Sister Cities with which (for medical purposes) there is a real need to keep radio contact, is Bamako, Mali. Through the efforts of Irv, AF2K, we have been able to start schedules with TZ6VV. Now we need more hams taking part to keep this going. Again, call George, K2OIU at 586-6922 to participate or get further info about these and other Sister Cities activities.

George Negus, K2OIU

the *RARA RAG*

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HAMFEST

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The Rochester Hamfest is scheduled for the weekend of May 21 and 22, 1988. I hope that you have marked your calendar so that you will be sure to be able to attend. The planning for this years Hamfest began shortly after the 1987 Hamfest when the date was set and reservations made for the Dome Arena and grounds.

I pointed out last month that Harold Smith, K2HC, had been chairman for the past twenty-four years and this month I will tell you about some of the other people that make the "Hamfest" click.

The vendors that attend the show start sending in booth reservations in November and they continue to arrive up to and including opening day. The person that has the responsibility of organizing this portion of the show for the past few years is Ash Palmer, K2EAW. He records the vendors, assigns booths, keeps track of monies, - whether they have paid etc, lists out tables and chairs required and on opening day makes sure that all the vendors are happy!

The flea markets, outdoor and indoor, are supervised by Dave Payne, KA2J, with the operation of the indoor flea market being under the direct supervision of Pete Seclist, WB2SUN. They are responsible for the parking of all cars in the outdoor area and making sure that the indoor area is set up and accessible to the vendors. This is not a job that only requires one to get up on Friday and Saturday morning, arrive on site and park cars. Maps must be drawn and prepared showing where and how cars are to be parked, sizes of parking spaces and widths of the driveways. When this is completed, they must be submitted to the town Fire Marshall for his approval. When this is complete the grounds and indoor spaces have to be marked out to make it possible to park cars in an efficient manner and to maximize space usage.

To be continued

FCC LOSES COMMISSIONER

Mimi Weyforth Dawson was sworn in as Deputy Transportation Secretary in the Department of Transportation on December 3. This brings the number of FCC Commissioners down to three, out of five that are authorized: Chairman Dennis Patrick and Commissioners James Quello and Patricia Diaz Dennis. See the November 19, 1987 *ARRL Letter* for information on nominees to fill the vacancies.

Tnx ARRL Letter

VOL. 40 FEBRUARY 1988 NO. 6

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Amateur Radio News Service

SECOND COMPUTER FOR RaRa

With the increase in membership and also the number of people listed in the Directory it has become obvious that a newer and faster computer system was needed by RaRa. For over a year some of the members have been working on a project to obtain the new computer without placing a large dent in the budget. This dream has now become a reality. On the last day of December a new computer system was installed at the club station.

The new computer along with new software will allow much faster processing of the membership records. Also, since the records for the Directory and the Membership are maintained in the same database it will improve the accuracy of the information as well as make it easier for the membership secretary to maintain these records. In addition to the membership records it will now be possible to also keep a copy of the club financial records available for the use of the Directors at board meetings.

The new Zenith computer is an IBM compatible, which has become the industry standard today. This means that future additions of hardware or software will be easier to accomplish. It also makes the computer compatible with the new system purchased by the hamfest this year. Each computer is the backup for the other system. The new computer will also free up the existing Tandy computer for use with the club radios for packet, RTTY and CW. In addition perhaps we can come up with a computer generated logbook and QSL card system for use on the Tandy computer at the club station.

RaRa would like to thank the following members and Rag advertiser for their generous contributions of equipment and help in installing the software for the new system: Heath/Zenith Computer & Electronics, Dick Goslee - K2VCZ, William Gibson - KB2CHD, Scott McCagg, Robert McMinn, Neal Eckhardt - WB2EKP, and Dave Bernheisel - N2DPF. Without their donations of materials and time this project could not have been accomplished.

MEMBERSHIP FIGURES UP

ARRL membership continues to rise, partially due to a spurt in overseas members. Compared to this time last year, membership has increased by 5763 members. Total membership is now at 148,607.

Tnx ARRL Letter

RaRa CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

- 2 - Groundhog Day
- 5 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue
- 12 - VHF Group Meeting
- 19 - RRRA Meeting - 8:00 p.m.

FIELD DAY — 1988

Your Board of Directors feel that RaRa should participate in Field Day this June 25 and 26. Do you, the members, feel the same way? Would you like to join in on the fun and spend a weekend out in the open while operating? If so, you can contact Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU, at 671-7079 or sign up at the February RaRa Meeting.

This function will have to be limited around 12 people depending on the equipment that becomes available for use and the number of bands that can be operated at one time. In order to be fair to all Club Members, the operators will be on a first-come, first-served basis. So, if you have a real desire to have fun, sign up early.

This will require a lot of coordination. When you sign up, let us know what equipment, antennas, coax, wire, or other accessories you may have that can be used. Also, let us know if you can help in the coordination of this activity such as finding a location, operating schedules, food, etc.

As the interest grows, more information will follow in the *Rag* during the months ahead. We hope to hear from you soon!

AT&T TELEPHONE FILTER TO ELIMINATE RF INTERFERENCE

If you are having a problem with your amateur radio transmissions being heard on near-by telephones there is a filter that you can buy from AT&T Technical Services Division that will help. They can be reached at 1-800-222-3111. The Z-100A filter is an in-line modular filter for desk style phones. There is another type for wall phones but I do not have the part no. for that one. The Z-100A is priced at \$17.95 plus State sales tax. You can order it by telephone and pay for it with any major charge card, or they will mail it to you upon receipt of your check or money order. Delivery with charge card is 5 to 7 working days.

de W3SAY via NARC Radio

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS "ON CALL"

by Mike Power, RG&E News

While more than 300 trained RG&E personnel helped the Company successfully carry out another radiological emergency response exercise in October, six of those employees are still "on call".

In fact, they're always on call.

The six, members of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, are: Ed Holdsworth, Elec. T & D Eng. (N2EH); Bob Hobday, Rate & Econ. Res., (N2EVG); Phil Brown, Engineering (WA2EKK); Phil Donato, Cust. Accounting (N2GLU); Roger Harnaart, Elec. Meter & Lab. (WB2BWQ); and Dave Payne, Elec. T & D Eng. (KA2J).

They are "always" on call because they are members of the association's emergency communications group, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES).

The amateur radio organization fills both emergency and non-emergency communication needs when called upon by city, county and state authorities, the Red Cross and Social Services Departments.

For example, during a chemical plant fire in Brockport last August, RACES provided communication for the Red Cross and County Social Services Department. Members serve a similar function for local governments during the Ginna exercise.

Also during the Ginna exercise, members staff radio communications at the Monroe County Emergency Operations Center, and in the field. They accompany simulated radiation dose assessment teams to various locations within the 10-mile radius of the Ginna plant, and convey the team's "readings" to the proper authorities.

In the event of a phone system failure during any type of general emergency, as well as an actual or simulated radiological emergency, these amateur radio operators would be the main source of communication for Wayne and Monroe Counties, and RG&E.

They draw high praise from county officials. County emergency planners say they rely on the RACES volunteers such as the RG&E group to step in during telephone network difficulties, and provide dependable backup communication.

"Under these conditions, RACES will be the primary communications link in all aspects of response," explained Clyde Woods, Monroe County Emergency Preparedness Director.

"Based upon their professional capability, I have no question they will be able to pull us through. The detailed planning by the group and continuous training each volunteer operator undergoes is truly inspirational. The dedication and motivation of each member is unquestionably beyond the call of duty."

The club does not wait for an emergency to turn on its radios, however. Members spend many enjoyable off-duty hours contacting other amateur radio practitioners around the world.

They also volunteer their communication expertise for public service events such as marathons, rallies and boat races.

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association has about 900 members in the area. It was formed 55 years ago and now counts 62 members in its emergency communications group, RACES.

For more information on the group, contact Ed Holdsworth on ext. 4372.

PAN-AMERICAN GAMES QSL NOW READY

W87PAX operating from the 10th Pan American Games held at Indianapolis has advised that the QSL cards are now ready for mailing. There have been approximately 10,000 requests for the cards, 100 of these from nonham shortwave listeners.

The "Pan Am Hams" operating crew will reassemble and disburse the cards, hopefully to be completed prior to Christmas.

Tnx ARRL Letter



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THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO —

FEBRUARY 1968 by Ed Gable, K2MP

"73" magazine Editor Wayne Green, W2NSD/1, is pictured on the cover of this issue as it is announced that Wayne will be a featured guest at the May Hamfest. Wayne's talk to the group is titled "Is Amateur Radio the Key to UFO's?" The program at the February meeting will be given by the AWA and will include the story of the ill fated Titanic which sank in 1912 and revolutionized the use of wireless.

In his VHF News column, Harvey Prace, WB2IUM, told of the last VHF Group meeting which featured Tom Ball, WA2THS, speaking on construction practices for home brew equipment. VHF SS contest chairman, Chuck Oneske, K2YCO, announced that 63 logs were in so far with a score total of 210,000 points. The Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club, in nearby Canandaigua, announced the formation of a new net on 50.44 mc with Leigh Robartes, W2EHA, as Net Control. A new ham radio magazine was announced by Jim Fisk, W1DTY, formerly with "73" magazine. The new publication will be called "Ham Radio" and will cost three dollars a year. New members this month included Jim Collinworth, WA9LQC; Bob Jeffers, W2ALL; and David Vogt, WB2BNJ. A new advertiser to the *Rag* is Hamtronics of Belmont Road in Greece. WA2EQQ is offering for sale a 50 foot Tri-Ex tower and rotator. A three bedroom colonial house is attached as an extra!

FOR SALE — TS-120 with PTT Mic, Instruction Manual; MFJ Versa Tuner II; Astron Power Supply, 20 Amp model; Heath HM 2140A SWR/Power Meter; and I will toss in a Hygain 10-80 Vertical. I am asking \$575 for it all, but will listen to offers. Call Joel Swartz, KA2GBX, 235-4928.

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THE RAG GETS BURNED

It seems that ever so often a "sham" gets going throughout the world which, when investigated, proves to be a hoax! In Amateur Radio the story about the origin of the word "HAM" has been going around. This one concerns a meeting in Congress by three men whose initials were H, A and M. It has been proven that this could not possibly be true, in particular, "HAM" was used for an amateur many years before the meeting.

There is a book on the market called "Rumor" which contains a great many false rumors that have been floating around the country at times in the past.

Not too long ago, in the Bulletin, an article was published relative to wearing a contact lens at the time one sees a flash caused by electric conductors flashing while the wearer was looking at it. The article said that this would fuse the lens to the eye and cause blindness in that eye. The book, "Rumor", states that this is not only untrue but it is also a fabulous lie!

If you have read that article in the *RaRa Rag*, please forget it, or, as an option, pass along the information that it is untrue.

Also pass long the information about the origin of "Ham" as being untrue.

Tnx ARNS

NOTE OF THANKS

Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank RaRa, especially Ed Gable, K2MP; Bob O'Connell, NF2Z; Joe Phillips, W2DHF; and Bud Young, WA2UGE; for the assistance and encouragement in obtaining my ham ticket through the Novice and Tech/General classes. I attended the Tech/Gen theory class conducted by Ed Gable, and the 5 WPM class conducted by Joe Phillips. The theory and regulation books were helpful, but I learned much practical information during class from Ed's vast knowledge and experience.

Between November 30th and December 19th, I passed my 5 WPM code, and Novice, Technician, General, and Advanced theory and expect to take the 13 WPM next month. I've been interested in ham radio since I was 8 years old (some 28 years ago!), and finally did it with the help and enthusiasm of these fine gentlemen.

Thanks Again & 73's,
Dave Minchella, KB2ETG/KT
(working toward my EXTRA!)

WINTER FUN FEST

by John Lloyd, KA2KFV

Mendon Ponds Park will again be the sight of our Cabin Party, February 13th. The anticipated ski trek will start at 10 a.m. We will all meet at Hopkin's Point Lodge. The cabin will be available after 12 noon but for all the hearty members who wish to get a little exercise beforehand come and join us.

Chili and hot chicken soup will be available after noon. The YL's have the choice of board games this year. The baked food contest will again be held. Bring a log and enjoy a scrumptious hamburger dinner cooked on an open grill by one of our illustrious presidents. A donation for food will be collected at the door.

We were surprised to find that the cabins are now heated by quartz heaters in the ceiling. We don't advise parking up near the cabin. It seems the hill to the cabin gets a little slippery. The best idea is to park in the parking area in front of the pond. There shouldn't be any trouble locating the cabin or the park. Just drive out Clover Street and enter the park at the 2nd entrance. After entering the park, just stay to the right until you reach the cabin. By the way, the kids will find some nice hills just outside the cabin to use their sleds. Hope to see you all there!

FOR SALE: Hamtronics UHF Linear Amplifier Kit - 90% Complete - \$50; Hamtronics Transverter 28Mhz in UHF Out (Ideal for OSCAR) - Complete, Tested - \$75; Gonset Communicator 6M AM Transceiver - Mint Cond. W/Manual - \$20; AMECO Preamplifier (1.8 - 54Mhz) - \$20; Heath DX-60B transmitter - \$40; GM Automobile radio 1976 - \$5; RTTY Demodulator suitable for 60 ma Teletype Machine - \$20; 50 feet of Hardline coaxial cable (aluminum jacket) - \$25; Clegg FM-88 transceiver 143-149 Mhz. VCO circuit needs work, includes tone pad mic (drake) and manual - \$80; Standard 10 channel 2M transceiver, 10 watts needs drive transistor (2SC730), includes service manual - \$25; Digital Clock (24 Hr format). Call Kevin, WB2QMY, 334-5158.



KENWOOD ANNOUNCES NEW HF TRANSCEIVER

Kenwood has announced the new TS-680S, an all band, all mode, 100 watt transceiver with a slight difference. This difference is an extra band - this rig includes not only the HF bands, but the 6-meter band as well. (On 6-meters, the TS-680S runs 10 watts out.)

This rig also contains a new feature, a programmable band marker which can be used to mark band edges to prevent out-of-band operation. Other "bells and whistles" include dual VFO's, 31 memory channels, programmable scanning, IF shift, dual noise blankers, RIT and FM squelch.

Tnx ARRL Letter via NARC Radio

ARUBA ADDED TO DXCC LIST

The ARRL Awards Committee has voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the DX Advisory Committee to add Aruba (P4) to the ARRL DXCC Countries List. The new Aruba listing, now separate from the Netherlands Antilles listing, is by virtue of Point 1 (Government) of the Country Criteria. Aruba credit will be given for contacts dated January 1, 1986 and after.

Please note the following administrative procedure for submitting cards for Aruba credit:

1) Do not submit cards for Aruba credit before April 1, 1988.

2) Before Aruba credit can be given to those who already have credit for the Netherlands Antilles, a Netherlands Antilles card must be *RE-SUBMITTED*. Therefore, along with the creditable Aruba card, please also resubmit any card confirming contact with Curacao or Bonaire, or an Aruba card dated December 31, 1985 or earlier.

Tnx ARRL Letter

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FIRST OFF-HOURS EMERGENCY EXERCISE IS SUCCESSFUL

by Mike Power, RG&E News

Shortly after 1:30 in the morning on October 27, more than 300 home phones of RG&E employees started ringing. The callers were saying, "Time to come to work".

This odd starting time was dictated by the scenario-writers for the 1987 radiological emergency exercise. Despite the middle-of-the-night call, most positions at Company stations were staffed within an hour.

The exercise established two "firsts" for the Company: (1) It was the first off-hours exercise; and (2) It was the first unannounced exercise. Company participants knew that the drill would be held the week of October 25, but they didn't know which day.

The test was also followed immediately by a 50-mile ingestion Pathway Drill, in which state and county emergency responses were observed in counties located on a path extending 50 miles out from Ginna Station.

The Ginna exercise, also called the Plume Exposure Pathway Exercise, tests RG&E and county response within a 10-mile radius of the Ginna plant.

The exercise compresses into a few hours events which would probably take several days to unfold in an actual emergency. The result is more pressure on participants and less time for decision-making than they would have in a genuine emergency.

A satisfactory performance is a condition of nuclear plant licensing.

Both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Agency critiqued this year's exercise. Both agencies said we did well in handling and correcting the simulated problem at the plant, and in getting information out to the public.

BETTER TAXI CAB SERVICE?

Motorola has a new digital taxicab dispatcher which could make voice dispatching obsolete! Calls are automatically flashed on an LCD terminal of the closest taxicab. The driver pushes a button to accept the fare.

Tnx W5 YI Report

K2SDD RAMBLIN'S

WELCOME TO HAM RADIO . . .

Recently our Novice radio class graduated many people into the exciting world of ham radio. If you are one of them, or if you've received your license in the past but have yet to find out how to enjoy what awaits you, I have suggestions. These are based on my own experiences and my own love of talking to and making friends with people hundreds or even thousands of miles away. I find talking on a VHF or UHF repeater very useful. The calls that I receive on 2 meters far exceed those that I receive by the telephone. And carrying a hand-held radio wherever I go so that I am never out of touch is helpful and makes life very comfortable. But for real excitement, nothing beats a talk with another ham who is across the sea while I am relaxing in my shack with a cup of hot tea on a cold winter night.

The "minimum" of the sunspot cycle has been passed a few months ago and already conditions on 10 meters are improving rapidly. Most days there are many hours when signals can be heard from Europe, Africa, and the Pacific. South America is even easier. If you tune to 28.5 MHz and down, you will hear plenty of DX being worked by Novices. You will hear Novices talking about the number of states worked and about QSL cards they have received.

How can you get in on this? Everyone wants the best radio that money can buy, but not many of us can afford it. For \$200 to \$500 you can buy a used radio that is nearly as good. If you can obtain the help of an experienced ham, by all means do so before you buy. There are some very good bargains around, but if a selfish individual takes
(Continued on back page)

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advantage of your lack of experience and sells you a garbage radio, your frustration may cause you to lose interest and we will lose you from the hobby. No one wants that. We need you. So please, ask for advice, even if it is by telephone. I could easily name 20 desirable rigs or 20 rigs to avoid without even looking at them. Most hams who have been active for 15 or more years can do the same. Don't hesitate to ask for suggestions before you buy. Quality is not cheap, but a good radio can cost less than a set of golf clubs.

Sooner or later we all discover that the antenna has a greater affect on your signal than the rest of your rig. Put up a real antenna and not just a wire tossed out of the window. On ten meters we have some definite advantages over the other HF bands. The antenna is shorter; a dipole is only 16 feet long. Many CB antennas can be shortened about 9 percent and used on 10 meters. A three element 10 meter beam is small enough to be mounted on your chimney like a TV-antenna. Low elevation works fine.

And because the noise level is lower on 10 meters, a little signal can sound like a lot. And 10 meter waves reflect off of a highly elevated level of the ionosphere so that one skip can send signals very great distances. Low power can produce high signal strengths when band conditions are good. And 10 meters is getting to be very good. I have worked Australian Novices on 10 meters who were using converted CB radios. That is all the way to the other side of the world. Think of what 100 watts can do.

Back in the days before 2 meter repeaters, 10 meters was the main band for local rag-chewing. As the DX of the daylight hours would fade away at night, area hams would congregate to talk about the best catches of the day. The frequency of 28.325 MHz has recently become a popular local spot in the evenings in Central New York. Try it.

Another popular activity on 10 meter is chasing 10-10 numbers. To get your number, you work 10 members on 10 meters and send the list in to the 10-10 Club. The Club was started about 15 years ago to drum up activity on 10 meters at a time of low sun-spot numbers, when it was feared that if we didn't use it, we would lose it. Awards are given for different levels of achievement. A monthly column in *World Radio Magazine* is devoted to the 10-10 Awards.

In many countries, the Novices are limited to only 10 watts. To them any one with 100 watts and a good antenna is a big shot. So you may be a Novice, but you won't feel like one. Personally, I think that you should learn the code and upgrade to General so that you can be a big shot on all of

the bands. But if like 170,000 others Novices and Technicians, you don't want to, you can still have a tremendous amount of fun. You worked hard for your ticket, you deserve it. If you don't know how to get started, ask for advice. Hams are very friendly. But you will have to ask first. It may have taken a little time but most of us have eventually learned how to solder a coax-connector, assemble a dipole, hook up a radio and call CQ. If you are just getting started, we were there once too. Come to a club meeting and find a friendly face. Often those long-winded guys whom you wish would shut-up, are the most enthusiastic and friendly. But nice guys can be quiet and shy too. So ASK.

Just one more thing, when it was first announced that Novices would be granted voice privileges on 10 meters at a relatively high power level, many old timers feared that the band would become violated with poor, sloppy, CB-type operators. This has not happened. The Novice operators sound just like the rest of us, because they want to fit right in. Novice enhancement is one of the greatest things to happen to ham radio. Novices we need you and we welcome you. Please assemble for yourself a nice station, get on the air often, and help to keep our ham-bands full of hams.

73 MIKE, K2SDD via RAGS Review

FOR SALE— Model AR-40 CDE - Rotor, Control Box and Cables - \$40.00; Mini Quad Beam 6M thru 20M, Control Box and Cables - \$65.00; Johnson Viking Challenger Transmitter 6M thru 80M - \$40.00. Inquiries on the above may be made and ask for Armand (WB1 FMV) after 4:30 p.m. Phone: 723-1205.

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