



the RARA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 40

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NO. 8

THE WAY IT WAS

by Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF

The April meeting of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association will continue in the custom of past years – an excursion into the rich and colorful history of our hobby. Yes, it is finally time for the annual Old Timer's Night. This has always been a great opportunity for the new and the seasoned Ham. It will be a chance to recall some of the great times and unique experiences of your own past or to learn about the 'good old days' to which the veterans often refer.

Our speaker for the evening will be Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, who is the curator of the Antique Wireless Association Museum in Holcomb, New York. The topic for the program will be *KEYS – Large and Small, Famous and Unique*. Bruce always provides a program full of interesting and fascinating tales and pictures. If you miss this one, you will have to wait another year to find a comparable presentation.

The meeting will be held at the 40 & 8 Club, 933 University Avenue and starts at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will be followed by the usual social hour. Please note that nominations for officers and directors of the club will be held during the business meeting.

NEXT RaRa MEETING

April 8, 1988

SILENT KEY

DURWARD C. SKIFF
W2AVF
March 13, 1988

GINNA PRE-DRILL DATE CHANGE

The date of the Ginna Pre-drill will be September 14, 1988.

RECIPROCAL LICENSING REMINDER

Amateurs traveling to VE land are reminded that the US has automatic reciprocity with Canada. All that is needed for operation north of the border is your **original** license. US amateurs visiting Canada must use the VE1-8 identifier, such as NUØVE2, when visiting Quebec.

If you are planning a trip to a foreign country other than Canada, and are interested in the possibility of operating there, you can obtain information sheets, which in most cases contain application forms, from the Regulatory Information Branch at ARRL HQ.

Most countries require a minimum of 4-6 weeks lead time for processing of reciprocal permit requests, so consider this when making the request.

Be sure to include a SASE with one unit of First-Class postage for every three countries on which you desire reciprocal licensing information.

Tnx ARRL Letter

ARRL LIFE MEMBERSHIP MAY TRANSFER TO SPOUSE

The ARRL Board of Directors at its January meeting made Life Membership transferable to a spouse under certain limited conditions. ARRL By-Law 9 now reads "Life Membership is not transferable; however, upon the death of a Life Member, it may pass to a surviving spouse upon request, if he or she is a Family Member and licensed at the time of the Life Member's death. A new Life Member plaque, if desired, will be available for a one-time fee of \$25.00".

Tnx ARRL Letter

the **RaRa Rag**

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Amateur Radio News Service

RaRa CLUB JACKETS

Now is the time to order that new official RaRa jacket or long-awaited replacement. Two new styles are being offered, as described in the accompanying chart; for a closer look, check the illustrated brochure available at the April 8th meeting. The price range should accommodate any budget, and includes all the usual customizing.

Be sure to place your jacket order as soon as possible, as orders will not be accepted again until September. If you are unable to attend the April meeting, mail your check before that date for full payment to RaRa/JACKETS, P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603-1833. Be sure to specify style desired, lining, size (S, M, L, XL), and also indicate if you do *not* desire your call and first name to appear on front. Please include your telephone number on mail orders. For further information, call Irv Goodman, AF2K, at (716) 671-4430.

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HAMFEST

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

This month I want to tell you about a small group of people that on the Friday before the Hamfest converge on the Fairgrounds early in the morning to make it all "Come Alive". I refer to the group that has attained national prominence and has become known as "Holdsworth's Coolies". This is the group that starts with an empty dark building and makes it into the bright marketplace you see on Saturday morning when the doors are first flung open at the "Dome". This would be an impossible task to make it ready in the short time that is available without the assistance of these people. They can easily be picked out in the crowd as they wear Green Ribbon with the word "Coolie" on it with honor.

I also want to mention the operation known as K2JD Engraving with Bob Lauzon, K2RL, as chairman, which is set up next to the Hamfest platform in the Dome. This was the outgrowth of difficulties that came about in the early Seventies in getting a quality engraver to attend our show. The decision was made at that time to purchase our own machine and provide this service ourselves. This group, in addition to doing this at our show, has become a traveling road show and attends several Hamfests during the year as well as Bob running the operation from his home at other times.

To be continued

Rochester HAMFEST

MAY 20-21-22, 1988

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RaRa APRIL CALENDAR

- 8 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue
- 22 - RRRRA Meeting

A NEW FOUR CLASS AMATEUR LICENSING IN CANADA?

Our sources north-of-the-border tell us that there is increased speculation that the Canadian DOC is on the verge of approving a new four class amateur licensing system with a no-code VHF-UHF entry level license (no home brewing allowed). The second class would require 4 wpm code no technical exam and allow all modes all bands 200 watts max - again with only commercially available radios. The third class is rumored to require 12 wpm on each technical exam and permit all modes all bands 1 KW max with commercial gear. The fourth class is the only one that allows home-made equipment to be used after taking a technical exam. The prohibition against using home-brewed equipment is a new concept and kind of interesting! But let's face it. Most ham gear is now store bought.

Tnx W5YI Report, February 15, 1988

UoSAT COMMAND STATION DAMAGED

Some of the Southern England's infamous weather has damaged the primary UoSAT Mission Control Station.

Gale force winds damaged the antenna system at the University of Surrey, which has been undergoing repair and refurbishment after ten years of continuous service. Repairs are underway on the main system, and the back-up system consisting of the famous UoS (University of Surrey) gun mount and dish was worked on during the high winds to enable UO-9 and 11 to be returned to service. UO-11 was off the air for several days while repairs were effected.

In other news from Surrey, a 60-page publication is available on the UoSAT spacecraft. *UoSAT Spacecraft Data Booklet* covers both UoSAT 1 and 2 is available from the University of Surrey and AMSAT-UK for three and one half English pounds (payment in English Pounds is required) from:

AMSAT-UK

94 Herongate Road

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MORE FROM THE OLD TIMER

My old ham friend from long ago, Chick Little, called me the other day. He was really shook up. He told me that he has noticed recently the newspapers, magazines, radio stations and TV stations were in a frenzied competition to advise the lay public concerning the dangers of living. "My Gawd, L. T.," he said. "Nothing is safe anymore and everything causes cancer! Why just the other day, some epidemiologist said ham operators get more of certain cancers than the regular population, especially if they live in Washington and California. No mechanism was proposed and no correlation with exposure to RF was made – just having a ham license was apparently enough."

Well, I assured Chick that he shouldn't get excited and rile up his blood pressure 'cause that's cancerous too! But ol' Chick went on – "Those printed-media heroes, in between all the sexy ads for beverage alcohol and cigarettes, are sure keeping us well-informed about bad things – which I am sure is helping keep up the incidence of anxiety neurosis, peptic ulcer and apathetic depression! Do you remember over 20 years ago, they almost cancelled Thanksgiving because the U.S. crop of cranberries had a dose of pesticide? Do you remember the day they discovered so much mercury in swordfish that you could hang 'em outside and use 'em as a thermometer? And, NO_x, CO and unburnt H. C. s from auto exhaust being cut down by catalytic mufflers and replaced by copious amounts of sulfuric acid (produced by the catalyst)! For goodness sake, we can't even burn the autumn leaves anymore. Ever think about the air pollution caused by building the truck, and operating the trucks hauling away the leaves? And what is worse, we are now told that terpenes from natural pine forests cause more smog than automobiles ever did!"

Well, I told old Chick to relax and calm down. Maybe take a trip to sunny Florida and laze around on the beach. He recoiled with horror and said, "No way I'm lying in the sun – the UV causes cancer! And our use of freon is making a hole in the ozone layer and sun burning everybody!"

Surely, Chick, we must be doing something right, I said. Look at all the nuclear power plants we have closed down or built and not operated. We have replaced many of them with coal-fired plants. "Where have you been, O.T.?" said Chick. "Aren't you aware that more radioactivity is produced and pumped out of the smoke stacks by coal burning power plants than by nuclear plants? That's progress? Well, O.T., I'm going to relax and take a deep breath and go take a

nap. Surely that's not dangerous". I replied to Chick – don't take too deep a breath, even too much oxygen is dangerous. Look at all the bald ex-pilots! And don't use an electric blanket, all that 60Hz electromagnetic exposure can cause awful things! Chick replied, "Doggone it, O. T., I called you for some support and comfort and I didn't get any! I think I'll just go dig a hole in the ground, climb in and pull the hole in after me!" I said in reply, Chick Little, don't do that either! There's a lot of RADON down there.

He hung up on me!

SK 73 de TOT

P.S. I just saw the morning paper! Natural foods cause cancer! Formaldehyde in apples! Toxins in peanut butter! A form of dioxin in broccoli!

My heavens, what's next?!

Tnx RAGS Review

RRRA ANNOUNCES WAM AWARD

by Ernie Bagins, KD2CU

The Rochester Radio Repeating Association is proud to announce The WAM, Worked All Municipalities Award. For those Hams who become bored after making the works all counties list, and DX Honor Roll, this award is guaranteed to incite interest.

Assuming an average of 10 municipalities (cities, towns, villages, and hamlets) per county, you will need over 30,000 contacts to receive the award.

A rules and municipality checkoff book is being drafted by The Award Committee of RRRRA, and should be available by the turn of the century.

In the tradition of other U.S. Awards, QSL cards must be turned in for verification of contacts. They can be shipped by common carrier to our warehouse in Rochester, New York.

A less expensive alternative is to send RRRRA a First Class airline ticket, from Rochester to your QTH, and a member of the Award Committee will come to you for QSL validation.

Repeater contacts are encouraged, and special endorsements will be available for WAM2 meter FM RPT, WAM 220 FM RPT, and WAM 440 FM RPT.

FOR SALE – TS-940S/AT Automatic Antenna Tuner and 6KHZ AM Filter installed. Indistinguishable from New but priced \$400 below AES Sale price. MINT \$1678 cash firm. K2BBK, Ollie, 461-4246.

CATV PACT

The city of Torrance, California has written protection for Amateur Radio operators into the franchise agreement between the city and the local cable TV company, Paragon, Inc. The wording of the new agreement is as follows: "Amateur Radio frequencies shall not be used on the cable system unless such channel capacity is needed to provide service to Paragon's customers. In such instances, such channels are to be used solely for alpha-numeric services ... If after utilizing such channels for alpha-numeric services ... channels are needed to provide other services and there is further need for other video transmissions, Paragon can use these channels after consultation with the city". This agreement was drawn up by the City Manager and the City Attorney. Thus, if there are any vacancies on the 60-channel cable system, the ham frequencies will be assigned to those vacancies beginning with channel E, followed by channels J, K, WW, and XX, in that order. Channel E is in the amateur 2-meter band, J and K are near the lower end of the 220 band and WW and XX are in the 440 band.

Tnx ARRL Letter

AMSAT PHASE 3 C TO LAUNCH SOON

The launch of AMSAT's Phase 3C Amateur Satellite could occur as early as the latter part of April. The word from Europe is that as soon as tests in West Germany are complete, the spacecraft will be arriving in Paris on its way to the ESA launch facility at Kourou, French Guiana.

Into technical writing? The AMSAT folks are in need of authors to provide information to the Amateur Radio community about Phase 3C, and how to utilize the satellite. If you are interested in assisting with this project call AMSAT at 301-589-6062.

Tnx ARRL Letter

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THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — APRIL 1968

by Ed Gable, K2MP

The May Hamfest is traditionally emphasized in this and the May issue. Here it was reported that ARRL co-founder Clarence D. Tuska is to be a guest of honor at the affair. Similarly, Henry Blodgett, W2UTH, reports that Nicholas Marshall, W6OLO/2, will be the featured guest at the East Coast VHF Conference. Mr. Marshall is one of the founders of the OSCAR Association and is a consultant to NASA. This well attended VHF Conference was held in conjunction with the WNY Hamfest for many years.

The RaRa Nominating Committee: Jim Sims, W2GDB; Rocky Mastrella, WB2NFY; and Ray Leigh, W2SNI; reports the following slate for consideration. For President Mr. Ernie Crewdson, WA2FVG, current VP, will automatically succeed. For VP, Al Mumby, WB2MCP, with John Wenrich, WB2FJU, and Joe Castro, WB2HLI, for Secretary and Treasurer. To the Executive Committee we have: Charlie Hooker, W2DXV; Ed Gable, W2MPM; Bob Gross, WB2RVV; Dave Hassett, K2SQI; Bob Lozen, WB2ERE; George Negus, K2OIU; and Ed Perkins, WB2MAC.

Despite the handicap of not having the perennial Cappy Capauldy, K2UXF, at the helm of the Valentine Dinner-Dance, everything went very well indeed. With Cappy recuperating from an illness, the ladies picked up the ball and saved the day. Who were these dashing young things? None other than Helen Smith, WA2YRH; Wilma Oneska, and Florence Kirkbright, WB2QXB. Eddie Dunn, WA2KMI, provided the Master of Ceremonies honors with Jack Morse, K2KFN, brought the movie entertainment.

Harvey Prace, WB2IUM, in his VHF column reminded people of the availability of the "Worked All Rochester" (WAR) award for VHF contacts on six and two meters. From the Want Ads, you could buy an Apache and SB-10 sideband adaptor for \$160.00 from Ben Kendig, WA2YCK.

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SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTING PIPE FOR A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT

All pipe is to be made of a long hole surrounded by plastic or metal centered around the hole. All pipe is to be hollow throughout the entire length. Do not use holes of different length than the pipe.

The inside diameter must not exceed the outside.

All pipes over 500 feet in length should have the words "Long Pipe" printed clearly on each end, so the contractor will know that it is a long pipe. Pipes over two miles in length must also have the words "Long Pipe" in the middle so the contractor will not have to walk the entire length of the pipe to determine whether or not it is a long pipe or a short pipe.

All pipes over 6 inches in diameter must have the words "Large Pipe" painted on it so the contractor will not mistake it for a small pipe.

Flanges must be used on all pipes. Flanges must have holes for bolts quite separate from the big hole in the middle.

When ordering 90, 45 or 30 degree elbows be sure to specify right hand or left hand, otherwise you will end up going the wrong way.

Be sure to specify to your vendor whether you want level, uphill or downhill pipe. If you use the downhill pipe for uphill, the water will flow the wrong way.

All coupling should have either right hand or left hand threads, but do not mix the threads, otherwise, as the coupling is being screwed together at one pipe, it is being unscrewed at the other.

From American Radio, Wireless Institute of Australia, via LERC Bulletin

CABLE LAW

Cable television systems may soon be free to provide just about any level of customer service that the cable system wants.

This is the result of a San Francisco federal court decision that took place in the middle of last month that ruled unconstitutional a Federal Communications Commission requirement that cable television companies provide public access channels.

The ruling also overturned franchise requirements that local municipal governments usually enact which forced cable TV systems to provide service to all residents in their area, and to install current state-of-the-art high technology systems.

Since state-of-the-art cable systems use new equipment and transmission lines, they tend to be less prone to both RFI generation and susceptibility. Thus, this ruling could be serious for amateur radio and other forms of personal communications operating in areas served by cable.

The case involved a suit brought against the city of Palo Alto, California by Century Communications.

Century also challenged the city's right to make a profit from the cable franchise, saying it was unconstitutional for Palo Alto to require Century to turn over 5 percent of its revenues to the city every year.

The judge hearing the case deferred any decision saying he did not possess the knowledge necessary to make a decision on this issue. An appeal by Palo Alto is likely in the other two findings.

Westlink Report via The Mike & Key

FOR SALE – Kenwood TH-41BT handheld w/tp, extra battery pack, belt clip and leather case, changer. Bought new at last years Hamfest, used little – asking \$150. Call John, N2AGB, 346-5165.



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STOP LOOK AND LISTEN (SL&L)

You have seen these warning words at railroad crossings all of your life. What does this message have to do with ham radio? Well, I am using it as a suggestion that might help those hams who have problems trying to contact a desired station.

Ask yourself, are you happy with ham radio? Are you getting the most out of your equipment? Are you having difficulty getting good results with your operating? Do you have a problem getting through a pile-up, or trying to contact a wanted station who is all by himself in the clear? Could you possibly be contributing to problems for other ham operators?

That's a pretty long questionnaire, and no one will be graded on the results – But – stop for a moment and ask yourself WHY? Some hams, for ages have achieved all kinds of records with minimal equipment, while others have floundered around blaming everyone else and/or their “*lousy set-up*”. Blame also propagation, QRM/QRN, competition from super-stations, a poor antenna or equipment. Yet DXCC Honor Roll has been achieved by hams with under 100 watts, old fashioned equipment and every adverse situation we can think of. Just remember Pogo's famous words, “*We have seen the enemy and he is us!*”

Have you ever stopped, looked and really listened (*SL&L'd*)? Have you really *SL&L'd* to the local hams who are making the successful contacts? There are lessons to be learned. Every situation requires a different strategy. If you're looking for a nice rag-chew QSO, it hardly pays to operate down into a DX portion of a band and be wiped out by a pileup. Don't expect results from excessively long CQs. The family cat may get results with its long nocturnal calls, but that is not the best way on the air. If you want to work DX, long calls and power are not the answer. **STRATEGY** is the way to go, *SL&L*.

SL&L to the successful operators. In any situation the key to success is to take the time to find out how the system works.

Calling CQ – obviously if no one ever called a CQ there never would be a QSO initiated. That's the way they start. But, if everyone is calling CQ, who's to answer? To get things started and before you call CQ, have you *SL&L'd* to what may be out there? Calling QRL and a long CQ can net you a nice LID label (that you probably deserve), and no QSO's.

Tackling a Pile-up – requires the utmost *SL&L*. *SL&L* – if the DX station has worked

someone by the time you finish calling him, you are making calls that are too long. If the DX is listening up or down the frequency, do you know it? Did you *SL&L*? Do you have the timing of your calling right, *SL&L*, you'll find out. If your timing is off, not only do you not make a contact, but you interfere with someone else who is trying to complete one.

Skill and Ability – we are not all experts. We are not necessarily the worst, we may never be the best but we can try. First and foremost is to make sure that your equipment is operating properly. One thing is certain, it is NOT necessary to try out your equipment or tune up on the air before every QSO or after QSYing a few kilocycles. The difference will be minimal if you have things in order in the first place. There are simple ways to eliminate the on-the-air tuneup. If your operating mode is CW, your worst handicap is poor keying. If you can copy 10 WPM, send at 10 WPM. Why bungle through at an unintelligible 25 or 30 WPM that neither you nor anyone else can copy. Listen and practice your keying- off- the- air. Clear and accurate sending at any speed will get results.

Patience – is the key to success. We live in a society attuned to “Future Shock”. Many of us cannot handle the fast pace and tend to take it out on those we come in contact with. On the highway we run them off the road, blow them out of the skies, curse them, – hi-jack, kidnap, and what have you. so it is no wonder that ham radio has its share – the jammers, the vocal abusers, the egotists. There are a multitude of annoyance on the air – inconsiderate people – patience can help to ignore them – don't join them.

A bit of *SL&L* can make ham radio a more pleasant hobby for all of us.

Tnx SF via Harmonics



WANTED – Astronomical telescope. Edmund Astroscan or other Richfield type preferred. WB2WWV, 227-3084.

The **ARAR GAG**

Published by

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VOL. 2

SPECIAL APRIL FOOL'S EDITION 1988

NO. 1

RIG-NAPPING IN CALIFORNIA

Last year *The GAG* disclosed the divorce suit of Elmer Hunnicutt, KA5DUM, where his now ex-XYL was suing to win custody of Elmer's amateur radio rig and tower. Since our last edition, Betty Hunnicutt won the divorce suit, but only won custody of Elmer's rig, a Kenwood TS-440S. Elmer counter-sued for visitation and operation use, and won, but is only allowed to operate one contest a month.

On December 31st, while Betty went out to a New Year's Eve party, Elmer showed up to operate during the L.A.R.R. Old Key Night. With Betty's absence, Elmer took the opportunity to rig-nap back his Kenwood. In its' place Elmer left a State of Nevada court order for full custody of the rig.

The F.B.I. and F.C.C. have both been alerted to this first in the nation case of "rig-napping". However, it is feared that Elmer has changed his name and changed his callsign, re-qualifying as a Novice some where in the deserts of Nevada.

P.A.R.A.-TROOPERS COMING TO ROCHESTER?

Several months ago on the West Coast, a group of disgruntled radio operators, whose applications to erect 75-foot towers were turned down by their local zoning boards formed the Political Action for Radio Amateurs (P.A.R.A.) committee. A few of their more militant member have nicknamed themselves as P.A.R.A.-Troopers, and have started blowing up broadcast television station towers during six o'clock evening news programs in Colorado, Idaho and Wyoming to get their point across.

Rumors reached *The GAG* that P.A.R.A.-Troopers had come to the Rochester area, and had their sights on Channel 8's tower. A source close to the P.A.R.A.-Troopers, "Deep Coax", said that the group might blow up the Channel 10 or 13 towers, but not Channel 8's "because probably no-one would ever notice".

FURTHER HAM RADIO TAX REVISIONS

Last year *The GAG* was the first (and only) Amateur Radio publication to reveal the "Pride and Joy" clause of the new tax laws where Amateur Radio operators will soon be allowed to declare their rigs and antennas as dependents on their federal income tax returns.

When one of the members of the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.) read that article in her husband's *GAG*, she informed the N.O.W. headquarters and also told them the small number of YL's and XYL's on the air as Amateur Radio operators.

N.O.W. in conjunction with the League of Amateur Radio Ragchewers (L.A.R.R.) lobbied the Congress and the Reagan Administration to enact even further tax changes to make it even more advantageous for YL's and XYL's to become Amateur Radio operators.

The new tax code will allow a full extra deduction for a YL or XYL who becomes an Amateur Radio operator after January 1st, 1989, and will allow all child care expenses to be deducted while attending Amateur Radio code and theory classes, as well as testing.

KODAK BUY-OUT FALLS THROUGH

After its' multi-billion dollar adventures on Wall Street over the last few years, the Eastman Kodak Company announces that talks to have the Association of Radio Amateurs of Rochester (A.R.A.R.) as its' own "White Knight" to buy it out and protect it from foreign competitors have broken down.

GAG sources close to the negotiations have found that the main stumbling blocks to the merger talks was that among its' holdings, Kodak did not own any amateur radio electronics firms, nor any hunting and fishing supply companies which the financial director of A.R.A.R. thought was vital was a necessity for future growth of Kodak.