



the RARA RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 40

MAY 1988

NO. 9

RaRa ANNUAL MEETING MAY 6, 1988

This annual meeting is held each year for the purpose of electing new club officers and directors as well as determining dues for the following year.

The meeting is scheduled to begin promptly at 8:00 p.m. at the 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue.

Please plan to attend to support your club.

AREA HAMS NEED HAM HELP

Reachout Radio, a reading service for the blind and visually impaired is looking for 1 or 2 people, Amateurs preferred, to read a half hour each week from a ham radio magazine. These programs are usually recorded in advance, but could be done live at the studios on French Road. All you have to do is read! Total time for each weeks program should not be much more than 1 hour if you live in the Rochester area. For more information please call Chris Wienk at the Reading Service phone 244-2222. Also, he needs people to work on the station control boards, controlling the audio going to the transmitter. This is a job which can be broken down into small biweekly segments, if you wish.

The Reading Service is broadcast over the SCA channel on WXXI, 91.5 Mc., and is picked up on special receivers loaned to the listeners.

A TIN EAR

by Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF

The May meeting of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association will be held on May 6, 1988 at the Forty and Eight Club beginning at 8:00 p.m. Anyone who has taken the amateur exams knows how to copy CW, but have you ever thought how to tell a machine to do it? The program for the evening will be presented by Jim Reda who will describe the development and operation of a computer based hardware and software system for copying CW. After Jim shows us how it was built, he will demonstrate the results of his work.

Please remember that this meeting is also the annual business meeting of the club and that election of officers and directors will be held.

Come out to the meeting, take part in the club decision-making process, learn something about what you knew all along and meet your old and new friends for an eyeball. It all happens at 933 University Avenue - doors open at 7:30 and the meeting begins at 8:00 sharp. See you there!

ON-LINE CALLSIGN DIRECTORY

A new on-line callsign directory is now available from Buckmaster Publishing. HAMCALL provides access to the latest call directory listings via your computer and modem for only \$29.95 per year with unlimited use. New Novices have a special price of only \$19.95. Write for further information to Buckmaster Publishing, Mineral, VA 23117, (703) 894-5777.

Tnx Westlink Report

GINNA PRE-DRILL DATE CHANGE

The date of the Ginna Pre-Drill will be
September 28, 1988.

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, KA2PJM**
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)

HAMFEST

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

This month I will attempt to cover the remaining committees that work to make the Hamfest a smooth running organization and fun for those that attend. I first want to mention the group from the Rochester Radio Repeater Association led by Ray Pickens, WA2MYG, that operate the talk in station for many hours before and during the Hamfest. This group furnishes the many and varied directions that are required to get strangers arriving in the area to the Dome Arena in the easiest and most direct route. This year, with the construction at the *Can of Worms*, their operation will probably be needed more than usual.

I also will mention the work done by the group headed by Dick Goslee, K2VCZ, that every year solicits nominations from the 200 or more affiliated clubs in the Atlantic Division for Amateurs that they feel are outstanding enough to receive the "*Amateur of the Year*" Award. Dick is assisted by Bill Thompson, W2MTA, and our own Division Director, Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, in making the final decision from among the many candidates that are nominated. The regular committee also has the assistance of the past two recipients of the award in making this decision.

We are also proud to have on the Hamfest Committee Lee Van Grol, WA2YEK. Lee has been in charge of Ladies Programming for the past few years and is responsible for coming up with programming for the YL's that come to the Hamfest but do not necessarily have a deep interest in Amateur Radio.

The two main ingredients that will make the Hamfest a success are the people that I have mentioned in the past articles, those that have volunteered their time and effort to put it together and the people that show their support by ATTENDING.

I have had compiled a few statistics about our Hamfest that I want to pass on to you, the members. There are approximately 2600 Amateurs in this area with about 926 listed as members of RaRa. The break down of area amateurs that attended the Hamfest shows that 229 came from the 146 zip code area, 177 came from the 144 area and 145 from the 145 area. If you were one of those that attended and took advantage of the services provided for you - we say THANK YOU. If you did not attend - please consider the services provided and support the Hamfest so that we, as an organization, can continue to provide the top quality show that you have come to expect. I also want to point out that there will be several new exhibitors at the Hamfest this year.

VOL. 40 MAY 1988 NO. 9

OFFICERS:

President: Bud Young, WA2UGE
Vice President: Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF 244-1856
Secretary: Keith Freeberg, N2BEL 315-589-8901
Treasurer: Dick Goslee, K2VCZ 334-1762

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU 671-7079
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Irv Goodman, AF2K 671-4430
Bob Hobday, N2EVG 624-3368
Ed Holdsworth, N2EH 624-1929
John Lloyd, KA2KVF 254-2394
Bill Shaw, N2EKR 288-1547

Club Historian: Bruce Kelley, W2ICE
Public Service Coordinator: Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH
License Testing Director: John Schooley, K2NC
Membership Chairman: Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU
Licensing Course Director: Edward Gable, K2MP
Hamfest General Chairman: Harold Smith, K2HC
K2JD Engraving Director: Robert Lauzon, K2RL

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Amateur Radio News Service

I hope I have been able to give you a little insight into the complexities of putting on a Hamfest of this size. I will look forward to seeing and talking to as many of you as possible and would appreciate any constructive thoughts for improvements that you may have.

Hope to see you at the Hamfest
May 20, 21, 22, 1988

THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — MAY 1968

by Ed Gable, K2MP

Yes, it's Hamfest time again with much news of the anticipated event. Tickets are still available from ticket chairman Ernie Crewdson, WA2FVG, or you can pick them up at "Roch Radio" from Vic LoTempio, W2RIS. New this year is a hospitality room for out of town guests at the Trenholm Motor Lodge on West Henrietta Road.

The May meeting was scheduled to have Mr. J. Gordon Pearce, Principal Engineer at Stromberg-Carlson, who will speak on automatic telephone switching techniques at the Friday night gathering in the Monroe County Farm and Home Center auditorium. The new Advance Class license is bringing many people back into the classrooms. Some 40 people completed the Spring 1968 Advance class with Bob Jeffers, W2ALL, and Dave Russell, WA2GIA, doing the instruction. At the same time, Wally Kincaid, WB2HZG, increased our Amateur ranks by 25 with his successful Novice class. It was reported that the slate of officers and directors were: Ernie Crewdson, WA2FV, President; Al Mumby, WA2MCP, VP; with Joe Castro, WB2HLI, and John Wenrich, WA2FJU, as Treasurer and Secretary. To the Executive Committee: Bob Lozen, WB2ERE; Bob Gross, WB2RVV; Ed Perkins, WB2MAC; Ed Gable, W2MPM; Charlie Hooker, W2SXV; George Negus, K2OIU; and Dave Hassett, K2SQI. Paul Modern, K2GWT, reports on the Rochester Peanut Whistle Net which was then in its 11th year. A new call in procedure was announced along with new net control stations: Alan Komenski, WB2ZFM, for the Phone net and Dave Haliday, WB2ZEA, for the CW sessions. The RaRa officers reported that due to the recent postage increase to six cents, and the whopping, budget blowing cost of \$150 to mail the hamfest brochure, that a third class non-profit postage permit would be applied for! R. C. Cagen Sales continues to advertise "Unusual, Unique, Bizarre and Queer" equipment for sale.

RaRa MAY CALENDAR

- 6 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue
- 20 - RRRR Meeting
- 20,21,22 - Rochester Hamfest
- 27,28 - Skaneateles Amateur Radio &
Computerfest, Allyn Arena -
Jordan and Austin Streets

HAM FUNNY MONEY — IRCs

According to the U. S. Postal Service's *International Mail Manual*, the sender of a letter may prepay a reply by purchasing an International Reply Coupon (IRC) which are sold and exchangeable for postage stamps at post offices in member countries of the Universal Postal Union. Most DXers are familiar with these bits of flimsy paper as they, along with "green stamps", are commonly used to prepay return postage when requesting a QSL card from a DX station.

An IRC is exchangeable in any UPU member country for postage representing the minimum postage on a surface letter. Several IRCs (the number varies from country to country) may be exchanged to prepay an international airmail letter.

A valid IRC purchased in any foreign country may be exchanged at a U. S. post office at the rate of 37 cents per coupon. The exchange is usually in postage stamps but some postal employees, not familiar with the regulations, will exchange the IRCs for cash! IRCs purchased in the U. S. may be exchanged for stamps by the original purchaser for an amount of stamps equivalent to one cent less than the original purchasing price. Some postal employees will exchange U. S. IRCs for anyone at the one cent discount. The current USPS price of an IRC in the U. S. is 80 cents.

The current series of IRCs were issued on and after January 1, 1975. The *International Mail Manual* states the following: "Reply coupons issued by foreign countries prior to January 1, 1975, are no longer redeemable at U. S. post offices". This statement implies that USPS IRCs purchased earlier may be redeemable. IRCs issued by the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain are not valid. They can be identified by their caption "Cupon Respuesta America-Espanol".

An IRC purchased at a U. S. post office must be postmarked in the lower left corner, otherwise it is invalid.

*Adapted from QRZ DX Weekly DX News
Bulletin DX Tips for Big Guns &
Little Pistols via Harmonics*

SURE-FIRE AMATEUR RADIO PERSONALITY TEST

by Maria L. Evans, KT5Y

Directions: Circle the letters of the sentences below that most closely resemble your attitudes about Amateur Radio. Then read the descriptions of those same letters that follow to determine your personality profile.

A. Twenty meters is the band with all the action. Its propagation, overall characteristics, and the skill of its regular operators epitomize the entire concept of Amateur Radio.

B. Twenty meters is full of California flakes and East Coast kilowatts. Amateur Radio is a fraternity exists only on 40 and 75 meters.

C. Traffic handling is a living example of the history and traditions of Amateur Radio, and traffic handlers exude skills and decorum not found in the amateur community as a whole.

D. The high excitement and fever pitch of contest activities sharpen the endurance and stamina needed in emergency operation.

E. Amateur Radio has few unexplored areas, few real operating frontiers. UHF is one of the last of these outposts of research and exploration.

F. Amateurs have a duty to serve their community in emergency situations. Consequently, each amateur should be prepared for the possibility that he/she may be called upon to render service above and beyond the call of duty.

G. Personality, I find traditional modes of amateur communication quite boring. Amateur Radio's only future is in the growing number of specialty modes and new developments in amateur communication.

H. As a young person involved in Amateur Radio, I find that I am often confronted with cultural gaps in my hobby.

I. Just as women in today's world are breaking into traditionally closed areas, today's YL is also becoming more involved in amateur activity. As

one of this new breed of YL, I find the men and women of Amateur Radio exciting and challenging.

J. Too many hams these days are technically inclined to the point that they aren't good conversationalists. I find the friendships I've gained via Amateur Radio the most rewarding part of my hobby.

PERSONALITY PROFILES:

A. You are fat, middle-aged, and smoke cigars. A real DX fiend, you own stacked monobanders at 150 feet. King Hussein knows you on a first name basis. When you key the mike, the power company declares a peak power consumption period.

B. Your idea of state of the art equipment is an HW-101. You own a NCX-3 or Hallicrafters of some sort. You and your cronies make a 7½ KHz wide dent on the upper end of 75. On CW, you use a bug, and your fist reflects the creaky CW of the elderly. When people can't sleep, they tune to 40 and listen to you rattle about the "AM days".

C. You are basically nosy, and get secret thrills out of reading the traffic you pass. Your obsession with line noise borders on paranoia. You fantasize about using thermonuclear devices to eliminate all your neighbor's household appliances, and strangling the 75 meter round-table geezers with hardline.

D. You wear plaid shorts, black socks, and loafers to hamfests. Your call tag has little blinking LED's on it. Children in your neighborhood get spending money by shoveling out the aluminum beer cans at your place that stack up on contest weekends.

E. You think two meters is for peasants. Your house looks like Moon-base Alpha. Truth is, you have gear for every band above 440, but no one to talk to. People with pacemakers should not come over to your place.

(Continued on next page.)

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ROBERT R. ROBERTS, WA2QAU
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F. Disaster is a turn-on for you. You love to jump in your car and chase tornados. You took every kind of first aid class the Red Cross offers in hopes of becoming a hero the next time it floods. You hover over the local repeater like the Angel of Death.

G. Your shack looks like Mission Control. For X pieces of gear, you have X/2 coax jumpers and 2/3 (X-1) pieces of interface cabling, so it takes 30 minutes to go from one mode to another. In an ordinary, garden variety ragchew, you are a total conversational geek.

H. Your parents hope Amateur Radio is just a phase you will grow out of. You lose points with dates by leaving the two meter rig on at the drive-in movie. You tell your friends that you'll be on MARS this afternoon, and they ask you if you can get them some of those good drugs, too.

I. Strange old men call you "honey" on the air. Everybody wants your QSL for WAS-YL. At hamfests, XYL's fume when you buy tickets for both the afghan AND the TS-430. While discussing erotic subjects like the Russian Woodpecker, these same XYL's drag their husbands away from you. Sometimes you wonder if someday these gals are going to get together and buy you a call sign hat with a scarlet A on it.

J. You regularly call CQ on top of BY1's. You call home on the auto-patch and your spouse divulges your darkest secrets on the repeater. You have an impressive collection of "borrowed" QST's. Last week, your neighbors hired a gypsy to curse your tower.

As the reader has now discovered, NOBODY won on this one!

*from the Okaw Valley ARC
via The Electron-Sterling-Rock Falls
via LERC ARC Bulletin*

FOR SALE - Mosley Tri-Bander with 40m. Element - \$150. Contact K2RHS, Eddie, after 6 p.m., 889-2536.



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17-METER AMATEUR BAND NOT OPEN

The 17-Meter amateur band (18.068 - 18.168 MHz) is not yet open to US amateurs.

Rumors were flying very fast that the FCC had opened the 17-meter band, and ARRL HQ was deluged with phone calls requesting information.

The ARRL is doing everything possible to get early access to the band, which, while available to amateurs in many countries on a not-to-interfere basis, will not become a worldwide exclusive amateur allocation until July, 1989. The ARRL has studied the current list of assignments, both international and domestic, and is attempting to identify segments that might be made available for amateur operation sooner than 1989. However the 17-meter band is *not* available at the present time.

Tnx ARRL Letter

PRIVATIZATION OF CALLSIGNS

W5YI reports on FCC response concerning the possible private operation for selection of specific amateur radio callsigns.

"This is coming down to a decision point... it shouldn't be too long. We have completed our work on it and we are getting ready to submit it now. There is a big long approval cycle. When I say we have completed work on the issue, I mean at the branch level. We are no where near the end of the line. There are still a lot of approvals and reviews ahead yet".

"The threshold decision is whether we want to do it or not. One of the key things is whether or not it is going to cost us any resources. We have analyzed all of the comments. Thirteen people have proposed to issue amateur radio call signs in the private sector. The major proposals were by the League, the Callbook, Buckmaster Publishing, CAVEC and Forest Industries... among others. ANY decision is a couple of months away ... at best".

Tnx W5YI REPORT

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K3UKW**

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RaRa RAG 5

1988 Nominating Committee
Meeting of April 8, 1988

To: Ralph P. Young, WA2UGE, President
Keith F. Freeberg, N2BEL, Secretary

The 1988 Nominating Committee has selected the following slate of candidates to be placed in nomination for the positions as Officers and Board of Directors for the Rochester Amateur Radio Association during 1988-1989. Each candidate has indicated a willingness to serve and has accepted their nomination.

The nominees are:

OFFICERS

Vice-president – Robert Hobday, N2EVG
Secretary – Peter D. Secrist, WB2SUN
Treasurer – Richard A. Goslee, K2VCZ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chester W. Albrecht, WB2MDO
Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU
Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP
Irwin J. Goodman, AF2K
Edwin J. Holdsworth, N2EH
William H. Shaw, N2EKR
Ralph P. Young, Jr., WA2UGE

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating
Committee,

David W. Payne, KA2J, Chairman
Gilbert R. Chapin, WB2UTI
Richard J. Koehn, K2UW

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

As customary, each person who is nominated has an opportunity to present a personal statement in the *RAG* prior to the Annual Meeting. There will be an opportunity to present nominations from the floor prior to the actual voting for officers and Board of Directors.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

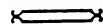
ROBERT HOBDAY, N2EVG –

I live in Mendon with my wife and have two daughters. In January 1984, I received my ticket and currently hold a technicians license. You will find me active mostly on two-meters doing traffic handling with the Western District Net (as Simplex Manager) and at most public service events. I belong to RaRa, Western District Net, ARRL, RACES/ARES, RRRR, Antique Wireless Association and the Rochester VHF Group.

I have been employed by Rochester Gas and Electric for 23 years. My other hobbies include instrumental music, furniture making and photo-

graphy. I am currently Regional Supervisor for Western New York Region of the United States Pony Clubs.

(The floor will be opened for additional nominations for Vice-President at the Annual Meeting.)



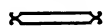
SECRETARY:

PETER SECRIST, WB2SUN –

Pete lives in Webster with his wife Patti and his youngest of 6 children. His 5 other children have moved away, four of whom are married. He has 5 grandchildren to round out the family. He was first licensed in the mid 1950's in Ohio as K8BDG. After moving to the Rochester area in 1969 to work for XEROX, he attended night classes at RIT and received a BS degree in 1977. While attending night classes, he allowed his license to expire and started over as a novice in 1978. He now holds an Advanced class license.

Pete was instrumental in organizing the XEROX Amateur Radio Club in 1979 and arranged with XEROX to install the 220/440 repeater system with WB2IMT in 1982. In 1985, after WB2IMT/R was relocated, he received funding from XARC to replace the repeater system. He is trustee for the XARC since 1984. Pete has been active with public service events for RaRa and is chairman of the Indoor Flea Market for the RaRa Hamfest.

(The floor will be opened for additional nominations for Secretary at the Annual Meeting.)



TREASURER:

RICHARD A. GOSLEE, K2VCZ –

Licensed for 32 years Dick currently holds as "Advanced" class license with the call K2VCZ. He has been a member of the Board of Directors for the past four years and has served as Vice-President and currently as Treasurer. Dick is also a Life Member of the Genesee Conservation League and served as a Director there for 11 years. During that time he served as Secretary, Vice-President and three terms as President. Dick is currently serving as a Director of the "Genesee Conservation Foundation", and also as a Director "Genesee Repeater Association" (19/79). He is employed as the Assistant Manager at Heath/Zenith Computers & Electronics. These many involvements don't leave as much time as Dick would like to get on the air or to work at his other hobby, catching large bass in the area lakes.

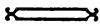
(The floor will be opened for additional nominations for Treasurer at the Annual Meeting.)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

CHESTER ALBRECHT, WB2MDO –

Chester has been licensed since 1970. He lives in the city of Rochester where he spends most of his time on VHF.

Chester is retired from KODAK and you can usually find him operating on VHF. Among his many contributions to Amateur Radio in Rochester are his many hours working Public Service events, and he was instrumental in building the local 146.88 repeater.

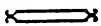


LLOYD R. CAVES, WB2EFU –

For the past five years Lloyd has been the membership chairman for RaRa. He has also been on the Board of Directors for four terms. Lloyd was first licensed in 1976 and presently holds an Advanced class license. His main interest in ham radio is rag chewing, working DX, and working on many of the public service events that RaRa is involved in. As well as being active in RaRa he is a member of the ARRL and RRRR.

Lloyd and his wife Ruth have lived in Webster for the past twenty years and have raised three children, one son and two daughters. He has been employed by Rochester Products Division for twenty-five years. Having assumed many positions in the Industrial Engineering Foreward Planning group.

Lloyd has been quoted as saying "I enjoy amateur radio and have been happy to serve the RaRa organization in the past and am looking forward to serving it again in the coming year".



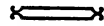
NEAL ECKHARDT, WB2EKP –

Neal has lived in Rochester area since he started to attend RIT in 1973. He was first licensed in 1979 through the RaRa license course and has remained a loyal RaRa member since. While being inactive for a couple of years, the interest in the hobby was again sparked by the purchase of his first house in Henrietta and the ability of finally being able to put up a HF antenna. Neal currently holds an Advanced class license.

Neal has taken on the awesome responsibility of RaRa RAG Co-Editor and has successfully gotten the RAG out on time for the past two years since Ron, K2RJ, was forced to give up this highly responsible position. In previous years Neal has been known to work a public service event or two. Neal also holds membership in RRRR as well as several area computer clubs. He has also been a board member for the last year.

Neal works as a Systems Engineer for National Advanced Systems, who markets large IBM com-

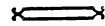
patible mainframes. He has worked in the Data Processing field here in Rochester for 15 years.



IRWIN J. GOODMAN, AF2K –

"Irv" was first licensed as WN2WCE in 1974, and subsequently WB2WCE. He is a Life Member of RaRa, and had been active on the Membership Committee for five sessions prior to serving as Membership Chairman and Board member. Other club affiliations include ARRL (Life Member), RRRR, GRA, Rochester VHF Group, RDXA, LARS, NoBARC and Gibraltar Amateur Radio Society. He is active on 2M FM, HF bands, an avid DX-er, Field Day enthusiast, and enjoys SS and VHF contests and Public Service activities.

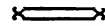
A graduate of RIT, Irv has been employed as Litho Preparatory Planner and Art Estimator with Standard Register Company (formerly Business Forms Division of Burroughs Corporation) since 1959. He and "Rustye" reside in the town of Webster.



ED HOLDSWORTH, N2EH –

Ed lives in Honeoye Falls with his wife, Joyce. He enjoys spending time with his 5 sons, Jim, Steve (WA2EJY), Cary, Gerry (WA2IMA), Keith (KA2GCG), his 3 daughters-in-law, Linda, Debbie and Maggie and 4 grandsons and 1 granddaughter.

Ed was licensed in 1968 and currently holds an Amateur Extra class license. He is very active with the club as shown by his past history with RaRa. Previous positions held include Secretary (2 years), Vice-President (2 years), President (2 years), Board of Directors (18 years) and K2JD Club Station Trustee. Other responsibilities include Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer for Monroe County, Affiliated Club Coordinator and Assistant Section Manager for the W.N.Y. Section and Assistant General Chairman for the Rochester Hamfest.



BILL SHAW, N2EKR –

I was first licensed in December, 1974, and upgraded to my present technician license in May, 1976. I've always been active on VHF, including Packet. I'm presently the ticket chairman for the Rochester Hamfest and Treasurer for the RRRR. Some of my other interests are winemaking and flying full size aircraft either homebuilt or the store-bought version.

(The floor will be opened for additional nominations for Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.)

FCC ON OBSCENITY

The FCC, on November 24, reaffirmed three April rulings that called for strict enforcement of the criminal code's prohibition of obscene broadcasts. The Commission wished to make clear that the broadcast of obscene programming is a criminal offense, and that such broadcasts are banned from the airwaves at all times of the day.

According to the FCC, obscene speech is not protected by the First Amendment, and may not be broadcast at any time. The FCC will use the following definition of obscene material in accordance with a US Supreme Court opinion:

(1) An average person, applying contemporary community standards, must find that the material, as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest:

(2) The material must depict or describe, in a patently offensive way as measured by contemporary community standards, sexual or excretory conduct; and

(3) The material, taken as a whole, must lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. (*Miller v. California*, 413 U.S. 15 (1973)).

According to the Commission, its action last April demonstrated that it intends to enforce limitations against indecent broadcasts. Although under present constraints it may not prohibit indecent programming totally, it can prohibit the airing of such broadcasts at a time of day when there is a reasonable risk that children may be in the audience.

Under existing Supreme Court precedent however, non-obscene broadcasts, even though sexually explicit, may not be banned altogether, but are subject to reasonable channeling constraints in order to restrict the ability of children to see them. The broadcast of this type of program would be permissible after midnight and until 6 a.m.

MICHAEL G. RICE

(KB2SG)

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In light of this, the Commission emphasized that obscene programming could never be broadcast and that indecent programming could not be legally broadcast before midnight, as the bulk of complaints it received were regarding indecent broadcasts aired prior to that time.

Tnx ARRL Letter

EXTRA CLASS QUESTION POOL COMPLETE

The preliminary draft of the Extra Class question pool has been completed by the Question Pool Committee (QPC).

Fifty questions were deleted from FCC PR-1035D, thirty-eight new questions have been written, and many have been reworded.

Reply comments on the new element 4(B) Extra Class question pool are due by February 1, 1988. On March 1, 1988, the new question pool will be officially released, but will not be used for examinations until November 1, 1988.

The new question pool will not be revised again for three years except to correct typographical errors and provide FCC rule updates.

Tnx ARRL Letter

FCC BROADCAST CALL ASSIGNMENTS

The FCC has reversed itself on the issue of geographical issuance of broadcast call signs.

On February 4, 1987, the Commission had proposed to end the issuance of "W" and "K" broadcast call signs on a geographical basis. Generally, radio and television stations East of the Mississippi River are issued call signs beginning with "W", and stations West of the Mississippi are issued call signs beginning with the prefix "K".

The Commission, upon examining the comments filed, changed its mind and now feels there is some benefit in maintaining the traditional K and W call sign assignments. The Commission also said that there is no shortage of call signs that would require the elimination of the East-West restriction on the assignment of K and W call signs. Thus, the Commission elected to retain the geographic restriction on the assignment of K and W prefixes to broadcast stations.

Tnx ARRL Letter

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