



the RARA RAG

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NO. 10

RaRa PICNIC — JUNE 11th POWDER MILLS PARK

by John E. Lloyd, KA2KFV

The annual RaRa Picnic will take place Saturday, June 11th at Wadhams Lodge in Powder Mills Park in Pittsford. The picnic will be from 1 - 5 p.m. There will be plenty of fun and food. The picnic is open to all members and their family or a guest. There is no charge. This is your chance to spend the day with your family and still work some great contacts face to face. This is one of the benefits of belonging to the RaRa — take advantage of it and we'll see you there. If unsure of how to get there, and all else fails ask for directions on the 28/88 RRA repeater.

RaRa CAMPING 1988

Hook up those trailers, start up those RV's, and air out those tents, because RaRa Camping will soon be here. Our tentative schedule looks something like this:

- July 22 - 24 Norwin Campground,
Geneva, New York
- Aug. 19 - 22 Spruce Row Campground,
Ithaca, New York - (Trumansburg Hamfest)
- Sept. 2 - 5 Riverforest Park,
Weedsport, New York (New York State Fair)

If you would like to be included in any of these trips, give Debbie (KB2CHV) or Neal (WB2EKP) a call at 359-2672. We will put your name on our list and notify you in advance of each trip. Typical camp activities include group activities and dinners, rest, relaxation, and fun. So give us a call and join us on one or all of these fun trips.

A special thanks to all the
people who helped make
the Hamfest a big success.

-- N2EH

TOWN OF GREECE ANTENNA RESTRICTIONS

Amateur Radio Operators residing in the Town of Greece, New York should be concerned that a proposed revision to Town of Greece zoning code would regulate the number, location, height, and size of antennas and satellite reception dishes. This appears to be in response to the occasional complaints the town hall receives regarding the looks of large antennas.

The Greece Community Development Department which is writing the text of the proposed law, apparently did not understand the F.C.C.'s PRB-1 limited preemption ruling. The text of the proposed laws as of May 13, 1988 included the following restrictions that would limit amateur radio communications:

1. In residential districts, not more than one (1) tower antenna and not more than one (1) dish antenna shall be permitted on any lot.
2. Building mounted tower antennas shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height above the highest portion of the building on which they are mounted or to which they are attached.
3. The minimum setback of a freestanding tower from all lot lines shall be equal to one and one-half (1.5) times the distance between the highest part of such antenna and the ground.

This addition to the Greece zoning code is part of a major revision of the entire zoning law for Greece. Several public hearings have already been held, the last one being on February 25, 1988. No objections were raised on this issue prior to approximately the May time frame when the proposal began to spread in the amateur community after being made known to Tomy, KA2WMH, who had inquired at the building department about a permit for a tower. The next (and possibly last) public hearing will be held on Thursday, June 23, 1988. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Arcadia High School, 120 Island Cottage Road (just east of Latta Road at 390). A legal notice of public hearing will be in the GREECE POST at least 10 days in advance (probably the June 7th issue).

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)

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Amateur Radio News Service

UPDATE INFORMATION — 5/19/88

The open forum portion of the Greece Town Board meeting on May 17, 1988 was attended by WB2HDM, KA2WMH, and W2BNE. WB2HDM delivered a speech covering amateur radio's positive aspects: Hobby, Public Service, and Emergency Preparedness. KA2WMH provided technical information and answered questions on PRB-1. The Greece Supervisor, Don Riley, then asked the Community Development Department to schedule a meeting with the three amateurs present and to negotiate a better worded law that would not be in conflict with the F.C.C. ruling and that would permit reasonable amateur radio operation. WB2HDM requested that an official representative of RaRa be included and this was agreed to. Amateurs in the Town of Greece can obtain updated information from Mr. Curt Rossow, the Director of Community Development at 225-2000, ext-267. Also a 9:30 p.m. information net will be held on 147.345 MHZ GREECE REPEATER each Sunday.

73's de WB2HDM, Jim

BEWARE OF COMPUTER EMISSIONS

When a computer is used to calculate, its infamous microchips run through hundreds of thousands of computations a second and then spit out only a single, puny green answer on its CRT. What happened to all those other numbers? Where are they? The answer is, they're still in machine.

When you do calculate the old-fashioned way with paper and pencil you know where all the extra digits are. They're spread all over the paper like tracks in the snow. And they stay on the paper when you don't need them any longer. They go when the paper goes.

Not so with computers. All the numbers between the question and the answer stay inside the machine. You can't get rid of them because there's a sign on the back that tells you not to open the machine or you'll die.

What happens when the machine can't hold any more used numbers? Boom! Computer emission. So stop computers now, or some day not very far off they'll all dump their numbers at the same time and the world will be buried in used integers.

And people think computers aren't dangerous.

(Official Computer Haters Handbook)

*Tnx LCARC Tuned Circuit
via Harmonics*

NEW YORK (ALEXANDER) - JULY 10

The 8th annual Batavia Hamfest, sponsored by Genesee Radio Amateurs, will be held at the Alexander Firemen's Grounds, Rte. 98, 6 a.m. - 4 p.m. Indoor commercial exhibits open at 9 a.m. Activities include full breakfast, OM/YL programs, spacious flea market, chicken BBQ, free camping (electric \$2) and ARRL VEC exams. Tickets \$3 before July 1, \$4 at the gate. Talk-in on 144.71/145.31 and 146.52. For more information contact G.R.A.M., POB 572, Batavia, New York 14021; for tickets - Knute Carlson, N2DRX, 26 Burke Drive, Batavia, New York 14020. (SASE appreciated)

Programs this year include a DX Forum by the Western New York DX Association and live demonstrations and an UPDATE on Fast Scan TV and the Attica ATV Repeater by the WNY FastScan Group.

Once again our famous chicken Bar-B-Que will be served starting at 11 a.m.

NEW INTERFERENCE PAMPHLET AVAILABLE

The FCC, together with the Electronics Industries Association (EIA), has completed the publication of the pamphlet: *Consumer Should Know Something About Interference.*

This publication is designed to assist *consumers* in the identification and resolution of common problems with interference to home electronic products such as VCRs, TV sets, electronic musical instruments and cordless telephones. The easy-to-understand pamphlet contains step-by-step methods of understanding and resolving interference.

Copies of this publication are available from any FCC Field Office, or from:

FCC
Public Service Division
1919 M Street NW, Room 725
Washington, DC 20554

or

Executive Director of Consumer Affairs
Electronic Industries Association
2001 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Tnx ARRL Letter

**HAVE A GOOD SUMMER
SEE YOU IN THE FALL**

SUMMER CALENDAR

June 5 - Ham Family Day - Rome, New York

June 6 - Amateur Exams ITHACA, New York -
6:00 p.m.

June 12 - RaRa Annual PICNIC -
Powder Mills Park - 12:00 noon

June 18 - Cortland, NY Hamfest

June 25 & 26 - ARRL Field Day

July 10 - Batavia, NY Hamfest

July 18 - Amateur Exams ITHACA NY -
6:00 p.m.

August 20 - Trumansburg Hamfest -
Freeville, New York

August 29 - Amateur Exams ITHACA NY -
6:00 p.m.

September 24 - Elmira Hamfest -
Horseheads, New York

Amateur exams in ITHACA will take place at 555 Warren Road with talk-in on the 146.37/97 repeater.

Up to the minute HAMFEST and EXAM schedules can be obtained on the Sunday night bulletins from K2KWK. The bulletins start at 8:30 p.m. alternating between the 146.79 and 146.88 repeaters.

CQ MAGAZINE TO PUBLISH BUYER'S GUIDE

A new, fully illustrated ham radio gear directory is due to hit the newstands. The Amateur Radio Buyer's Guide will premiere in the fall of 1988. Compiled and edited by Pete O'dell/WB2D, the directory will consist of full write-ups of all amateur radio equipment on the market, divided into appropriate product categories. O'dell, a thoroughly experienced writer and editor, used to be in charge of the ARRL's Public Information Office.

Included in the directory will be complete specifications, features, suggested list prices, photographs of all major ham gear and related products. Additionally, information about dealers and brands sold will be listed. There is no charge to manufacturers, importers or dealers to have their products and firm listed. Special "fill-in-the-brand" listing forms are available from O'dell. (Telephone 516-681-2922) All product material must be in Pete's hands by May 10th in order to be included in the premiere issue.

Tnx WORLD RADIO via Spurious Emissions

K2SDD RAMBLIN'S

A recent do-it-yourself article in *Ham Radio* magazine told how to build a go-ahead-beep into your microphone so that, just like the 2 meter repeaters, when you conclude a transmission on low band SSB, a beep would sound. This beep could be made quite fancy, such as “*Bleep-Bloop*” or even the CW character for the letter “K”, da-di-dah. Well, *Ham Radio* was deluged with letters from readers who felt that this was worse than just a useless project. Imagine what the already overcrowded bands would sound like if everyone's transmissions ended with “*beep, bloop*” or “*da-di-dah*”.

I tend to agree. It is enough to make you wonder if anyone thinks anymore. A few years ago it was stylish to install a CW-ID in your 2 meter rig so that your call letters would be sent in CW at the beginning of every transmission, or at the end, or at both ends. It was horrible! And it stopped. I would hate to see this nonsense return.

Another thing I have been noticing on the low bands lately is the increase in selfish, impatient acts that probably come from operators who were the only child in the family and always got what they wanted without sharing. For example, after calling for an hour, you have finally made contact with the rare station in Etheopia. You are straining your ears to squeeze the words out of your loudspeaker. And just as your signal report is finally being sent, a loud stateside station breaks in with the words, “*Your QSL manager?*” Not only did you miss your report, and most of us feel that a QSO is not official unless both sides copy their report, but the rude character didn't even say “*please*”.

When pile-ups get to be too big, the DX stations often have trouble copying the call letters of *any* of the callers. One technique they use to thin the pile is to avoid announcing their call letters too often. Most people will not call a station until they find out who he is. Most will wait patiently until he identifies. But a new phrase is beginning to appear on the bands, and I for one am *not* happy to hear it. The phrase is “*your call!*” If the DX does not respond, the impatient pig will just keep demanding “*your call, your call!*” until he get his way.

A few days ago I heard a young lady calling CQ from Germany. She had a modest signal and was probably using modest equipment. When she stood by for an answer, an American voice blared out “*your call!*” She sounded a bit puzzled because she had just been giving her call, but apparently he had missed it. “DL8XY”, she re-

peated. Well I guess she wasn't rare enough for Mr. Wonderful because he never responded again. She knew he was there but he wouldn't talk to her. How impolite. Some people don't realize that those voices they hear coming out of their loudspeakers belong to real people who have feelings.

Have you ever listened in on a desirable station making short QSOs, one right after another. While he is working one person, others are standing by, ready to call as soon as the QSO is over. How common it is to hear one of the people who are standing by tune up his rig right on the frequency while he is waiting. The fact that he interferes with the QSO presently in progress just doesn't seem to matter to him because *he* is important. Some people will begin to call the rare station before the ham presently in contact is even finished. As they throw on their kilowatts and give their calls they might as well be saying, “*That is enough out of you, Bub, SQUASH!*” The word “LID” means poor operator. I am not sure if that applies here. We need a word that describes a selfish person who thinks he deserves whatever he wants with no regard for anyone else. That word already exists. It is “PIG”. Nice and short and to the point. Pigs don't really mean any harm. They are not malicious. They just don't care about anyone else but themselves. They are pigs.

Unfortunately the number of pigs is growing. I took a recent survey. Out of 87 people in QSO with a rare DX station who told the DX “I won't hold you because many are calling”, 79 of them would still add at least one more trivial comment about the weather or that they once knew someone who visited the DX QTH, or that the dog has a cold, before they could finally shut-up and let someone else have a turn.

When I got started in ham radio over 30 years ago, just a teenager, one of the things that made the hobby so appealing was that over the air, we were all equal. Whether you spoke to a king or to a movie star or to a Senator, you called each other by your first name. Perhaps this is changing. The average newcomer to the hobby is no longer the teenager but the adult. And in our more affluent society many of them have the money to immediately buy the finest state of the art equipment and to hire a construction company to install a giant tower and antenna. They never knew what it was like to start at the bottom because they bought their way in at the top. If a person's occupation is one where he is in charge (the boss), he will carry this over to the way he treats people on the radio. After all, most of the people on the radio are common people, but *he* is the Boss!

There is a lot to be said about starting out simple and working your way to the top, helping each other along the way. And when you finally get there you will have made many friends. You will not merely have a ham ticket in your wallet; ham radio will be in your heart. And you will care.

73, de K2SDD
via RAGS REVIEW

THE RUSSIAN WOODPECKER

W5YI has some interesting information on the "Russian Woodpecker". Apparently it consists of three large over-the-horizon back-scatter radar systems. One near Nikolayevsk-na-Amure in the extreme eastern Soviet Union, another near Gomel, about 175 miles southwest of Minsk and a third near Nikolayevsk in the Causasus Mountains. The first two are directed at U.S. ICBM fields and could provide 30 minutes warning of an ICBM strike launched from the U.S. They also can detect U.S. planes. The third radar system is directed southeast to provide warning of a Chinese ICBM strike. The transmissions are extremely powerful—20 to 40 megawatts or more—and range across the HF band from 4 to about 27 MHz depending on ionospheric conditions. At dawn they generally occur at about 14 MHz or below. They appear to center around 14.215 MHz in the amateur 20 meter ham band. The signals move up and down the 4 to 27 MHz spectrum in 10 KHZ steps at intervals of 30 seconds to 10 minutes. The bandwidth varies from 30 KHZ to more than 300 KHZ. The "Woodpecker" has a basic pulse repetition frequency (PRF) of 10 per second.

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NEW CORDLESS TELEPHONE RULES

The FCC has amended Part 15 of its rules to allow for the indefinite importation, marketing, and manufacture of cordless telephones in the 46-49 MHz range.

Additionally, the Commission modified Part 15 enabling the use of the more spectrum-efficient narrow band technology that effectively doubles the ten available channels. In 1984, the FCC allocated 10 pairs of frequencies in the 46-49 MHz band to the cordless telephone service for a period of five years, while alternatives were considered.

The Electronic Industries Association (EIA) requested a five-year extension, stating that time would be needed to re-design and manufacture new equipment for the new frequencies. The FCC has concluded that because operation of the cordless telephones in the 46-49 MHz band has been satisfactory, operation will be allowed to continue for the foreseeable future.

The FCC emphasized that devices operating under Part 15 must not cause interference to authorized services, and must accept interference from other services.

In a companion proceeding, the Commission denied an EIA request for 4 MHz in the 800/900 MHz land mobile band for use by cordless phones.

Tnx ARRL Letter

ANYBODY NEED AUSTRIA

Rudolf Ludwig (OE4RAA) is trying to work all counties in the 1, 2 and 3 call districts. He especially needs Orleans, Genesee and Schyler counties. If you are interested in making a sked with Rudy you can contact him at:

Rudolf Ludwig (OE4RAA)
ABT PO Box 7 A-7132
Fravenkirchen, Austria

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FCC PART 97 REWRITE

Ah, it was so much simpler in the 1950s – there were only five basic emissions, good old A-1 for CW, A-3 for phone, A-4 for facsimile and A-5 for television. By the 1970s the list had grown to 14, ranging from “AØ”, an unmodulated carrier, to “P” for pulse emissions.

With changes mandated by the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference, there were almost 1300 different emission types in the FCC rules! Confusion over emissions is just one of the reasons for the proposed FCC reorganization of the amateur rules. The amateur rules have not undergone any major reorganization since 1951, and according to the FCC, many rules are redundant or obsolete. Still others duplicate extensive details that are contained in other parts of the FCC rules, or in the ITU Radio Regulations.

In this proposed reorganization, PR Docket 88-139, the total body of the amateur rules has been reduced by roughly 40% (For example, the 1300 emission designators have been reduced to 9!). According to the FCC, a host of new technologies have emerged and become popular in the amateur service. These additions and revisions to Part 97 have resulted in a patchwork of rules that can be confusing, especially to new amateurs.

The FCC proposed to restructure Part 97 into six subparts and four appendices. Except for the statement of the basis and purpose of the amateur service in 97.1, the Commission has completely reorganized Part 97.

So exactly what new changes have been made? Here is a brief summary:

- **Emissions:** The multitude of designators are now categorized under nine general terms. For example, all telephony emissions are now called simply “*phone*”. All facsimile or television emissions are now called “*image*”. All data or packet radio transmissions are called “*data*”. “*RTTY*” emission is now defined as a single channel emissions for narrowband direct-printing. There is also an emission called “*test*” which is for on-the-air transmitter testing, direction finding or antenna measurements, where no modulation or information is being sent.

- **Public Service:** The FCC has codified rule interpretations guiding hams in support of public events. The proposed Part 97.101 sanctions amateur radio support of public gatherings such as parades, or marathons where the main beneficiary of the communications is the public. “An amateur station may not be used for logistical support of any sponsoring organization”.

- **Broadcasting:** The FCC has also codified its 4-part rule of reason concerning broadcast activities. Under the following limited circumstances, amateur may convey news information: 1) If the event is unforeseen; 2) the news information is directly related to the event; 3) the event involves the safety of human life or the immediate protection of property; and 4) the news information cannot be transmitted by any means other than Amateur Radio because normal communication system have been disrupted or because there are no other communication systems available at the place where the information is originated (97.219(f)).

- **Swap nets:** Under this proposal, amateurs are permitted to participate in selling their equipment over the air without fear of being cited by the FCC for business communications. Under the proposed rules “Communications to inform other amateur operators of the availability of apparatus normally used in an amateur station are not considered business communications” (97.219(c)).

In its introduction to the proposal, the FCC says that an asking price may be mentioned, “but no subsequent negotiations or bartering may take place. If interest is expressed, the amateur operators would exchange mailing addresses or telephone numbers and finish negotiations using means of communication other than amateur service frequencies”. Of course, this exception does not apply to dealers or to what the FCC calls “amateurs who derive a profit by buying and selling amateur radio equipment on a regular basis”.

- **Self-assigned identifiers:** According to the proposed 97.217(c) and (g) a self-assigned identifier may be used if 1) the ID does not conflict with any other identifier specified by FCC rules or by a prefix assigned to another country and 2) the identifier is separated from the call sign by the slant mark or by the word “stroke”.

- **A new section called “frequency sharing” (97.203)** emphasizes that no frequency is assigned for the exclusive use of any amateur station. “Each amateur operator must cooperate in the selection and use of amateur service frequencies in order to make the most effective use of the frequencies” (97.203(b)).

Nearly 40% of the total body of the rules are proposed to be dropped or greatly simplified. These include the list of emissions, alien reciprocal operating privileges, Amateur Satellite Service rules, requirements that examination papers be retained by volunteer examiners for a specified period, and quiet hours (the new proposed rules will simply state the Commission may restrict amateur operation as necessary).

The Commission specifically asks for comments concerning the three minute "time out" period. This is the period of time after which a remotely controlled station, such as a repeater, must stop transmitting if its control link fails. The FCC believes that this requirement may be too restrictive and requests comments if this time limit should be relaxed, and if so, what period of time would be appropriate.

All in all, there appears to be little of surprise in this Docket. It looks as though ARRL should be able to support the overall effort to reorganize our rules, but we will probably take some minor exceptions to the new proposals after further study by the Headquarters staff and input from the membership.

The FCC is accepting comments in this Docket, PR-139, until August 31, with reply comments due October 31. Copies of this Docket are available from ARRL HQ for a large SASE with \$1.45 postage.

Tnx ARRL Letter

40-METER SSB EXPANSION

In a recent letter from ARRL Atlantic Division Director Hugh Turnbull, he requested responsible inputs on two issues of major importance to contesters and DXers. The first is opening up 7050-7100 KHz for phone privileges by U. S. amateurs. The second is a band plan for 160 Meters.

For those who have tried to operate on Forty SSB in DX contest, the frustration of trying to work around the foreign broadcast, a split frequency operation where the DX doesn't listen up, the time for change is here. Some U. S. citizens in our island territories already have these privileges. Comments can be sent to Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, ARRL Atlantic Division Director.

Tnx Harmonics

FCC STILL TRYING TO CONTROL ILLEGAL CITIZEN'S BAND OPERATION

The FCC's field offices are still trying to control illegal Citizen's Band operation. On November 16th, U.S. Marshalls and engineers from the FCC's New York Office raided the Brooklyn residence of Ms. Palma Russo and confiscated her high power rig that operated on other CB channels. She had previously been fined \$2,750 by the Commission. On December 4th the Atlanta FCC Office has seized an estimated \$10,000 worth of equipment from the residence of Althur Ford of Ellenwood, Georgia - including an illegal 10,000 watt linear amplifier. Both Russo and Ford face fines of up to \$100,000 and one year imprisonment.

Tnx W5YI Report via Spurious Emissions

FOR SALE - Quad antenna, 10-15m, 2 elements. Quad antenna, 10-15-20m, 3 elements. QST's 1969 thru 1987. Jim, NK2M, phone 265-9827.

MICHAEL G. RICE

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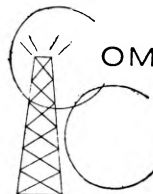
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RaRa RAG 7

LIGHTNING SAFETY

Since storm season is upon us, it would be wise to know the information about *LIGHTNING SAFETY*. The following tips are from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration....

1. When a thunderstorm threatens, get inside a home or a large building. An automobile also provides a degree of protection as long as it is parked in a safe location.
2. Stay away from open doors and windows.
3. Do not use plug in electrical appliances.
4. Avoid hilltops, open spaces, wire fences, metal clothes lines, exposed sheds, and ANY electrically conductive elevated objects (known as antenna towers, gentlemen).
5. Get out of the water and off any small boats (head for port if the sky threatens).
6. Don't use the telephone during a storm. Lightning may strike the phone lines outside.
7. Don't use metal objects like golf clubs. Golfers wearing cleated shoes are particularly fine lightning rods.
8. Don't take laundry off the clothesline (all you XYLs).
9. If you're isolated in a field and you start to feel your hair stand on end, indicating that lightning is about to strike, drop to your knees and bend forward putting your hands on your knees. DO NOT lie flat on the ground.

°and now a few tips geared to us hams°

1. DO NOT operate during a storm! DISCONNECT and GROUND ALL ANTENNAS. Don't fire up to complete sending "traffic" on the phone net. You are risking both YOURSELF and your gear.

2. DO NOT perform ANY type of antenna work during a storm. This is common sense to most hams, but then again I've seen a few climbing towers without safety harnesses.

3. Don't forget to disconnect and ground the rotor control cables. This is one we often overlook.

4. Monitor NOAA Weather Radio on 162.475 MHz for the latest information and advisories. No shack should be without a weather radio. These radios are inexpensive and will pay for themselves in the years to come.

*Tnx - South Jersey Radio Association
"Harmonics"*

AMATEUR RADIO AND SPACE SHUTTLE MISSIONS

The space shuttle missions are getting closer to resuming and amateur radio is scheduled to play an increasingly larger role. The groundwork for amateur radio participation in the NASA space program was laid by astronauts Owen Garriott/W5LFL and Tony England/W00RE. The space station operation scheduled for 1992, will have the most complete amateur radio facilities on board that NASA has had to date. The ARRL feels that the presence of amateur radio in the space mission projects is important for our future growth - especially among the youth of our nation. NASA has found that besides providing activities for the leisure hours of the space station crew, amateur radio can become an effective communication system backup.

*Tnx W5YI Report - November 1987
via Spurious Emissions*

