



the **RARA RAG**

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 41

DECEMBER 1988

No. 4

DECEMBER 2nd RaRa MEETING — KODAK PARK

Those attending the joint meeting of RaRa and the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club will certainly enjoy the presentation of Craig Kincaid, Director of Engineering, from WVOR and WHAM. Craig will tell us about the problems and excitement of dealing with 50,000 watts. For example, did you know that WHAM does have an antenna tuner and that it is the whole building at the base of the towers?

Craig will also describe the latest in broadcast signals — AM stereo. Plus, Craig promises there may be some other surprises as well.

This will be an excellent program. Don't miss it.

RaRa CLUB JACKETS

Orders for the new RaRa jackets will be taken at the December meeting at Kodak Park recreation building. Those of you who have been patiently waiting can now place your order, with delivery promised in less than six weeks.

The two newest and most popular styles, as originally offered last spring, will be available again. Jackets are forest green in color, with gold/white striping on collar, cuffs and waistband. Prices are now the same for either the flat collar or Byron collar style, kasha lining \$37.50, quilt lining \$39.50, and include the usual customizing with your name and call sign if desired.

Our new jacket vendor will be on the premises with samples, and to assist you with any special fitting needs. Mail orders will be accepted through December 6th. Send a check for the full amount to RaRa/JACKETS; P.O. Box 1388; Rochester, NY 14603-1388. Be sure to specify size, collar style, lining preference, and customizing. Please include your telephone number on all mail orders. For further information, call Irv Goodman, AF2K, at (717) 671-4430.

SAVE THESE DATES

Mark your social calendar with these dates — February 11, 1989 and June 10, 1989 — these are the dates for RaRa's two fun days.

On the February date the annual "Family Winter Funfest" at Mendon Ponds Park with Dave's famous Chili and Gos's Chicken Soup kick off the RaRa's social season. If you have never partaken of the cuisine you have missed the gourmet's delight.

There is cross country skiing and hiking as well as the challenge between the sexes. Nobody is telling what the contest will be this year but it might even be another round of "Trivial Pursuit".

There is a small charge to help defray expenses — \$2.00 person with a maximum charge per family of \$5.00.

The June date is the annual family picnic at Powder Mill Park. This one is free with hots, hamburgs, salads and soft drinks furnished by the club. Just bring a smile and the family for a great time.

There will be more details in future editions of the RAG.

ANNUAL RARRA FAMILY NIGHT — DECEMBER 16

The Place: Strassenburgh Planetarium,
657 East Avenue

The Show: ZAP!!

Show Time: 8:00 p.m.

See one million volts of man made lightning. A block of tickets for members is reserved until 7:45 p.m. Adults - \$4.00; Children up to and including 12th grade - \$2.50. No children under 5 admitted. People with pacemakers or insulin pumps should not attend this show.

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FOREST SERVICE EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD

The US Forest Service has extended the deadline for filing comments on its proposals to determine rental fees for its communications site users (see the October Happenings column) to December 2.

Several hundred amateur repeaters are located on Forest Service property and last year various Regions of the Forest Service had originally proposed rental fees for these sites at anywhere from \$100 to \$1200. In July of this year, these Regions proposed a new set of fees, this time each proposing a \$75 yearly fee for amateur repeaters.

The broadcast industry, whose proposed fees are much higher, had requested the extension of time.
Tnx ARRL Letter

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Amateur Radio News Service

CQ 6 METERS

Every morning at 10:00 a.m. local time you hear "Is there anyone for the Medicare Net this morning? Please call W 2 V V G." Usually WB 2 ZFS - WA 2 YEK and WA 2 ALW will answer. But there are days when there IS no answer, and this is sad.

The Medicare Net is one of the oldest nets in the area and the dedicated Hams that check in are determined not to let it die.

Don't let the term Medicare Net keep you from checking in. Any 'HAM' any age is welcome to join in and chat any time. We have a variety of subjects from vacations and do it yourself projects to politics and D-X. It doesn't matter what the subject is, only that we are upholding a tradition and holding on to 6 Meters as long as we can. Now in the days of de regulation it seems not to bother the powers to be to snatch away privilege Hams have had for years and re allocate such bands for other purposes. We don't want to see this happen to 6 Meters.

In the past there have been some really great band openings on 6 meters and the chance to work some pretty enchanting places. So dust off that old 6 meter AM rig or look over the "Oldies an Goodies" at the next aution or hamfest flea market, tune up to 50.4 at 10 a.m. and help us revive the Medicare Net. We will be listening for YOU.
Ken : WA 2 ALW

FOR SALE - Heathkit HW 101 in good operating condition. Handheld Microphone, Power Supply and extension speaker. Manual has been misplaced. Call Scotty, KZ2U, 1-394-3417.

SUNSPOTS MAY HIT 200 YEAR PEAK

Sunspots recur in 11 year cycles, going from zero in the low month of the cycle to 100 to 200 a month at its peak. The peak is now approaching and it may be one of the most violent in the 250 years that detailed records have been kept.

The peak number of sunspots is expected in December 1989, with intensity gradually increasing until then. But so far, more sunspots have flared up than at the same stage of the greatest recorded periods of solar disruption in 1870 and 1957, according to researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) sun watching laboratory in Boulder, Colorado.

The intensity of the cycle is most often measured by comparing the average number of sunspots during a 13 month period. In the current period in the cycle that peaked in 1957, Cycle 19 - the greatest sunspot cycle ever previously recorded, the average was 40.7.

Since 1729, 23 sunspot cycles have been recorded. The shortest has been 7 years and the longest 17. The average is 11.1 years. Two months ago, scientists saw a sunspot about the size of 100 Earths. Sunspots, which appear black when viewed through a telescope, are 6,400 degrees Fahrenheit compared to the 10,000 degree inferno around them.

Tnx W5YI Report

PACKET RADIO IN USSR

On August 5, the packet radio network on 14.099 MHz got a new member: UA3CR-2.

By connecting to UA3CR-1 via UA3CR-2 one can access the VHF packet network in Moscow, USSR, on 145.600 MHz.

According to SYSOP RA3APR, Evgeni (himself using a PK-232), the node consists of an MFJ-1274 TNC, an ICOM IC-751 and a 5-element Yagi on HF and an MFJ-1274, an ICOM IC-251 and a 9-element Yagi on VHF. RA3APR, UA3CR, UA3HR and RW3DR are active on packet radio in Moscow and RA3AU and RS3A plan to join them in the near future.

Evgeni, who recently received his degree in engineering, built a TNC with a 8080 CPU as his examination project. He hopes that it will be used by many Soviet hams when his article in the magazine *Radio* is published. He also says that they are attempting to start a PBBS in Moscow.

Tnx ARRL Gateway

RaRa CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

- 2 - Joint Kodak Park - RaRa Meeting
Building 28 - 8 p.m.
- ARRL 160-M C.W. Contest -
starts at 2200 Z
- 3 - CHANUKAH
- 6 - Marconi began trans-atlantic testing in
1901
- 7 - West Coast Qualifying Run
(10-35 WPM) - starts 2100 PST
- 8 - W1AW Qualifying Run (10-35 WPM)
- starts 2200 EST
- 9 - VHF Club Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
111 Westfall Road
- NEW MOON
- 10-11 - ARRL 10-M Contest - starts 0000 Z
- 16 - RRRRA Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
(see article)
- 18 - Canada Day Contest - 0000 Z to 2400
0000 Z to 2400 Z
- 21 - WINTER BEGINS AT 1528 Z!!!
- 23 - FULL MOON
- 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!
- 26 - Boxing Day (Canada)
- 27 - W1AW Qualifying Run (10-35 WPM)
1400 Z (0900 EST)
- 31 - STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT -
begins at 2400 Z
- NEW YEAR'S EVE!!!
(Don't drink and drive!)

SOLDER IS COOL

Lead melts at 620 degrees F., tin melts at 446 degrees F. But if these two metals are melted and put together, it is called solder which melts at 356 degrees F. *Tnx WORLD RADIO*

ROCHESTER HAMFEST MAY 19-20-21, 1989

FOR SALE - Heath Linear Amplifier S.B. 200
100 watts in 1000 watts out - Power Supply
Heavy Duty Output 15 amps 120-240 AC 50-60
cyls 385 watts Heath H.P. 1176 - 2 Meter PWR
Amp. HA 202A - Mod HD15 Hybrid Phone
Patch - All equipment in excellent condition.
Please call 334-5595, Ron Langley, KB2KZ.

ASK ELMER

There have been many comments on membership applications asking where new hams (or old ones) could get assistance with questions or problems. As most of you know an "Elmer" is an old timer who volunteers his aid to a new ham.

RaRa will attempt to provide a forum where help can be obtained. You can write your requests to "Ask Elmer" c/o the RaRa RAG at P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603 or call Dave at 244-1856. We don't guarantee to have all the answers but an effort will be made to solve your problem or provide you with information where help can be gotten.

TELEPHONE INTERFERENCE PROBLEMS AND CURES

There is a growing problem with the all electronic telephones from many Japanese manufacturers. There have been many calls and much mail received from people wishing to eliminate RFI from these phones. The problem seems most evident on 10 meters, the local phone company representative indicated that the phone company will install a filter at the demarcation between your house and the outside line. One filter per line is all they will install. This would isolate the problem from other phones on the line, but would not help inside the house. What next? Off to the ARRL Handbook's Interference Section. Inside there is a suggested cure. A two-section filter using four 1 mh chokes and three 470 pf capacitors. The filters can be built on any simple perf board and are installed inside each affected telephone. They are wired between the incoming red and green line and the points at which those lines connect inside the telephone. How well do they work? TVI was reported at the 100 watt level on 20 meters in every phone in the house. The attenuation of the filters to be about 85 db at 20 meters. Power levels of 1000 watts did not affect the phones after filter installation. This is a very cheap solution to a problem that is now commonly occurring.

Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF, via Metroplex

FCC FORM 610-B EXTENDED

The present FCC Form 610-B, the form used to renew or modify existing amateur club station licenses, has been extended through August 31, 1991. This means that although the forms carry an expiration date of August 31, 1988, they will continue to be valid for another three years.

Tnx ARRL Letter

THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — DECEMBER 1968

by Ed Gable, K2MP

This issue revealed once again the Ham's desire to help the community by participating in the Eddie Meath Pennython. Over radio station WHEC, broadcast a plea for funds to help hospitalized children. The funds are picked up by local area hams who are dispatched by HF and VHF nets. Ed Perkins, WB2MAC, is setting up the networks for the December 15th event. Program Chair, Al Mumby, WB2MCP, announced the upcoming meeting will feature Bob Mauerman, K2RPN, from the FAA, who will speak on radio and air traffic control equipment at the Monroe County Airport. Bruce Kelley, W2ICE/QCP, reported on the Antique Wireless Association's Meet just held in Philadelphia. The two day program included Clarence Tuska, Hiram Percy Maxim's co-founder of the ARRL, and Paul Godley, who was the first ever to receive transatlantic signals via shortwave. Your Board of Directors were busy working through the new New York State Sales Tax rules. RaRa's By-Laws had to be re-written in order to meet tax-exempt status. Ken Chase, W2MA, advertised for sale a Collins 75A4 with filters for \$375.

FCC INSTALLS CALL SEQUENCER AT GETTYSBURG

The FCC has installed a call sequencer at the Private Radio Bureau, Licensing Division, in the Consumer Assistance Branch at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

The sequencer streamlines the incoming call flow by answering calls and placing them in a queue. The system is designed to eliminate busy signals, long ring times, and unanswered calls. It is also programmed for off-hours answering. The FCC phone number in Gettysburg is (717) 337-1212.

NEXT HAM IN SPACE IS DELAYED

NASA announced recently that the shuttle launch of the Hubble Space Telescope will be pushed back eight months from June 1989 to February 1990. Additionally, the ASTRO-1 mission, on which Ron Parise, WA4SIR, is scheduled to be on board, is now slated for March 1990.

NASA attributed the delays to a shortage of rocket fuel caused by the explosion of a rocket fuel factory in Nevada last May.

Tnx ARRL Letter

CONTESTING

by Wayne King, N2WK

Last month I talked about club rules and what you had to do for your club to enter club competition. This time I would like to discuss individual and club participation and some operating practices that might help us log more QSO's in the upcoming VHF Sweepstakes on the 14th and 15th of January. I think we all know repeaters are out of bounds. That goes without saying. Also 146.52 simplex is out of bounds. We should be on 146.49, 55, 58 and do you know its **OK** to use 147.42, 45, 48, 51, 54 and 57???. Last year I made two contacts up in the 147 part of the band. I don't know how to get activity to move up there, but I can tell you its ridiculous on the lower part of the 2 meter FM frequencies with many stations keying simultaneously. Maybe all of the area clubs like RaRa, RRRRA, XEROX, KPARC, GENESEE REPEATER ASSOCIATION, DRUMLINS, RDXA, GRAM, SIARC, AND OTHERS could have activity hours on 147 *dot* whatever so they can log each other not only for contest points but to make sure you are in each others log for the Rochester *Cup* competition. I would like to see all area clubs get involved in race for the cup. For instance at your club meeting you decide on a frequency and time to meet there for an hour several times during the contest, say RaRa on 147.54 at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and at 11 a.m. on Sunday. Now RRRRA would meet on 147.54 at whatever times they decide and so on for the rest of the clubs. Maybe you would like to set it up ahead of time and publish the frequencies and activity hours in your newsletters. These are suggestions and I'm open for your input to try and clear up 146.49, 55, 58 and spread out a little. If you would like me to try and coordinate a plan for your club don't hesitate to call me. Please don't forget about 223.5 and 446.0. I have heard plenty of local stations on the UHF bands. There's also an ARRL *novice* only category and the Rochester VHF Group sponsors three **FM only** plaques opened to all stations.

Last year RaRa won the Rochester CUP for the second straight year. In 1986 the RRRRA was the area champ. Each participating club will be rated in the following categories: *Note the criteria is changed a little from previous years.*

- 1) Total logs by each club
- 2) Total score by each club
- 3) Percent of club membership participating (3 minimum)
- 4) Score/percent of club members participating
- 5) Total QSO's/percent of club members participating

Lets say your club has most logs submitted. Then that club will earn 10 points and next club in line nets 9 points and so on. The same goes for total score and the rest of the categories. Your club will earn ten points for a 1st place finish in any of the above categories. The club with the highest total within the point structure is the 1989 champ. This competition is for all area clubs *except* the Rochester VHF Group. Why not give it a big effort this year and not only to work for the club you select for the Rochester *CUP* and help out the **RVHFG** but enter your club in the ARRL Club Competition also. Fill out both sides of your summary sheets. If you need *logs, dupe sheets, grid maps*, etc. please send me a number **10 S.A.S.E.** I will make every effort to get contest packets out to your clubs for distribution. I know many of you are members of several clubs, so am I. Your just going have to decide which club you want to submit your score for and maybe next year alternate clubs. There's nothing wrong with that. Lets give all the clubs a fair shot. Those that are on FM *only* you can work for one of the FM awards. 1st, 2nd, 3rd total FM QSO's. Last year's winners were **WB2SUN, K2SA,** and **N2GDD** with GDD in third with *113* QSO's. Now you don't have to spend all weekend to log 113 Q's. A couple hours each day will net you a respectable total. The exchange is the same as last year, call sign and grid square. Most of us are in *FN13*. I have a enlarged area grid map detailing Rochester and surrounding areas, (FN12, FN02, FN03, etc) just for the asking and an s.a.s.e. I hope I have shred some light on club and local participation and if you have any questions please feel free to call me at 477-3692 days and weekends and weeknights at 247-7283.

de Not 2 Well Known

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MAXIMUM LEGAL POWER LIMIT CHANGE — DOES IT INCREASE OUR POWER OUTPUT?

1. Your meters respond to the amplitude (current or voltage) of the radio frequency signal, averaged over several cycles of the modulation envelope. An RF output meter may be calibrated in watts if the input is a sine wave, but the calibration means little for voice signals.

2. The old amateur power regulations indicated that the dc input to the plate circuit of the final amplifier stage of your transmitter may not exceed one kilowatt.

3 Peak Envelope Power input will not register on your meter.

PEP input = Instantaneous peak tube power input = (Peak envelope plate current) x (DC plate voltage)

4 Average Power input may be measured because your plate current meter measures current averaged over several modulation cycles.

Average Power Input = (Plate current averaged over several modulation cycles) x (DC plate voltage)

5 The ratio of PEP input to Average input, during modulation peaks, varies with different voice characteristics. Typical voice characteristics for PEP input : Average input during modulation peaks will be approximately 2:1.

6 It is common to see amplifiers rated at 2KW PEP input, when the old maximum legal input was 1KW, because of the typical 2:1 ratio mentioned above.

7 An Alpha 76A amplifier will produce 675 watts output with 1000 watts DC input. This is an efficiency of 67.5%. RF amplifiers usually are operated in Class B, which has a maximum efficiency of 68.5%, or Class AB, with efficiencies between 50 - 68.5%.

8 Therefore, the old Amateur transmitting power limitations may be compared to the new 1500 watt PEP output limit as follows:

a. For pure continuous carrier (The Average Power = PEP in a pure unmodulated carrier):

Old Limit 1000w input x .675 efficiency = 675w output
1000w input x .600 efficiency = 600w output

New Limit 2222w input x .675 efficiency = 1500w output
(122% Increase in Power in and out)
2500w input x .600 efficiency = 1500w output

(150% Increase in Power in and out)

b. For SSB transmissions modulated with voice having 2:1 (PEP to Average power) characteristics:

Old Limit 1000w Average input (as read on meter during voice peaks) =

2000w PEP input

2000w PEP input x .675 efficiency =

1350w PEP output

2000w PEP input x .600 efficiency =

1200w PEP output

New Limit 1111w Average input (as read on meter during voice peaks) =

2000w PEP input

2000w PEP input x .675 efficiency =

1350w PEP output

2000w PEP input x .600 efficiency =

1200w PEP output

1250w Average input (as read on meter during voice peaks) =

2500w PEP input

2500 PEP input x .600 efficiency =

1500 PEP output limit

(25% Increase in Power)

9. In conclusion, the new 1500w PEP output limit offers the radio amateur more legal output power for both continuous wave and SSB transmissions. For amplifier efficiencies ranging from 67.5 to 60%, continuous wave output has been increased by 122 to 150%. Assuming the 67.5 to 60% efficiencies and voice PEP input to Average input characteristics of 2:1, SSB power has been increased by 11 to 25%.

10 In all cases of comparing the old power limitation to the new, the efficiency of the amplifier used in the comparison is critical. With SSB, different voice characteristics will affect any calculation comparing the old limit to the new. Therefore there is no one answer of what percentage increase in power the new limit affords the radio amateur. The above calculations result in percentages that may be generally expected.

KA2J

DAYTON HAMFEST FACILITIES EXPAND

Just when you thought the Dayton HamVention® couldn't become any larger (estimated attendance was 35,000 in 1988!) along comes the news that the Hara Arena, the site of the HamVention, is expanding! A new 40,000 square foot wing is now in the process of being constructed and should be completed in time for the next HamVention. The new space will be used for commercial booths.

Tnx ARRL Letter

NOSTALGIA

by Bud, N2AWC

THE HAPPY JOURNEY TO CORNING AND CANANDAIGUA

In the latter part of September my wife and I attended the Antique Wireless Association Convention in Canandaigua, New York, a five-day affair. Bob Dennison, W2HBE, and his wife also attended. Canandaigua is an old Indian word meaning "road construction never stops". We started a day early because my wife wanted to go through the Corning Glass Works in Corning, New York, which we did.

The Convention itself was very interesting. They had several lectures on various topics, a restored equipment contest, four auctions, which I'll get to later, two main dinners, some well-planned activities for the wives and a flea market to end all flea markets.

About 800 people attended, including some from Sweden, Canada, Australia, England and France.

I saw more hams who are well known names: Byron Goodman, W1JPE; Louise Moreau, W3WRE, who writes on keys for Old Timer's Bulletin and formerly did the YL column in QST; John Nagle, K2KJ, who writes a lot for various magazines, and Brother Patrick Dowd, W2GK, who is a recognized authority on vacuum tubes.

The equipment contest had a lot of stuff to look at. Our own Bob, W2HBE, won a second prize for a two-tube superhet, built by him, but a design from the 1930s. The auction had four sections: three on Friday and a communication receiver auction on Saturday morning. For the Friday sessions, there were 333 bidders registered and a total sales volume of \$36,898.00, including the bidder registration fees. The first Friday session was items from an estate. Some items and prices included:

Edison cylinder phonograph	\$310.00
Magnavox horn speaker	75.00
English spark transmitter and Coherer receiver (the pair)	3,000.00

Next session was vacuum tubes only. A De Forest tube brought \$180. A WD-11 sold for \$60. A package of 3 WD-11s with a minimum bid of \$200 found no takers. I bought two lots of vacuum tubes - old 24s, 27s, a 45, etc. They cost me about \$1.20 each, which isn't too bad.

The final session on Friday was antique radios and associated equipment, about 250 items, e.g.:

SW-3 receiver no p/s, 1 set coils	\$95.00
-----------------------------------	---------

(Don't ask me why the SW-3 was in this session instead of Comm. Receivers)

Atwater Kent breadboard w/tubes

\$430.00

(They go for \$650 w/o tubes on the open market)

WW1 crystal set \$220.00

The communication receiver auction on Saturday morning was also interesting:

2 - WWII RAK receivers \$5.00 each
(boat anchors)

Heathkit AT-1 transmitter \$22.00

National FB-7, no p/s, 4 coils (no bid)

DB-20 preselector \$20.00

Vintage HRO, no p/s, 3 coil racks \$65.00

The last item, the HRO, was purchased by yours truly. When he took it back to the car, a ham parked nearby had an HRO-60. This ham was W1EC. After admiring each other's HROs. W1EC suggested a deal. I said OK, but the older HRO had several things wrong. He said that that was all right, he mainly wanted the coil racks. So we swapped receivers. (Both HROs need work). All the above are just a few samples.

All in all, it was a very interesting Convention. I hope to make it again next year.

Via Harmonics

NO FCC ACTION ON PRB-3

HQ continues to receive many inquiries from the membership about the status of PRB-3, the FCC notice which inquired if the private sector could establish a program to grant requests for specific amateur call signs.

In July 1987, the ARRL had filed comments urging the Commission to retain the assignment of call signs. If the Commission would not conduct such a program however, then the ARRL could do so under certain conditions: (a) only a single entity could administer the program, and (b) there could be no liability to the ARRL or anyone else arising from the denial of a particular call sign.

It has been more than a year since the comment period ended on this Novice, and no word has been received about its fate from the FCC. Watch League Lines, the Happenings column and the ARRL Letter for further information when it is released by the FCC.

Tnx ARRL Letter



FOR SALE - Commodore 64 with data set.
Call Carty, KA2Y, 544-3249, evenings.

