



the RARARAG

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No. 10

ANNUAL PICNIC — JUNE 10th

RaRa's annual picnic will be held June 10, 1989 at Wadham's Lodge in Powder Mill's Park. Time is noon until. All the goodies — hots, salads, peanuts and chips with coffee and soft drinks are furnished by the club. All members and their families are invited and there is no charge.

Powder Mill's Park is located off Route 96. The easiest way from Rochester is I490 east to the route 96 exit then east on route 96 to the park entrance. This is Park Road and has a large sign indicating the park entrance. Follow Park Road (bear right at the Fish Hatchery) to the Wadham's Lodge sign. Turn left and up the hill to the Lodge.

Jerry, KB2DVV, you provided perfect weather for the Winter Fest. Could you arrange for a sunny day with a temperature about 75 to 78 with a light breeze. Your efforts will be appreciated.

Lunch will be served about 2:00 p.m. — come and watch N2DPF do the cooking.

Map of area is on back page.

RaRa PRESIDENT ACCEPTS ARRL KW AWARD

At last month's RaRa Annual Meeting President Bernheisel, N2DPF, on behalf of the RaRa membership, accepted an ARRL award acknowledging RaRa's generous donation of \$1,000 for the League's W1AW upgrade program. In making the presentation, Atlantic Division Assistant Director, Ed Gable, K2MP, spoke briefly on the history of the Maxim memorial station, W1AW, and it's start as 1MK. When W1MK was destroyed by a flood in 1936 the ARRL HQ station was transferred to 38 LaSalle Road, first as W1INF and finally as W1AW. The new Maxim Memorial Station opened in Newington in 1938. It is this facility that is getting a full upgrade so that W1AW can continue it's long service of bulletin and code practice transmissions. Congratulations, RaRa.

FIELD DAY 89

So your cash reserves have been vastly depleted by those great bargains at the Rochester Hamfest and you haven't been nearly as active as you would like on the HF bands lately. Perhaps you are looking for an inexpensive, warm weather outing full of **relaxed**, fun amateur radio activities and the chance to visit with old friends and make new ones.

This is the happening for you! On June 24th the RaRa Field Day Contingent, which can include you if you **act today**, will be heading for the "Boy Scout Area" of Mendon Ponds Park. This area is easy to find and features lots of open space for parking and set up of shelters, antennas and operating positions.

Our operating objectives will be:

- 1) **Have a good time!**
- 2) Enjoy operating amateur radio.
- 3) Learn one new thing to take home with us.
(This includes the best learning experience of all ... sharing your knowledge.)
- 4) Eat well.

With luck, we will have some participants who are totally unfamiliar with amateur radio. Truly, a great opportunity to introduce them joy and the higher purposes of our avocation.

As you may have surmised by now, we are not setting out to kick and scream down the skywaves after every possible point we can score in a 24 hour time frame. Rather, **we are** hoping to share in a valuable piece of public service training in a painless manner, increase the general public's awareness of the "service" in the amateur radio service and learn by participating in a warm, friendly group of like-minded people.

If you have decided, *this is for me!*, or that you'd like to know more about it; **Call me today**, Keith Freeberg (N2BEL). I can be reached: Days — (716) 726-2846 or Evenings — (315) 589-8901.

SILENT KEY

FATHER FRANCIS REED
WA2LGV

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 #1, 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)

RDXA FIELD DAY

You take several cars full of hams, send them somewhere there isn't any electricity, tell them they must make as many contacts as they can in 24 hours, and then tell someone to think of a designation for this ludicrous exhibition **FIELD DAY!!!**

Most clubs gather a few members who don't have any family members graduating from high school that weekend, borrow a rig or two and a few dipoles and spend more time looking for a cheap (free!) generator than they do operating. Some local DX clubs get carried away and end up with towers, beams, computers logging and never enough people at the right times (where did everyone go at 4:00 A.M.?). Despite all the problems encountered during Field Day it is one of the really fun operating events of the year.

The Rochester DX Association has operated at the south end of Honeoye Lake for years, but last season the FD Chairman decided to operate closer to home and secured a place in Webster Park. One of the strange things about operation in a location such as this is the strange way others in the park react to the presence of towers and radios. The vast majority of people will stand back, observe for a few minutes and then leave as though they had chanced upon a covert operation by the CIA. Very few ever ask what is going on; do we look and act that strange? Despite being ignored we shall return to the same location this year and continue to terrorize the picnickers with large doses of RF while dodging the mandatory thunderstorm.

This year we will be trying to better our previous years scores (the club generally enters the 2A class - generator power and only two transmitters on the air at time) and keep our position as King of the Local Field Day Hill by staying ahead of the efforts of the K2MP and K2VCZ groups and any other local challengers. If you happen to be in the Webster Park area June 24th and 25th, look for us on the South side of Lake Road near the Western end of the park and stop in and say hello.

73 & GD DX, KB2SE

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Amateur Radio News Service

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

-- N2EH

AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE AGAIN SOON!

An amateur radio station is scheduled to fly aboard the Space Shuttle in March 1990. Approval for the inclusion of the Space Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) on the secondary payload list of flight STS 35 has been received from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Headquarters.

Ron Parise, WA4SIR, a payload Specialist for the Astro 1 payload to be carried on that flight will operate the station in the orbiting shuttle.

Representatives of ARRL and SAREX, and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, AMSAT, stated that they learned of the approval at a meeting with NASA officials held on March 14 at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

WA4AIR will communicate with amateur operators worldwide using voice and video communications, as well as packet radio. The orbit of the shuttle will allow amateurs located between approximately 46 degrees North and 46 degrees South latitudes to communicate directly with the shuttle. The SAREX transmissions from the space shuttle will be such that a standard scanner radio can receive them.

The approval for SAREX operation is contingent on final approval by Johnson Space Center of the SAREX hardware and operations plan, as well as prioritization of secondary payloads for the STS 35 flight. Stay tuned to the *ARRL Letter*, *QST*, and *W1AW* bulletins for further updates on SAREX.

DARA SEEKING CAMP COUNSELORS

In order to expose as many young people as possible to Amateur Radio, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) provides counselors at three summer camps in Ohio each summer.

DARA is looking for three amateurs, General class or above, to work as camp counselors in Boy Scout, Girl Scout and YMCA camps in southwest Ohio this summer.

In addition to the regular counselor functions, these young people will demonstrate Amateur Radio and teach a Novice course. This provides a great opportunity for young people to earn money for college, have an all-summer camp experience and be provided with modern ham radio equipment.

If you are interested call Terry Falknor, N8EEO, at 513-698-5354 or write to him at 5335 Garland Road, West Milton, Ohio 45383.

RaRa SUMMER CALENDAR

JUNE

- 4 - Lancaster Hamfest
- 10 - RaRa Annual Picnic
- 17 - Cortland Hamfest
- 24-25 - Field Day

JULY

- 9 - Batavia Hamfest - Alexander, NY

AUGUST

- 19 - Trumanburg Hamfest

SEPTEMBER

- 8 - RaRa Meeting (t.b.a.)

INTERESTING FACTS DEPARTMENT

by Robert Beasley, K6BJH

Didju know that:

Television channel 2 engulfed in its entirety the old 5M Amateur band (56-60 MHz), plus an extra 2 MHz? In its place we were given the 6M band, which at the time was located between television channels 1 and 2. Yes, the FCC had once allocated a Channel 1 (44-50 MHz), which they apparently later felt impinged too much on the lower end of the spectrum, and so released it for use by emergency services, law enforcement and other public services (your cordless phone, for instance, uses the upper end of that band).

World Radio via The Mike & Key

ROCHESTER HAMFEST

MAY 18, 19, 20, 1990

PMs AND FMs

Here's a question that's hard to answer without filling two chalkboards with funny drawings, lines and arrows: "What's the real difference between phase modulation (PM) and frequency modulation (FM)?"

Boiled down into simpler terms, FM will swing a carrier to a constant value with a DC voltage; PM will swing the carrier but will not sustain a constant frequency swing with a DC voltage.

Contrary to what most people believe, they are really using PM, not FM, de Kermit Carlson, W9XA.

*Fox River Radio League, Aurora, IL
via World Radio via The Mike & Key*

ACSB ... WHAT IS IT?

Single sideband modulation has been around a long time. In the past few years, several companies have developed a new mode called Amplitude Compandored SideBand (ACSB), which may well become a standard modulation method, due to the fact that it makes efficient use of the RF spectrum.

An ACSB voice channel is similar to SSB because they both have a suppressed carrier and occupy approximately 5 kHz per channel. ACSB is similar to FM in that no frequency tuning is needed for clear reception and DTMF signal decoding and it mimics the "capture effect" inherent with FM.

An ACSB signal is generated much like SSB, with two main differences. First, a reference tone of 3.1 kHz is added to the transmitted audio. The receiver then filters this tone and compares it to its own 3.1 kHz reference with PLL circuitry to shift the local oscillator, and thus eliminate received frequency error, much like manual frequency tuning would do. Second, the "C" in ACSB refers to a 2:1 ratio compandor that packs the normal 56 dB voice range down to 26 dB. This results in a thresholding effect, good signal-to-noise ratio and what is said to be noticeably less flutter than on FM.

This special modulation technique is helping fit new channels in otherwise filled-to-capacity bandspace. Part 74 of the FCC rules governs the use of studio-transmitter links, intercity microwave links and remote broadcast pickup links for use in such things as electronic news gathering and broadcast remotes. It is this area of the radio spectrum where ACSB manufacturers have been directing their major marketing effort to date.

Each Part 74 channel is 30 kHz wide. An FM signal in the center of one such channel needs a guard band to protect it from the adjacent channels. In an area where all Part 74 spectrum is used, two ACSB channels can fit between each pair of 30 kHz FM channels. These "middle" channels are 12.5 kHz removed from their FM neighbors.

Where geography permits, research indicates that ACSB channels can be spaced as close as 5 kHz apart from one another. The interleaved ACSB channels have proved to be relatively immune to adjacent FM interference, and FM seems to likewise ignore ACSB if everyone sticks to the rules.

In a recent development, the FCC has re-allocated a portion of the 220 MHz Ham band for

commercial use of ACSB. Hopefully, the Amateur Radio Community will soon benefit from this new radio technique, rather than lose more band space to it.

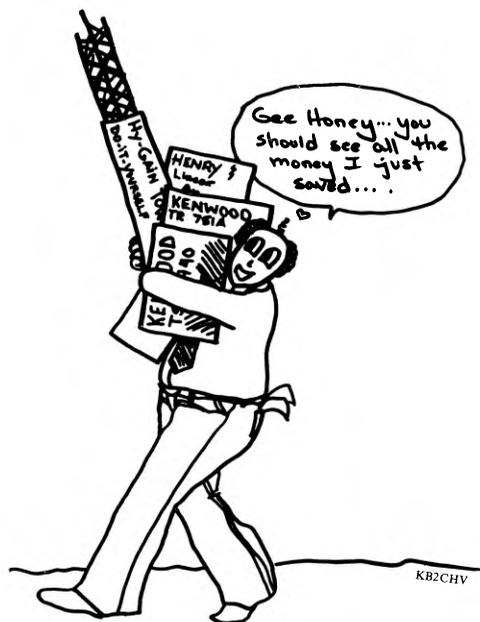
Tnx World Radio via The Mike & Key

"RADIO CHECK" or "EARNING A MERIT BADGE"

by Ed Gable, K2MP

A little known annual RaRa service was continued last month with the check out and tuning of communications equipment for local Boy Scout Camps. With the advent of possible litigations and insurance problems even the sacred Boy Scout summer camps were forced to install two-way radio communications between headquarters and various camp sites. RaRa has been involved in assisting the Boy Scout Council in maintaining the donated "previous enjoyed" radio equipment. This year Ed Gable, K2MP, and RaRa President, Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF, did the honors on the VHF FM and 27 MHz solid state units and power supplies.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HAMFEST SEASON



A familiar sight from the Dayton + Rochester HamFest Days....

HF PACKET RADIO COOPERATIVE DESIGN INITIATIVE

The ARRL has announced the creation of a new project to develop the next generation of modems and protocols for HF packet radio transmission. The project will coordinate the efforts of Amateur Radio designers whose proposals are adopted by the ARRL. Modest funding will be available for reimbursement of approved direct out-of-pocket expenses relating to the development of prototypes, but not labor, overhead or other costs.

Overall funding for this project is to come from two sources. One is from the ARRL Technology Fund, which welcomes individual and corporate contributions. Also, the League has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a small grant to help underwrite this project.

Serious designers interested in participating in this development project may obtain further information from Lori Weinberg at ARRL HQ. General information concerning this project may be found in the May issue of *QST* on pages 54-55.

Tnx ARRL Letter

RUSSIAN NAVY USES CW

Popular Communications magazine says in an article that the Soviet Union Navy uses CW extensively for many of its communications needs. Faced with the vulnerability of satellite communications if attacked, or the possibility of a malfunction at a critical time, they have realistically decided to retain old-fashioned, reliable HF CW.

The article claims the Soviet Navy has a specific communications requirement to link surveillance vessels with attack vessels at a distance too great for VHF, but well suited for HF. HF is also well suited for communications with shore stations established in a number of countries.

These stations have operated for years, and their standard CW transmissions can be copied by anyone with a regular communications receiver in many cases. Of course, the transmissions are in Russian CW with Soviet text, codes and abbreviations, but at least you can get the call signs for practice.

You former military cryptographers might test your former "code breakdown skills"!

Tnx World Radio via The Mike & Key

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

THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — JUNE 1969

by Ed Gable, K2MP

This edition reported on the just completed record breaking 1969 Rochester Hamfest with some 1600 in attendance. A large photo section told the story with pixs of Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, VHF Editor, *QST*, as Guest of Honor, Dr. Cy Staud, K2DQ, showing flea power transistor rigs during the Novice section, Clara Reger, W2RUF, listening to the code sending contest, Fred Cupp, W2DUC, lecturing on Noise Measurement, Mel Wilson, W2BOC, and Hank Blodgett, W2UTH, at the VHF session, Vic Lotempio, W2RIS, selling "whats in stock" and Ladies tour hostesses; Marge Crewdson, Betty Marsey and Emily Owlett. Eddie Dunn, W2ECH, returned as Master of Ceremonies at the large banquet with 650 hams in attendance.

In his Up and Up on VHF Column, VHF Editor W2MPM reported that one of Rochester's most popular VHFer's, Bill Kirkbright, WA2HWC, was hospitalized with a mild stroke. New VHF Group Officers are Grody Wendall, W2FDI; Rocky Mastrella, WB2NFY and Len Gessin, WA2ZNC.

In the "You thought it was new department", the ARRL announced a proposal to allow 10 Meter phone privileges to Technicians. It didn't pass!

A new advertiser was Polito Communications on Walnut Street. A "new in the box" 3 element 20 meter monbander could be had for \$25 plus shipping.

DISNEYLAND MICKEY MOUSE REPEATER

Disneyland (CA) has a 2M repeater for visiting Amateurs.

When you enter the park, check-in at the business office inside the main entrance. Tell them you're an Amateur and that you have a 2M HH. They will explain the use of the repeater (operations requires a touch-tone access pad).

You are asked to keep the receiver on, and in addition to making contacts with other Amateurs, you may be asked to help with situations as they occur - lost children, etc. It's public service and it comes to the attention of the public.

Disneyland gets the service of trained communicators in situations within the park to everyone's benefit.

Tnx World Radio via The Mike & Key

DOVE MICROSAT LAUNCH SCHEDULED

The Digital Orbiting Voice Encoder (DOVE) Microsat will be launched from French Guyana in Fall 1989 by the European Space Agency (ESA) aboard an Ariane 4 launch vehicle.

Dove is sponsored by AMSAT's Brazilian counterpart, BRAMSAT, and its sun-synchronous orbit will allow ground stations to hear two morning passes, transmitting on 145.970 MHz. DOVE will begin an Amateur Radio educational project that will last one year and include short messages expressing school student's wishes for peace in the world to be transmitted via DOVE's voice encoder.

For further details contact Rich Ensign, N8IWJ, 421 N. Military, Dearborn, Michigan 48124, or call 313-274-1718 (h) or 313-278-0900 (school).

Tnx ARRL Letter

MATERIAL AVAILABLE

The AWA Museum has been given a large assortment of transmitting/receiving parts, tubes and magazines to sell at rock bottom prices. Material available at the Museum Holcomb/East Bloomfield, New York (south of Victor) on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m., June 14, July 12 and August 9.

HAMS ON SHORTWAVE

from Argonne ARC, WI via ARNS
via LERC Amateur Radio Club

Two weekly Amateur Radio programs can be found on the shortwave broadcast bands. "Ham Radio Today" is on HCJB every Thursday, at 0230 UTC, on 6.230, 9.720 and 11.775 MHz.

There is also "World of Radio", which can be heard on Fridays, 2200CDST, 6.185 MHz; Saturdays, 1830 CDST, 9.852 MHz; and Sundays, 0800 CDST, 9.715 MHz.

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FIRST TEN 17-METER 'WAS' AWARDS

Congratulations are in order to the first ten amateurs to earn Worked All States (WAS) on the 17-meter band. The award winners are:

- 1) Christopher M. Merchant, KA1LMR
- 2) Joseph Reiser, Jr., W1JR
- 3) Steven R. Bueg, KD6PY
- 4) Charles A. Brown, N5CB
- 5) Walter T. Qualls, W5ERG
- 6) Raymond C. Baldwin, WB7OHF
- 7) Theodore H. Raschick, WØRGT
- 8) Richard I. Little, KY9L
- 9) Carl D. Hagler, K5CKQ
- 10) Thomas O. Thorburn, KA1POP

Tnx ARRL Letter

PROHIBITED

Are you planning to purchase a scanner in the future? If so, look at its frequency coverage in the 800 MHz range.

If there are gaps around 823-849 MHz and 868-894 Mhz, it will not pick up cellular telephone conversations. This may not make a difference to some, but will be annoying to others.

This exclusion is in compliance to ECPA '86 (this is the law that forbids listening in on mobile telephones). I understand that almost all new models that come out will have this exclusion, but there are models out there now that don't have this restriction.

Tnx World Radio via The Mike & Key

BBC IS OFF 17 METERS!

There is good news for 17 meters fans! The BBC vacated its 18.080 MHz broadcasting frequency when it shifted to the spring schedule. Their new frequency is 17.640 MHz.

David Evans, G3OUF, of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) contacted BBC at the ARRL's request and reports that the move is intended to be permanent. *Tnx ARRL Letter*

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SUMMER CAMPING

Its that time of year again, we are looking for those special few who want to brave the wilds for some summer camping. If you are interested in joining fellow hams in a few weekend camping trips, call Debbie, KB2CHV, at 359-2672. You will be notified of times and dates of upcoming camping trips.

FM REPEATER ETIQUETTE

Repeaters are a shared resource. Allow frequent breaks for others to join the QSO (conversation).

Keep each transmission short (less than 2.5 minutes), especially during morning/afternoon drive times.

Avoid jumping into casual QSO's and immediately changing subjects. Be patient: roundtable QSO's change topics naturally.

Autopatch/telephone capabilities are provided for operator/emergency convenience. Never use them for business.

Support your local repeater. Nominal financial donations from new FMers keep many repeaters and autopatches perking.

Tnx World Radio via The Mike & Key

AMSAT TO PUBLISH A0-13 BEGINNERS GUIDE

AMSAT-NA announces the availability of a new publication titled *AMSAT-NA A0-13 Beginners Guide*, authored by Keith Berglund, WB5ZDP. This guide was written specifically with the first time A0-13 user in mind, and is designed to answer those questions which all beginners have. All aspects of putting a satellite station together are discussed.

Keith designed the *Guide* starting from "antennas down": antennas, rotators, preamps, and coax. He covers equipment currently available, as well as suggestions for laying out a "typical" station.

The *Guide* includes a list of all the AMSAT-NA Regional and Area Coordinators. This was included so the beginner will have additional sources of information, and, if the coordinator lives nearby, can also see an operational A0-13 station. The *Guide* is available to all new and renews AMSAT members.

Tnx ARRL Letter

COMPUTERS AND RADIO

by Joe Toy, WB6KAI

If you are the average Amateur Radio computer user, you use several programs that are upgraded from time to time by the manufacturer or author. The question is whether you should invest additional money in the newer versions, or just continue to use the old ones since they seem to work all right.

Program publishers do not put out newer versions just to make more money, although that is no doubt an important factor. New versions are released mainly to add new features, to make improvements in old features, and to correct errors.

Before investing in a new version, any new features or improvements should be evaluated to see if they are worth the cost. If not, it is sometimes possible to wait for a still later version. Correction of errors or "bugs" in the old version are almost never mentioned, as no one likes to admit there were any. Nevertheless, this is an important reason for having new versions.

If errors are encountered in a program, it is a good idea to let the manufacturer know about it so it can be corrected in a later version. An error is any situation that can cause the program to "crash". That is, the program stops and it is necessary to load it again and start over. A good program never stops even if a wrong key is pressed. It should simply tell you that you have entered an unusable input and give you another chance to enter acceptable information.

Tnx World Radio via The Mike & Key

FOR SALE - Kenwood TR2500 2M HT, leather case, car supply, speaker, mike, etc. John, W2IRG, 253-7856 or 381-4928.

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PUBLIC SERVICE HELP NEEDED

The Chili Organization Tournament of 120 teams (approximately 2500 people) will be held on June 16, 17, and 18.

Times: Friday 16 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday 17 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 18 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Places: Churchville Chili High School
Churchville Park
Davis Park
Wheatland Chili High School
Merante Field (behind Chili Hall)

HQ is at Davis Park. Radio operators are needed for 4 hours shifts on Friday p.m., Saturday a.m. and p.m., and Sunday a.m. Sign up at the RaRa picnic or call Otto, WB2RJB at 247-4976.

PHIL SAGER, WB4FDT, LEAVES HQ

Phil Sager, WB4FDT, who has conducted the Happenings and League Lines columns in *QST* for over three years, is leaving HQ to attend graduate school at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. Phil was also *ARRL Letter* Editor in 1986-87, and has been in charge of keeping *The FCC Rule Book* up-to-date since coming to HQ in 1986. During the mid-1970's, Phil worked in the former Amateur and Citizens Division of the FCC in Washington, DC - the only League staffer to work at the FCC in that capacity - and served as Virginia Section Manager from 1982-84. Good luck Phil!

Tnx ARRL Letter

INTERESTED IN SERVING AMATEUR RADIO?

The ARRL Interference Reporting System (AIRS) is in need of a f-e-w more volunteers.

What's that, you say? Never heard of the AIRS program before? Well, we don't doubt that, as there are only 30 - 40 AIRS volunteers in the whole country.

Its purpose? To direct and report nonamateur incursions into the Amateur Radio Service bands, for action by FCC Treaty Branch, Washington, D.C.

Does this mean nabbing invading CBers? In part, but there are also numerous transmissions (a whopping 620 total reports in January of 1989!) which involve everything from encrypted F1B transmissions on 14.032 MHz, to perfectly legal/legitimate nonamateur transmissions on 80 meters.

Part of ARRL HQ's chore is to determine, in advance, which potential AIRS people have the capability of determining those transmissions that are in fact harmful, which ones are contrary to ITU regulations, and which are simply aggravating, but nevertheless legal and therefore not reportable.

The potential AIRS member is provided with much of this material before being accepted into the program, but some of it is learned "on the fly", as new transmitters enter our bands.

If you are qualified and interested in this important activity, please request an AIRS application package from Luck Hurder, KY1T, at ARRL HQ.

Tnx ARRL Letter

