



the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL 42

SEPTEMBER 1989

NO. 1

RaRa SEPTEMBER 8th MEETING AT FARM AND HOME CENTER

The first meeting of RaRa will take place at the Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue, at 8:00 p.m. The program will feature a presentation by Francis "CUZ" Thisse, W2BJI, and his wife Irene "FRISKY" of Manlius, New York. They will talk about their trips through the Caribbean Islands, how they got equipment in and out, dealing with the different inspectors they encountered, and how to obtain all the necessary operating permits. People who have seen their talk say this is not one to miss. So come on down for the first meeting of the year and renew all of those old acquaintances that you let go over the summer, and to renew your RaRa membership for another year.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 1989/1990 RaRa year. The other officers, the Board of Directors and I look forward to another great year. I want to take this opportunity to thank Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF, for his excellent leadership as President last year. His is a tough act to follow.

Ham radio has always had a history of changing technology and today is no exception. Our hobby has progressed from large, hollow-state (tube) sets to miniature, solid-state units (when they break sometimes, I wonder if this is progress) and more and more computers are becoming fixtures in shack. But, there has been one constant since the beginning - the friendship of our fellow hams. Why don't you plan on attending the club meetings or picnics or public service events or the Rochester Hamfest to meet that friendly voice you have talked to on the air.

As always, you are also welcome to attend the Board of Directors meetings. We would welcome your input. The meetings are held at the club station K2JD, 111 Westfall Road, on the Wednesday following the Friday Club Meetings.

If there is anything the officers or directors can do for you, don't hesitate to call upon us. See you at the next meeting. *Bob Hobday, N2EVG*

RDXA-RVHFG FIELD DAY 1989

We went to Field Day in June with the intentions of finishing in the Top 10 in the 3A classification. Another group said that they were going to Field Day to have fun, not to win, we went to do both. The planning was principally done by Jeff, W2HPF, and the results were a super running operation with three main operating stations and several auxiliary stations. Most logging was done by computer (the Novices started with a computer, but the keyboard malfunctioned). Three towers were erected along with beams and wire antennas and a short tower carried the Satellite antennas for 144, 430 and 1296. Operating schedules (along with a few dozen other details) were handled by Vic, K1JUL, and his daughter, Kellie, provided the novice station call sign, KB2CHC.

Special thanks to all the members of the Rochester VHF Group who joined us and shared their operating skills and muscle power; and a special thanks to all the Novices and Technicians who joined us and got a taste of how fickle 10 meters can be. The great dinner Saturday and Sunday's lunch was the effort of Steve, KE2FF, who stood in the smoke and cooked for 25 people. The Box Score looks like this:

Operator: 31

Total Operators & Visitors: Over 50

Novice: 149 QSO'S

Satellite: 112 QSO'S

Packet: 4 QSO'S

Natural Power: 5 QSO'S

Total: 2894 QSO'S 9294 Total Points

Come join us next year.

The September RDXA meeting will be held at 111 Westfall Road at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 19th. *KB2SE*

SILENT KEY

EDWARD W.(NED) JUNKER
KA2DZC

August 17, 1989

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)

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OFFICERS:

President: Bob Hobday, N2EVG 624-3368
Vice President: Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP 359-2672
Secretary: Pete Secrist, WB2SUN 265-2028
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Amateur Radio News Service

RaRa CODE AND THEORY CLASSES

by Ed Gable, K2MP

In continuous operation for 32 years, RaRa is pleased to announce the formation of its Fall 1989 Code and Theory classes. This year sessions are offered for Novice, Tech/General and Amateur Extra.

The classes begin Monday evening, September 18th, at 7:30 p.m., in the auditorium at 111 Westfall Road. The classes will meet each Monday night for approximately 13 weeks depending on which course you're taking. The instructor will have details.

At the September 18th registration applicants will receive all materials required for the classes. No advanced registration is required, just show up! The only exception is for those interested in Amateur Extra theory. Please call Ed Gable, K2MP, at 621-6692, if interested as a head count is needed for purchase of ARRL text material.

The hard working and dedicated crew have signed up for another year. Bob O'Connell, NF2Z, is again heading up the Novice section with Joe Phillips, W2DHV, who, with great patience, gets all newcomers from zero to five words per minute – and makes it seem easy! The Technician and General Class theory is still taught as a combined class but with separate emphasis on rules and regulations for each element. Ed Gable, K2MP, will attempt that effort along with "guest speakers/experts" on specific topics. Bud Young, WA2UGE, continues his many years of service to the Amateur community and does the 13 WPM code practice. We welcome back our Amateur Extra theory instructor, David Schwitek, NW2T. As people are probably aware, the Spring and Fall class sessions switch between Advanced and Extra theory training. As such, and with the Advanced group just finished last May, we are offering Extra Class theory at this time.

The total cost for the entire 13 week program, including membership dues, registration and all material is \$20.00 for Tech/General and Amateur Extra, and \$17.00 for Novice. Subtract the cost of dues if already a member of RaRa.

RAG CONTRIBUTORS

Several RaRa members who have submitted articles to the *RaRa Rag* during the past membership year will be receiving awards for their efforts. The winners of this year awards will be announced at the September meeting and will be printed in the October *Rag*.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF RRRRA

Well, another summer is about to end, the last summer holiday was here and gone and another year is upon us. I would like to invite ALL area hams to the first general meeting of RRRRA for the year 1989-1990. I would also like to welcome all new members and the long time members as well. There are some real happenings going on as far as the repeaters go. Due to the magnificent efforts of Tex, WB2SSJ; Tim, NS9E; Jim, N2JC; and Neal, WB2EKP, we may have some long awaited news on the new repeater system. All we ask is that all remain patient because the extra wait will be worth it. We want a picture perfect and sound operating repeater system and that is our goal. I'm sure that when it is operational, it may be the talk of the airways. A long time has passed, but all time was not idle.

The officers for this year are Brad Allen, KB2CHY as President, Len Gessin, WA2ZNC as Vice President, Joel Rossback, N2EZV, as Secretary, Bert Hineine, N2HXJ, as Treasurer, Marcy Kessler, WA2URE, as our refreshment chairperson and Ray Pickens, WA2MYG, as membership chairman. The first meeting for this new year is on September 22, 1989 at the Pittsford Town Hall on Main Street in Pittsford at 7:00 p.m.

I would like to convey a request from the membership chairman that you contact him with any changes to your call, addresses, names, affiliation with ARRL and expiration date of your license. Another reminder from this fine dedicated gentleman is that ALL members look at the mailing label of the Intermod and see that most of our membership dues will expire on OCTOBER 31, 1989 and patch codes will be changed on January 1, 1990. Please be sure to renew your dues by 10/31/89 to keep your membership current and to keep your INTERMOD coming in the mail. Speaking of the INTERMOD, the positions for editor and publisher and article writers are available at this time. This is all for now and I wish for a cooperative year from all members and board members and to bear with me as I will do my best and to remember that I am new to this.

Thanks and I will see you all at the meeting.
Bradley E. Allen, KB2CHY

WANTED— Buying older tube type Ham receivers, transmitters, parts and literature for historical collection and studies. Ed Gable, K2MP, (716) 621-6692.

RaRa SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 8 - RaRa meeting, 8:00 p.m.
Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland
- 16 - Liverpool Hamfest, Liverpool, NY
- 16 - Amateur Exams, 8:30 a.m., 111 Westfall
- 19 - RDXA meeting, 7:30 p.m., 111 Westfall
- 22 - RRRRA meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Pittsford Town Hall, Main St., Pittsford
- 30 - Elmira Hamfest, Elmira, NY

THE RADIO 55 REPEATER SYSTEM UPDATE

The WB2HYP repeater system has an announcement to all radio amateurs. First, the 146.67 will be changing its frequency to 146.655 (output) and 146.055 (input) to eliminate co-channel sharing with VE3PIC in Canada. The change will be made as soon as the crystals arrive and repeater service should not be interrupted.

The 444.55 repeater will be in full operation sharing the same site as the VHF systems. The UHF system consists of a Spectrum 77 Repeater with 40 watts output, four cavity DB Products duplexer and a four pole antenna system with a 9db gain offset pattern favoring the south. Its coverage is expected to cover Monroe and surrounding counties. It will have a 2 meter downlink to 146.94 and have full emergency power backup. All amateurs are welcome and more information on these systems will be available in a publication form and in the upcoming RaRa Rag. See you on the Radio 55 repeater systems.

73's, Mike Rink, WB2HYP

SEPTEMBER VHF/UHF CONTEST N2WK MULTI-OP EFFORT ON GANNETT HILL

On the weekend of September 9th and 10th Multi-op team N2WK and gang will be looking for some local support from area VHFers. The Group will be in south Bristol in Ontario County Park and will be on 50 thru 2304 MHz. For those that are equipped with FM only rigs the contest team will monitor 52.525, 144.55, 223.5 and 446.0 simplex for those needed extra QSO's. Please listen for them or give them a call. Your support will be appreciated. The team will consist of KA2HSK, KA2AAP, KB2SE, KD2KQ, WA2MOP, WA2TMC, KD5RO, W2HPF, WA2LAQ, KM2P, WB2QCJ, NQ2O, N2JQP, N2WK and possibly others.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

Amateur Radio examinations for the 1989 - 1990 season are scheduled to be held on the third Saturday of each month from September 16th, 1989 through April 21st, 1990. Examinations are also planned for the Saturday of the Rochester Hamfest on May 19th, 1990. The Hamfest testing activities will be detailed in the Hamfest brochure.

The regular season dates are:

- Saturday, 16 September 1989
- Saturday, 21 October 1989
- Saturday, 18 November 1989
- Saturday, 16 December 1989
- Saturday, 20 January 1990
- Saturday, 17 February 1990
- Saturday, 17 March 1990
- Saturday, 21 April 1990

The schedule for each of the above date is:

- 8:30 a.m. - Fee collection and walk-in registration begins
- 9:00 a.m. - 20 WPM Code Test
- 9:15 a.m. - 13 WPM Code Test
- 9:30 a.m. - All written exams

The examinations will be held in the Monroe County Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Road (corner of West Henrietta Road, or Route 15, and Interstate Route 390), Rochester, NY.

Preregistration, postmarked 10 days prior to the examination day, is requested to allow the VE Team time to prepare for the test session. Walk-ins will be permitted if the candidate arrives before the exam begins with enough time allowed to fill in the FCC 610 Form, and if space and testing materials are available.

Preregistration must include a completed 610 Form and a "COPY" (not the original) of your Amateur Radio License. **DO NOT SEND FEES AT THIS TIME!!!** Requests for 610 Forms must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Send all correspondence to:

RaRa V.E. Team
P.O. Box 15546
Rochester, New York 14615

The examination fee is \$4.75 (subject to change), which must be paid on the day of examination by money order or check payable to W5YI/VEC, or by cash.

We strongly advise novice aspirants to take their novice examinations independently from two qualified amateurs rather than at the VE sessions. The advantages are the avoidance of the examination fee and the extra time required when submitting paperwork through the VEC rather than directly to the FCC.

All examinations are RaRa sponsored, coordi-

nated by W5YI/VEC and taken under the direction of John Schooley, K2NC, VE-Team Director with Lou Kohonen, K2ANC and Dick Critchell, KY2Y. We expect that this 1989-1990 program will provide adequate opportunity for all Rochester area radio amateurs to upgrade. Study hard - we wish you success.

73's, Richard A. Critchell, KY2Y

HAM GEAR INSURANCE

The ARRL program for insuring ham gear must be followed in detail if you expect to get your claim paid! Some of the procedures are not user friendly. Some claims have not been paid as the equipment was not listed on the company records. The policy will cover only equipment "as per scheduled on file with the company". Newly acquired equipment valued under \$1,000 is covered - but only until the policy renews. Since the insurance company does not send out your covered equipment schedule with the renewal notice, you must use your memory to know which equipment is insured. (You must notify the insurance administrator at once if the value exceeds \$1000.) Original receipts for new gear are also required when making a claim. Do not throw away those receipts after the warranty expires. If you buy used gear, a written confirmation from the insurance company is a good idea in order to guarantee that a claim on the equipment will be paid. It is also a good idea to obtain a bill of sale or receipt when you buy used ham gear at a flea market or from a ham friend to prove ownership in the event of a claim. If you have any doubt about the equipment you think you have insured, you should obtain a photocopy of the schedule on file with the company. Questions? Contact insurance agent at 1-800-323-2106 A. H. Wohler, & Company.

Tnx RAGS Review

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ROCHESTER HAMFEST "89" UPDATE

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The Rochester Hamfest combined with the ARRL Atlantic Division and New York State Conventions was again the huge success that it has been over the last many years under the leadership of Harold Smith, K2HC. We were again blessed with excellent weather conditions guaranteed prior to the event by KB2DVV.

The attendance rose to a new all time high as did the number of booths sold in the Dome. The commercial booths sold in the Dome increased to ninety which was an increase of twenty-one over our sales of the 1988 Hamfest. We also had a modest increase in the number of tables sold in the Indoor Flea Market and the Outdoor Flea Market. We also showed an increase in attendance of twenty-one percent.

The figures of 1989 show our attendance from the local area was 1009, up from 551 that attended in 1987. I think this is a tremendous increase over two years and hope that this trend continues. We have compiled some other interesting statistics and would like to pass them on to you. The attendance from other parts of the state was, The Niagara Frontier - 534, The Southern Tier - 222, Central New York - 568, The Hudson River Area - 184 and our neighbors across the pond, Canada - 353. The other interesting fact was that we had 739 unlicensed attendees (quite a group to attract to Amateur Radio!).

I hope that every one that attended this year's Hamfest enjoyed it as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you. If you have any constructive suggestions or criticism, now is the time to present them so that we can address them prior to next year's show. We have already applied for and received our designation as the Atlantic Division and New York State Convention for 1990. This had to be presented to and approved by the ARRL Division Director, approved by the ARRL Board of Directors and returned to us. We have also had a critique for the 1989 show and a planning session for the 1990 show so it is not too early to get any comments to us. Remember—the deadline for the mailing material is late January which is not far away!

The figures shown above represent only the count of those ticket stubs that are deposited with the information booth at the Hamfest. They do not include committee members, exhibitors or those that do not deposit their stubs with us. We make every effort to collect ticket stubs so that every one is eligible for all awards that are presented at the Hamfest.

THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — SEPTEMBER 1969

by Ed Gable, K2MP

Incoming president Al Mumby, WB2MCP, broke all previous records by writing the longest ever welcome back article for this first issue of the season. New in 1969 was an attempt by the Board of Directors to have more contact and participation by the Members in Club affairs. A list of RaRa Representatives was published and members were "assigned" by virtue of the first letter of their suffix. If your Call was W2AAU, then your RaRa Rep was Al Mumby WB2MCP, who had A-B and C calls. Active RaRa members selected as Representatives also included: Ed Perkins, WB2MAC; George Negus, K2OIU; Joe Marsey, W2EMX; Ernie Crewdson, WA2FVG; Fred Cupp, W2DUC; Bill Gaines, WB2QVB; Rich Koehn, WB2SNA; Dave Russell, WA2GIA; Chet Selbert, WB2ZFS; and Harold Smith, WA2KND. Don Kehn, WB2ZUN, published the first in a four part series on MARS activity in the local area. This issue covered Air Force MARS where Don and Jim Allen, WA2DJE, are area leaders. After 45 years of Rochester area hamming, Ken Gardner, W2BGN, was reported to have moved to the Utica area. (Ed note— but still remains active, esp. in AWA activities.) Bob Pavlock, WA2ECD, Licensing course Director, reports that Novice Classes will be held at Greece Olympia High School. RaRa dues were \$4.00 for the year and have not changed since 1961. Hirsch Sales, of Williamsville, is a new advertiser.

EPA TESTS RADIO WAVES

The Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, will begin testing radio waves emitted from the powerful Voice of America radio transmission towers just outside Delano, California. The tests will be part of the on going probe of childhood cancer in nearby McFarland. The testing was requested by the Department of Health Services, which is investigating the 13 childhood cancer cases in this small Kern County farm town. Cause of the cancers hasn't been determined. While radio waves from the towers were tested last year, EPA experts said their equipment is more sophisticated than what was used by the state. Some of the shortwave transmitters at the VOA run as much as 250,000 watts.

Tnx The Readout

FOR SALE — 2M all mode radio, ICOM IC-290A — \$350.00. Call Neal, WB2EKP, 359-2672.

WHY?? (PUBLIC VIEW OF HAM RADIO)

We read of the difficulties that some hams are having in their local areas regarding public acceptance of their new hobby. Most times these items appear in terms of either housing restrictions which impinge on the hobby, or lack of positive public information regarding ham radio. Some of us may have had some negative experiences with neighbors relative to our hobby; others may have at least run into the general public apathy for the hobby. Most likely, however, our thoughts are fleeting and remote, and we don't come to grips with the issue. (I'm that way - I suspect you are also!)

Recently, I had an eye-opening experience that occurred in a real estate class I was attending. Although we were not into the general topic of deed restrictions, the instructor wandered into the area of property values. Would you believe her first example of items which reduce neighborhood values was Ham Radio? From her comments, the unsightliness of a tower/beam and the "certainty" of TV and radio interference are a sure bet to have a negative influence on the neighborhood property values. We (of course) had a discussion of this viewpoint.

Frankly, I'm afraid she represents the general public opinion and with some basis. No matter what we say regarding the public usefulness of Ham Radio, when it comes to the pocketbook, the public isn't impressed! To most, ham antennas really aren't aesthetically pleasing, and having one next door is not a positive experience for the non-ham.

Of course, just knowing there is a Ham down the street invites the blame for every electrical/electronic problem observed anywhere in the neighborhood. (Have you tried to explain that the interference in a neighbor's TV is coming from his water heater thermostat?) Ham radio is guilty, and proving innocence is nigh impossible. People don't want to hear the truth - their minds are already made up! Because of this general public view, Ham Radio has a BIG problem. Deed restrictions and local legislation are just a piece of the issue.

While we discussed this issue in a private session during class break, the instructor's solution to the problem was that Hams should remove themselves from suburban neighborhoods and find some remote spot in the country to practice their hobby, out of public view and without impact to property values! This (in the instructor's view) is the primary obvious solution, and why should any other be considered? Unfortunately, most of us can't take such a drastic step and will have to con-

tinue to put up with the problems, issues, and threats from a more and more urban society. Doing what we can to keep the public aware of the positive aspects of Ham Radio can help. Not doing irritating things like raising 150' microwave towers in a residential neighborhood will surely help. Dealing with concerned neighbors in a friendly, helpful way will help. At any rate, don't expect the problem to go away - it's here with us, and with the help of real estate professionals' opinions like my instructor's, the tendency will be in the worsening direction.

Don Wiseman, K5CA, in HAMTIDES, via The Mike & Key

FIRST 1296-MHz WAC AWARDS

It has been nearly 13 years since the first VHF/UHF WAC was achieved on 432 MHz, and recently the barrier was broken on 1296 MHz as well!

According to Eileen Sapko, ARRL Awards Manager, the first 1296 MHz World and North American WAC awards have been achieved by Willy Bauer, LX1DB, and Allen Katz, K2UYH, respectively. LX1DB's award was achieved in January and K2UYH's in February 1989.

Tnx ARRL Letter

How can a society that exists on instant mashed potatoes, packaged cake mixes, frozen dinners and instant cameras teach PATIENCE to it's young???

Some people don't believe they are having a good time unless they're doing something they can't afford.

Being wiser than you seem is preferable to seeming wiser than you are...

The average man has 66 pounds of muscle, 40 pounds of bone and 3¼ pounds of brain, which seems to explain a lot of things.

Somebody has suggested a dog food that tastes like a postman's leg.

Tnx NAPA's Parts Pups via The Squelch Tail



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LET'S UPGRADE

Some people find the code exam to be a difficult barrier. If that is the case for you, cheer up! Passing that code exam may be difficult, but it is not impossible.

We live in a world of the printed word. Nothing is official until it is seen "*in black and white*". Most folks remember taking exams in school. The exams required consulting memory or exercising analytic skills to produce printed results on the exam answer sheet.

The code exam is somewhat different. It is primarily an aural experience. We hear the code, consult our memory for character recognition and provide a "*translation*" of the meaning for the examiners. Answering questions about the QSO is secondary to the aural experience of copying the code.

If one can leave behind the "*printed-word*" bias of our culture, studying for and taking the Morse-code exam can be an interesting experience. Yes, it is a lot of work— anything worthwhile usually is — but it is also rewarding.

There seems to be no sure-fire short-cut to increasing code speed. Regular and steady practice is required. There are many aids to practice: W1AW broadcasts, memory practice keyers, personal computers, and on-the-air experience. Find the method or combination of methods that work best for you. It does appear that having actual, on-the-air CW QSO's is superior to some other methods — if you are willing to copy close to, or slightly faster than, your fastest speed. Also, the experience of chatting with real people whom you don't know steadies your nerves for the exam session.

The main important element of code practice is remaining ever faithful to it! Select an exam date so that there is a concrete goal to work for. Then select one of two times daily when you can devote fifteen or twenty minutes to practice, and *stick with it*. If code practice becomes a habit, your speed will increase. That is a guarantee!

It does take a certain mindset to pass a code exam. Consider yourself to be a "*copying machine*". Simply copy each character as you hear it. Missed a character? Big deal! "Copymachines" don't worry about missing a character — why should you? Just leave a space. More than likely you will be able to fill in the blank after the code transmission.

When exam day comes, be relaxed and confident. Use the "copy-machine" attitude when the code tape is played. Afterwards, look at your copy and try to pick out the information requested

on the exam sheet. Be willing to take risks, if necessary. For example, if the question is, "What is his occupation?" and your copy sheet shows **FOR UNITED**", be willing to risk the answer that he is a pilot for United Airlines. A good guess can make the difference between passing and failing.

After you pass the code exam (and we know that you will!), don't throw those CW skills away by operating voice only. There are many nice folks to chat with on CW, and interesting DX to work. Operate CW and have some fun.

*Vern Valero, ND1Z via The Spark Gap,
via The Mike & Key*

MORE FROM THE OLD TIMER

In April 1982, I warned you that the FCC was planning to expand the use of Part 15 devices. However in my most vivid nightmare, I did not foresee what has just been done by the FCC. Their first Report and Order in General Docket 87-389 (March 30) creates a number of new bands for consumer devices that deliberately radiate signals. Including the ham bands 902-928 MHz., 2400-2450 MHz., 5725-5875 MHz. and 24.0-24.25 GHz. These consumer devices also receive in these frequency ranges.

Part 15 devices are spread all over the place — just like amateur radio stations. They are intermingled in all neighborhoods. There will be the most God-awful mess as we try to do weak signal work while our neighbor plays with his garage door operator, his radio-controlled playthings, his new wireless VCR, and his wireless high fidelity audio system, etc., etc., etc. And when we transmit with legal power and with legal signal quality and the neighbor's junk gadgets go crazy — who will be held responsible? Go ahead, make a guess!

At the same time, the FCC proposed rewrite of Part 97, will allow the suspension of operating privileges of any ham radio station *without due process*! Just an administrative order. "*Get off the air!*" "*Appeal — What's that?*" "*and whom?*" Do you think these two actions may be somehow connected? I do!

Dave Sumner, Executive V. P. of ARRL says it much better than I, in his editorial in the May 1989 *QST*, page 9 "*Spectrum Management, or Abdication?*"

Please read it. It is truly shocking!

Tnx RAGS Review

"CQ FIELD DAY, CQ FIELD DAY..."

by AF2K

The weekend of June 24-25, 1989 saw at least six area clubs or groups participating in Field Day activity, ARRL's premier operating event of the year.

At Mendon Ponds Park, the RaRa team of 18 operators were well-prepared for the 1800 UTC Saturday kick-off time as K2JD, plus a novice position, started racking up contacts with two transmitters, four wire antennae and a tri-band beam. Chairman N2BEL reported that plenty of excellent food fare was served up by volunteer chefs W2VCP and WE2T. And a full weekend of contesting and teamwork satisfaction was achieved by all participants in knowing the value of being able to set up and operate a field station.

Also operating in Class 2A, the Xerox Amateur Radio Club, under the call WO2P, plus a novice station, conducted their second annual Field Day outing in the parking lot of the Xerox Recreation building at the Webster complex. About half of the 24 participants were licensed operators. Despite some minor antenna problems, operation commenced just 20 minutes late and they managed to keep all rigs going for the 24 hour period. End result was a claimed score of 2184 plus bonus points.

In the 3A category, Goz's Gang of 13 operated again from Italy Hill under the call K2SA, plus a novice station, KB2CHV. Despite good band conditions and activity, a shortage of operators contributed to a drop in the final score compared to last year. Claimed score was 4468 points, plus bonuses.

Elsewhere on Italy Hill, a mere 1½ miles from the K2SA gang, the Harris-RF Communications group of 8 operators were doing their thing under the WB2PSI club call in Class 3A. This was the first-ever Field Day effort for the club itself. Actual site location was the cabin QTH of WA2ZQN. Highlighting the weekend was erection of a unique 4-wire, 500-foot long sloping antenna array, providing impressive db gain on 75 through 10 meters. Claimed score for the WB2PSI group was 3866 plus bonus points.

Out in Ontario, New York, 16 Band Dit-Dahs put forth their maximum effort and turned in their best score in 28 years of operating at the Beneway Farm site. The K2MP group, plus, for the first time, a novice/tech position, KB2DNF, racked up a claimed group record high score of 5122, plus 800 bonus points. Some of the improvement over last year can be attributed to a 141% increase in CW contacts.

And operating at their Webster Park site, the Rochester DX Association crew, along with a lot of support from the Rochester VHF Group, put W2TZ on the air again, plus novice/tech station KB2CHC. This year the group switched from Class 2A to 3A, with 31 operators participating. Record high QSO numbers were achieved on all modes, including 112 Satellite contacts. Total claimed score was 8194, plus 1100 bonus points. Based on last year's Class 3A published results, the group has a potential position of fifth highest in the country!

Watch for official results in November *QST*. And see you on Field Day '90.

(Thanks to N2BEL, K2OID, K2VCZ, WA2ZKD, N2AOB and K1JUL who also contributed to this article.)

ITEMS FOR SALE:

Bearcat BC-101, 16 chs-LO-VHF-UHF, 30-50 Mhz, 146-174 Mhz, 416-512 Mhz, no crystals, w/manual working \$75.00
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