



# the RARA RAG

Published by  
**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

VOL. 42

OCTOBER 1989

NO. 2

## OCTOBER 6th MEETING FEATURES FIBER OPTICS

### 40 & 8 CLUB, 933 UNIVERSITY AVE.

The next meeting of RaRa will be Friday night, October 6th, at the 40 & 8 Club, 933 University Avenue at 8:00 p.m. The topic for the meeting will be Fiber Optics Systems and Applications. Ron Horton, a telecommunications engineer will give a very informative talk on the extensive use of Fiber Optics for communications within ..... Rochester Gas & Electric. Ron has worked for RG&E for 20 years and should give us a view of communications from an industry not normally thought of as being a pioneer in the communications field. We are looking forward to seeing you there, and if you are new to the club, feel free to visit the membership chairman and introduce yourself, or stop and say hello to any of our officers or board members. We would all like to meet you.

## AWA OPENS RESEARCH LIBRARY

by Ed Gable, K2MP

The Holcomb, New York, based Antique Wireless Association just opened a new research center designed to assist historians in their quest for reference material pertaining to early wireless, broadcast, electrical and Amateur Radio activities. The new facility was dedicated on August 27th and very appropriately has been named the *Bruce Kelley AWA Research Center*. Bruce, W2ICE, is a long time RaRa member and past president as well as co-founder of the AWA. Bruce's dedication to Amateur Radio and his tireless efforts are recognized world-wide. Bruce is also Curator of the AWA Wireless Museum in East Bloomfield, New York. Of interest to the Amateur is the Library's complete set of *QST* and ARRL publications as well as *CQ 73*, *Ham Radio* and thousands of other technical and radio related publications from the mid 1800's to date. The Center has a tentative schedule of operation being the first Tuesday and second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some dates will change so as not to conflict with holidays. Call (716) 657-7489 for details. RaRa would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, on this outstanding achievement of a life long ambition.

## SILENT KEYS

Bud Lawson, W2TTZ

July 3, 1989

+++++

Jim Milne, WA2KAQ

August 12, 1989

+++++

Chuck Schifano, KA2LCW

August 24, 1989

+++++

John Butterfield, W2CSK

August 25, 1989

## PACEMAKER WEARERS

There are many hams who happily go on the air despite having to use a pacemaker. The ARRL is assembling data on this subject and if you know somebody who operates with a pacemaker you can help. Information sought is: date he acquired the device, make and model number of the device, transmitter power, bands used, antenna type and its location relative to operating position, plus any other pertinent information. Send to: Perry Williams, W1UED; Pacemakers, ARRL; 225 Main Street; Newington, Connecticut 06111.

*SARA Spectrum via Metroplex*

# the **RARA RAG**

Published by  
**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
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, KA2PJJ**  
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)

VOL. 42                      OCTOBER 1989                      NO. 2

## OFFICERS:

President: Bob Hobday, N2EVG                      624-3368  
Vice President: Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP                      359-2672  
Secretary: Pete Secrist, WB2SUN                      265-2028  
Treasurer: Dick Goslee, K2VCZ                      334-1762

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF                      244-1856  
Michael Eeckhout, N02Z                      352-9578  
Keith Freeberg, N2BEL                      589-8901  
Irv Goodman, AF2K                      671-4430  
Ed Holdsworth, N2EH                      624-1929  
Robert O'Connell, NF2Z                      482-7382  
Bud Young, WA2UGE

Club Historian: Bruce Kelley, W2ICE  
Public Service Coordinator: Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH  
License Testing Director: John Schooley, K2NC  
Membership Chairman: Keith Freeberg, N2BEL  
Licensing Course Director: Edward Gable, K2MP  
Hamfest General Chairman: Harold Smith, K2HC  
K2JD Engraving Director: Robert Lauzon, K2RL

The RaRa RAG (USPS 605-440) is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., 357 West Squire Drive, Apt. #1, Rochester, New York 14623. Subscription is \$4.00 per year (included in the \$9.00 annual membership dues). Second class postage paid in Rochester, New York.

POSTMASTER - Send address changes to The RaRa Rag, P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, New York 14603-1388.

Full permission is granted for reprinting articles provided a credit line is given to the RaRa Rag. The Rag exchanges with other organizations' publications.



Amateur Radio News Service

## TAKING CARE OF YOUR PRINTER

Taking care of modern day printers can provide many years of trouble free operation. Cleaning, lubrication and re-inking ribbons are the main items in prolonged life. If you are thinking about re-inking ribbons, DON'T use stamp pad ink. It is not filtered and contains lead which causes wear on the wires in the print head (dot matrix type) and the head mechanism itself.

Use specially formulated ribbon ink made for re-inking ribbons. It contains special silicone lubricants to lubricate the ribbon and the head at the same time. Ribbons may be re-inked as often as you like until holes are worn in the ribbon at which time they MUST be discarded to prevent damage to the head.

In the area of the head of most dot matrix is a felt type pad that the print head wires pass through. This must be kept lubricated to reduce wear. It is suggest that you use Singer Sewing Machine oil. Tests have shown that Singer oil is better than 3 In 1 oil which has been found to soften the nylon parts, especially gears, making them spongy and reducing their life.

Keeping the printer clean is an important part of maintenance. Denatured Alcohol and a clean cloth is best for this job. A small paint brush with soft bristles is best for cleaning interior areas. A small paint brush is also handy to brush away paper lint that collects inside the machine. You can also purchase pressurized air canisters with a special dispenser nozzle to blow away such debris. A solution of warm sudsy water and a soft cloth is recommended for exterior surfaces.

After the job is over, cleaning ribbon ink off your hands can be very difficult. There are all kinds of commercially made products on the market that will do a fair job with a lot of elbow grease. However, one of the best for this messy job is not a cleaner at all, it's the lubricant, WD-40. Don't laugh! It really works! You see, the main product in WD-40 is kerosene, and it is a solvent. It works better than any commercial cleaner. Spray a generous amount on your hands and watch it go to work on those stubborn ink stains.

However, do not use WD-40 or any similar product to clean your printer. The kerosene is particular detrimental to plastic parts (like gears) in your printer. Speaking of gears, they can present a big problem if not lubricated properly. A good silicone grease should be used. Do not use it for the shaft on which the printer head slides. Use Singer Sewing Machine oil instead. Reserve the grease for the gears only.

*WA6ZLO & N6LAB via The READOUT*

## NOTES FROM TABLE 8

by Scott, WBOQPP  
via Ham Hum

Jim brooded as he blankly stared at his rig. It's EEG interface translated each mental command into action. "Freq fourteen point two five zero enter", he thought. The rig instantly responded, was tuned and ready.

"The centuries certainly had their impact on ham radio", he said to himself. UPS paid over 20 billion to buy out the FCC back in '91. One of the practical upshots of which was that their drivers could maintain worldwide contact while delivering to the wrong address. The Worked All Lost Parcels award was also created at that time. Lost-mail hunts quickly replaced transmitter hunts as the "in" thing to do on Sunday afternoon.

In '97, solar flares rendered all communications below microwaves useless. It was then that hams developed the skills to beam communications directly to each other's microwave ovens. Unfortunately, this line-of-sight mode made many average citizens complain to the UPS because call signs were being burnt into their casseroles. It was also awkward, and sometimes dangerous, for hams to have to stick their heads into their ovens to talk. In 2003, the EPA bought out UPS as the sole communications czar in the US and, in its first action to protect the general public from ham radio interference to their microwave ovens, promptly outlawed casseroles.

After time propagation was discovered in 2025, hams had the treat of working stations in the past. The standard joke became projecting a 100 giga watt signal on 455 kc into one of the more backward eras, where they still thought AM broadcast radio was a pretty neat idea, and saying "*The end is near!*" ominously into the mike. Most historians agree that many of the doom-preachers of the time simply listened to AM radio a lot. Time propagation also brought new awards like the Worked All Decades, Worked All Years and for R E A L contesters, the Worked All Seconds.

Times had changed, he thought. Jim had all but the last of those awards. Up until a few minutes ago his life was ordered. But a station from 2545 just called him through the cordless toilet that UPS mistakenly delivered. Some things won't ever change. He pondered ham radio's future.

"Twenty nine point six FM enter", he thought. The rig silently responded as he blankly stared into space.

## RaRa CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

- 3 - West Coast Qualifying Run  
10-40 wpm - 0400 Z - 3.59 MHz
- 6 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
- 7-8 - California QSO Party - CW & Phone  
starts at 1600 Z 10/7
  - Pennsylvania QSO Party
  - IRSA Radiosporting Contest
- 8 - W1AW Qualifying Run - 10-40 wpm  
starts at 2200 EDT
- 8-9 - Illinois QSO Party - Phone & CW  
starts at 1800 Z 10/8
- 9 - Columbus Day observed
  - YON KIPUR
  - Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
- 10 - Squaw Island ARC Meeting - 8:00 p.m.  
Sheriff's Office, 84 Ontario Street,  
Canandaigua
- 12 - COLUMBUS DAY (traditional)
  - Packet Group Meeting - 7:30 p.m.  
111 Westfall Road
- 13 - VHF Group Meeting - 7:30 p.m.  
111 Westfall Road
- 14 - FULL MOON
  - QRP Fall QSO Contest - CW  
starts at 1200 Z
- 15 - Genesee Repeater Association  
9:00 a.m. - Perkin's, Jefferson Road
  - RSGB 21 MHz CW Contest
- 17 - RDXA Meeting - 7:30 p.m.  
111 Westfall Road
- 18 - Kodak Park ARC - 12:00 Noon  
Building 28, Kodak Park
  - Drumlins Meeting - 7:30 p.m.  
NYS Disaster Preparedness HQ, RT  
Route 31, Newark  
(across from State Police Barracks)
- 20 - RRRRA Meeting - 8:00 p.m.  
Pittsford Town Hall
- 21 - Amateur Radio Exams - 8:30 a.m.  
111 Westfall Road
- 21-22 - Scout Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)
  - Simulated Emergency Test
- 28-29 - CQ WW DX Phone Contest  
starts at 0000 Z
- 29 - Daylight Savings time ends turn  
clocks back one hour! (0200 ET)
- 31 - HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!
  - W1AW returns from WWII QRT, 1945

## HAVING PROBLEMS WITH PACKET RADIO?

Then come to the Rochester Area Packet Society (RAPS) where the meetings are normally held every second Thursday of the month starting around 7:30 p.m. and running to about 10:00. These meetings are held in the first floor auditorium of the Monroe County Social Services Building, located at 111 Westfall Road. Our "elected" officers are:

Chairman: Keith Hibbert, KE2DI

Vice-chairman: J.D. "Van" Griethuysen,  
N2BNE

Secretary: Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ

Treasurer: Jim Centanni, W2IMK

The topic of this October the 12th RAPS meeting is CLINIC NIGHT. The idea being people having problems with their packet radio setup can bring in their setups and the whole group acting in forum fashion may express opinions as to what the cause of the problem may be.

The RAPS Meetings are kept semi-informal as to let anyone that is starting out or thinking of getting into Packet Radio or even the "Old Hands", a chance to ask questions, and express their ideas and opinions.

For those interested in learning more about packet radio, PLEASE, come to this one and our regular meetings that will be held on the following dates:

October 12, 1989  
November 9, 1989  
December 14, 1989  
January 11, 1990  
February 8, 1990  
March 8, 1990  
April 12, 1990  
May 10, 1990

If there are any questions that you would like to ask about packet please feel free to give me a call either on the 147.18 WA2MXL repeater or at my home. I also frequent the local packet BBS's so a message left to me at any of the WB2WXQ WB2VPH or RAPS BBS's will be read and replied.

I hope to see you there at any of the RAPS meetings,  
*73's de Van, N2BNE*



## THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — OCTOBER 1969

by Ed Gable, K2MP

The October 3rd meeting was a very special one as the usual Farm and Home Center gathering spot was set aside for a field trip to the RF Communications, Inc. plant on University Avenue. In addition to the tour some of the equipment manufactured by RF was demonstrated. Tour guides included RF employees and RaRa members: Ed Gable, W2MPM; Dave Russell, WA2GIA; Ed Wendall, W2AKM; Dave Hassett, K2SQI and Tom Ball, WA2THS.

Membership Chairperson, Joan Vogt, WA2YTK, urges you to pay your \$4.00 membership fee. Joan further reports 19 new members including Don Drennan, W2EBF; Cary Holdsworth, WN2JBF; Larry Brassie, WN2JBI and RaRa past President Roger Dunham, K2OEQ, who returns to the Rochester area. The Syracuse gang has again revised the popular Syracuse VHF Round Up with Ed Tilton, W1HDQ; Walt Bain, W4LTU and Bob Jeffers, W2ALL, as guest speakers. RaRa Vice-President, Ed Perkins, WB2MAC, accepted an out of town position and George Negus, K2OIU, accepted the VP slot, Rich Koehn, WB2SNA, moved into the Secretary slot, and Tom Ball moved into the program chairman job for the remaining term of offices. John Wenrich, WB2FJU, wrote an excellent article, #2 in a series of 3, on MARS operation. John wrote of Army MARS in the issue. Two RaRa members have thrown their hats into the ring for ARRL Elections. Hank Blodgett, W2UTH, for Director and Harold Smith, WA2KND, for Vice-director. A "New-Never Used" HW-16 could be purchased from the Want Ads from Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, for \$85.

---

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

---

FOR SALE — Yaesu solid-state communications receiver model 7700, manual, used very little, \$400; Drake solid-state communications receiver model SPR-4, MS-4 matching speaker, extra crystals, headphones, \$300. Call Bob, N2EVG, 624-3368.

---

FOR SALE — Icom R70 receiver with FL-44A filter. \$400 or BO. Joel Swartz, KA2GBX, 235-4928.

# RDXA MEETING — OCTOBER 17

All DXers and Contesters are invited to our next meeting at 7:30 p.m., 111 Westfall Road, Tuesday, October 17th.

This winter should see the peak of the current sunspot cycle and present a great opportunity to work many DX countries. The first DX Contest of the season is the CQ Magazine World Wide in late October and we will review contest tips and have contest forms available at the meeting.

Walt, NQ2O, will review the entries for his QSL Card Contest – the most DX cards which acknowledge that a return card was sent. Who will win the dinner?

We'll also review the results of our club survey to determine our future program course and present a video on the 4JLFX DXpedition.

For further information, contact any of the officers: President, Alan, NM2P, 244-0016; VP, Walt, NQ2O, 392-4231; Secty-Treas, Bob, WE2T, 334-1103.

## 75 OHM COAX

75 ohm cable is the standard used in baseband video and CATV transmission while 50 ohms is widely used in various RF applications. How did these values come to be standards and why are they used in various areas?

Since current at radio frequencies flows only on the surface of a conductor (penetration at 1 GHz is approximately 80 u.in.) the only important dimensions of coaxial cable are the diameter of the center conductor and the bore of the outer conductor. The relation of the ratio of the diameters to the impedances of a few representative cables is shown in the following table.

Cable Impedance (ohms)	Diameter Ratio
30	1.65
50	2.3
75	3.5
100	5.3
150	12.2
(air dielectric)	(outer/inner)

Maximum power carrying capacity occurs at a diameter ratio of 1.65 which corresponds to 30 ohms. This is derived from V squared divided by Z sub O and from the maximum voltage V that can be sustained without breakdown. The optimum diameter ratio for voltage breakdown however is 2.7 corresponding to an impedance of 60 ohms.

Power carrying capacity based on breakdown voltage ignores the current density which is high at low impedances such as 30 ohms. Attenuation

due to conductor losses alone is almost 50% higher at that impedance than at the minimum attenuation impedance of 77 ohms (ratio 3.6). This ratio however is limited to only about one half the maximum power of the 30 ohm impedance line.

It is likely that in the early days when microwave power was hard to come by and lines therefore would not be taxed to capacity, low attenuation was the overriding factor that led to the selection of 77 ohms as a standard for carrier wave (CW) transmission. This of course resulted in hardware of certain fixed dimensions. Later on when low loss dielectric materials were developed that made flexible microwave cables practical the line dimensions remained unchanged to permit mating with existing equipment.

The dielectric constant of polyethylene is 2.3. The impedance of a 77 ohm air line is reduced to 51 ohms when filled with polyethylene.

Even though 51 ohms is still in use today along with 51.3, 52 and 53 ohms the standard for precision work is now an even 50 ohms.

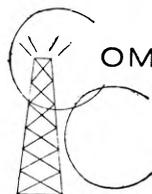
Since the most efficient impedance to use when transmitting any signal (considering the voltages, currents and powers to be transmitted) is 75 ohms this would be the only standard if these were the sole considerations. However the military services during the period 1920 to 1940 were faced with a differing need for low radiation angle omnidirectional antennas for broadcasting ship to ship, airport tower to low flying aircraft and base station to ground troops. The only antenna that would give this performance was the vertical ground plane in its many forms which turned out to be 50 ohms. The military standardized on 50 ohm impedance and spent vast sums of money developing cable and connectors for all its coax systems.

*heavily edited from Lawrence Lockwood's article in COMM. TECH. 4/89 page 82 via Ham Hum*



**W2YJ**

AMATEUR RADIO REPAIRS  
ALL MAKES OLD/NEW  
BUSINESS 2 WAY SYSTEMS



**COMMERCIAL**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

3654 BOWEN ROAD  
LANCASTER, NEW YORK 14086

**GEORGE L. KRICKOVICH**

**(716) 684-3562**

Advertisement



# MEMOIRS OF A RADIO REPAIRMAN (NYC STYLE)

Herb was the boss. He was the cabinet monarch on Dey Street, one block from Cortland Street. He had this corner store and no help. I asked for a job repairing radios. He countered with, “*Are you any good?*” “*Terrific*”, I replied modestly, and was hired for \$25 for a 6 day week. I sat in his store window, complete with workbench and parts drawers. The window made it easy for passersby to see my repair facility at work. There was an outdoor speaker hung over the entrance door and when connected in parallel to the speaker leads of the set undergoing repair would noisily squawk out into the street. At times I would get a crowd watching me. Often little kids peering through the window would flatten their noses and face against the glass. It was like being outdoors and in, both at the same time.

Herbert had a connection with a woodworker who made radio set cabinets, especially for the table top all american 5, an Emerson 5-tube AC-DC set very popular in the 40’s. The five tubes, 12SA7, 12SK7, 12SQ7, 50L6, and rectifier 35Z5 had filaments connected in series string. The set had a good audio wallop, a couple of watts or so into a 5-inch PM speaker. Parts were plentiful, as were tubes, but radios were not. This period was just after World WarII (1946) and radios were still rationed for the public. Sure, the manufacturers were gearing up for a post war blitz of sales, but at that point in time (summer of 1946) very few sets were available. But my boss Herbie had the solution as a public service (and for a profit).

Herb had this white Cadillac coupe, a two door job with a huge trunk. He would leave in the morning and return late in the day with dozens of radios mostly Emersons usually in terrible non-working condition. The sets were old and usually filthy, the chassis covered in cobwebs, dust and dirt. I had to go out to the Cadillac and empty out the trunk and bring all the sets into the store. The cabinets were usually made of an early plastic, melamine or just wood, darkened by age and internal tube heat. Each set had a wire loop antenna mounted on a cardboard at the rear making pickup fairly directional. Sometimes the dust was so thick internally the variable capacitor was completely covered in the stuff. I discovered early that many of these sets had bugs, real bugs like cockroaches. Nearby my workbench, I had a metal container filled with carbon tet. As I brought the radios into the store to begin work on them, I would drop the entire radio into the carbon tet,

cabinet and speaker included, and with a straightened wire coat hanger, swish it around. The bugs, now dead would rise to the surface. Dust and dirt in clumps would also work free and surface. I kept the set in the “*soup*” for about 5 minutes and then fished it out. Placing the set on the side to drain and air dry, I’d wait about an hour before I would remove the chassis from the cabinet.

With the chassis now on the workbench, I checked the set out. The speaker was usually iffy from the bath I’d given it, but I knew the speaker could be saved with more drying and patience. Most of the sets had a burnt-out filament, requiring replacement of a tube. Some sets had bad filter capacitors, some had noisy tuning capacitor plates. Many had broken dial cords or missing knobs. Speakers, when the paper cones dried were given the cotton ball treatment. Stuffing cotton behind the cone pushed the voice coil back into proper position eliminating distortion. When the chassis was repaired, it was time for a new cabinet. Yes you guessed it. Herbie had hundreds of cabinets, some dark wood, or light and cabinets painted with a high gloss white to serve as kitchen radios.

Placing each completed chassis into a new cabinet, we then sold these sets as NEW for \$20 each. There was no lack of buyers. The store was always jammed with shoppers and I couldn’t fix the sets fast enough. They came from Staten Island, The Bronx, New Jersey, all over the tri-state area “*to get the bargains in Cortland Street*”. Herb picked up these beauties for maybe 50¢ each. It was my job to make them sing again.

Profit was the only goal downtown on radio row. This goal was also Herbie’s. He hated for me to put in new parts in any radio. I had a few sets stashed away to cannibalize if I really needed a “*new*” speaker or dial plate. The best scam was filter capacitors. The sets usually had a power supply with 220MFD capacitors across a small 10 watt resistor connected to the cathode of the 35Z5 rectifier. If the set was functionally marginal; but plagued with bad filters, a horrific AC buzzing would appear in the output. I was instructed to place the set under the workbench and polarize the AC plug. At that time in downtown New York City, we had DC in the area. So by polarizing the plug, I could get pure DC into the set whereby the set played clearly and loud. These sets were saved for special customers, the bothersome pest looking for a bargain. We would wait for that particular annoying customer looking for a ten dollar bargain and play the radio for him off our DC line. Of course when he got home and plugged into his AC power source.....

(Continued on next page)

But that was Cortland Street – “*Let the buyer beware*” was a catch phrase. Invariably these smart-aleck buyers usually got taken when they haggled too keenly.

*Bud, WB2WSZ via Metroplex*

## TOO MANY KOOKS

by Mike Chesley, WA4GAB  
from W4WSB Beacon  
via ARNS and LERC Bulletin

I once heard it said that the past was good for only two things: (1) the learning experience and (2) the time when you made all your mistakes. I cannot help but think about my past in HAM RADIO. To some people, this statement will be debatable. Many of us can remember the days when...

- operator courtesy was very much on every operator's mind
- FCC Regulations were understood and practiced, and last, but not least, when...
- an outstretched hand meant “I'll help you any way I can.”

You may have heard by this time the remark made by the Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau, when he stated, “...the biggest problem today with Amateur Radio is that there are too many ‘kooks’ in the ranks...”

Kooks come in many categories, and I am quite sure that, as you read on, you will have memories of involvement with the same exact situation(s).

First, there is the kook who insists on tuning his equipment directly on the air and interfering with any QSO in progress on that frequency. Second, the kook who insists on using questionable language on the air, ignoring the fact that there may be young children within the range of the speaker. Third, the kook who originates willful interference on may different types. Finally, the kook who thinks he is the sole owner of a frequency and would not think of moving even when there is a

QSO already in progress. Courtesy is not in their vocabulary.

I am afraid the names of the game today has become “over-power, and bury the low-power operator”. I heard one operator in California state that he was using the legal power, stacked 6 over 6 monobanders up 120 feet, which he said gave him the equivalent of about 10KW of power. Everything in this installation is legal, but was the amplifier necessary to a station that gave him a 40DB over S9 report?

I have been operating more and more CW of late. There seems to be an entirely different breed of cats on CW, not like the kooks that I have run into on HF... Sorry gang, I just had to get this off my chest. Let's all try not to develop into the type of operator that the present breed seems to be developing into.



August 1, 1989

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
ATTENTION: OTTO BLUNTZER

Dear Mr. Bluntzer and All Members,

Words can not express how grateful I am to your club and the devoted members that worked so hard with our organization during our travel tournament in mid June.

You are all to be commended for the long hours you put in, working side by side with our members, helping to make this one of the largest, most successful, travel team tournaments in the Western New York area. I truly believe that you were a large part of its success with your expertise and professionalism in handling our communications from field to field.

I am enclosing a copy of the article of June 23rd, 1989 in “Totally Soccer!!!” please note the highlighted paragraph. Its true we would not have survived had it not been for your help. I hope that you will all be back working with us again next year.

On behalf of the members of the Chili Soccer Association, I thank you, each of you, for all you did.

Until next year, I am,

Yours in soccer,

*Mary G. Sloan*  
MARY G. SLOAN  
President

## MICHAEL G. RICE

(KB2SG)

Attorney At Law

Land Use/Zoning Personal Injury

Real Estate Matrimonial

Wills/Estates Criminal/Traffic

Social Security Claims

Evening Hours

(716) 454-6000

Advertisement

Advertisement

## HEATH/ZENITH

Zenith - Apple - Heathkit - Epson

Computers - Printers - Software - Accy

## AMATEUR RADIO ACCESSORIES

Heathkit - Cushcraft - ARRL

Ameco - Van Gordon

(716) 424-2560

937 Jefferson Road

Rochester, NY

## HOW TO PUT UP A TOWER ANTENNA

I am writing in response to your request for additional information on my recent accident. In block number 3 of the accident reporting form, I put "poor planning" as the cause of the accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot antenna tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and hardware down by hand, I decided to lower the items in a small barrel by using a pulley which fortunately, was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and hardware into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of hardware. You will not in block 11 of the accident form that I weigh 155 pounds. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel hit the ground and the bottom fell out. Devoid of the weight of the tools and hardware, the barrel now weighed 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of tools and hardware and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked. I am now sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools and hardware, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope!!

The name and call of the author has been omitted by request until all his medical claims have

been paid by his insurance company. Also his insurance company is cancelling his policy.

*Tnx to WA2PVV BBS for the above.  
W1SJV via The Squelch Tale*

---

## FCC REALLOCATES 220-222 MHZ

The ARRL has called it "Black Thursday", August 4, 1989. On this day, the FCC made the disturbing announcement that despite all of the opposition received from amateurs, broadcasters, U.S. Military, and U.S. Government, the lower end of our 220 band would be reallocated to land mobile service. FCC sez:

*"Amateur stations may continue to use the 220-222 MHz band until private land mobile and government users are allowed access. Amateur operators are cautioned, however, to refrain from making any investment in equipment that would only be suitable for operation in this band. Amateurs should begin an orderly transition of ongoing operations in the 220-222 MHz band to other amateur service frequency bands so that an abrupt termination of such activities will not be necessary."*

That was just one of a number of summary conclusions from the text of the Report and Order on General Radio Docket 87-14, which, among other things, orders the transfer of 220-222 MHz over to use by land mobile. The 10 page document held little in the way of surprises for the amateur radio community when it was issued. It closely paralleled the FCC press release made public when the action to reallocate the lower two megahertz took place August 4. As part of the same statement, the Report and Order does hint that the FCC is aware of the hardship the reallocation will cause to current 1¼ meter amateur operations, and indicates that spreading the discomfort further may be the only way to placate those displaced: *"Additionally, the amateur community may wish to address any changes to the amateur rules it finds desirable in preparation of the removal of 220-222 MHz band, yet beyond the scope of this preceeding. For example, the lifting of the prohibition on auxiliary link operation on some of the longer wave-length bands and the placing of a prohibition on repeater operation in a portion of the 222-225 MHz band are two matters the amateur community may wish to consider and petition for amendment."*

*Tnx Westlink Report*

---

## ROCHESTER HAMFEST

MAY 18, 19, 20, 1990