



# the RARA RAG

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**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

VOL. 42

DECEMBER 1989

NO. 4

## JOINT RaRa AND KODAK MEETING AT KODAK PARK

The December 1st meeting of RaRa will be the annual joint meeting with the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at Building 28, the employee recreation building just off of Lake Avenue and Ridge Road.

This meeting will feature a program by Ed Gable, K2MP and Mark Thompson, N2JER, Harris/RF Lead Engineer on the RF-3200 family of products. Mark worked on the design and installation of the new W1AW Station. A review of the history from the beginnings of W1AW up to the present will also be discussed.

This will be an excellent program so come on out and make some new friends with the KPARC members.

## IS THIS YOUR LAST RAG?

All memberships to RaRa expired on October 31st. We normally give a 2 month grace period for people to get their renewals in and processed before we purge the non-renewals from the membership records. If you have been wanting to renew your membership but neglected to send in your dues, this will be your last issue of the RAG that you will receive. So hurry up and get those renewals in before your name goes into the archives of past RaRa members.

### SILENT KEYS

**COSMO CENTOLA**  
W2ZDX  
May 14, 1989

**CHARLES SCHIFANO**  
KA2LCW

**GRETCHEN M. STEWART**  
K2ZCE  
October 12, 1989

## ARRL AWARDS AVAILABLE THROUGH RaRa

RaRa, an ARRL Special Service Club, has been authorized to verify your QSL cards for the popular ARRL Worked All States (WAS) and VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) awards. No longer is it necessary to mail off your precious QSL's to ARRL Headquarters. Ed Gable, K2MP, is the local awards chairman and can be contacted at 621-6692 for details.

## ARRL/VEC REACHES MILESTONE

Volunteer Examiner Department manager Bart Jahnke, KB9NM, says that on September 27, the department processed examination session number 10,000. This session was conducted by the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association, of Grand Rapids, Michigan earlier that month. To mark the occasion, the VEC will send the Grand Rapids ARA a certificate and letter of recognition.

More than 121,000 candidates have been served by the ARRL/VEC during the 10,000 sessions. July 21, 1989 marked the 5th anniversary of the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

## AMATEUR RADIO "NEWSLINE"

"*Newsline*" is a ten minute audio radio covering a variety of amateur related subjects. Many HF, VHF, and UHF nets transmit these weekly reports. If you are unable to hear *Newsline* on the air, it is available by dialing 312-289-0423 (Illinois) or 213-462-0008 (California). The report is usually updated on Fridays.

Additional information about "*Newsline*" may be obtained by writing to Norman Chalfin, K6PGX, PO Box 463, Pasadena, California 91102.

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

# the *RaRa Rag*

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Amateur Radio News Service

## ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTES TO PROPOSE CODELESS AMATEUR LICENSE CLASS

The American Radio Relay League Board of Directors held its second 1989 meeting in Windsor Locks, Connecticut on July 21-22.

Major issues addressed at the meeting included:

After extensive discussion, by a vote of nine Directors in favor to six opposed, it was agreed that a proposal recommending a codeless class of amateur license will be presented to the FCC in the form of a Petition for Rulemaking incorporating the following elements:

- The examination will consist of Element 2 and an expanded Element 3A having additional questions, including ones related to Morse code.
- License examinations will be given through the VEC examination system.
- To upgrade to Technician, the new licensee will pass a five word per minute Morse code test administered through the VEC system.
- Call signs shall be assigned from the Group D Call Sign Block.
- Frequency privileges shall be 220 MHz and above, with output power limited to 250 watts.
- The licensee shall not be the control operator of a repeater or auxiliary station.

While there was concern that there might be confusion with an unpopular FCC proposal in 1974 to create a new class of licensee called Communicator, the Board felt this was the most descriptive name for the new license class. The ARRL proposal is similar to the abandoned FCC concept in name only.

In another important action, the Board adopted a policy to oppose any fees (see the following item) for Amateur Radio station and operator licenses that exceed either the actual cost of administration or the fees charged for any other licenses used for nonprofit purposes. It pledged to oppose any fees for license modifications or upgrades, except those used to reimburse VEs and VECs for their expenses, and to oppose fees for reciprocal permits or for RACES, military recreation, or school club licenses. In the fight, the League will be using the Capitol Hill resources it developed in the effort to defend 220 to 222 MHz.

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

## ROCHESTER HAMFEST

MAY 18, 19, 20, 1990

## RED CROSS RELIEF FUND

by John Lewis, KB2FXI

The recent hurricane and earthquake are a fading memory for most of us. But for the people in the affected areas it is a nightmare they must struggle with each day. The clean up efforts will take many months to complete. What is needed right now is your financial contribution. If you wish to contribute by credit card, call 1-800-453-9000 or you can write a check to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, either in care of Hurricane Hugo or in care of the California Earthquake. If you have a preference as to which group to help, putting the disaster you wish to help on the check will assure your contribution gets where you want it to go. You send your check to American Red Cross Rochester Chapter, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, New York 14607. Or the Salvation Army is also raising money. Make check out to Salvation Army Disaster Relief Fund, Post Office Box 14210, Rochester, New York 14604. If you have a preference, please put on the check either in care of Hurricane Hugo or in care of California Earthquake. With Christmas coming up we truly have much to be grateful for. Please give what you can because we are all in this together.

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## FCC "COST OF REGULATION" MAY REACH INTO YOUR POCKETBOOK

Word had reached ARRL that the House Energy and Commerce Committee is proposing a budget reconciliation package that includes increases in FCC "cost of regulation" fees implemented four years ago by Congress. At that time of their implementation, Amateur Radio was exempted from these fees. That exemption may now be in jeopardy.

The budget reconciliation package that was marked and approved by the Committee on July 13, proposed an application fee of \$30.00 for each of the following actions involving amateur licenses or permits:

- New License
- Modification of License
- Renewal of License
- Reciprocal Permit for Alien Amateur License
- Renewal or Modification of Amateur Club, Races, or Military Recreation Station License

The \$30.00 fee is the same as is being proposed for a wide variety of other Private Radio licenses (ship, aircraft, land mobile, GMRS, etc.).

As indicated in the lead story, the ARRL Board of Directors has pledged to oppose this scheme.

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

## RaRa CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

- 1 - Joint Kodak Park - RaRa Meeting  
Building 28 - 8:00 p.m.
- 8 - VHF Group Meeting - 7:30 p.m.  
111 Westfall Road
- 15 - RRRRA Annual Family Night - 7:45 p.m.  
Strasensburgh Planetarium, 657 East Ave.
- 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS

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## SOLAR CYCLE 22 READY TO PEAK

During September, the solar flux went on a "rollercoaster ride" peaking at 305 twice in three days then dipping to 155 - but even this was high enough for good propagation on most HF bands. Conditions should improve during October, with the best days of the fall season expected to arrive in November.

The latest solar and geomagnetic field data is transmitted at 18 minutes past the hour by WWV in Boulder, Colorado. The same information is transmitted by WWVH in Hawaii, at 45 minutes past the hour. The K index is revised every three hours. A K figure of 3 or more indicates poor propagation or even complete loss of communication on high latitude paths. Transequatorial propagation is not usually affected and may even improve under high K conditions.

Even the lowest solar flux readings for the next year or so should be high enough for good work on most HF bands. The next year or so should also provide ample opportunities for DX work on 50 MHz.

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

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## MICROSATS PASS ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING: MUST WAIT FOR LAUNCH

All four of the AMSAT Microsats (PACSAT, LUSAT, DOVE, and WEBERSAT) completed the necessary environmental tests, that is, thermal vacuum and vibration tests, with flying colors. This means the Microsats are now certified to fly aboard the Ariane IV launch vehicle.

Official word received on September 29 from Intelsat and Arianespace representatives indicates that launch may be delayed at least four weeks from the original date of November 10 to correct problems with the Ariane IV launch vehicle. The AMSAT launch team will use this time to perform additional system level and software testing on the satellites.

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

# WHO WILL WIN THE 1990 ROCHESTER CUP

by Wayne King, N2WK

Is RaRa ready to win back the Rochester Cup or will the RDXA win it again in 1990? Maybe the RRRRA would like to have it back. Its been a long time for the repeater group. How about the Genesee Repeater Association 19/79 gang? Maybe the Xerox ARC club can move up a peg and upset the DX club. What about some of the local clubs? All you have to do is submit a VHF contest log for the 1990 January Sweepstakes held on the 20th and 21st of January to the RVHFG contest chairman and designate your favorite local club on the back of your summary sheet and your club is off and running. Just getting on and working stations doesn't cut the mustard anymore. You need to turn your log in. Last year for instance RaRa submitted 21 logs out of about 740 members. Well that's only about 3 percent. Come on RaRa. You can do better than that. That trophy looked good at the K2JD club station. I know Xerox feels that they are within striking distance. Rule number 4 is the key to your clubs success. The greater the club participation the least you are penalized. A small club has as much a chance as the larger ones. What club will prevail in 1990? Here's a suggestion. Each club should appoint their own VHF contest Chairperson who would get the troops fired up, pass out logs and summary sheets and collect them to be sent to the RVHFG contest chairman. How about having a raffle within your club. Say everyone that submits a log for your club has their call put in a hat to have a chance for prize to be determined by each club. What an idea! I will have logs available to all that need them. All you have to do is call me or stop by or send me an S.A.S.E. I'm in the call book and my phone number is 477-3692 weekdays and 247-7283 evenings and weekends. You can also get the necessary forms from the ARRL contest desk with an S.A.S.E. of course. I hope to hear many of you on in January and I hope your club can win the CUP.

## ROCHESTER CUP AWARD CRITERIA

All local Rochester and surrounding area Amateur radio clubs are welcome to participate for this Trophy sponsored by the Rochester VHF Group *except* the RVHFG as a club. However its members may participate with any other area club that they are a member of. Here's a look at the six categories your club will be awarded points depending on how each club finishes in each category.

- 1) Total logs by each club (at least 3 to qualify)
- 2) Total score by each club

- 3) Total QSO's by each club
- 4) Percent of club membership participating
- 5) Total score by percent of club members participating
- 6) Total QSO's by percent of club members participating

Categories 1, 2 and 3 favor a larger club while 4, 5, and 6 favor the smaller club.

Point system: 1st in category 10 pts, 2nd = 9 pts, 3rd = 8 pts, etc.

#1 If you club submits the most logs it will earn first place in this category. (ex. RaRa 21, RRRRA 12, XEROX ARC 9, and RDXA 14 then RaRa earns 10 pts, RDXA 9 pts, RRRRA 8 pts, etc.)

#2 Your club's score is added up from each individual log from your club submitted to the RVHFG Contest Chairman.

#3 Your club's QSO's are added up from each log. (ex. RDXA members W2HPF has 182 contacts on 1 band and KB2SE logs 200 on 2 bands and W2HG has 400 on 5 bands then the RDXA's total is 782 QSO's.)

#4 Your club is awarded points for submitting as many logs as possible from its members. (ex. RaRa has 700 members and submits 21 logs then 3 percent of its members participated.)

**Note:** No matter what your score or number of contacts the idea is to *submit* your log to help increase your club's total percentage of participation.

#5 Your club's score multiplied by its participation. (ex. RRRRA has a score of 57,500 and 10 percent of its members submitted logs then the club score in this category is 5,750.)

#6 Your club's aggregate QSO total multiplied by its participation. (ex. Kodak ARC total QSO count by all members submitting logs in 1840 contacts with 12 percent of its membership sending logs to the contest chairman then their total in this category will end up as 220.8 QSO's.)

The tie breaker system will be: #5 *first* then if a tie still exists then #2.

Area clubs entered in previous contests: Drumlins, Genesee Repeater Association, Gram, Kodak ARC, MCC ARC, RAPS, RaRa, RDXA, RF HARRIS ARC, RRRRA, SIARC, Xerox ARC.

Past winners of the Rochester CUP: 1986 RRRRA, 1987 RaRa, 1988 RaRa and 1989 and current CUP holder RDXA.

# LOADING UP THE TOWER

One of the challenging aspects of DXing on the lower bands (especially 80 or 160 meters) is putting up a good antenna. If you already have a tower with a beam for the higher bands, the obvious solution is to use it as a vertical antenna. The HF beams on top will serve as top loading.

Since the base of the tower should be grounded (for lightning protection), a gamma match is often used. This consists of a conductor running up the side of the tower and spaced a couple of feet from it, connecting to the tower at some point. If the gamma "rod" is wire, the tower can be cranked down: typical materials are #8 stranded copper, a cage of wires, or a piece of RG-8 coax.

To use a tower this way, all feedlines and rotor cables should be secured to the tower legs, preferably on the inside, **ALL THE WAY TO THE GROUND.** (Although one could be creative and try using the feedlines as the gamma conductor.) All sections of the crank-up tower should make good electrical contact; if not, run an extra wire to jumper the joints. Any guy wires should be insulated from the tower and broken up into non-resonant lengths. (The top guy can be used to add some top loading.)

It is not necessary that the system be resonant on the desired band, but it will make matching easier. This can be done by adding a horizontal wire to make up for missing height, or a coil and whip (or mobile resonator) can be placed at the top.

Like most verticals, the ground system is very important. Run radials out from the base of the tower wherever you can. They don't have to be resonant; make them whatever length you can, and bend them as needed to fit your yard.

It is impossible to give dimensions here, since they depend on the height of the tower, the antennas on top, and the guy system. In general, the

point of connection to the tower, the spacing between the conductor and the tower, and a series capacitor at the feed point are adjusted for lowest SWR.

Fortunately, there is a quicker approach. Attach a wire to the tower at a convenient point near the top. Angle the wire down to a convenient spot for the feedpoint, and feed it through a tuner. Be sure that the ground side of the feedline has a good low impedance path to the base of the tower. You can experiment with the dimensions for lowest SWR, or build a fixed-tuned network to insert at the feedpoint if you want.

Another approach is to make the tower into a "folded unipole" using 3 or 4 wires attached to the top (below the rotator) that form a cage around the tower. They can drop straight down or be pulled away from the tower in the middle. Connect the ends of the wires together at the bottom, and feed it between this point and the tower base, again using a matchbox.

Vy 73 and good low-band DX!

*Dale Hunt, WB6BYU, in KEY KLIX  
via The Mike & Key*

## REMOVING DECALS AND STICKERS

Ever have trouble removing decals from your transceiver, car windows, bumpers or other pieces of gear? Even price tag stickers can be tough to get off and attracts dirt and grime. This tip from the finish folks at Ranger Boat Company can make sticker and decal removal quick and easy. Use a common hair dryer and gradually heat the entire decal. After the decal peels off, use simple white vinegar or WD-40 to remove any sticky residue. Wash with soap and water and you got it.

*Tnx The Readout*

**STATION FOR SALE - \$350.00.** Heathkit HW 101 Transciever; HP23 C Power Supply; Desk Microphone; BW Communications HWB-1 Clipper; Autek QF-1A SSB/CW/AM Filter. Contact Paul Altpeter, N2BUL, 924-7167.

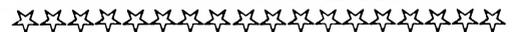


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**W2YJ'**  
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## ARRL OPPOSES BROADCASTERS IN PART 97 RECONSIDERATION PETITION

On July 20, a Petition for Reconsideration in PR Docket 88-139 (the new Part 97 rewrite) was jointly filed by the Radio Television News Directors Association (RTNDA); the National Association of Broadcasters; American Society of Newspaper Editors; CBS, Inc.; Capital Cities/ABC, Inc.; National Broadcasting Company, Inc.; National Public Radio; Post Newsweek Stations, Inc.; and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

In their petition, the broadcasters assert that the Commission's newly stated rule (97.113[c]) concerning instances in which Amateur Radio operators may convey information to broadcasters for dissemination to the public is confusing and overly restrictive. Their expectation, based on FCC's Report and Order regarding the revised Part 97, was that the category of circumstances in which Amateur Radio operators may furnish information to broadcasters was to be broadened.

In its Opposition filing on August 21, ARRL states that the "RTNDA [et al] misunderstands what the Commission's regulatory policy is with respect to news gathering using amateur radio facilities." News gathering was and still is prohibited absolutely. Amateur's ability to convey information to broadcasters... "is a narrow exception to the rules... It applies only in the most limited of circumstances [and] cannot be broadened beyond the concept of emergency communications ... lest the noncommercial nature of the Amateur Radio Service be subject to compromise, and the Service exploited". *Tnx ARRL Letter*

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## FCC FINES AMATEURS FOR UNAUTHORIZED RADIO ACTIVITY

On June 8, an FCC engineer monitored a radio station in operating on 7,415 kHz from the residence of Herbert Meyers, K2LPK, in Massapequa, NY. Neal Newman, KA2CAF, was assisting in the station's operation.

The unauthorized broadcast station calling itself "*World Wide National Public Radio*" was playing music, signing with the call letters "WNPR".

Newman and Meyers were fined \$750 for unlicensed radio operation which is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act. Unlicensed radio operators may be subject to fines of up to \$100,000 or one year in prison or both.

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

## THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — DECEMBER 1969

by Ed Gable, K2MP

The December meeting at the Farm and Home Center featured Bob Jeffers, W2ALL, speaking on getting the most out of your test equipment. This issue sported a good pix of Joe Marsey, W2EMX, with his Columbia Broadcasting System spinning disc color TV receiving adaptor. This was prior to the FCC's adaptation of what we know today as the three color dot system. This color wheel is now in the AWA Museum. The ARRL Atlantic Director and Jesse Bieberman, W3KT, Vice-Director. Ed Gable, W2MPM, was renamed to the Board of Directors to fill a spot vacated by Dave Russell, WA2GIA. Mel Wilson, W2BOC, will speak to the Rochester VHF Group on his Propagation studies with co-host Chuck Oneske, K2YCO, who will offer his usual pep talk for the up coming January VHF Contest. In Ed Gable's *Up and Up of VHF* column a new item of interest was reported for the first time in the Rochester area, the initiation of a two meter FM repeater on 34/94 by John Plumeri, W2KZD. Glenwood Sales on Hague Street continued as a long time advertiser.

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## GM ISSUES TRANSCEIVER INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

General Motors Corporation has released a brochure titled *Radio Telephone/Mobile Radio Installation Guidelines* for their late model automobiles. GM states that "these guidelines are intended to supplement, but not to be used in place of, detailed instructions for such installations which are the sole responsibility of the manufacturer of the involved radio telephone or land mobile radio". They indicate that improperly installed transceivers may "adversely affect the vehicle operations such as the performance of the engine and driver information, entertainment and electrical charging systems".

The guidelines go over such items as transmitter location, antenna installation, antenna coax routing, radio wiring and connection locations, and troubleshooting. The booklet also includes a detailed pictorial showing the recommended placement of single unit transceivers as well as those with remote control heads.

Copies of the installation guidelines are available by writing to the Electromagnetic Compatibility Department, EMC Building 40, General Motors Proving Ground, Milford, Michigan 48024-2001.

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

## VOLT OHM STANDARDS TO CHANGE IN 1990

Technicians will have to adjust or recalibrate precision electrical measuring instruments to conform with new standards taking effect next January 1. The National Institute of Standards and Technology will change its definition of the volt by about 93 parts per million (ppm) and the ohm by about 1.7 ppm. That will put electrical measurements in the USA in line with those the rest of the industrial world will use. The International Committee of Weights and Measures, meeting in France, for the first time adopted a common practical basis for measuring voltage and resistance. It set "conventional values" for the Josephson constant and the Von Klitzing constant—fundamental physical constants required to determine operational values of the volt (using the AC Josephson effect) and the ohm (using the Quantum Hall effect).

Before the changes there was a difference of approximately 1.2 ppm between the U.S. voltage standard and that of most European countries purely because of differences in the way the national standards were maintained. With the advent of modern, high-precision voltmeters, such differences have become increasingly significant to U.S. firms seeking to export high-precision equipment. Precision electrical measuring instruments will have to be recalibrated to maintain consistency with the new national standards.

*Tnx Fort Myers ARC Newsletter  
via Spurious Emissions*

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## BRIDGE ANTENNA

KB7BPJ recently loaded up a 4 section railroad bridge and worked Florida. Shane and WB7NAE Gary, took the rig with antenna tuner in their pickup ran a wire from the antenna tuner to the bridge and used a vise-grip to connect the tuner to the abandoned Milwaukee Road bridge outside Terry. The bridge has been sold to someone, and there is hardly ever any traffic there except for the 2 Highway patrol cars that pulled up while Shane and Gary were there! They just told them they were walking the dog ... which they were. Certainly they were not going to steal the bridge, they only had a pickup and the wire wasn't strong enough to tow it home and how would you rotate a bridge antenna, anyway? Now Shane is wondering if a 5 or 6 section bridge would work any better.

*Tnx Lyons Newsletter from Montana  
via Groundwave, St. Paul Radio Club  
via NARC Radio Newsette*

## CLUB PROVIDES COMMUNICATIONS AFTER MEDINA STORM!

Late Saturday afternoon October 14th the Village of Medina was hit with a freak storm, while only lasting 3 to 5 minutes, trees and poles were dropped with winds gusting up to 90 miles an hour. Uprooted trees fell on buildings and cars, downing power lines and telephone lines. A state of emergency was issued about 6 p.m. on Saturday and lifted Sunday evening at 7 p.m. Traffic in and around the village of Medina had been banned and vehicles were not allowed to enter or leave the village.

Dick Clark, Orleans County Disaster Preparedness Director, issued a call on fire frequencies for amateur radio operators and our Orleans County Amateur Radio Club responded very well!! Over 10 members of the club were involved with the operation and a critique of the weekend activity will be conducted at the club's next meeting.

I do know the Orleans County Disaster Preparedness Director, Dick Clark, was very appreciative of our efforts and may I say I thought Mr. Clark was outstanding in handling his duties and it is going to be a pleasure serving with him again should we have the occasion to do so in the future!  
*Bob Hazel, WA2QDU, via Spurious Emission*

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## POSTAL RATES HAVE GONE UP 8 TIMES

Since 1970 when Congress passed the Postal Reorganization Act and created the Postal Rate Commission... an independent regulatory agency, a first class stamp has risen 30% faster than inflation ... from 6 cents to 25 cents. Even so, the USPS loses money ... big money (\$223 million last year). There have been five Postmaster Generals in the last five years!

The major problem seems to be that the postal service has no competition. They aren't subject to the harsh discipline of the market place. Reportedly the Postal Service pays 21% higher salaries than their private sector counterparts. 80% of the USPS operating budget goes for labor. Rather than increase productivity, the USPS simply passes on the costs to the consumer. Postage and the USPS seems to be getting out of hand. The USPS needs to slim down. Electronic mail, overnight courier delivery and FAX are cutting deeply into USPS revenue.

*W5YI Report via Metroplex*

## ARRL FILES FOR CODE-FREE HAM CLASS

“The League has carefully researched and evaluated this subject. It is not one which yet enjoys universal acceptance in the amateur radio community. It is, however, one which the League now supports as beneficial to the future, short and long term, of the Amateur Service. The only way the plan can fail is if the Amateur Service rejects the Communicator class licensees as full-fledged members. This the League firmly believes will not occur, as the Amateur Service has a tradition of mutual assistance, and guidance of newcomers by the more experienced members. Newcomers will strengthen the Service. Once and for all, those who have a true interest in becoming radio amateurs will have the opportunity to join, unfettered by unfounded preconceptions about entry barriers. They will not only have the opportunity to become amateurs, but will also have a more favorable exposure to the benefits of having a personal, cognitive communications skill, which is shared worldwide in the Amateur Radio Service. The learning of Morse code should be viewed more as an opportunity than as a burden, or a hurdle over which they must jump”.

*(Excerpt from ARRL Petition for Rulemaking)*

*As expected, the American Radio Relay League submitted a Petition for Rule Making to the Federal Communication Commission on August 31 seeking “Establishment of a Class of Amateur Radio Operator License not requiring a demonstration of proficiency in the International Morse Code”.*

*The League proposed a new sixth class Communicator license offering specific, limited privileges on amateur frequencies above 220 MHz. There was no mention that these privileges would actually be above 222 MHz since the FCC reallocated 220-222 MHz to the Land Mobile Service.*

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## DID YOU KNOW

... that Hiram Percy Maxim (ARRL founder) was the youngest to graduate from M.I.T. at the age of 16?

... that a lightning bolt can be as long as 20 miles.

... a quick 2-band (2M and 450) antenna can be made from a ¼ wave 2M antenna. Tune it up for 2M and it works reasonably well on 450 also.

*World Radio via Metroplex*

## IS WAYNE GREEN TRYING TO BUY 220 - 222 MHz?

Rumors being passed in the amateur radio community seem to suggest that Wayne Green, W2NSD/1, publisher of *73 Amateur Radio* magazine, may be trying to buy back the lower two megahertz of 220 MHz from UPS and other commercial interests. Word of the attempted purchase was said to have been leaked by an unreliable source outside Green's publishing empire.

Contacts within the League of Radio Relaying Americans told the *GEARVAKf Bulletin* that Wayne might even barter for the return of the lower part of the band by offering free magazine subscriptions in trade for the band segment. Although these reports have not yet been confirmed, most people in the LRRR and GEARVAKf think they sound pretty good. As soon as they can get around to it, *GEARVAKf Bulletin* investigative reporters may think about checking with Wayne about the validity of the stories.

— KVM5149 via GEARVAKf

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## IT'S OFFICIAL: ARRL GOES TO COURT TO CHALLENGE FCC'S 220-MHz REALLOCATION DECISION

On September 28, ARRL filed a “*Petition to Review Agency Order*” with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The petition requests the Court to set aside the FCC reallocation decision in Docket 87-14, and remand the matter to the FCC to rededicate.

The petition contains only a brief overview of ARRL's argument that the Commission's action was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and not in accordance with the law; the substance will come later, in the League's statement of issues and pleading.

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

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