



# the RARA RAG

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NO. 1

## SEPTEMBER 7th MEETING TOPIC — CONTESTING

The kickoff meeting for 1990-91 will be at the Farm and Home Center on September 7 at 8:00 p.m. The Farm and Home Center is located at 249 Highland Avenue and is part of the Monroe County Co-operative Extension.

The speaker for the evening will be Warren C. Stankiewicz, NF1J. Warren is the assistant editor for the contest corral column in *QST*. By having a representative from the League as a speaker, you will have an opportunity to find out what is going on in Newington.

His topic will be contesting. Plan to come early and see your old friends and meet some new ones also. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. While you are here visit the sales table and pick up a RaRa T-shirt.

## ARRL INSURANCE PAYS OFF

At a sales meeting in early May, the Albert H. Wohlers & Company insurers, carriers of the ARRL Ham Radio Equipment Insurance Program, released figures for claims paid relating to Hurricane Hugo and to the northern California earthquake, both of which took place in the autumn of 1989.

Holders of the League's plan were paid \$48,104 for Hugo claims and \$14,815 for earthquake damage. 13 Hugo claims were made, primarily from Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands; three earthquake claims were paid.

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

### SILENT KEY

JOHN P. LaFOREST  
WB2UTX  
June 1, 1990

## RaRa CODE AND THEORY CLASSES

by Ed Gable, K2MP

In continuous operation for 34 years, RaRa is pleased to announce the formation of its Fall 1990 Code and Theory classes. This session is offered for Novice and Tech/General.

The classes begin Monday evening, September 24th, 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. No advanced registration is required, just show up! Please call Ed Gable, K2MP, RaRa Licensing Class Director, at 621-6692, if there are any questions. ARRL Text materials will be used.

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! Bob will have assistant instructors helping out from time to time as well as other guests. The Technician and General Class theory is still taught as a combined class but with separate emphasis on the question pool for each element. Ed Gable, K2MP, will attempt that effort along with "guest speakers/experts" on specific topics. Those guest instructors, along with a 13 WPM General Class code instructor to run practice sessions, are still being sought after. Call Ed if you want to volunteer for a very rewarding and self satisfying position of great service to the Amateur community ...

The total cost for the entire 13 week program, including membership dues, registration and all material is \$22.00 for Tech/General and \$17.00 for Novice. Subtract the cost of dues if already a member of RaRa.

Sorry, but due to a decided lack of attendance and interest, no Advanced or Amateur Extra classes are planned for the Fall.

# the **RaRa Rag**

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**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)

## ARRL AWARDS AVAILABLE THROUGH RaRa

RaRa, an ARRL Special Service Club, has been authorized by the ARRL to check and approve QSL cards for the popular Worked All States (WAS) and VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) Awards. This eliminates the need for members to mail away their precious QSL cards to ARRL Headquarters. To apply, call Ed Gable, K2MP, RaRa's Awards Manager, at (716) 621-6692.

**WANTED:** Collector/historian wants to buy your old tube type receivers (National, RME, Hallicrafters, etc) and other interesting vintage equipment and literature. Please help by calling Ed Gable, K2MP, at (716) 621-6692.

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### OFFICERS:

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Amateur Radio News Service

## DAZZLING NEW MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR ELECTRONIC EXHIBIT AT SMITHSONIAN

A dazzling new exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution museum in Washington, D.C. is a "must see" if you are ever in the nation's capitol. It traces the information revolution from Samuel F. B. Morse's first primitive telegraph to the modern day computer. The new display opened May 16th and marked the first time that the Smithsonian has let private corporations provide sponsorship funds.

The corporate sponsors for this display include such giants as IBM, AT&T, Unisys and Xerox who put up the bankroll for the multi-million dollar tab for the largest and most expensive exhibition ever presented at the Smithsonian. The museum director said the Smithsonian was forced to rely on private support because Congressional budget cuts had left the museum without federal funds for new exhibits.

The display, which covers 14,000 square feet, has been five years in the making. The show includes 78 computers, 43 video monitors, 52 laser microdisc players, 20 'touch screen' displays and 24 bar code scanners.

Visitors begin with a view of Morse's original 1832 telegraph ... and exit through a hands-on-state-of-the-art chamber of wonders. The exhibits includes a working 2-ton robot once used at a General Motors plant in Delaware. Viewers can even tap out SOS in a recreation of the Titanic's radio room ... and talk over the same telephone once used by Alexander Graham Bell.

Museum officials said the exhibit will be constantly updated to reflect technological advances.

*W5 YI Report via The Readout*

## FCC FORBIDS REGULATION

ARRL Counsel Chris Imlay, N3AKD, received a letter from FCC General Counsel Robert L. Pettit, reaffirming the fact that radio frequency interference (RF) matters have been preempted by Congress. Imlay had requested an opinion on a Pierre, South Dakota, ordinance regulating RFI.

The letter from the FCC stated that Congress has preempted any concurrent state or local regulation of RFI pursuant to the provisions of the Communications Act. The Act provided that the FCC "may, consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, make reasonable regulations (1) governing the [RFI] potential of devices which ... are capable of emitting radio frequency energy ... in sufficient degree to cause harmful interference to radio communications ..."

The FCC says the legislation provides explicitly that the Commission has exclusive authority to regulate RFI. Congress declared "the reservation of exclusive jurisdiction to the FCC over matters involving RFI. Such matters shall not be regulated by local or state law, nor shall radio transmitting be subject to local or state regulation as part of any effort to resolve an RFI complaint".

The FCC letter stated the "state laws that require penalties as a consequence of [RFI] thus has been entirely preempted by Congress".

The Regulatory Information Department at ARRL HQ has copies of the "Pettit Letter" available for an SASE. *ARRL Bulletin*

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## TEXAS HAMS WIN TOWER RIGHTS

Amateurs in Bedford, TX won a major tower victory earlier this month. On June 12 the city council of this Dallas-Fr. Worth suburb unanimously approved a 65-foot tower ordinance. A dispute which had begun in October, 1989 over the 60-foot tower of Mike Simpson, WB5SUF, had escalated to include virtually every amateur in the city.

The Simpson case, according to ARRL volunteer counsel Lanny Priddy, K5LP, was not a PRB-1 case, because it concerned deed restrictions, not a local ordinance. Priddy did, however, cite PRB-1 in his arguments.

Ironically, Simpson praised the homeowners who had complained to the city. "They allowed the city to clear up the entire antenna question", Simpson said, because "before the ordinance hams had been given a plethora of conflicting information at city hall". *Tnx ARRL Letter*

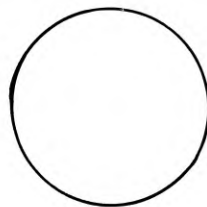
## THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — SEPTEMBER 1970

by Ed Gable, K2MP

As is customary with the September issue, the incoming president writes words of welcome and introduction to RaRa. This has one exception, the words of welcome were written by Eddie Dunn, W2ECH, although George Negus, K2OIU, is the new president. Other 1970 officers were Rich Koehn, WB2SNA, VP; Joe Marsey, W2EMX, Treasurer and Ed Holdsworth, WA2EKR, Secretary. Board members were Ben Michner, WB2WBZ; Al Mumby, WB2MCP; Roger Dunham, K2EQK; Joe Hood, K2YAH; Len Gessin, WA2ZNC; Wally Kincaid, WB2HZG and Harold Smith, WA2KND. Ed Gable, W2MPM, in his "Up and Up on VHF" column reports the new Rochester VHF Group officers as Chuck Oneske, K2YCO, Chairman; Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, Vice-Chairman and John Lucas, WA2BEH as Secretary. Continuing, Charlie Mills, K2LDU, reporting for the Rochester Radio Repeater Association, reports the following new officers: Charlie Mills, K2LDU, Chairman; Bob Jeffers, W2ALL, Vice-Chairman; Bob Phelps, WB2DPT Secretary/Treasurer and Tom Ball, WA2THS as Activities Chairman. Charlie told the proper procedure to be sure you log onto the 18/88 tape recording log system then required by the FCC. Joan Vogt, WA2YTK, reports that she is ready to accept RaRa renewals and that the 70/71 Membership Directories are available. From the Want Ads, a 40 foot, crank up, tilt over tower can be had for thirty-five dollars from Hank Kreutter, WA2IKB.

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## BLOW IN THIS CIRCLE



If it turns blue, call your doctor.  
If it turns brown, call your dentist.  
If it turns purple, call your psychiatrist.  
If it turns red, call your banker.  
If it turns black, see your lawyer and make out your will.  
If it remains the same colour, you are in good health and there is no reason you should not be at the next club meeting.

*Tnx to Poinsettia ARC,  
Ventura, CA, and WORLDRADIO*

## THE PREZ SAYS . . . .

I hope you all had a great summer, and managed to get that much-needed antenna work done before the weather takes its inevitable turn for the worse.

I want to welcome back all of our old members, and extend an invitation to join us to all of the non-members who will also receive this first issue of the Rag. The programs we are lining up for this next year prove to be both interesting and exciting. I think you will all agree that the \$9.00 membership fee is among the lowest in the country for a club of this size (almost 1000 members). This monthly newsletter alone justifies the cost of membership. RaRa also runs licensing classes for those "new hams" as well as those wishing to upgrade. In addition to the normal monthly meetings, RaRa also provides 2 picnics during the year, one in February (small charge for food), and one in June (free to members). Let us not forget the November auction where members can sell their "previously enjoyed" equipment. As you can see, the \$9.00 membership fee is one of the few values still left in life.

We all look forward to seeing you at a future meeting. If you have never been to a RaRa meeting before, feel free to stop by the membership desk and say hello, or approach any of the board members and introduce yourself. It is always nice to have an "eyeball QSO" with those people you talk to on the radio, but have never met. Of course if all else fails, there are always the great refreshments available at the end of each meeting.

I hope to see you at our first meeting on September 7th to kick off another successful year at RaRa.

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## ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE

After an inquiry regarding 12-vdc to 115vac inverters, the editor received a very interesting catalog from a firm called REAL GOODS TRADING COMPANY in Ukiah, California.

They seem to sell everything from survival foods to electro-voltaic electrical systems with everything in between. They have bicycle driven 12vdc generators, water and wind power generators, pv (photo-voltaic) panels, etc. Anyone contemplating building a solar powered ham station would do well to contact this firm. They list solar panels ranging from 2 to 60 watt capacity.

Drop a line to them at:

Real Goods Trading Company

966 Mazzoni Street

Ukiah, California 95482

Telephone: 707-468-9214

*Tnx LARC Bulletin*

## RaRa SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 7 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.  
Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland
- 8 - SWL Picnic - Clay, NY - 10:00 a.m.  
Talk in 147.105
- 12 - 15 - AWA Conference - Thruway Marriott  
Hotel
- 14 - VHF Group - 111 Westfall Road
- 15 - VE Exams - 111 Westfall Road  
8:30 a.m.
- 21 - RRRRA Meeting
- 22 - Buffalo Hamfest - Hamburg, NY  
Eric County Fairgrounds  
- Computer Networking Conference  
London, Ontario, Canada
- 27 - VE Exams - 565 Blossom Road  
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- 29 - Elmira Hamfest - Elmira, NY

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## EMF RISK STUDIES CONTINUE

Further studies are being done on electromagnetic exposure by laboratories and research centers in about a dozen countries.

An estimated \$15 million a year is being spent to investigate whether electric or magnetic fields, such as those associated with power lines, common house wiring, or appliances, pose a health risk.

The new perspective is reflected in a paper issued last June by Congress' Office of Technology Assessment, which says that recent epidemiologic studies, although controversial and far from conclusive, are beginning to provide a basis for concern about risks from chronic exposure to EMF (electric and magnetic fields).

The Soviet Union has long had much more stringent standards in this area than the U.S.

*Tnx The Readout*

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FOR SALE - Kenwood TH-201 A full featured, full powered 2m hand held. 5 watts, 10 memories, several scan modes w/ channel lockout, extended receive coverage, programmable battery saver, PL encode. Includes 3 battery packs, drop in charger, soft case, DC adaptor cable. Mint condition \$350. ANTENNAS: Hustler CG-144 3/8 over 1/4 7' collinear \$20. Larsen KD4-146 2m Kulduckie \$10. Kenwood SWT-1 2m 100w in-line tuner. Never used \$35. Rick, WA2RBO, 621-7583 after 6 p.m.

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

Amateur Radio examinations for the 1990 - 1991 season are scheduled to be held on the third Saturday of each month from September 15, 1990 through April 20, 1991. Examinations are also planned for the Saturday of the Rochester Hamfest on May 18, 1991. The Hamfest testing activities will be detailed in the Hamfest brochure. The regular season dates are:

Saturday, 15 September 1990  
Saturday, 20 October 1990  
Saturday, 17 November 1990  
Saturday, 15 December 1990  
Saturday, 19 January 1991  
Saturday, 16 February 1991  
Saturday, 16 March 1991  
Saturday, 20 April 1991

The schedule for each of the above dates is:

8:30 a.m. – Fee collection and registration  
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.

On examination day, we must (by FCC rules) see two forms of identification, your current original amateur radio license and applicable original certificates. To avoid delay in registration and license processing, we also need one photocopy each of your current license and any applicable certificates to forward with your application if you successfully upgrade.

Preregistration is helpful to the VE team. Please include a completed 610 Form and a "COPY" (not the original) of your Amateur Radio License and applicable certificates. **DO NOT SEND FEES AT THIS TIME!!!** Send all correspondence to:

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

The examination fee is \$4.95 (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 for the FCC to issue your license.

All examinations are RaRa sponsored, coordinated by W5YI/VEC and taken under the direction of the VE exam coordinators: John Schooley, K2NC; Lou Kohlen, K2ANE and Dick Critchell, KY2Y. We expect that this 1990-1991 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*

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**FOR SALE**— Ten Tec Argosy HF Transceiver with matching power supply, 500 H<sub>2</sub> crystal CW filter, 2 position audio filter. Like new condition. Asking \$550. Kenwood TH-41AT 440 Handie Talkie, compact. Excellent condition with spare battery and accessories. Asking \$150. Bernie Agins, KD2CU, call 359-2947 between 6-8 p.m.

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## ROCHESTER HAMFEST

**MAY 17, 18, 19, 1991**

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### WHO DO I LOOK LIKE, MR. GOODWRENCH?

A ham radio operator came home one day and his wife said, "*Honey, my car broke down today. Could you take a look at it?*" He looked at her and said, "*Who do I look like, Mr. Goodwrench?*"

The next day he came home and she said, "*Honey, we blew a fuse and now the lights in the kitchen aren't working. Could you look at it?*" He looked at her and said, "*Who do I look like, Thomas Edison?*"

The next day when he came home his wife said, "*Honey, the pipes burst and I had to call a plumber. The problem is that after I paid the mechanic to look at the car and an electrician to look at the wiring, I didn't have any money left to pay the plumber.*" "*So, what did you do?*", he asked. Well as luck would have it the plumber was a ham radio operator like you, and he said that I could either fix him a home cooked meal, or give him that little radio of yours ... you know, the one that you carry around on your belt when you go to the swap meets.

The old man gasped and said, "*Surely you cooked him a meal, right?*"

She looked at him and said, "*Who do I look like, Betty Crocker?*"

*Thanks Southern Sierra ARS via The Readout*

## PUBLIC SERVICE AND ARES/RACES

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH  
EC/RO Monroe County

There are approximately 900 people presently listed as members of RaRa. This is *approximately 30%* of the licensed Amateurs in the Rochester area. There are presently 81 Amateurs enrolled in ARES/RACES of which 50 or so actively participate in local Public Service events. These public service events are our main training ground for Natural or other disasters that may occur at any time. There are also several groups and many people that work on different events during the year that are not members of ARES/RACES and do an outstanding job on the events that they participate in. They also will gain knowledge and understanding of what will be required in time of emergency.

I want to point out that it is not a requirement that you be a member of either ARES or RACES to become involved in any Public Service event. I also would like to point out that my job as Emergency Coordinator is just that – to act as coordinator for these events. This will enable us to assist in the many and varied events in a coordinated manner and not have different groups all looking for volunteers at the same time for different events. If you are going to assist with an event in the near future or sometime next year, I would appreciate it if you would let me know the date and approximate number of volunteers you will be looking for.

The station located at 111 Westfall Road is still going strong and is gradually being updated as well as adding new equipment. In the past year we have replaced the rotator on the HF tower and added an antenna switch that made it possible to add three new antennas for the new bands. We also have added an additional Packet Station at K2JD as well as placing one at the National Weather Service at the Airport and one at the Red Cross Headquarters on Prince Street. We also have the Digi-peater located at the top of 111 Westfall which is maintained by the Rochester Packet Group. If you would like to see the station it will be open on Monday nights starting the end of September or give me a call and I would be glad to show it to you at a mutually convenient time. It is still available to all licensed club members on a 24 hour basis after being checked out on it and receiving proper ID.

We will hopefully be installing an additional tower on the roof so that we will be able to separate the HF and VHF antenna. The tower has been placed on the roof but still requires mounting in a vertical position. This will be

accomplished (hopefully) this fall before snow, it still might work! We are also waiting for a new HF transceiver to take the place of the TR-7. This will make it possible to have an HF transceiver at the Red Cross which will add to our capabilities to communicate with other local chapters around the country directly. If you would like more information about ARES/RACES or the club station, please feel free to call me at home at the number listed in the RAG. I can usually be reached in the evenings, best after 7:00 p.m. and will try to answer any questions you may have.

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## QSL ETIQUETTE FOR SOVIET HAMS

In late 1988 a new world opened for Soviet Amateur Radio operators, when they received permission to send and receive QSL cards direct. In the February issue of their *Radio* magazine, G. Chilyants, UY5 XE implores Soviet hams not to request International Reply Coupons from overseas (IRCs are neither sold nor negotiable in the USSR).

"... letters are beginning to come in", Chilyants writes, "to the [Radio Sports Federation], the Central Radio Club, and to individual radio amateurs from foreign shortwavers, surprised by such behavior on the air by Soviet stations".

Chilyants offers the following advice on "how to make use of the right to give one's personal address over the air":

- "Give your address only when asked to do so by the other station, or after he has given you his;
- "Avoid giving your address when working DX stations and expeditions; your information won't be noted in the log anyhow;
- "It's not ethical to indicate the need for IRCs, much less the number of IRCs needed. These things will be determined by the other station. If there are no enclosures in the envelope sent to you, send your QSL via the bureau;
- "If one IRC is enclosed, send your QSL by direct surface mail; if two IRCs are enclosed, send your QSL by direct air mail". (Translation from *Radio* by Dexter Anderson, W4KM.)

*Tnx ARRL Letter*



# JUDGE THROWS BOOK AT CON-MAN

## Michael Harrison Sentenced to 21 months and Fined

A Federal Judge in New York has literally thrown the book at Michael Harrison, WB2PTI, 37, of Oceanside, New York, who defrauded Amateur Radio operators out of thousands of dollars in a fraudulent mail order sales scheme. It all started in the Fall of 1988 when Harrison placed full page ads in *73 Magazine* declaring that the defunct Atlas and Dentron Radio Companies were back in business at two different Long Island, New York, post office addresses. Smaller ads were placed in other ham publications. The ads offered Uniden ten-meter transceivers at a price which sounded to good to pass up. Dozens of Amateurs placed orders and sent in their money receiving nothing in return. Uniden disavowed any knowledge of Atlas ... as did the original owners of Atlas and Dentron.

In late January of 1989 Harrison was arrested for Mail Fraud by U.S. Postal Inspectors and subsequently indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on 50 counts of Mail Fraud on August 28, 1989. He was released on \$25,000 bond.

Following his release on bail, he placed more mail order ads in January of 1990 which violated the terms of his bail. He was ordered into court but failed to appear. He was located and arrested again on February 14, 1990 and jailed.

On February 26, 1990, Harrison pled guilty to five counts of Mail Fraud to Judge Mischler. Since there was to be no jury, the W5YI Report published the address of the Judge who would be sentencing Harrison and invited readers to write to him. Many did and the judge threw the book at him!

On April 19, 1990, Judge Mischler sentenced Harrison to 21 months in prison, a \$125,000 fine, full restitution, plus interest to each victim, and three years of probation after he completes his jail term. Additionally, Harrison must pay \$1,210 a month to the Bureau of Prisons for his confinement costs. Harrison has also agreed to return any equipment he received from his recent victims. As a condition of his sentence, Harrison must make full restitution within five years including interest.

It is doubtful that he can comply ... so the story apparently is not over yet.

### Harrison Sentence

1. 21 months in federal prison
2. Full restitution plus interest

3. 3 years probation
  4. Pay \$1,210 per month for confinement costs
  5. Return any equipment in his possession
- W5YI Report  
via *The Readout*

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## NEW TEST PROCEDURES FOR DISABLED

People suffering certain disabilities will get a break on Morse code requirements, FCC announced June 15 at the sixth annual meeting of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators. The new procedures will allow volunteer examiners more flexibility in administering exams to handicapped or disabled people.

Given a physician's statement attesting to the handicap or disability, examiners may be able to substitute a Morse sending test for one in receiving, to allow spoken instead of written copy, and to use a Morse code recognition exam. More details on this will be forthcoming.

On other matters, the VEC Question Pool Committee, chaired by Ray Adams, N4BAQ, recommended continuation of all current questions, pending outcome of proposals to change the licensing structure (namely, the FCC's Communicator Class proposal).

FCC personnel listened to comments on the proposed Communicator Class license from the Communicator Recommendations Committee, as well as a summary of the League's "*Strawman*" position (see July *QST*, p. 54).

The CRC also recommended that the 6- and 2-meter bands be included as privileges for the Communicator since "*main-streaming*" these new amateurs is one of the many goals of the new proposed license class. Also recommended was that all Novice examining be brought under the auspices of the VEC program.

The subject of fraudulent applications was discussed with no consensus reached on the extent of the problem (if indeed a problem exists).

Tom Ingram, K4OOV, of the Central Alabama VEC, was voted Chairman of the Conference for the next year.

The meeting, held in Gettysburg, PA, was attended by 12 of the 18 VECs seven FCC staff members, Harry Dannals, W2HD (representing QCWA) two ARRL directors (W3ABC and N4MM), Evelyn Garrison, WS7A (of ICOM, representing manufacturers), and observers from the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS).

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

## SEE-DOUBLE YEW

Here are a few thoughts about getting familiar with and the practice of the art of communicating in Morse Code, commonly referred to as CW. I heard of a prospective amateur who copied the code by making the dots and dashes with a pencil, with the intention on translating them into letters later, when he had more time. Obviously, this is not the way to start. The first thing to do, and I don't know any way around it, is to memorize the alphabet, and a few punctuation marks. Maybe I had an overactive imagination, but could imagine the letter actually looking like its code equivalent. For example, and "H" just looked like four dots, with one sitting on each corner.

Until you are able to read code in your head, like listening to someone talk, and just make a note now and then, the best way to put the QSO, test or just practice on paper is to do it by *writing* it, not printing each letter. If you are like 90% of the people I know, you can write at least twice as fast as you can print. With writing you can make a whole word without lifting the pencil from the paper, whereas in printing, by the time you get the letter down on paper. A couple more have slipped by. So you run a few word together, and left a "T" uncrossed, at least you got them all down.

Another thing, when you are copying code and you miss a letter or two, don't sit there and meditate what it could have been or why it didn't sound right; *forget it* and go on to the next letters. You will probably be able to fill in the missing letter from the ones before and after. Before you know it, you will be copying *words* instead of letters, especially "the", "and", RST, "tnx" etc. A word of caution, *don't anticipate*. If you copy a word beginning comp..., and you are sure it's going to be computer and write it down, and comparator is sent, you are in trouble.

I am personally against the over-use of punctuation in a QSO. Sometimes I hear commas and periods all over the place. My policy is to express a thought and then send BT and go on to the next thought. Save a lot of time and CW is slow enough anyhow. If you are sending a legal document or message, of course, be as explicit as possible.

I hear a lot of stations calling NNQ, which can be translated as CQ, and saying my NAG is so-and-so, instead of my NAME. Let's watch that. I also hear many operators say "Your RST is 579". I'd rather hear "UR 579". If he doesn't know that's RST, then he has a bigger problem than you.

I suppose it is a carry over from 'phone operation, but at the end of a transmission the operators

send "Back to you" blah blah. I wonder if he remembers that the simple letter "K" means "*invitation to transmit*", and saves a lot of time.

There are many abbreviations used in CW work, which are commonly recognized and save time. For example, "C" for Yes, "SRI" for sorry, "TNX" or "TU" for Thank You, and so on. If you have a *CALLBOOK*, there is a whole page of CW abbreviations, many in common use.

On the subject of "K", many operators, possibly as a conditioned reflex, send "KN" at the end of a transmission, the "N" meaning "*no breakers*" which is alright but it seems sort of anti-social, like they don't want anybody else to join in the fun. I think a simple "K" does a fine job, and you can meet new people, too. I even heard a long CQ followed by a call, and terminated with "KN"!!! How is he to get an answer if nobody is allowed to break his solitude?

There are two rules about sending speed. The first is, don't try to send faster than you can copy; and the second, try not to send faster than your contact is sending. That way you can have a nice, clean QSO, and not have to say, "RRR FB OM PLS RPT UR NAME QTH ES MY RPT".

Many think Morse Code is a dying art and a archaic type of communications, but it really can be a lot of fun, and you would be surprised how expressive and unique you can be, even with a keyer or a keyboard. Good luck.

73, K2OSV

*Tnx Harmonics*



Amateur Radio News Service

**Patrick C. Moyer, N2AIW**  
**Attorney & Counselor-at-Law**

General Legal Services  
ARRL Volunteer Counsel Participant  
AOPA Legal Plan  
Masters Degree in City Planning

**Day and Evening Hours**  
**(716) 427-9907**

2128 W. Jefferson Rd. • Pittsford, NY 14534

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