



# the RARA RAG

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

VOL. 43

DECEMBER 1990

NO. 4

## JOINT RaRa AND KODAK MEETING AT KODAK PARK JUDITH STONEHILL, N2KXS SPEAKING ABOUT HER BIOACOUSTIC WORK WITH WHALES

The December 7th meeting of RaRa will be the joint meeting with the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in Building 28, the employee recreation building just off of Lake Avenue and Ridge Road.

The meeting will feature a presentation by Judith Stonehill, N2KXS. She was featured in an article last September 30th in the *Democrat and Chronicle*.

The subject of her presentation will be her research work with bioacoustic studies pertaining to Whales. The research includes digitizing the sounds of Whales to determine unique sounds as they relate to their surroundings.

The time to work with these mammals is being done with her own time and resources. The impact of her study will provide tools for marine biologists for future study of marine mammals.

Plan on attending this excellent program and see what is on the horizon. So come, and also make some new friends with the KPARC members.

## 220 MHZ HEARING

Having exhausted its lobbying, filing, commenting and reconsideration efforts for the most part, the ARRL now looks to the U.S. Court of Appeals to roll back the reallocation of 220-222 MHz to the private land mobile radio service for narrowband usage. Oral arguments before the court were scheduled for November 16th in Washington, D.C.

FCC decisions are often appealed to the court by parties who believe the FCC to have acted irrationally or beyond its authority.

The FCC usually wins appeals of spectrum allocations however. The court tends to defer to the technical expertise of the FCC and to the agency's board authority to decide where in the spectrum its licensees must operate. It's doubtful that the court will find enough errors in the FCC's decision to reverse it outright. Even if the court remands the case to the FCC, they are expected to reaffirm their decision and come out with additional papers to support their position.

In any case the ARRL is giving the appeal it's best shot. They have retained the law firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft to represent the Amateur viewpoint. This firm has experience in appeal matters. In addition, the ARRL's long-time counsel Chris Imlay, N3AKD will assist.

*Tnx The Readout*

## IS THIS YOUR LAST RAG?

If you have not renewed your RaRa Membership, this will be your last *RaRa Rag*. The grace period to renew your membership expires with this issue of the *Rag*. If your mailing label shows an expiration date of "October 90", your renewal has not been received by the membership chairman. Please renew at your earliest convenience to keep the *Rag* coming.

## IS YOUR MAILING LABEL CORRECT?

Please check your mailing label and make sure your call and address are all correct. Please bring any errors to the attention of Dick Goslee so the data base can be corrected.

### SILENT KEYS

JOSEPH PHILLIPS  
W2DHV  
October 24, 1990

ED MAHER  
WB2ZJY  
November 3, 1990

ROBERT E. PHELPS  
WB2DPT  
November 10, 1990

# the *RaRa Rag*

Published by  
**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333

**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)

**Managing Editor** ..... Dick Goslee, K2VCZ  
24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716-334-1762)

**Advertising Manager** ..... Dick Goslee, K2VCZ  
24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716-334-1762)

## NEW 40 METER BAND?

If you're tired of all the foreign shortwave broadcast stations populating the 40 meter band, hope is on the way. A tentative agreement has been reached by the informal group concerned with shortwave reallocations at the 1992 WARC (World Administrative Radio Conference) to be held in Spain in 1992.

If the agreement is adopted, it could resolve the problems of North and South American hams sharing the band with international broadcasters.

The Industry Advisory Committee working group has agreed to propose to the FCC that Amateur operations be moved to 6950-7250 kHz on an exclusive worldwide basis, while broadcasters would take over exclusive use of 7250-7750 kHz.

In a few months, the FCC will get together with US Government users and put together the US positions to take to WARC. Although this proposal is quite preliminary, it was readily agreed to with no opposition within the working group.

*Tnx The Readout*

VOL. 43 DECEMBER 1990 NO. 4

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The RaRa RAG (USPA 605-440) is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., 24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, New York 14623. Subscription is \$4.00 per year (included in the \$9.00 annual membership dues). Second class postage paid in Rochester, NY.

POSTMASTER - Send address changes to The RaRa Rag, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, New York 14692-8333.

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Amateur Radio News Service

## TVI PROMPTS ROCK THROWING

*Watsonville*— A dispute over ham radio transmissions that interfere with telephones in a Watsonville neighborhood escalated into rock throwing deputies said.

Residents who live near the ham radio operator in the 100 block of Carnation Avenue have complained to the Federal Communications Commission, Pacific Bell and the Monterey County Sheriff's Department, about the interference to their telephones according to deputies.

The 34-year old ham operator has said he does not know why his set-up interferes with the phones, but maintains he is operating legally.

Around 10 pm Friday night, a deputy called to the ham's home to investigate reports of someone was throwing rocks at his home. While the deputy was talking to the ham, they both heard the sound of rocks hitting the house. The deputy went into the back bedroom and saw a neighbor throwing rocks at the home. The ham radio operator told deputies his neighbor challenged him to a fight earlier in the day. The neighbor admitted throwing rocks, telling the deputy he hoped it would make him stop using his radio. Deputies made no arrests.

*Thanks NPS Amateur Radio Club Newsletter, Monterey as reprinted from Santa Cruz newspaper story via The Readout*

## CANADA DEREGULATES

Effective October 1 Canadian radio amateurs found their license structure revamped and all HF mode subbands eliminated. The Department of Communications now will issue a single Amateur certificate, with up to four levels of qualification: Basic, Morse code 5 wpm, Morse code 12 wpm, and Advanced.

Holders of "old" Amateur or Advanced Amateur certificates are grandfathered to the new Amateur Operator's Certificate with all four levels of qualification. Digital Certificate holders are deemed to hold the new AO Certificate with Basic and Advanced Qualification. More information appears in the October issue of *QST Canada*.

Concurrent with the licensing changes, DOC also eliminated subbands. Effective immediately, any mode may be used in any band, with these bandwidth restrictions: 160-12 meters (except 30 meters): 6 kHz; 30 meters: 1 kHz; 10 meters: 20 kHz; 220 MHz: 100 kHz; 430 and 920 MHz bands: 12 MHz; all other Amateur bands are not specified.

The Canadian Radio Relay League is urging all Canadian amateurs to abide voluntarily by the band plans adopted by IARU Region 2, which recognize the traditional mode subbands.

Also, according to Harry MacLean, VE3GRO, CRRL vice president and editor of *QST Canada*, DOC has circulated a copy of Client Procedures Circular (CPC) 2-0-3, regarding antennas. The CPC, not yet officially released by DOC, would, according to MacLean, require Amateurs to obtain, or attempt to obtain, prior approval for antenna structures from local municipalities. It also would bring DOC into disputed cases as a matter of course.

"It is not believed", MacLean says, "that DOC will deny any amateur a reasonable antenna system. Licensed radio stations remain under federal jurisdiction, and stations must have antennas to operate. But Amateurs may be pressured to comply with unreasonable standards set by some municipalities". *Tnx ARRL Letter*

## RaRa DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 7 - RaRa-Kodak Joint Meeting - 8:00 p.m.  
Building 28, Ridge Road West
- 13 - Packet Group - 7:30 p.m.  
111 Westfall Road
- 14 - VHF Group - 7:30 p.m.  
111 Westfall Road
- 15 - VE Exams - 111 Westfall Road - 8:30 a.m.
- 21 - RRRR Meeting - 8:00 p.m.  
Pittsford Town Hall
- 25 - Christmas

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## COMMUNICATIONS ACT CHANGES

The FCC Authorization Act (signed October 1) includes several items of interest. Work begun by Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA (and others) before he retired has now been completed, with the changing of the Communications Act of 1934 to include a prohibition against willful or malicious interference. The new Section 333 reads: "No person shall willfully or maliciously interfere with or cause interference to any radiocommunications of any station licensed or authorized by or under this Act or operated by the United States Government". (Until now, such transgressions were violations of FCC rules, rather than of Federal statutes.)

A special subparagraph of the act permits the Commission to spend up to \$2,000,000 to upgrade their laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. The act also permits the Commission to establish a volunteer examiner system for commercial radio operator licenses and endorsements, allowing the examiners to recover from examinees "such fees as the Commission permits, considering such factors as public service and cost estimates submitted by such person".

Another change to the Communications Act may eventually affect reciprocal licensing between some countries in the Western Hemisphere, by permitting U.S. participation in the Lima Convention, signed by the United States and nine other countries on August 14, 1987. Other countries, including Mexico, have since agreed to that accord. *Tnx The ARRL Letter*

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**FOR SALE:** Kenwood TS 180 transceiver w/tuner VFO, power supply, Swan meter and Dentron amplifier. 2 Meter Kenwood 7625 transceiver w/20 amp. power supply. Cushcraft ATB tribander w/2 Meter I1 element and Ringo Ranger w/tripod. Heavy duty taitwister rotor and directional controls. Best offer. 467-2557.

---

**FOR SALE:** 50 foot Rohn 25 tower with Hygain Exp-14, 2 Meter antennas, dipoles, rotor, cables. Comes with attached 3 bedroom Colonial with soundproof basement shack with 220V service. WB2WWV, 227-3084 or 726-3317.

# RADIO AERIALS

If you have been around radio for many many years the term “aerials” will be familiar to you. If you’re new to the game, it may not be. What is referred to today as “antennas” were commonly called “aerials” in the old days.

Old timers can recall in the good old days of radio, it was generally essential to have your antenna as high in the sky as possible to catch enough of those elusive radio signals to insure good reception. The main reason for this was the fact that early day receivers left a lot to be desired in the form of sensitivity.

The word “aerial” means “high in the air”, and it was natural to call those early day antennas “aerial wires”. In time it was shortened to just “aerials”. As the state of the art improved and receivers became more sensitive, the need for such high aerials diminished until today we don’t need to worry so much about altitude.

Noting the similarity to insect antennae, which help the insect “pick-up” information from its environment, the name “antenna” was substituted for the no longer completely appropriate term “aerial”. And that’s way we now call aerials “antennas”.  
*Tnx The Readout*

# THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — DECEMBER 1970

by Ed Gable, K2MP

This issue reported that Gilbert Crossley, W3YA, a still well remembered past Atlantic Division Director, passed away in November, 1970. Gil was Director for fifteen years and was just named an ARRL Honorary Vice-President prior to his death. RaRa announced a new service to members, that of a loan closet for test equipment. RaRa obtained a signal generator, tube tester, signal tracer, and various meters for loan to members. Al Mumby, WB2MCP, was the custodian. Eleven new members joined during the month including: Bill March, WA2CER; Milt Salisbury, WB2JFL; and Gary Perkins, WB2MDC. Writing for the Rochester Radio Repeater Association, Ed, W2MPM, reports that the club project is progressing well. FET Pre-amps can be had for \$5.00 by contacting Jerry Vogt, WA2GCF. (You can stop building ‘em any time now Jerry – Ed) Russ Schroeder, W2DYY, reported on his trip to the Western New York and Ontario Repeater Advisory Council meeting. Russ mentioned that there were 266 repeaters active in the U. S. and Canada, 115 of them on 34/94. The Rochester VHF Group announced the start up of a club project to build high performance Six and Two meter receiving converters. The project was led by Fred Cupp, W2DUC, and Bob Nezelek, W2CNS. A new advertiser in this issue was *Harry’s Amateur Radio Supply* of Baldwinville, New York.

# FIRST ‘SOS’ VIA CW

April 15, 1912 is a date that has gone down in radio history. That was the date that Marconi Wireless operator Jack Phillips radioed the first SOS via Morse code that the Titanic had struck an iceberg and was sinking fast in the North Atlantic.

Previously, the letters ... CDQ ... were used as the international distress call. The SOS from the Titanic was first heard by a 17 year old in Newfoundland. The radio operator of the nearest ship (the Californian, only 10 miles away) was not on duty and did not hear the SOS.

Another liner, the Carpathia, was able to save 712 persons, but over 1,500 lives were lost including Radioman Phillips. Incidentally, after all these years, Morse code signs off at the sea in 1993 when the satellite-based Global Maritime Distress and Safety System takes over.

*Tnx The Readout*

U.S. Postal Service STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION <small>Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685</small>			
1. TITLE OF PUBLICATION The RaRa RAG		2. DATE OF FILING Oct 22, 1990	
3. FREQUENCY OF ISSUE Monthly except July & August		3a. NO. OF ISSUES PUBLISHED ANNUALLY 10	
4. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF KNOWN OFFICE OF PUBLICATION (Street, City, County, State and Zip Code) (This space)		3b. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$4.00	
24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, New York 14623-5306			
5. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICES OF THE PUBLISHER (This space)			
P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, New York 14692-8333			
6. FULL NAME AND COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF PUBLISHER, EDITOR, AND MANAGING EDITOR (This space. If not shared, PUBLISHER (Name and Complete Mailing Address)			
Rochester Amateur Radio Assn., Inc., P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333			
7. FULL NAME AND COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF EDITOR (Name and Complete Mailing Address)			
Neal Eckhardt, 80 Authore Ave., Henrietta, New York 14467			
8. FULL NAME AND COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF MANAGING EDITOR (Name and Complete Mailing Address)			
Richard A. Goslen, 24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, New York 14623-5306			
9. OWNER (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address must be stated.) (Do not omit Controller)			
FULL NAME COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS			
Rochester Amateur Radio Assn., Inc., P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692			
10. KNOWN BONDHOLDERS, MORTGAGEES, AND OTHER SECURITY HOLDERS OWNING OR HOLDING 1 PERCENT OR MORE OF TOTAL AMOUNT OF BONDS, MORTGAGES OR OTHER SECURITIES (If there are none, so state)			
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c. TOTAL PAID AND/OR REQUESTED CIRCULATION (Sum of 12b1 and 12b2)		765 805	
d. FREE DISTRIBUTION BY MAIL, CARRIER OR OTHER MEANS (Samples, complimentary, and other free copies)		16 48	
e. TOTAL DISTRIBUTION (Sum of 12c and 12d)		811 853	
f. COPIES NOT DISTRIBUTED		42 22	
1. Office use, left overs, uncollected, spoiled after printing		42 22	
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# ETHICS IN HAM RADIO

## SELF-POLICING

*As we tune on the phone portion of the 10 meters in HF every now and then, or as we monitor a local repeater when we have nothing else to do in the evening, sometimes we come across a new type of QSO's which is getting growing popularity these days. What is it, you say. Well, a usual scenario goes like this: Two hams, Jack and Jill, start a QSO while a third ham, Dick, listens on. Dick thinks the content of Jack and Jill's QSO are illegal according to the FCC regulation as he interprets it. So, Dick breaks into the ongoing QSO and makes a 2-minute speech expressing his personal opinion. Jack and Jill do not know what on earth Dick is talking about, but they decide to duck Dick as if he was an encyclopedia man at the door.*

Self-policing is one of the beautiful assets that the ham radio community has nurtured from the dawn of the hobby. In this article, I will discuss some ground rules for making comments on other people's QSO practice. These rules have, in fact, no direct relation with how we behave as ham radio operators, but they concern the basic manners in life that many of us acquire as we grow up and that some never do in their lifetime.

As much pride as we have about being a ham and about the self-policing aspect of the hobby, some of us develop the sense of duty that we must pick up bad guys and scold them. Though the motivation behind such an action may be well-rooted, it is how we carry it out that classifies us between the educated and the not.

The education in question has little to do with ordinary school work, but it concerns the fundamental behavioral characteristics of mentally competent individuals, adults and kids alike, as we make an attempt of correcting what we think is wrong in life.

As common sense tells us, in the Jack and Jill QSO scenario Dick took the rudest approach to accomplish his self-induced policing task by breaking into the ongoing QSO and by presenting on the air his "personal" opinion as to the legality of the contents of the QSO and making it sound as if it was a friendly reminder from a ham trying to self-police the amateur radio community. Worse yet, if such an action was ever motivated by Dick's own experience of having been "scolded" by other hams due to whatever he has done in the past as a ham, then the psychology behind Dick's action would take on the form of feeling good by making others feel bad. Suffice it to say that such an individual as Dick is better left alone than seriously dealt with, and it is Jack and Jill reaction on

the spot that determines the rest of the picture.

Many of us go through our puberty and adolescence learning how to accuse someone of what we "personally" believe is wrong. One way is to do it in public right on the spot and turn us into an instant pseudo-hero, and the other way is to wait and later have a discussion with the individual at a personal level whom we think is in the wrong to politely express our own opinion, and exchange our and his views on the matter. Which is a preferable approach? Either way will certainly convey our opinion to the individual, but little argument would be made that the latter approach stems from good manners.

In the Jack and Jill's QSO scenario Dick is not capable of following such good manners. In such instances, the wisest action that Jack and Jill can take is not to take any action at all: No ugly confrontation in public. Nobody feels good when he is accused of anything in open public, regardless of the validity of such an action taken by the accuser. Always, the accuser is well aware of this which is part of the psychological game that he enjoys being engaged in. Well, as many of us grow older and hence accumulate various experiences in life with people, we learn to live wisely in times of confrontation. The he-hit-me-so-I-hit-him-back mentality has no room in the brain of a well-educated man, and thus a barking dog is always better left alone than being directly confronted with.

We all live in a society where one is innocent until he is proved otherwise. As a law-abiding citizen, none of us should cross this line. For, if we did, then we would negate the structure of law and order both at the legal level and at the personal level. It is sad that individuals such as Dick still exist, but that is the way of life. What we should remember is that the wisdom of an educated man supersedes Dick's mentality and rests in the realm of peaceful resolutions for problems in life. This is the spirits of self-policing our community that we are to adhere to, which is exactly what ham radio grows in us as we appreciate this wonderful hobby.

*Kunio Mitsuma, KA3RRF*

*Board Member*

*Nittany Amateur Radio Club*

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## DID YOU KNOW

The name of the person for whom the basic unit of electrical current, the ampere, is named is Andre Marie Ampere (1775-1836). He was the person who first applied the action of electric current on a magnet that was first applied to telegraphy in 1820. Thus the basic unit of electrical current, the ampere, derives its name from Mr. Ampere.

*Tnx The Readout*

## FCC TAKE ACTION ON 20M MESS

The FCC is apparently not content to wait for more comments regarding the ongoing and deteriorating QRM on 20 meters. The FCC has notified several Amateurs of alleged violations that could result in fines of up to \$1,000 each. Those cited included Herb Schoenbohm, KV45FZ of Christiansted, U.S. Virgin Islands, Richard Eastman, N5FX of Springdale, Arkansas, William Terril, K2BFI of New Harford, New York, and Glenn Baxter, K1MAN of Belgrade Lakes, Maine. Schoenbohm has been an outspoken critic of HF net practices and FCC rule enforcement practices.

Of this group, only Baxter received a Notice of Violation while the others received Notices of Apparent Liability. Baxter's citation was for violation of §97.115(a)(2) for alleged handling of illegal third party traffic and failure to identify every ten minutes (97.119(a). Additional, William Pike, N0DCP of Ferguson, Missouri and Harold Case Jr., WD4PZT of Orlando, Florida were cited for willful interference §97.101(d).

A Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) is not a fine. Instead, it states that a violation has *apparently* occurred and the Amateur operator is *apparently* liable for a monetary fine. The Amateur has 30 days to respond to the FCC. The FCC then reviews the response and decides whether to issue a forfeiture (fine) or to take other action. Operators who receive a Notice of Violation could still be issued a NAL within a year of the violation if the FCC deems it necessary. The FCC released transcripts of the FCC monitoring tapes which reveal this monitored exchange between N5FX and a 20 M net control.

(Net Control) – “Any Fours, Fives, Sixes, or Sevens, before I go back north?”

(N5FX) – “November Five Foxtrot X-ray”

(Net Control) – “N5FX, I told you last weekend, you're not going to be allowed in on my net as long as you practice your disruptive practices ... and you QRM the net. I'm not about to let you in, so just go somewhere else”.

(N5FX) – “You go to hell. You don't own this frequency. I'll call my traffic in spite of what you say, you bastard.... KV4FZED, KV4FZED, KV4FZED, N5FX calling”.

The FCC has 35 facilities throughout the country that have HF monitoring capability, 13 of which have long-range HF direction-finding systems. There are also several remote-controlled unattended DF sites around the country.

One can only speculate whether the Notices issued by the FCC will affect the level of QRM on 20 M. Whether the FCC will be convince by the responses not to levy fines remains to be seen and what effect all of this will have on the Amateur community to clean up it's own mess.

*Tnx The Readout*

## QNC

We have warned you before of the Radio Bug  
And how baleful it is to be bitten  
Now recent research has uncovered new facts  
About ways that the victim is smitten.

As this bug takes a hold, the Ham burns with a fever

To buy a small box that he calls a Transceiver  
Which just makes him worse, and in this grave condition

His wife only sees him when he needs nutrition.

This Transceiver, reputed as state of the art,  
No sooner obtained, it starts falling apart.  
Distracted, frustrated, and in a dilemma,  
He now seeks the cure in a higher antenna.

He calls in some friends, who all have the disease,  
And soon we can see them ascending tall trees,  
Where the resident black squirrels, both children  
and dams,

Take a very dim view of arboreal Hams.

The lofty antennas don't answer the question.  
It seems that this rig has acute indigestion,  
And then he finds out, what we knew all along,  
He can't get it fixed except in Hong Kong.

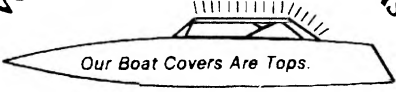
His condition at this stage is too sad to tell.

We very much doubt if he'll ever get well.

We will keep you informed of the signs symptomatic

Of this dread disease. Stay tuned for more traffic.

*Barbara Lester, XYL of John VE3MB  
from Quinte ARC Newsletter  
as published in the TCa  
via The Groundwave*

BIMINI TOPS	DODGERS
<b>VORNRAN MARINE CANVAS</b> at Fabric City	
 Our Boat Covers Are Tops.	
1800 N. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14621	
<b>(716) 266-6440</b>	
UPHOLSTERY	Chuck Vorndran WB2OZS
DRAPERIES	
Advertisement	

## OUT OF STATE TAXES

The days of saving money by buying your equipment out of state and not paying sales tax appears to be almost over. Be prepared to pay state sales taxes even if you don't live in the state where you make a mail or telephone order purchase.

Eight more states, Vermont, Rhode Island, Kansas, New Mexico, Ohio, Missouri, Utah and Georgia have recently passed "use tax" laws which require retailers to charge state taxes to out-of-state buyers.

The state of Maine requires the consumer to report their use-tax liability to the state. Thirty-three states now require direct marketeers to collect the tax on sales made to customers who live outside the seller's home state.

Some states even have arrangements in place to share sales information uncovered during audits of mail order firms with other states. You could therefore get a tax bill from a neighboring state months after the sale.

*Tnx The Readout*

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## CHANGE CALLS?

The FCC routinely denies requests for specific call signs. The closest thing you can do to change your call is to "swap" it for another one issued in the regular sequence.

In a Public Notice issued April 19, 1990, the FCC said requests to change a call sign must be made by filing a Form 610 completing section 2E.

The applicant will be issued a new call sign appropriate for his/her class of license from the standard rotation of new calls being issued at that time.

This does not mean that you can apply for a specific call. You only change calls and you have to take potluck as far as what the call will be.

*Tnx The Readout*

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## LEAVE A MESSAGE

Let's say you go to a pay phone to make a call and there is no answer or the line is busy. What do you do? Call later? No! Just leave a message. With a new computer voice messaging system being tested now, you can record your message by dialing a set code and talking into the phone. You will receive confirmation that your message has been recorded and the computer will then automatically dial the number every 15 minutes until the phone is answered.

*Tnx The Readout*

## CODE-FREE POSITION REAFFIRMED

The ARRL has told FCC, in reply comments to the Commission's Communicator Class license proposal (PR Docket 90-55), that it continues to support the concept, but only if the code free license is an entry class "in parallel" with the traditional Novice license. The League also feels, it told the Commission, that currently proposed Communicator Class privileges are adequate and should not be expanded at this time.

At all costs, there must remain strong incentives to upgrade from Communicator Class to assimilate Communicators into the mainstream of the avocatin, the League said.

The Reply Comments conclude "The ability of the League to support the Communicator class of license is dependent upon its implementation as a parallel entry point to the Novice Class, and not a substitute for it. The League strenuously opposes the Commission's proposal to substitute the Communicator class licensee for the Novice class, and opposes any change in the Technician license class as well. Any restructuring of present license classes must be premised on some experience with the Communicator class license, and should not be done in this proceeding".

*Tnx The ARRL Letter*

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## LASER QUALITY LICENSE

It looks as if the FCC will be issuing a new high quality type Amateur radio license shortly. According to Private Radio Bureau Chief, Ralph Haller, N4RH, the Gettysburg licensing facility is in the process of purchasing a new laser printer to print ham tickets which will be inserted in an envelope.

The ham license will be an original, not a smudged carbon copy printed in self-mailers as is presently the case. Haller said the actual format of the license document has not yet been designed, but it will be a very high quality license document that you can actually put on the wall and be proud of.

*Tnx The Readout*

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## CALLER ID

Both AT&T and Bell South have new "Caller ID" devices (about \$100.00) that display the phone numbers of incoming calls. This allows people to know who is calling before they pick up the phone. Pizza parlors are also using them to reduce the number of fictitious delivery calls by asking the callers for their phone number and then comparing it with the number appearing on the "Caller ID" readout.

*Tnx The Readout*

## SIX METER TIPS

"Now that we are near the peak of solar cycle 22, 6M is once again open to most areas of the globe for HF DXing. Current solar predictions indicate that the cycle will likely peak in early 1990, probably in January. Now is an excellent time to become active on 6M.

The following propagation modes will be encountered on 6M: Tropospheric scatter, Aurora, Sporadic E, Auroral E, F2 and F2 scatter, Transequatorial scatter, Meteor scatter, EME (moon bounce).

### 6M BAND PLAN

28.885	6M Liaison Frequency
50.000 to 50.100	CW
50.020 to 50.080	Beacon sub-band
50.100 to 52.000	SSB, CW
50.100 to 50.120	DX Window
50.110	DX Calling Frequency
50.125	W/VE Calling Frequency
51.000 to 51.150	Pacific DX Window
52.000 to 52.150	Pacific DX Window
52.000 to 54.000	FM including repeaters

### BEACONS

The beacon sub-band (50.020 to 50.080) contains many beacons which are a useful aid in determining band openings. The ARRL 1990-1991 Repeater Directory has a comprehensive listing of beacons not included in prior issues. In addition to amateur-operated beacons, between 40 and 50 MHz, there are a variety of fixed services and TV broadcast carriers used to monitor the rising MUF (Maximum Useable Frequency).

### MONITORING THE SOLAR INDICES

WWV and WWVH transmit the solar flux and geomagnetic indices and events at 18 minutes after every hour. This information is very useful to the 6M operator. Listen on 2.5, 5.0, 10.0, 15.0, and 20 MHz.

Solar Flux: is well correlated with sunspot activity and ion density in the ionosphere. F2 openings on 6M are possible when this number is over about 180. Over 200, F2 openings are common. The solar flux is updated after 1800Z daily.

'A' Index: is a 24 hour average indicator of geomagnetic activity. Values from 0 to 10 are associated with low absorption of RF, which enhances RF propagation. Values over 30 are associated with auroral activity. Values over 100 only occur during severe geomagnetic storms. The A index is updated at 0600Z and 1800Z daily.

'K' Index: is a geomagnetic index updated every 3 hours and is more useful than the A index in many instances. A value of 0 is very quiet. Values over 3 are associated with disturbances and storms.

Major flares and satellite proton events which may cause geomagnetic disturbances are also reported.

Liaison: 28.885 MHz has been adopted as a frequency on which to exchange information since 10M has many of the characteristics of 6M but with longer openings. Information is exchanged concerning DX activity, arrangement of sked, possible cross band operation with countries not having 6M privileges, and notification of openings and WWV indices.

### F2 OPERATING TIPS

Monitor WWV: F2 openings are possible when solar flux index is above 180 and common above 200. Low A and K indices tend to coincide with better openings on the northerly paths. After a geomagnetic disturbance the path to the south is enhanced.

Anticipate openings: Marginal F2 openings can be extremely short so you may only one try to call a DX station. Monitor 28.885 MHz; many DX 6M stations announce their intended frequencies and times on the 18.885 liaison frequency.

F2 backscatter is typical before, during, and after an opening. Listen for "watery" W/VE signals which will peak in the direction of the F2 path, not the direct path to the W/VE station.

F2 propagation tends to peak in October and February and is usually good throughout the winter.

*Tnx The Groundwave*

## ROCHESTER HAMFEST

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

**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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