



the RARA RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 43

MARCH 1991

NO. 7

MARCH 1st MEETING TO FEATURE RFI FROM POWER LINES PRESENTED BY RG&E

Dick Holbert, WA2OXJ, and John Bodine from RG&E will speak at the March meeting. The topic that will be covered is power line RFI.

Items to be covered are:

- Sources of RFI.
- How to identify and locate sources.
- What is "Power Quality"?
- Identifying and correcting the problem.
- When and how to get help from your power utility.
- What happens when you call RG&E.

Additional information about surge suppression for personal computers will be covered.

The meeting should contain information for use now and in the future. This meeting should be well attended so plan on getting there early.

The meeting will be Friday evening, March 1, 1991, and will start at 8:00 p.m. The location is the 40/8 Club at 933 University Avenue.

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP WANT TO GIVE YOU \$\$\$\$

If, you have it coming, that is! Several years ago the Rochester VHF Group opened a club project to build and deliver UHF/VHF transverters. Most all were delivered or refunds given to those not receiving their club project unit. The RVHFG believes all participants have been notified. However, if you think you were a part of this project and did not receive a unit or your money back, and can prove it via a receipt or cancelled check, please contact the group ASAP, by writing to the RVHFG, P.O. Box 92122, Rochester, NY 14692.

ATTENTION ALL CLUB MEMBERS

RRRA and RVHFG annual club auction, will be on March 22, at the Police - Fire Training Academy, on 1190 Scottsville Road. The doors will open at 7:30 p.m., and the auction will start at 8:00 p.m. Parking and entrance will be in the rear of the building.

In following tradition, the SELLER and BUYER, will go to the treasurer's table, where the BUYER will pay the SELLER the total cost of the item, after it is sold. The SELLER will then give the treasurer 10%, of the selling price. ONLY the seller, not either radio club, is responsible for the item sold. The RRRA and RVHFG will except any RESPONSIBILITY for any item sold.

Our clubs are responsible for set up, and clean up at the end of the auction. In past years there have been donations to one club, or the other. If this is the case for your item, make sure the tag says so. Remember that the two clubs split the 10% commission in half, for each club treasury.

Please make sure your item is marked with your name or call, the starting price, (minimum you will take), and any other info that pertains, (works or not). If you do not plan on taking home your item, (boat anchor), please make sure it goes into the scrap barrel outside the door.

Len, WA2ZNC

HELP WANTED

Help needed to label Hamfest Flyers
Saturday, March 9th at 9:00 a.m.
111 Westfall Road

SILENT KEY

ARLES (AL) CRUM
W2BWK
January 28, 1991

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)

CLUB STATION K2JD

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The station located at 111 Westfall Road was the scene of great changes on Saturday, January 5, 1991. The RACES/ARES organization was the recipient of several new pieces of equipment in November and the work party on January 5th completed the installation of this new equipment.

The activity saw the replacement of the TR-7 Transceiver with an ICOM-765 Transceiver. We acquired an ICOM-575 6-meter Transceiver which replaced our homebrew transceiver which has been in use for many years. We upgraded the Packet Stations with the replacement of the printers and will be replacing the TNC on the HF radio. The TNC was acquired at the Miami Hamfest and is ready for installation. We have replaced the TRS-80 with an IBM compatible computer which was connected to the HF rig. We acquired a Lap Top IBM compatible computer and have assembled an operational Portable Packet Station. The next operation in conjunction with the portable packet will be a case to hold it.

The club (you the members) is indebted to the people that gathered to disassemble the old equipment and assemble the new. They accomplished this task in a very professional manner, having started at 0900 hrs and completing it at 1300 hrs. The people you are indebted to are: Dave N2DPF, Dave KA2J, Don KB2BU, Norm KA2JRK, Irv AF2K, Neal WB2EKP, Don W2EBF, Pete WB2SUN, Chet WB2MDO, Roger WB2BWQ, and Ed K2MP. I sincerely hope I did not omit anyone and if I have please accept my apologies in advance.

I hope that you will take the time to thank them and please feel free to visit anytime the station is open or call me and I will make every effort to show it to you.

VOL. 43 MARCH 1991 NO. 7

OFFICERS:

President: Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP 359-2672
Vice President: Peter Secrist, WB2SUN 265-2028
Secretary: Bernard Agins, KD2CU 359-2947
Treasurer: Richard Goslee, K2VCZ 334-1762

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL 458-8246
Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ 235-0662
Robert Hobday, N2EVG 624-3368
Ed Holdsworth, N2EH 624-1929
Ronald Nelson, KA2GLG 586-0998
John Schooley, K2NC 787-2518

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

The RaRa RAG (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.

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



Amateur Radio News Service

Burglar Alarm Systems

For Your Home and Business

Martin Ippolito

N2HEG

Master Electrician

(716) 266-6337

Advertisement

80-METER NOVICE BAND TO MOVE

On January 10 the FCC announced a change in its rules to move the 80-meter Novice band from 3700-3750 kHz downward, to 3675-3725. The change is intended to “reduce the amount of mutual interference between United States amateur stations and Canadian amateur stations”, according to the FCC.

At the time the change (PR Docket 90-100) was proposed, Canadian amateurs operated radio-telephone down to 3725 kHz. The Commission proposed the change in the Novice allocation to prevent inter-mode interference with Canadian 'phone operators. The League proposed instead an expansion of the Novice band, to 3675-3750, and elimination of special power restrictions for General, Advanced, and Extra class operators. The FCC denied this, saying (Novice and Technician operators) “would have to share (the expanded band) with large numbers of United States stations transmitting with a higher power”.

Last October, Canada's amateur service was “deregulated”, in the process removing all mode subbands on 80 meters for Canadian amateurs, in effect rendering the FCC proceeding moot. The Commission went ahead with the change, nevertheless.

The new Novice allocation can become effective no sooner than 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. The earliest effective date would be in mid-February.

Tnx ARRL Letter

ROPE OF CHOICE

by Ed Swynar, VE3CUI,
in 10/89 SPARC-GAP, South Pickering ARC, Inc.,
Ontario, Canada, John Gergesha, VE3PYA, editor
via ARNS

Bright yellow “Polypropylene” is the rope of choice for supporting wire antennas in trees; it is inexpensive, water-proof, light-weight, strong, and (very importantly) “slippery” – there are no threads, etc. to snag on the bark of tree limb “hal-yards” during the course of elevating your latest creation from the ground.

It is not common knowledge for the beginner, however, that ultraviolet light from the sun's rays limits the useful life of polypropylene to approximately 2-3 years; be suspect of and immediately replace any such rope which is faded and sprouting short, prickly “hairs” along its length, indicating deterioration – or be prepared to have your masterpiece come crashing down to the ground at the most inopportune moment.

RaRa MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue
- 9 - Hamfest Labeling Party - 9:00 a.m.
111 Westfall Road
- 22 - RRRR & VHF Group Annual Auction
7:30 p.m. - Police-Fire Training Academy,
1190 Scottsville Road

ROCHESTER HAMFEST

MAY 17, 18, 19, 1991

WHAT ... ME VOLUNTEER?

Adapted from an article by Tom Baldwin,
KA6ZPY, in THE INTERMOD, West Coast ARC
via ARNS

You've all heard about the importance of doing your fair share of public service duties by signing up for public service events during the year. Well, perhaps you newcomers would like to know what happens when you are finally goaded into signing on the line. You figure you are going to be cast adrift on the North Atlantic in a small leaky boat to give hourly fish reports. Nothing could be further from the truth.

After your heart stopping experience of putting your name on the line, you wonder – now what?? Well, the first thing that will happen, about a week before the event, the coordinator will call your answering machine to leave a message for you to call. (We get about 90% answering machines.) You will be told when, where, and what time to be there. Most events start early, so be ready to set the alarm at a place it has never seen before.

On the day of the event, you arrive at the appointed place on time (yes, you will!) and meet the coordinator and the rest of the crew. They will be people you have seen at the club meetings, and you will discover that they are really neat folks. There will usually be some doughnuts and a T shirt for you.

After you check your equipment ... you did bring your HT, didn't you? You will probably be given a map and a place to go to. Yes, some of them are out in the sticks. Once there, you check in with net control and watch for any problems that you observe, such as someone getting hurt in a race, or pass any traffic that you are asked to.

After everything is over, you return to net control or just head on home, wearing your new shirt, head a little higher, and feeling good about yourself.

DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSING

Through lectures and product introductions, this year's Dayton Hamvention acquainted a lot of hams with Digital Signal Processing (DSP), a technology well entrenched in the commercial communications world ... and destined to change the face of the amateur hobby in the years to come.

DSP involves the use of special microprocessors to digitize (convert into numbers) analog signals, manipulate the numbers for a desired purpose, and then convert them back into analog signals (voice, CW, images) that the human brain can comprehend. The processing is done with software instead of filter parts like inductors or capacitors.

DSP is used throughout the long distance telephone network; in radio and TV broadcasting; in facsimile, medical and military applications. The cellular telephone industry in Europe and the U.S. is starting a conversion to a DSP foundation. Spread-spectrum and Compact Disk products are based on DSP. (Even the Teddy Ruxpin bear has a talking DSP chip inside!)

In Amateur Radio, DSP will have applications numerous enough to boggle the mind. Some immediate uses include better HF modems for packet and RTTY transmission; special modems for satellite work; and programmable filters and noise cancellers for CW and SSB operating. Your PC could become a spectrum analyzer with a DSP board, at a price far lower than commercial analyzers. The Kenwood TS-950SD transceiver has a DSP module that enhances transmit performance.

DSP based direction finders could allow your repeater to output screen maps of the source of any received signal – in real time! DSP can generate and recognize speech and can help us realize a true digital voice packet network.

We got the feeling that DSP is really imminent when Dayton Technical Excellence Award winner Bob McGwier/N4HY in the Packet Forum spoke of “writing” modems for various ham applications. No longer will modems and filters be assembled from electronic components – they will be computer programs that are written just like any other program.

The programs may be downloaded into DSP units from disk, or stored on plug in ROM chips that can be updated whenever some improvements comes along. Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) and AMSAT are deep into development of DSP boxes and plug in PC boards to be offered to the amateur community at large.

WHY DSP?

N4HY described the background of his DSP program: “The reason TAPR, AMSAT, and the others want DSP is that we just got sick of buying new modems. We needed to do something that would decrease your long term expenditures for modems. If you do it in DSP, where the modems are software based, you would not have to buy a new modem every time a new widget happens.

“As you know, 300 bits per second is just not good enough for HF with the FSK that is being used now. If you want to have a good modem for HF, it is practically impossible to do it any other way than with DSP, period. If you want 600, 1200, 2400 bits per second, you must do it with DSP. Now there are implementations of them in military use. But hams are not going to spend \$50,000.00 just to run 2400 bits per second on HF.

“Well, in ham radio we could pay a few hundred dollars for a DSP box or plug in card for you computer, one that is open architecture and freely available for whoever wants to experiment with it. The ARRL has its HF modem and protocol design contest. Those modems could be put on the TAPR/AMSAT TMS320C25 card and probably on DRSI and AEA cards as well. We are about done with the schematics and will have a prototype for the TAPR/AMSAT DSP card this summer.

“The idea is that you want to be able to do satellite, packet, 9600 bits per second, slow scan TV, weather satellite, on and on and you don't want to pay dollars for a PSK modem or a AO-13 demodulator. You can do it all with one box. The entry price is going to be several hundred dollars. AEA has announced that the amateur list price for its DSP box will be \$760.00. It is not cheap. The intent is for the TAPR/AMSAT board to sell for under \$300.00 as a kit”.

AEA DSP INTRODUCTION

AEA unveiled its DSP-1232 and 2232 multi-mode DSP based data controllers at Dayton making the brash claim that these units have the “hardware for all available modes built in now and forever”. The 1232 has two switchable ports and the 2232 has two simultaneous ports. The units connect between the radio and computer as with the PK-232. Software is in EEPROM or can be downloaded into RAM from disk.

In addition to PACSAT, AO-13 and AO-15 modems and modems for a variety of RTTY shifts, the units will transmit and receive WEFAX and WEFAX-APT and SSTV images, will directly print HF monitored FAX signals to dot matrix printers, and will decode time and fre-

quency division multiplex signals (TDM and FDM) often found on the shortwave bands. The 1232 and 2232 include all of the features of the PK-232 including CW, packet controller, mailbox and TCP/IP protocol compatibility and 300 baud HF modem. The DSP units use a faster microprocessor than the Z80 in the PK-232.

NEW DSP MAGAZINE

We were impressed by HamPute, a magazine for amateur DSP that made its debut at Dayton. According to publisher Dick Blasco/NX6R, "Amateur Radio is never going to be the same again. DSP will do for us what the microprocessor had done for the rest of the planet. At least we will be freed from the 'Want a new feature? Buy a new radio' juggernaut. We will be able to experiment with, and modify our equipment again. Make a mistake? Just hit the reset button and all is like new". NX6R says that DSO will bring a new era where "hams will be hams again".

The first issue of HamPute investigates the DSP features of the Kenwood TS-950SD. It also offers an outstanding tutorial on DSO sampling that streamlines the math and theory for amateur use. The HamPute, P.O. Box 6797, Auburn, CA 95604.

HIGH SPEED RF

Of course, the ability to send digital information from a DSO source won't amount to much if we are still limited to 120 bps VHF packet. TPR volunteers are busy developing the TAPR packet-RADIO, a crystal controlled 2 meter transceiver optimized for 9600 bps operation. Six assembled prototype displayed at the TAPR exhibit booth. After alpha units are built, as many as 100 beta units are kits will be placed with participants for "shake and bake" tests. These beta units will cost between \$250 and \$350. Following beta tests, TAPR anticipates licensing the design to manufacturers who have expressed strong desire to sell the packetRADIO in assembled form, according to Harold Pice/NK6K. The four channel, 25 W radios will have a keyup time of less than one millisecond, and a 3 millisecond time to carrier detect at 9600 bps (15 ms. @ 1200 bps).

At the Packet Forum, Bdale Garbee/N3EUA observed, "We talk about 9600 bits per second and people say, 'Why do I want that? I can't type that fast'. The first is high data volumes. In this category are things like digital voice, digital video and file and bulletin transfer. We need fast links in order to push through large volumes of data in reasonable amounts of time.

"Another reason is to have reasonable response times for interactive applications. These are any

applications where you have to sit and wait for packets to go out on the channel and come back: data base lookup of call signs, emergency response, remote log in to machines that respond just like if the machine is sitting next to you.

The packetRADIO is expected to be available from manufacturers next year. TAPR is not yet certain whether it will offer the unit to the general ham community as a kit or at what price.

W5YI REPORT via Ham News Outlet

RaRa SPRING 1991 CODE CLASSES SHAPE UP

At a meeting called by Licensing Class Director Ed Gable, K2MP, the staffers pounded out a plan to effectively bring the new code free Technician License into the class structure. It was decided to conduct a normal Novice written exam course for the first of the two hour sessions. At the end of that session applicants would split and go two ways; either code lessons for those wanting Novice or onto Technician theory for those desiring the new code free entry level. 13 WPM code practice will likewise be given the first hour for current Novices wishing to go for their General. RaRa is very pleased with the response to request for instructors and is proud to introduce these dedicated, hard working members; Novice written class instructors are Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP; Brad Allen, KB2CHY; and Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF. Novice code will be conducted by Bernie Agins, KD2CU, while running a speedy 13 WPM will be an old timer returning to the instructor ranks, Art DeBruycker, W2YGW. New to the classes but highly qualified, are the Technician and General Theory Instructor Tim Stofell, NS9E and Pete Secrist, WB2SUN. When you see these folks at a club meeting, say "Thanks". They are preserving your club's future ...

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

Advertisement

CREATING MORE SPACE FOR THE OPERATING DESK

by Ed Swynar, VE3CUI,
in 10/89 SPARC-GAP via ARNS

I was once faced with the problem of "too much equipment - too little space". I employed older (1950's - 1960's vintage) gear, which I modified extensively with numerous add-on "peripherals". Simply put, over the years, my homebrewed masterpieces eventually outgrew the space available on my "door-cum-operating-table" set-up.

I elected to expand both upward *and* downward to accommodate my growing electronic "family": first, I removed all external power supplies (my station employed three) from the tabletop and re-located them on an old "surplus" low profile coffee table the XYL was planning to throw out. This assembly was located immediately beneath the main table, and to one side - easily within reach of me, but not so near as to present a shock/knee-bumping hazard.

Next, I decided to go to a multi-tiered setup on *top* of the operating table itself: using ordinary mason's bricks for "legs", with a piece of plywood as a table top; this "second level" straddled the transmitter and receiver on the "lower level". All extra peripherals (Q-multiplier, pre-selector, converter, etc.) were placed on this "new" tabletop.

The new station configuration was much more efficient than before; I now actually had room for scratch paper *and* my elbow when sending CW! Surprisingly, too, I received several compliments on the "rustic" appearance of my station what with the bricks and all. Even the XYL commented favourably on the former "rat's nest!"

The old station with all its gadgetry is gone now, having been replaced by a single solitary state-of-the-art transceiver. The ideas presented herein are still timely, however, as our RF set-ups are increasingly sharing company with such items as personal computers, modems, printers, etc., etc.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

"WANTED" OLD RADIOS

AM BROADCAST, TABLE TOP
VINTAGE 1940 TO 1950

WA2ZNC "LEN"
716-229-5470

122 W. Lake Road, Honeoye, NY 14471

Advertisement

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — FEBRUARY 1971

by Ed Gable, K2MP

This issue opens with a meeting announcement featuring Al Mumby, WB2MCP, speaking on the fine art of home brewing. The 8:00 p.m. meeting is at the Monroe County Farm and Home Center. The RAGS group in Syracuse announced their Hamfest would be on April 17th at the Song Mountain Ski Resort. You could have contacted Robert Lozen, WB2ERE, for a Rochester Hamfest ticket, with banquet, for \$6.75. The Rochester VHF Group noted that they totaled 311,000 points in the January VHF SS contest. Also reported was the successful completion of the 6 meter receiving converter project, with 2 meter versions to be delivered soon. Fred Trode, DL8VQ, and Jim Kirkgasser, WA3ELA, both of Syracuse, announce a Ham Exchange program whereby you could spend a summer in Europe visiting Hams abroad. The special flight direct from Germany to Syracuse costs \$205, round trip!! Joe Hood, K2YAH, was introduced as a new RaRa Rag Staff member. Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, reprinted an April 1926, QST article featuring the stations of local Rochester hams. These included: 8BGN (W2BGN), 8DQA (W2IM), 8BRD (W2DD), 8CY (K3JH) and 8KS (W2LK). You could buy a 75 meter SSB mobile transceiver (HW12) from Cliff Milner, K2SKO, for \$135.00 from the want ads. Rochester Radio Supply's full page ad on the back cover has been advertising the same beam for sale for the last 15 months.

WEATHERPROOFING RF CONNECTORS

Al Torres, KP4AQI mentioned at a DARA meeting that common silicone adhesive bathroom sealer is not a good substitute to use in weatherproofing coaxial connectors due to its corrosiveness during its cure time.

I contacted the popular manufacturer (Dow Corning) of the bathroom sealer and they supplied me with specifications of their popular bathroom sealer #732. They indicated that another sealant is better suited for the job, #738. The catalog suggests that #738 (electrical sealant) is non-corrosive, resistant to harsh environments and is specifically designed for corrosion sensitive connectors.

Dow Corning also manufactures a compound that prevents the dielectric properties of a connector from breaking down, Dow Corning #5.

It seems to me that an excellent method of weatherproofing RF connectors is with Dow Corning #738 on the outside of the connector.

Tnx Lonnie, NJ8T, via RF-CARRIER

THE ORIGIN OF "HAMS"

Tnx to Lloyd, W8LXW

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called hams? Well it goes something like this.

The word "Ham" as applied to 1908 was a station call of the first wireless station operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy, and Poogie Murray. At first they called their station "Hyman-Almy-Murray". Tapping out such a long name in code became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to "Hy-Al-Mu", using the first two letters of each of their names.

Early in 1909, some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO". They decided to use only the first letter of each name and so the station call became "HAM".

In early pioneer days of unregulated radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed with the thesis that he asked Hyman to appear before the committee. Albert Hyman took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the bill imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the "Wireless Regulation Bill" and the little station "HAM" became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The bill finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "... poor little station "HAM".

So, that's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. National publicity associated the station "HAM" with amateur operators. So from that day to this and probably until the end of time in radio, an Amateur is a "Ham".

Tnx RF-Carrier

HOW TO AVOID ELECTRIC SHOCK

by Bob Kuehn, WØHKF,
in 689 GROUND WAVE, St. Paul RC

Everybody brags about how good transistors are compared to tubes, but the best thing of all about transistors is you don't get jolts off of them like you did off the tube sets when you poked your finger into them. Young squirts nowadays rarely get a chance to test the old rule that you get kicked back one foot for every 100 volts. There was a story in QST once about it with a picture of a ham lying in the corner of his shack after working on his rig, saying, "Fortunately, I was thrown clear".

I know one ham who was scared half to death when he was a kid by seeing somebody short out a six volt storage battery, and to this day he's convinced that he gets shocks off of flashlight batteries.

Old time radio men, after a lifetime of working on tube sets, often had their reflexes honed to such a high degree that their hand would jerk back so fast when they touched something that they never did get much of a jolt. Guess that's why some of them managed to live so long. Of course when you're young your skin is soft and moist and it doesn't take much to give you a good jolt. But after you have enough years under your belt to be called an OM, your hide has grown so thick and calloused, you can show off by sticking your finger into a light socket to see if the juice is on and barely feel it.

So there is little doubt that transistors have contributed to the peace and longevity of radio hams in more ways than one. As long as Johnny Ham sticks to no more than 13.5 volts, he might die of PCBs, ozone, asbestos, radon, or drinking milk out of cardboard cartons, but he sure won't die of electric shock!

Tnx ARNS Bulletin

ROCHESTER HAMFEST

MAY 17, 18, 19, 1991

BIMINI TOPS DODGERS

VORNRAN MARINE CANVAS
at Fabric City



Our Boat Covers Are Tops.

1800 N. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14621
(716) 266-6440

UPHOLSTERY Chuck Vorndran
WB2OZS DRAPERIES

Advertisement

1991 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

These are the events as of 2/5/1991

- Mar 9 Work Party, 111 Westfall Hamfest Mailing
- Mar 14 1991 Stair Climb
Cystic Fibrosis
- Apr 13 Parkinsons Walk-A-Thon
Genesee Valley Park
- Apr 21 Alphabet Run
Monroe Development Center
- May 14 Corporate Challenge Run
Lilac Week
- May 17-19 Rochester Hamfest
- May 22 R. E. Ginna Evacuation
Pre-Drill
- May 26 Lilac Biathlon
Genesee Valley Park
- May 31 - June 1 & 2 Susquehannock Pro Road
Rally - Wellsboro, PA
- June 2 Northampton Driving
Competition
- June 19 R. E. Ginna Evacuation
Drill
- July 6 Mendon Pony Club Rally
Wesson Farm, Mendon, NY
- Aug 13 -18 Walnut Hill Driving
Competition - Walnut Hill
Farm, Pittsford, NY
- Aug 18 Hamlin Beach Triathlon
Hamlin Beach State Park
- Sept 1 Mendon Pony Club Rally
Mendon, NY (or Victor)
- Sept 15 Irondequoit Triathlon
- Sept 22 Henrietta Biathlon
Run-Bike-Run - Henrietta
- Oct 13 5 Mile Run - Henrietta, NY
- Oct 12 & 13 Games for Physically
Handicapped

These are the events that we have received a request for assistance as of February 5, 1991. If you can assist with any event, you can sign up at any RaRa club meeting or you can call me and I can tell you who is coordinating any of the events. These are all FUN ACTIVITIES and the people you meet are very appreciative of your efforts and assistance. Try to save a few hours this summer for one or more of these activities.



THE FREQUENCY THAT HAMS FORGOT

by Jay McDermott, NS5N,
in OLE VIRGINIA TIMES, Ole Virginia Hams ARC,
Manassas, VA via ARNS

When was the last time you listened to 146.52 MHz? I mean really listened to it! Do you even have it programmed in to your radio or scanner? For those of you that do, thanks you very much. For those of you that don't, you're causing the death of simplex communications.

Back before the time of really reliable repeaters and the fantastic repeater handbooks that are available, the most popular place on the Amateur bands was 146.52 MHz. You could find someone there at least once an hour and sometimes for several hours at a time. This is a thing of the past.

Since my return to the States in 1982, I have amassed a great many miles on the road. One of the greatest pleasures I derive from this "drive" is the company of two-way communications. Many of the miles I have traveled have been with someone on the other end of the ether. One thing has become startlingly true. People just don't listen to simplex any more. This is easy to understand. With the handy-dandy frequency guide, you can plan a trip from "A" to "B" and play musical repeaters all the way. Hard to beat, really.

But look at the other side. How many times have you come to the next "frequency change" and found so much traffic or trash on the machine that your schedule gets blown out the window along with any chance of a "direction assistance"?

People are courteous enough to switch to simplex when they realize they are within range of each other. No complaints there. But as soon as they QRT, they switch back to a repeater frequency, and down the road they go.

One gentleman I had a QSO with in Washington had the ideal setup. He had an MOW unit out-board of his 2 meter unit which sent "CQ DE ***7***" about every 5 minutes. We met each other in a mountain pass and had a fine "Eyeball QSO" at the other end. (I've just recently found the schematic for the unit he used.)

I have driven from California to New Jersey and Washington to Texas to Virginia, and in all of those miles I have only heard or made contact with five stations.

It seems a little silly to have 800 channels on a radio and only use the ones that can be spread 600 KHz.

FOR SALE: Two AEA/M2 6 Meter Beams (5 elements on 16' boom. \$60 each. Dan, WA2EKN 716-582-1149.

JUNE 9 - JCC 10K HUMAN RACE