



# the **RARRA RAG**

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

VOL. 43

MAY 1991

NO. 9

## MAY 3rd MEETING TO COVER LASER FUSION

Dr. Thomas Bohley of the University of Rochester is to speak about the work done at the U of R with laser fusion.

This topic should be of interest to all. Don't miss it.

The time for the meeting will be 8:00 p.m. at the 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue. Friday, May 3rd.

## ANNUAL MEETING NOMINATIONS

March 27, 1991

To: Neal I. Eckhardt, WB2EKP, President  
Bernard M. Agins, KD2CU, Secretary

The 1991 Nominating Committee has selected the following slate of candidates to be placed in nomination for positions as Officers and Board of Directors for the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., for 1991-92 season. Each candidate has indicated a willingness to serve and has accepted their nomination.

The nominees are:

### OFFICERS

Vice-president – Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU  
Secretary – Robert J. Hobday, N2EVG  
Treasurer – Richard A. Goslee, K2VCZ

### EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Neal I. Eckhardt, WB2EKP  
Keith F. Freeberg, Jr., N2BEL  
Irwin J. Goodman, AF2K  
Roger C. Harnaart, WB2BWQ  
Edwin J. Holdsworth, N2EH  
David J. Minchella, KE2GE  
George A. Muller, WA2IEO

Respectfully submitted by the  
Nominating Committee,  
Chester W. Albrecht, WB2MDO  
Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU  
Irwin J. Goodman, AF2K

## RARRA BOARD RECOMMENDS \$1.00 INCREASE ON DUES

One of the two items up for a membership vote at the annual meeting of RaRa is the dues structure for the next fiscal year which begins in September 1991. The Board of Directors, at its last meeting approved a proposal to increase the dues by \$1.00 for Regular and Associate members. The dues for Family members would remain at the current level of \$1.00 per member. This proposal will be presented to the general membership for a vote as the By-Laws of the Corporation require that any change in the dues first be approved by the members. The Board of Directors itself cannot change the dues.

The proposed dues increase is mainly due to the cost of printing and mailing the monthly newsletter "The RaRa Rag" and the annual "Amateur Directory". These two items have a projected cost for next year of approximately \$5000. This is out of a total budget of \$7,630 for next year. The budget for the current year was approximately \$7,000. With approximately 700 Regular and Associate members in addition to 36 Life members the yearly cost for these publications was about \$6.80 per member. Three years ago our cost for the same publications was about \$5.50 per member. It is now time to increase our dues to cover this increase in cost.

Plan now to attend the annual meeting and vote on the proposed dues change and also vote for the new officers and directors to run RaRa for the next year.

– Richard Goslee, K2VCZ  
Treasurer

## ANNUAL MEETING

May 3rd, 1991

Come and Vote  
on Important Club Issues.

# 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)

## "SCANNER LAWS" COMMENTS SOUGHT

The FCC has issued a Notice of Inquiry in the matter of so-called "scanner laws", PR Docket 91-36, in response to an ARRL request for a declaratory ruling. According to the Commission, comments in response to a public notice made March 15, 1990, generally supported the ARRL position but "no comments were received addressing certain technical issues that are before us in this matter."

"We initiate this present inquiry to assist us further in considering ARRL's request", the NOI said.

The laws at issue prohibit the possession in vehicles of radio receivers capable of receiving police or other public service channels. Amateurs with such receivers, often including such channels as those assigned to the Civil Air Patrol, can be subject to fines or confiscation of their radios when crossing from unregulated to regulated jurisdictions.

The comment deadline is June 7 and reply comment deadline has been set at July 8. More information will appear in May *QST*.

*Tnx The ARRL Letter*

VOL. 43                      MAY 1991                      NO. 9

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

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Amateur Radio News Service

## ARRL VHF CONTESTS TO SPORT TWO NEW ENTRY CATEGORIES

Two new entry categories for the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes, June VHF QSO Party, and the September VHF QSO Party will go into effect beginning in June.

A new "rover" category has been added for one or two operators of a single station that moves among two or more grid squares during the contests.

The other new category is "limited multioperator" for multioperator stations that submit QSOs for score on a maximum of four bands.

These changes, recommended by the Contest Advisory Committee, were unanimously approved by the ARRL Awards Committee.

- Contesters are reminded that the ARRL contest branch accepts logs on disk only according to certain specifications (for example, "CT" BIN files are not acceptable; AK1AFORMAT must be run as a text command to generate the necessary format). See *QST* contest announcements for details on making log submissions on disk.

## THE PREZ SAYS

Since most of us have been hams for a long time it's time to renew our memory by taking a short quiz from the novice test (ELEMENT 2). Those of you who have recently gotten your ticket are permitted to take this test as a review.

Which of the following is *not* one of the basic principles for which the *amateur service* rules are designed?

- A. Provide emergency communications
- B. Enhancement of International Goodwill
- C. Increase the number of trained radio operators and electronics experts
- D. Preserve the history of radio communications

In reading this question, the three incorrect answers say a lot more than the one correct answer. We all tend to lose sight that the main purpose of amateur radio is to provide training for radio operators in the event that an emergency arises. While we all sit back and say that at this time in our country's history, the requirement for emergency communications is minimal, but let us not forget the great Ice Storm of March 1991. Over 150 hours of continuous emergency communications were provided by RACES in 5-8 locations during the week of the storm. In total, 51 amateurs volunteered their services during that week to fulfill amateur radios commitment to the community. If you work the numbers, you will find that 51 people had to put in a LOT of time to make the system work. The job would have been much easier had 100 people been available for the task, or even 150. We have lost sight that a club with 800 members should be able to muster more than 50 volunteers during a time of crisis.

Our main training exercises are the numerous public service events we are asked to perform during the year. If you look at the sign-up sheets during the meeting you will only see about 20 different names divided up among the various events. It appears that barely 2% of the club members are willing to donate a few hours of their time to maintain their training in communications, and provide the much needed assistance to their community. People are right there to complain when the town questions your right to erect an antenna, but you ignore the call for help when people in your community ask for a few hours on a weekend to help them safely run an event. At some point we must realize what the charter of amateur radio is, and step up to the responsibilities of your license.

Most public service events last a few hours on a Saturday or Sunday. Many times the promoters of the event will give you a T-shirt or possibly lunch (or both) for your efforts. After all, they couldn't do the event without you. No previous

## RaRa MAY CALENDAR

- 3 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.  
40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue
- 9 - Packet Group Meeting - 7:30 p.m.  
111 Westfall Road
- 10 - VHF Group Meeting - 7:30 p.m.  
111 Westfall Road
- 17-19 - Rochester Hamfest  
Monroe County Fairgrounds

experience is required. We provide on-the-job training. All that is required is an HT or car radio. If you don't have one, we will find one for you. The most important thing we need is just a few hours of your time. If 100 people would donate the time for 1 event, then the 20 people you see on the sign-up sheets will be able to have a few weekends off this year. If you want to give us help for an event, just give Ed Holdsworth a call at 624-1929, and he will be happy to match you up with an event you will enjoy.

## ROCHESTER HAMFEST

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

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RaRa RAG.3

# PERSONAL STATEMENTS

As customary, each person who is nominated has an opportunity to present a personal statement in the *RAG* prior to the Annual Meeting. There will be an opportunity to present nominations from the floor prior to the actual voting for Officers and Board of Directors.

## VICE-PRESIDENT

### LLOYD R. CAVES, WB2EFU

Lloyd has been licensed since 1976 and presently holds an Advanced class license. He has also been a member of RaRa since 1976. During this time he has served as a Board Member for five years, Membership chairman for five years and has been on the Nominating Committee on three occasions. His main interest in ham radio is rag chewing, working DX, and working on many of the public service events that RaRa is involved in. As well as being active in RaRa he is a member of the ARRL and RRRRA.

Lloyd and his wife Ruth have lived in Webster for the past twenty-five years. They have raised their three children there; one son and two daughters. He has been employed by General Motors, AC Rochester Division, for going on twenty-nine years. He has held many management positions there during this time and is presently a Senior Purchasing Administrator.

Lloyd has previously been quoted as saying "I enjoy amateur radio and have been happy to serve the RaRa organization in the past and am looking forward to serving it again in the coming year." He says that this statement is just as true today. (The floor will be opened for additional nominations for Vice-President at the Annual Meeting.)

## SECRETARY

### ROBERT HOBDAY, N2EVG

I live in Mendon with my wife and have two daughters. I received my ticket in January 1984 and currently hold a Technicians license. You will find me active mostly on two-meters doing traffic handling as Manager of the Western District Net and at most public service events. I am a Past President of RaRa and am currently on the Board. I also am a member of ARRL, RACES/ARES, RRRRA, and the Antique Wireless Association.

I have been employed by Rochester Gas and Electric for 26 years. My other hobbies include instrumental music and furniture making. (The floor will be opened for additional nominations for Secretary at the Annual Meeting.)

## TREASURER:

### RICHARD A. GOSLEE, K2VCZ

Dick has been a member of RaRa since moving to Rochester from the Schenectady area in 1965. He has been a member of the Board of Directors for a number of years and served as Vice-President and President before being elected Treasurer in 1987. Dick is also chairman of the Awards Committee for the Rochester Hamfest.

A member of the QCWA, he was first licensed in 1956 with the call KN2VCZ, and currently holds an Advanced license. Dick is also active in the Genesee Repeater Association where he serves on the Board of Directors, and until recently was also a director of the Genesee Conservation Foundation.

He is employed as the Operations Manager for Heath/Zenith Computers and enjoys chasing the bass around the local lakes when time permits. (The floor will be opened for additional nominations for Treasurer at the Annual Meeting.)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

### NEAL ECKHARDT, WB2EKP

I have lived in Henrietta for the past 17 years and have been licensed for about 16 years. I currently hold an Advanced license and will one day get that code speed built up for the Extra ticket. I have been on the Board of Directors for 4 years and I am currently RaRa's President as well as the *Rag* editor. I work for Hitachi Data Systems, a company that sells large computers. Other hobbies include Radio Controlled Helicopters, and flying kites. I look forward to serving the club for another year.



### IRWIN J. GOODMAN, AF2K

"Irv" was first licensed as WN2WCE in 1974, and subsequently WB2WCE. He is a Life Member of RaRa and has served in past years as Membership Chairman, on the Membership Committee and on the Executive Board. Other club affiliations include ARRL (Life Member), RRRRA, GRA, RVHFG, RDXA, NoBARC and Gibraltar Amateur Radio Society. He is active on 2M FM, HF bands, and an avid DX-er, Field Day enthusiast, and enjoys SS, 10-10 and VHF contests and Public Service activities.

A graduate of RIT, Irv recently retired after 32 years with Standard Register Company (formerly Business Forms Division of Burroughs Corporation). He and "Rustye" reside in the town of Webster.



# ICE BUSTER VERTICAL

## NEW LIFE FOR YOUR TRIBAND BEAM

by Kevin Carey, WB2QMY

An old adage says: When life hands you lemons, make lemonade! Has the Ice Storm left your beam looking more like abstract art than a real antenna? Here's a way for you to salvage what's left to make a three-band high performance vertical.

Take a look at the two driven elements of a beam (where the coax connects). Together, these elements form a half-wave dipole. The same is true of all other trapped element pairs that make up the antenna.

If you can salvage at least one undamaged element from your ailing beam, you have the makings of a very effective  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave roof-mount vertical. Here's how to do it:

- 1) Start by removing an element from the "donor" beam. With silicone sealer, carefully seal any parts of the traps that might allow rain water to seep inside. Be sure to seal the "drainage holes" on the side of each trap. These were used to rid water from the trap when it was in its horizontal position and will no longer be needed.
- 2) Next, mount the element vertically in a small tripod (figure 1). For proper operation, it's important to insulate the antenna *completely* from the tripod. Use your own ingenuity here. I used thick

rubber gasket material backed up with small squares of Plexiglass (figure 2). The back up material prevents the mounting bolts from puncturing the rubber. When tightening the mounting bolts, don't overdo it; a bit beyond hand tight is fine.

3) Drill a small hole near the base of the element tubing and use a sheet metal screw and lug to attach the center conductor of your coax. Alternately, you could use a hose clamp around the tubing to hold the conductor in place.

4) For radials, solder four 16' long wires to the coaxial braid. I recommend using thin-gauge enamel "magnet" wire as this is nearly impossible to see from the ground. Fan out the wires in an "X" pattern on the roof and use thumbtacks or "insulated" staples to hold them to the roof (one tack every few feet is fine). Make sure the radial wires don't touch the tripod frame. Give each tack a light tap with a hammer to seat it firmly against the roof.

5) Connect your transmitter and check the SWR at your favorite spots on 10, 15 and 20 meters. If adjustment is needed, start with the highest frequency band (10M) and work down to the lowest (20M). This helps work out interactions between the bands. You may have to experiment with the lengths of the radials for proper tuning.

6) Lastly, seal the coaxial connection at the antenna with silicone sealer. You may also wish to seal the tacks holding down the radials, just to be safe.

While I'm no expert on the theoretical aspects of antenna efficiency, I can say that I've gotten excellent DX signal reports using this design. During QSOs it's a real "ice-breaker" (no pun intended) to describe how you came upon this antenna!

If you have another undamaged element available, perhaps you could use it to make a second antenna for Field Day/emergency use or for a summer QTH. If you wish to ground-mount the antenna, this could be done by securing the tripod to a suitable base such as a 4 x 4 sheet of plywood. Feel free to experiment. You may come up with even more ideas or improvements for this basic design. Good DX!

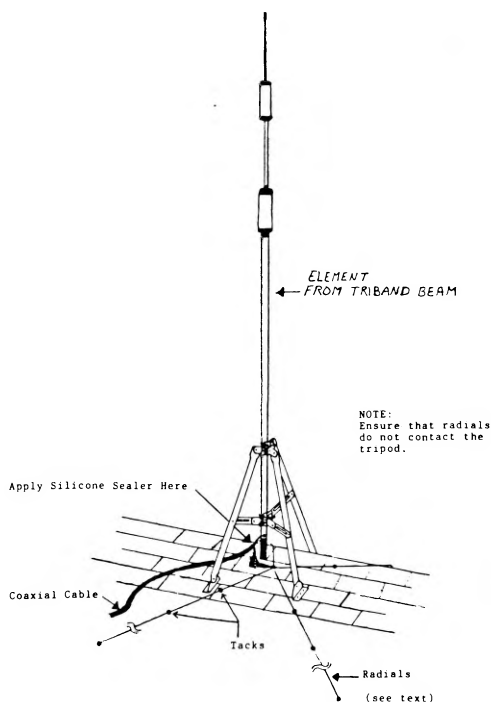


Figure 1. Tripod Mounted Vertical

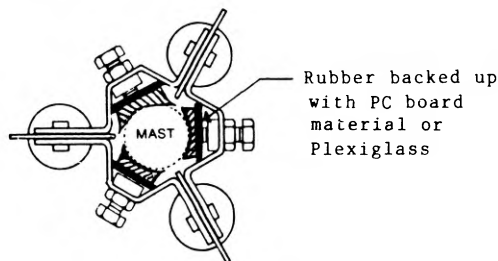


Figure 2. Insulation Detail

## HAMS WERE VITAL LINK TO KUWAIT

Amateur Radio played an important – perhaps crucial – role in providing information from inside Kuwait during its occupation by Iraq.

A lone amateur operator in Kuwait City, using equipment he managed to keep out of the hands of the Iraqis, has, since August 3 – the day following the invasion – been sending computerized message traffic to amateur operators outside Kuwait.

Messages numbering in the thousands were received by amateurs in the United States, then forwarded to the U.S. government.

Messages with potentially useful intelligence information were used to confirm reports from other sources within Kuwait, and may sometimes have been the first and perhaps only source.

“The information was legitimate and authentic, no question”, a State Department official said. “It was very useful.”

“Much of the traffic concerned the atrocities being committed in Kuwait”, the State Department said. “We also got word that the Iraqis has begun to move large number of Kuwaits out of Kuwait and into Iraq just a few days before the coalition began its land assault.”

Amateur Radio operators on several continents were involved in the effort, as well as one aboard the USS John F. Kennedy, stationed offshore in the Persian Gulf. Traffic with intelligence value coming through the Kennedy connection was used aboard ship as well as forwarded through the radio system to North America.

The Kennedy connection was lost when ship-board radio restrictions were imposed for security reasons a few days before the coalition bombing began (on January 16).

The group used AMTOR via the established APLINK bulletin board system, using several HF amateur bands; most were already well-established members of the APLINK network, which was designed for efficient message handling. (See *QST* for January 1991, and November 1990 for more information on APLINK.)

Amateurs in the Netherlands, Lebanon, and Guatemala, as well as in the U.S., have been mentioned as playing crucial roles.

The identity of the Kuwait amateur (code-named “Abdul”) has been a closely guarded secret; during the Iraqi occupation his life could have been at great risk. Even following the coalition liberation of Kuwait, “Abdul” feared for the safety of several of his relatives still missing and thought to be in the hands of the Iraqis.

And even the Department of State did not know his identity or, for that matter, precisely how the information was reaching the U.S.

‘Had the word got out, we feared the Iraqis might kill every licensed amateur in Kuwait’, said Frank Moore, WA1URA/9, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, one of the U.S. amateur involved.

The fear for “Abdul’s” safety led two amateurs in the chain, both of whom knew him personally, to ask personal questions only Abdul would know the answers to. His replies “told us he was not operating with a gun at his head”, Moore said.

Portions of this story “broke” on March 3, in *The Indianapolis Star*, although amateur radio was not mentioned, again to protect “Abdul”.

Also playing important roles in this operation were Clark Constant, W9CD; Scott Ward, N5DST (the USS Kennedy radio operator); Bob Foster, WB7QWG/9; John Troost, TG9VT; and PA0QRS.

## Personal Injuries Accidents

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# GROUP ASKS REVIEW OF AM POWER RULE

On November 23, 1990 the Society of the Preservation of Amplitude Modulation (SPAM) filed a petition for reconsideration of the FCC's power limits for AM stations. The Commission denied, on October 13, petitions by the League, by SPAM, and by others, to return to a dc power input limit of 1,000 watts on AM. Since June 2, 1990, the power limit has been 375 watts carrier power output (at 100 percent modulation).

The SPAM petition contends that the FCC has a "hidden agenda concerning... A3E emission", in that it now restricts experimenters on AM to "a power level four times less than other emission types".

SPAM further contends that power output measurement standards for other modes may not be directly applicable to AM, especially where interference to others is concerned, and that emissions containing a carrier signal should be subject to different standards than carrier-less emissions.

SPAM points out the "adverse economic impact" on amateurs who own "\$1,420,000 worth of AM transmitters", noting that most AM gear is American-made and parts to modify equipment to the new, lower power level, may be difficult to obtain.

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

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# BRIEFS

● **Jobs for Hams:** ARRL headquarters has an opening for an assistant to the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator manager. This is a full-time position for a licensed amateur. For more information contact VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, KB9NM, at Headquarters.

● **April QST** announces a new kind of Field Day competition: for the best recipe. The goal is to further recognize Field Day as a family activity, as well as to acknowledge that you can only get out of operators what you put into the. Deadline for submission of recipes (to ARRL) was April 24.

● **The Canadian Radio Relay League** has a new mailing address: CRRL, Box 56, Arva, ON N0M 1C0.

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**FOR SALE** - SSB220 Heathkit 2 KW Amplifier @ \$400 or B.O.; MN2000 Drake KW Transmatch @ \$180 or B.O. Tom, N2TF, 716-695-6641.

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# ROCHESTER HAMFEST

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

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