



the RARRA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 44

OCTOBER 1991

NO. 2

MEETING PROGRAMS

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

The meeting of October 4, 1991 will be held at the 40 & 8 Club located at 933 University Avenue. This should prove to be a very interesting program. The topic "Robots Today" will be presented by Jean Duteau of Brooks Robotics. A lot has happened in this field over the past few years. Come and see what. You may even be greeted by a robot.

The annual auction will once again be held at the Fire Academy, 1190 Scottsville Road on November 1st. Start putting together your used equipment now so that you will be ready.

Mark your calendar for December 6th. You don't want to miss this day!!! There is going to be a banquet at the Diplomat Party House to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the affiliation of RaRa with the ARRL. Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, Director for the Atlantic Division and Kay Craigie, KC3LM, Vice Director may be joining us for the special event. Get your tickets early and bring your spouse, a friend, or the whole family to join in the happy festivity.

The officers and the board of directors are looking forward to seeing you at the meetings. Walk up and say hello. If you have any comments or concerns tell us. Remember RaRa is your club.

SILENT KEYS

W. KENNETH HOVEY
K2CTN
August 13, 1991

WILLIAM L. TRONZO
WB2OEV
September 7, 1991

RARRA MEETING

OCTOBER 4, 1991 - 8:00 p.m.
40 & 8 Club
933 University Avenue

PLANS FOR 60th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET SET

Your board has set the final arrangements for the celebration of our 60th Anniversary Banquet. The location will be the Diplomat Party House at 1956 Lyell Avenue on December 6, 1991.

There will be a cash bar at 6:30 p.m. and buffet dinner at 7:15 p.m. Following dinner we have invited the League Atlantic Division Director, Hugh Turnbull, and Vice Director, Kay Craigie, to speak. There will be fun for all, so plan on bringing the whole family. There will be professional entertainment.

The price per person is \$17.50, and tickets are available from any officer or board member. If you wish, you may send your check to Pete Secrist, WB2SUN, at 257 Dunning Avenue, Webster, NY 14580-3539.

This celebration of our 60th year as an ARRL Affiliated Club promises to be an event that we, as a club, will long remember. So talk to your friends and join us in the celebration.

There are a limited number of tickets available so plan on getting them early. Circle the calendar now and we will see you at the banquet on Friday, December 6.

JOIN US FOR THE 60th RARRA ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Purchase your tickets before they are gone. There are a limited number of tickets available.

the **RARA RAG**

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Amateur Radio News Service

PACKET RADIO USERS **So What's a Dx Cluster?**

A server is any system provided as a service to other users. A BBS is a particular kind of server.

Another kind of server is the Dx Cluster. Its full name is Dx PacketCluster (tm). This server which is a software product of Pavilion Software is sort of a combination between a BBS and a CROWD port. It is intended primarily for the purpose of HF Dxing. Stations share data regarding the spotting of rare DX on various HF bands. Users of the DxClusters typically log into a Cluster server and either observe and respond to "spots" coming in thru the system or participate by finding acceptable "Dx" on whatever HF bands they are tuning around on and then share them with other stations logged onto the DxCluster network by issuing an official "spot".

From the NEDA Network there are DxCluster servers available from a number of *dedicated* user ports. To find one of these servers look for a node name with "Dx" in its mnemonic and connect to that port. Issue the INFO command to find out its location and the last step connect command to get to the actual server off that port.

Examples of these ports include DXCLUS, RDXA, BUFDX and YCCDX. It is important to realize that these special servers keep streams of data passing between each other to share the large database of info that all the combined users provide. Thus users accessing these servers should not connect to more than one DxCluster station at a time as you will merely be adding more loading to the network unnecessarily. The data that one server has is shared with all the other servers through interconnected data streams between clusters. It is actually best for the network if users wishing to access DxCluster stations try to connect to the DxCluster server that its closest to them via the network.

These special servers also provide additional services such as Dx country info, QSL bureau info, domestic QSL handling, antenna bearing headings for Dx stations, propagation forecasts and limited E-mail storage as well -- WA2WNI

PacketCluster is a trademark of Pavilion Software reprinted from NEDA Quarterly Vol. 1 Issue #4 Fall 1990.

Ed, N1FGY via The Squelch TALE

FOR SALE - Drake R-4A with SSB filters and T-4X with power supply. Excellent condition. Asking \$400. Gene, W2LU, 872-1508.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH RaRa

by Pete Secrist, WB2SUN

The month of October brings the beginning of Fall. As I reflect back on Summer it was so busy that Patti and I did not have a chance to go camping. Three public service events that I participated in were a lot of fun. The first was the Susquehanna Road Rally in Pennsylvania. The last time I participated in this event was in 1984. The next two events, both triathalons, were also enjoyable.

The only regret was that the majority of the operators that were at the events were the same that were at all of the other events. It would seem to me that more new operators should be assisting at these public service events. We, as a club, should ask why and work on changing that. I would like one volunteer to step forward and organize a group to study what can be done to get more volunteers to commit to at least one public service event.

Last month I mentioned the board was working on several ways to celebrate our 60th year as an ARRL affiliated club. Here are some things that will be happening. First, there will be a celebration dinner at the Diplomat Party House on Lyell Avenue, Friday, December 6th the night of our regular December meeting. Your board is working to make this celebration one to remember. In addition we are planning to run a special event station later in December. Special QSL cards will be sent. Look for more details in future "Rag" articles.

The month of November is another one of the many benefits of RaRa membership. That is the "members only" RaRa Auction. Plan to attend the auction. In case you do not get your Rag until after the meeting the Auction will be back to it's old home, the Rochester Police and Fire Academy. More details in the next issue of the Rag.

A GREAT TIME FOR DX:

This has been a great year for DX and it continues to look like more will happen. Here's a partial list of events that have or are scheduled to happen:

- YA on the air. First Afghanistan operation in many years appears; QSL's are still rare – hopefully soon.
- Cards being accepted for Walvis Bay, ZS9.
- Penguin Island, ZS9/1, becomes new country.
- XY on the air, Myanmar Rep. (Burma) draws large pileups to fill void left by years of inactivity. (Hint, wait till you hear YA cards are out before worrying about QSL's for this one – same operator/manager.)

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 4 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
40 & 8 Club, 933 University Avenue
- 11 - VHF Club - 111 Westfall Road
- 15 - RDXA - 111 Westfall Road
- 18 - RRRRA Meeting
- 19 - RaRa VE Exams - 111 Westfall Road
Registration begins 8:30 a.m.

- ZA to be on the air about mid September for approximately four weeks. Albania is allowing ham licensing, finally, and the initial activity will be training sessions for new operators, to be led by OH2BH, one of the best DX'ers known. It will probably be slow to start, but will lessen the need for this one.

- North Korea will be accepted as a new country as soon as an accredited operation is mounted from there. The calls are rumored to be P5, and as of early September a Russian is in North Korea attempting to obtain permission to operate. When it comes on the air N. Korea and S. Korea will count separately.

- 3B7 also hits the air waves. 3B8CF left for 4 weeks on Agalea/Brandon in early September. He will only use a dipole and 10 watt transceiver, so I hope you listened well.

At the same time the Rochester DX Association ended the year with 84 members, a new record. One of the big things to hit DXing locally has been the W2HPF PacketCluster node on 144.91 or through the Monroe NEDA Node on 144.97. If you are a DXer and you are not on to this; you are missing the next best things to antennas in helping you work the new ones. With 10-15 locals and upwards of 240 total other hams helping you spot the DX you can't lose. Well, except for one thing; the pile ups get REAL BIG REAL FAST now because of this great piece of software. Features include, Prefix info, Beam headings, Countries Needed List, Sunrise-Sunset times both local and DX, DX Bulletin Board, DX Bulletins – including ARRL, RTTY, N. California DX, Propagation and many more, and of course, up to the minute DX spotting that is weeks faster than a DX newsletter. The 'Cluster is supported by RDXA and non-members are welcome to use it, but donations are greatly appreciated.

Next meeting will be at 111 Westfall Road, County Social Service Building, Tuesday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m. Join us. **KB2SE**

Income tax lets you work for the government without taking a civil service exam.

HOW TO WRITE GOOD...

This was copied off of a professor's bulletin board in the Electrical Engineering Department at Auburn University. He apparently got it from one of his children who brought it home from Auburn High School:

HOW TO WRITE GOOD...

1. Avoid run on sentences they are hard to read.
2. No sentence fragments.
3. Always avoid awkward or affected alliteration.
4. Don't use no double negatives.
5. Avoid commas, that are not necessary.
6. Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
7. Never use a long word when a diminutive one will do.
8. It behooves us to avoid archaisms.
9. Never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
10. Avoid unnecessary exclamation points!!!
11. Don't use comma splices, they're incorrect.
13. Writing carefully, dangling participles should not be used.
14. Don't verb nouns.
15. If I've told you once I've told you a thousand times, don't use unnecessary hyperbole.
16. Hopefully, you use adverbs the right way.
17. Take the bull by the hand, and don't mix metaphors.
18. Never use a preposition to end a sentence with.
19. Last but not least, avoid cliches like the plague.

Tnx K4RY via NARC Radio Newsette

SOLDER TO ALUMINUM?

You can solder aluminum! Do it this way: place a drop of motor oil on the location you plan to solder, next, take a sharp pointed tool (a pocket knife works well) and thoroughly scratch up the surface. Do not wipe off the oil. Now take your soldering iron, heat the spot and apply a good resin core solder. You will find the solder will adhere completely – both physically and electronically. Works great for making connections to an aluminum chassis.

From the St. Paul ARC Newsletter and the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society "State of the Art" via The Groundwave

PHONE PATCH RULES

The ability to interconnect our equipment with public telephone systems is a great privilege we as Radio Amateurs in the United States enjoy. The public interest has been well served by Amateurs with such facilities, however, it is a privilege that is often abused. The Amateur radio service is not a common carrier and its primary purpose is not the handling of and routing messages on behalf of non-amateurs.

However, third-party communications as an incidental part of Amateur radio adds an important dimension to our public service capabilities. We must remember that International phone patches are only permitted where there are third-party agreements in place with the governments of those foreign governments.

Phone patches or autopatches involving the BUSINESS affairs of any party are prohibited. Particular caution must be exercised in calling any business telephones. Calls placed to order a commercial product or to ascertain its availability is prohibited as are calls to one's office to leave or receive business related messages. Patches should be kept as brief as possible, as a courtesy to other Amateurs.

It is sometimes confusing, especially to new members, as to what is permitted and what is not. Autopatches and phone patches in general, have long been a source of irritation to the FCC because of violations of the rules, specifically as they apply to forbidden business communications. The list below represents excerpts from a letter written by the FCC in reply to a letter received inquiring about third party traffic and business calls.

The FCC answered the following questions as YES or NO!

1. *Can you use an autopatch to secure a grocery list for home needs?* YES!

2. *Can you use an autopatch to secure a personal appointment?* YES! (Qualified as being yes only so long as the appointment is with a spouse or friends and not of a business nature, i.e. making a dentist appointment would be prohibited.)

3. *May the autopatch be used to report an emergency such as a fire or accident?* YES!

4. *May other criminal, civil, or traffic offenses, (i.e. robberies, fights, drunk drivers, etc.) be reported?* YES!

5. *Assuming that a telephone line is tied up (party lines, etc.) can the Autopatch be used to contact a plumber or electrician in case of a plumbing or electrical EMERGENCY?* YES!

6. Can you use the autopatch to help benevolent, non-profit organizations such as the Lions Club, Heart Fund, Boy Scouts, etc.? YES!

7. Can the autopatch be used to call in an order to a cafe or pizza shop? NO!

8. Can the autopatch be used to call an electronics store to inquire about electronic needs for an Amateur station? NO!

9. Can an autopatch be used to relay scores and descriptions of plays at a sporting event? NO!

10. Can the autopatch be used to make airline, bus or train reservations? NO!

11. Can the autopatch be used to cancel an appointment with a dentist, doctor or attorney? (Personal appointment) NO!

12. Can the autopatch be used to contact a licensed health care provider in an emergency? NO!

13. Can you use the autopatch to call a tow truck for yourself or someone that broke down along the road? NO! (Qualified to non-emergency situation.) It's OK if its an emergency i.e. removal from a hazardous location such as in the roadway.

14. Can an autopatch be used to call the weather report. YES! (Qualified for use by the Amateur only and not to be rebroadcast for the general public. Remember patches can not be used for broadcasting.

15. Can an autopatch be used to call the golf course and reserve a green for a round of golf. NO!
Tnx The Readout

FOR SALE - Hustler 4-BTV all band vertical (with 80 meter coil) - \$25.00; Kenwood TS 530 S transceiver - excellent condition - \$500.00; Heath HW2XL 2 meter ht with accessories - \$250.00. Call Jim - 266-6494.

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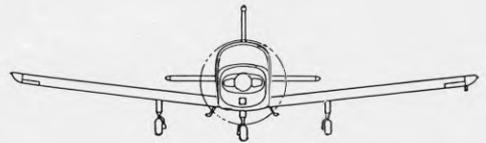
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THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO — OCTOBER 1971

by Ed Gable, K2MP

This issue announced the October meeting to be an interesting talk on *Where The Hams Began* by Ducky Dengler, K2LK. President Richard Koehn, WB2SNA, named the following committee chairmen: Hamfest, Harold Smith, WA2KND; Membership, Joan Vogt, WA2YTK; Refreshments, Bob Pavlock, WA2ECD and Lloyd Andrus, WN2MVC; Awards, Tom Ball, WA2THS; Technical Assistant, Public Relations and Theory Instructor, Joe Hood, K2YAH; Code Instructor, Bob Lauson, WB2NSD; and as Auctioneer, Pat Hoke, W2CYG. In John Lucas' (WA2BEH) Rochester VHF Column he reported that Chuck Oneske, K2YCO, achieved the first USA/VE troop QSO on 1296 with VE2HW. The RRRR Group decided that simplex operation on the 146.88 Mcs output frequency should not be used and elected to operate simplex on the unused frequencies of 146.76 and 146.94 Mcs. New RaRa members include: Dave Hassett, K2SQI; David Hallidy, WB2ZEA; Ken Evans, W2UAD; Fred Shippey, WA2BQA and Al Bowman, W2ZUX. From the Want Ads, you could buy a HQ-110 for \$110 from Bob Roberts, WA2QAU.

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WHAT IN THE WORLD IS ELECTRICITY?

A tongue in-cheek (or finger in mouth) look at a scientific phenomenon

Today's scientific question is: What in the world is electricity? And where does it go after it leaves the toaster?

Here is a simple experiment that will teach you an important electrical lesson: On a cool, dry day, scuff your feet along a carpet, then put your hand into a friend's mouth and touch one of his fillings. Notice how your friend twitches violently and cries out in pain? This teaches us that electricity can be a very powerful force, but we must never use it to hurt others – unless we need to learn an important electrical lesson.

It also teaches us how an electrical circuit works. When you scuff your feet, you pick up batches of "electrons", which are very small objects that carpet manufacturers weave into carpet so that they will attract dirt. The electrons travel through your bloodstream and collect in your finger, where they form a spark that leaps to your friend's filling, then travel down to his feet and back into the carpet, thus completing the circuit.

AMAZING ELECTRONIC FACT: If you scuffed your feet long enough without touching anything, you would build up so many electrons that your finger would explode! But this is nothing to worry about unless you have carpeting.

Although we modern persons tend to take our electric lights, radios, mixers, etc. for granted, hundreds of years ago people did not have any of these things, which is just as well, because there was no place to plug them in. Then along came the first electrical pioneer, Benjamin Franklin, who flew a kite in a lightning storm and received a serious electrical shock. This proved that lightning was powered by the same force as carpets, but it also damaged Franklin's brain so severely that he started speaking only incomprehensible maxims, such as, "*A penny saved is a penny earned*". Eventually he had to be given a job running the post office.

After Franklin came a herd of electrical pioneers whose names have become part of our electrical terminology: Myron Volt, Mary Louise Amp, James Watt, Bob Transformer; etc. These pioneers conducted many important electrical experiments; among them, Galvani discovered (this is the truth) that when he attached two different kinds of metal to the leg of a frog, an electrical current developed and the frog's leg kicked, even though it was no longer attached to the frog, which was dead anyway. Galvani's discovery led to enormous advances in the field of amphibian med-

icine. Today, skilled veterinary surgeons can take a frog that has been seriously injured – or killed – implant pieces of metal in its muscles, and watch it hop back into the pond just like a normal frog, except for the fact that it sinks like a stone.

But the greatest electrical pioneer of them all was Thomas Edison, who was a brilliant inventor despite the fact that he had little formal education and lived in New Jersey. Edison's first major invention in 1887 was the phonograph, which could soon be found in thousands of American homes, where it basically sat until 1923, when the record was invented. But Edison's greatest achievement came in 1879 when he invented the electric company. Edison's design was a brilliant adaptation of the simple electrical circuit: The electric company sends electricity through a wire to a customer, then immediately gets the electricity back through another wire, then (this is the brilliant part) sends it right back to the customer again.

This means that an electric company can sell a customer the same batch of electricity thousands of times a day and never get caught, since very few customers take the time to examine their electricity closely. In fact, the last year any new electricity was generated was 1937; the electric companies have been merely re-selling it ever since, which is why they have so much time to apply for rate increases.

Today, thanks to men like Edison and Franklin, and frogs like Galvani's, we receive almost unlimited benefits from electricity. For example, in the past decade scientists have developed the laser, and electronic appliance so powerful that it can vaporize a bulldozer 2000 yards away, yet so precise that doctors can use it to perform delicate operations to the human eyeball – provided they remember to change the power setting from "Vaporize Bulldozer" to "Delicate".

Tom and I hope you get a charge out of this information. If you are from New Jersey we didn't write it, so leave us along please. And remember, check the setting on those lasers!

December 1986 Rochester Business Magazine via The Rochester VHF Journal

FROM THE JUNK BOX:

IMBESI'S LAW OF THE CONSERVATION OF FILTH: In order for something to become clean, something else must become dirty.

FREEMAN'S EXTENSION: ... but you can get everything dirty without getting anything clean.

Tnx ARNS

SITUATION WANTED – Rochester native seeks employment in an engineering or technical position. 12 years work experience in Video-RF-analog-digital technologies. FCC General Class licensed since 1981, BSEE from Syracuse in 1987. Contact Bill Magliocco, WA2QKO, at (708) 292-7557 or write P.O. Box 66276, Chicago, IL 60666.

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APPEALS COURT DEFLATES PRB-1

A Federal Appeals Court ruled in June that Amateur radio operators are not entitled by Federal Communications statutes to build lofty antennas.

The U.S. Court of Appeals denied a claim by Burlingame resident Vernon Howard, W6RES, a licensed Amateur radio operator, who argued that federal law guaranteed his right to build a 51-foot antenna tower in his back yard.

The three judges appeals panel also rejected Howard's contention that the city of Burlingame violated his free speech rights by initially denying his 1987 application to build the tower after his neighbors objected to the project.

The court ruled that Federal Communications Commission regulations entitle ham radio operators only to a fair consideration by city officials of their applications to build antennas and a reasonable effort consistent with local zoning goals to accommodate the projects.

The decision upholds the ruling of a Federal District judge in San Francisco who validated Burlingame's authority to regulate the heights of backyard antennas over 25 feet high.

Tnx S. F. Chronicle via The Readout

CABLE TV INTERFERENCE

Most interference problems involving cable television systems can be easily solved by installing a choke on the cable line as close as possible to the point where the cable connects to your television set.

Most Amateur TVI cases involving cable TV systems is caused by RF energy entering the system on the drop cable's shield (braid) which acts as a random-wire antenna for MF and HF signals. The drop cable is the cable between your house and the pole.

In most cases the TVI can be completely eliminated or at least substantially reduced by wrapping 8 to 10 turns of the cable through an old TV-deflection-yoke ferrite core. Wrap the cable turns as close to the TV input as possible and not more than 2 or 3 feet away from the input terminals.

The average deflection yoke is around 60 to 80 microhenries of inductance and when placed in series with the drop cable shield the inductance acts as a broad-band choke because of the low distributed capacity of the winding.

The choke will not affect the RF signal in the cable and this method does not break the cable shield. If this does not do the trick, the next logical culprit is the power cord (AC) going to the television set. Use the same procedure here with deflection yokes or ferrite cores.

If you have your own antenna system, and are using 300 ohms twinlead you can't use the deflection yoke. You must use ferrite beads. However, don't put one on each lead, that will kill the TV signal. Instead, you must rout the twinlead through one ferrite bead.

This method allows the TV signal to pass through but the RF interference is suppressed by the ferrite bead. This is because the twinlead is a transmission line to the TV signal but looks like a single wire to the RF interference.

Tnx The Readout

TALKING FROG

Two young ladies were walking down the street when they encountered a talking FROG. The frog spoke to them and said, "*Oh, beautiful ladies, won't one of you please kiss me so I will be transformed into a handsome Amateur radio operator?*" The first lady picked up the frog and put it in her purse.

The second lady asked, "*Are you going to kiss him?*" "*No way*" said the first lady. "*I can make more money with a talking frog than a handsome ham*".

Tnx The Readout

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