



the **RARA RAG**

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 44

DECEMBER 1991

NO. 4

DECEMBER—CELEBRATION MONTH

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

December is the 60th Anniversary of the affiliation of RaRa and the ARRL; a month to celebrate. Unfortunately the banquet that was planned as part of this celebration had to be called off due to the lack of interest on the part of the membership. That does not mean that the celebration is going to be called off. The December meeting, to be held at the Henrietta Fire House, East Henrietta Road, will still be a celebration party. It is still expected that our league officials will be joining us and the entertainment will still go on. I hope that everyone will be able to join us to make this a memorable month.

The 1992 programs calendar is filling up fast. There will be topics about some local stations, communications system within Conrail, and of course Old Timers' Night to name just a few. There are many other social functions for the membership also, like the winter and summer picnics.

How do you feel that RaRa can serve you better? Do you have questions as to what RaRa is doing for the community or anyone for that matter? Questions, comments and suggestions are always welcome by the Board of Directors. If you have any, write them down and mail them to us or drop them off at a meeting. You don't have to sign them. We don't want to know where they came from. We would, however, like to address them at the following month's general meeting so that you know the answers to your concerns and don't have to guess. This will also give you a chance to have more input into the operations of RaRa and the direction in which your organization is headed to serve you.

SILENT KEY

HERBERT C. JORDAN
WA2MSA
November 11, 1991

DECEMBER 6th MEETING 60th CELEBRATION PARTY

Henrietta Fire House
3129 East Henrietta Road
(Corner of Lehigh Station Road)
8:00 PM

SPECIAL EVENT STATION

In commemoration of 60 years of club affiliation with the American Radio Relay League, the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will operate K2JD from 1400 UTC (9:00 AM) Saturday, December 21st until 2200 UTC (5:00 PM) Sunday, December 22nd. Operation will be in the lower 50 MHz portion of the General and Novice phone bands, with Packet operation on 145.03 MHz. For special QSL, submit your QSL with SASE to K2JD, RaRa, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333, or bring to any future RaRa meeting.

VE TESTING

by Bob Fortman, WE2T

The September and October sessions saw 20 people taking a test. As a result of these sessions, we have 10 new hams. We wish to congratulate the following people who upgraded at the two sessions.

N2KWZ - Advanced, N2MXJ - Tech +, KB2KJT - Tech +, and KB0HHN - Tech +.

The following people are new hams who qualified for Technician Class. Christian Leibfried, James Luening, Brian Sears, Paul Meyers, Dave Pomeroy, Ben Piccirille, Barb Stein, Jim Sutton, Dick Wilder and Ed Hornell who passed his Novice test.

I would like to thank Barb AA2CX, George AA2FO, Sid KO2WV, and Stan WM3D, who assisted at the tests. The next session is December 21.

the RARa RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.
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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In case you think that your letter to a member of Congress may not make a difference, consider the following: A recent survey of U.S. senators revealed that it takes an average of only seven personalized constituent letters to prompt a senator to look into an issue. In the U.S. House, only four letters. As a rule of thumb in Congress, for most issues, each personal letter received (not a form letter) represents the views of 500 people-voters who did not write.

Letters from constituents are the most effective way to communicate with members of Congress. Write today. You can make a difference!

- Write on your personal stationery. Avoid form letters. Make your letter legible and neat. Type the letter if your handwriting is not easy to read.
- Put your address on the letter. Envelopes sometimes get misplaced before a letter is answered.
- Identify the issue and the legislation. In the first paragraph, state the subject of the legislation about which you are writing. Include the name of the bill and the bill number.
- State your position. Explain how a bill or the member's position would affect you, your family, your business, your community or your state. Personalize the issue.
- Keep it simple and brief. Keep your sentences short and to the point. One to two strong arguments, simply stated, in a one-page letter are all you need. Avoid technical words and jargon. Write the message in your own words.
- Know your facts. Use facts to validate your letter and illustrate that you know the issue and have given thought to your position. If your statements or facts are inaccurate, your influence will diminish.
- Be reasonable and positive. A letter that calmly sets forth your arguments will be read and considered. An offensive letter may be ignored and may harm your cause.
- Request a reply. Indicate to your member of Congress that you would appreciate a reply stating his or her position on the issue. This ensures that your letter was received, read and noted.
- Follow-up. If the member's reply is favorable, send a response thanking the member of Congress. If the member's vote on the bill supports your position, thank him or her. If the member's reply is negative, send another letter or call the congressional office and respond with arguments against the position the member of Congress has taken.

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Amateur Radio News Service

- Call the congressional office. If you do not receive a reply, call the congressional office or state district office and ask to speak to the legislative assistant handling your issue. Phone calls to your member of Congress or their aides can be effective. The congressional switchboard number is 202-224-3121.

FEEDLINE CHOICES

by Scott Cannon, N7LMQ,
from the Bridgerland ARC,
The OHM Town News via ARNS

LOGAN, UT (ARNS) – While reading the mail lately, I overheard a couple of hams planning to install a new antenna and discussing which coax feedline to employ. Since this decision is something we all eventually encounter, I thought it might be useful to summarize the basic considerations in feedline choice. Primarily, they are *loss vs. cost vs. size/wt.*

The table presents five common coax cable types and signal loss per 100 feet for two different frequencies, expected cost per foot and size.

Prices vary with catalog or supplier, of course, but this gives a ball-park comparison. The loss functions are linear so one could extrapolate for other frequencies. Remember that a 3 dB loss represents about half of your signal power. In other words, 10 watts transmitted through 100 feet of RG-58 would result in a 6dB loss or about 2.5 watts arriving at the antenna (at two meters). For short lines, however, even 10 feet of RG-174 would result in only 1.4 dB loss on two meters, which would not be noticeable.

I think the best price/performance tradeoff is with RG-8 mini. It is also easy to work with and can be readily purchased at a local Radio Shack store, along with connectors. It does have one drawback, however, (as do all foam dielectric lines), if the line contains sharp bends, the center conductor will tend to “migrate” away from the center in a few years and the impedance and loss figures will degrade.

TYPE	Loss at 20 mtrs (dB/100ft.)	Loss at 2 mtrs (dB/100ft.)	Size (In.)	Est. Cost (per ft.)
RG-8 (foam)	0.60	2.0	0.4	0.55
RG-8	0.74	2.6	0.4	0.47
RG-8 mini	0.95	3.3	0.3	0.28
RG-58	1.75	6.0	0.2	0.23
RG-174	4.60	14.0	0.1	0.20

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 6 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
Henrietta Fire House, East Henrietta Rd.
- 13 - VHF Group - 7:30 p.m. - 111 Westfall Rd.
- 20 - RRRR Meeting - Pittsford Town Hall
- 21 - RaRa VE Testing - 8:30 a.m.
111 Westfall Road
- 21-22 RaRa Special Event Station
- 26 - Christmas

Check with clubs to verify time and place of meeting.

FROM THE JUNK BOX:

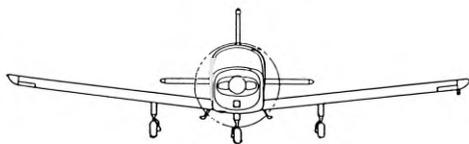
CHEIT'S LAMENT: If you help a friend in need, he is sure to remember you – the next time he's in need.

YOUNG'S LAW: All great discoveries are made by mistake.

COROLLARY: The greater the funding, the longer it takes to make the mistake.

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THE ANATOMY OF A SHORT CIRCUIT

A GRIM REMINDER FROM THE QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION CHICAGO CHAPTER *QCC NEWS*

CHICAGO, IL (ARNS) – *THE HEADLINE: MAN IS ELECTROCUTED IN THEFT TRY THE STORY:*

Police were trying to identify a man who was electrocuted by 138,000 volts while apparently trying to steal copper wire from the power company's substation.

"He was burned pretty much beyond recognition", said Sgt. Terry Urbaniak of the South Chicago District. A pair of pliers was found next to the man. Fire fighters found no fire when they responded to a call about 3:30 a.m. but found the man's burned body. Power was not disrupted.

Circuit protection from devices similar to telemetry kept the system running. At the end of ten cycles of alternating current (which corresponds to 1/10th of a second), 15,507 amps were flowing through the remains. The circuit breaker then opened. The victim had shunted the current from C phase entrance to a phase shifting transformer to ground. The voltage dropped on C phase from 80,000 down to 17,000.

A hole was blasted out of the bushing feeding the C phase transformer. The victim had disconnected the ground cables. When he touched the ungrounded cables, the current found its way to ground through control lines which terminated in the substation measuring devices. Panels were blown off the racks, meters blackened in their holders and wires disintegrated in their troughs.

The victim and his partner got in by cutting a hole in the wire fence. Two sets of foot prints were found entering, only one leaving. Judging from the prints leaving, the partner could have won an Olympic broad jump, high hurdles and maybe the 1000 yard dash!

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THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO – DECEMBER 1971

by Ed Gable, K2MP

In this issue the December meeting was announced as an informational program devoted to MARS, the Military Affiliate Radio Service. Presenting the slide show are local amateurs: Richard Porcelli, WB2MMD (N0SQK); Joe Marsey, N0PRU; Ken Seil, N0PVZ; and Al Wise, N0KMC. RaRa Editor, Harold Smith, WA2KND, thanked those who supported his unsuccessful bid for Vice-Director of the ARRL Atlantic Division. Although not winning the election he did accumulate a substantial number of votes. Elected were Harry McConaghy, W3EPC, to Director and Jesse Bieberman, W3KT, Vice-Director. The local Field Day score were published with the Band-Dit-Dahs crushing the competition by a two to one margin. On 11/17/71, the Rochester 146.88 repeater moved to the Kodak Office building. Charlie Mills, K2LDU, built the solid state, 15 watt transmitter for the repeater which signed WA2UWQ/2 Pssst. (You real old timers will know what that means – Ed.) The Antique Wireless Association reported several changes to that organization as co-founder George Batterson, W2GB, decided to step down as president. Elected at their last Board Meeting were: Chuck Brelsford, K2WW, President; Ken Gardner, W2BGN, Vice-President; Bruce Kelley, W2ICE; and Linc Cundall, W2QY, remained in their Secretary and Treasurer positions, respectively. Elected to the AWA Board of Directors were: Duck E. Dengler, W2LK; Larry Triggs, W2YBK; Lauren Peckham; Dex Deeley, WN2KQI; Joe Marsey, W2EMX; Cliff Daykin, W2AFE; Henry Blodgett, W2UTH; Harry Lott, W2ARX; Al Crum, W2BWK; and Harold Smith, WA2KND. Among ten paid advertisers was Glenwood Sales on Hague Street.

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October 25, 1991

Mr. Ed Holdsworth-N2EH, EC
 Amateur Radio
 518 Parish Road
 Honeoye Falls, N.Y. 14472

Dear Mr. Holdsworth:

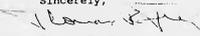
On behalf of Monroe County, I would like to thank you for your participation in the Ginna Emergency Preparedness Drill on September 11, 1991.

The diligence and hard work of many individuals during the exercise contributed to the favorable evaluation from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Response efforts were effectively coordinated so that the various tasks were performed at a remarkable level of efficiency.

Events such as these annual exercises allow us to demonstrate to the citizens of this community that an effective emergency preparedness plan can be quickly implemented and managed with a high degree of flexibility and proficiency. This was also demonstrated during the ice storm this past March when dedicated County staff and local agencies responded admirably during a time of crisis.

Again, thank you for your contributions and assistance in making the radiological exercise a success.

Sincerely,


 Thomas R. Frey
 Monroe County Executive

TRF/d

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THE RULES

1. The *female* always makes the rules.
2. The rules are subject to change at any time *without prior notification*.
3. No *male* can possibly know all the rules.
4. If the *female* suspects the *male* knows all the rules, she must immediately change *some* or *all* of the rules.
5. The *female* is NEVER wrong.
6. If the *female* is wrong, it is because of a *flagrant misunderstanding* which was the *direct result* of something the *male DID* or *SAID* wrong.
7. If rule 6 applies, the *male* must apologize immediately for causing the *misunderstanding*.
8. The *female* can change her mind at *any given point in time*.
9. The *male* must NEVER change his mind without *express written consent* from the *female*.
10. The *female* has every right to be angry or upset at *any time*.
11. The *male* must remain calm at ALL times, unless the *female* wants him to be *angry* or upset.
12. The *female* must under NO circumstances let the *male* know whether or not she wants to be *angry* or upset.
13. Any attempt to document these rules could result in *BODILY HARM*.
14. If the *female* has PMS, *all rules are null and void*.
15. The *male cannot* diagnose PMS.

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FROM W5YI REPORT

From the people who brought you the ECPA
by Frank Terranella, N2IGO

They're at it again in Washington.

There's a bill on its way through the House of Representatives that aims to require radio manufacturers to omit certain frequencies from their coverage.

Apparently the cellular people aren't happy with the "privacy" the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) was supposed to provide. Now they want to make general coverage UHF radios contraband. The bill would make it illegal to sell a radio that has even the capability of being altered to pick up the prohibited frequencies. This is apparently an attempt to stop the "snip the diode and get full coverage" trade. But what it really is is an unworkable piece of legislation every bit as ill conceived and unenforceable as its parent - the ECPA.

How will the radio police know a legal radio from an illegal one? In New Jersey, the police can't tell the difference between a 2-meter HT and a scanner. Does anyone in Washington really believe that police will be able to tell legal scanners from illegal ones?

The answer is no, and it doesn't matter. As long as the law is on the books, the cellular people can advertise complete privacy.

They know the law will not bring real privacy, and they don't care. All they want to do is sell telephones. I'm sure that the readers of W5YI report don't need to be told that the laws of Congress don't overrule the laws of physics, but the general public does.

Most people outside the radio community consider this a privacy issue. "What right do you have to listen in on my conversation?", people ask. "I am paying good money to use that telephone and I am paying for privacy", they say. Now I'm all for privacy. I believe it's a constitu-

tional right. I agree with the ACLU (of which I am a member) that the protection of privacy rights is one of the great legal battles of the nineties. However, when I went to law school (not all that long ago) I was taught that there is no right of privacy unless there's "reasonable expectation" giving rise to it. Thus, if you have a private conversation using a bull horn, even though you talk about the most private and intimate details of your life, there is no reasonable expectation of privacy and you have no right to stop others from listening.

Cellular telephone is exactly the same as talking with a bull horn, except the frequency is higher and the bullhorn is more powerful.

Anyone who uses such a device to communicate cannot reasonably expect that the conversation will be private. The courts were quite content to draw the privacy lines this way until the ECPA came along.

With the ECPA, Congress declared it to be reasonable to expect that unscrambled conversations broadcast over the public airwaves are private. Of course, everyone knows that this is absurd, but Congress has the power to turn black into white, and the unreasonable into reasonable.

Now, these great minds are preparing to require radio manufacturers to deny Americans access to certain frequency bands on all radios. We'll start with the cellular band, they say. After all, listening there is illegal anyway. But after they take the cellular bands out of your radio, what will be next?

Probably the police. In many states it's already illegal to listen to a scanner in your car. It's just one short step from that to cutting those bands off the VHF-UHF dial. Then maybe the airline frequencies, the business frequencies, the fire departments will be snipped off your radio. Just like the Marx Brothers contract in "A Night at the Opera" - a little snip here, a little snip there, and soon there will be nothing left but the broadcast bands.

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HINTS AND KINKS

by Ed Swynar, VE3CUI, in SPARC-GAP,
South Pickering ARC, Ontario, Canada
via ARNS

The glass envelopes of older vacuum tubes such as the 807, 811A, 5U4, etc., are prone, with age, to separate from their bakelite bases. Electrically, these tubes are perfectly functional, but there is the risk of breaking the interconnecting wires because of the undue pressure the weight of the "floating" glass assembly can exert upon the wires.

I have found that a liberal application of slow-cure epoxy, applied along the entire outer perimeter of the tube, forms a secure, permanent bond between the glass and the base. Depending upon the "mix" used of resin to hardener, the glue may turn brownish-black in color due to the heat generated by the tube, but the strength of the repair does not appear to be adversely affected by this.

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OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

by Clayton Clark, AC70, Editor,
Bridgerland ARC, Newsletter via ARNS

LOGAN, Ut (ARNS) – With many new amateur radio operators among us, it seems necessary to remind ourselves again that hamming is not just fun and games and we own the country something for our privileges.

The federal government has allocated valuable radio frequencies and fostered the organization of the amateur radio service for some very important reasons:

1. To encourage development of new communication techniques by all interested people, not just approved researchers;
2. To provide a large group of trained and disciplined communicators in time of disaster;
3. To encourage the general public to be aware of and accept the responsibility to develop and participate in the national resource of radio communication.

Hams benefit from these privileges by having a fascinating hobby and personal telephone service for family and friends, if we provide it for ourselves. We will have none of these if we do not continually make it clear that we are fulfilling the national primary needs. Our frequencies could disappear very quickly. Some have already been lost.

Did you get your license so you could call home while mobile or talk with the family while camping? Of course, these are wonderful uses of the ham frequencies, but have you thought about paying your basic rent for these privileges?

You should:

1. Upgrade so you can be useful on all frequencies when needed;
2. Participate in meetings and training nets so you know how to perform when needed;
3. Develop your equipment so you are free of commercial power;
4. Know and obey the rules so the frequencies and privileges will not be lost;
5. Contribute where possible to development of new techniques and help others to do so;
6. Operate courteously, foster good will and fellowship on the air;
7. Encourage the use of all frequencies. Part of the 220 MHz band has been lost, probably because we did not use it enough;
8. Develop a general awareness that hams have responsibilities as well as privileges.

NICAD RULES

I have heard a lot of information about how to use Nickel-Cadium rechargeable cells. In my opinion they are most effective under conditions similar to the way we use them in a handie talkie.

Regular use – cycle once a month or more.

Medium to high current – not in a TV remote control.

I have personally seen them last 8 to 10 years. I wonder why some people are buying new packs after only a year and a half. I think they are abusing the cells. Here are my rules for using Nicads.

NEVER totally discharge the cells. Using a pack below a voltage of 1.2V per cell often results in the weakest cell going to ZERO volts or even a reverse voltage.

NEVER charge at a high rate. Well, almost never.

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Don't sweat the memory effect. According to the GATES company, there is no such thing.

de Experienced User (18 years)

P.S. Biggest obstacle to observing these rules is the ownership of more than one handie talkie. Sell the extras.

Tnx Ham Hum

RECOGNIZE ANYTHING?

YOU CAN TELL YOU ARE A HAM IF . . .

- Your economy car gets only 6 mpg because of all the antennas.
- Your wife quit complaining about TVI six months ago, moved out, and you haven't noticed.
- You wrote to the Department of Agriculture to see if you could get a subsidy for your antenna farm.
- You waste four days going through catalogs so you can save \$2 on an \$800 radio.
- Your wife couldn't stand living with her mother so she came back and you haven't noticed.
- When playing golf you think this would be a great place for an 80M rhombic.
- While visiting your best friend in the hospital you ask him if you can have his TS-940 if he dies.
- You hope your pregnant wife doesn't have to go to the hospital on a contest weekend.
- You know that new rig with more knobs will help you work more DX even though it has the same power as the old rig.
- You get unhappy with all the lads who call CQ on YOUR frequency.

*de K9TGT in the Scuttlebutt
seen in the QRZ NBARA (Vallejo)
via Ham Hum*

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- Democracy is a process by which the people are free to choose the man who will get the blame.
(Laurence J. Peter)

WANTED – Antique tube boxes, communications receivers. Ed Gable, K2MP – 392-3088.

FROM THE JUNK BOX:

Primal Screen Therapy: Hollering at your terminal and pounding on the keys to make yourself feel better when something goes wrong.