



the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 45

SEPTEMBER 1992

No. 1

FIRST MEETING OF THE 1992 - 1993 CLUB SEASON TO BE HELD IN HENRIETTA!

Rochester, NY – Local Challenger Program receives Practical Light Wave Communications Device. The Challenger Program, a memorial to teacher Christa McCauliffe, will be receiving a durable laser light communicator courtesy of the engineering efforts of local amateur, John Gilly (WD4RDZ), and the collaboration of RaRa.

We are fortunate to have John as our kick-off presenter for this year of showcasing local talent. On September 11th, John will share his experience and knowledge in an entertaining walk through the development of the Challenger Project Optical Communicator. In the process he'll use his wit and humor to enrich our lives with practical background information on optical communications devices and, I'm certain, share some of the cost effective shortcuts he's found along the way.

John has assured me his presentation is fast paced and broad spectrumed. Those of you who yearn for more technical details will find John open to questions. And those desiring to get a grasp on the basics of this exciting new field will find an illuminating overview of this delightful subject.

So, just where can you find all this, plus the opportunity to renew "eyeball" acquaintance with friends you haven't seen in a while, not to mention the culinary delights of WA2IEO, George Muller? At the modern, easy to get to, Henrietta Fire Hall, located at 3129 East Henrietta Road (near Lehigh Station Road). You'll find this building comfortable and with full access for our friends who need to use a wheelchair or cane to get about.

You'll love our new meeting place with lots of close to the building parking and clean, spacious meeting room. Tell a friend or neighbor about this opportunity and bring them along. The Henrietta Fire Hall is only minutes from nearly everywhere by expressway. So, Come on down!

See you there!

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

UPCOMING SPEAKERS AND PROGRAMS FOR 1992

Our speakers are all recognized local talent from the vast sophisticated pool of technical and professional experts in the Greater Rochester Area.

September 11th – *Optical Communications and the Challenger Project*

October 2nd – *Public Service -- The Local Public Service Arena*

November 6th – *Annual Auction at the Henrietta Fire Hall*

December 4th – *Souping Up & Tuning Up Your Plain Vanilla PC*

SILENT KEYS

GEORGE O. HERKERT III
W2LLS

May 28, 1992

NELSON R. NAIL
WA2ZPE

June 17, 1992

PETER B. FUCILE
N2EQQ

June 28, 1992

ARTHUR S. HOWELL
K4JRF (ex W2BJH)

July 6, 1992

HAROLD DuBOISE
W2ULA

July 11, 1992

ALAN P. M. KING
N2JRY

July 19, 1992

BERNARD MICHAELS
ex WB2WYO

July 21, 1992

the **RaRa Rag**

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24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716-334-1762)

GENESEE REPEATER ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW HAMS

As we celebrate our 20th year of operation, the members of the 19/79 repeater group welcomes newcomers to use our repeater.

This repeater covers a wide area and is easy to access even with hand held transceivers. Call in frequently and meet interesting, friendly hams that use this repeater. It is an easy way to make new friends and get help to learn more about our fascinating hobby.

Those not familiar with repeater operation please call one of the following for assistance:

Rick (K2SA - 293-2656), Fred (W2GV - 381-7663), Otto (WB2RJB - 247-4976), Bob (W2XG - 494-1022).

If you wish to become a member of this group, write to:

Genesee Repeater Association
P.O. Box 69
North Chili, New York 14514

VOL. 45 SEPTEMBER 1992 No. 1

OFFICERS:

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Vice-President: Keith F. Freeberg, Jr., N2BEL 458-8246
Secretary: Alexander A. Piccirilli, NV2Y 334-4222
Treasurer: Richard A. Goslee, K2VCZ 334-1762

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George A. Muller, WA2IEO 381-6151
Neal I. Eckhardt, WB2EKP 359-2672
Robert J. Hobday, N2EVG 624-3368

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Licensing Course Director: Peter Secrist, WB2SUN
Hamfest General Chairman: Harold Smith, K2HC
K2JD Engraving Director: Robert Lauzon, K2RL

79 REPEATER CELEBRATES 20th ANNIVERSARY AT ANNUAL PICNIC

Repeater members are encouraged to attend our picnic which will be held Sunday, September 20, 1992 at Churchville Park.

Time: 12 Noon til sunset

Place: Cottonwood Lodge at Churchville Park

Directions: See map below

Beverages: G.R.A. will supply pop, charcoal, grills, condiments, paper plates.

Food: Bring your own hots, hamburgers or whatever and a dish to pass.

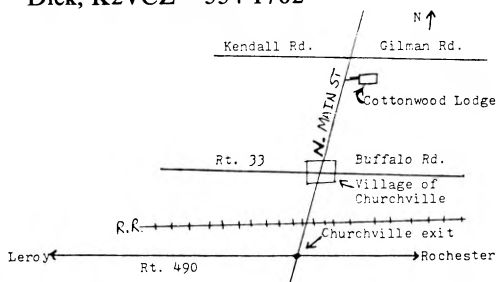
We need to know as soon as possible how many will attend so plans can be made for the beverages. Please call one of the board members listed below:

Joe, K2VI - 594-2530
Otto, WB2RJB - 247-4976
Bob, W2XG - 494-1022
Rick, K2SA - 293-2656
Fred, W2GV - 381-7663
Dick, K2VCZ - 334-1762

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Amateur Radio News Service



BUFFALO HAMFEST CELEBRATES 3rd YEAR AT ERIE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

HAMBURG, NY – The 3rd annual BUFFALO HAMFEST AND COMPUTER SHOW returns to the Erie County Fairgrounds Saturday, September 19, 1992. As one of the largest amateur radio conventions in the region, the Hamfest draws crowds of up to 2,500 people from New York, neighboring states, and Canada every year.

This year's Hamfest and Computer Show includes exhibits of the most up-to-date radio communications equipment and supplies, and an outdoor flea market.

The BUFFALO HAMFEST AND COMPUTER SHOW offers the largest number of amateur radio and equipment dealers and manufacturers in the northeast. The radio equipment and associated supplies will be offered at bargain prices. Computer users will find complete systems, components, disks, software, and shareware at low discount prices.

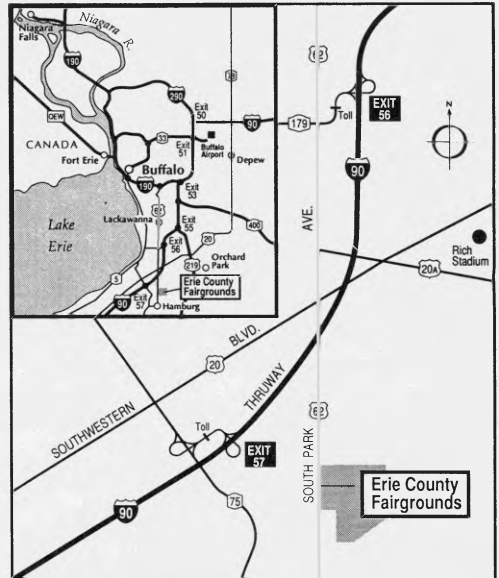
Entrance to the Erie County Fairgrounds is off Route 62, South Park Avenue. Gates open at 6 a.m. The flea market starts at 6 a.m. The commercial exhibits building opens at 8:30 a.m. Registration tickets are \$5.00. Flea market vendor permits are \$5.00 for each 10 x 20 foot parking space. The Erie County Agricultural Society, owners and operators of the Erie County Fairgrounds will charge a \$1.00 per vehicle parking fee.

The BUFFALO HAMFEST AND COMPUTER SHOW is sponsored by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association. In May of each year, a much larger event, the Rochester Hamfest is held in Rochester. Attendance at the last Rochester Hamfest was over 6,500.

For more information contact Harold Smith, K2HC, at 716-424-1100 or 716-424-7184 during regular business hours.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 11 - RaRa Meeting - Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Road - 8:00 p.m.
- VHF Group Meeting - 111 Westfall Road
- 19 - Buffalo Hamfest - Erie County Fairgrounds
- 21 - RaRa License Class starts



CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .


David Hallidy, KD5RO, of Pittsford, who has won an Atlantic Division 1992 Technical Achievement award from the ARRL, presented at the Rochester Hamfest banquet.

Russ McKay, WA2CBU, of Pittsford, who recently achieved Honor Roll status in ARRL's DX Century Club with 320 countries confirmed on mixed mode and 319 on SSB.

Barbara Rae Weirich, AA2CX, of Dansville, who has assumed Net Manager responsibilities of Western District Net, succeeding Bob Hobday, N2EVG, of Honeoye Falls.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Where has our summer gone? It doesn't feel like we have had summer at all this year with all the cool weather and rain. One thing about the cool weather is it was nice for sleeping at night. Anyway I hope that everyone had a great summer vacation. I know that I did! That doesn't have to mean that I am ready for fall even though it is just around the corner now. Along with fall comes the hunting season, changing of the colors, and a new RaRa season. That is one thing that I am ready for as it feels good to get out to the meetings and see friends that I haven't seen in a few months. I also have a chance to learn something new from the informative speakers that we have at the meetings. This year the RaRa season will start with the first meeting being held at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11th. We have a new meeting place this year which is the Henrietta Firehouse located at 3129 East Henrietta Road. This is a very nice meeting hall with handicap access, plenty of parking, and is easy to get at as it is located not far from the 390 exit at Lehigh Station Road. I hope to see all our members at this meeting.

With the new RaRa season there is a new slate of Officers and Board Members. Many of these are people that have served as officers over the years and some are new. You will find their names listed on page 2 of every issue of *Rag*. Use them to make your suggestions on things that you would like to see RaRa involved with. Along with these, however, are a lot of other people that are involved in keeping RaRa running and supplying the services that our members want and deserve. These people work behind the scenes most of the time and many of the RaRa members don't even know that they exist. They are the chairman of the many committees that really make RaRa the organization that it is. Once again many of these people are members that have worked on these committees for years and some are new starting out in this position for the first time this year. I would like to take this time and list for you these people and to thank them for offering to take on this work load for the new season:

- *Rag* Editor – Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP
- Membership – Irwin (Irv) J. Goodman, AF2K
- Meeting Awards –
Chester (Chet) W. Albrecht, WB2MDO
- Refreshments – George A. Muller, WA2IEO
- Telephone Service –
Irwin (Irv) Goodman, AF2K
- Social Events –
Robert (Bob) Hobday, N2EVG

- License Classes –
Peter (Pete) D. Secrist, WB2SUN
- Directory Editor –
Richard (Dick) A. Goslee, K2VCZ
- TVI – Stephen (Steve) E. Sykes, KD2OM
- VE Testing Co-chairman –
George Platteter, AA2FO and
Barbara Rae Weirich, AA2CX
- Club Station Trustee –
Edwin (Ed) J. Holdsworth, N2EH
- ARRL Club Liaison –
Edward (Ed) M. Gable, K2MP
- Rochester Hamfest –
Harold C. Smith, K2HC, General Chairman
Edwin (Ed) J. Holdsworth, N2EH, Assistant
- K2JD Engraving –
Edwin (Ed) J. Holdsworth, N2EH
- Equipment Appraisal –
Edward (Ed) M. Gable, K2MP
- Public Service –
Edwin (Ed) J. Holdsworth, N2EH
- Club Historians –
Bruce L. Kelley, W2ICE, and
Edward (Ed) M. Gable, K2MP

There we have it, all the chairman. They are in no special order and under each of these groups are many subcommittees and workers that we should hear more about as the year goes on. If you would like any further information on a committee or would like to work on it give me or the chairman a call. Again I would like to give these people a very large THANK YOU for volunteering for the hard work ahead of you.

As the president of RaRa I am open to any suggestions, challenges, and assistance that anyone may have. Feel free to give me a call at any time to talk about them or see me at one of the meetings. See you in September.

Rochester HAMFEST

MAY 21, 22, 23, 1993

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LOCAL BOYS MAKE GOOD!



Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, and Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF, both past President of RaRa, show their wares at the Antenna Specialist booth at the '92 Dayton Hamvention.



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UPDATES TO RaRa DIRECTORY

In an attempt to update the over 2800 entries in the RaRa Directory we have converted the Zip Codes to the Zip+4 system. This was done by matching our records to the National Zip Code Directory of the US Postal System. We were able to get approximately 98% of the records to update correctly. In our efforts to get all the addresses to be complete we need your help. Please take a moment and look at the address label that is on the envelope that contained this issue of the RAG. If your address DOES NOT have a Zip+4 then we don't have a correct address for you. Please check your street address and make sure it is correct. Please let the directory editor know your correct address so that we may insure that you are listed correctly in the 1993 issue of the directory. Please send your corrections to the following address:

RaRa Directory Editor
Richard Goslee, K2VCZ
24 Elaine Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5306

If it is more convenient give me at call at (716) 334-1762. Thanks for your help.

PUBLIC SERVICE

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The past few months have seen us participating in the usual events, which includes Runs, Walks, Pony Rallies, Road Rallies, Horse Shows, Biathlons and Triathlons. This years events were accepted for our support for the same reasons we worked on them in past years – Service to the Public and TRAINING for Amateur Radio Operators.

This year saw one event with results that no one looks for and certainly hopes it will never happen. The Susquehannock Pro Road Rally held in Wellsboro, PA and which has included Amateur Radio communications support since the first one was run 16 years ago, had a fatal accident. The years of training came into play when amateur radio was the only primary means of communication to request medical aid. The commitment to training was evident when the frequencies immediately following the announcement of a medical emergency, became quiet and orderly with only pertinent transmissions being made.

We hope that more people will become interested in Public Service events so that we can increase the number of TRAINED operators available in the event a disaster strikes. The increase in the complexity of todays equipment will no longer

make the comment “I don't have the time but if a real disaster happens, I'll be there”, a viable comment.

This year has also seen a tremendous increase in the announcement of “*Severe Weather*”. How many times this year have you seen that announcement flashing across the TV screen? When you see that on your screen, remember – the National Weather Service has activated Skywarn and one of the few area amateurs involved in Skywarn are at or on the way to the NWS office at the airport, usually for a period of 4 to 8 hours. We have had, for several years, a 2M radio at the NWS and have recently installed a packet station. We have not had the time to explore all the uses of Packet but we are working on it. Want to help?

If you are interested in working on any Public Service event or in getting active in the many new facets of Amateur Radio, talk to any officer of the club, take time to stop by the station at 111 Westfall Road or call me. We have added many new pieces of equipment and updated most of the other equipment.

I want to make one more comment on the station. The space for OUR club station, K2JD, as well as the 146.88 repeater and the ROCHNY packet node station is given to RaRa because of our commitment to the support of Monroe County communications in the event of any natural or manmade disaster. This commitment also allows several affiliated groups the use of the facilities at 111 Westfall Road including, RDXA, RVHF Group and RAPS. I have lost count of the amateur antennas on the roof of 111, but there are now 4 towers and at least 20 antenna – take a look sometime and remember – We need more TRAINED operators to be able to continue this level of support.

I want to say a special thanks to Chet, WB2MDO, and Don, KB2BU, for all their time at the NWS this summer.

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ROCHESTER HAMFEST 1992

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

Do you remember the 1992 Rochester Hamfest – DID YOU GO?

The Rochester Hamfest for 1992 was the most successful that we have had. The attendance was the highest ever, the number of commercial vendors was the highest it has ever been and the weather was outstanding. The flea market, which opened on Friday, was a sell out before noon on Saturday.

The Rochester Hamfest combined with the New York State Convention and the Atlantic Division Convention has been a top show in the north east for many years. The activities that are scheduled every year but lightly attended are the Friday and Saturday night activities. The Friday evening banquet is the first social event of the Hamfest.

The Saturday Banquet, in addition to being the place to meet and talk with your officials of the League, is the annual Atlantic Division awards presentation. The annual awards for “*Amateur of the Year*”, “*Technical Achievement*” and the “*Grand Ole Ham*” are presented at this function.

This years award for “*Amateur of the Year*” was presented to Bob Josuweit, WB3PZO, for his work in Public Service Communications over the past several years. Bob has served as Section Emergency Coordinator for Eastern Pennsylvania, on the ARRL Public Service Advisory Committee and has worked with the National Advisory Medical System.

The award for “*Technical Achievement*” was awarded jointly to Dave Hallidy, KD5RO, and David Mascaro, WA3JUF. These amateurs were recognized for their work in the VHF/UHF/Microwave bands. Dave Hallidy, of Pittsford holds many records on the VHF/UHF/Microwave bands in addition to contributing articles and reviews to many magazines, including *QST* and *QEX*. Dave Mascaro, WA3JUF, of Ottsville, PA is an active member of the Mt. Airy VHF RC. His technical articles have appeared in *QST*, *QEX* and *Ham Radio*, in addition to his club news letter. He is known as a gifted designer of preamps and amplifiers in addition to his promotion of microwave operations through his publications and presentations at VHF conferences.

The “*Grand Old Ham*” award recognizes a lifetime of service to Amateur Radio. It may be conferred on an Atlantic Division amateur that has been licensed at least 30 years or is at least 50 years of age. This years award was conferred on Clarence Snyder, W3PYF, of Easton, PA. Clar-

ence was first licensed in 1947 and has been active in Emergency Communications in Northampton County, PA through RACES and ARES. He served as Section Communications Manager in 1955-56. He is also past President of the Delaware-Lehigh ARC and edits the club news letter, W3OK Corral. He has been an Elmer to many in his home area and serves as a radio merit badge counselor for the Boy Scouts of America.

These awards are chosen for amateurs throughout the Atlantic Division. If you would like to submit a worthy amateur for consideration for one of these awards, write to: Richard Goslee, K2VCZ, 24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 for information.

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RaRa CODE AND THEORY CLASSES

START SEPTEMBER 21st

RaRa is pleased to announce the formation of its Fall 1992 Code and Theory Classes for our 36th year of teaching. Classes will be offered for Novice, Technician, General, and Advanced.

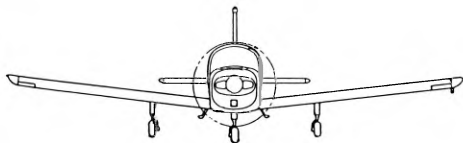
If you are interested in either general or advanced please call ahead of time and leave a message on the RaRa phone. The number is 442-0587.

Fall registration will be held at 111 Westfall Road at 7:00 p.m. The first session will start after all are registered. The classes will normally be starting at 7:30 p.m. and last until 9:30 p.m. each Monday evening until December 7, 1992. A testing session is planned for December 14 for the Novice and Technician students.

The total cost for the 12 week program, including registration is \$14.00 for the Novice and Technician and \$10.00 for the General and Advanced. If you are not a current member of RaRa please add \$6.00, if unlicensed, and \$10.00, if you are currently licensed, to the above figures. This will cover your membership in RaRa.

Our teaching team looks forward to seeing you on September 21st. See you there.

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RaRa TEST SCHEDULE 1992-93

by Barbara, AA2CX, 716-335-3804
George, AA2FO, 716-334-4488

Ham Radio exams are normally held by the RaRa VE's on the third Saturday of each month, September thru April; except when a Hamfest or other important event falls on that day.

Saturday, September 26

Saturday, October 17

Saturday, November 21

Saturday, December 19

Saturday, January 16

Saturday, February 20

Saturday, March 20

Saturday, April 17

May Hamfest

Place: Monroe Social Services Building
111 Westfall Road, Cafeteria

8:30 a.m. – Registration

9:00 a.m. – Exams Start

Walk in or mail to:

33 Branchbrook Drive
Henrietta, NY 14467

or

Old Depot Road
Dansville, NY 14437

Applicants should bring the following in addition to a pencil or pen:

2 forms of identification –

Picture Drivers License good

Original FCC license

Copy of FCC license

Certificate of Completion – if credit claimed
for elements passed at another test session

Copy of above

\$5.40 fee – exact change helpful – if paying by check, make it out to W5YI-VEC. It is important to make photo copies in advance of the test session since there is no copy machine at the test site.

The fee remains at \$5.40 until January 1993 when it will be increased by the FCC; this will be reported in a future *Rag*.

We are prepared for handicapped applicants, please phone me in advance.

As previously reported in the *RAG*, exam sessions are also conducted on the first Thursday of each month at Kodak Bldg. #28 by Mike, NO2Z, 716-732-7465. Sessions start at 5:30 p.m. and go until everyone is tested.

We can always use more VE's, and Extra Class Amateur seriously interested in this program and willing to participate often, please phone me.