



the **RARA RAG**

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 45

OCTOBER 1992

No. 2

SECRETS OF FULFILLING ONE OF THE PREMISES OF AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING DISCLOSED!

In a rare appearance as featured speaker at the Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Road, at 8:00 p.m., October 2nd, a person responsible for literally hundreds of people gaining their first "ticket" or that rare "upgrade" will share the special opportunities that await each of us, *If we know the secret!*

Our speaker, Ed Holdsworth (N2EH), had been heard to say, and I paraphrase here for simplicity, "If this opportunity were a classified government secret, probably more amateurs would know of the benefits!" You might get the distinct impression that these opportunities are rare or limited to a select, hand-picked inner circle of amateurs. However, Ed claims that such opportunities were available approximately twenty times during the 1991-1992 club season! And most amazing of all, there were only simple prerequisites that virtually anyone with a license could meet. Further, it didn't matter if you were young or old; tall or short; male or female; what your favorite operating mode is; or race, color or creed. **No Limits!!!! No Limits!!!!**

Ed's topic, the public service arena, is one many of us have steered away from citing reasons such as: It takes too much time!; How will this help me get my antenna farm in place?; I'll know exactly what to do in a real emergency to help myself and my community!; With all those cellular phones out there, we're not needed any longer!; I checked out my equipment a while back and I've got everything I could want, I think?; I don't have the skills or I don't have the equipment to do that! Are these some of the reasons you've steered away from public service? Do you have some others? Come on down October 2nd and give Ed a few minutes of your time. Let him share his secrets with you. You know, the ones that aren't so hard after all. See what you think after hearing all the facts. Once you've had an opportunity to hear Ed speak, sample his wry wit and no non-

OCTOBER 2, 1992

**HENRIETTA FIRE HALL
3129 East Henrietta Road**

**Ed Holdsworth, N2EH
AREC - RACES - PUBLIC SERVICE**

sense style, I'm sure you'll agree that this will be a thoroughly enjoyable meeting. Plus, I'm certain you'll take lots of new information away with you.

Come out to the fire hall, enjoy the crisp October air, a rewarding, informative evening and some great refreshments. Remember all those great folks that were there in September? They'll be there hoping to run into you again. Or perhaps, hoping that you'll make it to this meeting to share pleasant conversation and a cup or two.

See you there! 73 for now.

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Whether we want to face it or not we have moved into the fall of the year already. I don't know about you but I missed summer all together. There are many nice things about this time of year though, like the beautiful colors we enjoy each day and the cool sleeping weather. One other nice thing is the getting together with friends at the RaRa meeting each month.

You should feel good about being a member of RaRa other than just using the monthly meetings as a place to see friends even though this is important to all of us. This association is one of the largest clubs in the country and has been affiliated with the ARRL for over sixty years. It also carries with it the distinction of being a Special Service Club. I would like to list just a few of the other benefits that you as a member of RaRa have:

- You receive all the latest club news and are informed of National events through your issue of the *RaRa Rag* each month.

(Continued on page 2)

the *RaRa Rag*

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P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333

Editor **Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP**
80 Authors Avenue, Henrietta, NY 14467 (716-359-2672)

Managing Editor **Dick Goslee, K2V CZ**
24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716-334-1762)

Advertising Manager **Dick Goslee, K2V CZ**
24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716-334-1762)

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OFFICERS:

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Amateur Radio News Service

- A sharing of information through the club meetings.
- The ability to advertise personal radio related items for sale in the *Rag*.
- Receipt of the RaRa Directory, listing all licensed amateurs in the area.
- Use of the fully equipped club station with unlimited access to all members.
- Supports a packet radio digipeater.
- An annual November auction of radio equipment for members.
- Interesting and informative speakers at monthly meeting.
- Interaction with the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness, ARES/RACES, American Red Cross and the National Weather Service in times of emergencies.
- Active participation in public service events.
- Promotion of amateur radio through training, license classes and VE examinations.
- Many committees on which to serve and learn more about ham radio skills and leadership.
- Sponsorship of the Rochester and Buffalo Hamfests for you to enjoy.
- Two social events a year for members and their families.
- Assistance and advice on your special project from the club and any member at anytime.

This is just a few of the benefits that are available for you as a member. Even with all this you have some of the lowest dues of many of the clubs around the country. This takes a lot of work by a lot of volunteers to make happen. It is also fun so join in. Come to the meeting this month and get involved on some of the committees. Or at least bring your ideas, suggestions, and comments so that RaRa can continue to support your needs and grow.

Patrick C. Moyer, N2AIW *Attorney & Counselor-at-Law*

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THE CALL GOES OUT — will you answer?

As you ponder in your easy (or not so easy) chair wondering what excitement the next day might hold for you, recounting the down to earth presentation that John Gilly, WD4RDZ, gave us September 11th, just imagine what you could do with those sparks of ideas. What you could add or change to make it just perfect for that “*whatsit*” you’ve been thinking about. Or perhaps you’ve been thinking of a creative modification of something you’ve read or something you bought.

Perhaps, our truly greatest ideas are those that enhance those of another. Taking something that next logical step. Have you found yourself brewing up just such an idea? Now is the time to give those ideas wings! That is just what John did with a couple of handfuls of surplus and over the counter parts available everyday here in “*sunny*” Rochester. And none of it cost megabucks. Not to mention, all those home-brew ideas had plenty of “*schtooch*” when put into hardware.

Would you like to share your ideas with us? Or perhaps you’ve got some great ideas and you just need a little help putting a presentation together. Please don’t hesitate any longer. Give me a call @ (716) 458-8246 and lets discuss it. Putting on a brief talk about your idea and a mini-demo can go a long way towards improving the general lot of Amateur Radio here in the Greater Rochester, five county area.

Perhaps you’ve got some great ideas about what you would find interesting as a speaker for our meetings. If you do, or even think you might, I want to hear from you! All ideas have merit and I want to know what you’d like to see and hear about. Call or write me today! By the way, please feel free to leave me an extensive message if my answering machine picks up the line. I’ve got many activities going that may take me out of reach of the phone from time to time. So, I need your help in knowing what the call is about.

Thanks and 73,
Keith, N2BEL

Rochester HAMFEST

MAY 21, 22, 23, 1993

OCTOBER CALENDAR

2 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.

Henrietta Fire Hall

10 - Syracuse Hamfest

17 - RaRa VEC Testing Session

OF COWS AND CARS DEALERS

A rancher had been taken several times by the local car dealer. One day, the car dealer informed the rancher that he was coming over to purchase a cow. The rancher, seeing his chance to get even, fastened the following “*sticker*” to the cow before the car dealer arrived.

1992 Deluxe Cow-Standard Features and Options Price List:

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Deluxe Dual Horns	59.25
Automatic Fertilizer Attachment	339.40
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Additional Dealer Adjustments	300.00
Total Delivered Price (inc options)	\$3143.36

EPA Mileage Rating 5 mi/haybale without calf
2 mi/haybale with calf

The above mileage ratings are estimates based on 1990 figures provided to the EPA by the Bush Administration and may differ significantly from the actual mileage obtained by the above cow.

*W0EB, on Paket BBS as found in the
W6SD Carrier via NARC Radio Newsette*

SELF-HEALING CHIPS ...

ON BOARD REPAIR SERVICE

Satellite users groan silently to themselves whenever another favorite “*bird*” falls victim to hardware failure, because little can be done to repair the problem from the here on earth.

Cosmic rays may inundate RAM, for example. But researchers at General Electric Research and Development are working on producing chips that can examine themselves and correct any errors that appear. Interior circuits consistently examine the outputs and “*fill in*” any data holes.

Tnx W5YI Report via The Readout

RADIO STATION MGY

by Bob, AA8FK

CW – The classic language of radio. What adventure might the next twist of the dial bring? What tales of disaster await somewhere on the band? What country under siege? What old friend's "fist" to be recognized? The signal ... strong at first ... then fading .. a ship in distress?

On a Sunday evening in April John Phillips, chief radioman of shipboard radio station MGY, is attempting to work his way through the back log of messages to and from MCE (Cape Race, Newfoundland).

At 2140 hours, Phillips' Cape Race contact is interrupted by a message from another ship, warning of ice in the area. For some reason, Phillips chooses to "spike" the message. He has already carried several general ice warnings to the bridge. (Perhaps later he will take the report to the bridge.)

At 2300 hours, as Phillips strains to hear Cape Race, his ears are suddenly filled with pain caused by the loud CW signal of a freighter only 20 miles away. "MGY DE . . ." (Phillips reaches for his key and interrupts the loud intruder) ... "QRT DE MGY QRL QRL".

The only radioman aboard the nearby freighter, Cyril Evans, exhausted after his long work shift and now angry at being rebuffed by MGY, secures his equipment. Evans places the undelivered message on the console and turns in for the night. The message is an attempt to warn Phillips that the freighter is stopped and surrounded by ice.

At approximately 2340 hours, the coffee in Phillips' mug ripples slightly as the ship strikes the ice. Within thirty minutes the surface of the coffee in the mug is uneven, tilted to one side. His ship is listing to starboard and down by the bow.

At the direction of the ship's captain, Phillips begins to send the old distress signal "CQD CQD CQD DE MGY MGY MGY . . ." Later the captain tells Phillips to use the new distress signal "SOS SOS SOS" Phillips continues to send distress signals long after the "abandon ship" order is given.

At 0220 hours on April 15, 1912, radio station "MGY" slips beneath the cold dark sea. Radioman Phillips perished with one thousand five hundred and twenty two others. The huge ship that carries the radio call letters MGY also bears the nameplate "Titanic".

END OF THE TELEGRAPH?

(Ed: From the May 15, 1992 W5YI Report)
via Metroplex Newsletter

This year will be the first that AT&T has not provided telegraph service to its business customers. The long distance carrier has formally announced that it has retired its telegraph network. There was virtually no impact. AT&T's last telegraph customers - federal agencies, state governments and utility, broadcast and transportation companies already had turned to digital services.

AT&T's telegraph service transmitted data at 150 bits per second. Today, even desktop computer users consider 1,200 bps to be the slowest acceptable speed. When AT&T's private line telegraph service was introduced in 1887, it was a technological breakthrough.

According to AT&T, the telegraph began to be displaced by computer-to-computer in the 1970's. "Digital technology made it possible to transmit data faster and at lower cost than possible with a telegraph". AT&T will never become just "AT", telegraph will always be a part of its name – and its heritage. Clattering teletypes, ticker tapes and telegraph, however, are now part of its history.

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WARNING TO ALL HAMS!!!

Reprinted from the newsletter of the Horse-shoe Amateur Radio Club and contributed by Paul Mackanos, K2DB.

A reward of 500 microfarads is offering for the information leading to the arrest of Hopalong Capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a Westin Primary cell where he had been Clamped In Ions awaiting the Gauss chamber. He is charged with the induction of an 18-turn coil named Milli Henry, who was found Choked and robbed of valuables Joules. He is armed with a Carbon Rod and is a Potential killer. Hopalong Capacity is also charged with driving a DC motor over the Wheatstone Bridge and refusing to let the Band Pass. If encountered he may offer Series Resistance. The Electromotive Force spent the night searching for him in the Magnetic Field, where he has gone to Earth. They had no success and they believed Capacity returned Ohm via a Short Circuit. He was last seen riding a Kilocycle with his friend Eddy Current, who was playing Ohm on the Range on his Harmonic.

FOR SALE –

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PS+670 Keyer+ 227 Tuner

Ten Tec KR-20A Keyer

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THE RaRa RAG YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable, K2MP

20 YEARS AGO – OCTOBER 1972: This issue reports on recent FCC rule changes which brought WR2--- callsigns for repeaters, reduced the arduous requirement to notify the FCC of mobile operation plans and reduced the mobile logging requirements. The October meeting was given by Richard Scott, of Stromberg-Carlson, speaking on their new product, the *Vista-Phone*. Using slow scan techniques, this allowed the user to see the person you were talking to. (I guess people just don't want to do that! The first photo-telephone was introduced in 1914 and it hasn't caught on yet – Ed.) RaRa President Ed Holdsworth, WA2EKR, reported on the successful club camp out. Emergency Coordinator Jim Collinworth, WB2EDT, reported on the increasing use of RTTY on 146.70 for emergency communications. A new advertiser was *JC Sales of West Chili* featuring the *Gladding 25 2* meter rig.

40 YEARS AGO – OCTOBER 1952: The traditional old timer's night was scheduled for the Elk's Club where dinner was available for \$1.50. MC was Al Balling of WHAM (Ex 8ac). RaRa dues were \$3.00. The 2 meter civil defense net is on it's new frequency of 145.35 Mcs. The net control station will, however, tune the entire 4 Mcs for those not having the right XTAL! (Long calls please – Ed.) W2VVG is working on a new 24 element beam for 2-meters. W2TXB reports 224 countries and new ones are hard to come by. Linc, W2QY, reports an excellent civil defense radio demonstration for the county by; W2's UTH, QYT, SCZ, YPW, ZS, SNI, DYD, ZZS and YPR. Beaucaire, Inc., continued as a long time advertiser.

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PREDICTING EARTHQUAKES WITH PROPAGATION FORECASTS?

Editor's Note: The following story appeared in the June 1992 issue of Monitoring Times Magazine. Given the publication's lead time, the article was probably written sometime in April or May of 1992.

A massive 7.4 earthquake with a 6.5 aftershock struck Yucca Valley area of San Bernadino County near Palm Springs on June 28, 1992. Draw your own conclusions.

James Gray, W1XU, propagation forecaster for 73 Magazine, reportedly uses a system pioneered by John Nelson and others, which takes into account planetary positions and conjunctions in addition to solar data.

James was quoted in the newsletter Geo-Monitor as saying, "Compelling evidence to me is that quakes ... and other major geo-physical events ... either occur simultaneously with or within two days of major alignments between the planets".

"I just finished the June 1992 forecast and I am horrified at what I see". Gray notes particularly conjunctions on or about June 6th, 10th, 16th and 17th. "The worst is likely to be the 16-17th, which will be shortly after the half-moon.

Tnx Monitoring Times via The Readout

NOVEMBER AUCTION ON COURSE

Mark your calendars in big red letters, "RaRa Auction", and circle the date November 6, 1992. The annual auction will be a great opportunity to sell excess ham and related gear acquired during the hamfest season. If you are like me, you need just a little time to sort out the "junk" from the excess "goodies".

Once you are done with that, place your "junk" on the curb for the trash collector and clean, polish, find the manuals and label your excess "goodies" to go to a good home at the auction. Someone is certain to be looking for a new-to-you "goodie".

It will be at the Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Road, with the gavel dropping on the beginning of the auction instead of our usual program. Complete details will be in the next RaRa Rag. So, start digging out those treasures you don't use anymore.

73, Keith, N2BEL

DIVERSITY ... THE SPICE OF LIFE!

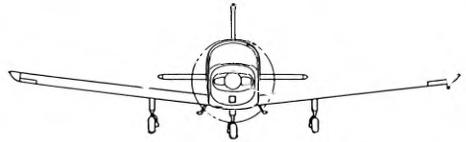
A ravishingly lovely 21 year old young lady married a 70 year old millionaire financier/broker. Their marriage lasted nine years until the husband died. The lady inherited her husband's business and wealth and after a one year mourning period married a well-known Hollywood motion picture producer. This marriage lasted ten years.

When her producer husband died, she married a charismatic minister who was about her own age and was thoroughly happy during their twenty-five year marriage. When he was unexpectedly struck down by a heart attack, she mourned for two years.

Finally, at the age of 70, she made headlines by marrying a man who was fifteen years her junior. He owned a chain of mortuaries.

A reporter asked her why she had selected husbands with such a wide diversity of occupations and she answered, "One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and four to go".

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NOTES FROM "W5YI REPORT"

Mail and telemarketers no longer need to collect sales taxes if they do not have an office in the purchaser's state. A U.S. Supreme Court decision (Quill vs. North Dakota) upheld that a state cannot force a mail order company with no physical presence in that state to collect sales or use taxes on purely interstate mailorder sales. This means you do not have to pay a sales tax on ham gear or computer equipment you purchase out of state over the phone or by mail.

Hands free dialing! AT&T has a new low-cost voice recognition device that allows cellular phone users to "dial" a number by speaking the name of the person you wish to call. A \$20 ROM chip can be "trained" to recognize up to 40 key words in its memory.

ICOM American has recalled all P2AT 144-MHz and 440-MHz Handie-Talkie transceivers due to a problem with leaking internal lithium batteries. They will replace the battery at no charge and extend the warranty on modified radios an additional year. Call 206-454-7619 for recall instructions.

The JARL (Japan Amateur Radio League) reports that Tohoku Electric Power Company has developed new radio technology that permits single frequency, two-way simultaneous radio communications. The end result is telephone-like audio because both sides of a voice conversation can be heard at the same time on a single frequency.

Most business radio stations use only one frequency; therefore a dispatcher and the receiver can not talk simultaneously. Each party must press the "push-to-talk" button whenever he or she wishes to speak and release the button to hear the other party.

The newly-developed radio system divides the operator's voice signals into 0.2 second sound segments and compresses them into half the time before transmission. The other half of the time is allocated to receiving similar messages from the other party. This allows both voices to be effectively transmitted at the same time on a single frequency.

JARL says the new technology can be utilized in other radio services - including amateur radio. Thanks W5YI REPORT July & August 1992 via *Spurious Emissions*

RAILWAY POSTAL SERVICE

by John Chipps
via *Metroplex Newsletter*

The first two or three cars coupled on to a passenger train were known as RPO'S. Railroad post office cars. Postal workers inside picked up, delivered, and sorted the mail received from small communities. The crack passenger train never slowed down for these pickup and deliveries.

Daily, the depot agent received a mail pouch from the post office, usually located in the general store. The pouch contained letters only. The pouch had a steel ring at each end. A tight leather strap squeezed the center of the pouch storing the letters at the top and bottom of the pouch. The mail was ready to be hung. Along side the railroad track there was a pole with two extending arms. The pouch was put between these two arms and snapped into place so it hung vertical to the tracks, now ready to be "grabbed" as the passenger train sped by.

(Continued on next page.)

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The pouch to be delivered was sitting on the cars floor. A good kick sent it flying to land in front of the depot and perhaps sliding thirty feet before it stopped. All those around the depot were cautioned to move back, lest they get hit. The arriving pouch was delivered to the general store post office to be sorted and put in the post office boxes or delivered on the rural routes.

This was the old fashioned way folks received their mail with reliable on-time service. With the deterioration of the railroads scheduled passenger trains, it is all in the past.

YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY

The following is an excerpt from a book published in 1936, entitled "*The Next Hundred Years—The Unfinished Business of Science*", by C. C. Furnas, Yale University.

I am waiting for my television but I cannot live forever. When I think that the first radio impulse transmission was accomplished by Joseph Henry in 1840 and the first radio broadcast was not until 1920, I feel a little discouraged about the arrival of this television business while my eyes still function. No one has dared even to think of television in natural colors as yet.

As soon as television becomes a reality for the average American, the last frontier of communication will have been closed, but an immense amount of improvement will still be possible in all departments. I am hoping that some day my friend's voices over the telephone will really sound like the people I know and not second rate substitutes. I still hope that somebody will be able to do something about distortion and static on my radio. Then if broadcasters can be induced to put worthwhile material into the sending end, the radio will be something to be enjoyed rather than endured.

The engineers can do nothing about the stuff that is put into the microphone but they may be able to do a little something about mutilation of waves after they leave it. Powerful stations have helped to drown the curse of static disturbances but the summer storm still forces everyone to shut off the radio. Marconi is pointing the way to a possible solution by transmitting with ultra-short waves (small fractions of a meter in length). It is found that static disturbances do not enter this band appreciably. But these waves are hard to transmit. They do not like to travel long distances or follow the curvature of the earth. They hold the promise but not the certainty of really satisfactory transmission. It must always be remembered, however, that what wireless can do, wires can do

better, so that where perfection of transmission must be guaranteed, one must not rely on the radio waves.

One possible development on the side of practicality involves the compactness of receivers and transmitters. There is a real need for vest-pocket receiving sets weighing not more than half a pound, which a man can carry conveniently anywhere he may go and pick up the ether waves at will. Ultra small but still satisfactory receivers should be possible, for the energy to be picked up and handled is a minute fraction of a fly power and it should not take a large apparatus to do the work, but there must be a decided improvement in the efficiency of tubes. As we now know it, the process of amplification of radio impulses is woefully inefficient when measured in terms of watts applied to useful work per watt of input. There need to be some fundamental improvements there.

Tnx Harmonics

QUOTING PRICES ON THE AIR

Is it permissible to quote prices of Amateur equipment when listed for sale over Amateur frequencies? The answer is yes! However, one should be familiar with the proper procedure as outlined in this direct quote from FCC PR Docket 88-139, page 5. This is a policy statement direct from the Federal Communication Commission and should be used as a guideline.

"Current policy permits amateur stations to transmit information about the availability of amateur radio equipment, notwithstanding Section 97.110, 47 C.F.R. Section 97.110, prohibiting business communications. In this context, amateur radio equipment is equipment normally used in an amateur station by an amateur operator.

An asking price may be mentioned, but no subsequent negotiations or bartering may take place. If interest is expressed, the amateur operators should exchange mailing addresses or telephone numbers and finish negotiations using means of communication other than amateur service frequencies. Dealers may not take advantage of this exception.

Amateur operators who derive a profit by buying and selling amateur radio equipment on a regular basis are considered dealers and violate the business prohibition if they use amateur service frequencies for this purpose. Proposed Section 97.219 (c) codifies these policies.