



the RARR RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 45

FEBRUARY 1993

No. 6

RARR Meeting - February 5, 1993

At the Henrietta Fire Hall

8:00 P.M.

The speaker will be

Hans-Peter Baumeister, DF1SP/W2

Learn all about

**Radio Direction Finding and Fox
Hunting**

February Family Fun at

Mendon Ponds Park

Save the date 02/13/93

Noon - 'Till

Hopkins Point Lodge

If you've always wanted to know how to track down stray, annoying, signals, OR if you've been plagued with interference source, then this is the talk for you. RDF (Radio Direction Finding) is an old and ever new facet of the radio age. (It seems there has always been *Critters* on the radio waves.)

Hans-Peter Baumeister, Hans to most of us, is a European trained RDF enthusiast with a keen sense of what it takes to make RDF fun and fruitful. You may have guessed (from the DF call) that Hans is a visiting Ham from Germany where RDF is raised to many levels including art, science, disguise and even rugged cross country foot races with RDF equipment in hand.

He has lots of experience with "Fox" hunts on 2 & 10 meters, so you may reasonably expect to hear of some of the unusual ways the "Fox" was disguised. Hans tells me that he has a special proposal he'd like to bring to your attention. Don't miss this opportunity!

See you there! *Keith Freeberg, N2BEL*

RARR CODE AND THEORY CLASSES START FEBRUARY 15th

RARR is pleased to announce the formation of its Spring 1993 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 the General or Advanced class please call ahead and leave a message on the RARR phone. The phone number is 442-0587.

Spring Registration will be held at 111 Westfall Road at 7:00 p.m. The first session will start after all are registered. The classes normally start at 7:30 p.m. and last until 9:30 p.m. each Monday evening and will run until May 10. A testing session is planned on May 17 for Novice and Technician students.

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

Our teaching team looks forward to seeing you on February 15. RARR will be holding registration at 111 Westfall Road, even though this is a holiday. See you there.

SILENT KEYS

LYMAN A. HARRISON

W4REQ ex-W2DYD

April 23, 1992

CHARLES W. STEWART, JR.

KA2MIR

December 26, 1992

the **RARA RAG**

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Now that 1993 is well under way, I hope that everyone is finding it to be a great year for them. It is off to a good start for RaRa. Not only did the club have it's usual meeting the first of the month but it also had a bowling get together for any of the club's members and family. This took place on a Saturday afternoon at Terrace Gardens Bowling Lanes thanks to the effort of Chris Reich, WB2DYJ, and Keith Freeberg, Jr., N2BEL. There were 22 people that showed up for this event and they ranged in age from approximately 4 to ?. You can tell that everyone had fun by just watching and looking at the scores; the highest was somewhere around 160. I was beaten the first game by my XYL and had to struggle in the second game to beat her by 4 pins. I didn't see any noids around, but there was a lot of pizza that was eaten and many pitchers of coke disappeared. I hope that we can do something like this again in the future and even more people will join in on the fun. Once again I want to thank Chris for making the arrangements and Keith for getting the word out and people signed up. Adult games will be played.

February brings with it another event for RaRa members and their families. That is the Winter Funfest. Mark the date down for the 13th and keep that afternoon free to join us. This will be held in Mendon Ponds Park at the Hopkins Point Lodge starting at 12:00 noon and running until 5:00 p.m. There will be plenty to eat and do on that day. The cost is \$2.00 a person or \$5.00 per family. As in the past there will be the dessert contest for those that would like to try their hand at something for the dessert table. There are no restrictions on who can enter as long as you can cook or bake. Chris, WB2DYJ, is going to have some games or contests for the children of all ages to participate in. For those of you that like to cross country ski, this is a great park for it. Bring your equipment and take advantage of the trails. For those of you that are not to keen on the cold or the winter, join us in the cabin. There will be a fire going in the fireplace to keep us warm and plenty of folks to chat with.

With the other activities going on don't forget about the regular RaRa meeting on the first Friday of the month. I will be looking forward to seeing everyone on February 5th. Have a happy Valentine Day.

VOL. 45 FEBRUARY 1993 No. 6

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Amateur Radio News Service

SAY NO TO MR. BELL

(Ed: Report of the Technical Committee to Determine Market Opportunities for the Telephone)

1. The telephone is so named by its inventor, A. G. Bell, who sees for it a vast future as a means of personal communication by voice. He believes that one day they will be installed in every residence and place of business.

2. We note that Bell's profession is that of a voice teacher, and particularly a teacher of the deaf. He appears to have no direct experience with the telephone or any other form of communication, electrical or otherwise. Yet he claims to have discovered an instrument of great practical value in communication, which has been overlooked by thousands of workers who have spent years in the field.

3. Bell's proposal to place his instruments in almost every home and business house (and this is the only way which their potential may be realized) is fantastic in view of the capital costs of installing the endless numbers of wires and cables that would be demanded. The central exchange alone would represent a huge outlay in real estate and buildings, to say nothing of the electrical equipment.

4. Bell expects that the public will use his instruments without the aid of trained operators. Any telegraph engineer will at once see the fallacy of this plan. The public simply cannot be trusted to handle technical communication equipment. In any home where there are children, to mention only one point, there would inevitably be a high rate of breakage and frivolous use of the instruments. Furthermore, when making a call the subscriber must give the number verbally to the operator and have to deal with persons who may be illiterate, speak with lisps or stammer, have foreign accents or who may be sleepy or intoxicated when making a call.

5. While every telegram consists in itself a written record of what is being communicated, Bell's instrument uses nothing but the voice, which cannot be captured in concrete form, and therefore would be no record of what was said or agreed upon. We leave it to you to judge whether any sensible man would transact his affairs by such a means of communication.

6. Bell expects that the subscribers to this service will pay to have the instruments installed in their premises and will thereby pay for each call made, with a monthly minimum if no calls are made. We feel that it is unlikely that any substantial number of people will agree to such an arrangement in

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 5 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
Henrietta Fire Hall - 3129 East Henrietta
- 11 - RAPS Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - 111 Westfall
- 13 - Winter Funfest - Noon
Mendon Ponds Park - Hopkins Lodge
(See map on back page.)
- 14 - Valentines Day
- 20 - RaRa VEC Testing Session - 8:30 a.m.
111 Westfall Road

view of the telegraph offices which are now giving efficient round the clock service in every neighborhood and the smallest towns - which charge only for actual messages according to length.

7. In conclusion, the committee feels that it must advise against any investment whatever in Bell's scheme. We do not doubt that it will find a few users in special circumstances such as between the bridge of a ship and the engine rooms, but any development of the kind and scale which Bell so fondly imagines is utterly out of the question.

(Note: Origin unknown, but very plausible, as Western Union did indeed decide not to invest in telephones in the early 1900's.

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O'Neil Associates Building on corner

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From Southwest areas

Take Rt. 64 to Mendon 4 corners (Rts. 64 & 251)

East on Rt. 251 2 miles to Canning Pkwy

Ramsey Electronics, Inc.
793 Canning Parkway Victor, NY 14564
Phone 924-4560 Fax 924-4566

LICENSE EXAM TESTING

by Barbara, AA2CX, and, George, AA2FO

CONGRATULATIONS . . . to 19 members of the amateur radio community who either got their licenses, upgraded, or passed exam elements at the recent RaRa testing session of December 19. They are: Walter Hauser, Alexander Brashich, Larry Greene, James Longuillo, Doris McNeil, Douglas McGary, Jared Dolatowski, Bonnie Booth, Jeffrey Kaplan, Joyce Jimerson, Andrew Patrzalek, Mark Turner, Bette Curtis, William Mantelli, James Karpick, Richard Arnold, Mark Waldman, Stephen Wlodarczyk, and Katherine Resch.

Enjoy your new privileges.

Our next session will be on February 20th, at 111 Westfall Road, starting at 9:00 a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

See you there.

MORE DICTIONARY OF REALITY

by Charlie, KA8OQF via RF Carrier

QSL bureau — that old chest of drawers in the corner of the shack where all your precious cards are stored.

QST — the road before R st and after P st.

Quad — any antenna that cost four times as much as you thought it would.

Random wire — the stuff that looks like an explosion in a spaghetti factory under your workbench.

Reactance — a quantity having a linear relationship with the voltage on the bare wire you just grabbed.

Receiver — piece of equipment that never hears signals from the countries you need for DXCC.

Scatter — search mode used in the shack when that "special" QSL card can't be found.

Slow-scan-TV — a hard way to watch a network miniseries.

Speech processing — a method of increasing the intelligibility that has no effect on the intelligence of the transmission.

Stability — much sought-after quality in electronic circuits, not seen in some amateurs after failing to bust a pileup.

Standing waves — what laps around your ankles when you discover that the last extra turn on the ground clamp around the cold water pipe wasn't necessary.

Superheterodyne — two forces beating against each other, such as spouse's desire to visit in-laws two states away on the weekend of the big DX contest.

Superregeneration — flea market bargain circuit brought back to life with less than \$1.00 in parts.

Time division multiplexing — sneaking out of one move into another when the first one turns out to be lousy in the first few minutes (see — Multiplex).

Transformer — an amateur showing a major change of mood after nailing that rare one.

Trap — an antenna part that grabs an outgoing signal so it won't escape; especially effective when attempting to work DX.

Triode — diode, on sale 3 for 79 cents.

"Ugly" Construction — method resulting from the attitude that "no one else will ever see this thing".

Vertical Antenna — one that has not seen its first big windstorm yet.

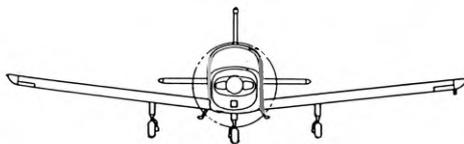
VOX — equipment which allows other amateurs to hear what you say when you don't want them to.

Waves, forward and reverse — clockwise and counterclockwise around-the-stadium fan activity at a sporting event.

Zurich sunspot numbers — propagation information especially helpful to amateurs living in Switzerland.

$\frac{3}{8}$ wave — a wire length in inches mistakenly cut to the same number of centimeters.

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THE RaRa RAG YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable, K2MP

20 YEARS AGO – FEBRUARY 1973:

A popular local amateur and recognized antenna expert, Gordon Wendell, W2FDI, presented a talk to RaRa on low frequency antennas. It was reported that the K2JD van has a new two meter FM radio donated by Charlie Mills, K2LDU. A new VHF Editor started with this issue in the name of Ed Maher, WB2ZJY. Ed reports that Fred Cupp, W2DUC, gave a very successful talk and demonstration on noise clippers. This talk led the Rochester VHF Group into a successful club project to build these RF noise clippers. RaRa announced plans for the first club campout where Rich Koehn, WB2SNA, is heading that program. A new advertiser in the Rag was Jerry Fink, Inc., announcing the opening of an amateur radio department at his current retail store.

40 YEARS AGO – FEBRUARY 1953:

In a special notice, RaRa President Lee Wight, W2VBH, with agreement of the Board of Directors, has committed the club to take on the task of presenting the best Hamfest ever held in Rochester ... to be a Western New York Amateur Radio Convention, with a date in mid-May. (Who knows, it might catch on - Ed) The February meeting was a presentation on Airlines Radio Equipment by Al Markwardt, W2PXH. Hank Blodgett, W2UTH, was congratulated for his FB mobile article appearing in the 1953 ARRL Handbook. Dick Fish, W2OWF, was commended for his top local showing in the January VHF contest. ARRL bulletin 383 revealed FCC docket 10188, effective 3/28/53, enacting the amateur 15 meter band.

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23 people attended the First RaRa Bowling Party. Everyone had such a great time we may plan another one on a future date. Anybod interested?

ARE YOU IN THE PICTURE?

Twenty-three people are represented in the picture above (one took the photograph). All these wonderful RaRa families came to the first bowling outing. (You probably will vaguely remember the ad being run in the December RaRa Rag.)

All had a grand time. Oh, O.K.! The rest of the group only made me bowl one game on the alleys equiped with bumpers, AND, Yes the bumpers helped! The most important thing was being there and doing something with friends and family without "HamSpeak" coming up once.

The pizza was hot, fresh and delicious and the pop flowed freely the twenty-three kids from 4 to >>>> Ahh Umm more than that. (Rumor has it that at least two were retired -- *whatever that means!*)

The consesus was a rousing, "When can we do this again?" I must admit, I can't remember when I've had so much fun or eaten so much pizza for only \$5.00. What are your thoughts? The organizers are anxious to put another one together in April. Would you like to try your hand on the bumper lanes with me? Give me a call @ 458-8246 and leave a message.

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL



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MODEM NOISE KILLER

With this circuit, some basic tools including a soldering iron, and four or five components from Radio Shack, you should be able to cut the noise/garbage that appears on the computer's screen.

I started this project out of frustration at using a US Robotics 2400 baud modem and getting a fair amount of junk when connecting at that speed. Knowing that capacitors make good noise filters, I threw this together.

This is very easy to build, however conditions may be different due to modem type, amount of line noise, old or new switching equipment (Bell's equipment), and on and on. So it may not work as well for you in every case. If it does work, or if you've managed to tweek it to your computer/modem setup I'd like to hear from you.

I'd also appreciate any of you electronic wizards out there wanting to offer any improvements. Let's make this work for everyone! Please read this entire message and see if you understand it before you begin.

OK, what you'll need from Radio Shack:
1 #279-374 Modular line cord if you don't already have one. You won't need one if your phone has a modular plug in its base. \$4.95

1 #279-420 Modular surface mount jack (4 or 6 conductor) \$4.49

1 #271-1720 Potentiometer. This is a 5k audio taper variable resistor. \$1.09

1 #272-1055 Capacitor. Any non-polarized 1.0 to 1.5 uf cap should do. Paper, Mylar, or metal film caps should be used, although #272-996 may work as well. (272-966 is a non-polarized electrolytic cap) \$.79

1 100 ohm resistor - quarter or half watt. \$.19

1 #279-357 Y-type or duplex modular connector. Don't buy this until you've read the section on connecting the Noise Killer below. (A, B, or C) \$4.95

First off, open the modular block. You normally just pry them open with a screwdriver. Inside you'll find up to 6 wires. Very carefully cut out all but the green and red wires. The ones you'll be removing should be black, yellow, white, and blue. These wires won't be needed and may be in the way. So cut them as close to where they enter the plug as possible. The other end of these wires have a spade lug connector that is screwed into the plastic. Unscrew and remove that end of the wires as well.

Now, you should have two wires left. Green and red. Solder one end of the capacitor to the center lug of the potentiometer (there are three

lugs on this critter). Solder one end of the resistor to either one of the remaining outside lugs of the potentiometer. Doesn't matter which. Now to wrap it up, make a hole in the lid of the mod block to stick the shaft of the potentiometer through. Don't make this hole dead center as the other parts may not fit into the body of the mod block if you do. See how things will fit in order to find where the hole will go.

Well, now that you've got it built you'll need to test it. First twist the shaft on the potentiometer until it stops. You won't know which way to turn it until later. It doesn't matter which way now. You also need to determine where to plug the Noise Killer onto the telephone line. It can be done by one of several ways:

A. If your modem has two modular plugs in back, connect the Noise Killer into one of them using a line cord. (A line cord is a straight cord that connects a phone to the wall outlet. Usually silver in color.)

B. If your phone is modular, you can unplug the cord from the back of it after you're on-line and plug the cord into the Noise Killer.

C. You may have to buy a Y-type modular adapter. Plug the adapter into a wall outlet, plug the modem into the other. Call a BBS that has known noise problems. After you've connected and garbage begins to appear, plug the Noise Killer into the phone line as described above. If you have turned the shaft on the potentiometer the wrong way you'll find out now.

You may get a lot of garbage or even disconnected. If this happens, turn the shaft the other way until it stops and try again. If you don't notice much difference when you plug the Noise Killer in, that may be a good sign. Type in a few commands and look for garbage characters on the screen. If there still is, turn the shaft slowly until most of it is gone. If nothing seems to happen at all, turn the shaft slowly from one side to the other. You should get plenty of garbage or disconnected at some point. If you don't, reread this message to make sure you've connected it right.

First, a personal recommendation. **THIS WORKS!!!** I have been plagued with noise at 2400 for some time. I went round and round with Ma Bell on it, and after they sent out several "repair persons" who were, to be kind, of limited help in the matter, I threw in the towel. I saw this file on a board up east a few days ago, and thought I'd bite. Threw the gismo together in about 10 minutes, took another five to adjust the pot for best results on my worst connection, and guess what? No more worst connection! A few pointers:

1) The pot need not be either 5K or audio taper. I used a 10K 15 turn trim pot. Suggest you use what is handy.

2) I used 2MFD's of capacitance (two 1MFD's in parallel) Two R.S. p/n 272-1055 work fine. Remember that about 90 Volts will appear across red & green at ring, so the cap should be rated at 100VDC+.

3) I ended up with a final series resistance value (100 ohm + pot) of 2.75K. I speculate that one could probably use 2MFD and a fixed 2.7K resistor and do the job 90% of the time. The adjustment of the pot is not very critical. Changes of +/- 1K made little difference in the performance of the circuit.

Tnx Metroplex

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We look forward to seeing you at the February Family Fun Day on February 13th. Here's how to get there.

