



# the RARA RAG

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**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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No. 10

## RaRa PICNIC — JUNE 12th POWDER MILLS PARK

RaRa's annual picnic will be held on June 12th, 1993, at Wadham's Lodge in Powder Mills Park. It starts at noon, and goes til... All 'goodies' — hots, salads, peanuts, chips, coffee, and soft drinks are furnished by the club. All members and their families are welcome, and there is no charge.

Powder Mills Park is located off route 96. The easiest way from Rochester is 490 East to the route 96 exit, then east on 96 to the park entrance. This is Park Road, and has a large sign indicating the park entrance. Follow Park Road (bear right at the Fish Hatchery) to the Wadham's Lodge sign. Turn left and up the hill to the lodge. A map is provided on the back page, or if all else fails, try 28/88 repeater for directions.

This is a great opportunity to make some 'eye-ball QSO's' and have a good time with the family. Hope to see you there!

## OFFICERS FOR 1993-94

President — Keith Freeberg, N2BEL  
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Secretary — Jim Hood, N2HHV  
Treasurer — Dick Goslee, K2VCZ  
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## SILENT KEYS

LEE W. STANLEY  
W2ECM  
*April 18, 1993*

WILLIAM C. COYLE  
KA2GMB  
*June 21, 1992*

## KEEP US INFORMED!

If you change your address or call sign during the summer months, please notify the Membership Secretary, or call the RaRa 24-hour Message Line at (716) 442-0587. Thank You

## JUNE VHF CONTEST — N2WK MULTI-MULTI:

We want to work YOU. To try to make things easier for everyone and because there is no LOCAL CLUB COMPETITION, the N2WK team will START the contest on 2 METERS on 146.58 FM and try to work as many locals as possible before going to SSB and CW. Starting time for the contest is 2:00 p.m. local (1800 UTC) on Saturday, June 12. The Gannett Hill Gang would like to work EVERYONE locally who owns a 2 Meter radio. On Sunday the 13th we will again be looking for 2 Meter operators on 146.58 FM between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. We hope this will appeal to those of you who wish to participate but don't have much time available.

We will be on Gannett Hill (Ontario County Park) again and doing our best to move up a few notches in the national standings. This contest has no club competition but we hope many of you can take a few minutes to look for us. Even though the activity is low don't forget to look around on other FM frequencies (146.49 and .55) to work other local stations participating in the contest. Hopefully this will allow us to maximize our FM contacts and allow other local stations to work 146.49 and 146.55 (the more popular frequencies) and will bring more participation.

As in the past, if you have some spare time and would like to see what it takes to put on a Multi operator, Multi transmitter contest effort, please come visit us during the weekend of June 12 and 13. The park is west off route 64, several miles south of the Bristol Mountain Ski Area. A real nice drive, a nice park and ham radio too!! See you at 2 p.m. Saturday on 146.58.

*The Gannett Hill Gang*

# the **RARA RAG**

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

I can't believe that I am writing the President's Corner for the last time. This past year has gone by so fast that it doesn't seem possible. I would like to thank the members of RaRa for electing me as president this year. I am glad that everyone had enough faith in me to lead this great organization. Of course, you had the hard part, putting up with me since the elections. All kidding aside, it has been a lot of fun for me. I couldn't have done it alone though, so I would like to thank the Board of Directors for all the hard work that they did for RaRa and to help me. I also need to thank all the committee chairmen and members that kept things running for all of us. There are too many people involved to list all the names here, but each of you knows who you are. My deepest appreciation goes out to each of you.

At the end of March the Drumlins held their Hamfest in Newark. This was the first hamfest of the season in this area but it always gets thing rolling. You will find a picture or two in this month's *Rag* that shows the K2JD engraving team hard at work during this event. This was their practice run to get ready for the Rochester Hamfest. Then in April there were a few other activities that took place. There are pictures of Gerald English, KB2DVV, putting on the National Weather Service Training Session that was for all RACES members and weather spotters. Part of the VE testing team can be found grading some of the tests. This team helped a lot of hams upgrade their license this year. And last but not least, the RRRRA presented their amateur of the year award to Ray Pickens, WA2MYG. This was a surprise to Ray as he was the only member of the RRRRA that thought the award was being presented to someone else.

This summer season for amateur radio has just started however. If you think about it there are a lot of things that will be taking place during the summer months ahead. Some that come to mind are the many hamfests in the area (did you attend the Rochester Hamfest?). Many public service events are available for you to participate in. These are great fun and good practice to increase your skills in case of an emergency. Field Day is just around the corner for many of you and is another function that is looked upon as fun, but is also good practice for emergency communications. Then of course there is the RaRa family picnic to be held June 12 in Powder Mills Park. Bring the whole family and enjoy the fun and food.

Again it has been a very rewarding enjoyable year for me to serve as your president. I look forward to serving with everyone for years to come.

73, Lloyd

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### OFFICERS:

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Amateur Radio News Service

## UNIQUE ANTENNA DESIGN

A rather odd antenna for the low frequencies has all but been forgotten. The antenna was used in the mid 30's where restrictions were put on free space radiators. The antenna was popular in the early stages of WW2 because of its clandestine nature.

The antenna is known as the underground radiator. The antenna's radiator is placed in a trough about 2 inches deep. This trough was cut the length of resonator dipoles, sprinkled with rock salt to improve conductivity, and the dipole was placed into it. The dipoles radiators must be bare copper wire and can be up to 20% shorter with this configuration. Common 52 ohm coax is used to feed it in the center and itself can be buried. When finished placing the radiator in the trough and the sod is then turned back on top of the radiator and coax.

The underground antenna, being part of the ground counterpoise, radiates using the earth's natural conductivity.

The underground antenna has the advantages of: shorter length, immunity to electrical interference, out of eye sight, presents a good 52 ohm match, and is a good neighbor antenna.

Tests have shown that the underground antenna's radiation pattern compares favorably with its space counterpart.

*Tnx GRAMNews April 1993  
via Spurious Emissions*

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## JUNE CALENDAR

12 - RaRa Family Picnic - Powder Mills Park  
(See article)

## LICENSE EXAM TESTING

by Barbara, AA2CX, and George, AA2FO

CONGRATULATIONS ... to forty-five members of the amateur radio community who either got their licenses, upgraded, or passed exam elements at the recent RaRa Hamfest testing session of May 22. They are: Adam Gutterman, Robert Reed, Robert Sherman, Jerry Svoboda, Russell Renaud, Terrence Fulton, Alfred Savageau, Carol Baker, Barbara Kueken, Thomas Lange, Jeffery Hecht, Barbara Gutterman, Brian Leavitt, Dan Semmler, Richard Indiano, Timothy Coraci, John Hysell, Stephen Fleming, Grace Kolz, Micheal Short, Charles Peters, Micheal Demar, David Wutz, Wendy Shutter, Leslie Langs, Reinaldo Rivera, Arthur Gavazzo, Tracy Wellman, Larry Langs, Shannon Carroll, Raymond Mattice, John Sullivan, Randolph Haus, Richard Buzzell, Lois Allen, Jeffrey Delbridge, Christopher Leven, Thomas McCormick, Brandon Zehm, Phil Teck, David Lyon, Paul Chenault, Douglas Barkin, Francis Wells, Keith Allen, and Samuel Soldi.

Enjoy your new privileges.

Our next session will be in September, at 111 Westfall Road. Watch RaRa Rag for further details.

See you then.

Note: Continuing during the summer, exams are being given on the 1st Thursday of the month at Kodak Building 28 on Ridge Road, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Contact Mike, NO2Z, at 621-7678, or (work) 722-2810 for information.

## WESTERN NEW YORK

### NEWEST HAM STORE

Bruce Sidari (WA2TMC) of Albion, New York will be opening up a Ham and Electronics Store in Albion. "TMC" will be handling Ham equipment, scanners, computers, test equipment, antennas, coax & cable, publications and lost of new and surplus parts. A complete service department will also be provided at TMC.

TMC announces a Turkeyfest 92 to be held November 28th - FREE Admission, FREE prizes, FREE radio check (frequency, deviation and power), FREE coffee and donuts from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

TMC is located on Route 31 in Albion (Old AgWay Building) across from the AMES store, on Route 31.

*Tnx Spurious Emission*



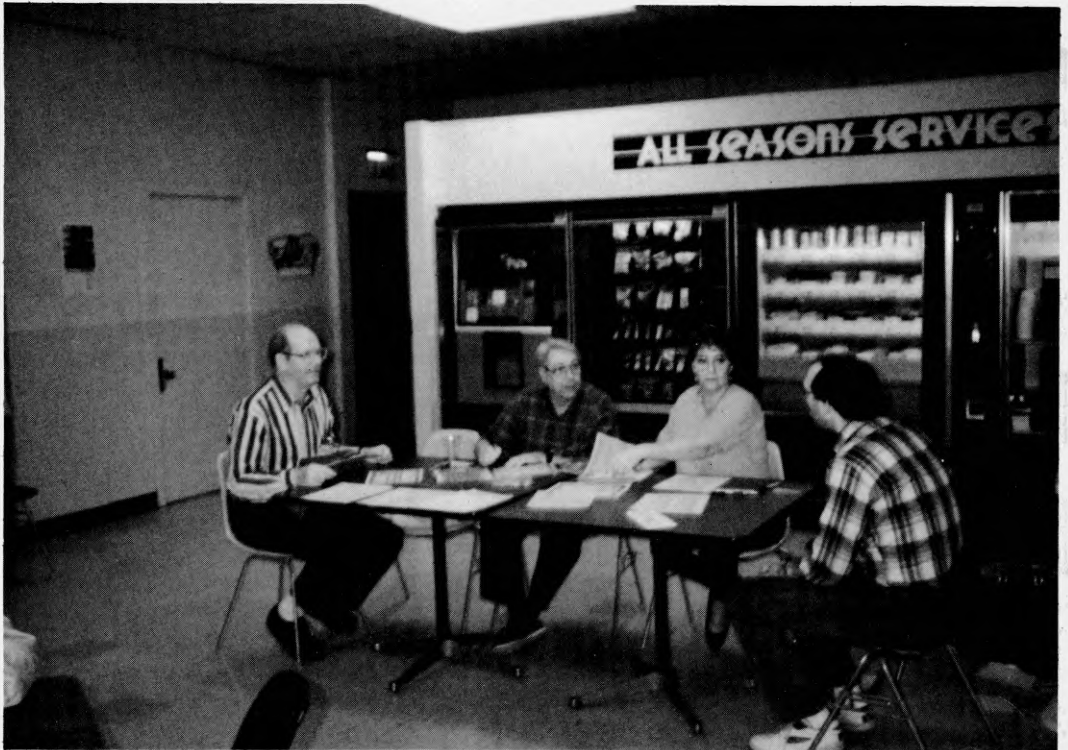
K2JD engraving team at the Newark Hamfest was made up of many RaRa members.



Ray Pickens, WA2MYG is taken by surprise when RRRRA announced his name as their Ham of the Year.



Gerald English, KB2DVV, giving the National Weather Service Training.



From left to right, Warren Boudrie, AA2LQ; George Platteter, AA2FO; and Barbara Rae Weirich, AA2CX correcting papers at VE Testing Session in April. To the far right is Alexander Sienkiewicz, Jr. waiting to receive his Certificate of Completion for Extra.



Ray Pickens, WA2MYG, receives plaque for RRRA Amateur of the Year from Dwight Hill, K2KWK, on the left and Joel Rossbach, N2EZV, on the right.

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## EFFECTS OF RF ON HUMAN TISSUE

With more and more hand-held VHF/UHF RF devices such as cellular telephones and transceivers reaching consumers, more research is under way to learn more about the effects of RF upon human tissue.

The current ANSI specifications recommend that near the eyes, RF output below 1.5 GHz of seven watts or less is safe. Some scientists think that this belief should be reconsidered. What makes it tricky to rewrite the rules is there are no cut-and-dried borders of safety. Some evidence suggests (but doesn't prove) that tissue damage occurs only at specific frequencies and amplitudes. This is not easy to confirm repeatedly.

*Tnx W5YI Report via The Readout*

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## QSL BUREAU FOR THE USA

Purpose of The QSL Bureau for the USA is to promote the exchange of QSL Cards in the states. By using the Bureau, you will not need a call book, send to only one address, lower mailing cost, No Fee for receiving QSL's. Just send up to four, 4x9 (#10) SASE's with your call in UPPER LEFT CORNER.

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## FOR POTENTIAL NEW HAMS ONLY! Dial "1-800-32 NEW HAM"

Now, non-hams can contact ARRL's Educational Activities Department on a toll-free number to request free information about ham radio. They'll receive a booklet, a list of nearby ARRL instructors and clubs, and details about NOW YOU'RE TALKING and CW training aids. During regular business hours, a staff member will answer this line to field questions and take requests for the free information. At other times, an answering machine will be on line. This number is dedicated entirely to recruiting new hams. No exceptions can be made. Please publicize this number as widely as possible.

## THE RaRa RAG YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable, K2MP

### 20 YEARS AGO - JUNE 1973:

This issue spoke of the just completed Hamfest where just over 2500 were in attendance. Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, was named *Amateur of the Year*. Joan Vogt, WA2YTK, invited everyone to the RaRa Picnic at Powder Mills Park where games, door prizes, and contests promise a good time. *The Rochester VHF Group* elected Charlie Mills, K2LDU, as Chairman with Ed Maher, WB2ZJY, and Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB, assisting as Vice-Chairman and Secretary. Rany Hall, WA2AGE, wrote a very interesting report on one of the most energetic public service events ever to take place, the *Hike for Hope*. This event had 47 stations using VHF FM, HF and SSTV where hikers could actually see the hospital ship *Hope* anchored in South America. Bob Lauzon, WB2NSD, was elected RaRa President with Joe Hood, K2YAH, as VP. Bill March, WA2CER, runs the pen while Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, controls the cash flow. A 60 foot windmill tower could be had for free by answering W2EB's want ad.

### 40 YEARS AGO - JUNE 1953:

The annual RaRa Field Day plans were announced with the usual South Hill spot in reserve for the KW all band phone rig. *The Rochester Mobile Club* continues very active with several popular transmitter hunts planned. The same group also heavily supported the *Rochester Emergency Net* where SCR-522 surplus rigs abound on 2 meter fixed and mobile. John Remsen, W2ZHB, urged everyone to participate in the June VHF contest where special awards are offered for Novices and Technicians. At this time the *Rochester VHF Group* was meeting in member's homes with the last gathering hosted by Joe Payne, W2UXP, in Webster. A short notice suggested that members stop by and see Bruce Kelley's barn on Union Street in Chili. Seems as though he has some old stuff out there that some people find interesting. Leland Wight, W2VBH, was President at this time assisted by Orv Bauer, W2TEX; Bob Wetherald, W2CZT; and John Egan, W2YUE.

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Telephone calls and letters to ARRL HQ about education-related matters should now be directed to Educational Activities Department Assistant Manager Bob Iderbitzen, NQ1R, instead of to Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO.

*Tnx Atlantic Division News  
via Spurious Emissions*

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### From Southwest areas

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