



the RARRA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 46

SEPTEMBER 1993

NO. 1

WATTS THE MATTER?

This is the question a customer of RG&E might ask of our September meeting speaker. David Shields is a Power Quality Engineer, and deals with things like "glitches" on the power you get to your house or business. They may not mean much to a small average householder, but to a company which has many bucks stored up in the data in a computer, it could be disaster.

Dave has had much experience in tracking down offending equipment (big and small) which has caused problems for residential and commercial customers. He says he will tell us about some of the more interesting problems, and maybe relate an RF incident also.

Come to the September meeting and find out why the world isn't all the blue sky and sunshine you think it is. Oh yes!! Don't mention the word T-R-A-I-N-S to Dave, or we may still be there for the October meeting.

SEE YOU THERE.

RH

SILENT KEYS

VICTOR F. DiSTEFANO

WA2LWZ

May 25, 1993

+++

HERBERT E. CRUMRINE

Ex-WA2DFF

May 31, 1993

+++

LEIGH ROBARTES, JR.

W2EHA

July 8, 1993

+++

ARTHUR W. KELLY

W2ROB

August 13, 1993

Former General Manager WHAM and
Assistant Curator of AWA Electronic-
Communication Museum.

RaRa MEETING

September 10, 1993

Henrietta Fire Hall
East Henrietta Road

8:00 p.m.

RaRa CODE AND THEORY CLASSES START SEPTEMBER 20th

RaRa is pleased to announce the formation of its Fall 1993 code and theory classes for our 37th year of teaching. Classes will be offered for Novice, Technical and General.

If you are interested in the General class 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 6, 1993. A testing session is planned for December 13 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. 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 20th. See you there.

Note: Since the FCC has changed the Technician Question Pool, the book for the Novice/ Technician classes will also change. The price for these classes may vary from the stated price when the price of the book is determined.

the **RARA RAG**

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Amateur Radio News Service

AMATEUR RADIO "BUSINESS RULE" TO CHANGE AT ARRL'S REQUEST CLARIFIES WHAT COMMUNICATIONS ALLOWED

The FCC has amended its rules to allow amateur operators more flexibility to provide communications for public service projects and to "enhance the value of the amateur service in satisfying personal communications needs".

The new rules are based on a Commission proposal announced in a Notice of Proposed Rule-making in July, 1992, a proposal resulting from an ARRL request. The League at that time suggested that new language for the rules would permit amateurs greater flexibility in providing noncommercial communications while maintaining the traditional character of Amateur Radio by continuing to prohibit routine business communications.

In fact, the FCC in its Notice said "the League's suggested proposal appears to best consolidate the views of the amateur community (and) as noted by the League the amateur radio community has a long tradition of self-regulation and a strong commitment to maintaining the unclouded distinction between the amateur service and other radio services".

The Commission in announcing the rules change (in PR Docket 92-136) said the new rules would permit amateurs to "facilitate events such as races and parades, to support educational activities, to provide personal communications such as making appointments and ordering food, to collect data for the National Weather Service, and to provide assistance voluntarily even where there are other authorized radio services available".

The FCC stopped short of granting an ARRL request for further definition of acceptable communications, particularly in the difference between a regular and an irregular event, saying that providing such anecdotal examples "would necessitate that the FCC intrude upon the day-to-day functioning of the service to a far greater degree than desired". The FCC said that generating a list of the thousands of possible examples would unduly tax the Commission's staff.

The wording of the new rules is not yet available; the new rules will not be in effect until 30 days after they are published in the *Federal Register*. The full text of the FCC's NPRM is in September *QST*, page 62; the rules as adopted are not expected to be materially different.

Tnx ARRL Letter

RaRa TEST SCHEDULE, 1993-94

by Barbara, AA2CX, and George, AA2FO

GET LICENSED, UPGRADE – The fall season is fast approaching, and it's the advent of the 1993-94 VE testing sessions.

These sessions are held on the third Saturday of the month, September through April, except when a Hamfest or other important event takes place on that day.

THE PLACE - Monroe Social Service Building
111 Westfall Road
Cafeteria

Registration – 8:30 a.m. – Exams – 9:00 a.m.

SCHEDULE – September 25
October 16
November 20
December 18
January 15
February 19
March 19
April 16
May Hamfest

Walk in or mail to: Barbara AA2CX
Old Depot Road
Dansville, NY 14437
or
George AA2FO
33 Branchbrook Drive
Henrietta, NY 14467

Applicants should bring the following in addition to pen and pencil:

Two forms of identification
Picture Drivers License
Original FCC license
Copy of FCC license

Certificate of Completion, if credit is claimed for elements passed at another test session.

A fee of \$5.60 will be charged. If paying by check, make payable to W5YI.

We welcome handicapped applicants and have an experienced person on staff to meet special need. Please phone in advance.

Tests are also being administered on the first Thursday of the month at Kodak Building 28, on Ridge Road, starting at 6:00 p.m. Call Mike, NO2Z, 621-7678, or daytime, 722-2810 for information.

SEPTEMBER RaRa CALENDAR

- 9 - RAPS Meeting - 111 Westfall Road
- 10 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
Henrietta Fire Hall
- 18 - Buffalo Hamfest
- 25 - Elmira Hamfest
- RaRa Testing - 111 Westfall Road

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Keith F. Freeberg, N2BEL

Time to put away the water skis, tune-up the car, check the gutters, buy school clothes, and squeeze in those last few rays of golden sun. Another summer season seems to have floated by us. The fall fashions are in the stores, school supplies are front page in our advertising circulars and the first thoughts of putting away our summer activities have crept into our minds. I know Rochester Hamfest was only a couple of days ago, how can the Buffalo Hamfest be only a couple of weeks away?

If some of these thoughts sound vaguely familiar, welcome aboard. The Rochester Summer Express has been chugging by under full steam bringing the beautiful warm days and cool nights of all on its heels and the roar of the thunder signals a new meeting season for RaRa. Yes, thunder is a good symbol for the new season. There is much in the works and Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ, promises you'll learn much about the power of thunder and lightening at our first meeting of the season (not to mention what you can do *about* all your line power. Other topics Roger has discussed with me will be from top notch presenters and will give you information you can use when you leave the meeting that evening!

Don't despair! Join us for the first meeting of the season in the Henrietta Fire Hall, East Henrietta Road and Lehigh Station at 8:00 p.m. sharp. Come early to renew your membership, if you haven't already sent it in, or sign up for the first time. **YOU ARE WELCOME IN RaRa!** We pride ourselves on being a Special Service Club and we enjoy having new members and keeping the old. All are important to us. All are welcome, whether you're entirely new to amateur radio or have been Hamming it up for over fifty years as some of our members have. See you there!

P.S. I hear the awards are really something to experience this year.

WA2ZNC SALE: 716-229-5470

Microwave Modules 1296 Transverter; Pauldon RF Amp; ICOM Preamp; Downeast 1296 Loop Yagi, RVHFG 903 Transverter; Downeast 903 Loop Yagi, Henry 6 Meter 100 W. FM Amp; Sonar 6 Meter 100 W. FM Amp.

AMATEUR RADIO PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN EMPIRE STATE GAMES

by Chris Reich, WB2DYJ

Amateur radio operators have been called many things, and as a result of the Empire State Games, held in Rochester this past summer, the term "Greenshirts" is added to the list.

Ham operators from all across the upstate region volunteered their services to the games, to provide emergency communications from the various remote locations at which the sports were held. The hams were issued uniforms of green shirts and green caps so that they could be quickly located by the medical people involved.

Had you been listening on the WA2AAC repeater between the fifth and the eighth of August, you would have heard many calls for emergency medical services placed by amateurs on behalf of the sports trainers, EMT's, and physicians who had also volunteered to see to the well being of the athletes.

Venues were at the campuses of RIT, U of R, SUNY Brockport, MCC, Genesee Valley Park, Pittsford-Mendon High School and SUNY Geneseo. Because the games were spread over such a large geographic area, Amateur Radio was the ideal service to provide communications. Some sites had cellular telephones as backup, but the hams performed so well that cellular was used principally for non-emergency traffic. At least one physician learned the hard way how long cellular telephone batteries don't last!

One of the privileges given to the ham volunteers was to participate in the parade of the opening ceremonies, in front of several county and state dignitaries, and a crowd of several thousand spectators. The TV cameras were focused on the 'greenshirts' as Don Alhart of WOKR news described our role in the games.

By no means did the amateur volunteers become wallflowers once we arrived on site at the sports. There are several circumstances under which a State Chairman will actually suspend competition until he sees a green-shirted ham is at-hand in case of a medical need.

The Empire State Games is the largest of the public service events being held this season. Participants in public service events are held in high esteem for their superior operating practices, their ability to cope with 'field' conditions, and for their self-sacrifice of time and talents in the interest of the public good. Their principle reward is spelled F-U-N! The local hams that participated include, in no particular order, N2EVG, N2VGZ, AF2K,

N2UEG, K2BCL, N2BEL, N2BNE, KB2BU, AA2LK, WB2BWQ, N2LWY, WB2MDO, N2MXB, N2MXC, WB2DYJ, N2MXN, W2EBF, WB2EKP, KA2PJN, KA2SSC, AA2FO, N2TOY, WA2GHQ, WA2UTG, K2MP, WB2UTI, N2GON, N2HPB, N2JC, KA8WJH, N2EH, WB2KIO, K2MPE and N2VUM. If I have missed anyone, please let me know and I will see that you get credit. The rest of you, feel free to genuflect to any of these operators of great character at your next opportunity. Contact N2EH if you would like to join in future events.

By the way, may I suggest that you ask WA2MYG the significance of the number 17,000 to the Empire State Games?

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JUNE 1993 VHF CONTEST

The weekend of June 12 - 13. The nice weather has started to set in and people start to think of summer things like swimming, vacations and trips. Except for a group of die hard contesters who think this is a great time to go head to head and see if they can beat the "OTHER GUY".

On Thursday, cars and trucks start to arrive at Gannett Hill at the Ontario County Park north of Naples. Towers and antennas are unloaded: station and tower sites are marked and the long tedious process starts. By late Saturday morning 9 towers grace the landscape along with 3 trailers contained operating positions and the pavillion has the look of the flea market you've always dreamed of attending. The first trailer contains the 6 Meter station: low band rig, transverter, pre-amps, amplifiers, rotator controls (turning a 10 element stack and another single antenna) and a FM rig. The second trailer has a low band rig, 2 Meter transverter, rotator controls (a horizontal stack for weak signal and a vertical stack for FM), pre-amps, amplifiers and a FM rig. Same thing for 222. And in the pavillion at the "flea market" is the 432 station with multiple antennas, transverters, FM radios, amps and rotators. Also in the same pavillion is the Star of the flea market - more radios, transverters, amps, pre-amps, cables (huge hardline types) and switches than you will find in the average ham store. This is the Microwave station, 903 and up. At all 5 operating positions is a computer running contest software written by Jeff, W2HPF, that lets us all see what the other stations are doing. And of course there are the Rovers, going hither and yon with antenna arrays and dishes attached to trucks and cars to help raise the score.

At 1800 UTC the contest starts and there YOU are. A contest is success if you work LOTS of stations. The Gannett Hill Gang wants to thank you - all the local operators who took the time to look for and work the N2WK call that weekend. A special thanks to all the NEW license holders who turned for something VERY strange to them. The turn out on FM was exceptional and it is YOU who help make our efforts successful. The rumor is that N2WK may have finished 2nd in the country in this contest!!! This will be our BEST EFFORT EVER if it is true.

Again, thanks to all and we hope to work you all again in the next VHF/UHF contest.

KB2SE

THE RaRa RAG YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable, K2MP

20 YEARS AGO - SEPTEMBER 1973:

Shown on the cover of this issue were the new U.S. postage stamps commemorating the *Progress of Electronics*. Dedicating this series in an opening talk in Washington, D.C., was RaRa's own Bruce Kelley, W2ICE. The first meeting of the year featured a public relation slide show titled *All About RaRa*. Prepared by George Negus, K2OIU; Ernie Crewdson, WA2FVG; and Dave Hassett, K2SQI, the presentation is designed to educate the public on Ham Radio and RaRa. 1973/74 Club Officers were: Bob Lauzon, WB2NSD, President; Joe Hood, K2YAH, VP; Bill March, WA2CER, Secretary; and Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, Treasurer. On the RaRa Board: Ed Holdsworth, WA2EKR; Harold Smith, WA2KND; Jim Collinworth, WB2EDT; Elmer Wagner, WB2BNJ; Bob Phelps, WB2DPT; Ray Roberts, WA2SSU; and Ed Maher, WB2ZJY. RRRR Officers included Bob Reifsteck, K2LZG as Chairman; Randy Hall, WA2AGE, VP; John Schooley, W2BLU, Secretary-Treasurer; Joe Hood, K2YAH, Member-at-Large and David Holtz, WB2HTH as Activities Chairman. Chairing the *Genesee Repeater Association* were: Dick Hilsinger, WA2ATV; Harold Hay, WA2ABQ; Rick Booth, WA2GCX; and Joe Calzaretta, K2ZUC. From the want ads, a *Tempo* VHF hand held with 8 sets of Xtals could be had for \$189.00 from RAMCOMM in North Chili.

40 YEARS AGO - SEPTEMBER 1953:

Included in this issue was a brochure for the ARRL New York State Convention. Three days, four meals and a chance for a Collins 75A3; \$5.50, including tax. Locals running for ARRL offices included Ed, W2SJV for SCM and Hank, W2UYH, for Director. Linc, W2QY, reported that the South Hill Field Day site worked fine and about 30 participants had a great time. The 1 Kw fone rig used 40 gallons of gas for the putt-putt! Lee Wight, W2VBH, reported that the County had purchased a considerable amount of Amateur equipment for Civil Defense and that RACES is growing. RACES operators in surrounding towns were urgently needed. RaRa regularly broadcasted ARRL, RaRa and RDXA news on 3900 kc on Sunday and Thursday night.

KENWOOD CALLS FINES

"BASELESS AND UNFAIR"

3 DEALERS HIT FOR OFFERING TS50S RADIOS

The Kenwood Corporation has called FCC actions against three of its Amateur Radio dealers "baseless and unfair ... in violation of equal protection under the laws of the United States", and "severely damaging to Kenwood's commercial standing in a competitive industry".

Kenwood's complaint to the FCC is on behalf of three of its retail Amateur Radio dealers, each of whom received a Notice of Apparent Liability for \$7,000.

The NALs, issued July 2, said that on March 5, 1993, the Los Angeles-area office of the FCC's Field Operations Bureau received a complaint alleging that the stores were marketing transceivers capable of operation outside of the amateur bands. The complaint said these transceivers "lacked the required Commission authorization".

FOB investigators went to the three stores, all in Southern California, where Kenwood TS-50S HF transceiver were displayed and where literature about the radios "indicated that the transceiver operated on frequencies not authorized for amateur radio use", a fact confirmed by store employees.

The NALs said "Transceivers capable of operating outside of the amateur radio band are required to have Commission authorization before marketing". The Kenwood TS-50S HF Transceiver lacked the required authorization.

"The violation was willful", the NALs said.

The NALs were received by Henry Radio, Los Angeles; Jun's Electronics, Culver City, California; and Ham Radio Outlet, Van Nuys, California.

Westlink Report reported in its March 18 issue (less than two weeks after the "complaint" to the FCC cited above) that "we hear rumors from the FCC that the agency is 'concerned' with some of the out-of-band capability of the new transceiver ... the FCC is reportedly most concerned about the TS-50S's ability to put out 100 watts (25 watts AM) right into the CB band without any modification", *Westlink* said.

By this time Kenwood had retained a Washington, D.C. communications attorney, Chris Imlay, N3AKD. Imlay also is, incidentally, general counsel for the ARRL. Imlay asked the chief of the FCC's Investigations and Inspections Branch, Enforcement Division, for a conference on the matter, saying that "On information and belief, this complaint may have been registered by a

competitor of Kenwood, motivated by anticompetitive, rather than substantive concerns".

A few days after the NALs were issued in early July, Kenwood sent a news release to its dealers, saying "We have been aware of the FCC inquiry for some time, and our attorney was assured by the FCC that this type of action (NALs) would not be taken.

"Please be assured that we are doing everything legally possible to have this situation resolved as quickly as possible", Kenwood said.

On July 12 Imlay filed a response to the NALs, on behalf of the three Kenwood dealers, to the FCC's Cerritos, California field office of the FOB, requesting that the notices be immediately rescinded.

Imlay said that the complaint that the radios were being marketed without being type-accepted was without merit, since "This characteristic is shared by virtually every commercially made amateur radio transceiver for the past 20 years".

Imlay also noted that the complaint seemed to be based in part on TS50S literature indicating that the radios can transmit outside the amateur bands. In fact, according to Kenwood, an initial shipment of brochures for the TS50S, printed overseas and distributed in small quantities to Kenwood dealers, did show frequency ranges greater than the amateur band limits (e.g., 1.705 - 2.0 MHz, 3.0 - 4.0 MHz, etc.).

Kenwood responded that they did not ever advertise to CB operators, and that the offending brochures were pulled and replaced when the error was discovered.

Imlay, in his filing, recounted his letter to the chief of Investigations and Inspections, as well as a follow-up telephone conversation in which he was told that "any action that would be taken in this case ... would be done on an industrywide basis, and not by an individual enforcement proceeding".

"The Commission has know for years", Imlay wrote, "that amateur radio transceivers with the capability noted in the NALs were being marketed throughout the United States. Under these circumstances, the issuance of the three NALs makes no sense whatsoever, and the only effect is to single out Kenwood from among the manufacturers of other amateur radio transceivers over the past 20 years".

Imlay said "the Commission has not shown that the Kenwood TS50S transceiver requires type acceptance. It is an amateur radio transceiver, which, upon proof of license, is modifiable for MARS or CAP operation by Kenwood. It is not intended by Kenwood or the dealers for oper-

ation on frequencies allocated to other radio services, nor have the NALs alleged that it is.

"There is no indication that it has been marketed or sold to other than amateur radio operators, CAP or MARS operators". Imlay said. "It indeed has limited transmit capability outside amateur allocations, as do other Kenwood amateur radio transmitters and those of virtually all amateur radio equipment manufacturers, but that capability alone does not obligate Kenwood, or any other amateur radio equipment manufacturer or retailer to obtain type acceptance for amateur radio equipment under current rules".

Imlay told the FCC that if it thought that all amateur radio transmitters capable of transmitting "even one Hertz" outside of the ham bands should be type accepted, then that should be accomplished through a full notice and comment rule making procedure. "This is not necessary or desirable", he said, "but it would at least provide a fair hearing for the amateur radio industry".

"The NALs are not only baseless as a matter of law, they are a completely inappropriate response to an apparent Commission concern about the possibility of misuse of the products", Imlay said.

Tnx ARRL Letter

PACKET RADIO LANGUAGE

Packet radio terminology must be mastered in order to operate properly. Here are interpretations of some of the packet commands and parameters.

AXDELAY – A stay of execution.

BBS – barbecued spareribs.

DWAIT – The guy who serves your meal in an Italian restaurant.

FRACK – Frick's pal.

MAXFRAME – Bowling three strikes in a row.

MHEARD – A bunch of cattle from the BIG M ranch.

PACKETCLUSTER – A union meeting in the shipping room.

PACKETEER – What you shed when your connection crashes again.

PATH – What you say when your bridge partner bids four thpades.

SYSOP – A YL who works at the telephone company.

TXDELAY – Time out at a Texas A & M football game.

Submitted by Jack Heveron, KJ2P

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GETTING A GOOD "GROUND"!

Let's say you have just moved in to a new house in another state. Houses are few and far between, your new neighbors don't mind your setting up a tower in your backyard, and no one has any TVI complaints because you're a ham. Everythings just fine ... until you realize that the ground is extremely rocky and the soil conductivity is almost negligible.

Driving an ordinary ground rod into the earth will not only be a headache, but its not effective. So how do you get a better ground?

One company, Erico Products Inc., claims its product will do the trick. Cadweld Ground-Enhanced Material is a powder that is added to the soil around ground rods to increase the conductivity of the soil. It doesn't corrode like salt does, or wash away with the ground water.

Telephone companies are already using this material and so are electric companies. There's only one drawback to it, though. You still have to drill the hole.

Tnx W5YI Report via Spurious Emissions

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-130S with narrow SSB & CW Filters, SP-120 Speaker, OP and Service Manual, Boxes. ICOM IC-551D w/ FM Board, SP2 Speaker, Boxes and Manual. Telephone: 582-1149.

FOR SALE: Tri-Magnetic Mobile Mount for Ham Stick Antennas or similar. Brand new, still in carton. \$35.00. Irv Goodman, AF2K, 671-4430.

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