



the RARRA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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NOVEMBER 1993

NO. 3

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

The Annual RaRa Auction is set for Friday, November fifth. Yes, it is back with our favorite two mellifluous Auctioneers at the microphones, those witty souls, Goslee & Gable. That's right, Dick Goslee (K2VeeCZ) and Ed Gable (K2MashedPotatoes) will be presenting the evening's fine selection of "new-to-you" amateur and related equipment. These gentlemen will give you a handle on the use and rarity of select equipment as they ply their way through the bargains of the night. Dick and Ed will be donating their valuable time to help RaRa pay their bills and provide more services to you the member.

This is also your opportunity to support your club by bringing your excess equipment to the auction so it can find its way to a new home. There are only a few simple rules to follow that will speed up the pace of the auction and help insure that everyone is treated fairly!

- 1. RaRa assesses a fee of 10% of each sale. (Think about the starting bid for your item(s) with this in mind.)
- 2. The fee is paid by the seller from the proceeds of the sale.
- 3. The Seller must come forward to the Treasurer's table as soon as the item is declared **SOLD!** by the auctioneer.
- 4. You Must Be a RaRa Member to present items for sale. (Our Membership Chairman, Irv Goodman, will be happy to accept your renewal at the auction.)
- 5. Please, **NO PARKING LOT** or **BACK** of the **ROOM SALES!** (No prior sales.) RaRa can only pay the rent for this night if you help us by allowing all the items you brought to be auctioned to the highest bidder!
- 6. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for bringing your treasures into the Auction Gallery!

Dick and Ed are experts at getting the most for your valued equipment. They are both qualified appraisers of amateur equipment and can help

RaRa ANNUAL AUCTION

November 5, 1993

at 8:00 P.M.

Fire & Police Training Academy

Scottsville Road, south of 390,

right next to Burger King

Doors open at 7:00!

RaRa Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 10th at 7:30 p.m.

111 Westfall Road

All are welcome.

send the sale price towards it's fair value. I've even known Dick and Ed to bid on items themselves! They are not above paying good money for your well cared for equipment and neither are the roughly one hundred people that attend one of these fine auctions.

So, dust off that equipment you haven't used in a while and prepare to turn into something else, as if by magic. Mark your treasures with your name, call and starting bid. Bring them to the Fire & Police Training Academy on Scottsville Road, Friday, November 5th, and prepare to be entertained by the fast wit and skill of Goslee & Gable. But most of all, watch the magic of the auction and your equipment skillfully turned into cash!

SILENT KEYS

PAUL W. LAWRENZ

WB2HLU

September 20, 1993

GEORGE G. BATTERSON

W2GB

(RaRa Life Member)

October 20, 1993

the **RaRa Rag**

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Amateur Radio News Service

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Keith F. Freeberg, N2BEL

We've been graced with two very fluent and knowledgeable presenters so far this year, yet it is difficult for me to believe we are already two months into the regular club season. Time has just sailed by and sometimes not very smoothly at that. Lots and lots of activities are moving forward to help make this a banner year for our membership.

Volunteer Examiners are diligently providing monthly sessions to upgrade or get your first license, volunteer instructors are holding code and theory classes every Monday night to help you prepare for those new privileges, your hamfest committee is planning next year's two great hamfests, and a whole cast of volunteers are seeing to the important activities and opportunities that happen all throughout the year at meetings and social activities. So, you might ask, what is it that your president is doing for you?

One task that I am working on is working with our affiliated clubs more closely to provide greater opportunities for area amateurs. Each of RaRa's affiliated clubs offers a forum for a valuable aspect of amateur radio. Each affiliated club's board works diligently to bring the very best to it's membership in technical and social activities. All fostered a regular means of communication with their members to keep the ideas flowing. Perhaps we need to foster greater communication between RaRa and all the affiliated clubs. I believe it is time to renew our efforts to serve the amateur community in concert with one another.

The efforts of each club are certainly appreciated and necessary. Working together we are more than the sum of our people. Together we can better meet the needs of all the amateurs that have chosen to join our ranks. I invite all affiliated club members, their officers and directors, to contact me with their ideas. Let's learn together how to improve, enhance and enable our amateur community. Let's present a positive image to the area we live in through our publications and actions and keep amateur radio operators on the top of the public's list of honor and decent citizens right where we belong! Call or write to me today.

ATTENTION TRAFFIC HANDLERS!

Get your new, smart-looking National Traffic System logo patch now. Machine-embroidered, 4-color design 3½" diameter, for sew-on or iron-on. Just \$4.40 each and your SASE to Irv Goodman, AF2K. (Callbook or RaRa Directory)

ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?

If you didn't get to the first two RaRa monthly meetings you are missing something. These meetings brought to you speakers who told of projects and happenings which affect you in your workplace and home, which you wouldn't know about if you didn't hear their stories.

At the September meeting David Shields, from RG&E, told us about strange happenings CAUSED by the modern technological quirks of ordinary household products, and also about ways to combat these annoying little bugs, both by common sense and by following the new rules and regulations which are in effect and proposed.

October's meeting was held at attention by Sande Macaluso, from Monroe County OEP. (Don't know what OEP is? See, you should have been there.) He gave us an overview of the department, explained in some detail a few of the problems which come to light in emergency planning, and showed how Amateur Radio Communications fit into these plans.

The comments I heard from the members present at both of these meetings were on the good side. Why don't you come to the next meetings and see and hear for yourself what our expert speakers present.

The next formal meeting will be held at Kodak on December 3rd. Our speaker, a person most of us can listen to for hours, will speak on a project which comes into the life of a good number of us. More on this interesting talk next month.

See you at the Auction on November 5th, at the Fire and Police Training Academy, on Scottsville Road, and at Kodak on December 3rd.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 5 - RaRa Annual Auction - see article for more information
- 10 - RaRa Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
111 Westfall Road in the Club Station
- 11 - RAPS Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - 111 Westfall Road
- 20 - RaRa VE Testing Session - 111 Westfall

FREE EXAMS FOR NOVICES QUESTIONED BY W5YI-VEC

The W5YI Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) has filed a complaint with the FCC, asking that the ARRL-VEC be forced to change its policy and begin charging for administering Novice class examinations. The W5YI-VEC argues that the issue is one of "uniformity", claiming that ARRL benefits financially from giving free exams.

The League, in a response to the FCC, disagreed, saying that "VECs have always had the latitude to set their own fees. We see no compelling federal interest in whether or not a class of nine years olds ought to be charged for taking an entry-level exam".

Two matters are at the heart of the W5YI-VEC complaint, made in a letter to FCC Private Radio Bureau Chief Ralph Haller:

First, that different accounting methods used by various VECs may be contrary to FCC rules governing VECs; some charge examinees on an individual basis, giving (W5YI-VEC told the FCC) VEs and VECs the option of not recovering out-of-pocket costs from any particular examinee.

W5YI-VEC also charged that the ARRL-VEC, by not charging for Novice examinations, stands to benefit financially. "Free examinations", W5YI-VEC said, "when all other VECs charge, attract applicants. These applicants are potential purchasers of examination preparation materials whose purchasing decisions may be unduly influenced by their choice of VECs".

The League's policy also affects codeless Technician licensees who are not charged by the ARRL-VEC for taking the 5-wpm code test to upgrade to "Tech-plus" (thus gaining Novice HF privileges).

Tnx ARRL Letter

WANTED - I am looking for a MADISON H.S. class of 1943 PIN. Please call Ruth, N2MXN, at 292-6665.

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GEORGE G. BATTERSON, W2GB, ex 8TC

It is with deep regret that RaRa recognizes the loss of a dear friend, a charter member and a legend in Rochester Amateur Radio circles.

It was a bitterly cold night in the North Atlantic where circumstances started George on his life long love of Ham Radio. The period was April, 1912, and the event was the sinking of the luxury liner *Titanic*. The newspapers were filled with stories of how wireless telegraphy saved the day for many on that foggy night and George knew that this was his calling. In October, 1912, George had his first transmitter on the air, most likely using "GB" as the self issued callsign. George later was licensed as 8TC and built his famous 1kW synchronous rotary spark gap transmitter. This Rock Crusher is still functioning 75 years later and is a favorite item to demonstrate at the AWA museum.

In 1921 George was an officer in Rochester's first formal radio club. In Volume 1, Number 1, of the club's publication, *The Electron*, (January 20, 1921) George wrote a column he called *Old QRM Stuff*. There he strongly urged local hams to follow good operating practice – and George could be forceful when he needed to. At other times however, no one who knew him ever missed that twinkle in his eye, the chuckle, the laughter, that sly look.... The story telling.... "did you hear about the night my antenna caught on fire?" he would start.... Gosh, we'll miss those.

George was a charter RaRa member in 1931 and was active locally until well into his 90's. He was well known for his CW expertise where 50 wpm was cruising speed. Only George knows for sure, but I think he was proudest of his co-founding of the *Antique Wireless Association* along with Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, and Linc Cundall, W2QY. That threesome did more to capture and preserve radio history than we will ever know. In the middle of it all was George, who having started a trucking company along the way, hauled many a load of antique radio exotica to the various AWA Museum locations from all over the country.

The term *Old Timer* will never quite be the same. After all, who can claim 81 years in this game. We'll keep listening on 40 cw, OT, you'll find a way...
de Ed, K2MP



HOLD THE PHONE ON 800 AND 900 NUMBERS

Think twice before dialing that 800 or 900 telephone number. You may end up paying for what you thought was a free call and your number could be recorded in a database sold to telemarkets!

The California public Utilities Commission wants Consumers to know that some companies listing 800 or 900 numbers are now using Automatic Number Identification (ANI) which is approved by the Federal Communications Commission. When you dial their number, ANI equipment automatically adds your number to their customer database. And companies are not required to tell you if they have ANI.

Companies with ANI can then use your telephone number to get your address, income level, items purchased and similar information from other marketing databases. Or they can sell your number to telemarketer who will soon be pitching you on their products and services.

Never assume that an 800 or 900 number is a free call! If the number uses ANI, you may reach a recording advising that you will be called back collect. Or you may be told to call a 900 number. In either case, the call could be billed to you!

If a person answers an 800 or 900 number, advise that you do not want your number, name or address kept in his or her company records. Make it clear that you do not want this information rented or sold to other companies. You may also advise that you do not want the company to solicit future business from you.

To complain about a company using ANI, you may contact the Federal Communications Commission, 2025 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20544.

If you suspect that your name is on a direct marketing list and want it removed, write:

Telephone Preference Service
c/o Direct Marketing Association
P.O. Box 9008
Farmingdale, NY 11735

*Courtesy of the Volcano Telephone Co.
and Sierra News via The Readout*

IS YOUR LICENSE ABOUT TO EXPIRE?

Amateur licenses begin to expire again in late 1993, when the first ten-year tickets reach their time limits. Because our licenses last so long, it is easy to forget when they expire. We all need to get back in the habit of checking the date once in a while.
Tnx Atlantic Division News

WANTED FOR JANUARY MEETING —

The two people who are going to present a super program at the January meeting (January 7th) would like to have it recorded on video tape, live, as they do it at the meeting. If you can do this, and would like to do this, please call Roger, WB2BWQ, at 292-6665, to get all the details. We really want to get this program on tape.

SO LONG SAM

“Wouldn’t that be a great project for the next couple of weeks, just the thing I need for the rig!” That could have been the reaction of any of us while looking through the latest issue of POPULAR GADGETS MAGAZINE over the last 30 years. “Wow! Simple, easy to build, and useful too. Guess I’ll try it. What an I going to need, that I don’t already have in the junk box? Well, it won’t be too hard to get the parts. Glenwood Sales should have anything that I don’t”.

How many of us have said and done just about this same thing when the latest and greatest “Hoozabong” came along. Many of us did go to Sam’s place for parts and good natured ribbing too. But, Glenwood Sales won’t be the same any more.

You probably didn’t see the notice in the obituaries a couple of weeks ago. Sam Fegadel is no longer with us. I’m sure he is happy, because he won’t have to put up with the likes of us, as he did for so many years.

We can still go to get parts though. Tom and the Guys are there with the good natured ribbing and the lousy jokes, and as usual, just what we want in electronic parts.

Oh, Sam. Keep the lights on and the heat up. We need the business!!

Roger, WB2BWQ

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Many thanks to all members who have already renewed for the 1993-94 season, and a hearty welcome to 21 new persons joining for the first time. Current membership now stands at 927 with incoming renewals arriving at an excellent pace. If you are among those who have not renewed as yet, you are encouraged to do so at the Auction or by mail as soon as possible. If you have questions or require another application, just give me a call.

*Irv Goodman, AF2K
Membership Secretary*

THE RaRa RAG YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable, K2MP

20 YEARS AGO – NOVEMBER 1973:

RaRa Prez Bob Lauzon, WB2NSD, invited Code and Theory class members to the new class location at the downtown RIT building. El Wagner, WB2BNJ, Membership Chairman, reported that dues were now past due and the VP and Program Chairman, Joe Hood, K2YAH, urged attendance at the November RaRa Auction. Running for ARRL Atlantic Division Director were George Hippisley, K2KIR, and Harry McConaghy, W3SW. For Vice Director were Jesse Bieberman, W3KT; Layfield Lamb, W3BWZ; Harold Smith, WA2KND; and George Van Dyke, W3HK. A new advertiser, selling and servicing “the-works-in-a-drawer” was Wally Kincaid, WB2HZG.

40 YEARS AGO – SEPTEMBER 1953

New to the RaRa Rag is the column *Novice Notes* written by Bob VanEpps, KN2CBJ. Also new is the Broadcast Operators Net (B.O.N.) started by Ed Graf, W2SJV. Ed is looking for joiners from those working at BC stations. The RDXA meeting sported Sax Ringle, W2SAW, speaking on DX QSL’s as well as Bob Haner, W2FBA, speaking on DX antennas. From the member Want Ads you could buy a Link 10 Meter AM mobile set from Bill DeWitt, W2VZV, for fifteen bucks.

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ARRL SUPPORTS SHARING OF VE RESPONSIBILITY

The ARRL has gone on record in opposition to a proposal by the "Rules Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators" (NCVEC) that would require a "contact" volunteer examiner be appointed for each examination session who would have "overall" responsibility for the session.

In comments filed August 30, 1993 to the proposal (RM-8301), the League said that the concept of having three examiners share liability for exam sessions' integrity has worked well since the inception of the volunteer examiner program in 1983, and that the benefits of the three-person team would be diluted by the NCVEC proposal, if adopted.

The League said that the FCC's original Notice of Proposed Rule Making more than ten years ago suggested a three-person team with a "team chief" who must be an Extra Class licensee. That idea was abandoned in favor of an ARRL proposal that a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator system be established (in FCC Report and Order 83-433, which enabled the VE program).

The League said that it should be left to individual VE teams to designate a "team leader" if they wish, "but in no case should the concept of a joint and several liability of the three-examiner team members be diluted".

The NCVEC proposal came out of the Conference's annual meeting in June, 1993. The ARRL-VEC was represented at the Conference but was not a party to the decision to make the proposal to the FCC.

Tnx ARRL Letter

A REMARKABLE QSO

by Joe Doring, DL1RK

During WW2, I served as Lance Corporal in a special army signal corps unit in the Afrika Korps. We intercepted enemy tactical radio communications in the African war theater – we were Erwin Rommel's ears.

Late afternoon on May 7, 1943 – five days before we surrendered Tunisia – the company commander asked if I would like to communicate with the enemy. "Sure I would", I said.

My first thought was that it was the surrender message, ending the fighting in Africa. But the message was about a target not to be bombed.

Since Allied bombers flew in from the west, the message had to be addressed to the British First Army, which operated in that area. So I close the headquarters radio net of British 1st Army, noted the frequency and callsigns, took the message and went to the transmitter van about one-half mile from our receiving site.

The British net was busy that night, so I had to wait a long time. While I waited, I practiced with the straight key, which I hadn't used for a year or so; my job, sitting in front of a receiver copying enemy radio traffic, didn't require sending.

Finally the net worked its last traffic. With the 80-Watt Lorenz transmitter carefully set to zero-beat, and using a "borrowed" callsign, I sent, "QTC 1 QRK? K."

QRK 5 was the answer, so I sent: "DAH DI DAH DI DAH, TO HQ ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCES IN AFRICA FROM HQ AXIS FORCES IN AFRICA".

Then the guy whose call I had borrowed broke in:

"THATS NOT ME, IT IS A PROPAGANDA MESSAGE FROM THE ENEMY".

But I broke in with: "ITS NOT PROPAGANDA, BUT LIFE OR DEATH FOR YOUR OWN PEOPLE". Finally, the HQ station told me to go ahead with my message.

I sent, "TWO SHIPS ARE IN THE HARBOR AT TUNIS. ONE IS A FREIGHTER WITH 600 ALLIED PRISONERS AND THE OTHER IS A HOSPITAL SHIP. DO NOT BOMB THOSE SHIPS AND SAVE THE LIVES OF YOUR OWN PEOPLE".

I received "QSL" for my message and said I would QRX tomorrow – same time, same frequency – for a possible reply, but no reply was received in the next five days.

The event faded in my memory during the years that followed – until 1950, when I bought a book

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about the war in Africa. In it I found the message I had sent and the reaction to it. General Alexander, the British 1st Army Commander, had met captured German General von Arnim, and thanked him for the message that saved 600 of his soldiers. In return, he agreed to send 600 wounded German soldiers to Italy on a hospital ship.

So in a small way I helped add a human touch in this cruel war. I call this my only really worthwhile QSO – ever!

This story, originally in the winter '91 "Focus", was submitted to the Northern California DX Club's "DXer" – AF6S Editor – by W6CF via ARNS

FOR SALE – Heathkit SB-200 Amplifier, Johnson Viking 2 with external VFO, Mosley TA33. Call Ron - 722-6045 or 889-3703.

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EMPIRE STATE GAMES UPDATE

by Chris Reich, WB2DYJ

For no other reason than my own ignorance and oversight, three local amateur operators were not mentioned in the September article praising the volunteers for the Empire State Games. They are (drum roll please) N2GDR, N8JSO, and KB2HYT. They are as deserving of everyone's admiration and respect as are those included in the list published in September. I extend my apologies for not having mentioned them then.

AM USERS UNITE!

A new organization (AM International) has been formed to promote the use and enjoyment of Amplitude Modulation (AM) in amateur radio. The AMI has already held its first operating event, the AM Discovery Weekend, and will be planning more such events.

For those of you who have never operated AM, it isn't just like SSB but with sidebands and a carrier! The conversations tend to be longer, less rushed. The quality of the voice is also substantially better than SSB. Which sounds more like a human voice, a 20 meter SSB signal with speech compression, or the DJ on a local AM broadcast band station?

For more information about AMI and membership, please contact AMI Headquarters, Box 1500, Merrimack, NH 03054-1500.

Tnx SJRA Harmonics



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LICENSE EXAM TESTING

by Barbara, AA2CX, and George, AA2FO

CONGRATULATIONS... to ten members of the amateur radio community who either got their licenses, upgraded, or passed exam elements at the recent RaRa testing session of September 25. They are: Tom Fleming, Harry Williams, Mike Vergan, Kevin Fulton, Samuel Soldi, Tim Wrath, Greg Van Scott, K. Smith, Karl Fishbach, and William Thelen.

Enjoy your new privileges.

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

See you there.

AN ENGLISH PUNCTUATION HANDBOOK YOU ALREADY OWN

by David Barton, AF6S

Confused about punctuation, but unenthused about spending cash on another book? Perhaps you already own a concise guide to English punctuation and don't realize your good fortune.

My Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary recently fell open to one of its back pages. Believe it or not, that's how I discovered a section that explains and shows by example correct usage of all punctuation marks – even brackets, the dash ("M-dash"), and the ellipsis. It also shows the correct order – that commas and periods fall inside quotation marks but semicolons and colons fall outside, for instance.

The section's page layout has a lot of white space, so the seven pages won't take you more than a few minutes to scan. And almost anyone other than a professional editor or writer will learn something in the process.

The pages following the punctuation section cover italization, capitalization, and plurals. The information can help you improve your paper and save you from an embarrassing *faux pas*. And an editor needs this kind of information within reach at all times; it's not enough to read it once.

I haven't checked any other dictionaries yet, but it's an item worth looking for whenever you purchase a new dictionary – which isn't a bad idea if yours dates from high school or college days.

Tnx ARNS

If you want to be safe on the streets at night, carry a projector and slides of your last vacation.

Helen Mundis

SUNSPOT CYCLE 19 YEARS THEORY

In an interview for the November 1992 issue of *Discover* magazine, solar physicist, Richard Alrock, says the 11-year sunspot cycle, really doesn't last that long; instead, the cycle is actually 19 years. He says the 11-year visible Sunspot cycle is just the visible result of an invisible 19 year magnetic cycle on the sun.

During a sunspot cycle, the number of sunspots intensifies and they grow larger. Using proper filters or projection devices, a telescope allows us to view sunspots safely.

Sunspot activity begins at approximately solar latitude 30 degrees and gradually increases toward the solar equator, but as soon as these spots die off the process begins at 30 degrees again.

When this cycle begins, the 11-year cycle is said to begin. But, Dr. Alrock maintains that the start of this cycle means that magnetic activity in the corona (the solar atmosphere) has already been circulating for eight years. He says that he has traced coronal halos appearing eight years before sunspot cycles and these halos show up at latitudes as high as 70 degrees to 80 degrees. The following years show them closer to the equator.

Tnx W5YI via The Readout

FOR SALE –

- Henry - solid state, 6 meter amp, 30 in 100 out – \$125.00
- Sonar - Tube w/ps, 6 meter amp, 30 in 100 out – \$125.00
- Yaesu - G500A, elevation Rotor w/50 ft. wire – \$50.00
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- GE - 6 meter Mastor Pro Mobiles – \$30.00
- Call Len, WA2ZNC, 716-229-5470.

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