



the RARRA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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NO. 4

GABLE TO PRESENT PROGRAM AT KODAK

It seems that RaRa can't get enough of that commanding voice of Ed Gable, the lead (and high priced) gifted gabber of auction fame. The December meeting, to be held at Kodak somewhere, will feature Ed and his story "*From Earth to Ether*", the story of what it takes to put up an antenna.

Easy, you say. Just stick up a pole with a couple of aluminum rods on it and there you are. Not so, says Ed. Why don't you come out to Kodak Elmgrove on the 3rd of December, and listen to the story of his new antenna. You know you can believe him. I've heard that Ed always "*speak truth*".

Somewhere else in this issue you will find instructions on how to get to the meeting. Our fearless leader says that he thinks he knows but he didn't know well enough to tell me so that I could tell you. So, be sure to read his article to find the correct instructions. Friday, December 3rd, Kodak Elmgrove.

KODAK/RARRA MEETING — NEW LOCATION

We are proud to continue our tradition of meeting with the Kodak Amateur Radio Club. This time we will be at a different Kodak location. I truthfully cannot remember when we last held a joint meeting there, so, when the Elmgrove branch offered to host the meeting, I quickly accepted. Their Club President, Jim Saniewski (WB2TRC), promised we'd get a chance to see one of the products in action in a security environment.

Since you are all used to trekking out to the Ridge Road location known as Kodak Park, I thought some re-direction might be in order. Elmgrove Plant is a large manufacturing complex covering many acres and many buildings, but where we are going is amazingly simple to get to. You will find Kodak's Elmgrove Plant near the

ANNUAL RARRA/ KODAK

Joint Meeting
8:00 P.M.

Kodak's Elmgrove Plant

See article and map in this issue

southern most end of Elmgrove Road. (Elmgrove Road runs from West Ridge Road on the north to Buffalo Road on the south.) Approaching Elmgrove from the south, take the first entrance on your left, from the north it is the last entrance on the right (see map). Find a spot in the parking lot near the indicated lobby. That will be Building 5. I know it may not be easily recognizable as any particular building number in the dark of a December evening, but knowing it is the southernmost lobby will do the trick.

Since this entrance is not normally an access point to the general public at this hour, a member of the Kodak Amateur Radio Club will be posted at the door to let you in. Please be patient as he or she will have to radio Kodak Security each time a bunch of people enter. The meeting itself will be upstairs in the cafeteria and the path will be clearly signed.

I'll leave to your able Program Chairman, Roger Harnaart (WB2BWQ) to tell you all about the program he's arranged for your edification and entertainment. I'll be looking forward to seeing you there. Until then, 73 - de N2BEL

SILENT KEY

ROBERT M. DECKER
K2HLH

November 5, 1993

the **RaRa Rag**

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Amateur Radio News Service

IS THIS YOUR FINAL RAG?

All RaRa memberships expired on October 31st. However a two month courtesy grace period is extended for those few procrastinators. If your mailing label indicates an "Oct 93" expiration date, your renewal has not yet been received. To keep your *RaRa Rag* coming uninterrupted and to insure receipt of your copy of the new *1994 RaRa DIRECTORY* to be mailed to all paid-up members in January, send in your renewal form today or bring it to the December meeting. If you need another application, just contact the Membership Chairman. At press time, Association membership stood at 934.

RaRa is looking for volunteers to operate K2JD during the VHF Contest January; 15th and 16th. Interested? Please leave your name, call and phone number on the RaRa club phone 442-9587.
Jim Hood, N2HHV

DID YOU MISS YOUR ISSUE OF THE RaRa Rag?

It was painfully apparent at the Annual Auction that a great many of you *did not* get your November *Rag*. I'm one of you. It seems that the U.S. Postal Service doesn't show any preferential treatment. Generally, I'd say that was an excellent policy. However, when their apparent lack of delivery in a timely manner deprives a great many of us information we need to enjoy the benefits of membership, I am not a happy camper.

The question many of you have asked, some in a polite gentle way and some well, not so gently; "What the _____ happened to my copy of the RaRa Rag?", "Don't you guys mail them out anymore?" Truthfully, I needed to ask the Rag Managing Editor what happened. He had a receipt from the Post Office and an address correction from Nunda, New York to back up the fact that they had been mailed in plenty of time to reach our members. Yet, somehow they didn't!

What can be done? The truth is we need your help in letting the Postal Service know just how important timely delivery of your *RaRa Rag* is to you. Call or stop in to your local branch and let them know just how you feel. We, unfortunately, have no guarantees as to when mail will be delivered. The only mechanism at our disposal is the "squeaky wheel" syndrome. I know. It's a lot of bother to call the Post Office, but it is the only way we can let these fine folks know how much we value getting our mail on time. Just one or two people calling or visiting is not enough. Unfortu-

nately it won't give a full measure of the effect of delaying delivery of over 900 *RaRa Rags!* Take ten and let them know how you feel about receiving information too late to be of any good to you. Here's hoping enough of us have thought of this, so far, that you've gotten this article on time.

73 de N2BEL

CONTEST DESK

ROCHESTER CUP RULES ANNOUNCED!

by Tim Stoffel, NS9E, Contest Chairman

ROCHESTER CUP RULES ANNOUNCED

The rules for the 1994 Rochester Cup have been released. As you know, the Rochester Cup is the award sponsored by the Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG) for the club that generates the most activity in the January VHF Sweepstakes contest. Now in it's ninth year, this year's competition promises to be extra fierce.

After a long and careful review of the existing rules, it was determined that they had some serious shortcomings. The cup was no longer successfully fulfilling it's role of generating the on-air activity needed by the Rochester VHF Group to compete in the national club competition sponsored by the ARRL, nor were all of the local clubs making a serious effort to compete for the Cup. So, major rules changes were made that should give everyone a better shot at competition, and simplify the complex scoring system previously used.

Here are the new rules:

1. The Rochester Cup is open to all Rochester area amateur radio clubs except the Rochester VHF Group.
2. Any bona-fide member of any local club may submit an entry on behalf of their club. This includes Rochester VHF Group members who are members of other clubs.
3. To compete, each station must try to contact as many Rochester VHF Group members as possible during the contest period. You may count each VHF Group member only once regardless of how many bands or grids in which you worked that station. All ARRL and FCC rules apply. (A list of RVHFG members will be available on 1-15-94, and will be sent to each club automatically. It will also be published on various landline and packet BBS'es as well as being available from the address at the end of this announcement.)
4. Each station shall submit a list of VHF Group members worked as well as an official Rochester VHF Group awards summary sheet. (This will qualify the station for certain other awards, as well.)

5. The club score will be the total Rochester VHF Group members worked claimed on all submitted logs (subject to verification) times the percentage of club members that participated. Example: The XYZ amateur radio club submitted 12 logs with a total of 483 RVHFG contacts. They have 120 members. So, 12 logs divided by 120 members equals .1 or 10%. 483 times 10% equals 48.3 or 48 club points. NOTE: Members of multi-op teams who are members of the club you are submitting your score for are counted as having participated.

6. The club with the largest club score is the winner. In the event of a tie, the winner will be randomly selected from among the tied clubs.

7. Any club that wins the Cup three years in a row will retire that Cup.

Entries must be received by Monday, February 14, 1994. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED!** (This means yours!)

The rules have been designed to do three things:

1. Get people on the air – the more participation, the better your club will score!
2. Increase the Rochester VHF Group's national club score – other stations will specifically try to work RVHFG members.
3. Increase the Rochester VHF Group's membership – the more VHF group members there are, the higher everyone can score!

So, drum up activity in your club. Get everybody on in the contest! It is especially important to get your people who just have FM to get on the air, work the contest (even for just a few hours), and turn in a log. Joining the Rochester VHF Group will give more potential stations to work, and we will be create as many opportunities for people to join the Rochester VHF Group as possible! People who join the Rochester VHF Group between now and January 14 will also get a free copy of W2HPF's PC contest log software. this program is used by some of the nation's finest VHF contesters, including the N2WK Gannett Hill Gang! (These people should also attend a Rochester VHF Group club meeting between now and January 14 if they wish to assist in the VHF Group's national club effort. Dates: November 12, December 10 and January 14. Meetings are at the Monroe County Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Road in Rochester. All meetings start at 7:30.)

At some point in mid or late January, I will be requesting a list of your current membership to verify if each person submitting a log on your behalf is really a member.

To further enhance competition in January, several new awards are being offered by the

Rochester VHF Group. They are: FM H/T only (for the smallest of stations), FM only rover (to encourage simple rover operations using mobile FM radios), Young hams operator (to encourage our under-18 hams to be active in the contest), and worked most RVHFG members (to reward the single operator outside the RVHFG who works the most RVHFG members). This is in addition to the FM only and YL operators awards that have been available to non-RVHFG members for some time. See the General awards section of this announcement.

More details about score submissions will be in the contest packs. A computer program will also be available to help identify VHF group members in your logs.

Will anyone cheer for RaRa? Will RRRR growl like a bear? Will Gram submit a kilogram of logs? Will Xerox's past efforts be copied? Will RFHARC actually have a meeting about this? Will the Drumlins drum up enough activity? Will the local college clubs learn their lesson? Do the Kodak clubs get the picture? Will BARC bark up the right tree? Will the RDXA travel long and far to win? Can the Genesee Repeater Association repeat their effort? Will SIARC turn in a big score? We will find out in January!!!!

GENERAL AWARDS ANNOUNCED

In addition to the Rochester Cup, there are some other awards the Rochester VHF Group sponsors. Most of these are only available to RVHFG members, but a number of these awards are available to those outside the Rochester VHF Group. These are among the most competitive areas of the January VHF contest, and the non-RVHFG member that captures one of these awards has done a good job, indeed!

ARRL and FCC rules apply to all of the following awards.

YL SINGLE-OPERATOR

Here is a chance for the YL's to compete! No limits on bands, modes or power. YL must be licensed and use her call. Plaques will be awarded for the first two places, a certificate for third.

YOUNG HAM SINGLE-OPERATOR

Attention young Hams Do you like chocolate? (Who doesn't!) If you are under 18 and a licensed ham, this award is for you. Operate single operator with no restrictions on bands, modes or power. All young hams submitting logs will receive a ½ pound candy bar. The first place winner will receive a one pound candy bar. The first three places will also receive a certificate.

FM ONLY FIXED

Operate a single- or multi-op station. No restrictions on bands or power, BUT ALL CONTACTS MUST BE MADE USING FM. This award generates more competition than any other award we offer! Plaques will be awarded to the first three places, certificates for fourth, fifth and sixth places.

FM ONLY H/T

Operate a single-operator station using a H/T. No outdoor antennas (except on vehicles) may be used. External preamps or power amps may not be used. A certificate will be awarded for the best score.

FM ONLY ROVER

Operate a station from two or more grid squares. One or two operators per team. No power restrictions, BUT ALL CONTACTS MUST BE MADE USING FM. Plan a grid expedition! Rovering is the fastest way to build a big score! Use standard ARRL scoring. YOU MUST SIGN/ROVER AFTER YOUR CALL. A plaque will be awarded for first place, certificates for second and third places.

WORKED MOST RVHFG MEMBERS

This is an outgrowth of the Rochester Cup competition. The SINGLE-OPERATOR station outside of the Rochester VHF Group who works the most VHF Group members will get a certifi-

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cate. The score you submit for the Rochester Cup is used to determine the winner. (An official membership list will be issued on January 15, 1994. See the Rochester Cup rules for details.)

As you can see, there are many categories available in which to earn awards. Get your club members motivated! Unseat a VHF Group member or two!!

CONTEST PACKETS SOON TO BE AVAILABLE

To help everyone participate in the January VHF Contest, the Rochester VHF group will be distributing contest packets to all who want them. These packets will contain the following:

1. A copy of the Rochester Cup rules.
2. A copy of awards available to people outside the Rochester VHF Group. (Another incentive to join – you are eligible for many more awards!)
3. A table showing suggested frequencies, activity hours, etc.
4. A VHF contest log page, ready to copy.
5. A dupe checking sheet, ready to copy.
6. A map of the area, showing grid square boundaries.
7. An official Rochester VHF group summary sheet.
8. An official ARRL summary sheet.

Copies of the official ARRL rules are available, upon request.

The packet will also contain information on how to get advice on any aspect of VHF contesting.

A photoreduced version of the packet will also be available for inclusion in your newsletter. It will have all eight items above photoreduced onto two pages, printed both sides. These may easily be blown up to full size in most modern photocopiers.

I will be placing contest advice on many of the local packet bulletin boards.

THE RaRa RAG YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable, K2MP

20 YEARS AGO – DECEMBER 1973:

On the cover was found a photo of the then technical marvel of the day, *OSCAR 6*. This Amateur satellite, carrying a 2 to 10 meter transponder was truly a technical breakthrough and mystery to most hams. Solving the mystery by way of a still memorable RaRa talk was Fred Becker, W2GV. K2YCO, K2CEH and W2MPM were Co-Contest Chairman for the January VHF contest. Bill DeWitt, W2DD, wrote an interesting article on Two Letter calls in the Rochester area. He closed his article wondering how the ANtique Wireless Association got the call W2AN. Bruce and I know, but we're not telling! In this issue was printed a joint letter from RaRa, RRRR and the RVHFG, stating opposition to Docket 19759 which was causing the loss of a portion of 220 MHz. Yes, the move to yank some megacycles started way back then. Rick Booth, WA2GCX, reported on the first meeting of the *Monroe County FM Net*, a joint venture of the WR2ABF and WA2UWQ/2 two-meter repeaters.

40 YEARS AGO – DECEMBER 1953:

This meeting featured Fran Sherwood, W2QCF, who spoke on the problems encountered in putting TV Channel 10 on the air. Linc, W2QY, reported that a TBS-50 and new NC-183D were installed at the Civil Defense center. (The 183D is still there and working - Ed) Rare DX was snagged by W2MA working VQ1NZK while W2SAW pulled in choice tidbits of VS9, DU7, ST2 and ZS7. W2QKS confirmed 235 countries. *Hi-Q Radio* and *Electronics* at 109 State Street remains a long time advertiser.

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I am still looking for someone to make a video tape of the January program. You do not have to be an expert to qualify. If you are interested please give me a call at 292-6665 for more details. Thanks.

Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ

YOU DIDN'T GET TO THE AUCTION?

The annual RaRa auction was last month at the Fire and Police Academy. Ed Gable and his father Dick Goslee (or is it the other way around) kept things hopping, as usual. What was missing was you! The goodies were good, what there were, and the crowd was sparse, but everyone had a good time. Our thanks to the father-son duo for their efforts.

Just a little comment on why there wasn't a bigger turnout. The simple way out is - we moved the location again, and a lot of the RAGS didn't get delivered. In fact, some are still in the mail as I write this, a week after the auction.

Next year we'll try to get things under control so that you can be prepared for the time and place to have a BIGGER and better auction.

LICENSE EXAM TESTING

by Barbara, AA2CX, and George, AA2FO

CONGRATULATIONS ... to six members of the amateur radio community who either got their licenses, upgraded, or passed exam elements at the recent RaRa testing session of October 16th. They are: Laurie Robert, Scott Norton, Mark White, Mark Favreau, Terrie Savaageau, and Brian Harrington.

Enjoy your new privileges.

Our next session will be on December 18th, at 111 Westfall Road starting at 9:00 a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

See you there.

Patrick C. Moyer, N2AIW
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FCC GOES AFTER BERKELEY MICRO POWER BROADCASTER

The FCC has issued a Notice of Apparent Liability, in the amount of \$20,000, against Stephen Dunifer and his Radio Free Berkeley (California) for allegedly broadcasting without a license. They believe the FCC should provide for low power broadcasting as a first amendment right to free speech.

Dunifer's attorney, Louis Hiken, filed a 13 page response that says the FCC action is "... *unwarranted, procedurally flawed, constitutionally invalid, and calls for a forfeiture amount that is grossly disproportionate to the alleged violations and which exceeds the maximum limits set by statute*". The response further charges that FCC policies with regards to micro radio broadcasting have failed to keep pace with the rapid proliferation of technological advances in the field of communications.

The FCC's current regulatory scheme completely prohibits micro radio broadcasters and their listeners from accessing the public airwaves. To enforce this absolute prohibition, the FCC is relying upon regulations which were intended solely for application to large-scale, commercial broadcasters, and which were promulgated long before the advent of technology that makes possible micro radio; indeed, even before the advent of FM broadcasting. The FCC's application of these regulations violates the First Amendment rights of individuals seeking to exercise those rights via methods and mediums that were technologically impossible when the regulations were created.

Dunifer says "*the fundamental problem is that the FCC has not provided procedures by which micro radio broadcasters can become licensed or authorized. Instead, the FCC is applying severe administrative and criminal sanctions, intended for application to large scale operators, to micro radio broadcasters with the goal of completely precluding all such broadcasts*".

Dunifer wants to... "*establish a clean and binding legal precedent which will protect the internationally recognized right of communications between individuals and communities*". He said... "*despite the most recent actions of the FCC, Free Radio Berkeley will continue its weekly Sunday broadcasts as a community free speech project, from 9 PM to 12 Midnight at 88.1 on the FM band. We will not be silenced by federal agencies who hide behind a facade of serving the public interest to mask their flagrant abuse of regulatory power, public money and re-*

sources to defend, promote, and serve private corporate media interests”.

Radio Free Berkeley is also making 1 to 5 watt FM broadcast kits available at a cost of \$40 each and they want as many low power broadcasters as possible to go on the air simultaneously. “If only a few operations go on the air, it will be very easy for the Feds to nail people. Consider it a form of electronic civil disobedience or however else you want think about it.

Tnx W5YI Report via The Readout

SOLAR-CYCLE AUTUMN

by Ward Silver, NØAX

Why does DXing feel like the end of summer vacation right now? It’s as if we are packing up our bathing suits and sunglasses, getting ready for the long drive home. You can smell it on the bands; even 15-meter European openings cause excitement; 28 MHz has an ephemeral quality about it. Tuning the higher bands is like walking into a house where all the people have left, but their belongings are strewn about – rocking chair still moving and dishes on the table.

Like all seasons, the autumn of the sunspot cycle has particular qualities to appreciate in certain ways. Twenty and forty-meters are reclaiming their thrones. The lower WARC bands, 10 and 18 MHz, are becoming a lot of fun. As we sense the coming winter, with its quiet conditions and reduced activities, we can savor the solar autumn for what it is.

The current cycle has been supremely kind to DXers; it maintaining a long, flat maximum, yet provided sufficient fireworks to keep us on our toes. Remember the great flare of March 1991? Even as late as October 1992, the CQ World-Wide contest enjoyed first-rate conditions. Of course, better equipment and more operators were factors, but ol’ Sol hung in there one more time.

I can’t complain, having worked my share of goodies, I missed some, but will pursue them next time around. I still hold out hope for a QRP Zone-34 QSO from Romeo’s upcoming Excellent Adventure.

When the bands aren’t open, I leaf through low-band sections of antenna books or look up at my trees and ponder a possible Sterba curtain or Lazy-H. Thumbing through *QST*’s of the 1950’s uncovers a treasure trove of antennas for forty meters and down. And armed now with antenna simulation programs, I may discover an elusive, low-angle, endfire array which fits my back forty.

Rather than just muse in lonely Vashion Island solitude, though, I look forward even more to monthly club meetings and packet cluster banter. There’s always plenty to do, flux or no.

from the May '93 Western Washington DX Club, "Totem Tabloid" - Jack Fleming, WAØRJY, Editor via ARNS

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DIRECTORY UPDATES

With December just around the corner it is the time of the year that we get ready to print the 1994 "Directory of Amateurs" for the greater Rochester area. To insure that your entry in the directory is correct please take a minute and check the mailing label on the envelope that this issue of the RAG was mailed in. Make sure that your name, address, and call are correct. The information that is on the label is what will be printed in the directory.

The directory lists all amateur in the 144, 145, 146 ZIP codes plus all current RaRa members in the United States (over 3000 listings). If you are aware of any new amateurs in the area or new call-sign changes please let us know so that we may publish an accurate directory.

If any information is incorrect or missing please let the editor of the directory know before December 10, 1993 so that the correct information can be included. Send the corrected information to:

RaRa Directory Editor
Richard A. Goslee, K2VCZ
24 Elaine Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5306

or call RaRa at (716) 442-0587 or (716) 671-4430.

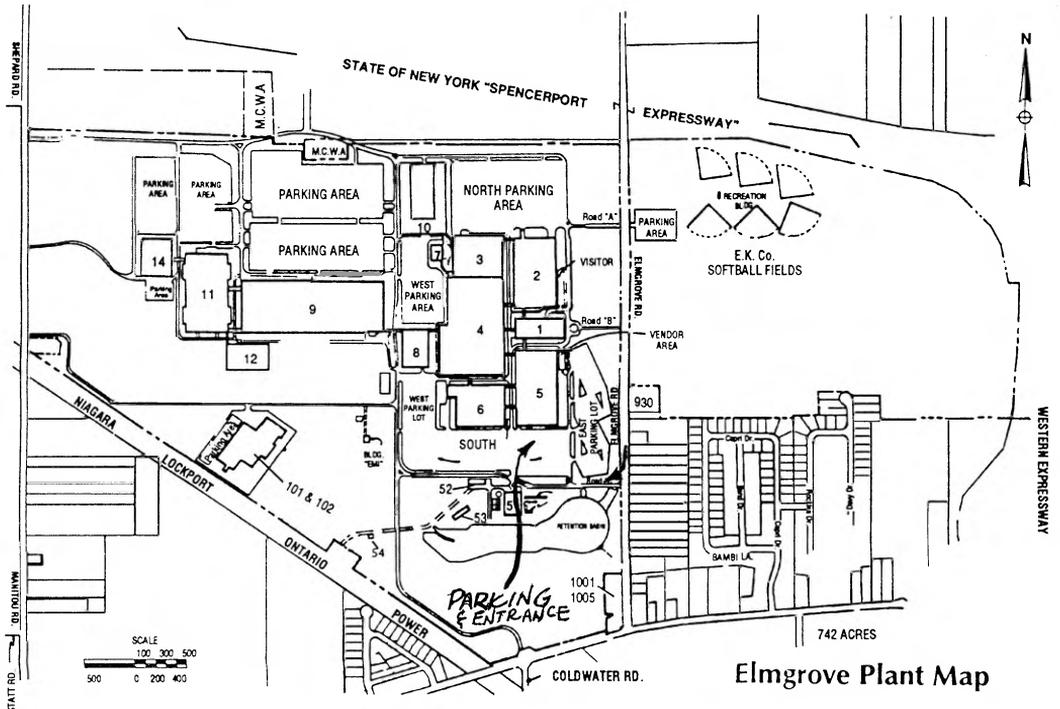
MINIATURE FRISBEE ANTENNA INVENTED

Two researchers at Georgia Tech Research Institute have invented a small (2-6 inches across), round, spiral antenna that is thin enough to be literally stuck anywhere. Drs. Johnson Wany and Victor Tripp invented the device, which is thin enough at three-tenths of an inch to be built using common printed circuit board techniques to carve a spiral pathway out of a blank PC board.

One foreseen application for the spiral antenna (which looks like a miniature Frisbee) is to paste it on the roof of an automobile and capitalize on its 900% bandwidth to transmit and receive signals for several radio and mobile-telephone systems at the same time.

The scientists discovered that this antenna's radiation pattern fits inside a circumference of one wavelength, centered about the center of the spiral. The diameter of the entire antenna depends on the lowest usable frequency.

W5YI Report via The Readout



Elm Grove Plant Map