



the RARRA RAG

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NO. 5

JANUARY SPEAKERS TELL US "HOW TO"

Was the last project you constructed a point to point wiring type? Have you seen the modern way of making electronic circuits? Are you scared to try to do a circuit on a printed circuit board? Don't think you are alone if a pc board seems a long way off.

We are lucky to have two HAMS who are willing to explain, in detail, how to make a pc board. All you have to do to learn this easy way is to be at the January meeting. Gary Diana, Sr., N2JGU, and Bradley Mitchell, WB8YGG, will be there with all the necessary information on "how to". They have made projects before and proved them out. They work! Now all you have to do is listen and learn how to do this simple method to get your next pc construction off the ground.

See you at the meeting. Don't miss a minute.

-- RH

WANT TO ADVANCE YOURSELF?

by J. Hood, K2YA

Do you currently hold a general class license? Are you interested in upgrading to advanced? If so, RaRa is considering holding an advanced class as a part of its February through April licensing classes. Joe Hood, K2YA, who has taught this course several times in the past, has agreed to teach it again if there is sufficient interest. The cost for RaRa members will be minimal. The class will meet in the evening for one hour each week. It will be eight to ten weeks in length. Exact times and dates will be announced later. Please call the RaRa telephone line at 442-0587 if you are interested. When you call, be sure to indicate that you are calling about the advanced licensing class and don't forget to leave your name and telephone number. It's a great time of the year to fill your winter doldrums with some class ... advanced call that is!

RARRA MEETING NOTICE

Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road

January 7, 1994
8:00 P.M.

RARRA LICENSING CLASS

The next RaRa Licensing Class will start on Monday, February 21, 1994. See the February Rag for more information.

RAG ARRIVING LATE? READ THIS:

Considering the large number of frustrated members who brought it to our attention, timely delivery of the November issue of the RAG in most of the Rochester area was a disaster. No, it certainly shouldn't take Second Class mail for 146 ZIP areas *nineteen* days to reach its destination! (Conversely, there's a documented case of a RAG arriving in one's mailbox *four hours* after being dropped at the Post Office!)

So, here's a handy tip to remember next time the first Friday of the month has rolled around, and your RAG is still among the missing! Just call the RaRa 24-hour Hot Line at (716) 442-0587 for meeting program and location, information, plus upcoming dates for VE sessions, licensing classes, area Hamfests and Public Service events. And if you misplace the number, it's listed in the telephone Directory on page 739. --AF2K

SILENT KEY

JOSEPH J. AGOSTINELLI
WB2ERC

November 19, 1993

the **RARA RAG**

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VHF CONTEST

It's that time again. January 22-23, 1994 is the date of the ARRL January VHF Seepstakes and we hope that ALL of you will be out there again. The RVHFG will be working hard to unseat our arch rivals, The Packrats. The N2WK gang will be defending their #1 finished of last year in the Multi-Transmitter, Multi-Operator class.

Don't forget to support YOUR club in the Rochester Cup competition. The rules have been changed from last year and Tim, NS9E, has been to club meetings to explain them.

We hope that everyone with a VHF radio will take some spare time and contact as many local stations as possible. YOUR contact helps put RVHFG members and teams over the top, as well as supporting your club locally.

The contest rules are simple: you can work a station ONCE per BAND. A contest on FM counts the same as one on CW or SSB. The complete rules are published in the December 1993 issue of *QST* on page 128. Be sure you let other contesters know that you are available on the other frequencies if you have them, especially any above 2 meters. The contest begins on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. local time (1900 UTC) and ends 11:00 p.m. Sunday (0400 UTC the 24th). The exchange is just Grid Squares (the immediate Rochester area is in FN13). If you don't know your Grid Square you can usually get the answer from others in the contest. If you want to have some additional fun you should consider going to LeRoy where 4 Grid Squares meet (FN02, FN03, FN12 and FN13). You can work a station again if YOU or THEY change Grid Squares: Example - N2AA works you and gives you FN13, several hours later N2AA appears again signing ROVER FN12, you may work him as though it were a new call.

Good luck and we'll see you in the contest!!!
-KB2SE

AWARDS BANQUET DATE SET

The date for the Rochester VHF Group banquet is Friday, April 22. The location is yet to be announced. This is always a good time, and all are invited. Ticket prices have yet to be announced, but are typically \$12 per person. Mark your calendars!

FOR SALE - Antenna Tuner - MFJ-989C - \$150; G.E. Voltage Regulator 115VAC 25A - \$100. Contact Ron Zimmerman, W2MPI, 722-6045 or 889-3703.

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 - New Years Day
- 7 - RaRa Meeting -
3129 E. Henrietta Road - 8:00 p.m.
- 13 - Raps Meeting -
111 Westfall Road - 7:30 p.m.
- 18 - RDXA Meeting -
111 Westfall Road - 7:30 p.m.

RDXA JANUARY MEETING

The Rochester DX Association will hold its monthly meeting January 18th at 7:30 p.m. at 111 Westfall Road. VE Exams will precede the meeting - starting at 5:30 with sign up accepted until 7:00.

The program for the meeting will be the showing of the video tape *WINNING ON THE HILL*. For those who haven't seen it, the tapes shows the Gannett Hill Gang - N2WK - contest team in action during the 1991 ARRL June VHF Contest from Ontario County Park. Many RDXA members participated in this effort and it is a fitting kick off for the Rochester Cup competition the following weekend.

Along with our regular programs and VE Test sessions, RDXA members also provide Field Checking for NEW DXCC applicants as well as card checking for WAS, VUCC and other awards at most meetings. Hope to see you there.

- KB2SE

ERROR CORRECTION

The article on the VHF Contest last month had two errors. The date of the contest is January 22 - 23 instead of January 15 - 16. The phone number to call if you want to help man K2JD during the contest is 442-0587.

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ED GABLE'S ANTENNA GETS OFF THE GROUND

They tell me I missed a good story about getting an antenna up and running as told by Ed Gable at the December meeting. Sorry I missed it, but a Road Rally in Maine made it hard to be there. But, I would like to thank Ed for telling all about the little (and big) problems one has to face in a project of this size. I'm going to get some details from him so I can see what I missed.

To the Elmgrove Kodak Club, another thank you for hosting this meeting. It is always nice to go to another setting for a meeting. Again, sorry I wasn't there, but maybe next year, to see what I missed.

It is people and organizations like this that keep RaRa moving. Lets keep that in mind as we start a new bigger and more informative 1994. Will see you at the January meeting, on the 7th, at the fire hall. If you have any ideas you would like to present or see presented at a meeting, please let me know. --RH

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THE RaRa RAG YEARS AGO —

by Ed Gable, K2MP

20 YEARS AGO – JANUARY 1974:

For some reason this was an abbreviated issue with only two pages. The January meeting featured Bob Reifsteck, K2LZG, and Joe Hood, K2YAH, giving a talk on easy "cookbook" uses for those newly introduced things called integrated circuits. An interestingly worded article explains in great, exactig detail how to transmit a Sweepstakes contest exchange. Included after the teachings to precisedly say the words "go ahead" upon completing the exchange was the even more concise tutelage to *now turn off your transmitter*. Things must have been more complicated back then! Bob Haner, W2FBA, was reported a Silent Key. Unusual for the *RaRa Rag* was a Help Wanted Ad for technicians and engineers by a company called Harris-Intertype.

40 YEARS AGO – JANUARY 1954:

This issue introduced an interesting local contest called the *Monroe County Sweepstakes*. Lasting only 5 hours, it was more like today's *Sprints* but within the county or RaRa members living outside the county. Top DX reported was a nice catch of FO8AJ on Clipperton operated by W1NWX during the recent DX contest. Also on were SU1, AC4 and YP1. Nine countries were on the FCC banned list. Mobile operation was very very popular at this time and a separate RaRa Mobile Club was in full swing. 75 and 10 meter AM rigs ate many a 6 volt battery. RaRa then ran an incoming QSL and correspondence file where the custodian was eagerly trying to locate and deliver a SWL card to someone named Irwin Goodman.

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MARGUERITE, NU2U

submitted by Alex, NV2Y

We sat in the kitchen talking. The yellow glow of an oil lamp warmed the quite room while another glow was reflected back to me. It was from Marguerite, NU2U, excitement of our visit. Her voice, happy and sparkling, as if to say, how nice it is to talk to you.

As we rambled in our talk, Marguerite mentioned she had owned and driven motor bikes. The fast ones. You can tell from the sound and excitement in her voice it was a high point in her life.

This is where Marguerite started her story. For this is where she first met her husband to be, Doug, NR2M. As she told the story, she had hit a deep hole between railroad tracks she was crossing and wrecked her bike. A good samaritan, also riding a motor bike, Doug, stopped to see if he could help. The policeman who came to take the accident report, also driving a motor bike, stripped off his breaks going into the hole. This happened on Memorial Day, 1978. Soon after, Marguerite and Doug were married.

Marguerite earned her novice license on February 1985, Tech – May 1985, General – January 1986, Advanced – in spring of 1986, Extra – October 1986.

Do you remember your first contact, I asked. “Do I ever. I made my first contact as a General Class, while having breakfast and listening on 20 meters phone band. A lone guy calling CQ and QTH – Sydney – Sydney, Australia! I made this contact using a 3 wire dipole”.

Marguerite is very active on 1.8 – 1296 MHz and all amateur bands inbetween. With a reading MS DOS computer she is back on packet radio. She came into packet in the early days and is now very happy to be back. For Marguerite this is an exciting time. Ten – Tec has a verbal frequency counter.

Radio is a big part of her life. She likes to work 20 meters, and is involved in local nets as well as net control on 146.4 MHz, Western Net on 2 meters.

Is net control difficult, I asked. “Yes, only if more than 5 stations call in. It can get somewhat difficult. I use a tape and this is a great help”.

What I have not mentioned here is Marguerite is blind. You would never know that she knew it. She gives the onset of her blindness as January 1979. Along with her visual impairment she had to contend with 4 years of kidney dialysis and a kidney transplant in 1984.

On January 1979, Marguerite woke up one morning and couldn't read the newspaper. She

said, it must have been an ongoing process, but all of a sudden it happened. Not only that, but on October 1980 she lost the use of both kidneys and spent the next 4 years in dialysis. She had a transplant kidney in 1984, a perfectly functioning kidney. “Lucky”. “I almost had it. I was down to 98 pounds. I have never recovered my muscle mass”.

“It is exciting to meet blind people on the air”. There is a Canadian group of blind operators who only meet on 80 meters. She is “amazed that on a one to one basis talking to a blind person, blindness does not make a difference. But, for example when going into a restaurant people talk to Doug and not to me. On radio it is one to one and no one cares if you are blind”.

Marguerite likes young people on the air. “Oh, I like old folks but young people on the air excite me. The future of ham radio is in the young people”.

Where do you want to go in amateur radio, I asked. “I get my biggest thrill in ham radio by helping someone else to get started in ham radio. My 10 year old neighbor's boy is ready”.

Marguerite's father continued to play a large part in her life. Marguerite made her father go take the novice exam and elmered him through Extra Class which he got in 11 months, October '85 – September '86. In competition with her father NU2I, he earned his advanced grade after Marguerite, but got his Extra Class before her. They worked CW on their twice daily visits. Marguerite used to copy 25 w/m but can now receive CW at 10 – 15 w/m quite easily without writing it down. As been her custom, Marguerite works 20 meters phone in the morning and 40 meters at night. This was a compromise arrangement between her and her father, a CW purest, who lived in Florida.

Marguerite and Doug helped give licensing exams at Kodak Amateur Radio Club WB2IMT. “You must give something back to the hobby. Oh, yes – I have also given novice tests”.

I asked Marguerite of what she thought of the future of amateur radio. “Scary! CW's future is going downhill. Canadian hams don't need to know CW. US hams will soon be demanding the same privileges”. She sees the future for “no-coders” as good. “That is the difference that sets ‘no-coders’ from CB operators, ‘no-coders’ work for their license”.

Marguerite has won many awards. In 1991 and 1992 she was awarded the best score in YL contesting. In January 1992 won single operator, medium power VHF 6m through 1.2 GHz.

Marguerite and Doug are never without their handheld. She enjoys them very much.

If the truth were known, 85% of buying their new home is because of it's application to amateur radio. They own 15 acres, known as Quail Hill and no one will notice a tower. There are no line noises. She receives signals on 12.96 microwave from state of Michigan on sideband, clear and solid. Radio heaven. Not like Scottsville where she formerly lived.

Joe, her only child was born Thursday, May 14, 1987. She missed the Rochester Hamfest, the first one since becoming a novice. Marguerite was born in Hilton, raised in Scottsville and went to nursing school in Buffalo. She was awarded a degree as a Registered Nurse in 1974. There she worked in intensive care nursing until January 1979. She worked a few years at Park Ridge and about 2 years in Georgetown University Hospital and still in intensive care unit. Her reason for working in intensive care units, "I enjoyed the challenge".

Marguerite has found the Rochester area is a lot friendlier than some areas she has traveled and on VHF and UHF.

We should stick together if we are to accomplish anything. We should eliminate the bricking. Marguerite received a call from a lady who had been listening on a scanner. But a lot of people have differences of opinion and that is OK, but the waring between individuals is detrimental to the service and to the public. Other people are listening to the ham radio bands.

Special talents, she still has the concept of colors. Nicknacks was a big part of her life. Now it doesn't mean much along with crocket ties, meal spots on pants or messy hair. In situations where there is no background feedback, such as Monty Python where it is all action, I loose it. But, a serious drama! Words are more important than action. She has found that she can listen to people talking, but when people talk no one is listening, and no one is listening to each other.

"Blind people must listen. They must be communicators. People talk at each other and not hearing what the other is saying.

There are a lot of experts in ham radio, but very few who know much about any one subject".

Some blind people are offended by being called blind. Canadians prefer to be called 'white caners'. *visually impaired*".

Marguerite knows a blind and deaf lady who lives in Massachusetts who has a severe equilibrium problem. She must crawl to move from place to place. She copies CW by putting her finger on a

speaker to feel the vibration of the CW signal. Communication with people by CW, touch-short touch and long touch. "Tenacity". Marguerite "feels she can speak for all the blind community in that they all want to be treated as equal as you and I. They want an equal chance to do things. We are just as intelligent, etc., as anyone".

The winds on Quail Hill were quiet, the glow of the oil lamp was still warm, the evening was getting late and still the glow from Marguerite face never changed.

For those new and old ham operators who need to break the ice on getting on the air give a call to Marguerite, NU2U. You will find her on 2 meters, 146.79 repeater and/or on her own repeater on 224.46 MHz. She has not lost her gentle qualities she has practiced as a RN. Your will be glad you did. Besides, she would be delighted to meet you.

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