



the RARa RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 46

FEBRUARY 1994

NO. 6

MEETING NOTICE

Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road
(corner of East Henrietta Road and
Leigh Station Road)

February 4th
8:00 p.m.

IS AMATEUR RADIO HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH?

We have all seen and heard on TV and read the printed articles about Cellular phones causing cancer in the users. The same may be true about our portables or the high powered rigs sitting next to the operating desk.

At the February meeting we will find out if any of this propaganda is true, from our speaker, Professor Skuse, from the University of Rochester. He teaches a course on this subject, and therefore might be considered a local expert. He will speak on the subject "*The Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Radiation, 60 Hz to Ultraviolet Light*". He will present the latest research on the subject, along with the effects on the human body, all in LAYMANS TERMS. Oh, in case all of this sounds like you may be getting over your head, Professor Skuse is better known in the Amateur World as Gary, KA1NJL, mostly of packet fame.

Come to the meeting, same time, same place, and find out if you really need to think about selling your rigs! Also, think about how long a dipole should be to pickup a signal whose wavelength is 400×10^{-9} meters. ??? See you there. RH

SILENT KEY

MERTON COLLIER
N2BXX
December 23, 1993

RaRa CODE AND THEORY CLASSES START FEBRUARY 21st

RaRa is pleased to announce the formation of its Spring 1994 Code and Theory Classes for our 37th year of teaching. Classes will be offered for Novice, Technician, General and Advanced.

If you are interested in either the General or Advanced class please call ahead and leave a message on the RaRa phone. The phone number is 442-0587.

Spring registration will be held at 111 Westfall Road at 7:00 p.m. The first session will start after all are registered. The classes normally start at 7:30 p.m. and last until 9:30 p.m. each Monday evening and will run until May 9. A testing session is planned on May 16 for Novice and Technician students.

The total cost for the program, including registration is \$14.00 for Novice and Technician and \$10.00 for General and Advanced. If you are not a current member of RaRa please add \$6.00 if unlicensed, add \$10.00 if licensed to the above figures. This will cover your membership in RaRa.

Our teaching team looks forward to seeing you on February 21. RaRa will be holding registration at 111 Westfall Road, even though this is a holiday. See you there.

FAMILY FUN AT THE WINTER CARNIVAL

The time for this year's Winter Carnival is rapidly approaching. Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, February 12, and join us at Hopkins Point Lodge at Mendon Ponds Park for a day of fun for the whole family.

The Winter Carnival is a great cure for cabin fever that plagues those of us who live from baseball season to baseball season, so bring everybody! Since no one can predict what the weather will be, we are planning both indoor and outdoor activities, as well as a new attraction this year.

(Continued on next page.)

the **RARA RAG**

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Amateur Radio News Service

Of course, the annual dessert bake-off is part of the festivities, with prizes for the top three desserts (by the way, where do I get an application to be a judge?). Be sure to have the kids bring sleds; last year we had world class sledding conditions. If you didn't get a chance to see the world's biggest kid tumbling down on his diminutive sled last year, keep an eye on Keith F. This time for some real entertainment!

As a new attraction, the fine folks from Heberle Stables will provide a horse-drawn hayrides through the park. They've promised some beautiful and friendly horses that will give the image of a postcard against the clean snow at the park. When you return, help yourself to hot dogs, hamburgers, hot chili con carne or chicken soup from the well-practiced (and still practicing) ladle of Dick Goslee. Or enjoy a hot chocolate and warm up by the roaring fire inside the lodge. There will be indoor games and prizes for the young ones as they warm their noses and toes.

The Carnival runs from 12 Noon until about 6 p.m. (local time, for your DXers). Cost for the event is two dollars per adult and one dollar for each child with a maximum charge of five dollars per family. (As of this writing, we are considering a heavy surcharge for adults who DON'T bring young ones!) If you need directions to the site of the Winter Carnival, call any board member.

As a special reminder, everyone who attends is eligible to enter the dessert 'bake-off'. Enter early and often for best consideration by our panel of eminently qualified judges.

WANTED: Photocopy of manual for Icom SM-10 Compressor/Graphic Equalizer Desk Microphone. Irv Goodman, AF2K, 671-4430.

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EDGERTON TRAIN EXHIBIT TOUR SCHEDULED

Keep the evening of Thursday, March 24 open for the family tour of the City of Rochester's Model Train Exhibit.

Completed over forty years ago and believed to be the only municipally owned model railroad in the nation, the exhibit has had some major improvements completed in the past two years.

The Edgerton Model Railroad features four separate Lionel O-gauge layouts, one for each season of the year. They have been the subject of many magazine articles over the years. The most recent inventory lists equipment on display with a total value of nearly fifty-thousand dollars! You may see trains you ran as a kid, or even more likely, trains you wanted to have as a kid!

Many hams cut their teeth in the principles of electricity by wiring model train layouts. Model railroading used to be a pastime that fathers and sons shared, and it's a great tradition to continue. Bring along the youngsters; their eyes sparkle as they see what marvels can be done with their own hands and some patience (rather than what score they achieve at Nintendo). Who knows? This could be a good way to introduce a newcomer to our hobby too!

Mr. Tom Herlihy is the curator of the exhibit, and feels strongly that the trains are there to be used. This is definitely NOT a 'no-touch' museum. He will invite you to push buttons and make things happen on your very first visit.

The exhibit is at the Edgerton Recreation Center in the City of Rochester. Take Lake Avenue north from the city until Phelps Street. Make a left and follow to the end of Phelps, two blocks. The Center will be directly in front of you; park in the lot to the right, then enter at the white door in front, then go down the stairs at your left. If you need, we can talk you in on '88. The city charges a small admission fee of \$1.25 for adults and 75 cents for those 16 and under. Those 5 years and younger are free. Please call Chris Reich, WB2DYJ, at 254-2906 to reserve space for the tour.

LICENSE EXAM TESTING

by Barbara, AA2CX, and George, AA2FO
CONGRATULATIONS ... to seven members of the amateur radio community who either got their licenses, upgraded, or passed exam elements at the recent RaRa testing session of October 17. They are: Vance Kannapel, Raymond Mattice Sr., Dexter Deeley, Duncan McNeill Jr., Richard Matina, Donald Yaxley Jr., and Edward Reno.

RaRa FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 4 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
Henrietta Fire Station
3129 East Henrietta Road
- 10 - RAPS Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - 111 Westfall
- 12 - RaRa Family Funfest - 12 noon - ?
Hopkins Point - Mendon Ponds Park
- 14 - Valentines Day

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Right on Rt. 251 2 miles to Canning Pkwy -
O'Neil Associates Building on corner
Right on Canning Pkwy to Ramsey Building

From Southwest areas
Take Rt. 64 to Mendon 4 corners (Rts. 64 & 251)
East on Rt. 251 2 miles to Canning Pkwy

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WHEW! THE CONTEST IS OVER! BUT, WHAT DO I DO NOW?

by Tim Stoffel, NS9E

The January VHF Sweepstakes has come and gone. Hopefully, you had a really good time in the contest. But, the logs from your operation are sitting in the corner collecting dust while you remember such trivial things set aside for the contest like family, jobs, etc.

It is important to get those logs ready for submission, and to submit them! Last month's article touched on some of these issues. I will review them again.

First, make sure your log is legible. This shouldn't be a problem for those of you who use computer logging. But, most paper logs I have seen over the years contain writing so bad even a doctor couldn't read it! Don't hesitate to recopy your log if it is hard to read. I always do, and I use the computer to do it for me. This effort is worth it, as it could save you lost points, or even worse, a disqualification!!

If you made over 200 contacts on any one band, make sure you include a dupe sheet with your log for that band.

Make sure your summary sheets are accurate and readable. This applies to both the ARRL and Rochester VHF Group summary sheets.

If you have access to a computer, you can greatly simplify the job of extracting VHF Group member calls from your log. A program is available for PC's and compatibles called GROUPER. It will find and tally up all of the RVHFG members calls in your logs. It is on the Vectorboard BBS (544-1863) in the VHF SIG. The program is easy to use and is complete with instructions and a list of RVHFG members. The title on the BBS is GROUPER ZIP. If you don't have access to a modem, you can obtain a copy by writing me or giving me a call.

You can find lists of Rochester VHF Group member calls on your local packet BBS, the Vectorboard BBS, or from your club officers.

All the Rochester VHF Group needs from you is the RVHFG summary sheet (Electronic copy is also on the Vectorboard in the VHF SIG), and a list of RVHFG members you worked. This may be on a disk (PC or compatible) as well as on paper. You can submit your log directly to the ARRL if you wish, but, I will be more than happy to mail your logs to the league for you, if you include them with your Rochester VHF Group entry. Just remember, the deadline is MID-NIGHT on FEBRUARY 14, 1994. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

You can mail or drop off your entry at the address below. There will be some sort of a drop box by the back door if I am not home. But, it would be best to call ahead to see if I am home. If I am home, I can take a quick look at your entry to make sure it's complete.

You can also drop off your entry at WXXI TV at 280 State Street. This is right across the street from Kodak Office. There is visitor parking underneath the new addition (provided your antenna isn't too tall!). If you catch me at the right moment (noontime or between 5:00 and 5:15 p.m., you might even get a station tour! WXXI is open from 8:30 to about 6 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

My address and phone number is as follows:
311 Cole Avenue, Rochester, NY 14606
Phone number: 247-4798 or 325-7500 (day)

PICK YOUR OWN CALL SIGN

ARRL Bulletin 116

The FCC today proposed that amateurs be able to choose their own call signs, once a new automated processing system is in place at the Commission's Private Radio Bureau.

Under the proposed system, amateurs wishing to apply for an available call sign would be required to file a form and pay a fee.

Trustees of club and military recreation stations also would be eligible for the new program. Also today, the FCC canceled a rule it adopted last summer establishing a call sign administrator program for amateur club and military stations, a program that was never implemented.

The FCC said that at the present time call sign selection by new licensees was not feasible, but left the door open for that possibility in the future.

The FCC said that the new PRB computer might eventually allow amateurs to check for themselves the availability of call signs, and that the new system might be used to allow electronic filing of applications, making the process easier for applicant and FCC alike.

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AMATEUR RADIO SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer forty-nine (49) scholarships for the academic year 1994 - 1995 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of fifty local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds five of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining forty-four (44) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2000 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, on their nets, during training classes, and in their newsletters.

Additional information and an application form can be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1994 from:

FAR Scholarships
6903 Rhode Island Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purpose of the Amateur Radio Service.

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WE FOUND OUT "HOW TO"

The night was cold, windy and snowy, but about 40 hardy Hams attended the January meeting and found out how to make PC boards the easy way. THANKS to our speakers Gary Diana, N2JGU, and Brad Mitchell, WB8YGG, who were well prepared for the presentation, the magic of the whole process was very nicely explained. There were very few people there, if any, who did not learn something at this meeting.

There are others who deserve some THANKS also for their help with the proceedings. First, to Ed Gable, (the tower guy), who took the minutes when the Secretary was late. Second, but not in size, the video production crew, who taped the presentation. They are: Steve Verzulli, KA1CNF; Brad Allen, KB2CHY; and Burt Hineine, N2HXJ. These guys brought their own sound and video equipment to save for posterity this program. If you weren't there, you missed a good evening. Thanks to all who came and to all who helped make the meeting!

RH

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THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHTNING SENDER

by Bruce Kelley, W2ICE

Some of you may have heard about the remarkable achievements of old-time operators who could copy two different message simultaneously by writing with both hands, or the fellow copying in Spanish and typing finished, translated copy on the "mill" in English at 45 wpm - or handling up to 60 messages per hour. I have actually witnessed the last two.

The great operators of the past were landline railroad telegraphers, stock-brokerage, and Western Union employees. They used the original Morse code, whereas we use International Morse for radio. Fifteen of the Morse code letters are the same as International, while the other 11 are different, as are most of the punctuation characters and numbers.

Until the advent of the typewriter ("mill"), real Morse telegraphers copied all messages with pen and ink in beautiful longhand. In the AWA Museum are several examples of early telegrams. A good penman could write 30 to 35 wpm solid in deliverable copy, while a good operator using the mill could take 50 to 60 wpm without expending himself.

What's the trick? Copy behind, naturally. Most commercial operators handling straight text always copy about five words behind. Code groups is another story. This all leads up to a little poem I found about a "plug" who copied behind. The term plug was the name given to early landline telegraphers who blindly stabbed their pens at the inkwell. An early telegrapher never copied each character as received. He always copied behind, carefully dipping his pen in the inkwell - for obvious reasons if you've ever used pen and ink. Now for the poem about a plug on a dark night long ago.

THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHTNING SENDER

Up from his chair the other day,
A plug arose in some dismay,
To answer a call from a distant town,
On a wire difficult to hold down,
The office was warm, the hour was late
As that sender started at rapid rate,
And soon he was going like the wind
With the plug about fifteen words behind.
And faster and faster the dashed rolled,
And the dots like a torrent uncontrolled,
'Till through that office seemed to pour
Some sixty words a minute or more;

And there in the dim and waning light -
Driving his pen with all his might -
With lips compressed, to his desk inclined,
Sat the plug, twenty words behind.
Then swift from his pen the hot words flowed
Like chicken tracks in a muddy road;
And as he thought of his terrible need,
He scratched away at his utmost speed:
And soon on his face came a pleasant smile,
For he had caught on to that sender's style;
And as dots and dashes came to his mind,
He soon was not more than ten words behind.
Onward, still onward, at steady pace,
The plug surely was winning the race.
And when a long "special" neared its end,
He knew full well that the sender could send.
Sometimes ahead, sometimes in the rear,
At last every word to him came clear.
And when they got through, bear this in mind
The *sender* was fifteen words *behind*.

TECH PLUS LICENSES TO BE ISSUED

The FCC will begin issuing "Technician Plus" licenses. The FCC is in the process of entering the currently VEC maintained database of applicants who have qualified for Technician Plus by passing a Morse code test into their system. We assume that all Tech Plus amateurs will eventually be sent a license document indication this class.

The amateur community can also assume that there will be no immediate changes to the current six class lineup of amateur radio licenses. It has simply taken too much time, effort and government resources to develop this new system. VECs will eventually be able to file amateur radio Form 610 applications electronically (i.e. computer-to-computer over the phone lines) with the FCC in Gettysburg. VECs will simply call up what amounts to a computer bulletin board in Gettysburg to transfer their FCC Form 610 Application records. It will greatly speed up license issuance. (Testing begins next Spring.)



RVHFG 1994 AWARDS BANQUET

Hi all you fun loving and contesting Amateurs out there. The VHF banquet will be at the Green Lantern Inn, in Fairport. This Registered Historic Landmark is at 99 South Main Street (223-0556). It is next to the corner, on Rt 31F (S. Main Street), and Rt 250 (Nine Mile Point Road/Fairport Road). It is the four corners of Fairport. The dinner will be a sit down (dinner served) for \$14.00 per person. Our choices of food will be London Broil, Roast Turkey Breast, and Sole Amandine (fish to most of us). We will meet and greet a little after 6 p.m. and eat around 7 p.m.

Our banquet will be the 23 of April. This Saturday nite is a great gift for us, as the Dayton Hamfest is the following week, confirmed for 28, 29, 30, and May 1st.

I don't think there will a guest limit as the downstairs room will hold about 200 people. There will be a cut off date for tickets, when I know that date. Hopefully the tickets will be for sale at the January RVHFG meeting (1994 that is).

If there is a Diskjockey or group out there among us, who can perform that evening, please let me know. I mention this because it will be a great opportunity (at no cost to you) to practice in front of a live (I hope) group (consider this a big time hint) give me a call (229-5470).

Len, WA2ZNC, and Marian, KB2KJV

TWO MORE ASTRONAUTS PASS NO-CODE LICENSE

Two more astronauts, Charles F. Bolden, Jr., (Commander) and Ronald M. Sega (Mission Specialist) have passed their No-Code Technician amateur radio operator license requirements at a W5YI-VEC coordinated test session held in Houston, Texas, on November 26th. They are due to lift off aboard the Space Shuttle Discover on January 27, 1994 from Cape Kennedy. STS-60 is the first joint U.S. and Russian science mission. Aboard that flight will also be Sergei Krikalev, a licensed Russian amateur and previous cosmonaut who spent two periods aboard the Russian Mir space station operating as USMIR.

Hopefully Bolden and Sega will get their license in time - otherwise there will be no SAREX (Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment) operation aboard STS-60 since none of the other three astronauts holds a U.S. ham ticket and no reciprocal operating agreement exists between Russia and the U.S. (We Federal Expressed the Form 610 application paperwork to Gettysburg along with a letter pleading for expedited handling.)

Tnx W5YI Report

1994 HAMFEST CALENDAR

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Jan 15 | Skyline ARC - Marathon, NY |
| *Jan 23 | Columbia Area ARC -
Lancaster, PA |
| *Jan 30 | Maryland Mobileers -
Odenton, MD |
| Feb 20 | Cumberland Co. ARS -
Camp Hill, PA |
| *Feb 26 | Appalachian ARG - Lebanon, PA |
| *Mar 5 | Shore Points ARC - Absecon, NJ |
| Mar 13 | York Springfest - York, PA |
| *Mar 20 | Two Rivers ARC -
Monroeville, PA |
| *Mar 26-27 | Baltimore ARC - Timonium, MD |
| *Apr 10 | Penn-Del ARC - New Castle, DE |
| *May 15 | Warminster ARC -
Wrightstown, PA |
| *May 20-22 | Rochester Hamfest -
Rochester, NY |
| *May 22 | Antietam RA - Hagerstown, MD |
| *Jun 5 | Tamaqua Transmitting Society -
Tamaqua, PA |
| Jun 12 | Hanover Area Hamming Assn -
Hanover, PA |
| *Jul 3 | Murgas ARC - Wilkes-Barre, PA |
| *Jul 10 | Genesee RA - Alexander, NY |
| Jul 31 | BRATS - Timonium, MD |
| *Aug 7 | Mid-Atlantic ARC -
Warrington, PA |
| Aug 14 | Delaware-Lehigh ARC -
Easton, PA |
| *Aug 28 | Tri-State ARC - Matamoras, PA |
| *Sep 10 | Radio Assn of Erie - Erie, PA |
| *Sep 11 | Butler Co. ARA - Butler, PA |
| Sep 11 | Foundation for Amateur Radio -
Gaithersburg, MD |
| *Sep 17 | Buffalo Hamfest - Buffalo, NY |
| *Sep 24-25 | York, PA |
| *Oct 23 | RF Hill ARC - Sellersville, PA |
| * Denotes ARRL Hamfest | |

CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Mar 6 | Central Atlantic ATV Network
Conference - North East, MD |
| *Mar 26-27 | ARRL Maryland State Convention
- Timonium, MD |
| *May 20-22 | ARRL Atlantic Division Con-
vention - Rochester, NY |
| *Jun 10-12 | ARRL NATIONAL CONFER-
ENCE - Arlington, TX |
| Jul 10 | Central Atlantic ATV Network
Conference - North East, MD |
| Sep 24 | Central Atlantic ATV Network
Conference - Dover, PA |

RADICALLY DIFFERENT AND STREAMLINED FCC FORM 610 TO DEBUT

A radically different and streamlined FCC Form 610, Application for Amateur Operator/Primary Station License, will debut early 1994. (The word "Primary" is a new addition to the form name since Congress has now authorized the issuance of special "vanity" call signs.)

The form will replace the March 1992 version which (although it carries a February 28, 1995 expiration date) may not be used. The reason is that the new form has been designed to integrate with the new computer systems coming on line at Gettysburg, PA next year – and an "over-the-phone lines" electronic filing system to be initiated by the VECs to an FCC "bulletin board".

The form does away with all the boxes previously contained in the Administering VE's Report which is now located near the bottom of the front side of the form; right above the VE Certification Sections. (This has been moved from the back to the bottom of the front side right underneath the Administering VE's Report.)

VE teams will now just indicate one of six (including Technician Plus) operator licenses qualified for. The word "None" was eliminated. Provision has been made for the FCC to begin issuing Tech Plus licenses once the new computer system is in place.

Also eliminated is the Current Station Location, Novice VE certification section, "Reinstate license expired less than 2 years" (now handled as a simple renewal), and "Change Station Location". The accompanying instructions have been reduced to two instead of four pages.

Tnx W5YI REPORT

CITY ANTENNA ORDANCE MEETING PLANNED

Back in May of 1993 I was granted a building permit to erect a 54 foot motorized tower on my city lot. In granting the permit I was asked to contact the amateur community and have them help the city rewrite the code. Due to job constraints last fall this was difficult to do, but I am now in a position to proceed.

Members of this team at this time is open to anyone interesting in serving, but preference would be given to lawyers and those that have done this in the past. I would let the team decide whether one must be a resident of the city.

Meeting:

Purpose: To organize a team to come up with a zoning code for the city of Rochester at the cities invitation.

When: February 17, 1994

Time: 7:30 p.m.

At: Bob Hunter, NG2P, 46 Linden Street, Rochester, NY 14620-2310, 442-7185, RSVP

