



the RARRA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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MARCH 1994

NO. 7

REPEATERS DIDN'T ALWAYS "BEEP", YOU KNOW

That's right. Back in the early days of repeaters, they did just what you might expect of them, REPEAT - repeat. No bells and whistles. Gee, how did we get along without all the message storing, time announcements and unnecessary stuff we now have on almost every repeater we hear?

Come to the March meeting where J. Michael Rink, WB2HYP, will show and tell about some of the older Western New York repeaters, where they were, what they looked like and a lot of other good facts. That's not all. He's a repeater man in every sense, with a network of his own, up and running. Come, see and hear!

See you at the same place on March 4th, at 8 p.m., for a very informative presentation on Repeaters, 6 meter, 2 meter, 450-10 meter linked and more. They "Beep". *RH*

STATE WIDE WEATHER EXERCISE

by Jim Reinhold,

Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness
The 6th annual state wide Severe Weather Awareness Drill is scheduled to be conducted on March 22. Communications exercises make up a significant portion of the activities designed to enhance both public and community response to severe weather.

Amateur radio operators provide a network of volunteer severe weather spotters through a program called SKYWARN. These dedicated people operate radio communications from weather offices during severe weather to receive reports from trained spotters in the field. For more information contact Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, Monroe County Emergency Coordinator; Gerald English or Patrick O'Hara, National Weather Service Office, Rochester or Jim Reinhold, Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Look for information on the simple steps that you can take to be prepared for severe weather during Hazardous Weather Awareness Week March 20 - 26 or contact your local Emergency Management or Red Cross Office.

RARRA MEETING

March 4, 1994
8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road

EDGERTON MODEL RAILROAD EXHIBIT TOUR

The RARRA Recreation Department has arranged a special tour of the Edgerton Model Railroad Exhibit. The tour will be held on Thursday, March 24th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (local times).

Details were given in last month's RARRA, but in response to a number of questions, here is more information.

The working layouts are Lionel-'O'-gauge, which was the most popular scale in use from the end of WWII until the mid-seventies. This is the 3-rail system you may be familiar with. Other scales are on static display for your reference. Here is a challenge: can you identify the very few pieces of 'S-scale' equipment on the layout?

See last month's RARRA for directions to the Edgerton Recreation Center. Because space is limited, we are making special arrangements with the tour guides to accommodate our large group. To do this, we need to know who is coming, so please let Chris Reich, WB2DYJ, know at 254-2906. Admission to the exhibit is \$1.25 for adults and \$.75 for children. For directions, listen to WA2AAC/R (146.28/.88) for a talk-in station.

SILENT KEYS

EDMUND G. SCHUM
W2CNT

January 30, 1994

WILLIAM H. POWER, JR.
W2SCZ

February 3, 1994

the **RaRa Rag**

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SUNNY BLAST AT MENDON PONDS

by Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

About 46 people turned out for the annual RaRa Winter Fun Fest at Mendon Ponds Park on Saturday, February 13th. The day was perfect for a great combination of outdoor and indoor activities including a horse drawn wagon tour of the park.

Indoor activities were centered around the cozy fireplace warming up with hot chocolate after sledding, wagon rides or cross country skiing. Perhaps the real attraction was the warm, caring people enjoying each others company and conversation and all the children running around anxious for their turn to go on the wagon ride.

I must admit I had two favorite activities that made the day. First was watching the smiles on all the children's faces as they joined in the Bingo game. Many of the younger ones were ably assisted by their parents. When the games were over, every child was a winner. The prizes were carefully chosen by Recreation Chair, Chris Reich, WB2DYJ, from a bountiful array of scientific toys from the collection of the Rochester Museum and Science Center.

A close second was the annual Dessert Contest. I understand that three "stout hearted" souls had the pleasure of being the judges. This years entries were all superb! As you can see the task of the judges, who are seeking anonymity to protect their waist lines, was not an easy one. However, after many minutes of huddling in the corner and many sighs of delight overheard as the judges sampled each offering, three entries were chosen as top of the day.

The three were: Smooth Southern Pecan Pie, by Deborah Resch; Succulent Summer Fruit Compote by Marian Gessin (KB2KJV) and Phenomenal Peanut Butter and Chocolate 'Phudge' by Laurie Miller. Congratulations all! I know there will be a line of volunteers forming soon to judge next year's contest.

As a postscript to the perfect day, I understand that six brave souls went off to a nearby sledding hill and proceeded to throw themselves down a hill or two. I understand there is a reward for photographs showing Chris, WB2DYJ, and Keith, N2BEL, "airborne" on one of their infamous flying tube rides. Let the editor know if you have one.

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Amateur Radio News Service

FOUND

One pair of child's white mittens at the Winter Fun Fest. If these belong to your child, please call Keith Freeberg at 458-8246.

NPRM ISSUED ON VANITY AMATEUR STATION CALL SIGNS

The text of the FCC's proposal to implement vanity (licensee selected) amateur radio station call signs was released at the end of December. Essentially the rule making provides permits:

1. Individual ham operator to apply for a specific available call sign which is appropriate for their license class.

2. Licensees would use a new FCC Form 610-V to select up to ten call signs in order of preference. (If all are unavailable, the current call sign would be assigned.)

3. Club stations will also be able to choose a specific available call sign. RACES and military recreation stations are not eligible for vanity call signs.

4. The cost of a special call sign will be \$70 for a ten year term. All Form-V applications with fees will be to a special address.

5. Amateurs holding vanity call signs who upgrade or otherwise modify their license will not be granted a new full ten year term. Their new license will bear the original expiration date.

6. All licensees will only have one station call sign. Their current call sign will be vacated (and immediately available for reassignment) once a vanity call sign is assigned.

7. The FCC will issue public announcements describing the vanity call sign system.

8. The current (no cost) sequential call sign system will remain in place for those who do not wish a specific call sign.

Tnx W5YI REPORT

MARCH CALENDAR

- 4 - RaRa Meeting - Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road - 8:00 p.m.
- 10 - RAPS - 111 Westfall Road - 7:30 p.m.

ARRL PUSHES FOR LIFETIME OPERATOR LICENSE

An operator license that can't lapse may be on the way if the American Radio Relay League gets its wish as presented to the FCC in a January 6 Petition for Rulemaking. The successful applicant for an amateur license receives a single document from the FCC, but it actually combines the operator license and station license.

In its petition, ARRL observed that although the amateur *station* license term is ten years – a period established by law – the FCC is not required to limit the term of the amateur “operator” license.

ARRL asked the FCC to grant the operator license for life. “The pressures of family obligations and business commitments often require individuals to forego amateur radio until a later time in their lives, and these persons should be encouraged to re-enter the Service when their personal circumstances permit”, ARRL told the FCC.

If the station license expires and is not renewed, a person who wants to have an amateur station would have to obtain a new station license and a new call sign, but would not have to appear before Volunteer Examiner for retesting. An operator license alone doesn't allow operation of an amateur station of the person holding only the operator license. A person holding only an operator license could, however, operate a station licensed to another amateur who holds a station license.

Tnx W5YI REPORT

M. ORNSTEIN

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ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The ARRL Board of Directors met in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, on January 21 and 22, 1994. The following is a summary of meeting highlights. Details will appear in March *QST*.

- An interim report and band plan recommendation of an ad hoc committee was adopted, looking to the early implementation of the expected allocation of 219 to 220 MHz for limited amateur use.

- The Volunteer Resources Committee was tasked with studying the feasibility of a system of technical awards to recognize achievement in fields ranging from design and construction to the creation of innovative communication systems, and to develop appropriate criteria.

- The League will file a petition for rule-making seeking to remove overly restrictive rule provisions concerning the use of spread spectrum techniques, and an ad hoc committee was created to recommend technical standards.

- The Membership Services Committee will study the possibility of relocating the 40-meter Novice subband. The committee will report back to the Board in July.

- ARRL Headquarters will begin to notify members of license expirations, and will include a Form 610 to effect license renewals.

- The Administration and Finance Committee will study the feasibility of offering group legal defense insurance to ARRL members to cover legal costs in antenna cases and RFI lawsuits.

- The Administration and Finance Committee was asked to investigate the development of a multi-media production capability for Headquarters, to keep pace with the changing technology in today's personal computing revolution.

Tnx The ARRL Letter

POST YOUR EVENTS IN THE RaRa CALENDAR

The closing date for the next RaRa Rag is March 11th. We will be happy to include your club meeting or event in the calendar. All requests for publication of club meetings must be made on a monthly basis before the closing date. Send your requests to:

Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP
80 Authors Avenue
Henrietta, NY 14467

1994 ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION AWARDS

The ARRL Atlantic Division awards are based on nominations from the Amateur community. They are commemorated by handsome plaques presented at the Division Convention, to be held in association with the Rochester Hamfest in Rochester, NY, May 20 - 22, 1994.

The Atlantic Division awards are:
"AMATEUR OF THE YEAR" – for outstanding contributions to the Amateur Radio Service by a ham from the Atlantic Division. He or she lives by the "Amateur's Code" and has a strong record of service to others.

"GRAND OLE HAM" – a lifetime service award for an Atlantic Division ham who is at least 50 years of age or licensed at least 30 years, and who meets the criteria for "Amateur of the Year".

"TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT" – for a ham or group of hams in the Atlantic Division whose technical excellence in any phase of Amateur Radio exemplifies "advancement of the radio art" in the service of others.

NOMINATE HAMS FROM YOUR AREA!

For complete information on how to nominate someone for an Atlantic Division award, send your request to Rochester Hamfest, 300 White Spruce Boulevard, Rochester, NY 14623 (716-424-7184). The nominations deadline is April 1, 1994, so send for this information now!

- NASA Television has moved to satellite Spacenet 2, transponder 5, C Band, 69 degrees west longitude, on 3880 MHz, horizontal polarization, with audio on 6.8 MHz. During space shuttle flights NASA Select TV occasionally carries Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) activity.

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ANNOUNCEMENT!

Because of on-going interference from propagation anomalies and other area repeaters, the **Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club** has decided to initiate CTCSS tones on their repeater. The repeater is located at the Canandaigua Veteran's Administration Hospital on an

Input: 146.220

Output: 146.820

This information is published for the general Amateur Radio community.

We will remain an open repeater!

We will use sub-audible tones, when required, to cure interference. We will publish all tones and control info so that all may enjoy the repeater.

We will use the tone 118.8 Hz. The DTMF sequence of 75* will turn tones on. The DTMF sequence of 82* will turn them off. Our existing IDer has been programmed to announce when we are using tones. We'll be looking into improvements, such as a voice ID system, and consider this a trial period. Those with ideas are urged to offer feedback to the Club.

Ed Mathes, N2RQO

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THE RaRa RAG YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable, K2MP

20 YEARS AGO – MARCH 1974:

The March meeting featured Bob Nezelek, W2CNS, from EDMAC Associates, speaking on a sophisticated linked repeater system installed for use by Air Force MARS. Linking all of New York State is the eventual goal. RaRa President Bob Lauzon, WB2NSD, reported that the Annual Valentines Day Dinner-Dance was a great success. Consuming three and one-half columns in this issue was a fascinating account of the first Radio Telephone talk heard from an airplane. Well written by Bill DeWitt, W2DD, this is still great reading and reveals how much for granted we take such things today. You could buy a SX-88 and HT-32 from the WB2QVC est ate for \$250. (The SX-88 brings four figures today - Ed) The FCC announced that they were planning on relaxing the rule which called for continuous monitoring of FM Repeaters by a licensed control operator sometime in the future.

40 YEARS AGO – MARCH 1954:

The meeting forty years ago was by Roy Duffus, who put on a slide show explaining the recent Brighton gas explosion disaster. The *RaRa Rag* of that period had a much different style from today's. There was much news of who bought a new car (Joe, W2UXP), who got married (Ken, W2UAD), who just blew up their 522 rig (Chet, W2VVG), who just sold their house (Pat, W2CYG), and something about W2ICE running *Kelley-Watts*. In a report on the first weekend of ARRL DX phone contest, it was noted that due to conditions it was hard to keep up the normal rate of 8 - 12 QSO's per hour! If you had a big antenna to turn you could buy a Prop Pitch Motor from Art, W2YGW, by calling Spencerport 25270...

NEW FCC FORM 610

The *Federal Communications Commission*, as of March 1st, will only accept the new FCC form 610. This form, dated November 1993, is the only form to be used for new licensees, renewals, changes, etc. ARRL members will benefit from a just announced service decides upon at the League's January Board meeting. ARRL Headquarters will begin to notify members of license expirations, and will include a Form 610 to effect license renewals. If you have old Form 610 copies stashed away, burn 'em!

Ed, K2MP, tnx ARRL Letter

CHANGE IN DXCC RULE 15

(a) Effective January 1, 1994, all amateurs applying for their first DXCC Award will be charged a one-time registration fee of \$10. This fee applies to ARRL members and foreign nonmembers, and both will receive one DXCC certificate and a DXCC pin. Applicants must provide funds for postage charges for QSL return.

(b) A \$5 shipping and handling fee will be charged for each additional DXCC certificate issued, whether new or a replacement. A DXCC pin will be included with each certificate.

(c) Endorsements and new applications may be presented at ARRL HQ and at certain ARRL conventions. When presented in this manner, such application shall be limited to 110 cards, and a \$2 handling charge will apply.

(d) Each ARRL member will be allowed one submission in each calendar year at no cost (Except as in (c) above, or for return postage). This annual submission may include any number of QSL cards for any number of DXCC Awards, and may be a combination of new and endorsement applications. Fees as in (b) above will apply for additional new DXCC Awards.

(e) Foreign nonmembers will be allowed the same annual submission as ARRL members, but they will be charged a \$10 DXCC Award fee in addition to return postage charges. Fees in (b) and (c) may also apply.

(f) DXCC participants who wish to submit more than once per year will be charged a DXCC fee for each additional submission made during the remainder of the calendar year. These fees are dependent on membership status: ARRL Members: \$10; foreign nonmembers, \$20. Additionally, return postage must be provided by the applicant, and charges from (b) and (c) above may be applied.

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DON'T SELL THE HT!

After sorting out all the facts, figures and just pure propaganda, I guess it's OK to keep on using your rigs just we all have been doing for years. Thanks to Gary Skuse, KA1NJJ, we had an informative peek at the hazards (or non hazards) of radio and other waves on the human body. He presented a number of experimental papers, by other people, which had the members present asking questions long after the meeting was over.

It was an interesting presentation by Gary and, in case you want another up to date meeting, make sure you get to the RAPS meeting when (again, THANKS to) Gary will tell us all about the TCP/IP side of Packet. *RH*

THE JOYS OF FM SIMPLEX

When you want to talk to someone on FM, repeaters seem like the natural choice. This is understandable. Repeaters usually offer wide coverage, allowing you to speak with hams who might otherwise be out of range of your station.

But repeaters have their downsides, too. When you and your buddy are chatting on the system, no one else can use it. Have you ever had to wait in line to use a pay telephone while the fellow just babbled endlessly? Well, then you have some idea of what your fellow hams are suffering through while you are enjoying your conversation. Your dissertation on the mating habits of opossums may be driving them up the wall, but they must wait until you've exhausted the topic. Of course, they can break in and ask that you take your discussion elsewhere, but most hams are too polite to interrupt.

Also you may want to discuss something that's a bit personal or controversial. Amateur Radio communications are never private, but hanging out your personal laundry on a repeater is the ham equivalent to appearing on the Oprah Winfrey show. Wouldn't it be nice to take your conversation to a venue that's a little less "open"?

Simplex to the rescue! If you and your friend are close enough to communicate without the aid of a repeater, why not do so? Just find a quiet simplex frequency and go to it. You won't have to worry about tying up the repeater and you'll certainly enjoy more privacy. There are plenty of popular simplex frequencies to choose from, so your chances of finding a clear frequency are excellent.

A word of warning: don't pick just any quiet frequency for your simplex communications. Just because you can't hear anything, it doesn't mean the frequency isn't in use. VHF FM users share

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their bands with satellite operators, packet enthusiasts, CW/SSB operators (the so-called weak-signal stations) and so on. Imagine the grief you'd cause if you struck up a conversation right on top of an SSB operator who was trying to make a long-distance contact. Or on a satellite frequency. Or on a packet bulletin board frequency. I think you get the point! If you're unsure about the activity on your favorite band, check the latest edition of the ARRL Repeater Directory. The Directory describes VHF/UHF band plans in detail. If you stick to the simplex frequencies shown in the table, or those listed in the Repeater Directory, you'll be safe.

If you prowl the FM simplex frequencies often, you will encounter some DX from time to time. FM isn't the best mode for direct, long-distance communications, but when the band is open you may be able to talk to other FM operators hundreds of miles away. It pays to scan the simplex frequencies from time to time. You never know what you'll find!

Popular Simplex Frequencies:

6 meters: 52.525*, 52.540 MHz
2 meters: 146.49, 146.52*, 146.55, 146.58, 147.42, 147.48, 147.51, 147.57 MHz
1.25 meters: 223.50*, 223.70, 223.80MHz
70 cm: 446.00* MHz

★ = National Simplex Frequency

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HELP WANTED

There are many interesting terms or phrases used on the air by hams as a QSO sign-off, such as "73". John, **WB0CMC**, has a favorite. It is "oscillator", meaning (loosely), "I'll see you later".

Another "73" replacement is "alligators", as in, see ya later, alligator".

Now we are asking our readers' help. We would like to print a list of such terms in a future edition of **HAM HUM**, either those which you use or hear frequently, or perhaps would like to hear. Credit will be given for those which the editors feel are worthy of passing along. They can be as *punny* as you wish.

It can be stated apodictically (I had to look it up, too. ed.) that this is one method of unleashing harmless ham humor in our hobby.

Please send your contributions to Editors, **HAM HUM**, 4520 North 62nd Street, Omaha, NE 68104.

NEWS BRIEFS

- In 1993 ARRL members sent about 7.25 tons of QSLs to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service for shipment to bureaus overseas. This was 2,182,000 cards for DX destinations. The US *Incoming QSL Bureau's* volunteers sorted just over two million cards in 1993, as well.
- In the days following the earthquake near Los Angeles on January 17 you may have heard or read about an experimenter named Jack Coles, of San Jose, California. Coles listens to the 10 to 12 kHz range for 0.5 to 2 second pulses and is one of a group of experimenters who think this may be a way to predict earthquakes. Coles says he's always been interested in radio and is currently studying for an amateur ticket.
- Shack in the USSR: Tandy Corporation has opened its first Radio Shack in Russia. The Moscow store, which officially opened January 14, is "identical in look and layout" to stores in the US, according to Tandy. The store is franchised to the Trident Group, a Florida-based international distribution company, and is managed by Trident A/O, a Russian company.

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HOW TO SOUND LIKE A LID

by Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

On two meters lately, I have noticed a tendency of people making a concerted effort to sound like a lid. Since this appears to be the new style in Amateur Radio, I thought I would present this handy guide to radio nerd-dom. The following is what I call: 'How to sound like a LID in one easy lesson'.

Step One: Use as many Q signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and are totally inappropriate for 2 meter FM, but they're fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really meant (i.e. "I'm going to QSY to the Phone"). Can you really change frequency to the phone? QSL used to mean "I am acknowledging receipt", but now it appears to mean "yes" or "OK". I guess I missed it when ARRL changed the meaning. Also, it's best to use OK and QSL together. Redundancy is the better part of Lid-dom.

Step Two: Never laugh, when you can say "hi hi". No one will ever know you aren't a long time CW ragchewer if you don't tell them. They'll think you've been on since the days of Marconi.

Step Three: Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like "destinated" and "negatory". It's OK to make up your own words here. "Yeah, Bill, I pheelbart zaphnix occasionally myself".

Step Four: Always say "XX4XXX" (insert your own call "for I.D."). As mentioned in Step One, anything that creates redundancy is always strongly encouraged. That's why we have the Department of Redundancy Department. (Please note that you can follow your call with "for identification purposes" instead of "for I.D.". While taking longer to say, it is worth more lid-points.)

Step Five: The better the copy on 2 meter FM, the more you should phonetically spell your name, especially if it is a short and/or common one (i.e. "My name is Al...Alpha Lima" or "Jack...Juliette Alpha Charlie Kilo"). If at all possible, make up unintelligible phonetic. "My name is Bob...Billibong Oregano Bumperpool".

Step Six: Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a wonderful memory test.

Step Seven: Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use "modulation" when you mean "deviation" and vice-versa.

Step Eight: If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, talking as long as possible before turning it over. Whenever possible, pass it around

a few times first. This will discourage the breaker and, if it is an emergency, will encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.

Step Nine: Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with a yes or no answer. Make it a question that will take a long time to answer.

Step Ten: The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the air. The amount of time spent on your speculations should be inversely proportional to your knowledge of the subject.

Step Eleven: If someone on the repeater is causing interference, you should talk about that person at great length, making sure to comment on at least 4 out of 6 of the following:

- (1) His mental state
- (2) His family
- (3) His intelligence, or lack of same
- (4) His sexual preference
- (5) His relationship to small animals
- (6) His other methods of self entertainment

Step Twelve: If you hear two amateurs start a conversation on the repeater, wait until they are 20 seconds into their contact, and then break-in to use the patch. Make sure that it's only a simple routine phone call. It's also very important that you run the autopatch for the full three minutes. This way, once the two reestablish contact, they won't even remember what they were talking about.

Step Thirteen: You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the directions are good, make sure you break-in with your own "alternate route but better way to get there" version. This is most effective if several other LID trainees join in, each with a different route. By the time the amateur wanting directions unscrambles all the street names whizzing around in his head, he should have been led out of range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around and help the guy get back out of town later.

These thirteen easy steps should put you well on the way to Lid-Hood. I hope these helpful hints will save you some time in your quest to sound like the perfect Lid.

● Beginning March 1 the FCC will accept *only* the new version of its Form 610, as explained in February *QST* (page 103). March *QST* "Exam Info" reprints the new form and will have further information on its use. Use of the new form applies to everyone, from new licensees to renewals, call signs changes, etc.