



the RARRA RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 46

JUNE 1994

NO. 10

BUFFALO HAMFEST CELEBRATES 5th YEAR AT ERIE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

HAMBURG, NY – The 5th annual Buffalo Hamfest and Computer Show returns to the Erie County Fairgrounds Saturday, September 17, 1994. As one of the largest amateur radio conventions in the region, the Hamfest draws crowds of over 2,500 people from New York, neighboring states, and Canada every year. Because of the dramatic attendance growth, we have moved to the new International Agri-Center building. The move to the new larger building will permit programs and volunteer examiner testing to be conducted.

The Buffalo Hamfest and Computer Show includes exhibits of the most up-to-date radio and communications equipment, computer equipment and supplies, and an outdoor flea market. A number of amateur radio and computer equipment dealers and manufacturers will be at the event. The radio and computer equipment and associated supplies will be offered at bargain prices. Computer users will find complete systems, components, disks, software, and shareware.

The Buffalo Hamfest and Computer Show provides a wonderful meeting ground for those interested in amateur radio and computers. New technology, equipment, and experiences are shared by those who are equally fascinated by amateur and short wave radio and computers.

Tickets are \$5.00 each available at the Erie County Fairgrounds South Park Avenue gate on hamfest day. Flea market tickets are \$5.00 for each 10 x 20 foot parking space occupied. Gates open at 6 a.m. for flea market setup and operation. The exhibits building will open at 8:30 a.m.

In the event of inclement weather, the entire flea market will be able to move indoors.

The Buffalo Hamfest and Computer Show is operated by the hamfest committee of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association.

RaRa PICNIC
JUNE 18, 1994
12:00 p.m. – ?
POWDER MILLS PARK
WADHAM'S LODGE

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the seven new members who joined during Hamfest weekend. At press time, total membership numbered 811.

For those who do not have a 2-ring binder for their 1994 RaRa Directory, be sure to bring your Directory to the June 18th picnic where you can have a neat plastic binding installed on the spot.

It has been a genuine pleasure serving as your association's Membership Secretary during the past two seasons. I have enjoyed the activity immensely and I sincerely hope everyone will continue their support and cooperation with my very capable successor, Alex Piccirilli, NV2Y.

See you all at the picnic.

– Irv Goodman, AF2K

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K2OIU
June 3, 1994
Past President, RaRa

the **RaRa Rag**

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.
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60th ROCHESTER HAMFEST LARGEST EVER

by Harold Smith, K2HC, General Chairman

The 60th annual Rochester Hamfest and Computer Show on May 20-22, 1994, attracted the largest gathering in the history of our organization. Attendance was 7,843. Although our area had a cold and wet spring, the weather on hamfest weekend was picture perfect.

The fairgrounds flea market filled nearly to capacity Friday. A limited amount of flea market space was available Saturday morning. Inside the Dome Center, exhibit space was completely filled.

Highlighting the weekend of events was the annual Awards Banquet on Saturday at the Marriott Thruway Inn. Three major ARRL Atlantic Division awards were presented by Division Director, Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC. The 1994 Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year is Bob Bennett, W3WCQ, of Towson, MD. The 1994 Grand Ole Ham is Dean Wallace, K2ANM, of Herkimer, NY. The 1994 Technical Achievement award went jointly to Bill Ferguson, WA3BXW, of Bristol, PA, and Jim Smith, K3ATI, of Newportville, PA.

The 1995 Rochester Hamfest and Computer Show will be on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 19-20-21, 1995. Mark the date on your calendar. Several exhibitors have already booked space for next year.

Because of our hamfest, the lilacs, and graduations, all area hotels were completely filled. If you have friends who will be coming to Rochester for the '95 hamfest, encourage them to reserve their hotel room now. It is easy to cancel a reservation but nearly impossible to find a room at a late date.

The hamfest is run by a dedicated staff of RaRa members. You can become part of this most successful group of people. Your field of expertise may help us become the most successful and best attended hamfest in the nation. If you wish to participate in planning and production of our future shows, call this writer at 716-424-7184 during business hours.

FOR SALE - 486SX-33 processor chip - \$80.00. Call Neal, WB2EKP, 359-2672.

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The RaRa RAG (USPS 605-440) is published monthly except August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., 24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, New York 14623. Subscription is \$5.00 per year (included in the \$10.00 annual membership dues). Second class postage paid in Rochester, NY.

POSTMASTER - Send address changes to The RaRa Rag, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, New York 14692-8333.

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Amateur Radio News Service

AMATEUR RADIO DEMO POPULAR AT SCOUT CAMPOREE

Over 1,900 Cubs and Boy Scouts had the opportunity to check out amateur radio first-hand during this year's Rochester-based Otetiana Council annual Camporee weekend held at Camp Warren Cutler Scout Reservation in the town of South Bristol, Ontario County.

RaRa members Tim Warth, AA2RS; and Irv Goodman, AF2K, prepared a demonstration and operated two HF positions for six hours under sunny skies on Saturday, May 14th. The hilltop site, adjacent to the camp's newly-constructed modern dining hall and swimming pool facility, provided a "center stage" location for the activity, especially during the morning dedication ceremonies which provided for maximum pedestrian traffic.

Utilizing Tim's callsign for the "Special Event", over 100 QSO's were made to 27 states plus a sprinkling of DX contacts, all of which provided some fascinating activity and insight for the scouts, leadership personnel and hundreds of visiting parents. All stations contacted will receive a custom-designed QSL certificate.

Our sincere thanks go out to the other hams who were in the area. Their input and explanations provided to the assembled crowds contributed to making the endeavor a total success.

ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION "TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT" AWARD

by Kay Craigie, WT3P

The 1994 Atlantic Division "Technical Achievement" award has been presented jointly to Bill Ferguson, WA2BXW, of Bristol, Pennsylvania, and Charles "Jim" Smith, K2ATI, of Newportville, Pennsylvania. This award recognizes outstanding technical accomplishments in any field of Amateur Radio.

Together, Bill and Jim operate and maintain the system of voice repeaters and packet nodes known as "BEARS", the Bristol Emergency Amateur Radio Service. The BEARS voice repeater system links northern Delaware, the New Jersey shore, the Philadelphia area, and New York City. The packet nodes are constantly updated with the latest software and also provide TCP/IP service.

Bill also produces Eastlink, an Amateur Radio news service heard on the BEARS repeaters and other repeaters as well.

Both Bill and Jim are known for their willingness to share their technical expertise with other hams and with clubs experiencing repeater problems.

The award was conferred at the Division Convention, held in conjunction with the Rochester, NY, Hamfest on May 21, 1994.

Patrick C. Moyer, N2AIW Attorney & Counselor-at-Law

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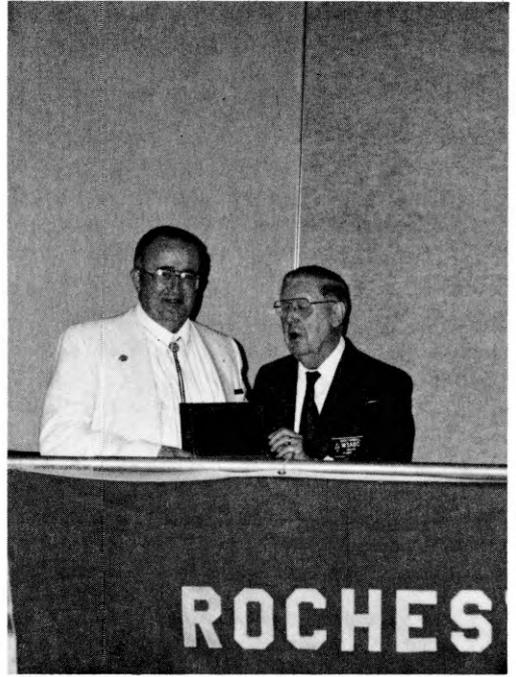
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Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, Atlantic Division Director, left, presents Amateur of the Year award to Bob Bennett, W3WCQ.



Bill Thompson, W2MTA, Section Manager, left, accepts Grand 'Ole Ham award for Dean Wallace, K2ANM, from Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, Atlantic Division Director.



Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, Atlantic Division Director, left, presents Technical Achievement award to joint winners, Bill Ferguson, WA3BXW, and Jim Smith, K3ATI.

ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION "AMATEUR OF THE YEAR" AWARD

by Kay Craigie, WT3P

The 1994 ARRL Atlantic Division "Amateur of the Year" is Bob Bennett, W3WCQ, of Towson, Maryland. This award is presented to an outstanding all-round Amateur from the Atlantic Division with a strong record of service to the Amateur community.

An active member of the Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society (BRATS), Bob co-anchors the popular "Answer Man Net" on the club repeater to help hams with technical questions. He has taught licensing courses and served as an Elmer to new hams.

Bob's particular technical specialty is Amateur TV, and he has operated the W3WCQ ATV repeater for twenty years. It was only the second ATV repeater in the world.

Bob also takes part in public service communications; he serves on the planning committees for several local events served by hams, so that Amateur communications (sometimes including ATV) are effectively integrated into management of the events.

For nearly ten years, Bob served as the Atlantic Division representative on the ARRL VHF/UHF Advisory Committee and served as the committee's last chairman. In 1993, VUAC was replaced by a new ARRL Spectrum Committee. In addition to being the Atlantic Division delegation's spokesperson, Bob was named chairman of the new committee by ARRL President George Wilson, W4OYI. More than just an honor, this position represents a commitment to hard work on behalf of all users of the Amateur spectrum above 30 MHz.

During more than 40 years as a ham, Bob has combined personal enjoyment of the hobby with service to others in a way that has earned the respect and admiration of others, in the Baltimore area and nationwide.

The award was presented at the ARRL Atlantic Division Convention, held in conjunction with the Rochester, NY, Hamfest on May 21, 1994.

Rochester HAMFEST

May 19-20-21

ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION "GRAND OLE HAM" AWARD

by Kay Craigie, WT3P

Recognizing lifetime service to Amateur Radio, the "Grand Ole Ham" award may be conferred upon Atlantic Division OMs and YLs who have been licensed at least 30 years or are at least 50 years of age. The 1994 "Grand Ole Ham" is Dean Wallace, K2ANM, of Herkimer, NY.

Dean is almost 95 years of age and has been licensed for 75 years. His first callsign, issued in 1919, was 8AAF.

Although nearly blind and confined to a wheelchair, Dean continues to operate on 80 meters and 2 meters quite regularly. He is known for his cheerfulness, kindness, and helpfulness towards others.

Dean was recently honored by the Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Club and local civic leaders for his lifetime of providing an outstanding example of the Amateur Radio spirit.

The award was announced at the Atlantic Division Convention, held in conjunction with the Rochester, NY, Hamfest on May 21, 1994.

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HOW THE DECIBEL GOT ITS NAME

In the early days of telephony, the engineers at Bell Laboratories needed a standard unit of measurement for sound. To accomplish this one engineer stood on one side of the room and held a small bell in one hand which he struck with an equally small hammer.

An engineer on the other side of the room recorded the amount of sound thus produced and the pair deemed this to be one "bell".

The bell, like the farad, turned out to be too large and cumbersome for their calculations so the engineers divided it into tenths which they called "Deci-bells". With usage the hyphen and the final "l" were dropped and we find it today in its present form, the "decibel".

Note: The source for this is my memory of a Bell Telephone class on transmission several years ago. If anyone has done better research and has a different tale, I would like to hear it. Sam, N5GIZ.
Tnx The HamGram

THE RaRa RAG YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable, K2MP

20 YEARS AGO – JUNE 1974:

The Rochester Hamfest was reported to be a great success where for the first time the Dome Arena was used for exhibitors. Many ARRL officials were in attendance including president Harry Dannals, W2TUK. The Amateur of the Year was Clara Reger, W2RUF, who was cited for her many years of dedication to traffic handling and for "Elmering" many a new ham in CW operations. Planning a grand RaRa picnic were the ladies of RaRa: Joan Vogt, WA2YTK; Florence Kirkbright, WA2QXB; Onalee Gessin, Claire Young and Joyce Holdsworth, who added a mini-golf tournament for the first time. Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, Emergency Coordinator, reported on Amateur involvement in keeping Rochester General Hospital in communications due to a site-wide telephone outage. Election results yielded Joe Hood, K2YAH, President; Bill March, WA2CER, Vice President; David Holtz, WB2HTH, Secretary; and Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, Treasurer.

40 YEARS AGO – JUNE 1954:

Big plans revealed for Field Day where Bob, W2CZT, is firing up the 1 KW AM rig and NC-183D. For CW, a mere hundred watter and a "super sharp" BC-348 from Fran, W2QCF, gets the job done. W2ELX is providing the 100 watt 2 meter rig and 5/5 elements which really work at the 2100 foot site. The RDXA column reports W2SAW's nice catch, AC4NC, Zone 23 in Tibet. Earl Peacock, W2AXR, was RDXA's incoming Chairman. Ed Wendel, W2AKM, in his VHF Column reported that Chet, W2VVG, just put a pair of 826's on 2 meters and that Dick, W2OWF, is logging W0's like mad on 6 meters. Linc, W2QY, reporting for the Rochester Emergency Net, says that plans for a National Civil Defense test are being formulated. The test includes the scenario of New York City, Schenectady and Buffalo getting bombed! Masline Electronics, featuring Majestic TV, remained a long time advertiser.

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by Carlton Smith KA4VPM

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It's letter perfect in it's weigh;
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Tnx Bluegrass ARS "Qua/Ham" via ARNS

