



the RARRA RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 47

JANUARY 1995

NO. 5

IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT 1995!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!! This new year 1995 IS going to be a good year for RaRa and its members. Think of all the good times we have to look forward to. The regular meetings, of course, where we can get together for some rag-chewing and entertainment; the Winter funfest in February, with the chili cook-off; the annual picnic in June (when the sun comes back); and above all, the Rochester Hamfest, also know by other names, where half of the amateur community "Hams it up". Doesn't that sound to you like a good line up for the next few months? Hitch up the old horse and sleigh or put the snow treads on the car and we'll start it all off at the next meeting!

LICENSE CLASS TO START IN FEBRUARY

Another RaRa sponsored license class will start towards the end of February. These classes will be held at 111 Westfall Road, on Monday nights, starting 7:30 p.m. Watch for more details in next month's RAG.

RaRa MEETING

January 6th, 1995

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall

3129 East Henrietta Road

Live Demonstration of OSCAR

LIVE DEMONSTRATION OF OSCAR JANUARY 6th

It is our very special pleasure to announce the speaker for the January meeting, Walt Obenhofer, NQ2O (Not Qualified "2" Operate). Walt is a ham of many colors, having become proficient in several different aspects of the hobby. On January 6th, he will not only talk about, but offer a LIVE DEMONSTRATION of OSCAR satellite operation.

Walt has been associated with the OSCAR program and with AMSAT since the early days of the OSCAR program. He is proud to declare that he was the ONLY "200" special-callsign station active on OSCAR-13 during the Bicentennial celebration of the Constitution of the United States. He is looking forward to showing us how easy it is to get on OSCAR; most hams already having sufficient equipment - Really! he will surprise you. Hey! Bring a friend along!

Continued on next page

Happy Birthday

to

SAX RINGLER, W2SAW

90 on January 4th

First Licensed April 1921 as 8BLO

DXCC Honor Roll

373 countries on CW

SILENT KEYS

PAUL M. ECKARDT

N2OMP

November 14, 1994

MILLARD B. ROWLEY

ex-W2Y1E

November 29, 1994

RaRa LICENSING CLASSES A BIG SUCCESS

The Fall RaRa licensing class ended on December 12th with a testing session run by the RaRa VE team. We are happy to say that EVERYONE passed some element. Nobody went away empty handed!

We wish to congratulate the following people who will receive a new license as a result of the classes: Rodney Curtis, Nick Sirianni, Michael Sirianni, Rafael Perez, Joseph Foley, Floyd Lindsay, Arpad Sekeres, Tina Keenan-Falkner, Anthony Salotto, William Hobbs, Gregory Starks, Jeanne Feller, Donald Smith, and Mary Hanlon.

Congratulations to James McClure for passing the General Theory.

FCC CHANGES: Some done, some proposed

from ARRL Bulletin

At the end of October, the FCC today released a 7-page Order amending its amateur rules, effective December 20, 1994, to reflect what the Commission calls "nonsubstantive procedural changes":

Electronic filing of VEC data planned

1. To permit electronically filed data from VECs (paper applications also will still be accepted);
2. To authorize operation as soon as the new license data appears in the amateur service licensees data base, rather than (as now) when the license documents has been delivered (details of how the new licensee can determine his call sign will be announced later);
3. To add a new rules section, "Examinee Conduct", to emphasize that an examinee must comply with the instructions given by the administering VEs;
4. To treat "Technician Plus" as a license class;
5. And to provide for a "renewal short form" which the FCC says will be mailed to licensees in advance of their expiration date beginning sometime in 1995. The FCC added that renewal applications would be accepted no more than 90 days before the expiration date.

Because of the nature of these rule amendments, there is no notice or comment period required by federal law.

FOR SALE -- 486SX/33 processor. Upgrade that upgradeable motherboard. Only \$40. Call Neal, WB2EKP @ 359-2672.

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 - New Years Day
- 6 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m. - Henrietta Fire Hall - 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 13 - RAPS Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - 111 Westfall Rd

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

January VHF Sweepstakes
January 21-22, 1995

A NEW FCC SERVICE

from a September ARRL bulletin

The FCC has instituted a toll-free phone line at its Gettysburg, Pennsylvania licensing division for customers service inquiries.

Amateurs may call 800-322-1117 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time to access an automated informational system with recorded messages on interference complaints, form requests, records, and Amateur Radio call sign assignments.

Other messages regard fee information and processing times. A TouchTone telephone is required.

The FCC said the new service was part of its response to a presidential order that the federal government be "customer driven".

The FCC said it used a series of focus groups with external customers to identify the desire for an 800 number at its licensing division.

"Within the next 18 months", the FCC said, "customer service standards will be developed for other areas of Commission operations to ensure that the FCC customers receive the highest quality of service possible. As these new standards become available, the FCC will inform its customers".

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

General Legal Services
ARRL Volunteer Counsel Participant
AOPA Legal Plan
Masters Degree in City Planning

Day and Evening Hours
(716) 427-9907

2128 W. Jefferson Rd • Pittsford, NY 14534

ROCHESTER CUP RULES ANNOUNCED!!

The rules for the 1995 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.

Last year's rule changes were very successful. But after a review of the results, and talking with many of the clubs, two rule changes have been made for this year. You can now work each Rochester VHF Group member once per band or new grid, and the club participation percentage has been removed!

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 once per band or grid in which you worked that station. All ARRL and FCC rules apply. (This is changed from last year.) (A list of RVHFG members will be available on 1-5-95, 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). Example: the XYZ amateur radio club submitted 12 logs with a total of 483 RVHFG contacts. This 483 points is your club score! (This is a change from last year.)
6. The club with the largest club score is the winner. In the event of a tie, the winner will be the club that submitted the most logs, then the largest normal score, then by random selection.
7. Any club that wins the Cup three years in a row will retire that Cup.
8. Entries must be received by Friday, February 10, 1995. 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 in on 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. Even a few QSO's can make a big difference if everyone submits a log! Joining the Rochester VHF Group will give more potential stations to work, and we will 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 13 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! There are also a number of other nifty contest related programs included on this disk, including GROUP2, the official Rochester Cup scoring program, and the VHF COMPANION, a log analysis program by Harry Hoffman, KA2ENE! (New VHF Group members need to attend a Rochester VHF Group club meeting between now and January 13 if they wish to assist in the VHF Group's national club effort. -- Dates: December 9 and January 13. Meetings are at the Monroe County Social Services building, 111 Westfall Road in Rochester. All meetings start at 7:30.)

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. Awards provided will be based on the amount of competition in each category, unless specifically mentioned otherwise. You may compete for as many awards as apply to your situation.

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.

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 1/2 pound candy bar. The first place winner will receive a one pound candy bar, and so will the youngest entrant!

FM ONLY FIXED

Operate a single-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! You may use other modes in the contest, but don't include those points on your Rochester VHF Group summary sheet.

FM ONLY H/T

Operate a single-operator station using an H/T. No outdoor antennas (except on vehicles) may be used. You may use your H/T outdoors, but the antenna used must be of a type normally used with an H/T. (i.e. a duck or a short whip antenna.) You may use a power source other than the H/T's internal battery. External preamps or power amps may not be used.

FM ONLY ROVER

Operator 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 still the fastest way to build a big score! ARRL rover and scoring rules apply. YOU MUST SIGN/ROVER AFTER YOUR CALL.

WORKED MOST RVHFG MEMBERS

This is an outgrowth of the Rochester Cup competition. Single-operator stations try to work as many Rochester VHF Group members as possible. Now, you can work each RVHFG member once per band/grid for credit! The scores you submit for the Rochester Cup is your score for this category. (An official membership list will be issued on January 15, 1995. See the Rochester Cup rules for more details.) Separate awards will be awarded for those who are not members of the Rochester VHF Group, and those who are members.

As you can see, there are many categories available in which to earn awards. Get 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.
9. A copy of the official ARRL rules.

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

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

Space does not permit going over every possible detail of VHF contesting. If you have any questions about VHF contesting, don't hesitate to contact:

Tim Stoffel, NS9E, RVHF Contest Chairman
311 Cole Avenue
Rochester, NY 14606-3808
716-247-4798 (after 9 p.m.) or 325-7500 days
Packet BBS: WB2WXQ or I have a personal mailbox that sits on 145.03 in Gates.

RAMSEY

Open
Saturdays
10 AM-2 PM

SURPLUS OUTLET STORE

- Complete line of cable and connectors
- ARRL Publications
- Component parts
- Complete Ramsey kit line
- Large selection of coils and other hard to find RF parts
- Consignment sales
- Plus the usual surplus goodies

Only 15 minutes from Rochester in Victor

DIRECTIONS

From 490 West (thruway Exit 45)

Exit 490 West at last exit - Rt. 96

South on Rt. 96 1 mile to Rt. 251

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

Ramsey Electronics, Inc.
793 Canning Parkway Victor, NY 14564
Phone 924-4560 Fax 924-4566

ROCHESTER HAMFEST PROGRAMS

by Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! 1995 has arrived and with it comes the new schedule of hamfests. If you are like me you have your 1995 schedule out and are marking the dates of all the hamfests that you want to attend so that they will have priority over anything else that comes along. Of course the main one that should be on everyone's mind is the one held right here in Rochester at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. That of course is the Rochester Hamfest and Computer Show combined with the Atlantic Division/New York State Convention. The date for this is May 19, 20, and 21. During this Convention there will be many great speakers presenting a variety of different topics. Programs I am sure you won't want to miss. During the next few months leading up to the Hamfest you will be able to read about some of the programs in the *RaRa Rag*.

To start with Harry Dannals, W2HD, President QCWA and President Emeritus, ARRL will give a presentation called "No Code-Is It Working". Harry has been collecting a lot of information over the last couple of years on the no code license and its effect on amateur radio. If you have ever heard Harry speak before you won't want to miss him this time. If you haven't, make this your first and he will make sure that it won't be your last. He has a way of making all topics fun and interesting to listen to. He not only will hold everyone's attention, he will be sure that when he is done everyone will have learned something.

Ellen White, W1YL/4 will be joining us from Florida. Ellen is a former DX Editor of *QST* and a 26 year ARRL Headquarters veteran. She will be putting on a program that will knock everyone's socks off. "Surviving Hurricane Andrew and Hillsborough County Tower Wars" is the topic. It is hard to believe what it is like to live through a hurricane and lose everything or see those around you lose everything. Many of us have worked the hurry-cane nets to help give a hand when a disaster strikes. Working it from the end where the disaster occurs is another story, one worth hearing.

The 3rd Annual Atlantic Division Conference will be held on Friday afternoon. Bernard Fuller, N3EFN, Section Manager of Western Pennsylvania will be the session moderator. Also attending will be: Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, Atlantic Division Director; Kay Craigie, WT3P, Atlantic Division Vice Director; Bill Thompson, W2MTA, Section Manager, Western New York; other section managers; along with all the Presidents and Representatives

from all the affiliated clubs in the Atlantic Division. The purpose of this meeting is to allow two way communications between the affiliated clubs and the League. Even though this is not an open forum for everyone it does not mean that you can't give or receive information through your club's representative. If you are a member of an affiliated club and have a question, concern, or some input that you want the ARRL to receive just write it down and give it to your club president. He should be happy to act on your behalf.

Watch future copies of the *Rag* to find out what some of the additional programs will be. There are many more lined up and some will be of interest to you.

FOR SALE -- Antenna system. 45' aluminum crank up tower, five element tri-band yagi, Ham-M rotor, 80/40 Mtr dipoles. See it in Spencerport. Price reduced to \$550.00. BARGAIN PRICE. You take down - easy. Call Ed, K2MP, 392-3088, for details.

SNYDER AND SNYDER **Attorneys at Law**

Accidental Injuries
Wills & Estates
Social Security Disability
Real Estate
Divorce
Adoptions
Stock Broker Liability
Securities Arbitration

Discount for Licensed Amateurs

Paul I. Snyder
Jeanette F. Snyder
Sherwood M. Snyder, W2KFU

(716) 546-7258

183 E. Main St.
Suite 1024
Rochester, NY 14604-1681

HISTORIC TRANSMITTER ON-THE-AIR

by Ed Gable, K2MP

It was Sunday at four o'clock in the afternoon, the frequency was 3870 Kcs, it was a quiet frequency - normal for 75 Mtrs in the afternoon. You didn't have to tune your receiver very closely, the expected signal was going to be 6 Kcs wide. The big hand on the clock hit 12, the S-meter hit the pin! W2AN was on-the-air.

The Antique Wireless Association, after working for almost a year to restore a famous 1 Kw AM amateur phone station from the mid-thirties, started their long awaited special event station activity. This writer, having been contact #3 with my venerable AM transmitter, sat back in amazement for the next three hours as contact after contact was made as fast as the logger could keep up. Where did all those AM stations come from? Some sounded great, like VE3HC's converted broadcast transmitter with four 833's, (I guess Canadian power laws are different) all the way down to 5 watters being heard from New England.

The eagerly awaited event by AWA'ers and other nostalgic radio buffs was the restoration of James Millen's personal transmitter and receiver. Millen, W1HRX, the designer of the famous National HRO receiver and other notable equipment, followed by the formation of the James Millen Company after leaving National, donated the transmitter to the AWA shortly before his death 2 years ago. The transmitter was on quiet display at the AWA annex until seen by broadcast equipment en-engineer Bob Raide, W2ZM. Bob said "let's put that thing on-the-air". And he did... The 1935 transmitter runs 204A's class B modulated by 851's. The National speech amplifier still works great and is driven by a 1930's D-104. The original 1935 HRO receiver was restored by Bill, K3ZJW, and works like new. A write up and photos of the station can be seen in the December, 1936, *QST*.

RaRa congratulates AWA for their nice achievement and showing many a new comer how it used to sound like. The transmitter will be used periodically and can be heard on 3838 Kcs at 4 p.m. most Sunday afternoons during the winter. What's next for the AWA on-the-air stints. Try looking for the IBCG transmitter used successfully in the first Amateur Transatlantic test in 1921. It WILL appear soon on a 160 Mtr frequency in your area.

RaRa HOT LINE
(716) 442-0587
24 hours a day

THE RaRa RAG YEARS AGO --

by Ed Gable, K2MP

20 YEARS AGO - JANUARY 1975

This issue highlighted an excellent article by RaRa's then PR man David Holtz, WB2HTH. David, along with Prez Joe Hood, K2YAH, made the history books by having Amateur Radio Week declared in Rochester. In itself not such a big deal - the way in which they pulled it off was. Attending the proclamation ceremony was Rochester Vice-Mayor Midge Costanza, along with David, Joe, Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, Bob Phelps, WB2DPT and Bill Landon, K2CBD. After the signing Joe picked up his 2 Mtr HT and called W3USS and was immediately talking to Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, and Congressman Frank Horton, both in Washington. This feat used the 28/88 repeater patched through to Bob Reifsteck, K2LZG, who used 40 Mtr SSB for the link to Washington. Needless to say the local officials were very impressed. In other news, the FCC issued the infamous Licensing Restructuring proposal, docket 20282. A number implanted in memory of any active ham of the 70's. More on that in future articles.

40 YEARS AGO -- JANUARY 1955

An article in this issue announced the formation of a new radio club in Rochester. Focusing on the historical side of radio, they are calling themselves *The Antique Wireless Association*. Big DX catches were VP8A (Grahamland), ZS9I and LU9 (Orkneys). The just completed ARRL SS contests had RaRa members as WNY sections winners; W2ICE on phone and W2YGW on CW. RaRa membership was 170 licensed hams at this time. In what appears to be the first of such announcements, RaRa scheduled an open meeting to any unlicensed hams who wanted to obtain information and assistance in obtaining an Amateur Radio License. Could this be the start of a 40 year RaRa tradition of helping new Hams? Sherwood Snyder, W2KFU, wrote an article on what to do if in an automobile accident while operating mobile. Still good reading.

BIMINI TOPS DODGERS

VORNRAN MARINE CANVAS
at Fabric City


Our Boat Covers Are Tops.

1800 N. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14621
(716) 266-6440

UPHOLSTERY Chuck Vornran
WB2OZS DRAPERIES

Advertisement

LICENSE EXAM TESTING

by Barbara, AA2CX, and George, AA2FO
CONGRATULATIONS...

to five members of the amateur radio community who either got their licenses, upgraded, or passed exam elements at the recent RaRa testing session of November 19. They are: Richard Mulvay, Wesley Mills, Michael Sensabaugh, Joseph Granita, and Jwu-Ming Liu.

Enjoy your new privileges.

OUR NEXT SESSION WILL BE ON FEBRUARY 18th, at 111 Westfall Road, starting at 9:00 a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

See you there.

BRIEFS

- The ARRL Foundation has agreed to match individual and club donations to the Archie Comic fund drive up to \$10,000. About \$19,000 is needed for another reprint of the comics. Tax-deductible checks may be sent to the ARRL Educational Activities Department at HQ.
- The ARRL's joint resolution supporting Amateur Radio was signed into law by President Bill

Clinton on October 22, 1994. It is now Public Law 103-408. More information was in November and December *QST*.

- Effective January 1, 1995, the FCC's maximum allowable reimbursement fee for an amateur operator license will be \$5.92, up from the current \$5.75. The ARRL VEC will charge \$5.90 to each applicant (other than applicants taking only Elements 1A or 2).

M. ORNSTEIN

WB2YYB
CONTRACTING
(716) 334-3258

Roofing

Gutter Cleaning

Residential & Commercial	Free Estimates
Attic Ventilation	Seamless Gutters

GLENWOOD

**594 HAGUE STREET
ROCHESTER, NY 14606**

HOURS:

**M-F 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
SAT 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

PH: (716) 328-1600

FAX: (716) 328-3630

WE STOCK THE FOLLOWING:

**AC CORDS
CAPACITORS
COAX CABLE
CONNECTORS
DIODES
ENCLOSURES
FANS
FUSES
FUSEHOLDERS**

**IC'S
LAMPS
LED'S
MOTORS
POTENTIOMETERS
RELAYS
RESISTORS
SCR'S
SHRINK TUBE**

**SOLDER
SWITCHES
TRANSISTORS
TRIACS
TRIMPOTS
VARIABLE CAPS
WIRE/CABLE
ZENER DIODES
LOTS MORE**

TRY GLENWOOD FOR ALL YOUR COMPONENT REQUIREMENTS

ELECTRONIC COMPONENT PARTS (NEW AND NEW SURPLUS)

- **LARGE SELECTION**
- **HIGH QUALITY**
- **LOW PRICES**
- **IN-DEPTH INVENTORY**