



the **RARA RAG**

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 47

MARCH 1995

NO. 7

ARRL SECTION MANAGER TO SPEAK AT MARCH MEETING

Our own ARRL Section Manager Bill Thompson, W2MTA, will address RaRa at the next meeting on March 3rd. While he was specifically invited to speak on the League's Field Organization, there are so many aspects to the League that we can expect almost anything to come up. I know from experience that it can be hard to get a few moments with League officials at the local hamfests, so here is an ideal opportunity to catch Bill up close and in person. Bill says that he hasn't addressed RaRa for a few years and is looking forward it.

Our February meeting was a resounding success despite the threatening weather forecast; we credit Bob O'Neil, KA2NBK and his more than able assistant Warren Boudrie, AA2LQ for the "most awesomely excellent" presentation of radio controlled model airplanes. I had never imagined that the early versions actually flew with receivers based on tubes! Their skills in modeling were remarkable, and the live demonstration of the working servos were impressive. Bob remarked afterward that he couldn't believe the amount of interest shown by the members of RaRa, to which I responded "I could!" As has become our custom, Bob was awarded his next years membership in RaRa as complementary. It seems that the RaRa members received the larger benefit in the bargain. Thank you Bob, for a world-class presentation.

SILENT KEYS

Charles D. Stoffel
WA2JTT
December 29, 1994

Robert W. Whitbourne
WB2RCA
February 7, 1995

RaRa MEETING

March 3rd, 1995

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road
ARRL Representative

LICENSE EXAM TESTING,

*by Barbara AA2CX
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 Jan. 21. They are: Kenneth Campbell, Bert McIntyre, Anthony Demma, Paul Norder, Norman Vaughn, Alvin Barr, David Curry, William Brooks, Gregory Van Scott, Enjoy your new privileges! One of the new license applicants called to report he received his license and call sign in the mail just nine days after the exam. Not bad!!

During a recent call to our VEC, W5YI, the good news was mentioned. Fred brought it to our attention that the successful new license applicant can call the FCC's 1 800 322-1117 number, 24 hours after he has received the electronic transmission from us, and obtain his/her call sign.

Did you ever think you would live to see the day?

Our next session will be on March 18th, at 111 Westfall Rd. starting at 9:00 AM, Registration begins at 8:30 AM.

See you there!!

Rochester Hamfest

May 19-21, 1995

the **RARA RAG**

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ROCHESTER HAMFEST PROGRAMS-PART III

by *Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU*

It is hoped that you are keeping track of all the programs that are going to be available to you at the Rochester Hamfest this year. Once again this year they will be held at the Dome Arena on Saturday May 20th. If you have been reading this article for the last couple of months you are aware that there is going to be a large variety of topics, something for everyone. In continuation of the last couple months articles here are a few more programs. Hopefully one of these may be of interest to you.

William Thompson, W2MTA is the Section Manager for Western New York and will be coordinating a forum for the National Traffic System and Public Service. This is a great place to be if you are interested in public service or operating in one of the traffic nets. For you Old Timers it is a place to find out about any changes that may take place or to get your two cents worth in about what you think needs to take place. It is also a great time to eyeball QSO's with the people that you talk to all the time but don't get to see very often. For those of you that are new or just thinking about how to get started in this area, this is the place to be. Meet the experts and ask all the questions that you have if it will help you get started. There is a lot to learn and this is a good starting place. Bill will glad to see and talk to you as well as the other Old Timers.

Are you a computer novice? Need basic information but didn't know where to get it? Well mark this program down as a must see. David Enright from Sound Bytes WXXI radio show will be talking on the subject. His talk will be geared for the computer novice so you won't have to worry about being bored with someone talking in terms that are over your head. Also, along with David, Bob Smith, Nick Francesco, and Steve Rea all from Sound Bytes will be broadcasting their radio show live from the Dome Center starting at 1:00.

RFI problems? We hope not, but if you are having any problems or concerns there is going to be an expert in this area to talk with you. Edward Hare, KA1CV from the ARRL Headquarters will be talking on this subject. He will address some of the common problems and concerns that all Hams run into and how to address them. Ed has done a lot of work in this area and has even held all day training sessions to help people eliminate their RFI problems. *Bring your questions and get the help you have been looking for.*

VOL. 47 MARCH 1995 NO. 7

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Amateur Radio News Service

Ham operators quite often have more than one hobby. It seems that model aircraft is always in the forefront of other hobbies. Have you wanted to learn more about this hobby? There are a couple of large clubs in the Rochester area. Their members are very active in flying all sorts of model aircraft. Join Robert O'Neil, KA2NBK and some of his friends while they try to draw you into flying. Bob will cover the different types of equipment that is used today to keep his planes in the air. This will include the transmitters and receivers as well as the planes themselves. He will have some of the equipment on hand for you to see as well as some models. You will learn more on what frequencies are used and how they keep everyone on different ones so as not to lose control of any plane in the air.

Be sure to attend the Hamfest and enjoy yourself. The dates are May 19, 20, and 21 this year. Friday will be for the flea market only. Saturday and Sunday the Dome will open for you to visit the exhibitors and see all the new equipment that is available. Of course the flea market will be very active those days also. Save your money and we will see you there.

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March Calendar

3 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m. - Henrietta Fire hall - 3129 East Henrietta Rd.

9 - RAPS Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - 111 Westfall Rd
18 - RaRa VE Testing - 111 Westfall Rd. 8:30 AM

HAM RADIO DICTIONARY

By Gary Shapiro, N16T

Ambrose Bierce, a misanthropic 19th-century writer who disappeared in Mexico in 1913, is remembered for stories of the dark side of human experience. His Devil's Dictionary contained biting satiric definitions. In that vein:

-DXers n: A group of like-minded optimists separated from their senses and by great distances; who employ grizzled technology to exchange superficial pleasantries more efficiently accomplished by other means.

-Flea market n: An event for the ritualistic transfer of electronic junk between participants' garages.

-DX net n: An on-the-air seance in which DX stations are reputedly contacted through a conductor or medium called a "net control." Only the medium can certify the contact, since the two stations cannot hear each other.

-Packet Cluster n: An electronic means of contacting DX stations without ever having to actually tune for them, (often using software to eliminate all need for operating skills).

-SysOp n.:

1. Person who controls a Packet Cluster node.
2. An individual chosen by God to rule a kingdom accessed via a 2 meter frequency. A SysOp may solicit dialogue from his wretched subjects regarding PacketCluster innovations or procedures, but tends to reject and punish criticism.

-QRM n: All stations in a pileup other than the successful candidate; i.e., what you were in pileup before the DX station came back to you.

-Hamvention n: a large tribal gathering of Radio Amateurs, identifiable by such artifacts as rubber antennae attached to funny hats. Participants often communicate via small radios, even when in close proximity, while engaging in such rituals as exchanging junk. (See "Fleamarket.")

-160 meters n. A special region wherein gather two or more hopeful fools for the purpose of listening to static crashes.

-6 meters n. A spectral region wherein gather two or more hopeful fools for the purpose of listening to white noise.

From the June '94 Northern California DX Club "DXer"- Gary Shapiro, N16T, Editor via the ARNS Bulletin via The Readout.

STATE-WIDE WEATHER

EXERCISE

by *Mary Louise Meisenzahl*
Administrator - OEP

The 7th annual, state-wide "Hazardous Weather Drill" will be conducted in Monroe County on March 24, 1995. This exercise provides an opportunity to test the alert and warning component of community emergency plans in response to severe weather. Alert and warning exercises are vital to public safety.

Amateur radio operators Ed Holdsworth N2EH, Stan Hanzen K2SSB, Irv Goodman AF2K, Don Taylor KB2BU, Chet Albrecht WB2MDO, and Stan Zack KA2U, participated in last year's exercise by providing a packet link between weather offices in Rochester, Buffalo, and Albany, our community Emergency Operations Center, and Strong Memorial and Genesee Hospitals. Their support and activities enhanced our local and state communication capability.

We encourage you to participate in emergency management communication exercises and in emergency management activities like SKYWARN. Please contact Ed Holdsworth for more information.

K2JD "On the Air"

The K2JD RaRa club station was put through its paces recently by participating in three of the major HF contests that are offered throughout the year. These were the CQ World-Wide SSB contest (Oct. 29/30), the ARRL Sweepstakes CW contest (Nov. 5/6), and the ARRL Sweepstakes SSB contest (Nov. 19/20). The station was manned ("personned"?) by members of RaRa and the Rochester Dx Association (RDXA), as well as guests who were interested in contesting. It was an open house to provide anyone with an interest in contesting to see what it was like, and if they were interested, to even get on the air.

The station was in the "multi-single" class, "multi" indicating multiple operators, and "single" indicating single transmitter. The new ICOM rig ran beautifully, and is a gorgeous piece of equipment. We operated high power, which you need to do to even get your foot in the door in some of these contests! (Local low-power champion W2TZ will argue with you on this at any time, however!) Logging was by the N2HKD-donated computer using the ubiquitous "CT" contest software written by K1EA. We also utilized the club packet setup, checking in to the NG2P/RDXA Packet Cluster and getting up-to-the-minute information on what other rare stations were on the air, their frequency, etc. It helped us snag quite a few additional multipliers, and we even spotted a few ourselves! We replaced the standard desk mike with the new Heil headset/microphone, which is the new favorite among contesters, and except during training or demo sessions, ran straight VOX. During the CW test, we had the WZ2B-donated MM3 Morse Machine memory keyer to help with some automated CW messages (instead of keying the interminable Sweepstakes exchange!).

The actual results were not awe-inspiring, but in truth were half-way decent considering the low key, training nature of the participation. We did our "familiarization run" for learning the station during the first contest, CQ WW. Vic K1JUL and George AA2FO got the station on the air late Saturday afternoon (which proved that we needed this practice effort), and we ended up making some contacts, but also wondering why things were sounding so bad. Later reports indicated that this was probably one of the worst propagation weekends in recent contest history! Anyway, that was probably fine since we were getting familiar with things anyway. We were joined over the weekend by Ian KE4LAV and Alex NV2Y. We only made a couple of hundred QSOs in 126 countries (over the 4 bands we used). And we took

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it easy by not putting in the traditional "all-nighter!" (Just as well as it turned out!)

The next contest was the ARRL SS CW weekend. This sweepstakes is a U.S. and Canada-only contest. Now, this was supposed to be a training exercise too, but this time it was purely code practice! Main point-getter (who did NOT need the code practice!) was Scott WA2LCC. Also there for the weekend were Vic K1JUL, Ian KE4LAV, and Dave N2TYR. We made 621 QSOs in 75 U.S. and Canadian sections for 93,150 points.

The last effort was the ARRL SS SSB weekend. We were more familiar with things now, and it turned out fairly well. Dennis AA2SU and Bill KA2WNS joined now "regulars" Vic K1JUL, George AA2FO, and Ian KE4LAV for a great weekend. We put in 23 out of the 24 allowed hours for 761 QSOs in 76 sections (couldn't get that last one--lots of others couldn't either!) for 115,672 points. Again, considering there was a fair amount of training and people learning the ropes, that's a respectable showing.

So what did we get out of all this? Aside from the enjoyment of putting a nice station on the air, it was a plain old good time, with a laid-back approach to something that at times can get a bit carried away. Did we accomplish what we set out to do? In a small sense, yes--we introduced contesting to some folks who were interested. However, a little larger turnout might have been nice. With just a few folks, you're involved in keeping the station going most of the time, instead of being able to stand back and instruct and point out things to newcomers while others operate. Was it worth it? Sure! And lot's more people heard K2JD than have done so in quite a while! Would we do it again? Well, see the next article!

73 es gud contesting, Via K1JUL

The RaRa Rag Years Ago

by Ed Gable K2MP

20 YEARS AGO - MARCH 1975: This month's meeting was devoted to FCC Docket 20282 which proposed sweeping changes to the Amateur licensing structure, operating privileges and testing methods. It was a hotly debated subject. Bob Lauzon, WB2NSD, wrote on the upcoming RaRa licensing classes to be held for the first time at Ray Roberts, (WA2SSU) Tire World store in Greece. Bob suggested upgrading and "locking in" operating privileges prior to 20282! RaRa announced that it had become a supporting member of AMSAT in recognition of their tireless efforts on behalf of all Amateurs in the OSCAR program. From the want ads you could buy a SB300/400 combination from Chuck, K2WW.

40 YEARS AGO - MARCH 1955: An interesting statistic in this issue revealed RaRa meeting attendance at around 125. The RaRa Directory was at the printer's being finished and includes 26 new members. The first weekend of the phone DX contest brought out VP3 and ET2 for new ones by RDXA'ers. 28 States issued call sign plates - not NY! An interesting problem is causing less and less activity in the Mobile Club. All those wonderfully designed and constructed mobile installations are custom fit into volumes of space in old six volt cars. New cars are smaller and 12 volt what to do ... From the VHF News we learn that Dick, W20WF, has a new 829B rig on six and that Jim, W2MHU, and Ed, K2EVJ, are busy building 220 Mcs sets. From the want ads, you could buy an RME69 for forty bucks.

Next Rag Deadline

March 12, 1995

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Jacket to be Given

Have you ever thought it might be nice to have a RaRa jacket but thought it was just not in the budget? There is an easy way to get one of your own at NO COST. (Well, virtually no cost.)

Here is how to get that jacket! Buy regular "award" tickets at every meeting you attend, now through May. Its just that easy! Nothing extra to buy.

Your monthly award tickets will be ALL put back in the prize drum for a final drawing at the May meeting. The lucky winner will receive his/her choice of any spring or summer weight jacket available through K2JD Engraving. Yes, any color, any size you need, and customized too. All at no charge. Just have your name or call printed on as many prize tickets as you can and, you are the winner.

Remember, every award ticket purchased at the February, March, April and May meetings will be eligible. So, buy lots and buy often to increase your chances of winning. Be proud of your club and display your call and club logo or choose a plain jacket in an assortment of styles and colors. Your choice, your size, your color, but only yours if you increase your chances.

*Good Luck! Keith Freeberg, N2BEL
Awards Chair*

YET ANOTHER CONTEST DEMO & TRAINING SESSION

The K2JD club station will again be on the air to demonstrate for anyone interested what it's like to be in a major contest. Vic K1JUL, along with members of the Rochester DX Association (the acknowledged local HF "contesters") will again host this "open house," and welcomes anyone at all with an interest or curiosity about contesting to stop by and check out what's going on. We'll try to explain our approach, what considerations there should be, and get into some on-the-air techniques that you will then be welcome to try, with some additional coaching as you desire. Basically, contest operating is an exercise in efficiency, and this is all we'll be emphasizing.

The station will be operating during the two remaining major SSB contests of the season, ARRL DX Phone on March 4th and 5th, and CQ WPX Phone on March 25th and 26th. Although these start on Friday night, K2JD will start operations mid-morning on Saturday in both cases (like we said, laid back!). We'll be on until quite late Saturday night if the conditions warrant it (that

means midnight or so), and then be back on around noon on Sunday until the end in the evening.

We'll be running high power to make getting contacts easier, and we'll use computer logging, packet, and so on (see report on previous K2JD contest efforts). Should you not be familiar with any of this stuff is NOT a reason to not come. In fact, it is the reason TO come! The whole point is to see some of the different things that are involved in contesting, and learn a bit about them. And it's not that you yourself have to have all this stuff, either. It helps and is fun to use, but you can do fine at your own station solely on improved operating technique. (Or you can have it all by signing up to operate the K2JD station during other contests!) So we encourage you to just drop on by. You don't need to let us know ahead of time or make any commitment. And you don't need to promise to become a "contester" either! Just check it out -- you might even think it's neat!

See you there? Vic, K1JUL

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JUST ASK A HAM OPERATOR -AND THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM

by Jack, KJ2P

On Saturday January 7, I received a very unusual communication from a fellow amateur radio operator in Winter Haven, FL: a typewritten letter. As he stated, we had never met nor had a QSO. The letter explained that he was trying to locate a cousin who he thought lived in western or central New York, who could fill in some information on his father's family. He also indicated that he had exhausted libraries, SS records, license bureau, vital statistics, etc. He suggested that I might get some other hams in on this fox hunt to find his cousin.

Remembering that we do the easy things first, like checking to see if the rig is plugged in, or that the switch is on, I turned first to the local telephone directory, and voila! I found the cousin's spouse's name. I called the number, connected with an answering machine, and left a message. About two hours later, I received a return call explaining that the long sought cousin was at a different address, and got her phone number. I made the call, and once again recorded a message. Since I had the necessary info, I called Irv, AF2K and asked him to send the info via NYS CW net Sunday night. The following evening, Art, W2YGW relayed a "thanks a bunch" message from my friend in Florida. That same evening, I received a call from the local cousin, who said she had had a nice long chat with him, and had been able to give him all the information he needed. She also asked, "how in the world did you ever find me?"

"VANITY" CALL SIGNS NOW IN FCC'S COURT

The FCC Authorization Act that would have converted an annual regulatory fee for Amateur Radio "vanity" call signs to a one-time application fee failed to pass in the last session of Congress. The bill, H.R. 4522, passed the House but failed in the Senate despite a concerted last-ditch effort by ARRL to have the bill considered during the lame duck session December 1. *Broadcasting and Cable* magazine attributed the bill's defeat to opposition (to unrelated provisions) by the National Association of Broadcasters. The FCC now is expected to introduce a "vanity" call sign program with a \$70 fee renewable every 10 years.

A NEW CB BAND?

Radio Shack, a division of Tandy Corporation, filed a Petition for Rule Making with the FCC to use UHF spectrum for a new Family Radio Service (FRS) "without the burden-some licensing and technical requirements of existing radio services". FRS would use 500 mW radios on 16 channels in the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) - a licensed personal radio service for individual use (FCC Part 95A).

GMRS has eight "primary" frequency pairs at 462 and 467 MHz for repeater and "direct" (simplex) communications, seven low-power, direct-only "interstitial" frequencies, and interstitial frequencies at 462 MHz in-between the primary frequencies, and interstitial frequencies at 467 MHz in reserve for advanced systems.

The consumer electronics giant called the GMRS licensing requirement an "impediment", however, and said the "ultimate success" of FRS "hinges upon it being an unlicensed service". Tandy cited the "significant cost savings" and substantial administrative savings" that the FCC realized from de-licensing CB radio. Tandy said the frequencies would accommodate a "large number of new users". Unlicensed FRS owners would have access to licensed GMRS repeaters, a proposal that could alarm repeater licensees. The FCC had not issued a rule making (RM) number to the petition at press time.

Tnx W5YI Report via The Readout

FOR SALE: HeathKit SA-2060 Antenna Tuner. 160-10 Meters, 2KW w/manual. \$150.00, Seldom used ICOM IC2AT w/battery & charger, manual. 2 Microphones, Low/Hi impedance. ICOM IC230, 10 watt mobile FM transceiver w/extra mic. Bencher dual paddle keyer, like new. Contact Pat Hoke, W2DN for prices and details. 865-4477

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An African tribal chief flew to the United States to visit the President. When he arrived at the airport, a host of newsmen and television cameramen met him.

One of the reporters asked the chief if he had a comfortable, flight. The chief made a series of weird noises which sounded like screeches, scratching, honks, buzzing, whistles and hissing" ... and then added in perfect English, "Yes, I had a very nice flight."

Another reporter asked, "Chief, do you plan to visit the Washington Monument while you're in the area?" The chief made the same noises concluding his response in perfect english by saying, "Yes, and I also plan to visit the White House and the Capitol Building."

"Where did you learn to speak such flawless English?" asked the next reporter. The chief replied with the same noises breaking out into perfect english saying..... from the short-wave radio."

Author unknown. From W30K Corral, newsletter of the Delaware-Lehigh ARC in Easton, Pennsylvania. Via The Readout

MAJORITY TURN DOWN RE-EXAMS IN VE PROBE

In June, the Federal Communications Commission gave 51 amateurs the choice of reappearing for examination or forfeiting the privileges they obtained through exams taken in 1992 and 1993. Of the 51, all of whom had taken exams in southern California, only three appeared for re-test, and all three failed.

The original exams were conducted at test sessions coordinated by the ARRL-VEC. A subsequent investigation by the ARRL and the FCC led the FCC to declare that irregularities on exam papers indicated fraud. In early August the FCC officially reduced the license classes attained at the sessions in question and made call sign changes, as appropriate, for all 51. (More information was in June *QST*, p 83.)

Tnx ARRL Letter

Rochester Hamfest

May 19-21, 1995

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