



the RARRA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 47

APRIL 1995

NO. 8

LIVE DEMONSTRATION FEATURED AT APRIL MEETING

On April 7th, our own Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, will be the speaker. Ed wears many hats, too many for me to keep track of, but one of the most visible functions in which he is involved is the director of K2JD Engraving, the outfit that makes badges, hats, jackets and other items for personal identification.

Ed will show all of the steps required to create the ubiquitous ID badges. From Ed's own description of how he is going to present the topic, it promises to be a VERY entertaining evening; I won't spoil it by letting anything out of the bag.

"Volunteers" (don't worry, they've already been chosen) will show the complete process of making an ID badge, almost from the raw plastic ore direct from the mines. This is a process only known by a few individuals, so this is a "must see."

If you belong to another organization that could benefit from membership identification services, why not bring along an official?

Thanks to Bill Thompson for the talk on the ARRL field organization at the March meeting. At least one member who had let his League membership lapse has told me that he intends to "re-up" in the ARRL as a result of Bill's talk. I have a copy of the Bill's notes and projections; if anyone would like a copy, contact Chris Reich, WB2DYJ. Depending on the number of copies requested, I may need to ask for the cost of the copies to be defrayed.

Bring a friend to the April meeting.

HAMFEST TESTING SCHEDULE

Amateur radio exams during the hamfest weekend will be at 111 Westfall Road. The exam registration will be at 12:30 PM, with exams starting at 1:00 PM. Pre-registration is requested, but walk-ins will be accommodated as space permits.

RaRa MEETING

April 7th, 1995

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road
Live Demonstration

NEW BINDINGS AVAILABLE FOR RaRa DIRECTORIES

For those of you that got new directories, and don't have binders for them, a new service will be available to RaRa members. At the April meeting, we will have a machine to put plastic rings on your directory. This service will only be available at the meeting, so don't forget to bring the directory with you.



"*SPEAK UP*" Cara Benedict questions astronaut Fredrick Gregory, KC5MGA, pilot of the Space Shuttle "*ENDEAVOR*", through Ham Radio operator Russ Harris, N2IZV. Students of Plank Rd. Elementary school in Webster, NY were chosen to communicate with a member of the shuttle crew on a one to one basis. Six of the seven astronauts on board had ham licenses.

the **RARA RAG**

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ROCHESTER HAMFEST PROGRAMS-PART IV

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

With each passing day the Rochester Hamfest for 1995 is getting closer. This years dates will be May 19, 20, and 21. Saturday the 20th is not only the first day that the commercial exhibits will be open, but is also the day that all the programs will be held. These programs allow everyone a chance to interface with people that have the same interest and to learn something new on the topic. This is the fourth article explaining what the programs are about this year. Each months article has covered something different so you will have to refer back to the past months Rag to review all topics.

Are you a new ham, just received your license and wondering what to do next? NEW HAM COMPANION is a program just for you. Glenn Swanson, KB1GW, is the ARRL Educational Program Coordinator and will be with us to speak about the many aspects of amateur radio. He will cover not only the parts of the hobby that could be of interest to you but also what it takes to get started in them, where to get further information and the equipment necessary. Other topics will be covered like the pluses of joining the ARRL and other organizations. It is hoped that this program will be an aid to many of the new hams just getting their license and also one that many old timers will enjoy.

Do you like to build and test your own antennas? Are you in the market for a new commercial antenna and are not sure what will best fit your needs? Clyde Blyleven, WA6ONZ/0, will be giving a program called ANTENNA DESIGN that is sure to help answer your questions. He will cover many different styles and designs for all bands. Mr. Blyleven has the background and experience to be called an expert in this field as he is part of the team from Hy-Gain Antenna.

Are you a person that is interested in history and old time radio. If you are this next program will be of interest to you. PEOPLE IN OLD TIME RADIO will be presented by James Hardesty, N2DRT. Mr. Hardesty has studied early radio signals and who was responsible for them as well as how the signals were generated. Signals were transmitted long before anyone could receive them. There will a lot of surprises to come out of his studies. Join us and see who was the real father of radio.

After learning about the antenna that you want to install you had better attend the next meeting called
continued on next page

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Amateur Radio News Service

ANTENNA FEED LINE, SWR, AND OTHER MYTHS presented by Edward Hare, KA1CV, from ARRL Headquarters. Ed will discuss the true story of SWR and what it means or doesn't mean to us and the antenna system. With the information that will come out of this meeting you should be able to install an efficient antenna system and reduce your chance of creating RFI.

There has been a lot of interest in satellites and different forms of data that can be received. If you are interested in this or are an amateur meteorologist then the program WEATHER FAX is just for you. Dave Schiwtek, NW2T will be presenting this topic to you and will have live demonstrations to view. He will discuss how Weather Fax works and how you can receive this data.

Once again the VHF/UHF MICROWAVE SEMINAR will be held. This will be the sixth year for this highly regarded mini-seminar. David Hallidy, KD5RO, Chairman of the Rochester VHF Group will host this years seminar. This is one of the most highly attended programs each year and is for everyone that has any interest in VHF and above. Meet with others that have the same interest from all over the Atlantic Division.

Scott Bauer, WA2LCC, of the Rochester DX Association will be the moderator of this years DX FORUM. If you are an avid DXer or someone that has an interest in, or wants to learn about DX this is the place to be. This forum is made up of a panel experts from the Atlantic Division and New York State DX associations. This will be the fifth year for having this great get together.

If you review your last four issues of the RAG you will have a list of all the programs for 1995. It is hoped that you will find this information useful in planning your time at the Hamfest so you can enjoy yourself every minute.

April Calendar

- 7 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00 p.m. - Henrietta Fire hall - 3129 East Henrietta Rd.
- 13 - RAPS Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - 111 Westfall Rd
- 15 - RaRa VE Testing - 111 Westfall Rd. 8:30 AM

EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM REPLACED!

EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM REPLACED! Twenty second tone gets reduced to eight seconds.

After more than three years of consideration, the FCC has acted to replace the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) with a new Emergency Alert System (EAS).

The digital EAS will work with both new and established communications technologies, including satellite, broadcast and cable, to make the disaster warning system more effective. The new EAS emphasizes speed, reliability, and efficiency.

The Commission said "...the new system will have the ability to alert the public more quickly and reliable than the old EBS and will reduce property damage, injuries, and deaths caused by natural and man-made disasters."

Broadcasters were required to take part in the old EBS and likewise must participate in the new EAS. The 1992 Cable Act mandated that cable operators join the Emergency Alert System.

The participation of smaller cable systems, satellite and other public service providers, however, will be voluntary pending resolution of a Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making adopted on November 10th.

Major new Features of the EAS include:

1. a digital system architecture that will allow broadcast, cable, satellite and other services to send and receive alerting information;
2. multiple source monitoring for emergency alerts;
3. a shortened (minimum 8 second) alerting tone;
4. automated and remote control operations;
5. a weekly (inaudible) test that is unobtrusive to viewers and listeners, as well as a monthly on-air test;
6. ability to issue alerts in languages other than english;
7. provisions for the hearing and visually impaired;
8. prohibition of the false use of the codes and the alert signal;
9. a mandated standard for sending messages.

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Radio and television broadcasters will be required to replace EBS equipment with EAS equipment by July 1, 1996. Stations also will need to modify their current equipment to decode the 8 second version of the present EBS tone by summer, it is expected that new EAS decoding modules will cost radio broadcasters about \$1,000, television broadcasters somewhat more.

Because the cable industry is new to automated emergency alerting, the Commission granted cable systems an additional year (to July 1, 1997) to install "video interrupt" EAS equipment.

The W5YI Report via Spurious Emissions

LICENSE EXAM TESTING,

by Barbara AA2CX, George AA2FO

CONGRATULATIONS... To eight members of the amateur radio community who either got their licenses, upgraded, or passed exam elements at the recent RaRa testing session of Feb. 18th. They are: Jerry Kvoch, Robert Powers, Jarred Jackson, Robert Phelps, John Krieg, Martin Williams, William Hopkins, Paul Norder.

Enjoy your new privileges.

Our next session will be on April 15th, at 111 Westfall Rd. starting at 9:00 AM. Registration begins at 8:30 AM.

See you there.

RaRa FIFTY YEARS AGO

by Bruce Kelley W2ICE

Even though there had been a war in Europe for three years, amateurs in the United States continued to operate until Pearl Harbor at which time all operation ceased. In June 1942, the FCC issued Order 101 requiring amateur stations with a transmitter to apply for a Certificate of Registration, an order in force until November 29, 1945, when it was canceled.

The first postwar band available to the amateur was 112 mc. which was soon changed to our present 144 mc. band. In November 1945, the FCC authorized WIAW to transmit announcements relative to amateur operation on 20, 40, and 80 meters.

A few American amateurs jumped the gun and could be heard, some without identification, while a few of the more daring used prewar calls. Tuning across 20, I heard HB, HK, PY, U, and VK's. It was frustrating to be unable to work DX legitimately. Then suddenly, all the bands were available. The eleven year cycle was favorable, and many of us were soon again DXCC on both phone and CW.

Radio stores with amateur supplies were opening, and there was much local activity including interest from returning G.I.s who had been in the Signal Corps, who were eager to join the amateur ranks. It was time to reactivate RaRa. The first postwar meeting was held at the old Powers Hotel at the corner of Main and State. The clipping from the Democrat and Chronicle tells the story.

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Radio 'Hams' Plan Reorganization

Following the release of the 10-meter amateur radio band after almost four years of government control, the Rochester Amateur Radio Association will reorganize for postwar activity at a meeting in the Powers Hotel tomorrow at 8 p. m.

New regulations and policies for the short-wave broadcasters will be outlined under the chairmanship of President Bruce Kelley. Officers for 1946 will be elected.

Heart Attack

At this time Western New York was in the 8th District and Rochester hams had W8 call letters. Since the 8th District was too large and the 2nd too small, the FCC in 1946 changed boundaries making

Western New York part of the second District. Those fortunate to have a call not assigned in the 2nd district retained their call letters. For example, W8BGN became W2BGN. I wasn't that fortunate with my W8ACY call, which had been issued in 1929, but was given an old 2nd District call that had been operative for a short time in 1935--W2ICE!

2310 TO 2360 MHz BAND TO BE REALLOCATED

The FCC has voted to allocate spectrum from 2310 to 2360 MHz for satellite digital audio radio services (DARS).

The FCC said the new DARS would allow direct satellite-to-ground radio to areas of the country and to minority and ethnic groups that are inadequately served by traditional, "terrestrial" radio.

The Commission said that service and licensing rules for the new allocation would be addressed in a later rule making. This was action in FCC General Docket 90-357.

Tnx ARRL Letter

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THE RaRa YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable K2MP

20 YEARS AGO - APRIL 1975: Talk about great timing, not only was April devoted to Old Timers Night at RaRa, but also the Antique Wireless Association announced that their new museum in East Bloomfield would be open to the public on May 4th. A half page cover photo reveals AWA's Maritime and Radio Store exhibit area. Another two full pages printed in full RaRa's response to the FCC to Docket 20282, the licensing restructuring docket. Looking back, RaRa's position on 20282 was mostly favorable, not a popular feeling with the majority at the time. However, 20 years later, many of the provisions of 20282 have taken place, only the names have changed. A committee of Harold Smith, WA2KND, and Bob Phelps, WB2DPT, is arranging for a RaRa Booth at the Monroe County Fair. PR and Novice class candidates were driving factors. RaRa also offered special group air rates for Dayton; \$61.47 round trip. You could buy a Swan 250C from Bill, WA2MCH, for \$350.00.

40 YEARS AGO - APRIL 1955: This issue featured VHF night at RaRa where members of the VHF Group brought gear to display. This was at the same time that the 50 Mcs band was opened to Technician Class Licensees. This really opened up the use of VHF. RaRa membership was 236 including new members Bob Tenney, W2SFA, and Paul Modern, K2GWT. There was much information on the May hamfest with Fred Halik, W2PFI, General Chairman. RDXA'ers were all chasing YN0 for a new country. Ray, W2SNI, was burning holes in the ether with his new Vee Beams on 40 Mtrs. W2UPH, sold his new SSB stuff and lit off the kW AM rig again. "SSB is a fad," sez UPH. New York hams were again disappointed by the failure of the Call Sign License Plate Bill. A new advertiser was Fred Becker, K2CEI, opening Ham Equipment business on Buffalo Road specializing in Central Electronics SSB equipment.

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HAM CALL SIGN CHOICE SOON

The FCC has announced its intention to implement a vanity call sign program, and also to resume the issuance of club and military recreation station licenses. On February 1, 1995, the Commission released its Report and Order in PR Docket 93-305, "Amendment of the Amateur Service Rules to Implement a Vanity Call Sign System."

Amateurs will be eligible to apply for a call sign of their choice in four "gates." The first group eligible to apply will be previous holders of a call sign or the close relative of a previous holder of an amateur call sign who is deceased. The second group will be Amateur Extra Class licensees; the third, Advanced; the fourth, all others.

The FCC will announce the date of opening of each "gate" by public notice.

The effective date of the new rules is March 24, 1995. The FCC said that the first gate will open as soon as a new application form, FCC Form 610-V, is available and the Commission's licensing facility is prepared to begin processing the applications-no sooner than April, according to FCC staff.

In the case of applications -for the call signs of deceased amateurs, normally the call sign will not be available for two years following the person's death or for two years following the expiration of the license. The exception to this rule is that a relative of the deceased amateur may apply for the call sign without regard to the two-year rule.

Club station call signs will be issued systematically from the two-by-three block, unless under the fourth "gate" the trustee of an existing club station applies for the call sign of a deceased member as a vanity call sign for the club. The trustee's application must be accompanied by the written consent of at least one relative of the deceased club member, and the two-year waiting period noted above is waived.

"Close relative" is defined as "spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or in-law" for purposes of determining eligibility for a deceased amateur's call sign.

A close relative may apply for the call sign of a deceased amateur without regard to license class; that is, a Novice licensee may apply for a call sign otherwise assigned to a higher license class "block."

Club station trustees-but not RACES or military recreation station trustees-will be able to request specific club call signs in the "gate" determined by their own class of operator license. If the trustee is

an Amateur Extra Class licensee, he may apply for the same call (provided it's been vacant at least two years) in Gate Two, either for himself or for the club, without asking anyone's permission.

Applications for new club and military recreation station licenses with sequential call signs will be accepted beginning March 24, 1995. A club must have such a license in order to be eligible to apply (later) for a vanity club call.

The fee for the use of vanity call signs will be \$7 per year, or \$70 for a 10-year license term. The FCC said that "because the normal term of an amateur station license is ten years, a fee of \$70.00 will have to be paid when requesting a new or renewed vanity call sign.

"At this time," the FCC said, "under the Communications Act, we cannot provide a one-time fee for processing vanity call sign applications."

Amateurs will be able to list up to 25 call sign choices, from any call area. The ARRL had said it preferred that the traditional call area system be kept intact, and the FCC said it "carefully considered this suggestion."

But, the FCC said it chose not to "impose that limitation," because "otherwise, the applicant's choice of vanity call signs would be reduced to ten percent or less of the call signs that would otherwise be assignable to the station.

"A limitation based on the person's place of residence, moreover, could easily be circumvented by using a mailing address in another call sign region," the FCC said.

The ARRL also had asked that specific call signs in a unique call sign block be made assignable to certain special event stations, and suggested the one-by-one call sign block for such stations. The FCC said that it would set aside that block until it could address the matter later, in a separate proceeding.

More information was in July 1994 *QST*, page 84; June *QST*, page 81; and February *QST*, page 84.

Tnx ARRL Letter

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Rochester Hamfest

May 19-21, 1995

USING THE PHONE DURING DISASTERS

By Gary Morris, KK6YB

When a major disaster strikes, it seems that everyone tries to use their phone at the same time. This puts the phone system way over its normal peak usage, over its capacity, resulting in the absence of a dial tone on the phone. The common perception in this situation is that the local phone system is out of service due to the disaster, but usually the only problem is simply too many people trying to get a dial tone at one time. How does this affect us as emergency responders and how do we deal with it?

What about the situation where you need to use the phone, perhaps the repeaters are down or overloaded, and you can't get dial tone? First, don't hang up. When you pick up the phone you are put in a queue when a dial tone becomes available the next person in the queue gets it. Each time you pick up the phone you start over at the end of the queue depending on the load on the phone system it can take anywhere from 30 seconds to an hour to get a dial tone. If the wait for dial tone is too long you do have two alternatives.

The phone company designates certain phone lines as essential service lines. These lines get priority for dial tone and always go to the head of the queue. The lines that usually have that feature are dial out lines for Emergency Operations Centers, Sheriff, Police Departments, Fire Departments, etc. However, public pay phones are also designated as essential service lines.

If you can't get dial tone at home, try a nearby public pay phone. If you expect to make a lot of phone calls in an emergency, such as to direct a strike team, activate an EOC or RACES station personnel, you might want to consider having your phone designated as an essential service line. There is no charge and under normal circumstances you can't tell the difference. However, in a disaster it could save you many minutes or hours in getting calls through to direct emergency personnel. If you have a phone in your RACES station in might be a good idea to ask and see if that phone line is designed as an essential service line.

As emergency communications providers to government agencies, we need to be prepared to use any circuit available to transfer information, whether it be amateur radio, OASIS satellite phones, or the plain old phone system.

From Tac-One, the newsletter of San Diego County RACES, via The Readout.

W2"RUF" AND READY CODE PROFICIENCY TESTS

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

The Rochester Hamfest will, once again, bring the W2"RUF" and Ready Code Proficiency Test to this area. This is the sixteenth anniversary of the Clara Reger memorial code proficiency testing. The testing will take place on the floor of the Dome Arena throughout the day on Saturday May 20. There is no cost to take the test so start practicing now to be ready.

The exams are sponsored by the Radio Association of Western New York (RAWNY) of which Clara Reger was a member. Kevin Kedzierski, WA2FKV will be giving the exams. A certificate will be given to those participants who copy at least one perfect minute at 7.5 WPM. There are endorsements for levels from 10 WPM to 75 WPM in jumps of 5 WPM.

Records of all certificates and endorsements are kept so those who previously took the test can keep trying to add speed endorsements. A copy of this certificate is shown below. Be sure to add this one to your shack's wall.

(SAMPLE OF CERTIFICATE ON BACK PAGE)

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First licensed in October, 1933 as W8KYR. Clara was issued a Class A Operator's License in 1935. Received her call W2RUF after WWII involved in disaster communication throughout her ham career. Ohio Mississippi River Flood, 1937; New England Hurricane, 1938; Earth Aftershock Disaster, 1964; Niagara Falls Railroad Explosion, 1958; Alaskan Earthquake, 1964. Given "Outstanding Amateur of the State of New York" Award, 1961; "30 Yr. Service to Amateurs" Award, 1963; "Edison Award", 1957 for teaching 14 year old, who had lost both arms in an accident, how to send code with feet; and "Toll Voina Neighbor" Award for handling messages to servicemen overseas. Clara was the official Red Cross Emergency Station of Buffalo Route Manager for the National Traffic System, Net Manager for the New York State CW Net, New York State Slow Speed Net and the Notice Training Net. Clara originated the signature "33" which the YLRL adopted in 1939. Clara's code speed was in excess of 50 WPM. One way or another Clara has influenced the way we enjoy our hobby.

On this date MAY 20, 1995 at ROCHESTER HAMFEST

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