



the RARRA RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 48

September 1995

NO. 1

RaRa AFFILIATED CLUBS TO BE FEATURED AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

This month's program will consist of the affiliated clubs giving a presentation of their clubs interests, ideals and activities and show you what benefits you can gain from joining them. This meeting should be especially interesting to the new member who may not have any knowledge of the scope and variety of the inner clubs activities. Will you join us for this interesting evening? Refreshments will be served.

RaRa TEST SCHEDULE, 1995-96

by George, AA2FO, 716 334-4488

GET LICENSED, UPGRADE- The fall season is fast approaching, and it's the advent of the 1995-96 VE testing sessions.

These sessions are held on the third Saturday of the month, September through April, except when a Hamfest or other important event takes place on that day.

THE PLACE- Monroe Social Services Building
111 Westfall Rd
Cafeteria

Registration- 8:30 AM. Exams 9:00 AM

SCHEDULE- September 23
October 21
November 18
December 23
January 20
February 17
March 16
April 20
May Hamfest

Walk in, or mail/call reservations to-
George AA2FO 716 334-4488
P.O. Box 23472
Rochester, NY 14692

RaRa Meeting

September 8, 1995

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall

3129 East Henrietta Road

Affiliated Club Q & A session

Applicants should bring the following in addition to pen and pencil:

Two forms of identification

Picture Drivers License

Original FCC license

Copy of FCC license

Certificate of Completion and a copy -- if credit is claimed for elements passed at another test session.

A fee of \$5.90 will be charged. If paying by check, make it payable to W5YI.

We welcome handicapped applicants. Please phone in advance.

Tests are also being administered on the first Thursday of the month at Kodak Bldg. 28, on Ridge Rd., starting at 6:00 PM. Call Mike NO2Z, 621-7678. or daytime, 722-2810 for information

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

The following public service events are still looking for volunteers.

Oct 1 - Walk Octoberfest

Nov 9 - Ginna Pre-Drill

Dec 6 - Ginna Drill

If you would like to participate in these events, please sign up at the September RaRa meeting, or call Ed, N2EH at 621-1929.

SILENT KEYS

Ralph B. Brown

N2BAD

August 8, 1995

Lawrence H. McConnell

K2UCI

July 21, 1995

the **RARa RAG**

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P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333

Editor.....Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP
80 Authors Avenue, Henrietta, NY 14467 (716) 359-2672

Managing Editor.....Dick Goslee, K2VCZ
24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716) 334-1762

Advertising Editor.....Dick Goslee, K2VCZ
24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716) 334-1762

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Vice President: Art De Bruycker, W2YGW.....223-4353
Secretary: George Lloyd, N2UIO.....637-9499
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K2JD Engraving: Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH

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Amateur Radio News Service

BUFFALO HAMFEST CELEBRATES 6th YEAR AT ERIE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

by Harold Smith, K2HC, Chairman

HAMBURG, NY -- The 6th annual **Buffalo Hamfest and Computer Show/Western New York Section Convention** returns to the Erie County Fairgrounds Saturday, September 16, 1995. 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. The hamfest is held in the new International Agri-Center building. The large building permits 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.

Programs include: Two Wheel Mobile, by Al Brogdon, K3KMO, Managing Editor, QST, an ARRL Forum conducted by Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, Atlantic Division ARRL Director, and an ARRL Leadership Officials meeting conducted by Bill Thompson, W2MTA, Western New York Section Manager.

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, flea market vendors will be able to move indoors.

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

THE PREZ Sez

Having been told that one of the duties of RARA president is to write a column for the RARA Rag, here is my first humble attempt. I confess it is hard to avoid using the same tired clichés about a new year beginning, the kids going back to school and all that, but I promise to try not to.

For many of you, this will be the only copy of the Rag you will see all year, because you may choose to not join or renew your membership. While that is unfortunate, it is the reason I want to tell you a little about RARA now.

With approximately 850 members, the Rochester Amateur Radio Association is large, yet still growing. There is growth not only in number of members, but also in the services provided by the club. This means that there is always room for one more, like YOU for example.

A major focus of RARA is on public service; there are between one and two dozen events each year for which volunteers from RARA provide communications. Many of the events involve charitable organizations such as the American Diabetes Association, among others.

RARA and the local RACES organization are so closely linked they may be considered in some respects, siamese twins. RARA maintains and operates a magnificent club station, K2JD, at the Monroe County office building. It is strategically placed there to support the Office of Emergency Preparedness in times of weather related or other emergencies.

RARA sponsors or arranges several events each year which are intended to involve family members who may not be hams. Among these are the annual picnic, the winter funfest, and the soon-to-be-regular bowling outings.

Our regular meetings provide a convenient social outlet, at which you can hold "acoustic qso's" over coffee and a doughnut. You will also be among the first to hear about club events and activities.

Our speakers are always of the highest caliber, offering a chance to catch up on the latest developments in Amateur Radio. Last year our speakers included ARRL Section Manager Bill Thompson W2MTA, and presentations of fast-scan amateur television, radio controlled model aircraft, and OSCAR satellites.

RARA holds licensing classes in the Fall and in the Spring, both at introductory and advanced levels. Take advantage of them to upgrade or to get a friend or relative involved in the hobby.

Continued on next column

September Calendar

- 8 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00PM - Henrietta Fire Hall - 3129 East Henrietta Rd.
- 16 - Buffalo Hamfest - Erie County Fairgrounds
- 23 - RaRa VE Testing - 111 Westfall Rd. 8:30 AM

There are even testing sessions held once each month by RARA volunteers.

The Hamfest Committee of RARA sponsors two of the major hamfests in Western New York; as you know, the Rochester Hamfest has National and International acclaim. Another committee, K2JD Engraving, is a vendor of badges and apparel at other local hamfests, profits from which support club activities.

Other benefits of membership in RARA include; the annual directory of amateurs in Greater Rochester, participation in the November auction, a discount on ARRL membership, and 24 hour access to our 'world-class' club station, K2JD.

Recently we have had several good ideas brought to the Board. The common challenge has been to identify someone to implement them. I am confident that among RARA members and potential members is the talent and know-how to accomplish virtually anything worthwhile.

Our challenge has been identifying the talent. For this reason, please consider, as you fill out your application for membership, checking the box which asks "Would you be willing to work on a committee?". There is already a number of specific needs for active persons in RARA, like YOU, for example. Please check the box on your form, and expect a call from an officer or Board Member.

Though it is not often mentioned openly, Board meetings are open to all members. They are held during the week following each regular Friday meeting. As space and time are limited, please be sure to inform the President of your intentions in advance, so that we can accommodate you.

Amateur Radio is changing faster now than it ever has in the past, and the notion that RARA is for any particular type of person is as obsolete as an HW-17 (go ask an old timer what that is). If you enjoy ANY aspect of Amateur Radio, RARA is for YOU.

Chris Reich WB2DYJ; President

WANTED: Old pinball machine. Got an old machine gathering dust in your basement? I will take it off of your hands. Call Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP, 359-2672.

RaRa ANNOUNCES THE FALL 1995 LICENSE CLASS SCHEDULE

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RaRa) Code and Theory Classes will start on September 18, 1995.

RaRa is pleased to announce the formation of its fall 1995 Code and Theory Classes for our 37th year of teaching. Classes will be offered for novice, technician, and general, advanced or extra will be offered based on the number of students interested in the respective class.

If you are interested in attending the classes, please call ahead of time and leave a message on the RaRa answering machine. This will enable our instructors to plan for the correct number of students in each of the classes. The number is 442-0587, or drop a note to:

RaRa
PO Box 93333
Rochester, NY 14692-8333

Fall registration will be held at 111 Westfall Road (The County Social Services Building) starting at 7:00PM. The first session will start after all participants are registered. The classes will consist of two periods, one being code, the other being theory. Classes will begin at 7:30PM starting the second week. Each period will last about 55 minutes, and will end about 9:30PM. Classes are scheduled to run until December 4, 1995. A testing session is planned for December 11th for all classes.

The cost of the 12 week program includes a \$4.00 registration fee plus the cost of the materials, and a membership fee if you are not currently a member of RaRa. Materials for the novice and technician classes are \$10.00, materials for the General and Advanced classes are \$12.00, and materials for the extra class is \$6.00. Membership dues for RaRa is \$10.00 for licensed students or \$6.00 for unlicensed students.

For those interested in Advanced or extra classes they will be offered only on an as needed basis. Those interested in either class call Joe Hood at 865-9092 to make your interests known and to make arrangements.

The teaching team looks forward to another year of fun and learning for both the students and the instructors. Bring smiles, and a willingness to learn. SEE YOU THERE!

TO ALL YLs

Today I would like to give you news about our upcoming Convention, organized by the SAYLARC's second area young ladies radio club, YLRL, the YOUNG LADIES RADIO LEAGUE, INC will have a convention July 11-14 1996 in Albany, NY at the Omni Hotel.

Plans are coming along fine in the able hands of our President Minerva Fronhofer, WB2JNL, Miriam Lamb, AA2DX and other volunteers, read in the YLH the articles Miriam writes, Why Albany!

If you are interested, please call me at 254-3610 or on 146.88 for Info. The OMs and friends are also invited. One trip to Headquarters in Newington, CT is planned with possibility to work the WIAW station!

We expect many YLs from the states and overseas.

I have been to several conventions, one in Hawaii and Japan and loved it. We try to reach our goal for a Scholarship fund and Marte, KOEPE is the chairperson for this and we like to make \$3000, if you would like tickets let me know.

We all have such a fun time at these conventions and I hope many can join me. Don't miss this one, it is not far to go!

One other meeting will be September 30, for SAYLARC's in Albany, NY at the same Hotel Omni, so you can see how convenient the Hotel is situated and you can find out more about the big convention in 1996.

If you like to join us this September, let Carli Drake, WB1BTJ/2 know by September 23 or let me know, so I can send Carli the message.

Carli Drake, WB1BTJ/2 P.O. BOX 159
Stephentown, NY 12168-0159.

33 de Lia, WA2NFY

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ARRL WORKED ALL STATE AND VUCC AWARDS

RaRa, an ARRL Special Service Club, can verify your QSL's for the popular ARRL Worked All States (WAS) and VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) awards. Don't risk sending your hard earned QSL's through the mail - bring them to a RaRa meeting. The league's Field Checker is Ed Gable, K2MP. You can call him at 392-3088 to confirm a time to have your cards checked or to obtain application forms or other information.

BOARD WATCHERS WANTED

All RaRa Board meetings are open to all members. If you wish to join us, just stop down on any regularly scheduled night. Board meetings normally occur on the Wednesday following the meeting, except for the months of April, May and June.

If you wish to bring some business before the board, we request that you contact a board member so that you can be put on the agenda. Otherwise, just feel free to drop in anytime. Board meetings start at 7:30PM.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13.

THE RaRa RAG YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable, K2MP

20 YEARS AGO - SEPTEMBER 1975: Your *Years Ago* editor is embarrassed to report that his collection of back RaRa Rags is missing this issue. I'm sure it was very nice !!

40 YEARS AGO - SEPTEMBER 1955: Officers for this RaRa season included Chuck Brelsford, W2CTA, President, Fred Halik, W2PFI as VP, Ray Leigh, W2SNI, Secretary and John Remson, W2ZHB as Treasurer. On the Board were Art DeBruycker, W2YGW, Mac Mac Cowan, K2CEH and John Walrath, W2PZC. The September meeting featured a talk by Fred Reynolds, W2VS, and George Olsen, W2TWM. The subject was multi-band trap antennas. Out of this came- the famous Reyco (Reynolds Company) KW-40 antenna traps which were manufactured for many, many years -in Fred's basement. (KW-40 traps remain a standard to this day - Ed) Thirty-six RaRa members participated in Field Day where 3,060 points were earned running category 3A. A SSB station was used for the first time and the gas-guzzling 1KW AM job was QRT. Hurricane Diane visited many a local Ham's backyard including Vic's (W2RIS) who then had a 20 meter horizontal ground plane! RaRa members and the RaRa CD truck played an, important role in a large CD exercise where 400 people were evacuated and moved from,, Red Wings Stadium. New Gonset Communicators proved to be "great working little radio sets." Rochester Radio Supply, at 600 East Main, remains a long time advertiser.

WANTED: Collector/Historian looking for older radio equipment, parts, tubes, literature, etc. Single piece or whole estates. Call Ed Gable, K2MP, 392-3088.

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GENESEE REPEATER ASSOCIATION NOTICE

The 19-79 repeater is temporarily off the air due to double lightning strikes. Work is underway to get the repeater back on the air.

A new antenna, duplexer and controller have been purchased. Insurance will not cover all of the expenses and the expenditures for these items exceeds the current bank account, so any donations will be greatly appreciated.

Donations may be sent to:

Genesee Repeater Association
P.O. Box 69
North Chili, NY 14514

STUDY FAILS TO FIND EMF - CANCER LINK

The Council of the American Physical Society (APS) has issued the results of a study entitled "Power Line Fields and Public Health," concerning the potential dangers of cancer from electromagnetic fields -that emanate from common power lines and electrical appliances.

The APS concluded that "the scientific literature and the reports of reviews by other panels show no consistent, significant link between cancer and power line fields" and " the preponderance of... research findings have failed to substantiate those studies which have reported specific adverse health effects from exposure to such fields.

"While it is impossible to prove that no deleterious health effects occur from exposure to any environmental factor, it is necessary to demonstrate a consistent significant, and casual relationship before one can conclude that such effects do occur. From this standpoint, the conjectures relating cancer to power line fields have not been scientifically substantiated."

The APS said that billions of dollars are being spent by states and municipalities to mitigate and litigate this perceived problem and "the burden of cost placed on the American public is incommensurate with the risk, if any. "A background report on this issue by David Hafemeister is available on the Internet through the APS World Wide Web HomePage at: <http://aps.org>.

Buffalo Hamfest

September 16, 1995

TELEPHONE & ELECTRICAL GROUNDING

It is common practice in England to signal a telephone subscriber by signaling with 90 volts across one side of the two wire circuit and ground. When the subscriber answers the phone, it switches to the two wire circuit for the conversation. This method allows two parties on the same line to be signaled without disturbing each other.

One elderly subscriber called the telephone company to say that her phone sometimes failed to ring when her friends called. When it did ring, her dog always barked first.

A telephone serviceman was sent to locate the problem. Climbing a nearby telephone pole, he hooked in his test set and dialed the subscriber's house. The phone did not ring. He tried again. This time, the dog barked loudly and the phone rang.

Here is what the serviceman discovered. The dog had been tied to the telephone system ground post via an iron chain and collar. When the phone rang, the dog was receiving 90 volts of signaling current. After several jolts, the dog urinated on the ground and started barking. Finally, the wet ground conducted the current and the phone rang.

*The London Amateur Radio Club bulletin From
RAC News Bulletin 24-94 via The Emitter*

Briefs

from the ARRL Letter

- Some telephone numbers have changed at HQ (although the previous numbers also will work for some time). The important changes are: main number, 203-594-0200; main facsimile, 203-594-0259; circulation department facsimile, 203-594-0303; comptroller facsimile, 203-594-0298. All "800" numbers remain the same.

- Do you know someone who is anxiously awaiting a brand new (first) call sign? Recent FCC rule changes allow new hams to start operating as soon as the license is granted, and the Commission is now making licensing transactions available on a daily basis (see June 1995 QST's Exam Info column on page 115).

Unfortunately, the FCC's phone lines are often busy, so tell that eager new ham to call ARRL at 1-800-326-3942, between 8 AM and 4 PM Eastern Time to easily and quickly find out their new call sign. If the VEC like the ARRL/VEC, use electronic filing, licensing information will likely be available 7 to 10 days after the exam.

APPLE COMPUTER PETITIONS FCC TO CREATE "NII BAND"

tnx W5YI Report JUNE 15, 1995:

Apple Computer, Inc. filed a Petition for Rulemaking on May 24 asking the FCC to create an "NII Band" - a 5-GHz radio spectrum allocation that would permit high-speed data communications for schools, libraries, community groups, individuals, businesses and institutions.

The proposed National Information Infrastructure Band radio service would be accessible by equipment from any supplier and available to anyone without licensing or air-time charges.

In addition to permitting faster data rates, the NII Band would allow users, for the first time, to set up their own wideband wireless data links spanning 10-15 km or more. Rural and other dispersed communities and suburban interest groups would be able to use the NII Band to develop local networks as well as for NII participation.

The NII Band would provide much larger bandwidths (data rates), be extensible to longer distances, and occupy higher frequencies protected from unpredictable interference. The NII Band would enable users to gain high-speed access to the Internet and other information resources of the NII, as well as to one another, where wired connections are not readily

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