



the RARA RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 48

November 1995

NO. 3

ANNUAL RaRa AUCTION

The annual RaRa auction is set for Friday, November 3rd. Yes, it is back with our favorite two mellifluous auctioneers at the microphones, those witty souls, Goslee & Gable. That's right, Dick Goslee (K2VeeCZ) and Ed Gable (K2MashedPotatoes) will be presenting the evening's fine selection of "new to you" amateur and related equipment. These gentlemen will give you a handle on the use and rarity of select equipment as they ply their way through the bargains of the night. Dick and Ed will be donating their valuable time to help RaRa pay their bills and provide more services to you, the member.

This is also your opportunity to support your club by bringing your excess equipment to the auction so it can find its way to a new home. There are only a few simple rules to follow that will speed up the pace of the auction and help ensure that everyone is treated fairly!

- 1. RaRa assesses a fee of 10% on each sale (think about the starting bid for your item(s) with this in mind).
- 2. The fee is paid by the seller from the proceeds of the sale.
- 3. The seller must come forward to the treasurer's table as soon as the item is declared SOLD! by the auctioneer.
- 4. You must be a RaRa member to gain admittance to the auction. Our membership chairman, will be happy to accept your renewal on the night of the auction. Each paid up member can bring one guest into the auction.
- 5. Please, NO PARKING LOT or BACK OF THE ROOM SALES! (No prior sales). RaRa can only pay the rent if you help us by allowing all the items you brought to be auctioned to the highest bidder!
- 6. Doors open at 7:00PM for bringing your treasures into the Auction Gallery.

Dick and Ed are experts at getting the most for your valued equipment. They are both qualified appraisers of amateur equipment and can help send the sale price towards its fair value. I've even known Dick and Ed to bid on items themselves!

RaRa MEETING

November 3, 1995

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road
Annual Auction

Paid up membership required

They are not above paying good money for your well cared for equipment and neither are the over 100 members that attend one of these fine auctions each year.

So, dust off that equipment you haven't used in a while and prepare to turn it into something else, as if by magic. MARK YOUR TREASURES WITH YOUR NAME, CALLSIGN AND STARTING BID. Bring them to 3129 East Henrietta Road, Friday, November 3rd, and prepare to be entertained by the quick wit and skills of Goslee & Gable. But most of all, watch the magic of the auction and your equipment skillfully into cash!

IS THIS YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE RAG?

The membership period for RaRa starts the first of September each year and continues through the end of August the following year. The final membership expiration each year is October 31, which includes a 2 month grace period for payment of your dues. Check the address label on your

Continued on Page 2

SILENT KEYS

Sherman G. Manchester
WA2JMR
September 26, 1995

George N. Robertson
W2AZX
September 22, 1995

the RaRa Rag

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current issue of the RAG for your expiration date. If it shows OCT. 95 your dues have not yet been received for the year 1995-1996, and this will be your last issue of the RAG. You must be a current member of RaRa to participate in the auction at the November meeting so now is a good time to send your check.

You may pay your dues at any RaRa meeting or send them along with your membership form to P.O. Box 93333, Rochester. NY 14692-8333.

VOL. 48 NOVEMBER 1995 NO. 3

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Amateur Radio News Service

MOVES IN CONGRESS SEEM TO SPARE HAMS FOR NOW

US Senate and House bills aimed at overhauling the country's telecommunication structure and regulation appear, at least over the short term, to have comparatively minimal impact on Amateur Radio, according to ARRL Manager of Legislative Affairs Steve Mansfield, N1MZA.

Despite cries by some groups that all radio spectrum ought to be turned over to commercial interests, the 104th Congress has targeted cable regulation, telephone company regulation, and broadcast ownership issues as the focus of its ambitious effort to rewrite the Communications Act of 1934.

That Act provides the legislative framework for all regulation of radio communication in the US today, and has been said by many to be long overdue for a massive rewrite.

Writing in September *QST*, Mansfield said "The resulting 221 -page Senate bill, S. 652, 'The Telecommunication Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995,' and its House companion, H.R. 1555, 'The Communications Act of 1995,' both are being touted as removing barriers to competition for telecommunication interests. Perhaps equally important (at least for hams), the degree of energy and effort put into the two bills could ultimately head off some of the more mischievous attempts at spectrum deregulation, at least for the remainder of the 104th Congress.

S. 652 slightly modifies the rules for who may administer license exams, and calls for the FCC to eliminate "burdensome record maintenance" requirements for volunteer examiners. "Some hams have expressed concerns about delicensing provisions of the bill, but those affect only certain marine and aviation users, as well as users of the new PCS systems," Mansfield said.

Mansfield said that from a long-term perspective, the biggest concern lies in the continued expansion of the spectrum auction concept, and that amateurs "will have to become

accustomed to fighting harder for spectrum than we have done in the past."

ARRL's congressional activities will continue to reflect the formal legislative positions adopted by the League's Board of Directors at its January 1995 meeting, Mansfield said.

Mansfield's complete story appears on page 50 of September *QST*.

Tnx ARRL Letter

THE PREZ SAYS

Don't look now, but November is almost here, and that means the annual RaRa auction is coming soon. See elsewhere in this issue of the Rag for all the ground rules. Remember only RaRa members may attend the auction, and people will be available to accept your membership application at the door.

Your Board of Directors has voted to donate \$300 from the RaRa treasury to the AMSAT Phase III D satellite fund. After long discussions, the board felt that it was a worthwhile contribution to the future of amateur radio. AMSAT North America President Bill Tynan W3XO reports that approximately 200,000 dollars are still needed to complete the project. We thank Walt Obenhofer, NQ2O, for his descriptions of the Phase III D project at the last Board meeting. Recent news is that the launch date has been pushed back from May 1996 to September 1996. The delay is due to unexpected changes needed by the launch vehicle.

We are considering a RaRa night out at The Rustler's Roost. This is to be an evening of dining and Country and Western dancing for members and their sweethearts. If this sounds like a fun affair to you, we need to hear from you so that we can determine how to continue with the plans. You can call any Board member or the RaRa hotline and leave a message. See the telephone numbers on page two of any RaRa Rag.

Local internet surfer Dale Fravel N2LWY reports that you can now take a practice amateur exam via the 'net. The address is <http://w5ac.tamu.edu/ham-exam.html>. To quote Dale, "Cool site to practice the [written] tests [for] novice, technician, general, advanced, extra (coming soon). Only practice tests can be offered this way, if you want a license, you'll still have to come to a local testing session. Tests are given by RaRa volunteers the third Saturday of each month at 111 Westfall Road. Contact George Platteter AA2FO for details.

According to the ARRL letter, the FCC is about to adopt a policy of sending reminders to amateurs whose licenses are within 3 months of their expiration dates. The notice comes in the form of a new form, 610-R, which you are to sign, date and

November Calendar

3 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00PM - Henrietta Fire Hall -
3129 East Henrietta Rd. ANNUAL AUCTION
18- RaRa VE Testing - 111 Westfall Rd. 8:30 AM

return for rapid license renewal. In this climate of ever-decreasing federal budgets, I hope the FCC can save enough in paperwork to justify continuing the practice.

Perhaps you've heard, by now, of KD6RKL of Sacramento, California, who has his hand-held amateur transceiver to thank for his life. Rory Clark had been shot just after having used an automatic teller machine. Chris Huber, N6ICW, heard Rory's call for help and contacted authorities, who later stated that the call for help via the radio almost certainly prevented Rory from becoming a Silent Key. I think the lesson to all of us from the incident is that you must have your radio with you to benefit from it. Eastman Kodak has a well-known admonition to amateur photographers who ask how to take good pictures. Their response is "have your camera with you". (Can you see your teenager responding "duuhh"). Keep your hand-held radios charged and handy, my friends, you never know when you'll need it. I know I will.

The vanity callsign program has gone through yet another round of rules changes. While the rules are scheduled to take effect November 17 of this year, there is not yet an announced starting date for the program; this leads me to believe that they haven't yet got a set of rules to satisfy everyone. I suggest a token fee to apply for the vanity callsign and eliminate the fee to renew them. A renewal of a vanity callsign is, after all, as much routine as any other license renewal.

The ARRL provides a lot of good DX information via e-mail; I wish I had space here to report it all. If you're interested, contact the League using the Internet address in last month's issue of the Rag.

This news just in; the FCC is adding text to Part 97.309(a) to expressly permit any digital mode "whose technical characteristics have been documented publicly, ... for the purpose of facilitating communications" This action expressly permits, for the first time, modes such as CLOVER, G-TOR, or PacTOR. This is evidence that amateurs are continuing to push the envelope of the state of the art by employing communications modes not yet considered in the rules. What new modes are you involved in?

The RaRa club station, K2JD, is available to all members in good standing. See the trustee, Ed Holdsworth N2EH to obtain access. With contest

season coming up, it may be a fun way for a number of members to submit an impressive multi-op score.

A number of volunteers had fun grinding badges, pressing hats, and making keychains at the Buffalo and Elmira hamfests. The proceeds support the upkeep of the club station. See the photos in this, and the previous edition, of the Rag. There's always room for one more. Won't you consider joining us next time?

The Tuesday after the auction is election day; please remember to vote. Voting is the cost of the privilege of complaining about the way things are. If you're not sure where to vote, call the Board of Elections; their number is in the blue section of the phone book under county government.

FOR SALE: ICOM IC-2KL Solid State Linear 160 through 10 meters. Mint, with manual. \$1350. Irv Goodman, AF2K, (716) 671-4430.

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ROGUE SUNSPOT MAY SIGNAL START OF CYCLE

Astronomers at the California Institute of Technology say they have identified the first new sunspot in the next sunspot cycle.

Scientists at Caltech's Big Bear Solar Observatory in Big Bear City, California, photographed the spot on August 12.

"This makes us happy," said Hal professor of astrophysics at Caltech and director of the Big Bear facility. "The sun is a lot more interesting to study when things are going on."

Early in the 11-year sunspot cycle, sunspots appear rarely and at relatively high solar latitudes around 30 to 35° then increase in frequency and appear at lower latitudes until they reach sunspot maximum, Caltech said. After this peak in activity, the number of sunspots slowly declines, and they appear ever closer to the sun's equator until they reach a relatively quiet phase called sunspot minimum.

The sun has been in a quiet period through much of 1994 and this year, with a few spots showing up near the equator. The new sunspot found on August 12 appeared at a solar latitude of 21° and its magnetic polarity is opposite to that seen over the last decade, a key to identifying it as "The manifestation" of the start of a new cycle, Caltech said.

Scientists at Caltech said they expected an early beginning to Cycle 23, but not this early. "Sunspots in the new cycle should rapidly become more common and reach a high level of activity in 1998 or 1999," Caltech said.

Tnx ARRL Letter

FOR SALE: Drake MN-7 HF Antenna Tuner. \$140. Irv Goodman, AF2K, (716) 671-4430

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FCC OPENS UP MORE CALLS IN ALASKA, HAWAII, P.R.

According to a new FCC fact sheet, an ARRL request for call sign relief for amateurs in Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico has been honored.

The "Amateur Station Sequential Call Sign System" Fact Sheet dated February 1995 replaces one dated June 1991 (and that is referenced in the FCC's recent vanity call sign report and order).

The new fact sheet incorporates changes that the League asked for in November 1993, expanding the opportunities for amateurs in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico to obtain call signs that reflect their geographic location.

According to the new fact sheet, call signs in Alaska (Region 11), AL, KL, NL, and WL are no longer limited to the numeral 7. Any numeral, 0 through 9, is available. The call signs KL9KAA through KL9KHZ are reserved for assignment to US personnel stationed in Korea.

In the Caribbean (Region 12), KP3, NP3, and WP3 (or 4) call signs will indicate the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (except Desecheo Island).

In Hawaii and the Pacific (Region 13), AH7, KH7, NH7, and WH7 (or 6) call signs will indicate Hawaii except that the letter K following the numeral 7 will indicate Kure Island.

Systematically assigned call signs in Groups A (Amateur Extra Class) and C (General, Technician, and Technician Plus class) for Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico using the traditional numerals (7, 6, and 4, respectively) have been exhausted.

The new fact sheet also designates Group D call signs for club and military recreation stations, applications for which have been accepted by the Commission since March 24, 1995.

The FCC has not announced when it will begin issuing call signs under these new guidelines.

Trx ARRL Letter

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THE RaRa RAG YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable, K2MP

20 YEARS AGO - NOVEMBER 1975: Your *Years Ago* editor wants to thank all those who responded with to my plea for copies of 1975/76 RaRa Rags. Irv AF2K, Jack KJ2P, Don WA2AIV and Harold ~ Helen Smith K2HC/WA2YRH all offered copies to keep or borrow. I ended up with new, crisp, unread copies from the archives of past RaRa Editor, Harold Smith. It was Helen Smith, however, who crawled through their attic to retrieve them. Thanks, Helen. The 75/76 Officers were President Bill March, WA2CER with Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT as V-P. Secretary was Bob Phelps (sk) WB2DPT and Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, as Treasurer. Jim Collinsworth announced the RaRa Club Station, K2JD, was now available for member use. K2JD was then in the basement of the Iola Building and sported a Heath SB-104, TH5DXX Yagi, two VHF FM Motorola base stations, a Harris 450 MHz FM Xcvr and a Heath HW16/HG10 for Novice use. Writing for the VHF Club, Bob Moore, WA2JFM, reported that their last speaker was Kaz Deskur, K2ZRO, who told of easy methods to track Oscar satellites using simple maps and plastic overlays. In a wonderfully worded letter to the editor, a new local ham wrote on how exciting it was to enter ham radio and to meet and talk with people from all over the world. A grin came to the face of this editor when the person excused her poor english - "even my CW has an accent" she went on. The letter was from RaRa's dearest friend, then and now, Lia, WA2NFY.

40 YEARS AGO - NOVEMBER 1955: This issue offers Gimmicks, Gadgets and Gismos at the next RaRa meeting where items such as a Q-Multiplier, SWR Bridge, Noise Generator and a transistor oscillator will be demonstrated by W2's CZT, AXR, YGW, ALL and CTA. Recognized local VHF/UHF expert Bob Jeffers, W2ALL, wrote an article on converting a standard TV Tuner into a swell receiving converter for 50, 144 and 220 Mcs. The Chairman of the Rochester DX Association, Jack, W2BYY, invited all local DX'ers to try the RDXA 20 Mtr phone dx roundup on 14,280 kc each Tuesday night. Mac, K2CEH, reporting for the VHF Group revealed that the best two meter opening yet netted many locals new states including Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and others. From the want-ads you could by a 2 rpm prop-pitch motor, selsyns and a globe indicator from Bill, W2SCZ.

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-50S, new in the box! Won at Elmira Hamfest. Good price, FREE carrying case. Call Howard, K2AN, 237-2563.

RaRa SPOTLIGHT: W2SAW

(Another in a series of occasional articles profiling personalities in the local amateur radio community. Suggestions for candidates are welcomed.)



photo by WA2CBU

Born in Geneva, NY in 1905, A-1 Operator, inventor and avid DX-er ADDISON N. RINGLER is better known throughout the world of amateur radio as "Sax", a nickname that evolved when he was a saxophone player in several local dance bands back during the Roaring 20's.

Sax was initially bitten by the ham radio bug at age 14, and in April 1921, was licensed as 8BLO. His first equipment was entirely home-brew, including the power supply made from Edison cell units inasmuch as his QTH on Marshall Street in Rochester had no electricity yet--just gas. Tubes consisted of an RCA UV-200 receiving detector and UV-203 5 watt transmit tube. A dead end length of telephone wire dangling outside the window served as an antenna and he vividly recalls his first QSO on the 200 meter band with a ham in Oakfield, NY.

A close friend named Hugh Stevenson, 8ANR (Sax's initials!) was his primary "elmer" and provided much encouragement in the earlier days. While attending grammar school, Sax would spend his after school time going door to door in the neighborhood with his tube checker in tow.

After graduation from East High School, he went to work for Colonial Radio, a local speaker manufacturer. This involved considerable travel, from Michigan to Massachusetts, and in the late 20's, he ended up with Western Electric in Kearny, NJ. However, Sax became lonesome and homesick for a young lady he had been courting. He returned to Rochester and subsequently opened his own shop on Bowman Street called Radio Sales & Service, where he serviced table radios for numerous retail and jewelry stores. He married in 1933.

Among his numerous "literary works" is a humorous piece entitled "DX on a Bedspring", an

alternative to the telephone wire antenna, which appeared in the April 1921 issue of "THE ELECTRON", a local news sheet.

In 1934, Sax, along with Joe Hertzberg, W3JH, provided a demonstration of mobile-to-mobile radio communication on the 5 meter band to the Brighton Police Department. That same year, he developed the first radio-controlled model plane; he and his friends would fly their craft in Genesee Valley Park early on Sunday mornings.

His employment at Eastman Kodak was a direct result of an interesting QSO on the 5 meter band where Sax spent much of his operating time. Kodak was experiencing problems with Stromberg Carlson amplifiers in developing sound being added to 16mm. movies. He was able to provide some trouble-shooting recommendations, and several days later, received a letter in the mail inviting him to join the company. That was in 1937. He retired from Kodak in 1965 as a Senior Design Process Engineer. Included among his numerous patents are a 16mm. film splicer, motion picture plastic projector reels, and a portable movie projection screen in a carrying case, utilized primarily by football coaches for training films.

W2SAW was very active in the "lecture circuit" for many years. His numerous speaking engagements and slide shows were in popular demand, most notably at the Dayton Hamventions from 1958 through the mid-60's. His large award and certificate displays (almost 250) and QSL card collection were also carried to the 1962 ARRL Hudson Division Convention where he addressed the assembled on DX QSL-ing Procedures and Awards.

Sax's travels have taken him to over 50 countries where he has visited many of the hundreds of ham friends in the DX circle. He has managed to operate from numerous spots on the globe, among them VS6AA in Hong Kong. His collection of thousands of 35mm. slides is still intact, and include his documentation of a DXpedition in December 1965 to Socorro Island, part of the Revilla Gigedo group, located in the Pacific 400 miles east of Manzanillo, Mexico. Sax, along with other locals WA2WVL, WA2HOK and K2LAF operated using the callsign XE5L.

In 1962, Sax was invited to join FOC, an exclusive British-based group of amateur operators from around the world. Admittance is solely by recommendation by five other members. He traveled to London several times for their annual banquet, remaining a member until 1990.

Sax established his well-known DX Stamp Service in 1955, providing foreign postage stamps

for about 25-different countries to DX-ers. He was the only ham in the world with this service. When he sold the lucrative business in 1978 to the late George Robertson, W2AZX, of Ontario, NY, postage stamps for over 100 countries were available.

In the mid-20's, the 8BLO callsign was changed to W8CWW, and subsequently to W2SAW. His original DXCC Certificate #1934 was issued in April 1954. Sax currently has 373 countries confirmed (mixed CW and SSB), which includes at least 50 "deleted" countries. At 90, this DX champ remains radio-active at his Webster home, awaiting the elusive VU7 -- Laccadive Island -- to re-appear. (he still needs that one!) and looks forward to catching any new ARRL-approved countries that spring up. --AF2K

HOUSECLEANING SALE: Variacs -- 230V 8A Model V20H, \$25.; Two 115V 5A, \$10. each; Socket for 1KW 4-1000A tube, \$10.; Japanese Vibroplex-type key, \$10.; Autek QF1 Lowpass Notch Filter, \$15.; Ameco Pre-amp Model PT-2, \$20.; High Voltage Probe, \$3.; Eico Model 320 Signal Generator \$2.; Eico Model 950 Resistance-Capacitance Comparator Bridge, \$2.; Heathkit Tube Checker, \$35.; Numerous meters, \$1. and up; Old Callbooks, ARRL Handbooks, Make Offer; Assorted old reference books; Radio and Engineering Handbooks; Termans, \$5.; 100 feet Belden 8267 (RG-213) coax, new--never used, \$25.; Cushcraft A432-20T VHF Twist, \$5. Sax Ringler, W2SAW, (716) 671-5616.

BRIEFS

from the ARRL Letter.

•The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has renamed several divisions, including the Private Radio Division, which is now the Private Wireless Division.

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November 10, 1995

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Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of second-class authorization.

MAJORITY OF LICENSEES ARE TECHNICIANS

Technician class hams are literally on their way to ruling the world of Amateur Radio in the United States. This according to some startling 1994 year-end statistics recently released by the FCC.

The commission said that forty percent of all radio amateurs licensed by that agency hold Technician or Technician Plus licenses with the Tech-Plus leading the no-code Techs by a slight margin. Put into numbers, this means that some

186,000 of the estimated 250,000 hams in the United States, and its possessions, are Technician class operators, with up to 5000 new Techs joining the ham radio ranks every month.

The overall increase in the total growth in ham radio over the last ten years is amazing also. We are up a bit over 62% from where we were in 1984. An increase of almost 250,000 from the half million figure the FCC's licensing computer put out a decade ago.

Tnx ARRL Letter

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M-F 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SAT 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

PH: (716) 328-1600

FAX: (716) 328-3630

ELECTRONIC COMPONENT PARTS (NEW AND NEW SURPLUS)

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

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

FULL LINE DISTRIBUTORS FOR

NTE
PRB
GC/THORSEN
SL WABER
WAHL

Replacement Semi's
VCR Belts & Accy
Tools & Chemicals
Outlet Strips +
Soldering/Drilling
Tools & Accy

TYTON
PROTEK
MUELLER
GOLDSTAR
PALADIN

Cable Ties
Test Gear
Test Leads
Test Gear
Tools