



the RARRA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 48

December 1995

NO. 4

DECEMBER PROGRAM TO BE HELD AT KODAK ELMGROVE

Picture taking in the 21st Century will be the topic for Friday, December first. It is time once again to meet out at the expansive Kodak Elmgrove Plant located at the south end of Elmgrove Road in the nearby suburb of Gates. Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, will be our featured presenter with a support staff from the Marketing Technical Services group.

Just imagine . . ., it is the year 2000 and so many things have changed, the technology has become ordinary and FRIENDLY! You're out at a very special event, perhaps a graduation, a marriage, the setting of the base of your new "Hover Rite" tethered floating tower, and you think how great it would be to commemorate this event with a picture.

Wouldn't it be great to snap a picture and share it instantly with your new friends in Australia? You pause for a moment, remembering when it took weeks to get your pictures back only to find that you had stuck your finger in front of the lens. You smile to yourself as you pick up your Kodak point and click camera and record dozens of images, one after another, in a rapid fire fashion. You slip out the special "electronic" film and plug into your palm-top computer and instantly review all your images.

Perhaps a few of your images are like mine, people with their eyes closed, the tree in the back ground looks like it is growing out of cousin Mable's head, or the flash makes Uncle Fred's eyes look redder than usual. As you scan through your shots you calmly delete the ones that just were not what you want to show to others, some, you tag as "fixer uppers. You'll take care of those later. For now, it is time to take more pictures. You slip your "electronic" film back into the camera and take more pictures.

If all this sounds a bit far off or a great but will probably be available only to the fortunate few, think again. Come see high quality image capture for the Twenty First Century and perhaps a few lucky individuals will have a chance to take home their very own, totally electronic, portrait.

RaRa MEETING

December 1, 1995

8:00 P.M.

Kodak Elmgrove

901 Elmgrove Road

Picture Taking in the 21st Century

Is there any subject/program you would like to have brought up at a future meeting? We have experts on most subjects just waiting to enthrall you with topics not yet determined. Do not be bashful, give them a chance by letting your wants be known.

Regards the classes, Richard Goslee K2VCZ has decided to take a sabbatical from teaching the Novice theory after the present class. We thank Dick for his dedication for the last five or so years he has poured the information on prospective Novices in such a manner they many soaked it up, rather than let it drain off. A number of them have his expertise in teaching to thank for their having received their present license.

We are looking for someone to take over where Dick left off and continue the teaching of prospective novices, so that we may continue in the process of making Amateur Radio a reality to those wishing to acquire a license. Dick's act is a tough one to follow, but I know that there is someone out there who would like to try, at least for a little while. Classes generally run 13 weeks and Dick has a curriculum available if you wish to us it instead of your own. Let me know, if you are interested, next class starts in February. The satisfaction of being able to give Amateur Radio something back, is something that is hard to evaluate, but is real....

SILENT KEY

Charles R. Eastman

WB2NLU

October 23, 1995

the **RARA RAG**

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Amateur Radio News Service

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The important items covered at a RaRa Board of Directors meeting will by summarized in the Rag if there is enough time to prepare it before press time. Members are welcome to attend a board of directors meeting.

The Attendees : WB2DYJ, WB2EFU, WB2EKP, AF2K, W2YGW, N2EH, K2YA, K2VCZ, NV2Y and N2UIO.

Summary of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of November 8, 1995

- WB2DYJ called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and declared a quorum present.

- Old business. K2VCZ is to issue a check for \$300.00 as a donation for the Phase 3D Satellite project on behalf of the members of RaRa.

- Program Chairman's Report. W2YGW and N2BEL are to arrange for the presentation of the December General meeting at Kodak Elmgrove. AF2K needs information on the presentation so he may up-date the telephone message.

- License class. WB2DYJ announced that an instructor will be needed for the Novice-Tech classes because K2VCZ is going to retire from this position. The Board wishes to thank K2VCZ for his many years of service and dedication to the amateur radio community and the club. The Board voted to award K2VCZ a plaque expressing our appreciation.

- RaRa Rag. N2UIO is to provide WB2EKP with a summary of the Board meeting minutes to be published in the Rag. Then, AF2K suggested that another profile be written on an area amateur since it's been awhile since the last one. This matter will be discussed further at a later date.

- Membership Chairman's Report. NV2Y Reported that there are now 646 members in good standing and 197 are yet to re-new. NV2Y is to compose a letter to be mailed to potential members.

- Public service. N2EH reported that the Pumpkin Patrol event is now over. With the exception of two of the volunteer's cars getting "egged" all went well. One of the volunteers was interviewed by TV 10 News. W2YGW is going to attempt to get a clip of that report from TV 10. Then, N2EH reported that the ATV repeater worked perfectly during the Ginna pre-drill.

- Recreation and family oriented events. After some discussion, the Board of Directors decided to drop the Rustlers' Roost event due to a lack of interest. WB2DYJ suggested that a date should be set for the June picnic. The date will be announced pending confirmation of the site and date.

• Club station report. N2EH reported that the club station had been used for the CQ Worldwide contest that took place 2 weeks ago. Also, the roof is now finished on the county bldg. and the 40 meter dipole is now back up.

• Old business. N2EH reported that there will be a RACES drill 7:00 AM on November 11 and that any help would be appreciated. AF2K had one silent key to report. Charles R. Eastman WB2NLU.

• WB2DYJ asked if there was anymore business to attend to. There wasn't any. W2YGW made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned 9:27 PM.

MORE HAM GEAR FOR MIR, STAY EXTENDED FOR DP0MIR

German Cosmonaut Thomas Reiter, DP0MIR, and his two Russian crewmates, have installed a 70-cm band transceiver aboard their Mir space station, according to John Magliacane, in SpaceNews.

The main 70-cm band frequencies are:

Voice: 435.725 MHz (uplink), and 437.925 MHz (downlink).

Packet: 435.775 (uplink) and 437.975 MHz (downlink).

2-meter frequencies are:

Voice: 145.200 MHz (uplink) and 145.800 MHz (downlink).

Packet: 145.550 MHz (uplink) 145.550 MHz (downlink).

It should be noted that this 2-meter voice uplink frequency is not available for use in areas where repeater outputs operate on the same or adjacent frequencies, and will be subject to interference from repeaters when Mir is in range of North America.

There has been no 9600-baud packet radio activity yet, since the high speed TNC will not arrive at the Mir space station until later, SpaceNews said.

Most activity from DP0MIR has been in talking with schools, mainly in Germany.

The three men aboard Mir were scheduled to return to earth in mid January, but that reportedly has been extended into mid-February.

tnx ARRL Letter

RaRa Hotline

(716) 442-0587

24 hours a day

December Calendar

1 - KODAK-RaRa Meeting - 8:00PM - KODAK
Elmgrove - 901 Elmgrove Rd. See map page 8.
23- RaRa VE Testing - 111 Westfall Rd. 8:30 AM

DAYTON ARA CALLS FOR SCHOLARSHIP NOMINEES

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association is now accepting applications for its 1996 college scholarships. Amateur Radio licensees graduating high school in 1996 are eligible for \$2000 scholarships.

Each year the DARA offers eight such scholarships. No specific field of college study is required. Winners will be announced around June 1, 1996. Interested students should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for an application to DARA Scholarships, 45 Cinnamon Ct, Springboro, Ohio 45066. *tnx ARRL Letter*

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THE PREZ SAYS

The Ginna Pre-drill was a success for RACES and local ATV operators. I understand that P5 video was sent through the new RACES ATV repeater from as far away as Mendon. At my place of employment I even heard from non-amateurs (yes, we have a few non-amateurs here) who witnessed the ingenious field equipment deployed at Cobbs Hill Park. Of course, I recognized it as just everyday amateur technique, but I wasn't about to let the cat out of the bag!

The ATV repeater operates at 434 MHz in with AM video and FM 25kHz audio. Repeater output is 923.25 MHz. Both input and output are vertically polarized. Why do you need to know this? To participate in ATV activity night, of course. Beginning in November, the first and third Thursdays are dedicated ATV nights. They plan to start out on 144.34 simplex FM voice and coordinate video there. So if you have a 2M rig, you too can listen at least to the ATV action in real time.

In other local news, Irv Goodman AF2K, and Dale Girard N2YJU, both of Webster, demonstrated amateur radio to the six members of Cub Scout Den 7 of Pack 363 of Webster. The presentation included live demonstrations of VHF and HF communications. Irv used his HF mobile rig and mobile antennas to contact no fewer than five mid-western states to the amazement of the young scouts. Dale managed the VHF demonstration with a vertical antenna on top of two 10 foot masts which were fastened to a basketball backstop. According to Irv, "we planted some seeds..." This is very well done, gentlemen. We applaud your devotion of time, effort, and energy to introducing the next generation of hams to their future hobby.

After having heard of Irv's and Dale's story, I recalled how I myself was introduced to this, the king of avocations (I think that is a better term than "hobby"). Take a moment to recall your introduction to ham radio. Could your experience be duplicated today? Today's world is different than it was for us, of course. Amateur radio competes for a youngsters attention with Pentium-Pcs with CD-ROMs, pre-packaged video games, and if we wait too long, with the opposite sex. Lamentably, the vast majority of modern video games are built for ONE player; an unfortunate trend toward isolation of young people. People should interact with people, not silicon, and amateur radio offers personal interaction with the most "diverse" cross-section of humanity possible. What more politically-correct pastime could one offer?

What could YOU or WE do today that could duplicate your introduction to amateur radio for another young person?

At last year's Rochester Hamfest banquet, I had the pleasure of introducing a young boy of barely eight years who had recently passed his 5WPM code test. This month I am doubly pleased to announce his passing of the Novice theory exam at the October RaRa testing session. Please join me in welcoming to our ranks Alexander Reich KB2WBS. Not one to waste any time, he is already studying for the Technician theory exam and will have taken it by the time you read this. Having HF privileges gave "the old man" just the excuse he needed to pick up that HF rig at last month's auction! Alexander says he likes to take the exams with the RaRa team "because they make me feel comfortable and not nervous". (Thank you George, Alex, and Warren.) After having been asked what took him so long between the code test and the theory test, Alex explains, "Well, I had to study for my First Communion, and then there was the baseball season. My team won the (40 & 1 Bush League) World Series!".

Finally, our long-time instructor for the Novice / Technician theory has announced his retirement from the position. Dick Goslee K2VCZ had taught two sessions per year for the last five years, and did a yeoman's job of it, too. (Alexander was one of Dick's student's.) Dick sites valid reasons for his "retirement"; his main concern was giving the students his consistently best performance. He felt that current circumstances do not permit him to perform to his own standards, and this speaks highly of the integrity he brought to the RaRa licensing class program.

Our licensing class director, Art DeBruyker W2YGW is currently accepting applications and conducting interviews for a new Novice / Technician instructor. Please consider applying for the position. As any instructor can tell you, it's really not hard (RaRa has a good infra-structure in place for support), and if you REALLY want to understand something, TEACH IT for a while. The practice may even help you upgrade!

FCC DENIES 3 REQUESTS TO LOWER CW STANDARDS

The FCC has denied three requests to lower the Morse code requirement for the General Class Amateur Radio operator license.

The requests, in the form of letters, came from three Technician Plus class licensees. All three asked that the 13 wpm Morse code requirement for

the General Class license be lowered to 5 wpm. Two of them also asked that the Technician Plus operator license class be eliminated and that holders of Technician Plus licenses be granted General Class operator privileges.

In an Order released October 19, 1995, the FCC said "The current amateur service license structure and examination requirements were developed in accordance with the expressed desires of the amateur service community through numerous rule making proceedings that generated many thousands of comments.

"The amateur service community indicated on each occasion that it strongly desires to preserve communications by telegraphy. After considering the views expressed in those proceedings, the Commission adopted the rules that are codified in Part 97" (of the FCC Rules).

"The requesters have not presented sufficient evidence to justify revisiting these matters at this time," the FCC said.

tnx ARRL Letter

THE RaRa Rag YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable, K2MP

20 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 1975: The December meeting featured Terry Rogers, WA2BFP, an Electrical Engineer with RF Communications, speaking on Instrumentation for the Ham with an emphasis on oscilloscopes. Ditson Dawes, writing on behalf of the Licensing Class, announced that General Class theory will be taught beginning in February with a completion target in time for License exams given at the May Hamfest. Starting with this issue Gene Molter, WB2BAM, a RaRa member and PR man with the Monroe County Office of Public Information, will be doing some PR work for the club. This month's write up concerned the K2JD Mobile Van and the latest public service event, a Road Rally by the Triumph Touring Club of Rochester sponsoring The Rochester Kidney Foundation. At this point in time 2 meter FM activity was growing fast in popularity and the subject of Auto-patches was on everyone's mind. Ron Jakubowski, W7JRL/W2HXP, published information on how to connect standard touch-tone pads to any type of radio. From the Want Ads you could buy a National NCX-5 transceiver from Bill White, K2KAD, for \$300.00. Tire World of Greece (Ray, WA2SSU Manager) remains a long time advertiser.

40 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 1955: December is in the news: December 1914, ARRL is founded and first QST published. December 1921, First successful Trans Atlantic tests. December 1931, RaRa granted charter for affiliation with the ARRL. December 1941, Pearl Harbor and the ban on Amateur Activities for the duration. Chuck Brelsford, W2CTA, announced that the RaRa Novices classes were starting on Wednesday nights at Monroe High School. The December meeting was on DX operation where five different speakers each took turns on a DX topic. From the Want Ads you will find Bob McCarty, W2RUJ, looking to buy a new bevel gear for his prop pitch rotor.

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NORTHERN NEW YORK SECTION CREATED

Division's 7th Section is Official on January 1, 1996

ARRL members in New York's Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Montgomery, Otsego, Schoharie, and St. Lawrence counties formerly part of the Western NY Section, will soon be a new Section: Northern NY (NNY). Creation of NNY Section does not change the boundary between the Atlantic and Hudson Divisions.

Feeling themselves distinct from the rest of WNY for reasons of geography and culture? ARRL members and Affiliated Clubs in the Adirondacks and St. Lawrence River valley held several meetings among themselves and extensive discussions with ARRL elected leaders and HQ staff.

They came to understand that having a separate Section is not just a new contest exchange for Field Day, etc. ("Please copy 3A NNY"). First and foremost, an A ML Section is an administrative unit of the League. It needs a Section Manager and full Field Organization now, plus a long-term commitment to staff and manage ARRL's volunteer programs in the future. There are also financial costs to the ARRL for supporting an additional Section. With all of this in mind, members in the region proceeded with their plans.

*tx Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, Kay Craigie, WT3P
via NARC Radio Newsette*

HAMS TO GET 219 MHz

The FCC has released a report and order in docket no. 9340, allocating the 219 to 220 MHz band on a secondary basis to the amateur service for point-to-point fixed digital message forwarding systems. The allocation had been requested by the ARRL as partial compensation for the loss of the 220 to 222 MHz band.

When the new rules take effect, on a date that has not yet been announced, Technician and higher class licensees will be permitted to use digital emissions of up to 100 KHz bandwidth and no more than 50 watts PEP output. The primary occupant of the band is the automated maritime telecommunications systems (AMTS). To protect the primary occupant, the ARRL has been designated as the national contact point for all amateur operations in the 219 to 220 MHz band and is responsible for maintaining a database of all amateur operations in the band. All amateur stations

must notify the ARRL at least 30 days prior to initiation of operations in the 219 to 220 MHz band. Amateur stations within 50 miles of an AMTS coast station must obtain the written approval of the AMTS licensee prior to operating. Amateur stations within 398 miles of an AMTS coast station must notify the AMTS licensee in writing at least 30 days prior to initiation of operations. The ARRL will assist amateurs in fulfilling these requirements. Amateur stations operating in the 219 to 200 MHz band are not permitted to interfere with, nor are they protected from interference by, primary service operations in and adjacent to the band.

From W1AW Bulletin

NEW ARRL HQ TELEPHONE NUMBERS

ARRL Headquarters has a new telephone system. It's no longer necessary to go through the main switchboard, if you know what desk or staff member you want to speak to. Although the old number, (203) 666-1541, will continue in use for some time into the future, members are urged to use the new numbers now. Also, a new area code is being introduced in the Hartford area over the next year. It is 860. Either 203 or 860 can be used now, but use of 860 to reach ARRL HQ will be required in September, 1996. Here are several numbers you may want to put in your ham radio phone file:

(860) 594-0200 Main switchboard
(860) 594-0262 Hamfests/Conventions
(860) 594-0259 Fax for ARRL/IARU
(860) 594-0323 Regulatory Information
(860) 594-0291 DXCC Desk
(860) 594-0261 Field Services Dept.
(860) 594-0252 Contest Branch
(860) 594-0257 Circulation Dept.
(860) 594-0288 Awards Desk (e.g., WAS)
(860) 594-0301 Educational Activities
(860) 594-0264 Club Program Desk
(860) 594-0300 ARRL/VEC

NEW FCC RFI HANDBOOK TO BE AVAILABLE SOON

The Federal Communications Commission has released a new *Interference Handbook* for consumers. The 24-page, full color book will be stocked by FCC field offices around the country to provide people experiencing interference to home electronic equipment with information and solutions to interference problems.

The book deals not only with interference to televisions from radio transmitters, but also illustrates and describes interference caused by poor antennas (weak signals, ghosting); electrical interference from home devices such as hair dryers; electrical interference from power lines; and interference from home computers and low power radio devices such as garage door openers.

In addition to interference to televisions, the handbook describes solutions to interference to hi-fi systems, telephones, and video cassette recorders. Techniques for solving problems include the use of ferrite cores, improving receiving antenna systems, checking cabling, and isolating interconnected units to find the one that is at fault.

The book lists addresses and phone numbers for sources of high-pass filters, common-mode filters, band reject filters, ferrites and beads, ac line filters, telephone filters, and interference-resistant telephones, as well as an extensive list of manufacturers of home electronic equipment.

Page 1 of the new FCC Interference Handbook says "Many interference problems are the direct result of poor equipment installation. Cost cutting manufacturing techniques, such as insufficient shielding or inadequate filtering, may also cause your equipment to react to a nearby radio transmitter. This is not the fault of the transmitter and little can be done to the transmitter to correct the problem. If a correction cannot be made at the transmitter, actions must be taken to stop your equipment from reacting to the transmitter."

ARRL Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, KA1CV, says, "This is the statement from the FCC that hams have been waiting for. The book takes a fair and honest approach to explaining responsibilities and cures for interference problems. The FCC team that put this together has done a fine job with a complex technical and emotional subject."

At press time, it was not clear when FCC field offices would be stocked with the new publication.

Tnx ARRL Letter

AT THE BEEP IT'S TIME TO EAT

Don't you just hate it when your pager goes off at dinner time! Well, in Texas you'll find a rancher who uses beepers attached to cattle to call them in for dinner. The pagers are attached to several select cows in the herd. Once beeped, this group rounds up the rest of the 100-head herd to grab some grub, says Nelson Roberts, vice president and general manager of Arlington, Texas based Telephone Warehouse, which handled the pager installation.

The Dallas rancher simply dials a group dispatch number that sets off the multi-toned Motorola Express pagers, Roberts explains. There are three different tones on the pager, and some cattle have one tone and some have another, he continues. "The minute you can get one or two [cows] to start heading back towards the barn then they all follow." Training the cattle to associate the pager tones with feeding didn't take long, says Roberts.

The pagers are weatherized, with batteries that typically last about a month. A dial tone cowboy's life style is a definite departure from freewheeling cattle drives of old. "He can sit in the living room of his home, watching his herd of cattle, which is probably half a mile to a mile away," says Roberts. He can dial a number from the desk in his office and then watch that herd start to walk back towards the barn .

*-Betsy Simmacher, America's NETWORK Magazine.
12/94 Via the SBE Chapter 43 Newsletter in
Sacramento , CA.*

NEW FCC HANDOUT GIVES OVERVIEW OF HAM RADIO

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has produced a new "fact sheet" on its Amateur Radio Service (PR-5000, Number 210). A lot of information is packed into two pages. A few tidbits:

"These services present an opportunity for self-training, intercommunication, and technical investigations.

"Twenty-seven small frequency bands...are allocated to this service internationally.

"Some 1300 digital, analog, pulse, and spread-spectrum types may be transmitted.

"Millions of amateur operators in all areas of the world communicate with each other directly or through *ad hoc* relay systems and amateur satellites;

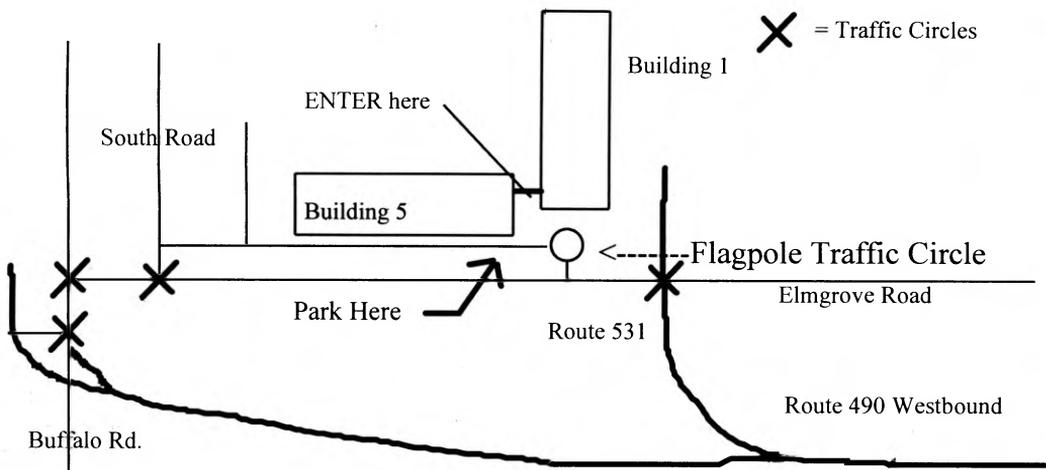
"All frequencies are shared. No frequency is assigned for the exclusive use of any amateur station.

"The FCC equipment authorization program does not generally apply to amateur station apparatus.

"The FCC rules are designed to promote the amateur service in the United

States to provide emergency communications, advance radio technology, improve operator skills, expand the numbers of trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts, and enhance international goodwill."

Tnx ARRL Letter



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