



the **RARRA RAG**

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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NO. 6

FEBRUARY MEETING TO FEATURE AMATEUR TV

The program for February 2, 1996 will be a demonstration of amateur TV, and the new repeater on the top of 111 Westfall. The presenter will be George Lloyd N2UIO. One of our own directors. Amateur TV is coming into its own for public service events, such as Ginna drills, where amateur radio is mandated. The more TV becomes available, the more it will be utilized, because, as has often been said, a picture is worth a thousand words. Some of the usefulness, will be in the reporting of various situations that amateur radio can become involved in, such as the races of all kinds, the walkathon, and decathalons.

There is not a great deal of activity at the present, but amateur TV may be the wave of the future. There is still time to get in on the ground floor. For those of you who are interested in amateur radio and are not turned on by voice, CW or the digital modes, this may spark your interests. Camera's do not have to be ultra sophisticated, and the receivers and transmitters needed are within the budget of most amateurs.

RaRa Hotline

(716) 442-0587

24 hours a day

SILENT KEYS

C. Friend Stafford
W2AAU
December 23, 1995

Roy E. Dennison
WB2PMM
January 2, 1996

RaRa MEETING

February 2, 1996

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road
Amateur TV
by George Lloyd N2UIO

RaRa CODE AND THEORY CLASSES START FEBRUARY 19th

RaRa is pleased to announce the formation of its Spring 1995 Code and Theory Classes. Classes will be offered for Novice, Technician, General and either Advanced or Extra.

If you are interested in the Advanced or Extra class, please leave a message on the RaRa hotline at 442-0587 giving your name, phone number, and the class you are interested in. If there is interest in the Extra class, it will be held in place of the Advanced Class. If there is not sufficient interest, the Advanced class will be held again.

Spring registration will be held at 111 Westfall Road at 7:00 p.m. The first session will start after all are registered. The classes normally start at 7:30 p.m. and last until 9:30 p.m. each Monday evening and will run until approximately May 13. A testing session is planned for May 13.

The total cost for the program, including registration is \$14.00 for Novice and Technician and \$ 12.00 for General and Advanced or Extra. If you are not a current member of RaRa please add \$6.00 if unlicensed, and \$10.00 if licensed to the above figures. This will cover your membership in RaRa.

Our teaching team looks forward to seeing you on February 19, even though this is a holiday. See you there.

the **RARA RAG**

PUBLISHED BY

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Amateur Radio News Service

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Summary of the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of January 10, 1996

In Attendance : WB2DYJ, WB2EKP, W2YGW, K2SQI, AF2K, N2EH, K2YA, K2VCZ, N2UIO.

• Meeting was called to order by WB2DYJ at 7:30 PM and a quorum was declared present.

• Program Chairmans Report. Art DeBruycker W2YGW stated that there wasn't anything new at this point. However, W2YGW stated that he was going to speak with N2UIO about doing a ATV demonstration for the February General Meeting. George Lloyd N2UIO indicated that he could do this. W2YGW and N2UIO will speak off line for more details.

• License Class. It was mentioned that Tim Magee agreed to teach the Novice code class. Neal Eckhardt WB2EKP offered to assist the new instructor for the theory class. Joe Hood K2YA stated that he could teach the Extra class if the are enough student enrolled. K2YA also stated he could teach the Advanced class. Neal Eckhardt WB2EKP stated that he will need an article for the Rag concerning the license classes. Irv Goodman AF2K offered to notify K2KWK so he could announce the classes on the Monroe County FM Net.

• Membership Chairman Report. Alex Piccirilli NV2Y reported that he is still getting responses to his letter. So far there have been 35 responses. There are 716 members to date.

• Public Service. Ed Holdsworth N2EH stated that the Stuart Horse Trials and Walnut Hill will be the coming up next August. Chris Reich WB2DYJ asked if we will be doing the Lilac 10K Run this year. Ed N2EH said that we probably are, but nothing has been confirmed as of yet.

• Club Station. Ed Holdsworth N2EH reported that a Cub Scout troop had been through the station today. Ed N2EH also mentioned that there was going to be a meeting here for the fire and EMS people and they are going to be shown the ATV repeater and how it works. George Lloyd N2UIO will participate and send live video pictures from Cobbs Hill on Friday during their meeting.

• Hamfest. Ed Holdsworth N2EH reported that all is going well and it's now time to get the necessary permits and make final arrangements.

• New Business. Because George Muller WA2IEO is now working nights and unable to attend meetings, we will need to find someone to

continued on next page

transport the drinks and doughnuts to the general meetings. Dave Hassett K2SQI volunteered to do this.

- Irv Goodman AF2K introduced Bob Erskin W2NVZ who is heading up the nominating committee. Bob was given a list of current members to use for choosing candidates for the up-coming election. WB2DYJ asked if there was anything else.

- Richard Goslee entered a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dave Hassett K2SQI. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

These are the minutes as recorded by George Lloyd N2UIO, RaRa Secretary.

FCC PLAYING CATCH-UP BALL

The budget impasse is over for now, but FCC issuance of new ham radio licenses was further delayed this month by bad weather and a Monday holiday. The FCC reopened Thursday, January 11, but closed Friday, January 12, as more snow hit Washington, DC. Monday, January 15, was a Federal holiday, Martin Luther King Day. While open on January 11, the FCC accepted electronic amateur license application files for processing from VECs, including more than 1800 records from ARRL/VEC. The FCC was planning to expedite the application backlog, but needed to make some temporary software adjustments before granting licenses. It was expected to take several days after the January 15th holiday for the FCC to get back up to speed.

Applicants wanting to check on license application status may call ARRL at 860-594-0300, 8 AM to 5 PM EST. Call sign and license upgrade information also is available on Internet sites, including the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, WEB site at <http://www.ualr.edu/doc/hamualr/callsign.html>.

by Bart Jahnke, KB9NM via The ARRL Letter

WANTED: Coil "E" for the HRO-60. Will pay your price. Please help. Richard J. LaMark, N2TXL, 6822 Tuckahoe Rd., Williamson, NY 14589-9589. (315) 589-2552.

February Calendar

2 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00PM - Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road

17- RaRa VE Testing - 111 Westfall Rd. 8:30 AM

C. FRIEND STAFFORD, W2AAU (8AUU) SILENT KEY

by Ed Gable, K2MP

RaRa lost one of its oldest members and indeed one of the Rochester area's oldest Hams, and a 55 year member of the ARRL, with the passing in December of C. Friend Stafford, W2AAU. As a lad on Augustine street in the city his type 203 fifty watter already was a real DX set up for the day. Being deaf since childhood Friend could only hear and operate CW. He graduated from the Rochester School for the deaf and went on to earn a BS degree in Electrical Engineering from Clarkson College. That took a special effort as few schools in those days were equipped for the handicapped. Friend designed and built his own amplifying apparatus so that he could hear college lectures. His quest for innovation there led him through a successful career and eventual retirement from General Railway Signal. He came from a very musical family and despite his deafness he became an accomplished organ and piano player. A few old timers may remember the eventful post war ARRL National Convention held in Buffalo, where Friend and Clara Reager, W2RUF, played a piano duet at the grand banquet. Friend moved to Spencerport where he put up a large windmill tower, and an even larger 4 element monoband yagi on 20 meters, on a very small lot, which became a local landmark. He enjoyed DX very much as well as the ARRL OM/YL contest where he routinely took first place in the Division for a period of some 15 years. The latter years were not kind to Friend and his health prevented him from operating his beloved ham station. Early in 1995, I had the sad job to tear down the home brew KW rack job, the old Collins receiver and other early gear at W2AAU, as he and his wife prepared to move into more easily managed housing. W2AAU was a kind, gentle, caring person, but most of all he was a dear friend. He will be missed.

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Rochester Hamfest May 31 - June 2, 1995

ROCHESTER HAMFEST PROGRAMS

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Are you thinking of spring after all the snow we have had this winter. If so, remember that along with spring comes all the hamfest to be held in Western New York. This should make you think about the new equipment you want to get this year or cleaning out the shack and trying to sell some things at the flea markets. In addition, did you ever think about attending some of the programs that are held at the hamfests? These are a great way to get information on a topic of interest to you and meet others with that same interest. The Rochester Hamfest is the largest in the area and it brings with it the largest variety of topics and programs. Over the next few months leading up to the Hamfest I will try to give you a short description of all the programs to be held this year. This will allow you time to think about which ones are for you and allow you to schedule your time so as to be able to attend them.

Are you interested in getting on the amateur satellites but are not sure how or what equipment may be needed. Steve Ford, WB8IMY, QST Assistant Managing Editor will be with us to present "Amateur Satellites For Beginners" which will help you. Discover how easy it is to get started in satellite operating and I earn what the future holds with Phase 3D - the largest, most powerful amateur satellite ever created. You may find that you already have almost everything you need to work this new satellite now.

Nikola Tesla....The Galileo of the 20th Century. Maybe. The advent of the 20th century has subjected the world to a wave of suppression and technical regression on a scale not seen since the days of Galileo! This self-immolation has plagued the human race for nearly a hundred years and continues even to this day. For you see, many of the marvels of today have their roots...indeed, their primary patents... traceable to one individual - Nikola Tesla. Come and learn more about Nikola Tesla by listening to and asking questions of J. W. McGinnes, President, International Tesla Society located in Colorado Springs, CO.

The ARRL Forum will be held again this year and everyone is encouraged to attend. This is an outstanding opportunity to confer with your ARRL leaders. Learn what is taking place in your league. Questions from the floor are very much encouraged. The forum will be headed up by Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, Atlantic Division Director. He will have with him the following: Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF, Hudson Division Director;

Kay Craigie, WT3P, Atlantic Division Vice Director; and Paul Vydareny, WB2VUK, Hudson Division Vice Director.

Amateur Television is up and running in the Rochester area!! Are you joining in on the fun, or at least thinking about it? Bill McDonnell, KG2F and George Lloyd, N2UIO will tell you about the ATV repeater that is now up and running in the Rochester area. They will explain how easy it is for everyone to join in on the fun and what little it takes. ATV has been a big amateur activity in many areas of the country but has been very limited in this area. The lack of a repeater had been one of the main reasons. Now there are no longer any excuses.

This is just the beginning. Watch each month to learn more about the programs that will be held. I think that you will find something of interest for you in at least one of them if not more.

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RaRa Angels

I want to thank three RaRa members, whom I shall take the liberty of referring to as "angels", for favors performed. The weather kept a lot of (sane) members from attending the January meeting, and we found ourselves short of manpower afterward. My heart-felt appreciation goes out to Warren Boudrie AA2LQ (Always Asking 2 Lotsa Questions), to Jack Trip N2SNL (Saturday Night Live), and to an anonymous member for their help in putting away chairs and tables after hours with us. Why is one of our angels anonymous? Because I didn't take the opportunity to shake his hand and get to know him, for which I am disappointed in myself. Did you ever wish you had extended your hand? Do you remember what it was like attending your first meeting? Won't you join me in attempting to be more diligent about getting to know just one more ham at each meeting?

It was good to have met the son of my muffler mechanic; I wish we could have spent more time, Mike. I hope to see you again at a RaRa meeting.

Thank you to all who have responded to the letter I mentioned in last month's column. If you are still waiting for "a round tuit" to respond, call me and I'll have one for you at the next meeting! Then, for heaven's sake, CALL!

The Amateur Radio Newsline is lamenting the majority of new hams are no-code Technicians, with few of them upgrading. What do you want? Egg in your 807? It's better to have a large influx of entry-level amateurs than stagnation of the service! So what if they don't enjoy code? There is more to ham radio than code! Rather than dwell on code vs. No-code, we should be addressing "ham" vs. "Non-ham" and "active ham" vs. "inactive ham". Have you "Elmered" anyone before? Have you "Elmered" anyone lately? It's easy! First, find a kid, (or make one, it's FUN!). Kids are often found visiting grandma and grandpa, or at scout meetings, or at church groups, or with relatives. They can be found often in front of home video games, or PCs, or VCRs, and sometimes schoolbooks. If they are major users of a twisted-pair circuit, why not suggest a radio connection among their friends? Because of the no-code license, one obstacle is down. It remains up to US to put UP their interest. Get a video from the ARRL and show it to some crumb-snatchers. If you, too, need "a round tuit", contact me and I'll have one for you at the next meeting!

Kids and keyboards seem to become symbiotic beings after a while. Perhaps a keyboard contact via any of the digital modes, on HF or VHF, will

continued on page 6 column 1

The RaRa Rag Years Ago

by Ed Gable, K2MP

20 YEARS AGO - FEBRUARY 1976: An always popular, entertaining and well informed speaker, Gordon Wendell, W2FDI, spoke to RaRa on his favorite subject of Ham antennas. Harold Smith, WA2KND, announced that he had made arrangements for travel to the Dayton HamVention. A block of rooms was reserved and special round trip air-fare set up totaling \$92.10 for the entire weekend. Gene Molter, WB2BAM, reported that OEP will receive eight high power FM transmitters for use in RACES at a value of \$13,000. The-Genesee Repeater Association (.19/.79) announced their Annual General meeting with a special showing of a film on the Blue Angels Precision Flying team, photographed for Kodak by Ralph Amdusky, W2DFS. A new advertiser is Allied TV and Radio, Wally Kincaid, WB2HZG, President. From the Want Ads, you could buy a Heath Mauader from Chuck, K2YCO

40 YEARS AGO - FEBRUARY 1956: Fred Halik, W2PFI, reports that 25 people are attending RaRa's code classes. Lee Wight, W2VBH, Chmn for the Western New York Hamfest, says plans are coming along well for the May 19th event to be held at the Doud American Legion Post. The program for February was the ever popular Ham Equipment Auction. KN2RAA was a just issued call in the Novice series. You could buy a used Hallicrafters S-38 receiver from the Brighton High School Radio Club by contacting Bill Brelsford, K2INO

Next Rag Deadline February 9, 1996

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create the same spark in their eye as it did in yours. ___ years ago (you fill in the blank). You're not on a digital mode yet (besides CW)? Well, may I suggest that if you start saving your pocket change now, by Rochester Hamfest you could have enough for a new controller! You get a new piece of gear, a kid gets inspired, and the Rochester Hamfest maintains it's status as one of the premier hamfests in the country; a win-win-win situation for everyone. In case you've not spent much time recently on this planet, you need to know that the hamfest will now be later in the year than in the past. This year the weekend starts on May 31. I hope to see you there (and save one of those controllers for me!).

Henry Smith NA5K reports via the internet that he had a nice CW QSO with Ralph, W7MP in the state of Washington. Ralph had just bought a new Icom IC-775DSP; he is 97. As "Smitty" says, "Is this a great hobby, or what?"

Though it did not receive much local advance publicity, the January VHF contest will be history by the time you read this. Please consider submitting your logs in the name of RaRa for the purposes of the Rochester Cup, sponsored by the Rochester VHF Group. I am told that if the Xerox club wins again this year, the cup remains in their possession and the contest is over, so let's make them work hard for it, so that they will appreciate it more.

Dale Fravel N2LWY has asked me to let you know of his home page on the internet at address <http://www.vivanet.com/~dfravel/rlist.html>.

Among other things to be found there is a local updated repeater directory, which is always in short supply.

Lest you think that you have to be in some inner circle to receive attention here, let me invite all of you to submit to me anything that you may wish to have mentioned here in my column of the RaRa Rag. I know it's a cliché, but it's true, this is YOUR publication. We are always ready to welcome articles written by local authors on just about anything remotely related to ham radio. If you think that something you're doing "wouldn't be interesting" to the rest of us, I have this question. Why were YOU interested in it, then? Allow me to give an example; I want to know more about making open-wire transmission line. I'm willing to bet all the donuts consumed at one meeting that someone in RaRa can teach me a lot about it. If I hadn't mentioned that here, would he or she know about my need? Of course not. There are certainly a lot of other topics of value, technical and non-

technical. Please consider yourselves invited as guest authors in the RaRa Rag.

It has recently been suggested to me that RaRa institute a "Ham of the Month". While I probably don't have the authority to make it official (if that means anything), I'll go out on a limb and commit to recognizing one "Ham of the Month". This month it has to go to Dave Hassett K2SQI, for volunteering to act as refreshment coordinator in the absence of George Muller WA2IEO. It appears that George has his priorities straight, preferring to provide for his family over transporting pastries. Good luck in your new position, George, and a big thank you and a hearty handshake to Dave!

One last item; congratulations to Neal and Kim Eckhardt on the birth of a daughter on the 21st of December. Now Neal, remember what I said about kids and introducing them to ham radio. Well, OK, let's wait until she's out of diapers first.....

FCC SETS VE TEST FEES

Effective January 1, 1996, the maximum allowable reimbursement fee for an amateur operator license examination will be \$6.07. The FCC set this amount based on the Consumer Price Index between September 1994 and September 1995 and it will be an increase from the current \$5.90.

Volunteer examiners and volunteer examiner coordinators may charge examinees for out of pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering, or coordinating reexaminations for amateur operator licenses. The amount of any such reimbursement fee from any one examinee for any one examination session, regardless of the number of elements administered, must not exceed the maximum allowable fee.

Beginning January 1 the ARRL/ VEC will charge \$6.05 to each applicant (other than candidates taking Novice Class elements 1A or 2).

tnx ARRL Letter

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ATTORNEY-HAM CITES OHIO TVI ARREST AS POSSIBLE WARNING

In the wake of the December arrest of a Moraine, Ohio, CBER for causing TVI at his neighbor's apartment, Dayton attorney and Amateur Radio operator Ron Pretekin, AB8K, says "hams should take note of what such problems ultimately can lead to." Pretekin pointed to an article in the Dayton Daily News describing the circumstances under which the CBER, Steven Holbrook, wound up in jail on a third-degree felony charge of disrupting public services for interfering with his neighbor's reception of cable television programs. According to the report, Holbrook and the neighbor had feuded over the problem for several months. His arrest came after the neighbor tape-recorded Holbrook's CB chatter as it came over his TV. The newspaper said the conversation included profanity and threats against the neighbor. If convicted, Holbrook faces a maximum \$5000 fine and 10 years in jail, the paper said.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed: "The FCC has exclusive authority to regulate RF interference, which is not subject to state or local law." Sumner says an attorney representing an ARRL member facing charges based on RF interference would be able to look to the League for some help. "However, we would hope that any licensed amateur would have the good sense to not inflame the situation in the manner described by the newspaper," Sumner added.

Tnx ARRL Letter

Patrick C. Moyer, N2AIW
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FAR OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HAMS

The nonprofit Foundation for Amateur Radio Inc--an ARRL-affiliated federation of radio clubs in the Washington, DC, area--plans to administer 57 scholarships for the 1996-97 academic year to help licensed radio amateurs with their post-secondary education. Eight of the scholarships are fully funded with income from grants and the foundation's annual hamfest in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Licensed hams are eligible if they plan to pursue a full-time course of study beyond high school and are enrolled or have been accepted at an accredited university, college or technical school. Awards range from \$500 to \$2000, with preference given in some cases to those pursuing certain courses of study or to residents of specific geographical areas (Delaware, Florida, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin). Application forms and information are available by letter or QSL postmarked prior to April 30, 1996, from FAR Scholarships, 6903 Rhode Island Ave, College Park, MD 20740. Contributions to FAR are tax-exempt.

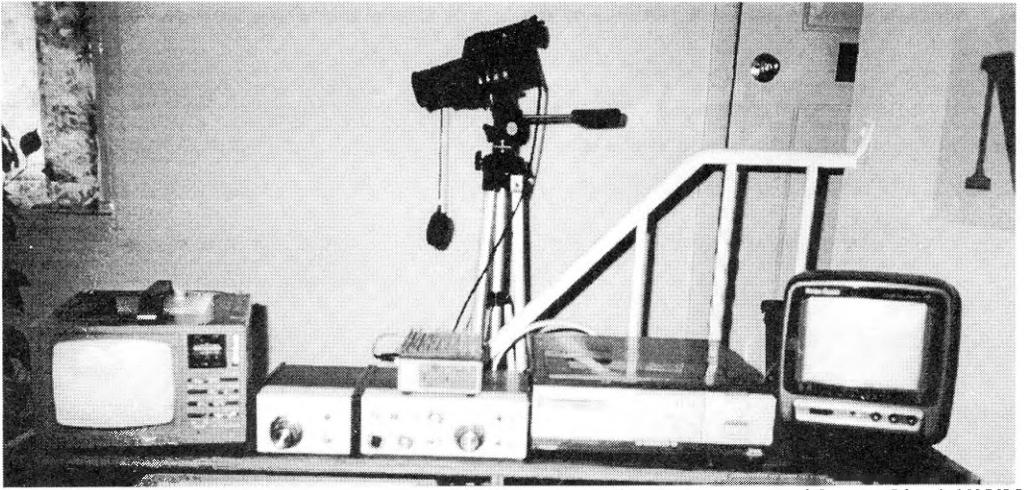
THE DAY THE FB-7 TOOK FLIGHT...

by Bernie Peake, N4CR.

Since this is my 62nd year as an active ham... the exact date in 1938 when the following happening occurred eludes me, but my best buddy, Wally Ward, then W9SUJ and now K4AEA and I were relaxing in his shack. He, to my envy, had a real shack at the back of his home QTH in Chicago. Wally was expounding on the marvelous merits of his new National FB-7 receiver. He reached for the filament switch but never touched it because, at the same moment the FB-7 jumped off his bench, flew zooming across the shack to the back wall where it slammed with a might bang and dropped "kerplunk" on the floor.

Ah me... #14 wire wrapped around the antenna "binding post" as they used to call the connectors in those days, does not readily act as a quick disconnect. A passing rubbish truck traveling up the alley behind the shack was just high enough to snag Wally's lead in!

*tnx NARC Radio Newsette via MARC Newsletter
via The Ground Wave*



Amateur TV station and picture courtesy of George Lloyd, N2UIO

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