



# the **RARA RAG**

Published by  
**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

VOL. 48

April 1996

NO. 8

## **APRIL MEETING FEATURES ARRL ANTENNA VIDEO**

We will have a video tape from ARRL on antenna's. To the best of my knowledge this is a new tape in that RaRa just purchased it, and that it has not been released prior to this time. It will become a part of what may become a RaRa lending library of tapes available to RaRa members, or any group wishing to borrow it for their own use. The title of the tape is "All that you ever wanted to know about antenna's, and were afraid to ask." I have previewed this tape and it is a demonstration of the field patterns exhibited by various configurations of antennas you may put up. It will give you some foresight on what a particular antenna configuration will do for you at your location. gives you an idea what effect polarization has and what height above ground will do to the antenna. All this is done on a display panel operating at several gig. No specific antenna configurations are recommended for your application but much food for thought. The length of the tape is 1:08:30 , so be prepared. If time permits a question and answer session can follow. If the tape proves to be too long for a regular meeting, it can be shown in segments.

Re: the February meeting, the only feedback that I have received was to the effect that " I should have used the microphone." Apparently there were those who could not hear me well, and for this I apologize. If you have trouble hearing me at any time, please speak up and let me know. Ineffective speaking is worse than none . I am not afraid of the microphone, as many of you know.

By the time you read this, I will have been in and out of the hospital and had an operation for removal of a cancerous prostate. Am looking forward to a complete recovery and being with you all soon, possibly at the April meeting....

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**Rochester Hamfest**  
**May 31 - June 2, 1996**

## **RaRa MEETING**

**April 5, 1995  
8:00 P.M.**

Henrietta Fire Hall  
3129 East Henrietta Road  
**ARRL ANTENNA VIDEO**

## **NEW CD-ROM VERSION OF QST AVAILABLE IN MARCH**

from The ARRL Letter

The new CD-ROM version of QST was the hit of the ARRL booth at the Miami Tropical Hamboree February 3-4. Here, QST Editor Mark Wilson, AA2Z, right, runs the demonstration disk through its paces for a pair of interested visitors. The CD-ROM--to be available in mid-March--features an entire year's worth of QST, plus QEX and NCJ (1995 issues for the initial offering), including full text, photographs, schematics and other graphics, and advertisements. Among other things, users can search for text and zoom in to schematics and diagrams to enhance detail. The text includes hypertext links. (Copies are \$19.95 for members and \$29.95 for nonmembers, plus \$4 shipping. To order one, e-mail [pubsales@arrl.org](mailto:pubsales@arrl.org) or, read more about it at [http://www.arrl.org/ads/cdrom/.](http://www.arrl.org/ads/cdrom/))

## **SILENT KEYS**

**Carl R. Amadio**  
WB2BOD  
February 1, 1996

**John R. Minchella**  
N2QYJ  
February 7, 1996

# the RARA RAG

PUBLISHED BY  
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## ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Highlights of the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of March 6, 1996

In Attendance: WB2DYJ, K2SQI, N2BEL, N2EH, WB2EKP, WB2EFU, W2YGW, K2MP, NV2Y and N2UIO.

•Call to order. WB2DYJ called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

•Introduction of visitors. There was one visitor, Ed Gable K2MP. Mr. Gable is seeking donations of amateur radio equipment to be used at the Batavia Veterans Hospital.

•Treasurers Report. Richard Goslee K2VCZ was not present however copies of the Treasurers Report were handed out to all board members present.

•Membership Chairman. Alex Piccirilli NV2Y stated that there are now 750 members in good standing. NV2Y also suggested passing out copies of the Rag to past members in an effort to boost interest in the club.

•Club Station Report. Ed Holdsworth N2EH stated that the display in the 765 is not reading properly and that it needs to be properly checked out. Also Irv Goodman AF2K corrected all the dupes in the logs for the contest that the club station was recently involved in. Ed then mentioned the demonstration of the club station for the cub scouts was all set and ready to go.

•Awards Report. Keith Freeberg N2BEL stated that all went well with the awards at the last meeting. Then there was discussion over what to offer at the upcoming meetings that would be more attractive to the membership. There were many suggestions as to what to offer. N2BEL stated that he will look into items that may be of greater interest and now has plenty of ideas.

•Hamfest Report. Ed Holdsworth N2EH asked for volunteers to help out with the Newark Hamfest. Several people volunteered.

•George Lloyd N2UIO offered a proposal concerning the ATV repeater which outlined several new ways to utilize the system in an attempt to increase usage and better serve the amateur community.

•Ed Gable K2MP stated that he had a lot of old club records and wondered whom to turn them over to. Irv Goodman AF2K will consult with Ed K2MP.

•Outstanding new/old business. Irv Goodman stated that the Rundell Library now has the new callbook available for 1996. Both foreign and domestic. Their phone number is 428-7327.

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### OFFICERS.

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K2JD Engraving: Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH

The RaRa RAG (USPS 605-440) is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., 24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, New York 14623. Subscription is \$5.00 per year (included in the \$10.00 annual membership dues). Second class postage paid in Rochester, NY.

POSTMASTER - Send address changes to The RaRa Rag, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, New York 14692-8333. Full permission is granted for reprinting articles provided a credit line is given to the RaRa Rag. The Rag exchanges with other organizations publications.



Amateur Radio News Service

# ROCHESTER HAMFEST PROGRAMS-PART III

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

The Rochester Hamfest is getting closer each day. I hope that everyone is looking forward to it even if you have to wait a couple of weeks longer this year. Remember the date this year is May 31, June 1 and 2. This should insure us good weather, even though the last few years have not been bad.

The hamfest will once again be having a lot of programs for you to attend and enjoy. If you have been following this column for the last few months you have learned what some of these will be. Save your Rags so that you will have a complete listing of the programs before the hamfest. That way you can schedule your time so as not to miss the ones you are interested in.

Harry Dannals, W2HD, President Emeritus, ARRL and past President of the QCWA will be speaking to us on many things that are happening today and the effects they will have on amateur radio in the next few years. What will our future look like? Come and see what Harry has to say. For those of you that have had the privilege of listening to Harry speak, will know that you are in for a great treat.

Noted author and educator Dr. H. Paul Shuch has long thrilled audiences not just on college campuses, but at engineering, astronomy, amateur radio, and science fiction conferences around the world. His talk on Searching For Life Among The Stars will include humankind's ongoing effort to demonstrate that we are not alone. He will also introduce Project Argus., an effort to enlist 5,000 amateur radio astronomers in the world's first real-time full-coverage microwave survey of the cosmos.

Do you know how the Field Service Organization actually works? Whether or not you do, this is a meeting for you. Jay Mabey, NU0X, Senior Assistant Manager of Field Services will be talking about the organization and how it works. This will help you if you do not understand the organization. For those that understand the organization come and learn what some of the current issues of interest are facing the organization today. Jay encourages questions from the floor.

Bill Thompson, W2MTA, Western New York Section Manager will continue with the Field Organization but in one area of more detail. He will have at this forum Ron Raposo, N2JAW, NTS Digital Coordinator as a key note speaker. Ron will give an update on HF digital communications for

## April Calendar

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

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

the field organization and will be of great interest to all operation in the NTS.

The annual joint MARS forum will be held again this year. Coordinating this forum will be Colin Corke, AFF1NY, Air Force MARS State Director, Ken Wasley, NNNOGBJ-15, Navy-Marine Corps MARS, Elizabeth (Betty) Strattan, AAA2NY, Army MARS State Director. All MARS are welcome to the annual information exchange meeting. Ed Kessler, NNNOGBJ, Northern New York Area Coordinator will follow with the Navy-Marine Corps MARS member annual update.

J.W. McGinnis, President, International Tesla Society will help us to discover Tesla's lost inventions; AC motors, radio, fluorescent lighting, robotics are just a few of his inventions used on a daily basis yet many have never heard of him.

That concludes this months report. Using these brief summaries of topics along with those listed in previous months will help you select those of interest to you. Next month there will be a summary of each topic and a meeting schedule so that you can make use of your time at the hamfest to do everything you want and still attend the programs that are of interest to you.

Wanted: Ride to the monthly RaRa meetings from the Broad - Alexander Street Area. Unable to drive, but now taking licensing course and enjoy the meetings. Any help would be appreciated. Please call Charles at 232-1488. Thanks.

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# The Prez Sez --

by Christopher Reich, WB2DYJ  
RaRa President

Due to comments received on the matter, the business portion of the regular meetings will be shorter in the future.

From time to time I am posed with a question of "who's who" in RaRa. The answer is found on page two of every issue of the Rag, where you will find a list of all officers, board members, and other volunteers. Now you know.

An unofficial news item from a QRPer in the United Kingdom announced that the last American manufacturer of ham gear will no longer supply the European market. Apparently, the EEC now mandates a type approval that renders the market impenetrable to small manufacturers, due to the cost of obtaining the approval. For that reason, the G3-ham claims that Ten-Tec equipment will no longer be exported to Europe. This, in an age in which the buzz-words from Washington are "global marketplace" and "free trade." Excuse me, but what's wrong with this picture?

The FCC has announced that they will not accept license renewals electronically, only by mail. Furthermore, the renewal must arrive no sooner than 90 days before the date of expiration of your license. I'm sure the reason for not accepting electronic renewals is the legal requirement to have your original signature on record, so that much makes sense. Since the FCC now sends renewal notices that only need be signed and returned, the process is now easier than ever. Because we renew so infrequently, it's easy to lose track of the time. I have seen a few hams very surprised when they check. What is the expiration date on your license?

The ARRL has asked me to let you know that anyone who has been a member of the ARRL for at least 25 years is eligible for special recognition at no charge. No, I don't know the nature of the special recognition; when you get yours, let us all know. Apply for your renewal to the League through the RaRa membership chairman and save \$2.32. Two dollars will be knocked off your next years' dues, and RaRa pays the postage. No less than 61% of RaRa members are also ARRL members, compared to a national average of about 28% (according to WNY Section Manager Bill Thompson, March 1995).

Did you know that in 1995 every issue of QST contained an article from someone in the Atlantic Division? No fewer than five of them are from our immediate area. They are Floyd Koontz WA2WVL, Gary Diana N2JGU, Bob Radmore N2PWP, and Tony Marchese N2YMW. Floyd

Koontz wrote two articles for QST, one of them the winner of the prestigious Cover Plaque Award. The award is given to the author of the best article in each issue, as voted by the ARRL Board of Directors. As you may recall, Floyd was also the guest speaker at our October meeting. Our collective hat is off to all of you, Gentlemen.

Get your calendars out and fill in the Newark Hamfest for Saturday, March 30. Then, flip to May and pencil in the Rochester Hamfest and Atlantic Convention for the weekend beginning on the 31st. Friday is the day of the banquet; you will be cheating yourself out of a worthwhile part of the hamfest by missing it, so do come. Advance tickets are on sale now through Irv Goodman AF2K.

The Hamfest committee is accepting nominations for Ham of the Year, and for a recipient of the Technical Achievement award, both to be presented at the Rochester Hamfest and Atlantic Convention. The deadline is April 1 (no fooling) and applications are available from the Hamfest address at 300 White Spruce Blvd., Rochester, New York 14623.

There is more to hamfesting (English is wonderfully pliable in allowing us to make a verb out of ANY word) than wandering through the flea market. When you get your hamfest brochure in the mail, circle the seminars that interest you, set your digital watch to 15 minutes before, and come to them. The seminars this year will be VERY interesting; especially one by the president of the International Tesla Society. If you have ever heard any of their programs by short-wave broadcast, you certainly will want to know more about the controversial scientist Nikola Tesla. It is coming to a hamfest near you; go to it.

The word on the street is that the Rochester Hamfests' web page is well worth spending some time with (between QSOs, of course.) Once again, <http://www.vivanet.com/~rochfst/hf/main96.html> will get you there on the Internet. Kay Craigie WT3P has created a page for the Atlantic Division at <http://www.arrl.org/divisions/atlantic.html>. Let me know what you think about the pages.

Ed Holdsworth N2EH is still accepting applications for public service event workers. This is one of the most fun aspects of ham radio IMHO (In My Humble Opinion) and a good way to get out and enjoy some sun and fresh air at the same time. Do it.

The Ham of the Month Award for April 1996 goes to Ed Gable K2MP for volunteering to help an associate member plan for antenna structures for a house he is having built. We thank you for stepping forward, Ed.

I hope you didn't put your calendar away just yet, turn to June 29 and write down the RaRa family

picnic at Ellison Park South Lodge. As I mentioned last month, you're all invited, and bring the family and the water guns.

The word count is down to 964 this month, that's what a battle with the stomach flu before the deadline will do to you I guess...

## RDXA PLANS FIELD DAY

by Ed Gable K2MP

Local DX enthusiast from the Rochester DX Association will again operate the popular and fun ARRL Field Day. This year's event is designed to encourage participation by more members and carries a fun format complete with a sit down steak dinner (optional) on Saturday night. Field Day is early this year, June 22/23, so don't miss out. The RDXA'ers will be found in Webster Park by the old Boy Scout Pavilion. Look for the 90 foot flag pole with, what else, antennas hanging all over it! The group is especially looking for Novice operators to operate the separate (a rig of your own) Novice/Tech+ position, but all are invited to attend. For more information contact Chris Shalvoy, N2PEB, at 586-6531 or e-mail to cwcrs19@vivanet.com.

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## The RaRa Rag Years Ago

by Ed Gable K2MP

**20 YEARS AGO - APRIL 1976:** This April issue brought no April Fool's jokes but did feature information on radio pioneer Elmo Pickerill who was the first to merge two-way radio communications and aviation in 1910. Oh, yes, his flight instructor was Orville Wright and he also held the first ever radio license ever issued by the United States. That was the lead in to announce Old Timer's night with Bruce Kelley, W2ICE and Linc Cundal, W2QY, providing pictures and sound interviews of the famous Mr. Pickerille. Julio Ahumada, LU7BD/W2, a popular M X electronics Instructor, wrote an interesting article on Ham Radio communications used in the recent Guatemala earthquake disaster. The month of April contains Library week and RaRa Celebrated that by donating ARRL publications to the Rochester Library and encouraged others to do the same. From the Want Ads you could buy a 3 bedroom house complete with tower and antennas from Jim and Deanna. WA2MKK and WA2YYZ.

**40 YEARS AGO - APRIL 1956:** April brought Cy Staud, K2DQ, speaking on the use of converters as a simple and effective means of receiving Ham Bands. Hamfest plans are well along for the May 9th event at the Doud Legion Post. Three dollars brings you entrance and a banquet dinner. Bob Jeffers, W2ALL, reports that the Finger Lakes Two Meter AM net on 145.35 Mcs is going strong. HF Mobile was very very popular in this time period as evidenced by the story of W2RGA. He bought four new tires and repainted his old car rather than face the problem of converting his beloved mobile rig to 12 volts as found in the new jobs Fred Becker, K2CEI, remains a long term advertiser of Central Electronics SSB equipment.

### **Next Rag Deadline**

**April 15, 1996**

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# HAM RADIO SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-seven (57) scholarships for the academic year 1996- 1997 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds eight of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining forty-nine (49) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2000 with preference given in some cases to the pursuit of certain study programs or to residents of specified geographical areas (Delaware, Florida, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin). Amateur Radio clubs are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, on their nets, during training classes, and in their club newsletters.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1996 from:  
FAR Scholarships  
6903 Rhode Island Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

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## WHAT?? STPR ON HAMFEST WEEKEND??

Yes, despite what you may think, the annual trek to the woods of Pennsylvania is scheduled to conflict with the RaRa Hamfest. The people who set the dates for the Rally Schedule are way out in Denver, and they never heard (and probably don't care) about the Hamfest. The reason this article is here is to see if any of you might be able to squeeze both the Hamfest AND the Rally into the same day and night.

By covering the Dome and grounds in the morning and early afternoon, leaving for Pa. by 3 PM, or so, you could get to work in the 20th running of STPR. That's right. The Rochester Hams have been working this Public Service Event for 20 years. There have been a lot of changes during that time, the best change being that most of us know where we are when we get there. That was not the case the first couple of years. But, if you think that you would like to get in on the action, let us know. There will be a very late registration set up in Germania to take care of the late arrivals, IF you let us know in advance. We know that this is a big order for one day, but our fingers are crossed. For more information about this event, please call Tim @ 742-3801, or Roger @ 292-6665 before May 10th.

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## LEAVE THE H-T BEHIND IF YOU'RE OLYMPICS-BOUND

from The ARRL Letter

Andrew Funk, KB7UV, a member of the Olympic Broadcast Frequency Coordination Committee, has issued a word of warning for hams coming to Atlanta for the Olympics: Leave your H-Ts at home!

"To say things are going to be tightly controlled is an understatement," Funk said, adding that all broadcast-related RF gear will be required to pass an Olympic certification inspection in addition to that required by the FCC. "And I once found Amateur repeater coordination difficult!" joked Funk, who's Assistant News Operations Manager at WAGA-TV in Atlanta.

Funk said the policy will "unfortunately have an impact upon Radio Amateurs attending the games." Since VHF and UHF handheld radios are known to be easily modified for wideband use, security officers will not permit amateur H-Ts at Olympic venues, he said. "Some may argue that this policy is unreasonable. It may or may not be, but it will be in effect and enforced," Funk emphasized.

Michael Smalls, the co-chair of the Olympic Broadcast Frequency Coordination Committee was sympathetic: "We wish it was different," he said. "But, Atlanta is already pretty crowded."

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# FCC DROPS VEC CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST RULES

from The ARRL Letter

The FCC has formally eliminated conflict-of-interest provisions that had applied to the administration of Amateur Radio exams. The action conforms Part 97 of the rules to the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, recently signed into law by President Clinton.

The Commission also eliminated a requirement that volunteer examiners and volunteer examiner coordinators maintain records of out-of-pocket expenses and annually certify those expenses to the FCC. The FCC notes that VEs and VECs still may recover actual out-of-pocket costs from examinees. The maximum reimbursement fee is \$6.07 for 1996.

The FCC said the rules changes will eliminate "unnecessary regulatory burdens." The former provisions precluded equipment manufacturers and their employees and anyone who prepares or distributes ham radio license study materials from administering Amateur Radio license examinations. The underlying purpose was to prevent an employee from favoring examinees who had purchased manuals or equipment produced or distributed by the VE or the VE's employer. The FCC has concluded that other rules provisions, combined with current Amateur Radio license examination procedures, will protect against potential abuses.

The FCC notice announcing the rules changes pointed out that Section 97.523 requires VECs to cooperate in maintaining a single question pool for each examination element. As a result, all exam materials and manuals must draw from the standard question pool, which is widely available to the public. Also, the FCC noted, each exam is administered by three VEs and coordinated by a VEC. The Commission said it would be highly unlikely for any examinee to be favored by a VE or VEC.

The FCC said the 12 years of experience with the VEC system has shown that breaches of trust by VECs and VEs can be dealt with swiftly and immediately by discrediting the offending VEs or rescinding the VEC agreement.

The FCC adopted the rules changes February 28, 1996. They become effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

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**Rochester Hamfest**  
May 31 - June 2, 1996

# ARRL BRIEFS

from the ARRL Letter.

•The FCC will not renew your license electronically, the ARRL's Regulatory Information Branch advises in response to several recent queries. You may download the FCC Form 610 from the FCC fax-on-demand service or from the FCC's home page on the World Wide Web. The FCC only renews a license if an application is received within 90 days before or two years after the license expiration date. It will not be renewed if submitted earlier. (NOTE: If you apply for renewal after your license expires, you may not operate until the application has been processed.) You should receive an FCC Form 610-R from the FCC 90 days before your ticket expires. If all of the information is correct, you just need to sign the form and return it. If you do not get a Form 610-R, a regular Form 610 is okay.

•Amateurs who want proof under the still-pending vanity call sign program that they once held a particular call sign may be able to get help--for a price--from International Transcription Service, the FCC's contractor for research. ITS reports it has "spotty records on tape" from the years 1946 until 1964, "history cards" for 1964 until 1979 and microfiche copies for everything after that. Charges are 30 cents per page and \$15 per hour, in 15-minute increments. However, to avail yourself of ITS services, you must pay up front. A spokeswoman at ITS said the average time to research a call sign is one hour, and that \$15 should be sufficient to cover the cost. ITS can provide the actual date when a license was first issued. The company is at 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325 (right next door to the FCC Licensing Division in Gettysburg); tel 717-337-1433.

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# TWO COUNTIES RETURN TO WNY SECTION

from The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Executive Committee has voted unanimously to return the New York counties of Herkimer and Otsego counties from the Northern New York Section to the Western New York Section, effective April 1, 1996. The committee's action reflects the results of a canvass of ARRL members in three counties that had initially been made a part of the new NNY section. Members in

Herkimer and Otsego counties clearly favored the return of those counties to the WNY section. Of 37 members in Herkimer County, 25 responded; 18 favored returning to WNY, while seven favored remaining in NNY. Of 50 members in Otsego County, 37 responded; 29 favored returning to WNY, six favored remaining in NNY, and two did not reply. Of 18 members in Schoharie County, only seven responded; one favored returning to WNY, while six favored remaining in NNY. Therefore, in the case of Schoharie County the Executive Committee decided to make no change. The affected section managers have been notified.

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