



the RARA RAG

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May 1996

NO. 9



OLD TIMERS NIGHT

This photograph was taken of former RaRa presidents at an Old Timers Night 20 years ago. How many do you recognize? Several are now Silent Keys while others have changed their call letters.

Seated l. to r.: Wes Jackling (W2YUT), Linc Cundall (W2QY), Harold Smith (WA2KND) Eddie Dunn (W2ECH), Bob Lauzon (WB2NSD), Ernie Crewdson (WA2FVG), Bruce Kelley (W2ICE), Dick Fish (W2OWF).

Standing: Bob Wetheral (W2CZT), Dick Koehn (WB2SNA), Stan Hazen (W2SSB), Fred Halik (K2EU), Ed Capauldy (K2UXF), Al Mumby (WB2MCP), Hank Blodgett (W2UTH) Ed Holdsworth (WA2EKR)

Club Historian, Bruce Kelley W2ICE, will entertain us with pictures and commentary covering early Rochester stations and Hamfests, club activities and old time radio stores. Recognition will be given to amateurs who have been licensed 25 years or more. Will there be any pre-War amateurs present?

RaRa MEETING

May 3, 1995

ANNUAL MEETING

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road
*Old Timers Night
Election of Officers*

SILENT KEY

George B. Ewing

W2YMN

March 16, 1996

the **RaRa Rag**

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.
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Secretary: George Lloyd, N2UIO.....637-9499
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Treasurer: Richard Goslee, K2VCZ.....334-1762

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David Hassett, K2SQI.....621-1846
Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH.....624-1929
Joseph Hood, K2YA.....865-9092
George Muller, WA2IEO.....381-6151

Club Historian: Bruce Kelley, W2ICE
Public Service Coordinator: Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH
License Testing Directors: George Platteter, AA2FO
Membership Chairman: Alex Piccirilli, NV2Y
Licensing Course Director: John Helfer WB2KGD
Hamfest General Chairman: Harold Smith, K2HC
K2JD Engraving: Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH

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Amateur Radio News Service

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of April 10, 1996

In attendance: K2VCZ, K2YA, N2EH, WB2EKP, N2BEL, NV2Y, AF2K, WB2EFU, N2UIO and W2YGW

•Call to order. The meeting was called to order by Art DeBruycker W2YGW at 8:56 PM.

•Review of the minutes of the previous meeting.

•Treasurer's report. Richard Goslee K2VCZ handed out copies of the Treasurers report to all present. After talking over some of the details, the motion to accept the report was made by Neal Eckhardt WB2EKP. The motion was seconded by Joseph Hood K2YA. Motion passed.

•License class. It was reported that Joe Hood K2YA will switch his class to Monday evenings.

•RaRa Rag. The deadline for articles for the Rag is Monday, April 15.

•Membership chairman's report. Alex Piccirilli NV2Y reported that membership now stands at 762 members in good standing.

•Recreation. Discussion began over the annual picnic on June 29, 1996.

•Public service. Ed Holdsworth N2EH announced all of the up coming public service events and asked for volunteers to sign up. Ed also mentioned that due to the fact that Hamfest falls on the same day as some public service events, finding an adequate number of volunteers is going to be difficult. Any help would be appreciated.

•K2JD Engraving. Ed Holdsworth N2EH reported that there was a profit of \$140.00 from the Newark Hamfest. Also Ed has 230 T-shirts to finish. Ed also pointed out that it's going to be difficult at the Rochester Hamfest due to the public service events. This will take away some of the help that normally would have been there.

•Hamfest report. Ed Holdsworth N2EH reported that he attended the Henrietta Town meeting and managed to get the permit in record time. The permit application went through without a hitch.

•New business. Ed Holdsworth N2EH suggested that the board consider the prospect of utilizing the Westfall Rd. location for a regular meeting sometime in the winter when attendance is low. This may also reflect a savings from the club funds. All present agreed that this was a good idea and it was decided by the board that the January meeting will take place at the Westfall Rd. site.

•At this time, Alex Piccirilli NV2Y had a video tape that he wanted to deposit in the club Library and the Board of Directors discussed how to handle this. It was decided by the board that a \$20.00 deposit will be required to use any of the RaRa video library tapes by any of it's members. All present agreed that this is an acceptable policy. Keith Freeberg N2BEL volunteered to act as club librarian for this function.

•Irv Goodman AF2K asked that binding equipment for the RaRa Directory be made available at the next regular meeting.

•At this time Richard Goslee K2VCZ presented the budget for the club. After some discussion and explanation, the budget was accepted by the Board of Directors.

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

PUBLIC SERVICE FOR 1996

by Ed Holdsworth. N2EH EC/RO
Monroe County

The request for our assistance with communications have been coming in at a rapid rate as usual during this time of year. We have already received ELEVEN requests and if they come in at the regular rate, we will receive at least double that number. The list of events received so far will be listed elsewhere in the news letter.

The really big problem this year is that three events fall on the same weekend as the ROCHESTER HAMFEST. I guess that you can see what problems arise with this situation. We are in desperat need of volunteers that would be willing to work part of the weekend. The more that will be willing to work at least a couple of hours, the lighter the load for all, making it possible for everyone to be able to attend the majority of the hamfest. You don't have to be an expert to be of great assistance. It is truly On The Job Training with great instructors.

The events that are running the weekend of June 1&2 are. The Tour de Cure bike a thon, Northampton Carriage Driving competition and the Sussquehannock Pro Road Rally.

If you would be willing to spend some time on any one of these events, please feel free to call me at 716-624-1929.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Rochester Hamfest
May 31 - June 2, 1996

May Calendar

- 3 - RaRa Annual Meeting - 8:00 PM - Henrietta Fire Hall 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 31-June 2 Rochester Hamfest - Monroe County Fair grounds

1996 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS ANNOUNCED

The following public service events were announced for the 1996 season.. Please contact Ed Holdsworth if you wish to participate in any of the events.

Tour de Cure Bike Tour	June 1
Northampton Carriage Driving Competition	June 2
Stuart Horse Trials	August 10
Walnut Hill Driving Competition	August 13-18
Walkoctoberfest	October 1
Ginna Pre-Drill	October 16
Ginna Drill	September 11

AWA MUSEUM OPEN FOR SEASON

The AWA Electronic-Communication Museum is now open Sundays 2 - 5 PM with Saturday and Wednesday openings scheduled for June, July and August. The building is located on the Village Green, Bloomfield, NY, Rte. 5 & 20 (south of Victor). Free admission. Tel. 657-7489 for group tours.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 1996-97 SLATE OF NOMINEES

To: Chris Reich, WB2DYJ, President Rochester Amateur Radio Association Subject: Nominating Committee Report

The following candidates are hereby placed in nomination for club officers and board member for 1996/1997:

Officers:

President - Art DeBruycker W2YGW
Vice President - George Lloyd N2UIO
Secretary - Tom Lange N2VSM
Treasurer - Dick Goslee K2VCZ

Board Members:

Lloyd Caves WB2EFU
Neal Eckhardt WB2EKP
Keith Freeberg N2BEL
Ed Holdsworth N2EH
Joseph Hood K2YA
Chris Reich WB2DYJ
Jack Tripp N2SNL

Respectfully Submitted
Nominating Committee
Bob Erskine W2NVZ
Irv Goodman AF2K
Alex Piccirilli NV2Y

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

As customary, each person who is nominated has an opportunity to present a personal statement in the *Rag* prior to the Annual Meeting. There will be an opportunity to present nominations from the floor prior to the actual voting for Officers and Board of Directors.

VICE PRESIDENT

GEORGE F. LLOYD, N2UIO

Born a Rochester native in 1953, I have lived in the area most of my life. After graduating from Spencerport High School in 1972, I moved to Orlando, Florida and secured employment with the local newspaper there. I worked as an offset pressman for approximately 1 year and then decided to return to Rochester in 1973. Upon my return, I was married to my High School sweetheart Gail. We have been married for 22 years. We have three sons. The oldest is Frederick 21, George Jr. 16 and the youngest is Matthew who is 5. We have lived in the Brockport area since 1983

In 1973, I went to work for the Eastman Kodak Co. and worked there as a pressman for a little over a year and a half before I enlisted in the United

States Air Force in late 1974. I served in the Air Force as a Flight Facilities Repairman until my accident which led to an Honorable Discharge for medical reasons. I had fallen 25 feet off a tower while retrieving a piece of equipment and left me with several injuries. As a result, the Air Force granted a discharge in 1976. I returned home to Rochester and began to learn the trade of Piano Tuner - Technician from an old friend. I practiced this trade for many years and specialized in the repair and rebuilding of player pianos. After several years, my interest in electronics picked up again and I went back to work as a service technician for a local office equipment dealer. I began to experience more difficulties with my old Air Force injury and ultimately led to my status as a Disabled Veteran in 1984. Having much time on my hands, I looked for ways to keep busy. I re-kindled an old interest in Amateur Radio. Knowing a little bit about electronics, I studied intensely for 3 weeks and took my exams in March of 1993 at the Kodak Amateur Radio Club. I had passed all 3 of the exams and earned a Technician Plus license. I went back a month later and passed the General exam. Three months later I secured the Advanced class license. Right after I got my first license, a friend of mine showed me some literature on Amateur TV equipment and I decided right then and there that this was for me. I have always had an interest in television and began to accumulate some ATV gear. This is when I met Roy Dennison WB2PMM. Roy was glad to see someone else showing some interest in television and had taught me quite a bit about it. Unfortunately, Roy had succumbed to an old illness recently and there are now only a handful of TV enthusiasts in the greater Rochester area. It is my hope to continue and expand the use of Amateur Television in our area and dedicate my efforts to my friend, Roy Dennison WB2PMM.

SECRETARY

TOM LANGE - N2VSM I'm a gizmologist at Peko Precision Products where I've worked 2 1/2 Years" I received my tech plus license in July, 1993, my general license in August, 1994, and my advanced license in January, 1995, but I'm not active on the air. I got my ham licenses, because I want to learn what makes radios work.

Other pastimes include tinkering and motorcycling; I'm vice president of Finger Lakes BMW club. Also I'm an amateur musician; I play in the Brighton Symphony and in a string quintet.

TREASURER

DICK GOSLEE, K2VCZ

First licensed in 1956 as KN2VCZ, Dick holds an Advanced class license. He has been a member of RaRa for 16 years and has served on the Board of Directors for the last 12 years. He is a past

President and has been serving as RaRa Treasurer for the past 9 years. He taught theory for the Novice/Tech class for RaRa for 5 years and has also taught the Advanced class. Dick recently joined the RaRa "VE" team to help give license exams to prospective new Hams. He serves as the Managing Editor/Advertising Manager for the RaRa Rag, the Editor of the annual RaRa Directory, and is a member of the K2JD Engraving Team.

Dick is employed as the Director of Engineering for Quality Protections Systems, and combining his love of auto racing with employment he is also employed as an IHRA Certified Technical Inspector and Starter for the NY International Raceway Park in Leicester, NY, and also at Norwalk Raceway Park in Ohio. When he can get some free time he enjoys fishing and camping with his wife Susan (N2HKA) and his daughters Karen (KB2CHE) and Cathie (KB2ESZ).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LLOYD R. CAVES, WB2EFU

Lloyd has lived in the Rochester area all of his life. He and his wife Ruth currently live in the house in Webster they bought thirty years ago. There they have raised their three children; one son and two daughters. Lloyd has been employed by General Motors for almost thirty-four years, serving in many management positions, and is presently a Senior Purchasing Administrator.

In 1975 Lloyd joined the RaRa licensing classes and received his first ticket in February of 1976. He currently holds an Advanced class ticket. During these past twenty years as a RaRa member he has spent thirteen of them serving on the Board of Directors, including the office of Vice President and President. He was also the membership chairman for six years. For the past two years he has been serving as Awards Chairman and Program Chairman on the Rochester Hamfest Committee. His main interest in ham radio are rag chewing, working DX, RACES, and working on many of the public service events that RaRa is involved with. As well as being an active Life Member of RaRa he is a member of the ARRL and RRRRA.

NEAL ECKHARDT, WB2EKP

I have been a ham for about 20 years and earned my first license through the RaRa classes. I have lived in Henrietta for 25 years. I have lived in my current house for 11 years with my wife, Kim and my 4 month old daughter Samantha (pictures available at <http://www.servtech.com/public/eckhardt>).

I have been the editor of the RaRa Rag for 10 years. I have also been on the board of directors for 9 years, as well as a past president of RaRa. I work on the K2JD Engraving team at area hamfests and head up the large operation at the Rochester

Hamfest. I taught the Morse Code for the Novice classes for 5 years. I look forward to serving RaRa for another year.

KEITH FREEBERG - N2BEL.

Keith has been active with RaRa since first licensed and has served in various capacities on and off the board for over a dozen years. His focus is continuous improvement and he is always willing to re-think old ideas and examine the plausibility of new ones.

As we head for the horizon of the new century attracting more young people to the Radio Amateur ranks will be a necessity to preserving our frequency allocations. Many new services are vying for pieces of the spectrum we are now privileged to hold. In addition Keith will promote the widening of participation in public service events to increase awareness of the value Amateur Radio brings to communities.

EDWIN J. HOLDSWORTH N2EH

Ed lives in Mendon with his wife, Joyce. He enjoys spending time with their five sons, Jim, Steve (WA2EJY), Cary, Gerry and Keith.(KA2GCG), their three daughters-in-law, Linda, Debbie and Maggie along with five grandsons and three granddaughters. Keith and Maggie live in Montrose, Colorado with their three children which requires some travel to Colorado for Joyce and Ed. Ed retired from Rochester Gas & Electric in 1991 after 36 years.

Ed was first licensed in 1968 with the call WN2EKR and currently holds the Extra Class license with the call N2EH. He is very active with the club as shown by his past history with RaRa. Previous positions held include Secretary (1 term) Vice-President (2 terms), President (2 terms), and Board of Directors (26 years). He is presently the Trustee of club station K2JD and RACES station WC2ABJ. Other responsibilities include ARES Section Emergency Coordinator, Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer for Monroe County. Affiliated Club Coordinator and Assistant Section Manager for Western New York and Assistant General Manager for the Rochester and Buffalo Hamfests. Ed is a Life Member of RaRa, ARRL and AMSAT and a member of QCWA.

JOSEPH M. HOOD, K2YA

Joe, K2YA, was first licensed as a novice as KN2YAH in 1956 and held K2YAH until he upgraded to Extra Class in the early 1970's. He is an Electrical Engineer working as a Senior Project Engineer at Eastman Kodak Company. Joe and his wife Yvonne live in Greece and have four children James, Patricia, Kathryn and John. James is Business Development Manager at Harris Corporation and is licensed as N2HHV, Tricia is an

RN at George Washington University Hospital, Kathryn is a Corporate Travel Agent for Rosenbluth Corporation, and John attends Michigan State University. John is also licensed as N2HHW. Joe has served the amateur community previously as a RaRa board member, Secretary, Vice President, and President as well as President and Technical Director of RRRA. He is also an ARRL Volunteer Examiner and a former ARRL Section Communications Manager. Joe is currently teaching the RaRa Extra Class Licensing Course and is a Private Pilot currently working on his Instrument Rating.

CHRIS REICH WB2DYJ

I am employed by Harris Corporation where I conduct technical training for our sales staff and assist in equipment demonstrations both in Rochester and abroad. Licensed since 1972 at the age of 14, I have held the Amateur Extra class license since 1979. My ham interests are primarily public service oriented; taking the form of NTS traffic handling and participating in the local ARES/RACES organization. I taught the 5 WPM code for the fall session of the RaRa ham classes. My eight year old son, Alex, is a newly licensed ham and is rekindling my interest in other aspects of the hobby as well. Living on a city lot, however, makes HF operation challenging. I spent one year on the RaRa Board of Directors before being elected to the vice presidency, followed of course by this past year as president. I have long felt that the services offered by the club are under-appreciated. I'd like to see more operation of the RaRa club station, and more exposure of RaRa and ham radio in the community.

JACK TRIPP, N2SNL

I have been retired for about three years. I worked in a variety of jobs for several different companies. Some of the jobs I have held are Engineer, Sales Engineer and Salesman. My last job was a Salesman for a wholesale printing company that specialized in Thermography printing.

I received my Technician license in September 1992. I upgraded to Tech+ in December 1993. I am active on VHF and can be found on 146.88 or 146.29 repeaters. I am active on Packet and am the current President of the Rochester Amateur Packet Society. I also play with computers and have a 486SX with 1.2 Gig hard drive, CD ROM, modem and like to "surf" the Internet.

I belong to RACES and participated in the Ginna drill last December.

I have been married for 35 years and have 4 grown children, 3 grandchildren.

Other interests are golfing, fishing, boating, model railroading, to name a few.

NOMINATED FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE APRIL MEETING DAVID HASSETT K2SQI

David lives with his wife Pat at 983 Britton Rd. Life long resident of Rochester. First licensed in 1958 as a novice. Up graded to General in 1959 and Advanced in 1971. Member of RaRa since 1958. Last served on the board in the 60's I have been associated with the code class for many years and have enjoyed it immensely and have met so many nice people. I am of member of the Rochester Radio Repeater Association and the Rochester Amateur Packet Society.

The floor will be open for all offices except President at the May Meeting. Please make sure the person you nominate is willing to accept the position before the meeting.

FOR SALE: Self supporting Rohn HDX 48 foot tower with Mosley TA-33 antenna, \$450 or Reasonable Offer. Call Bill, WB2DTH, 392-7280.

FOR SALE: Butterfly Beam, Butternut HF5B, \$120. Call Will Herzog, K2LB, 482-6151

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1996 Hamfest Programs

Part IV

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

If you have been following this column for the past three months you have had a chance to see a summary of all the great programs that are available for you to attend. There is, however, one other fun program that is taking place during the day Saturday on the Dome floor and not in a conference room. That is the W2RUF Code Proficiency Tests being given by Kevin T. Kedzierski, WA2FKV, Special Events Coordinator for the Radio Association of WNY. A certificate will be given to those participants who copy at least one perfect minute at 7.5 WPM. There will also be endorsements for levels from 10 WPM to 75 WPM in jumps of 5 WPM. Try your skill and see how well you can do at this test. A copy of the certificate that you will earn is shown else where in this issue of the Rag.

Below you will find a very short summary of each program, the conference rooms and times they are scheduled for:

Second Floor Conference Room

9:00-10:00 Amateur Satellites For Beginners by Steve Ford, WB8IMY, QST Assistant Managing Editor

Discover how easy it is to get started in satellite operating, and learn what the future holds with Phase 3D--the largest, most powerful amateur satellite ever created!

10:00-11:00 Tesla Coils by J. W. McGinnes, President, International Tesla Society Nikola Tesla--The Galileo of the 20th Century. Come and learn who Nikola Tesla was and what he did.

11:00-12:00 Amateur Radio--The Challenges It Faces Today by Harry Dannals, W2HD, President Emeritus, ARRL Learn about what is in the future for amateur radio in the next few Years.

12:00-1:00 ARRL Forum

This forum will be conducted by the ARRL Atlantic Division Officers.

An outstanding opportunity to confer with your ARRL leaders. Questions from the floor are encouraged.

1:00-3:00 VHF Forum Hosted by Dave Hallidy, KD5RO, Rochester VHF Group Chairman

This will be the sixth year of our highly regarded mini-seminar.

3:00-4:00 Searching For Life Among The Stars by Dr. H. Paul Shuch, N6TX

Hear about 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.

Room 1 Downstairs

9:00-10:00 ARES by Jay Mabey, NU0X, Senior Assistant Manager of Field Services

Learn about current issues of interest in the Field Service Organization. Questions from the floor are encouraged.

10:00-11:00 ARRL Field Organization lead by Bill Thompson, W2MTA, Western New York Section Manager

Key note speaker will be Ron Raposo, N2JAW, NTS Digital Coordinator. This program will be an update on HF digital communications for the field organization and will be of great interest to all operating in the NT S.

11:00-12:00 Digital Modes by Phil Anderson, President of Kantronics

An interesting presentation on all the digital modes and how they work.

1:00-2:00 Amateur Television by Bill McDonnell, KG2F and George Lloyd, N2UIO

Learn about the new ATV repeater in the Rochester area and what it takes to use it.

2:00-3:00 Packet and The New Ham by Steve Ford, WB8IMY, QST Assistant Managing Editor
What can you do with packet? What kind of equipment do you need to get on the air? Get the answers to these questions and much more!

3:00-4:00 Repeater Coordination by Jay Mabey, NU0X, Senior Assistant Manager of Field Services, ARRL

Learn how the repeater directory is produced and how Frequency Coordination takes place.

Room 3 Downstairs

10:00-11:30 Joint Mars Forum Colin Corke, AFF1NY, Air Force MARS State Director Ken Wasley, NNN0GBJ-15, Navy-Marine Corps MARS Elizabeth (Betty) Strattan, AAA2NY, Army MARS State Director

All MARS welcome to the annual information exchange meeting.

11:30-12:00 Navy-Marine Corps Mars

Ed Kessler, NNN0GBJ, Northern New York Area Coordinator

Annual update for Navy-Marine Corps Mars members.

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1:00-2:00

Welcome to the Extra Ordinary World of Nikola Tesla by J. W. McGinnis, President, International Tesla society 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

2:00-4:00 DX Forum moderator, Robert Nadolny, WB2YQH, Secretary, Western New York DX Association

The fifth annual panel for DX-ers from the Atlantic Division and New York State.

All day

Dome Floor

W2RUF Code Proficiency Tests by Kevin T. Kedzierski, WA2FKV, Special Events Coordinator for the Radio Association of WNY. A certificate will be given to those participants who copy at least one perfect minute at 7.5 WPM. There will be endorsements for levels from 10 WPM to 75 WPM in jumps of 5 WPM.

This looks like a great year to be able to learn about something new that is going on in Amateur Radio or to be able to just listen to some very interesting and different topics. So come and join us at all that have sparked your interest. See you there!!!

The Prez Sez --

by Christopher Reich, WB2DYJ
RaRa President

The RaRa annual meeting is upon us. I encourage all members to attend and exercise your voting privileges to elect the leadership of RaRa for the next year. You will also be asked to establish your own dues for next year -- If that isn't motivation, I don't know what is. You all have a vested interest in the outcome of the elections; come and participate. It is the cost of your "right" to express your opinions.

In this issue of the Rag you will find biographies of candidates for all offices and the Board of Directors. Give them careful consideration, and if you know of someone else who would make them good company, you may nominate them from the floor during the May meeting. Be sure to get their permission first!

Last month I mentioned that Ed Holdsworth N2EH was accepting applications for public service event workers. I now realize that I mis-applied the term 'workers'. The term 'public service *work*' seems to me to be an oxymoron (you know, like *jumbo shrimp*). Imagine all the fun of field day without all the work of antenna erections, generator trouble, and campsite logistics, and you still get to go home for dinner, and sleep better knowing that you did some good. Inspect the sign-up sheets at

the meeting, you'll find something that fits your schedule and interests. Commit to just one and I'm sure you'll be back for more. There is a particularly urgent need for volunteers for the Tour De Cure. This is a 100 mile bicycle run managed by the American Diabetes Association. Unfortunately, it is being held on the same Saturday as the Rochester Hamfest. If you are at all inclined to sacrifice a few hours of hamfest, please contact Keith Freeberg N2BEL, who is handling the logistics for this event.

In the past six weeks, I've been corresponding with the Technical Information Service of the ARRL. I requested from them, an information packet on one of the construction projects in the 1996 Radio Amateurs Handbook. My e-message went to them on a Thursday afternoon, and on Saturday morning the package was on my doorstep. We can't ask for better service than that. Responses to my subsequent questions have usually taken less than a day over e-mail. If I had paid \$10 for the service, I would tell you it is worth several times that. Of course, the service is a benefit of ARRL membership, and is priceless. This is my song of praise for Michael Tracy and his staff at ARRL HQ; your service is nothing short of outstanding -- and I mean that in absolute, not relative terms.

A matter I meant to mention last month was a very pleasant phone call I received from RaRa member George Evan KE2WQ. George is the president of the Panhellenic Amateur Radio Federation. This is an international organization of amateur operators of Greek heritage. It seems that George and I share a sense of unfulfillment with communications via Internet. He has given me permission to quote from the copy of his article in the PARF newsletter, so here I excerpt, after having described the sterile experience of sending e-mail;

"...I stood silent for a few seconds waiting to see what the machine was going to do. What it did next was reflected on a small indicator window on the monitor screen. I read the words 'ONE MESSAGE SENT. DISCONNECTING'. Everything was done by the program, automatically.... My job was simple. I had to write the message and upon finishing I clicked on the small window indicator showing the word SEND. That was all I had to do! Yes, I had to hit the keyboard keys a few dozen times in order to type my message. Yea, that's it! Type and keys. I developed an enormous appetite to coin a new word. An adjective to qualify my work using e-mail. . . . How about using the Greek word for *key*. . . I had become a *plectrologist*. . . The first thing humans had learned when they opened their eyes on the surface of the earth was comparison. We compare everything that stimulates our senses. And my dear fellow radio amateurs, I did compare. As far as the hobby is concerned using the radio IS

THE REAL THING, all the other modes and things are supplementary...and will never ever replace the real thing". All emphasis was in Georges' original text.

So there you have it. Internet provides no challenge to the communicator. If communications is the object, the Internet is an appropriate tool. On the other hand, if FUN is the object, get yourself a radio, put up an antenna, plug in the straight key (hint) and HAVE A BALL!

From one of the ham-radio related lists to which I subscribe on the Internet, comes a report from a ham in the fourth call district that he monitored a station near Monrovia speaking with a friend in the United States. Apparently the operator couldn't get to the embassy that day because of the chaos, and that if he couldn't get there by the next day the military would retrieve him for evacuation to Senegal. According to the reporter, it "made the hair on the back of my neck stand on end". No sir, there is no way you're going to experience that on the Internet.

Another death knell for the Morse Code -- FCC report No. WT 96-8 states that as of April 5, 1996, U.S. flagged vessels are exempt from the requirement to carry radiotelegraph equipment if the vessel is carrying the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and has received a Safety Certificate that the equipment is installed properly and is in operating order. This action is authorized in the well-publicized Telecommunications Act of 1996. Eventually, according to the report, the requirement for radiotelegraphic equipment will be eliminated internationally by February 1, 1999, at which time the GMDSS system will be in universal use. It seems as though amateur radio may well be the last bastion of CW use -- and what's wrong with that? Some of us enjoy steam-powered railroad engines, others Corvairs or Model T Fords, and some of us 8-bit computers. CW is part of our heritage, and there will always be some wishing to keep it alive, but it's days of commercial use are numbered.

While traveling on business, I found myself perusing a magazine stand at the airport in Houston and found a stack of CQ magazines. You could have knocked me over with a feather. Of course I bought one, if for no other reason than to send a message to the distributor that there is a market for the material. As it turned out, it's a pretty good magazine, too. The availability of ham radio periodicals at an airport bodes well for the hobby. The product is available because of marketplace demand, which is a function of growing numbers of hobbyists, which is a function of increased visibility, which is attributed to the local clubs, the VE-testing program, the Technician class license,

the ARRL, and we amateur operators. Keep up the good work.

At a different airport (there were nine involved, all totaled) I picked up a copy of Silicon Snake Oil, by Clifford Stoll. This is a fascinating book on the use of modern computers, spelunking, ancient Chinese sunspot records, the Internet, libraries, ham radio, scavenger hunts, the US postal service, cryptography, e-mail, cookies, ghost writing, Fourier analysis, the cashless society, brownies, astronomy, indexing, and more. Up until the time I read this \$14 book, I thought I wanted a \$2000 computer at home. My net savings -- \$1986. Thank you, Mr. Stoll. I highly recommend this book to *anyone and everyone*. It should be required reading in high schools. I can't say enough good about this book; it is a bellwether of our times, and you'll not regret turning off *Fraser* and *Seinfeld* to read it.

The Ham of the Month Award for May 1996 goes to George Lloyd N2UIO for stepping forward to fill in as the Novice/Technician Theory class instructor while I was away on business. I understand from the students that George did a fine job; I knew he was the right person for the task. Good work George, and thank you.

Hey boys and girls, let's put K2JD on the air again for Field Day! If your idea of 'roughing it' is black and white television, this may be for you. Indoor accommodations, no last minute antenna erecting, no gasoline smell, indoor plumbing, no hay fever, and surrounded by food establishments of all kinds. Please contact me directly, and we will make it happen together.

Whether or not you enjoy Field Day, please feel welcome to attend the RaRa family picnic on June 29 Ellison Park South Lodge. Bring the family, and the water guns, and towels.

In case you're keeping score at home, the word count this time is 1640. I think that's enough *plectronistry* for now. . .

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