



the **RARA RAG**

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 49

September 1996

NO. 1

SEPTEMBER MEETING PRESENTATION TO FEATURE HF CONTESTING AND DXING

As program Chairman I am pleased to announce that at our September 6th meeting we will be visited by some of the areas most active HFers who will discuss a variety of subjects concerning DXing, HF contesting, the use of the various modes and something important to all hams, the art of QSLing.

Chris Shalvoy N2PEB, Fred Gern KB2SE and Ed Gable K2MP of RDXA fame, will share with us their knowledge and expertise on this very interesting aspect of the hobby. DXing in general is a fascinating subject alone but that's not the only subject that will be discussed. We will be treated to a discussion on the fine points of HF contesting which, I'm sure, will be helpful and informative to each and every one of us. For those of us that desire to learn more about HF activity, this is a wonderful opportunity that shouldn't be missed. I for one will be looking forward to this exciting presentation. Lastly, there is one very important subject that will be touched on that is of interest to all amateurs no matter what band you prefer. That is the art of QSLing. Every radio amateur enjoys sending and receiving QSLs. As the ultimate "Thank-you", we will learn how to more efficiently use the QSL concept. There is more to QSLing than meets the eye it seems and here is a chance to clarify any questions that you may have about it. I would like to thank in advance Chris, Fred and Ed for taking the time to visit us and share their valuable knowledge and experience on this fascinating aspect of amateur radio. I sincerely hope that this presentation will inspire some of our newer radio amateurs to UPGRADE and get involved! There is so much available to us and here's your chance to see it all. Don't miss it!

As the old saying goes, "If you snooze, you lose!"
DE George Lloyd, N2UIO
Vice President RaRa

RaRa MEETING

September 6, 1996

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road
HF Contesting and DXing

WAS and VUCC Awards Checked Locally

by Ed Gable K2MP

The very popular ARRL awards, Worked All States (WAS) and VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) can be applied for and approved through RaRa, an ARRL Special Service Club. The WAS Award is for confirmed contacts with all fifty states on any band and any mode combination. The WAS award can also be customized for single band, single mode as well as the coveted five-band WAS. The VUCC Award is for working a certain number of Grid Squares on VHF/UHF bands of 50 Mhz and above. QSL cards are needed as proof of contact. To apply for either of these awards contact Ed Gable, K2MP, at 3923088, Packet to NG2P on 144.91, or e-mail to emg@rfc.comm.harris.com. Good hunting !

Buffalo Hamfest September 21, 1996

SILENT KEY

Charles J. Kolz
N2VDM
July 26, 1996

the **RARA RAG**

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Amateur Radio News Service

RaRa and Public Service

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Did you know that one of the main areas that the Rochester Amateur Radio Association is involved in is public service. Because of our service to the community and different organizations along with our close relationship with the Office of Emergency Preparedness we are able to have a great club station located in the county office building on Westfall Road. Have you ever worked on public service; thought about working on public service; or are you into traffic handling? If so you may want to get involved with what RaRa has to offer. Come and join the ARES/RACES organizations!!!

RaRa has been involved in all kinds of events, from walkathons that last only a couple of hours to the Walnut Hill Driving Competition that runs for five days. In between these are things such as foot races, horse trials, biathlons, the Ginna drills, bike tours, and car races to name only a few. These events are normally held locally but we have gone as far as Pennsylvania to be of service. There is something for everyone. Each of these events helps everyone stay in practice or at least be ready in case of a real emergency. During the spring, summer, and fall of last year there were at least two or three event taking place a month for you to choose from. From that alone you can see where your assistance could be used and is needed. Don't think that you have to know everything there is to know about emergency communications to be a part of this organization. That is one of the nice parts of being involved with this group. No one is left out or made to feel uncomfortable or lost by what they don't know. I know of no one that is working on a public service event that is not willing to help his colleagues. What better way to learn than being out there and learning as you go.

Not only does RaRa use voice communications to keep all events safe, we are now into sending live video from one place to another by way of amateur television. This helps to let everyone know what is going on. That is right, there is now an ATV repeater on 111 Westfall Road that is a part of K2JD, the club station. This, along with the packet node station at Westfall Road gives the club station a full line of equipment for use by its members. This equipment includes a full line of HF, VHF, and UHF stations. Of course the packet node station and the ATV repeater are open for everyone to use at any time. The node station is currently in operation on 145.01 and the ATV repeater has a 434Mhz input with a 900 MHz out put. There are also antennas on ah the major hospitals for our use if needed as well as equipment at the Red Cross.

Has any of this practice ever been put to use you ask? Yes it has. One time that everyone will remember is the ice storm of 1991. *RaRa* provided the emergency communications between the Red Cross, the shelters that were opened and county offices. This was a real event that lasted for 13 days and took a lot of man hours as it ran 24 hours a day and had many shelters open RACES has also been activated to help with communications when part of our county has been closed due to heavy snow. *RaRa* has been activated to assist with emergency traffic to help with the hurricanes down south. Another local emergency was the fertilizer fire in Brockport where part of the town was evacuated and shelters had to be opened These along with all the call outs that *RaRa* gets from the national weather service for Sky Warn are real. As you can see, your help is needed. You never know when or what the next emergency will be requiring our service.

How can you get involved? It is easy, just contact the Monroe County Emergency Coordinator Ed Holdsworth, N2EH. If you come to the *RaRa* meetings he will have sign up sheets of all the events that are scheduled. All you have to do is sign up, show up, and Operate. The rest will end up being fun. The only requirement is that you hold an amateur license. If you have a 2 meter hand held or mobile rig it will be a great asset in most cases. I am looking forward to working with a lot of new people next year. Maybe you should be one of them.

WANTED TO BUY: Looking for older tube type communications equipment, parts and accessories. Single pieces or entire estates. Ed Gable, K2MP, 392-3088

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September Calendar

- 6 - RaRa Annual Meeting - 8:00PM - Henrietta Fire Hall 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 21 - Buffalo Hamfest
- 28- RaRa VE Testing - 111 Westfall Rd. 8:30 AM

The Prez Says

Greetings To all the Radio Amateurs in the Rochester area. This newsletter is sent to all of you as a way of saying hello and inviting you to become a member of one of the largest and best Radio Amateur Clubs in the country. We can become even larger and better if those of you who are not now members join the club and contribute your many talents and interests to those which we already have in the club.

The club is over sixty years old., and is significantly involved with public service.

There is something in this club for everyone. If you have an interest that the club is not now involved in we can carve a new niche for you. It would be nice if you give us an opportunity.

Join the club and see what we can do as a team. I first joined the club in 1948 and have been active for most of the ensuing years. Was elected as vice president in 1950, but had to resign due to the Korean situation.

One of the benefits of joining the club, is to meet old time friends and new friends you may meet no other place.

For those of you who are presently members, we are grateful for your participation and feel confident that you will resume your membership for the coming season. A renewal form is enclosed for those wishing to join for the first time, or renew.

The newsletter is published monthly letting you know what is going on in the community and there is a place for you to put forth your concerns and news as it happens. The newsletter goes to all members, and is a great piece of journalism.

The club puts on training classes which should have a schedule posted elsewhere in this bulletin. They will start in late September this year. I teach the code for those wishing to upgrade from 5 wpm to 13 wpm. I enjoy using the code and spend most of my on-the-air time on CW. Hope to see you there.

The Club is in need of a Coordinator for the License Classes. The Duties are basically to make sure there is an instructor for every class at every class. That is, have a replacement available for sick and vacationing instructors.

RaRa ANNOUNCES THE FALL 1996 LICENSE CLASS SCHEDULE

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RaRa) Code and Theory Classes will start on September 23, 1996.

RaRa is pleased to announce the formation of its fall 1996 Code and Theory Classes for our 38th year of teaching. Classes will be offered for novice, technician, and general, advanced or extra will be offered based on the number of students interested in the respecting class.

If you are interested in attending the classes, please call ahead of time and leave a message on the RaRa answering machine. This will enable our instructors to plan for the correct number of students in each of the classes. The number is 442-0587

Fall registration will be held at 111 Westfall Road (The County Social Services Building) starting at 7:00PM. The first session will start after all participants are registered. The classes will consist of two periods, one being code, the other being theory. Classes will begin at 7:30PM starting the second week. Each period will last about 55 minutes, and will end about 9:30PM. Classes are scheduled to run until December 9, 1996. A testing session is planned for December 16th for all classes.

The cost of the 12 week program includes a \$4.00 registration fee plus the cost of the materials, and a membership fee if you are not currently a member of RaRa. Materials for the novice and technician classes are \$18.00, materials for the General and Advanced classes are \$12.00. Membership dues for RaRa is \$10.00 for licensed students or \$6.00 for unlicensed students.

For those interested in Advanced or Extra classes they will be offered only on an as needed basis. Those interested in either class call the RaRa hotline to make your interests known and to make arrangements.

The teaching team looks forward to another year of fun and learning for both the students and the instructors. Bring smiles, and a willingness to learn. SEE YOU THERE!

FOR SALE: CES Touch Tone Pad, connecting cord, built-in speaker, acoustic or direct coupling, excellent condition. Asking \$20. Irv Goodman, AF2K, (716) 671-4430

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association, or RRRRA as it is known, was founded by a group of amateurs who were interested in providing a service to the community. The club, consisting of some 400 members, owns and operates the 146.88 (WA2AAC) Repeater. The "88" Repeater, in cooperation with the affiliate system of N2HJD cover most of Monroe county.

We also provide the area with an Auto Patch, 911 service and weekly Bulletins, along with News From the Hill, provided by Dwight Hill, K2KWK. This program is presented Sunday evenings by K2KWK and provides the latest information related to amateur radio, both local and international. The program alternates weekly between the "88" Repeater system (WA2AAC and N2HJD) and the Repeater System of the Genesee Repeater Association on 146.79 (K2SA).

RRRA provides talk-in communications annually for the Rochester Hamfest. The club also provides public service communications for several other events, including the Gates Soccer Tournament, the Chili Festival and other activities. We also maintain an Amateur Radio Bulletin Board, providing information on local clubs and activities. The Bulletin Board may be reached by calling 426-1156.

RRRA is a member of the ARES and RACES programs which provide emergency communication to the community. We all remember the "Ice Storm of '91", and RRRRA was there providing emergency communications during the power outages.

Each year RRRRA recognizes the outstanding Amateur of the Year with an award. This past season the award went to Joel Rossbach, N2EZV, for his many years of dedicated service to the club and the amateur community. Joel and his family, most of whom are amateurs, have been donating their services to RRRRA and the amateur community for many years. Currently, Joel is Treasurer and his better half, Nonnie, N2IZY, is RRRRA Secretary.

Club meetings are held the 3rd Friday of the month at 8 PM in the Pittsford Town Hall, 8 Main St., Pittsford, NY.

By J. H. McMullin, N2MXG

WANTED TO BUY: Old pinball machine. Clean that old machine out of your basement. Call Neal, WB2EKP, 359-2672

Rochester DX Assoc.

The RDXA was founded on the 9th of June, 1947 to promote radio communications between and among Amateur Radio operators throughout the world. Entering our 50th year, the same basic premise holds true today.

Our organization, through monthly meetings, individual and "group" contesting, Field Day operations and ARRL VEC Testing sessions continues to provide the polished and the "would be" DXer with a number opportunities to learn about and participate in this facet of Amateur Radio.

Membership is open to all Radio Amateurs who have an interest in or curiosity about DXing or Radio Contesting. Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from September to June at 111 Westfall Road. We begin at 7:30 pm with an open invitation to all members and guests. ARRL VEC sessions are held every other month just prior to the general membership meeting.

Please feel free to contact N2PEB at 586-6531 or the NG2P PacketCluster on 144.91 for additional information.

Best DX es 73 de Chris, N2PEB - President RDXA

RAG SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

When submitting articles to the Rag, please try to follow a few simple rules. This will make life much easier for the editor, and will expedite the inclusion of your article in the Rag

Rag articles can usually be submitted up to the Friday following the regular meeting. Please do not submit an article more than 30 days prior to the meeting date you want your article to appear. Submission can take several forms, of which hand written is the least desirable. Articles can be submitted as a typed sheet, a fax, on an IBM/PC compatible disk, by E-Mail over the Internet, and uploaded from a computer by modem.

If you are typing an article on paper or sending one by fax, please don't use small type (10-12 pt is fine), make sure the print is not too light, don't double space the lines. If you are sending an article by disk or by modem, if your word processor will let you, only hit carriage return at the end of each paragraph, don't double space, don't indent the first word of a paragraph.

You can E-mail me an article over the internet at the address: eckhardt@servtech.com. If you wish to fax, or upload an article over the phone, please call me at 359-2672, and we will arrange a transfer at a convenient time.

THE RaRa RAG YEARS AGO

by Ed Gable K2MP

20 YEARS AGO - September 1976: The start of the 76/77 RaRa Season brought in a new set of officers; Jim Collinworth, WB2EDT as Prez, Ed Gable, W2MPM V-P, Alan Komenski, WB2ZFM Secretary and Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, Treasurer. On the Board were WB2RJB, W2NVZ, WA2EKR, W2HXP, WA2CER, WA2KND and WA2UGE. Yearly membership was \$5.00. Summer RaRa activities included a Ham Radio exhibit at the Monroe County Fair with on-the-air demos using K2JD's new SB-104 transceiver. A RaRa Camp out as well as Balloon Race and Road Rally communications activities rounded out the bust summer. The announced meeting was a slide show on the W2CNS/8 VHF/UHF DXpedition to Mineral county West Virginia.

40 YEARS AGO - September 1956: Officers for the 56/57 season were W2PFI, W2ZS, W2QGL and W2ZHB, in the usual order, with Executive Committee consisting of K2ISP, K2CUI, K2JFV, W2CTA, W2YGW, W2PZC and K2ECQ. Starting a long lasting tradition, this 1956 issue of the RaRa Rag was sent to all Radio Amateurs in the Rochester area as an enticement to join at the three dollar level. Bob Jeffers, W2ALL, started writing a technical column in this issue and his article on by-pass condensers is still good reading today. The September meeting is Mobile night where Dynamotors and center loaded whips reigned supreme. From the Want Ads you could buy a 6V, 80 Amp generator from W2RMS for fifty bucks.

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ANNOUNCING AMATEUR RADIO TEST SCHEDULE, '96-'97

BY George, AA2F0, 716 334-4488

GET LICENSED, UPGRADE- THE FALL SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING, AND IT'S THE ADVENT OF THE OFFICIAL 1996-97 RaRa AMATEUR RADIO TESTING SESSIONS.

THESE SESSIONS ARE HELD MONTHLY FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY ON THE THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SEPTEMBER [4TH SATURDAY], AND MAY [HAMFEST].

THE PLACE- MONROE SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING 111 WESTFALL RD. CAFETERIA REGISTRATION- 8:30 AM, EXAMS- 9:00 AM SCHEDULE- SEPTEMBER 28

OCTOBER 19

NOVEMBER 16

DECEMBER 21

JANUARY 18

FEBRUARY 15

MARCH 15

APRIL 19

MAY HAMFEST

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APPLICANTS SHOULD BRING THE FOLLOWING IN ADDITION TO PEN AND PENCIL: TWO FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION PICTURE DRIVERS LICENSE ORIGINAL FCC LICENSE COPY OF FCC LICENSE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION AND A COPY-- IF CREDIT IS CLAIMED FOR ELEMENTS PASSED AT ANOTHER TEST SESSION.

A FEE OF \$6.05 WILL BE CHARGED. IF PAYING BY CHECK, MAKE PAYABLE TO WSYL.

WE WELCOME HANDICAPPED APPLICANTS. PLEASE PHONE IN ADVANCE.

VHF: A Fun Place to Be!

By Ev Tupis WB2ELB - Chairman, Rochester VHF Group

Welcome to the Rochester VHF Group's 49th anniversary year! This year's slate of officers include: Treasurer - Charlie DuBois (WA2MOP), Secretary Wally Rowarth (WY2Z), new Director - Howard Clark (K2AN), Vice Chairman - Tim Stoffel (NS9E) and yours truly, Chairman - Ev Tupis (WB2ELB). This is shaping up to be an exceptional year for fun. If the centimeter bands are your area of interest, this is the year to belong to the Rochester VHF Group.

We've returned to construction! Helping us to get back to our roots, Rus Healy (NJ2L) has spearheaded an effort to put more people on the 222-MHz bands weak signal bottom-end. Rus is coordinating the purchase and assembly (YOU assemble with some help, if needed) of commercial Downeast Microwave 222-MHz transverters. As Rus has shown, it truly is a magnificent band to operate on, with workable distances equaling two meter ssb/cw. Years ago, Tom Richmond (WA2IEY, now VE3IEY) sang the praises of the band. Those of us that listened to him then really did well. Now it's time for a new crop of 222-ers to join in.

Also new this year is the appointment of a Beacon Committee Chairman. Keith Hibbert (ex-KE2DI, now WB2VUO) has volunteered to take the lead in constructing a few beacons for the 10-GHz (yup, GIGAherertz) band. We're planning on placing them along the north shore of Lake Ontario (/VE3) and at a couple of spots along the eastern shore as well. Believe it or not, we've already traversed 140km using 10 milliwatts of RF on this band, across the Lake. At last count, there were 12 Groupers on 10-GHz!

There is even a movement afoot to outfit a few members with APRS (Amateur Packet Reporting Stations). This will allow everyone to keep track of where they go during operating events, making it easier to aim antennas to maximize the chance of making a contact. Are you ready to be counted among the APRS-ready?

Watch out, come fall time. A new event called VHF Academy is coming your way. Groupers are being lined up to instruct you on VHF operations, both contest and other wise. We are planning to offer a full day of instruction on five different VHF related topics, with a lunch included. Further announcements will be made as things gel.

Does this sound exciting to you? I hope so. It sounds exciting to me. Watch the pages of the RaRa Rag for monthly updates on VHF+ activity in

Buffalo Hamfest September 21, 1996

See you there !!!!!

the Rochester area. In the mean time, come to our first meeting of the year, on the second Friday of September at 7:30 PM at 111 Westfall Road. Dues are still just \$10!

The fun is about to begin. Don't miss out!

RAPS

by Jack Tripp, N2SNL

Rochester Amateur Packet Society (RAPS) is a local club that meets on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings are held in the main auditorium of the Social Services Building at 111 Westfall Rd. and start at 7:30 P.M. The mission of the RAPS club is to promote the use of Packet Radio and to help those who are just starting out in Packet Radio as well as those who have been in Packet for awhile. Dues are \$5.00 a year.

A project of the club last year was to build and sell an inexpensive modem board. These boards have all been tested and are still available with Baycom software and documentation for \$35.00, which includes a years membership in RAPS.

The club has also been active in a new program called APRS (Automatic Positioning Reporting System). We have built and installed a digipeater for APRS to give wider coverage for this program.

Packet is fun! If you like computers, packet is a natural for the VHF ham. New hams, Novice, Tech, Tech+, who have just gotten their license can get on 2 Meter packet. It's simple and relatively inexpensive (if you already have a computer). You don't need a high powered computer - just about any old clunker will do.

What can you do are packet? Well, there's a whole world of neat things to do. You can simply connect to someone and carry on a conversation. You're not limited to stations that you can contact directly, either. You can connect to anyone in the USA or in the world for that matter.

If you have any interest at all in packet, come on out to our first meeting on September 12th. Hope to see you there.

ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION BUILDS NEW WING

by Ed Gable K2MP

The AWA Museum volunteers are busy folks as they work to outfit and fill their newly completed addition to the AWA Annex Building in Bloomfield, NY. The 50x30 foot addition will house the many new pieces added to the collection

over the last few years which filled the already once expanded annex building to maximum capacity. The building project manager, Ed Gable K2MP/W2AN, says this was a study in how things can and will go wrong ! The WX was terrible and caused long delays due to flooding, there were project changes caused by planned gas lines not being available and even the loss of building materials due to theft at the site had to be contended with. None-the-less, progress was made the building completed. Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, AWA Museum Curator, plans to divide the space into permanent areas by type of artifact. The annex houses approximately 80% of the AWA collection, the remaining 20% is what you see at the Museum proper. Annually a portion of the museum displays are changed from the annex. The AWA museum is open Sunday from 2-5 until the end of October and is located on Rts 5&20 in Bloomfield, NY, just East of the intersection of Rte 64, on the Village green. Admission is free and if you have never seen this world class exhibit of early wireless and radio equipment, then this is a must thing to see and do.

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BRIEFS

from the ARRL Letter.

•The FCC is moving, but not anytime soon. A January 24 Washington Post article reports that the FCC finally has agreed to move to a new building at 455 12th St, SW in a project known as The Portals. The move follows a protracted court battle and lots of foot dragging by the agency, first slated to move to The Portals in 1991. Construction of the FCC's new digs is set to begin March 1. The article does not say how long construction is expected to take, but construction projects of this magnitude (450,000 square feet) usually take a couple of years. Congress has yet to appropriate money for the move.

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