



the **RARA RAG**

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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October 1996

NO. 2

OCTOBER MEETING TO FEATURE TALK ABOUT THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

As you all know, the Rochester Amateur Radio Association is mainly a public service oriented club. Many of us have participated in a wide range of public service events that the club has involved itself with. Everything from foot races to horse shows. But there is one public service that stands out from them all and I believe is the most important to each and every one of us. I am speaking about public safety and our club's role in association with the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Amateur radio operators have always volunteered to assist the community by providing emergency communications wherever possible during times of disaster and RaRa is certainly no exception. Many of our members have done just that. We are all very fortunate indeed to live in a county that has such an extensive public safety program.

I have invited the Administrator of Monroe County's Office of Emergency Preparedness, Muffy Meisenzahl, to visit us and speak about OEP and the various services that they provide our community. I think her visit will be a real "eye-opener" for those who aren't too familiar with OEP and what they do. I for one have seen the OEP in action last year during the Ginna nuclear power plant drill and pre-drill when I volunteered to participate by sending ATV pictures back to the command center at Westfall Rd. I was impressed to see what lengths civil servants and amateur radio volunteers go to in order to insure our safety. This was and is a prime example of amateur radio serving the community for the common good.

Ms. Meisenzahl will discuss many aspects of the Office of Emergency Preparedness such as the Ginna drills, assorted emergency services, civil defense and the role of radio amateur volunteers. This will be one NOT to miss. The day may come

RaRa MEETING

October 4, 1996

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall

3129 East Henrietta Road

Office of Emergence Preparedness

when their help will be sorely needed and we should all be ready. Remember the ice storm?

I would like to thank Ms. Meisenzahl for graciously accepting the invitation to address us at the October meeting. I know her discussion will be informative and very interesting to everybody. I hope to see you all there.

DE, George F. Lloyd, N2UIO Vice President RaRa

INTERNET ARTICLE SUBMISSION TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE

Due to a dispute with my Internet Service Provider, the ability to submit material to the RaRa Rag is temporarily unavailable. Service was suspended on September 17th. A new provider should be in place by next months deadline. Please call for the new Email address if you plan to submit an article over the Internet before the November issue is mailed. **DO NOT SEND ANY EMAIL TO MY OLD EMAIL ADDRESS AT SERVTECH.COM!!!**

SILENT KEY

Robert H. Lauzon

K2RL

September 16, 1996

RaRa Life Member & Past President

the **RARA RAG**

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Amateur Radio News Service

The Prez Sez

We thank the program chairman the presenters last month on DX'ing and hope that some of you are motivated to try this facet of Amateur Radio. It can be very interesting, and has been enjoyed by many over the years. In fact it is probably the source of the most often asked question asked of hams by the uninformed citizenry, "what is the farthest you have contacted any one?" Be that as it may, DX'ing will give you the incentive to improve your skills and your equipment as you progress and give you a lot to talk about in the circles in which it is the subject of conversation.

The membership and treasury department was busy last meeting, entering the renewals that were presented at the meeting and those which came in the mail. It would appear that the club is flourishing. May it continue to do so.

Next meetings agenda will be announced elsewhere in this Rag, so will not dwell on it here.

By the time you receive this mailing, the license classes will have begun, and a new group of people will hopefully join the ranks of the amateur radio operator. If you missed the registration and still wish to participate, stop in and check, there may be a chance to catch up.

The end of this month we will again have the "Pumpkin Patrol". The purpose of Amateur Radio, in case you have forgotten or never knew, is 'PICON' WHICH STANDS FOR PUBLIC INTEREST CONVENIENCE OR NECESSITY. Most, if not all the other things we do are for training in the art of doing those things for PICON. You are allowed to have fun in the learning process, but it is not required. The purpose of the pumpkin patrol is to watch the bridges over the thruway and thus deter anyone from dumping objects onto the roadway below. We are not required to stop them but our very presence there to inform the authorities is a deterrent. Some of the objects dumped in the past have caused serious injury or death to those driving on the thruway or their passengers. leave us hope that our activities will stop that Halloween prank.

Start getting your gear together for the auction which will occur in November. This may be the best time you will have to unload some of the stuff you no longer need so you can accumulate some new to you treasures.

Hope to see you next meeting.

Art DeBruycker Pres.

FOR SALE: Kenwood 315 HT (220 Mhz) complete with battery charger & manual. Asking \$130. Dale Foster, KB2HYQ (716) 889-5979.

ARRL ASKS FCC FOR MORE TIME TO AMEND EXAMS

The ARRL has asked the FCC to extend the time for ARRL/VEC and other volunteer examiner coordinators to add questions about RF safety to Amateur Radio exams for Elements 2, 3(A) and 3(B). The request--filed August 12, 1996, in the form of an emergency motion--asks the Commission to put off the deadline to add the new exam questions to July 1, 1997 for Element 2 and 3(A) examinations and to July 1, 1998, for Element 3(B) examinations. Those dates coincide with the already-planned implementation dates for new examinations based on revised question pools. Work to revise the question pools for Elements 2 and 3(A) has been under way for more than a year; work on the Element 3(B) question pool will not begin until December.

The FCC Report and Order 96-326, issued August 1, requires that VECs add five questions to each of the three affected examination elements. New Element 2 examinations will have 35 questions instead of the current 30 questions, while Element 3(A) and 3(B) tests each will have 30 questions. The provisions of the Report and Order became effective when they were published in the Federal Register on August 7, 1996.

The ARRL/VEC, which administers approximately 60% of all ham radio examinations, pointed out that while current ham radio question pools already contain the required number of questions on RF safety, examinations now in circulation do not include the five additional required questions. And, because question pools must contain ten times the number of questions for a given examination element, the new rules mean the existing question pools for Elements 3(A) and 3(B) must be expanded. Only the question pool for Element 2 now meets the requirement.

"Adding five questions to each examination requires significant time, effort and logistics to do the job right," the League said in its pleading. "Rushing to create new examination questions is unquestionably a disservice to future amateur licensees."

In its motion, the League also notes that immediate implementation would require notifying its approximately 24,000 volunteer examiners; replacing tens of thousands of dollars worth of testing materials and supplies; and modifying and distributing new examination-generating software. The ARRL also said requiring the changes immediately would not be fair to the volunteers involved in exam preparation and administration.

October Calendar

- 4 - RaRa Annual Meeting - 8:00PM - Henrietta Fire Hall 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 11 - Rochester VHF Group - 7:30PM - 111 Westfall Road
Microwave Satellite Uplink System at WXXI
- 15 - RDXA VE Testing - 111 Westfall Rd., 5:30PM Meeting 7:30PM
- 19- RaRa VE Testing - 111 Westfall Rd. 8:30 AM

"They are not paid, nor motivated, to make changes in the examinations and question pools without any preparation time at all," the League said.

The ARRL said it was making an emergency motion because August 7, 1996, already has passed and many examinations will be administered over the next few weeks in violation of the new rules. Because current ham radio exams already contain RF safety questions, the ARRL said no harm will be done if the implementation deadline is extended.

In the past year, the ARRL/VEC has administered more than 91,000 examination elements to 54,409 people at 6409 exam sites. *Tnx ARRL LETTER*

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Next Rag Deadline October 11, 1996

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DWIGHT HILL K2KWK RECEIVES THE HONOR GRAND OLE HAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

The ARRL Atlantic Division Awards Committee of the East Coast has awarded the honor of Grand Ole Ham of the year to Dwight Hill K2KWK at the Rochester Hamfest Awards Dinner.

The following is a "brief" summary of Dwight's accomplishments as submitted to the committee. I note this is a "brief" due to the limitations of sources of information in order to accomplish the element of surprise. Dwight in addition to his accomplishments listed here was also editor of this news letter The RaRa Rag for a good number of years. Dwight is a modest fellow and won't brag about anything in spite of my prodding. All I get is a smile.

Also, note that the submission was for Amateur Of The Year. "The Awards Committee may, at their discretion, shift a nomination made in one award category to another award category, in order to honor a larger number of worthy nominees."

Congratulations Dwight from all of the Amateur Radio Community.

DWIGHT B. HILL K2KWK - NOMINATION FOR AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

Twenty years of dedicated, independent service to the Amateur Radio Community and a dozen or more years to public service deserves to be recognized.

Dwight Hill K2KWK who twice weekly has continuously reported local, national and international news of interest to the local amateur radio community dates back to 1976.

The Hill Top Bulletins as reported by Dwight Hill K2KWK is a part of our Sunday night Monroe County FM Net. It is carried on our local repeaters and is broadcasted state wide over a hookup of chain repeaters. Dwight's familiar "QST, QST this is the "Hill Top Bulletins Report" catches your ear with his clear voice and matter-of-fact reporting. His Sunday night report is a 15 minute review of the news that often times contains editorials and commentaries on events of timely interest to the amateur radio community. His reports are repeated on Tuesday evening which extends often times to

30 to 45 minutes with minimal repeat information from the Sunday night broadcast.

Dwight gathers and writes all of his own material. The material covers all aspects of interest to the amateur community. I dare not ask as to how much preparation time is required to assemble all of the material for a 15 or 45 minute broadcast. It must be days in the making. What we don't realize, not in the to-distant-past most all of the bulletin information was received in CW (Morse Code).

Can you picture scheduling yourself for 20 years to receive the daily bulletins from WIAW League Headquarters, amateur radio clubs, or from you as an individual ham operator or from the local public safety, the Red Cross and the list goes on. He is the focal point of all news impacting the amateur radio community. It is little wonder he is the American Radio Relay League's Bulletin Manager of Western New York.

Starting in 1976 and for 20 years there-after and continuing as of this date, Dwight has given us an unselfish, dedicated, clear, concise and timely reporting of news and events that would make a professional national radio and TV news caster envious.

Remember, Dwight does not have the luxury of having a team to assemble the reporting material. He has done it alone for 20 years.

Dwight Hill K2KWK recognition by the Amateur Radio Community is long overdue. A hardy and sincere thanks from all of us for being the communicator, the glue holding the radio clubs and the individual operators into a tight and often admired fraternity would only bring a warm, modest smile to his face. I would like for you to keep in mind all I have said. I would like to continue, in addition to his above achievements, Dwight has made a large contribution to public service in the form of public safety.

Dwight is a member of the Genesee Yacht Club and a highly accomplished sailor. The yacht club has sponsored a yearly overnight sailboat race across Lake Ontario to Scotch Bonnet Light on the Canadian shore and back to Rochester harbor. Those who have participated in that race, know that it can be a harrowing experience.

Due to the line-of-sight limitation of the marine safety and calling frequency Dwight envisioned the use of the amateur radio bands to communicate the 50 mile distance across the lake. Being well aware of the dangers involved in the race, Dwight over a dozen years ago instituted a communication safety program that incorporated amateur radio as a public service.

Preparatory to the race, Dwight sets up the base station at the yacht club to monitor the marine

safety calling frequency and the 2 meter amateur band utilizing two local amateur radio repeaters, one of which is a backup, that have the ability to reach across the lake. Dwight has designed a 2 meter antenna that can be hoisted to the top of the mast and secured. He has also experimented with other bands and frequencies to improve and insure backup procedures.

It might be of interest to review the safety communication procedure involved. A volunteer, licensed amateur radio operator sails across the lake, being it a doldrums, lightning storm or a howling gale. He reports the conditions of the lake back to the race committee. The picket boat upon arriving at Scotch Bonnet Island drops anchor in which is normally a turbulent bit of water. The duration at anchor often, under a super dose of Dramamine and four hours sleep, if you can get it, extends approximately, assuming no emergency exists about 24 hours. To be followed with an 8 to 10 hours sail back to Rochester harbor. The picket boat's job is to record and report to the race committee the boats that have successfully crossed the lake. This insures all participants are accounted for up to that mid-point in the race.

In addition to the safety aspects of the communication system, it greatly adds to the peace of mind of the race committee and the families and loved ones awaiting for the sailors return. Dwight has assembled a group of dedicated volunteer amateur radio operators to monitor the base station frequencies through out the race and to summon aid should it be required.

One can now understand Dwight's editorial about amateur radio being more than a hobby. With him it is a dedication.

It is ironic that over the years when Ham Radio's Ham Of The Year award time approaches, Dwight reminds us in his commentaries to choose a candidate. It is time now, for us to consider the messenger, as a candidate for the Ham Of The Year award.

I therefor humbly submit this short list of his contributions, known by me, to nominate Dwight Hill K2KWK as Amateur Radio Operator of the year. May I add with a special thanks in recognizing the magnitude of his contribution to amateur radio.

When one considers the time involved in the preparation, delivery and the number of years we have received such dedicated service from one of our own, it is time in our modest way to recognize and bestow on Dwight Hill K2KWK the title Amateur Radio operator of the year.

And I would like to quote "And thank you for listening".
de Alex NV2Y

BATAVIA VETERAN'S HOSPITAL STARTING HAM/SWL STATION

Located in nearby Batavia, NY, the large Vet's Hospital there is home to many disabled and aging Servicemen who saw military service from WW1 through Vietnam. Several Hams from GRAMS and the Batavia area have been instrumental in setting up a station for some of the patients who are Hams or ex-radio operators who have a yearning to listen into the short-wave bands. A room has been secured for this use and antennas are being finalized and erected. At this time the emphasis is on setting up receivers, but a fully licensed Club station is not out of the question. Locally, equipment and/or volunteer labor has been donated to the cause by Bob Rossi, W2HG and Ed Gable, K2MP. If anyone has anything they would like to donate for this worthy cause the local point of contact is Ed Gable at 392-3088.

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FIRST NEW HAM RADIO SATELLITE OF 1996 IN ORBIT

JAS-2, the first Amateur Radio satellite launched in 1996, is in orbit. Early Saturday morning, August 17, 1996 (UTC), an H-2 rocket blasted off from Japan's Tanegashima Island space center carrying the JAS-2 Amateur Radio satellite. The satellite was successfully deployed in orbit 38 minutes later. JAS-2 is similar to OSCAR 20, although it offers some interesting twists.

Several stations in South America and the eastern US reported hearing JAS-2's CW telemetry beacon soon after it separated from the launch vehicle over Antarctica during its first orbit. One of those stations was manned by AMSAT-NA's Executive Vice President, Keith Baker, KB1SF. "Being one of the very first to hear signals from a brand new Amateur Radio satellite has to be one of the biggest thrills one can have as a ham," Baker said. "I know many of us also shared some really tense moments until we finally heard those first CW beacon signals from the new 'baby' coming through loud and clear in our headphones!"

On behalf of AMSAT-NA President Bill Tynan, W3XO, Baker congratulated JARL for "providing the amateurs of the world with yet another highly advanced Amateur Radio satellite." He also thanked JAMSAT President Tak Okamoto, JA2PKI, and his team for their very strong support of the JARL in this effort and also for their minute-by-minute reports via AMSAT-BB on the developments leading up to JAS-2's successful launch.

JARL has named the new satellite FUJI-3 as a successor to FUJI-OSCAR-2 (FO-20). All of its systems are functioning normally and the satellite is open for general use. But JARL says there may be some unannounced shutdowns during the 2 to 3-week testing and attitude control period.

The satellite provides access to an easy-to-use packet BBS. Unlike most digital satellites, which function as file servers and require specialized ground station software, JAS-2 provides a BBS that operates much like a terrestrial system. The only software required is a terminal program to "talk" to your TNC. Connecting to the BBS is as simple as sending a connect request to 8J1JCS. Hams who own PSK TNCs can connect to JAS-2 at 1200 baud. But unlike OSCAR 20, JAS-2 can handle 9600-baud FM FSK as well. A digital voice-storage unit (called the "Digitalker") will be used to transmit announcements, bulletins on the condition of the satellite and so on. It's similar to the unit presently being heard from the Mir space station. JAS-2 also

features a linear transponder for SSB and CW communication.

The frequency plan of Fuji-3 is similar to that of FUJI-OSCAR-20, but with some interesting additions:

Analog (linear) transponder for phone and CW: Uplink 145.90 to 146.00 MHz, 100-kHz passband Downlink 435.80 to 435.90 MHz, 100-kHz passband (inverted) Beacon signal at 435.795 MHz, modulated by CW telemetry data Total transmitting power is 1 W; beacon is 100 mW.

Digital transponder (store-and-forward packet processor) Uplink: 145.85, 145.87, 145.89 or 145.91 MHz Downlink: 435.91 MHz 1200 or 9600 bps: for 1200 bps, uplink in Manchester-coded FM and downlink in bi-phase PSK; for 9600 bps, FSK using G3RUH protocol, uplink and downlink. Total transmitting power is 1 W.

Digitalker transmits information by FM voice, 25 seconds maximum, audible with a hand-held transceiver. Source information data in PCM is sent to Fuji-3 from the control station.

The Fuji-3 command team has asked all stations to continue to copy CW telemetry frames on the new satellite's 435.795-MHz beacon downlink and to forward those reports to jamsat-bb@iijnet.or.jp.

A World Wide Web home page has been established by JARL to provide information on the new satellite. Set your browser to <http://www.jarl.or.jp/jarl/jas-2/> to take a look. For more information, For further information, contact the JARL Technical Laboratory, e-mail lab@jarl.or.jp. *tnx ARRL LETTER*

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FCC PUTS TEST ELECTRONIC VANITY FILING SITE ON THE WEB

This is only a test! In preparation for an expected onslaught of Gate 2, 3 and 4 vanity call sign applications, the FCC has made available a test version of the electronic Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign Request form, Form 610V. The electronic test form is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amradsrv.html> (click on Interactive Beta Test Server to access the form). Detailed filing instructions are available by clicking on the item number on the Internet form. The FCC plans to run the Internet electronic filing test for approximately one week, so prospective electronic filers can get a feel for the process and comment on the form. At that point, the FCC is expected to issue another public notice saying when the the electronic Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign Request form will be put on line for real (check WIAW bulletins and the ARRLWeb page for late-breaking information). Send written comments and suggestions regarding electronic filing to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to webmail@fcc.gov.

Over the next few months, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau intends to allow applicants for all services to submit their applications over the Internet. For technical assistance, contact the FCC Technical Support Group at 202-414-1250. For general questions regarding the application, call the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Consumer Assistance staff at 800-322-1117.—FCC *tnx ARRL LETTER*

ARRL MEMBERSHIP IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH

Good news as the 1996 ARRL National Convention gets under way in Peoria, Illinois, this weekend: ARRL membership hit an all-time record of 173,491 members in August. The previous all-time high of 172,752 was reached in March 1995, just before a small dues increase took effect that caused a slight decline.

Especially over the past two months, radio amateurs have been joining the ARRL in large numbers to express their support for the League's efforts to defend Amateur Radio frequency allocations against commercial encroachment. In a typical month, about 1500 people join the ARRL for the first time. During July and August 1996, the figures were 2461 and 1988 respectively.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, was encouraged by the membership trend and hopes it will continue. "In this uncertain period, when more and more of the radio spectrum is being offered to the highest bidder, amateurs recognize that we have to stick together. The ARRL is the best glue we have," he commented.

tnx ARRL LETTER

SOLAR FLUX COULD REACH MID-70S BY LATER THIS MONTH

Solar observer Tad Cook, KT7H, in Seattle, Washington, reports solar activity was up during the last week of August, and on each day, the daily solar flux was above the average of the past 90 days. The 90-day average also moved up a point from 70 to 71. Average solar flux was up 6 points from a week earlier, and average sunspot numbers were up 1 point.

Due to a recurring coronal hole, geomagnetic indices were unstable in late August and early September. Look for solar flux to drop below 70 around September 11, rise above 70 again a week later, and to the mid-70s around September 23. Moderately unstable geomagnetic conditions are expected to return then as well.

Sunspot numbers for August 22 through 28 were 12, 24, 22, 14, 16, 13 and 13, respectively, with a mean of 16.3. The 10.7-cm flux was 72.8, 74.2, 74.6, 74.7, 74.2, 74.3, and 73.3, respectively, for a mean of 74.

By the way, the Space Environment Center in Boulder, Colorado, declared July as the solar minimum month.

Tnx

ARRL LETTER

Patrick C. Moyer, N2AIW
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FCC CLARIFIES VANITY FILING PROCEDURES

With vanity call sign Gate 2 set to open September 23, the FCC is asking hams to direct all inquiries concerning amateur vanity call sign requests and filing procedures to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Consumer Assistance Branch in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (800-322-1117). Do not call the Commission's lockbox contractor in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Bureau also notes that vanity call sign requests--as well as other application types--are

processed in receipt date order only. The time of delivery within a given receipt date has no bearing on the order of processing on that day. An application filed at 12:01 AM has the same processing priority as an application received at 11:59 PM that same day. Applications will be processed in the order received at the processor's work station. The Bureau suggests taking this into consideration when delivering applications to Pittsburgh. (As vanity call sign gates open, no grants will occur until all first-day applications have been received, no matter the manner of delivery--Ed.)—FCC

tnx ARRL LETTER

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