



the **RARRA RAG**

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 49

November 1996

NO. 3

NOVEMBER MEETING ANNUAL RaRa AUCTION

Well, it's that time of year again. Time to clean out your closet and turn all that unwanted radio equipment into cash. Or, if you don't have a closet full of radio equipment, this is your big chance to spend some cash and start your very own collection. Every good radio amateur dreams of having a fine collection of exotic radio gear, you never know when you're going to need it! I'm sure that this big annual event will prove to be fun for all!

This year we will be joined again by our illustrious friends and fellow hams, Richard Goslee K2VCZ and Ed Gable K2MP. Dick and Ed will be donating their valuable time once again to help RaRa pay their bills and provide more services to you, the member.

This is also a great opportunity to support your club by bringing your excess equipment to the auction so it can find it's way to a new home. Where else can you go to find such treasures all in one place outside of hamfest season? Here are a few simple rules to follow that will speed up the pace of the auction and to ensure that everyone is treated fairly!

1.) RaRa assesses a fee of 10% on each sale. (Think about the starting bid for your items with this in mind.)

2.) The fee is paid by the seller from the proceeds of the sale.

3.) The seller must come forward to the Treasurer's table as soon as the item is declared **SOLD!** by the auctioneer.

4.) You must be a RaRa member in order to gain admittance to the auction. Our membership chairman, will be happy to accept your renewal on the night of the auction. Each paid up member can bring one guest into the auction.

5.) Please, **NO PARKING LOT** or **BACK OF THE ROOM SALES!** (No prior sales.) RaRa can only pay the rent if you help us by allowing all the items you brought to be auctioned off to the highest bidder!

Continued on page 3

RaRa MEETING

November 1, 1996

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall
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Annual Auction

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

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the **RaRa Rag**

PUBLISHED BY

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Summary of the Minutes of the Board of Directors
Meeting of October 9, 1996

In attendance: Art DeBruycker W2YGW, Dave Hassett K2SQI, Irv Goodman AF2K, Ed Holdsworth N2EH, Lloyd Caves WB2EFU, Neal Eckhardt WB2EKP, Jack Tripp N2SNL, Chris Reich WB2DYJ and George Lloyd N2UIO.

•Program Chairman's Report. George Lloyd N2UIO reported that all programs have been scheduled for the duration of the year except for the April meeting. Keith Freeberg N2BEL stated that nobody at Kodak has scheduled a presentation for the December meeting so we will go with the one already set. Program will be done by Walter NQ2O.

•License Class Report. Art DeBruycker W2YGW reported that there were 9 persons registered for the theory classes and 5 people in the code classes. There was some discussion over how to better organize the handling of the license classes. It was agreed that a written job description be prepared to help guide the license class coordinator.

•RaRa Rag. Ed Holdsworth N2EH stated that the ARRL has RaRa on record as the sponsor of the VE testing at Kodak Park. Ed suggested that the Secretary write a letter to the league in an effort to straighten this out.

•Telephone Report. Irv Goodman AF2K said that some of the usual inquiries made by scout troops have yet to come in. Also, license class inquiries are down from the average amount. Irv stated that he will be updating the phone message soon.

•Awards. Keith Freeberg N2BEL stated that the items that were ordered were still tied up with UPS. Art DeBruycker W2YGW provided the items that were awarded at the regular meeting last Friday.

•Public Service. Ed Holdsworth N2EH asked for volunteers to sign up for the MDA 5K Walk on October 20, 1996.

•K2JD Engraving. Ed Holdsworth had nothing to report at this time. However, Lloyd Caves WB2EFU stated that more help and participation by board members is needed to handle the booth at the various hamfests in the future.

•Refreshments. Dave Hassett K2SQI has been ill and wasn't able to provide the refreshments at the last meeting.

•New business. Art DeBruycker W2YGW displayed a letter from the league asking for financial support to help out their legal fund. Neal Eckhardt WB2EKP suggested to wait for the treasurer to be present before deciding anything. Ed

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OFFICERS.

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Vice-President: George Lloyd, N2UIO.....637-9499
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Public Service Coordinator: Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH
License Testing Directors: George Platteter, AA2FO
Membership Chairman: Alex Piccirilli, NV2Y
Hamfest General Chairman: Harold Smith, K2HC
K2JD Engraving: Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH

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Amateur Radio News Service

Holdsworth N2EH then made a suggestion to have the meeting agendas corrected so that unnecessary items are omitted during the regular meetings. Irv Goodman suggested that Ed Gable be asked to write the article about Bob Lauzon.

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

Continued from page 1

6.) Doors will open at 7:00 PM for bringing your treasures into the Auction Gallery. Dick and Ed are experts at getting the most for your valued equipment and can help the sale price towards it's fair value.

So dust off that old equipment you haven't used in awhile and take a chance on rolling your collection over into something else. All you need to do is mark or tag your items with your NAME, CALLSIGN AND STARTING BID. Don't forget to list the lowest bid you will accept on each piece. Bring them to 3129 East Henrietta Rd., Friday , November 3rd. and prepare to be entertained by the quick wit and skills of our skilled auctioneers, Goslee and Gable. But most of all, watch the magic of the auction and your equipment skillfully transformed into CASH! I hope to see you all there!

*George F. Lloyd, N2UIO
Vice President, RaRa*

From: owner-ham-tech
To: ham-tech
Subject: GPS doomsday
Date: Thursday, 25 July, 1996 14:12

Hams tend to use GPS, and this is a technical issue, so I thought it might be of interest. I was reading in the July 22 '96 issue of Computerworld magazine that the GPS satellites and receivers may have a little problem with the date rolling over in a few years.

To paraphrase the article:

The satellites measure time in one week blocks of seconds.

There are a maximum of 1024 weeks in the clock.

The first week started on 6 Jan 1980.

The clock will roll over to week 1 again on 22 Aug 1999.

Some GPS receivers will give inaccurate results when that happens.

It is easier to upgrade the receivers than to fix the satellites (all 24 of them). Newer GPS receivers will have a manufacturing date code in ROM and they will "understand" what is happening when the GPS date tells them that it is now some time BEFORE they were manufactured. Older (current?) models will fail.

November Calendar

- 4 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00PM - Henrietta
Fire Hall 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 8- Rochester VHF Group - 7:30PM- 111 Westfall Rd- Construction Techniques of Quad Antennas for VHF - George Lloyd N2UIO
- 16- RaRa VE Testing - 111 Westfall Rd. 8:30 AM
- 19 - RDXA VE Testing - 111 Westfall Rd., 5:30PM Meeting 7:30PM

You would think that with the year 2000 "problem" coming up, the satellite designers would have added a few bits to the week field, but they must have thought 19 years is as long as GPS would last, I guess... Time marches on.

Tnx Scott Rowe, KB8HTM, Lansing, MI

FOR SALE: Johnson Viking Valiant, Classic collectible AM/CW, 160-10 meter transmitter. Looks good, untested, as found condition. Bargain at \$175 or best offer. Ed Gable K2MP, 392-3088.

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The Prez Says

Our bulletin editor is going to love me for this one. I have procrastinated until it may be too late to get this in the bulletin this month. With getting ready for a vacation and all the other things that us retired folks have to do time has a way of disappearing. I can't help it if you think that retired folks have more time than anyone else, it's not true. While we do not have a regular schedule to follow, it seems that everything we, or someone else wishes to do, we just get started on it, and tempus fugits away like you wouldn't believe.

It seems that there is a concern on the board regarding our license classes. Numbers are down over previous classes. Is it that there is less interest in becoming an amateur, or that other options are filling the personal need for interaction with the rest of the world? The internet will never take the place of the amateur radio bands but for those of the non amateur community who will be satisfied with what the internet can offer, so be it. They are the ones to suffer not knowing what the amateur radio world can offer. You are allowed to feel sorry for them. They could have it both ways. Maybe we have not beaten the bushes sufficiently to get out the potential amateur, but it seems that when I went for my amateur license, no one beat the bushes to get me to join, I did it on my own without the benefit of classes and all that stuff. Of course the army was responsible for teaching me the code, but the rest I got on my own. No one forced me to upgrade, and no one twisted my arm to get my code speed up to a useful speed. There was no Novice class at that time and you had to be a licensed amateur for a year, or was it two before you could upgrade to the next class. Extra class became available after I had been licensed for about four years, and at the Buffalo State convention., I sat and took the examination, and passed it. So from 1952 I have been an extra class licensee. What this all boils down to is that we are here to offer classes, if they are desired, but we are not in a position to hammer them down anyone's throat. The motivation must come from inside, in order for it to be a lasting thing. People change, conditions change, it is necessary to accommodate these changes.

E-MAIL RAG SUBMISSION AVAILABLE AGAIN

E-Mail submissions for the Rag can now be sent to: eckhardt@frontiernet.net. Please email for suggestions on preparing your submission. Please send all articles to this address only, as information sent to other addresses will only delay your submission.

Robert H. Lauzon K2RL

1911 - 1996

As Remebered by Ed Gable K2MP

Many of you right now are reading this due to the leadership and individual contribution of one of Rochester's finest and well liked hams, Bob Lauzon, K2RL.

You will remember him for his tireless efforts in running RaRa's Code and Theory classes from the downtown McCurdy's store location where he was Vice President of Operations. Always a lover of CW, he could send flawless code practice for hour after hour way before the use of computers and code tapes came into being.

As a RaRa past president, he is remembered by those who eagerly served under him as being a champion for the membership at large and for Ham Radio in general. He urged the formation of club activities and events, broke down barriers for the formation of a club station, and brought RaRa to the attention of thousands of locals through Monroe County Fair exhibits and Ham Radio demonstrations.

While not chasing CW contacts on the HF bands both from home and mobile, Bob enjoyed fishing and getting out with the boys on camping trips. He was a long time member of the Band-Dit-Dahs Field Day group where some of us still fondly recall his humor, wit...and that really funny looking camping trailer - remember that ?

I think Bob really loved his last and probably most memorable contribution to RaRa, the founding of K2JD Engraving. Always having the keen business eye, Bob watched year after year as engravers made piles of money at the Hamfest. "Hey, we can do that," he exclaimed as he went out and bought some machines, some plastic material, got some volunteers, and the rest is history Bob especially enjoyed getting K2JD Engraving out to the many surrounding area Hamfests. "Meet me at 5 a.m. in my driveway," he'd say - and we all did. Many people marveled at how diligent Bob was at grinding some difficult to cut badge at the same time his many friends and acquaintances stopped by to talk and say howdy. We knew, however, that Bob long ago had turned his hearing aid off!

After losing his wife, Arline, in 1991, Bob went QRT and moved to Bend, Oregon, to live with his daughter, Deborah White. He died after a short illness. Just prior to that, in a letter to his dear friend El Wagner, WB2BNJ, Bob related how much he missed the Rochester gang. Bob, that goes for all of us too.....Rest in Peace Old Boy

VHF Academy has arrived!

The Rochester VHF Group is proud to announce VHF Academy! If you're new to VHF operations, and you are looking for excitement beyond FM repeater operation, then VHF Academy is for you. Spend a Saturday with the Rochester VHF Group and learn about facets of the VHF hobby that you may have only heard of in passing.

The Date: Saturday, November 16th, 1996

The Place: Greece Apollo Middle School (corner of Maiden Lane and Mt. Read Blvd)

The Time: 9:00 am until 2:45 pm...with lunch provided!

The Cost: Free

The Agenda (tentative as of press time):

9:00-9:45 General Overview of VHF Operations...beyond FM and Repeaters

10:00-10:45 OSCAR Satellite Operation for the Casual Ham

11:00-11:45 VHF Contesting!

12:00-12:45 Lunch (with a demonstration of computer logging of VHF contests)

1:00-1:45 VHF Propagation--how to communicate well beyond line-of-site

2:00-2:45 Lab: Making your own LASER transceiver...from Radio Shack parts!

All students will receive a workbook of all handouts from all courses. The last class is a hands-on lab. Students will be given a list of parts that they can purchase at their local RS store and come ready to assemble! Be prepared to leave the lab with the ability to modulate a LASER beam with your voice, and hear it be decoded on a receiver!

Sign up by calling: Ev Tupis (WB2ELB) at 638-8269 and leaving your name, call sign, address and telephone number. You MUST pre-register no later than Friday, November 8th (the evening of the VHF Group Meeting). An easy way to register is to attend the November meeting!

Here's your chance to expand your VHF horizons, at no cost to you! Seating is limited, so don't delay!

The RaRa Rag Years Ago

by Ed Gable K2MP

Editor's Note - If you missed Ed's article in September (Didn't we all) it was due to his collection of old RaRa Rags short the October issues. Now on with the show...

20 YEARS AGO - November 1976: Several changes in call letter assignments were announced by the FCC. The most noteworthy was the issuing WA2 calls to Novices instead of WN2. Novices could sign WA2xxx/N at their option. Also new were 1x2 call signs with the suffix beginning with X, thus giving 52 new Extra Class call letters in each district. Finally, in November, 1x2 call letters beginning with the letter N will be issued for the first time. During all of the call letter changes, the FCC also dropped the requirement to sign portable and mobile and eliminated the requirement to notify the FCC of extended mobile and portable operation. RaRa Treasurer, Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, wrote an informative article on RaRa's budget and spending. Club membership stood at 750 paid members. NO longer a potential advertiser was Trigger Electronics which was cited by the Illinois Attorney General for Consumer Fraud.

40 YEARS AGO - November 1956: All members raved about the October meeting hosted by the Kodak Research lab and Cy Staud, K2DQ, and Chuck Brelsford, W2CTA. Bob Jeffers, W2ALL, continues his technical articles, this one on Cross Modulation in receiver front ends. Sponsored by RaRa and the AWA, Old Timer's Nite was scheduled for November 3, at the Doud Legion Post, and featured Art Stockellburg, W1SS, Paul Hollaway, W2AHR, and Dave Marks, W2APF, giving historical talks on early Ham Radio. You could buy a 400 watt transmitter with 813 finals for \$135.00 from W2FFV by calling CH2-2185-J.

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Xerox Amateur Radio Club

Jon Dickason, N2JAC, and his team (friends Christy and Tom) were the winners of the Xerox Amateur Radio Club (XARC) Fox Hunt Saturday, September 28. Jon's team won both the "Best Time" and "Best Mileage" trophies. The team of Fred, WO2P and Judy, N2KXS placed second.

Hunters gathered at Webster Park at 10:00 AM with a fascinating array of direction finding equipment. Most hunters had some sort of home brew passive DF antennas. Simpler gear like a garbage can lid reflector for use with an HT, and more elaborate equipment were also present.

Pete, WA2BPQ and Larry, WW2J had a nice looking loop that they tuned up just prior to the start of the hunt. Tony, N2TRV had another version of the same antenna, complete with on-board compass, but it attempted suicide mid-hunt by jumping off the top of his truck into traffic. Several folks had built the ZL Special, a two-element, 135 degree out-of-phase, folded dipole. Results varied with some getting the sharp null from this antenna, and some getting little directionality.

Fred, WO2P, and Judy, N2KXS, had the most intimidating setup, with a towering five-element quad on their van. It was equipped with a rotor and a vast range of switchable attenuation. As demonstrated at the last XARC meeting, Fred also had double rubber duckies feeding an active phase discriminator, producing an audible tone as a function of bearing.

The fox consisted of a dual-band HT and gel cell in an Army ammo box wired for an external antenna. The box was well-labeled so local police wouldn't confuse it with a bomb! The HT was set up as a cross-band repeater, receiving PL toned input on 446.3 MHz and transmitting on the fox frequency of 146.565 MHz. Fox transmissions, by huntmaster Paul, AB2BV, were intermittent FM phone, about five minutes on, five minutes off. Obscure clues were transmitted on the fox frequency, sometimes in CW, though the clues were of little value according to the hunters!

Early on we seemed to have some interference on the fox frequency. Paul, KG2EP, was helpful in diagnosing this. Later, the fox began to malfunction, the signal became intermittent, cutting in and out, eventually quitting completely, thus aborting the hunt. . . . but not before N2JAC, WO2P and N2KXS had found the fox.

Problems with the fox may have hurt some hunters, like Bob, K2OID, and Doc, WA6UCY, who still had low mileage when the fox went off the air. Had it remained on as planned, they may have

taken the low mileage award. Still, all hunters were good sports about the fox malfunction (for which the huntmaster was most grateful).

All agreed the Fox Hunt was worth doing again, perhaps drawing participation from other clubs in the area.

*De Paul Norder
Secretary, Xerox Amateur Radio Club*

MORE HAM RADIO ON THE SILVER SCREEN!

Ham radio has another movie role on the horizon, in the Warner Bros movie *Contact* (based on Carl Sagan's 1985 novel of the same name), due out next summer. ARRL HQ staffers have worked with a representative of the movie maker to provide authentic Amateur Radio props. *Contact* will star Jodie Foster, James Woods and Matthew McConaughey. Foster will play Ellie Arroway, who, as a girl, got her ham ticket along with her father in the late 1960s, then goes on to become a radio astronomer and the first person to decipher a message received on Earth from extraterrestrial intelligent life. Eventually, she's among the team sent into space to explore the message's origin. Robert Zemeckis will direct the film.

ARRL Media Relations Assistant Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY, provided the filmmakers with an ARRL map (thanks to Circulation Manager Deb Jahnke) and other League publications of the 1960s, Executive Vice President David Sumner supplied some vintage QSLs from his own collection, and Educational Activities Department Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO, advised the Warner Bros contact about types of antennas and equipment they'd need to make the movie set realistic. She also sent an appropriate copy of *The ARRL Handbook* (donated by Mike Tracy, KC1SX) and several late '60s QSTs. ARRL Southwestern Division Director Fred Heyn, WA6WZO, was to assist the film company in obtaining appropriate 1960s-vintage ham equipment. Also, Dave Newkirk, W9VES, contributed a 1971 copy of *The ARRL Handbook* as well as his historical expertise.

Filming for *Contact* begins this fall. Ham radio played roles in the current films *Independence Day* and *Phenomenon*. League staff members also helped to supply some props used in the latter film.

Trx ARRL LETTER

FOR SALE: Great starter receiver, Hallicrafters SX-110, General Coverage, AM/CW/SSB. Will demonstrate. Bargain at \$70.00 OBO. Ed Gable K2MP, 392-3088.

FCC ISSUES REVISED CALL SIGN TABLE

Working up that list of favorite call signs as you await the opening of vanity Gates 2, 3 or 4? Well, you should know that certain combinations of letters are not assignable. According to the most recent information from the FCC, these include: KA2AA-KA9ZZ, KC4AAA-KC4AAF, KC4USA-KC4USZ, KG4AA-KG4ZZ, KC6AA-KC6ZZ, KL9KAA-KL9KHZ, KX6AA-KX6ZZ; any call sign having the letters SOS or QRA-QUZ as the suffix. In addition, don't ask for any call sign having the letters AM-AZ as the prefix; any 2x3 format call sign having the letter X as the first letter of the suffix; any 2x3 format call sign having the letters AF, KF, NF or WF as the prefix and the letters EMA as the suffix; any 2x3 format call sign having the letters NA-NZ as the prefix; any 2x3 format call sign having the letters KP, NP or WP as the prefix and the numeral 0, 6, 7, 8 or 9; any 2x2 format call sign having the letters KP, NP or WP as the prefix and the numeral 0, 6, 7, 8 or 9; or any 2x1 format call sign having the letters KP, NP or WP as the prefix and the numeral 0, 6, 7, 8 or 9.

The FCC will not assign any letter combinations that prior recipients have found offensive. Also remember that 2x1 call signs having the single letter prefix (K, N or W), a single digit numeral (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9) and a single-letter suffix are reserved for the special-event call sign system. FCC Form PR-5000 #206V, Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign System, outlines all the procedures for the vanity call sign system. For more information, call the FCC Consumer Assistance Branch, 800-322-1117 or 717-338-2500, or write 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245.

WISCONSIN SENATOR SEEKS LOCAL CONTROL OVER RFI

Acting in response to what he says are nearly 45,000 complaints to the FCC every year, first-term Sen Russ Feingold (D-Wisconsin) as introduced S 2025, which would give state, county and local governments the ability to regulate interference from CB radios "when that interference results from a violation of FCC rules." Saying his bill "simply allows common sense to prevail," Feingold reasons his measure would give states and localities the ability to investigate and enforce Federal law, "thereby protecting the rights of their residents." The bill would only affect unauthorized CB transmitters or amplifiers. Municipalities could prohibit use of the equipment and levy fines or other monetary sanctions.

Recently, the City Council of Beloit, Wisconsin--reacting to complaints from local residents of interference to home electronic equipment--passed an ordinance that would give that city the power to enforce FCC regulations on CB interference. While the bill is an explicit reversal of the total Federal preemption over telecommunications matters granted by the Communications Act of 1934, it contains a provision reaffirming the continued Federal preemption in handling other types of RFI.

Feingold said he's tried to enlist FCC help in investigating constituents' RFI complaints without success. He said he was told the FCC no longer investigates RFI complaints and offers "only a packet of self-help information for the consumer to limit the interference on their own."

It's all a question of fairness, Feingold says: "It is not fair that municipalities and their residents should be hamstrung by an outdated Federal preemption of laws the Federal government no longer has the resources to enforce." The bill has been referred to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. *Tnx ARRL LETTER*

FOR SALE: US Tower Model MA-550, crank-up 22'--55'. Still standing in Pittsford., \$500. KF2MK (716) 586-0292 or (410) 527-1955.

FOR SALE: Linear Amplifier, Collins 30L-1, Very fine with 4 extra tubes. Asking \$600 OBO. Dick K2SZE, 716-461-9981

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Henrietta Duathlon

Rochester Amateur Radio Association provided communications for this 3.5 mile Run - 11 mile Bike - 1.5 mile Run individual and team competition on Sunday morning, September 22, 1996. The event, sponsored by Henrietta Recreation Department and Peddlers Bike Shop, ran smoothly thanks to the efforts of the organizers and our amateur radio communicators, lead by Dave Payne - KA2J. Other operators were Phil Donato - N2GLU, Mike McNamara - KB2CHP, and George Platteter - AA2FO. Neal Eckhardt - WB2EKP was assisting during the Duathlon as a Henrietta

Auxiliary Policeman, but also had his two meter radio available if needed.

Vet's Hospital Donation

RaRa would like to thank and acknowledge, on behalf of the Batavia Veteran's Hospital, the kind and generous donations of Bill Dixon, Sr, N2LQM, of Irondequoit. Bill donated transceivers, power supplies and numerous station accessories to the cause which will go a long way in equipping the station being set up for the Veteran Radio Ops and short wave enthusiasts who are patients at the hospital.

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