



the RARRA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 49

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NO. 8

PACKET RADIO TO BE DISCUSSED AT APRIL 4th MEETING

Ever wonder how Packet radio works? Ever wonder what it actually takes to get started in the realm of Packet radio? Well then, here is your big opportunity to do just that! Jack Tripp N2SNL and friends will be introducing us to the basic and advanced facts of Packet radio at our April meeting. Many new hams acquired their amateur radio licenses just so that they can utilize this very interesting mode of operation. They say that amateur radio has a niche for everyone. This is quite true, in the world of ham radio, we all have a wide variety of modes available to us. Amateur TV for one, HF, Microwave and the list goes on and on. There seems to be an endless amount of technology available to us. What a wonderful time to be alive! Packet radio is a very big part of our "hobby" and here is a wonderful opportunity to see what it's all about and have your questions answered where Packet is concerned. Jack Tripp N2SNL will be discussing what is needed to get started as well as some of the uses for those who are already on line. Jack will be happy to explain all he can to us about Packet and he will be joined by some very interesting people as well. George Masny KB2GPJ will also be there to tell us a little about K-Park and the ROCBBS. Here is a subject that deserves an hour talk all by itself! I will probably be asking many questions myself. Simply because I need to hone my skills a bit since I have been rather inactive lately. I too have much to learn about Packet radio. Most of my use of Packet was checking out the local BBS's and "node hopping". There will be a world of information there at the April meeting and if you miss this one, you may have a bit of a wait before you get another opportunity like this again!

So be there or be square! See you at the April meeting!

George F. Lloyd, N2UIO - RaRa Vice-President

RaRa MEETING

April 4, 1997

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall

3129 East Henrietta Road

Packet Radio

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

**Novice - Tech - Tech Plus
General - Advanced - Extra
or**

**Whatever Elements you need
to complete a license class.**

Saturday April 19, 1997

Registration - 8:30AM

Testing - 9:00AM

**Social Services Building
111 Westfall Rd., Rochester
Inquires (716) 334-4488**

VE TESTING

Join us on Saturday, April 19, 1997 at 111 Westfall Road for new license or to upgrade. Registration starts at 8:30AM. Exams start at 9:00AM.

the **RARA RAG**

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1997 Hamfest Programs, Part IV

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

The 1997 Hamfest is going to be better than ever. Remember that the Dome will be open on Friday afternoon this year which will give you more time to look at the new equipment as well as spend your time in the flea market. This should allow you more time on Saturday to enjoy some of the programs being held.

I would hope that all of you are interested in the things taking place that will effect amateur radio. The Rochester Hamfest is also the Atlantic Division Conference. This allows us to have many of our league officials with us to answer questions and give input into our feelings and needs. Remember that the ARRL is the only organization that is out there working on our behalf as amateur radio operators, both in Washington and in the rest of the world. Therefore one of the programs you won't want miss is the **ARRL Forum**. This years forum will be attended by Kay Craigie, WT3P, Director Atlantic Division; Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, Vice Director Atlantic Division; Stephen Mendelsohn, W2ML, Vice President; and Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, Vice President. This forum is a great place to learn what is taking place at ARRL Headquarters.

School 22 in New York City has the largest school club in the U.S. It started in 1980 and is now helping schools all over the country to learn through amateur radio. **Education Through Communications** will be presented by Joseph J. Fairclough, President of The Radio Club of Jr. High School 22 N.Y.C., Inc. Learn how this club got its start and the steps it is taking to help other schools and students all over the country. Amateur radios future is in the hands of these students so it is important that they understand what radio is and how they can learn from it. Maybe some of us can learn something that we can take back to our local schools.

This years **DX Forum** will be hosted by John Merrill, N1JM President of the Salt City DX. There will be two major topics that will be addressed this year. The first is "Technical Considerations for HF Contesting" by John Merrill. The second is "DX and Contesting From Modest Urban Areas" by Bob Strickland, KE2WY Vice President of the Salt City DX. This will be the sixth annual panel for DXers from the Atlantic Division and New York State.

For you DX enthusiast Bill Kenamer, KSFUV DXCC Chairman from the ARRL will be with us to present **DXCC**. He will talk about the DXCC

awards, rules, country lists and more. This will be a great time to learn how countries make the DXCC list and why some are removed. You will have a chance to learn what is new and how the rules may change in the future.

While at the Hamfest take advantage of Bill being with us this year. Not only will he be presenting a couple of programs during the day, but he will be in a booth also to check your DX cards to give you DXCC credit. This will save you having to mail your cards to the ARRL to receive your DXCC.

Remember that this is only a few of the programs taking place on Saturday. To see what the rest of them are about you will have to refer to your January through March issues of the *RaRa Rag*. Next months issue will list each program by title giving the time and place that it is scheduled so you can keep the time open for those of interest to you. I will see everyone on May 30, 31, and June 1.

ANNOUNCING NEW LICENSES

The following candidates successfully completed the required elements to qualify for a new Amateur Radio License or an upgrade to their existing license at a recent RaRa Testing Session:

NEW LICENSE:

Technician

Arthur M. Boone KC2BDQ

UPGRADE:

General

E. Daniel Quatro, DC KC2AQW

Congratulations to the above and others who passed elements on their way to a new license or an upgrade.

NOTE: Now is the time to prepare for and take the exams for Novice, Technician, or Technician+. The FCC will have a new question pool in place for these exams starting July 1, 1997. The Novice element will increase by 5 questions to a total of 35 and the Technician element will also increase by 5 questions to a total of 30.

FOR SALE: KENWOOD TS-950SDX top of the line all mode HF XCVR, with manuals; excellent condition. Includes RM-1 Remote Function Keyboard. Asking \$2700. plus shipping or will deliver within 75 mi. of Rochester. Irv Goodman, AF2K, (716) 671-4430.

AMPLIFIER FOR SALE: Kenwood TL922A, Excellent Condition, ARS price \$875. Peter WR2N, 381-9216

April Calendar

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

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

ATV MEETING AT K2JD

Greetings to my fellow ATVers'. As some of you well may know, we have been meeting at the K2JD club shack at 111 Westfall Rd. for our local ATV get-togethers. We will be meeting again on March 20 at 7:30 PM. We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month to discuss ATV related events or anything you like where ATV is concerned. Our meetings are "informal" and welcome anyone who is at all interested in Amateur Television.

As many of you already know, we have a ATV repeater in our community that is usually on line and ready for use. Sadly, this system goes relatively unused. We hope to change that. ATV deserves more attention than it's been getting. It doesn't take all that much to work ATV. If you were to attend any of our meetings, you would discover that I intend to start writing a series of articles concerning Amateur TV in our area, our ATV repeater and many other items of interest to ATVers'. Television is a very useful and important component of our hobby and deserves more attention. I hope to bring that to you and hope to "see" more interest in it over the next few months.

I will be discussing many different subjects, how to get started, what is needed and how to use it all. Input is welcome, if you have some ideas, drop us a line. We would be very happy to accept any input you might have.

So don't forget, our meeting are on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 111 Westfall Rd. in the K2JD club shack. Stop in sometime and visit us. We'd like very much to "see" you there!

George F. Lloyd, N2UIO vice-president RaRa

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MAJOR CHANGES TO AMATEUR LICENSE STRUCTURE PROPOSED

by Ed Gable K2MP

ARRL Assistant Director, Atlantic Division
Assistant Section Manager, Western New York

In preparation for the WARC-99 conference, the ARRL WRC-99 Planning Committee has made sweeping - and potentially controversial - proposed changes to the U.S. Amateur Radio structure. All new and current licensees would be affected.

A most notable change is the elimination of the Novice Class as the entry level. This 45 year old class seems to have out lived it's purpose as three out of every four Novice licensees are inactive. Today the Technician License is by far the most often used entry level point closely followed by the Tech Plus ticket. Under the proposal the deleted Novice and Technician Licenses would become the Basic License and the Tech Plus would become the Intermediate License. Remaining, but with expanded privileges are the General, Advanced and Amateur Extra tickets.

The Intermediate (old Tech +) would gain the most operating privileges as an enticement to progress through the ranks. The Intermediate would retain old Tech Plus benefits but add some phone privileges on 160, 75 and 15 meters. All other classes would enjoy expanded phone segments on all but the already too narrow 20 meter band and all of the WARC bands.

CW testing requirements, seemingly as a result of in depth ARRL polls last year, actually become more difficult than before. Although the 13 wpm test becomes 10 wpm, and the 5 and 20 wpm remain unchanged, the testing methods are altered. Back is a required sending test for each class as well as a requirement for one minute of perfect copy. Gone is picking answers from your written copy and answering questions.

Please note, says ARRL VP David Sumner, K1ZZ, that these are very early proposals, nothing is cast in stone and none yet form ARRL policy. They are offered as a starting point for discussions in the 1999 WARC Conference and to start gathering important feedback from the best source, you, the licensed Amateur Radio Operators.

So what is this all about, you ask. In 1999 the world reconvenes and decides again what to do with the fixed amount of radio spectrum. There are many people from many countries seeking our frequencies (Does Little LEO Mean anything to you) and you have only one voice, the ARRL. The

WARC-99 Committee has a difficult task in trying to prove to all conference members that Amateur Radio is worthy of keeping this highly sought after radio spectrum. If the only data reveals 3 out of 4 entry class licensees are inactive, the team will fail. They need to show that Amateur Radio is strong, active and returns a benefit. This was the same challenge at the last World Administrative Radio Conference where your representative not only didn't loose frequencies but gained some. You know them as 30, 17 and 12 Meters on your radio dial ! <Oh, gee, you mean my ARRL membership is more than a subscription to QST>

Full details will be available in the March QST and inputs are sought by the end of May. Most ARRL affiliated Clubs and Special Service Clubs, such as RaRa and the Rochester DX Association, will most likely offer some form of opinion surveys and feedback to the League. Let your League officials and Club Leadership know how you feel.

(Data from ARRL Bulletin ARLB005)

RaRa Board Meeting Highlights

- Dates for next fall's classes were set for September 15 to December 18.
- RaRa Rag: The Rag doesn't have enough local news in it. A committee was formed to layout a plan for contents of the Rag.
- Membership: Alex Piccirilli said applications have tapered off. We have 563 full members, 24 associates, 74 family members, 40 life members for a total of 701. Of these 433 belong to ARRL and 671 are licensed.
- Dick Goslee described the mailing he and George Platteter are sending to newly licensed hams as an effort to attract new members. They will get names and call signs each week from the Internet. They will send each person a letter, personalized with the person's name and call sign and will include a copy of the Rag and a pamphlet about the club.
- Club Station: Ed Holdsworth reported Office of Emergency Preparedness has a new TV set for ATV use.
- Public Service: Ed reported events requesting radio services include the SSTPR auto rally June 6-8, Wellsboro Pa, Tour de Cure May 31, Walnut Hill August 12-17, Stuart Horse Trials August 2, Ginna predrill April 30, Ginna drill June 11, and Corporate Challenge - no date.
- The June picnic will be June 21, 12 noon, at the Ellison Park South Lodge.
- New business. Art said a nominating committee is needed to nominate officer candidates for next year. Several persons were suggested.

RaRa NOW HAS AN INTERNET WEBSITE!

As of March 8, the RaRa homepage is up and working with the URL of <http://www.ggw.org/rara/>

This is a modest website that fills a basic need of the organization. It tells the web users who we are, introduces our programs, announces current events and gives a point of contact for internet responses. Information is focused on root RaRa programs and events as opposed to links to a myriad of interesting ham related websites. There is much more potential for the website and it is up to the officers and members as to how we want to utilize it.

Right now the website consists of 5 simple html pages. All but one reside on Genesee Gateway's Freenet server. Pages at the server can be updated about once a month. One other page, the Current Events page, can be updated much more frequently. Genesee Gateway Freenet is a non profit internet service operated by volunteers. They author webpages for public service organizations, among other things.

Area hams may want to bookmark the website to view current events and announcements. Of particular interest are announcements of our monthly speaker, ham classes, and ham tests. There is redundancy with the hotline and RaRa Rag, however, there is added convenience for those who are using the WWW and potential for much more.

I am interested in feedback and future input into the website.

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY, glide@frontiernet.net

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RaRa Years Ago

by Ed Gable K2MP

20 Years Ago, April 1977:

First, we need to correct two errors in the March, 1977, RaRa Rag that were caught by sharp eyed readers who know their history. It was Chuck Oneske, K2YCO, who took 1st place in the ARRL VHF SS and the move for the Hamfest in 1994, was not to the Fair grounds, but to Vince's 50 Acers. The cover of the April issue, always and still Old timers Night, showed a real OT mobile set up...on horse back. Linc Cundall, W2LC, representing the AWA will host OT night. Vanity calls signs were being issued on March 2, 1997, for eligible Extra class licensees. Taking advantage were a few locals; W2MPM = K2MP, K2YAH = K2YA, WB2NSD = K2RL, etc. RaRa's Licensing Course director Bob Lauzon, K2RL, reported that 44 people signed up for Ed Holdsworth's (WA2EKR) Novice class while 58 eagerly awaited the start of K2MP's General Theory course. Dave Hassett, K2SQI, was cited for his many years of service to RaRa in teaching Licensing courses at all levels. Along with the classes, the upgraded Club Station, K2JD, at IOLA is getting good use. Hamtronics, of Belmont Road in Greece, is a new advertiser featuring Cushcraft, Larson and a long line of Hamtronics pre-amps and converters.

40 Years Ago, March 1957:

April is Auction night with Jack Williams, K2JFV, banging the gavel and selling the bargains. The RDXA is bringing well known DX'er W2WS, to speak at the Hamfest on radio activities associated with Project Deep Freeze, the recent Byrd Expedition. Bob Jeffers, W2ALL, continuing his technicals series, this issue reported on common TVI and BCI problems. The new influx of something called HiFi record players in everyone's living room is causing considerable problems for HF and VHF operators alike. The term audio rectification is coined as the cause. Figure this one out. Linc, W2QY, announced that entrance to the Hamfest Old Time lunch is \$1.00 if paid in advance, but 25 cents at the door. No matter the price, the event is well worth it as the famous and venerable author and publisher Hugo Gernsback is the featured guest. At this time RaRa remains very active in Civil Defense with many well structured and practiced nets in place. Russ Dean, W2ZS, was just named Asst. RO helping out Norris Hamlin, W2KIO, Radio Officer. Finally, this Ad typifies the seriousness of the BCI/TVI problem: "...Trade, 813 amplifier complete...for mobile converter and antenna..."

THE PREZ SAYS

by Art DeBruycker, W2YGW

Over the past year when I have written a message for the troops, I tried to keep it pretty much neutral, but now I have some things to pass along that you may agree with or not as you desire. One is the GRAND OLD HAM OF THE YEAR. Please search your mind for some to nominate, and let some one on the board know. This information is needed soon, because the recipient will get the award at the Hamfest. Times a wasting.

Another award is HAM OF THE YEAR, once again same criteria, let a board member or Bruce Kelley know soon. One other thing that I have been derelict in is the introduction of new Hams in the vicinity to their fellow RaRa members. In addition to this it should seem that recognition of the oldest licensed hams are recognized. They have spent a long time enjoying the hobby and probably Elmered a number of others to help them enjoy. I did not have an Elmer, but sometimes I wish that I did, might not have fallen into so many potholes. One ham that will celebrate his 50th anniversary this year is Leland A. Zwack W2WPF better known as Al. The next time you see Al, say HI to an old timer. With the advent of vanity calls, it is no longer possible to tell approximately when a person was licensed by their call sign. There are numerous more who have been licensed since before the great? WW2. The May meeting is dedicated to the Old Timers, but is not restricted to them. Come along and meet some of the. The oldest licensed amateur I know of in the area is "Sax" Ringler W2SAW, who will be an old man to me. In case you didn't know the definition of an old person it is one who is 20 years older than you are. "Sax" fits in this category to me. Even then, there are others that were licensed before I was born, and I have been licensed since before many of the other members of RARA, for whatever that does for you. I wish to take this opportunity to thank those who have spent their time in guiding this organization to where it is now. That is all the board members, and officers especially. This is the month when we have to have a slate of nominees for the various positions on the board, as well as vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The President was elected last year as vice-president, and will advance to president this year. This year it behooves you to elect a board that can run the club into the future, growing as it goes. This is not a small task, and all the cooperation you can give the election committee will help. Volunteer your services for one of the positions, you may find that you are accepted. Time commitments are reasonable, the pay is great and the satisfaction of having done your share will give you immeasurable satisfaction. The nomination

committee will prepare a slate for your voting, but nominations from the floor are welcomed and encouraged. Do not let the nominating committee do all the work, they may miss some of the most viable candidates. How would you feel if the one you thought could do a great job were not even nominated?

NEW WATS NUMBER FOR HAM INFO FROM FCC

via The ARRL Letter

The FCC has designated a new, toll-free (WATS) number for Amateur Radio license inquiries--including inquiries about vanity and new call signs. The new number, 888-225-5322, will connect callers to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau.

Callers to the old consumer information number will get a message referring them to the new number.

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Looking For....

The Board of Directors is seeking someone to fill the position of Public Relations Director for RaRa. The job entails the preparation and mailing of press releases to the various media concerning the many activities that RaRa is engaged in. The media would include newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations. The activities to be covered would include such things as meetings, license classes and public service events. The Public Relations Director would also be responsible for the preparation of advertising material to be placed at various retail locations, describing the license classes that RaRa conducts each Fall and Spring.

If you have an interest in this position or you would like any additional information please contact any member of the Board of Directors. Their names along with their phone numbers and e-mail addresses are shown on the inside cover of the "RAG".

1997 PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

The following is the current list of Public Service events scheduled for 1997. Others will be added as the requests are made from the various groups that utilize our services. If you would like to volunteer a few hours of your time to help at a public service event, please call Ed at 624-1929

April 30	R. E. Ginna - Pre Drill
May 31	ADA Tour de Cure
June 8	Susquehannack Trail Pro Rally
June 11	R. E. Ginna Drill
June 12	Corporate Challenge
August 2	Stuart Horse Trials
August 12-17	Walnut Hill Driving Comp.

Fred Gern K2FR RDXA Man of the Year

by Ed Gable K2MP

The Rochester DX Association (RDXA - W2RDX), at it's annual Banquet on March 8, 1997, cited long term member Fred Gern, K2FR (KB2SE) as winner of the President's Award. This award, in memory of past president Bill Beckett, KE2WK, is awarded to a member who has given great and long term service to the RDXA and one who is proficient in the art of DX'ing and Contesting. Fred certainly met and exceed all of those qualifications and more. Fred just recently stepped down as Editor of the

club newsletter after ten plus years of service. RaRa congratulates Fred Gern and the RDXA which is celebrating 50 years of service to Rochester DX'ers.

DIGITAL JOURNAL, QRT

Digital Journal (formerly RTTY Journal) has ceased publication with its January 1997 issue. The move to shut down the 45-year-old publication came shortly after the magazine's publisher, the International Digital Radio Association (IDRA), announced that Digital Journal would switch from monthly to bimonthly publication.

On his Web page, the magazine's editor, Jim Mortenson, N2HOS, cited a combination of lagging advertiser support and "a decline in the number of members willing to pay for hard copy of what they felt was available for no cost on the Internet."

Mortenson said that the phone and fax numbers at IDRA headquarters will no longer be in service. All correspondence goes to the IDRA at Box 2550, Goldenrod, FL 32733.

*Tnx
ARRL Letter*

BRIEFS

from the ARRL Letter.

Listing stolen gear: Mark Saunders, KJ7BS, offers a free service to help hams whose gear has been lost or stolen. Check out his lost or stolen ham gear listing on his Internet home page at <http://www.dancris.com/~tracker/tracker.html>.

FOR SALE: Transceiver; Ten Tec 580 Delta, all bands, with matching 13V power supply and mike. Perfect condition, \$550. DSP FILTER: MFJ Model 784B tuneable DSP filter, brand new, \$125. Bill DeWitt, W2DD, 223-2826.

Patrick C. Moyer, N2AIW
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HAM RADIO GROWS IN 1996

via The ARRL Letter

Good news: The number of licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US rose by approximately 1.9% last year! FCC statistics show that ham ranks increased by 12,207 from December 1995 to December 1996. During 1996, 28,854 new licenses were issued by the FCC, while another 13,926 hams upgraded their operating privileges.

Not-so-good news: During January 1997, the total number of hams dropped by 641 (possibly due to the cancellation or expiration of the licenses of

deceased hams). The number of new and upgrading hams also was off slightly last month compared to the month previous.

BRIEFS

from the ARRL Letter.

•Wohlers has e-mail: ARRL ham radio insurance administrator Albert H. Wohlers & Co now can be accessed via e-mail. To request a brochure, use info@ahw.com. Send customer service questions to cusv@ahw.com.

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