



the **RARA RAG**

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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NO. 10

ANNUAL RaRa PICNIC JUNE 21st, Noon to ?

In order to enjoy more of the beauty of the Monroe County Parks system, the Board of Directors has selected the site for this years picnic to be at idyllic Ellison Park. You can find Ellison Park by taking the Blossom Road exit from RT 590 North. The exit is just north of the old can 'o worms. Blossom Road also intersects with Winton Road, in case you prefer not to take the expressway. Take Blossom Road to the East, away from downtown. Ellison Park has several entrances, please use the second entrance on the right (as you travel Eastward) for easy access to the picnic site. Once in the park, follow the signs to the South Lodge.

Ellison Park provides a lot of shade trees, a flowing stream, and plenty of places to re-fill water guns. It is common to see wild animals if you go for a quiet walk away from the lodge. Bring your baseball gloves, bats, and balls and we'll get a ball game going too.

Nourishment and soft drinks are provided by RaRa.

Anyone NOT bringing at least one legal minor MAY be subject to being assigned garbage detail!

HAMFEST VE TESTING

RaRa VE Testing finalized its 96/97 schedule with an exceptional turn out at the '97 ROCHESTER RaRa HAMFEST testing session on May 31 '97.

In total 48 applicants were tested requiring 84 separate exam elements. Applicants came from a large section of the Northeast including Vermont, Pennsylvania, and also a visitor to the area from Texas

RaRa VE Testing will resume with its 97/98 schedule beginning the fourth Saturday in September- 9-27-98.

See you then

RaRa SUMMER PICNIC

June 21, 1997

12:00 P.M.

Ellison Park
Blossom Road
South Lodge

Amateur of the Year

By Kay Craigie, WT3P

The Atlantic Division's 1997 "Amateur of the Year" is Joseph Nunemaker KD3VR, from Seabrook, MD. A past president of the Green Mountain Repeater Association, Joe has invested countless hours installing, maintaining, and upgrading the two repeaters which serve the associations 225 members in the Washington metropolitan area. In June 1996, he was the Foundation for Amateur Radio's "Ham of the Month."

Joe is always ready to help fellow Amateurs solve technical problems, install antennas and station equipment, and fix anything that's broken. He simply loves working with radios, and no problem is too difficult or too much bother for him to trouble-shoot.

Joe has developed a special course of electronic instruction for children. His basic electricity course for the fourth grade at Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School in Bowie, MD, makes learning electronics fun. He has constructed demonstration devices that give the kids hands-on experience with the principles they're learning. Who knows how many of these children will someday become hams and enter careers in electronics because Joe donated his time and effort to teaching them? In the community, Joe sponsors cadets from the nearby U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. Hundreds of miles from home, these young people in the service of our country find in Joe a friend

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who brings them home for dinner, takes them on tours of the area, gives them rides to the airport, and generally makes them feel at home in Maryland.

When propagation cooperates, Joe runs phone patches on the ham bands so "his" cadets can talk to their families back home.

Joe's wife Alice WB3AOA and son Joe, Jr. KE3GD, make the Nunemakers a ham radio family.

Grand Ole Ham

The 1997 "Grand Ole Ham" is also a Marylander: Gerald Gavin NU3D, from Glen Burnie. The "Grand Ole Ham" is a lifetime service award for a person at least 50 years old and/or licensed at least 30 years. Retired from the U.S. Navy since 1978 after 30 years of service to our country, Jerry was a radio operator for the Navy but also found time to operate on the ham bands from many parts of the world. He continues to be an active member of the Naval Cryptologic Veteran's Association and is a net control for the Fleet Radio Unit Pacific, a net for hams who served with the Naval Security Group.

A past president of the Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club, Jerry originated the "Science, Originality, and Creativity" award presented by MMARC to local middle school science fair competitors. He has served as one of the club's judges for this award.

He is a Volunteer Examiner, an ARRL Assistant Section Manager in Maryland/DC, and a frequent participant in public service communications. In the community Jerry has been a school bus driver for special education students and has taken a leadership role in charity activities benefiting special education. He and his wife Rachel have 8 children.

Technical Achievement

Ron Raposo N2JAW, from Holland Patent, NY, receives the 1997 "Technical Achievement" award. This honor recognizes Ron's contribution to Amateur digital communications. He designed and established the N2JAW APLINK system, which played a major role for the National Traffic System and other public service communications. At a number of Atlantic Division Conventions, Ron spoke on digital communications in a way that interested the experts but did not leave newcomers utterly befuddled.

In 1996 at the age of 57, Ron suffered a series of strokes which suspended his Amateur Radio activities. Since then, he has been traveling the long, difficult road to recovery, supported by the good wishes of the Amateur Community. In no way a mere gesture of sympathy, this award represents

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the respect that Ron has earned over the years for his hard work, technical expertise, and unselfish readiness to serve the public and his fellow hams. people in your area should be recognized for their contributions to ham radio? They do so much for the rest of us ...

June Calendar

21 - RaRa Picnic 12:00 Noon Ellison Park
Blossom Road - South Lodge

For Sale: Kenwood TS440S, 1 8 to 28 MHz, tuner, PS-50 power supply, hand mic, desk mic, ext. speaker, antenna coax -\$985. Call 381-8127. Ask for Ray (N2JPT)

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NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA THANK AMATEURS

Thanks to the efforts of ARRL Field Organization volunteers, June has been proclaimed "Amateur Radio Month" in the states of New York and Pennsylvania. Eastern New York's Public Information Coordinator, Stephan Anderman WA3RKB arranged the proclamation by Governor Pataki:

State of New York Executive Chamber The State of New York has more than 38,000 licensed amateur radio operators who have demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing emergency radio communication.

These amateur radio operators promote international goodwill through contacts with foreign stations and cosmonauts on the Mir space station. They provide educational opportunities for young people through the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment and Mir Experiment, which brings the voices of space travelers into our classrooms. They donate their services free of charge to federal, state, and local emergency service agencies in the interest of the citizens of the State of New York.

Amateur radio operators are on alert for any emergency, local or world-wide, and practice their communications skills during the American Radio Relay League's "Field Day" exercise, which this year will take place the weekend of June 28-29, 1997.

It is fitting to give recognition to the far-reaching technological achievements of amateurs and this important emergency preparedness exercise, and call upon all citizens to pay tribute to the amateur radio operators of the Empire State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, hereby recognize June 1997 as AMATEUR RADIO MONTH in the Empire State.

George E. Pataki Governor

In Pennsylvania, Eastern PA State Government Liaison Earl Foster W3BKF arranged introduction of a resolution in the General Assembly (House Resolution No. 125, April 10, 1997):

CONGRESS ACTS TO PROTECT VOLUNTEERS

We said it couldn't be done, and so naturally, Congress went and did it! In one of the more promising--not to mention surprising--developments so far in the 105th Congress, the Senate has passed S 544, and the House has passed a companion bill, HR 911, each described as "The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997." The Senate is expected to adopt the House version of the bill, HR 911, and send it along to the President for signature.

As a result, volunteers of nonprofit organizations and government entities will, in the words of the House Judiciary Committee report on the bill, "generally be relieved of liability for harm caused if . . . the volunteer was acting within the scope of the volunteer's responsibilities."

This will be good news to Volunteer Examiners, Official Observers, ARES and RACES volunteers and others working under the sponsorship of a qualifying non-profit organization, all of whom appear to be covered by HR 911. In non-legalese, this means that you aren't as likely to be sued as a result of harm unintentionally caused to someone else, if your actions were part of your responsibilities as a volunteer working on behalf of a government agency or a non-profit organization.

However, until the bill is signed by the President and its various loopholes pass the scrutiny of the legal community, volunteers shouldn't assume they'll automatically be covered. It appears, for example, that radio amateurs who are not working under the sponsorship of a qualifying organization and who volunteer to provide communications during a marathon, bicycle race or other public service or public safety event might not be covered. The same exclusion might apply to frequency coordinators and certain others who--though they are volunteers--aren't participating on behalf of a non-profit entity. While these individuals could affiliate with government or non-profit entities to do their volunteer jobs, the law will clearly protect only those who are "volunteers of a non-profit organization or government entity." The definition is clear with respect to government entities, but it is less clear with respect to "non-profit organizations." These can be Section 501(c)(3) entities, that is, an organization holding a certain tax exemption from the IRS. They also include, however, those organizations which may not be tax-exempt, but which are organized and conducted for public benefit and operated primarily for charitable, civic, educational, religious, welfare, or health purposes.

The growing reluctance of private citizens to volunteer for fear of lawsuits triggered interest in this legislation. While some states have enacted volunteer protection statutes, the inconsistency among states has resulted in what the Judiciary Committee calls a "hodgepodge." As a result, the League has promoted liability legislation in Congress for several years, initially to protect VEs and Amateur Auxiliary members.

The new legislation requires that the volunteer be licensed, certified or authorized, "if appropriate or required" by state or local authorities. It does not provide protection where the harm was caused by willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or conscious, flagrant indifference to rights or safety of the individual(s) harmed by the volunteer. The House version of the legislation would not cover any volunteer who inadvertently caused harm to another person while operating a motor vehicle that requires an operator license or insurance. Also, certain limitations in existing state volunteer liability laws are not preempted by the Federal protection under the bill.

ARRL's General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, is studying copies of the House and Senate bills to determine the impact on Amateur Radio volunteers of the new legislation.--Steve Mansfield, N1MZA

Tnx ARRL Letter

Next RaRa Meeting

September 5, 1997

See you there !!!

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RaRa wishes you and your family

A Happy and healthy summer.

See you in September!!!!

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