



the **RARRA RAG**

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October 1997

NO. 2

OCTOBER PROGRAM - PUBLIC RELATIONS AND AMATEUR RADIO

by Rick Wells, W2RW

So, you say you don't stand out in a crowd with your HT anymore? Too many people with cell phones, I guess. Actually there are so many cell phone users now that Motorola, Nokia, Ericsson, Time Warner, and Frontier are laughing all the way to the bank. Hey, how else can they afford to give away a sophisticated, solid-state, full-duplex handheld (cell phone) with a service order? Of course all that translates into good business for the respective provider companies, their employees, stockholders, semiconductor manufactures, and the economy. Maybe they ought to get more frequency allocations...

Received any e-mail lately? I have. For example, I'll have to emphatically say that the TowerTalk Internet Reflector running at contesting.com is a tremendous wealth of information. I have made extensive use of this mailer during the preparation and installation of my new tower. Guess the Internet is just driving another nail into the coffin of Amateur Radio as we know it...

Hopefully, you're not in complete agreement with my above assertions, and neither am I for that matter. In fact, I don't agree with them at all! Now you're thinking, but are you ready to act? Please join us for the October 3rd meeting and hear Dick Stein, K2ZR, who will discuss Public Relations and Amateur Radio. Dick states, "Lets remind the public who we are. Our very existence may depend on it."

K2ZR has been licensed since 1962 at which time he received his Novice ticket WV2ZRD. He is now an Extra class licensee and an avid CW operator. He is interested in DXing, contesting, rag chewing and many other aspects of the hobby. A resident of North Tonawanda, Dick is a WNY Assistant Section Manager and Public Information Officer who works in the advertising business. Hope to see you at the meeting!

RaRa MEETING

October 3, 1997

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall

3129 East Henrietta Road

Public Relations and Amateur Radio

Public Service for October

10/5/1997

WalkOctoberFest

8:00am - 12:00 noon

Cobbs Hill Park

10/25/1997

Simulated Emergency Test

S.E.T.

Listen on 146.88 for activation

10/30-31/1997

Pumpkin Patrol

7:00pm - 12:00 midnight

BOTH NIGHTS

To volunteer for any of these, Please contact Ed Holdsworth N2EH at 624-1929.

SILENT KEY

Paul K. Tanner

WA2MVK

August 25, 1997

the **RaRa Rag**

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P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333

RaRa Hotline 442-0587

Editor.....Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP

80 Authors Avenue, Henrietta, NY 14467 (716) 359-2672
Internet: eckhardt@frontiernet.net

Managing Editor.....Dick Goslee, K2VCZ

24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716) 334-1762
Internet: goslee@frontiernet.net

Advertising Editor.....Dick Goslee, K2VCZ

24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716) 334-1762
Internet: goslee@frontiernet.net

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OFFICERS.

President: George Lloyd, N2UIO.....637-9499

Internet: n2uio@frontiernet.net

Vice-President: Rick Wells, W2RW..... 621-7583

Internet: wells@mail.dec.com

Secretary: Robert Gordon.....

Treasurer: Richard Goslee, K2VCZ.....334-1762

Internet: goslee@frontiernet.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Internet: wb2efu@aol.com

Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP.....359-2672

Internet: eckhardt@frontiernet.net

Peter G. Fournia, W2SKY.....377-0535

Internet: glide@frontiernet.net

Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH.....624-1929

Robert A. Moore, N2USB.....663-5802

Internet: 75767,3151@compuserve.com

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL.....458-8246

Internet: kff@usa.net

Jack Tripp, N2SNL.....381-7757

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The Prez Says

By George F. Lloyd, N2UIO

October is upon us already. It's time to prepare for winter. This also means that all the little gremlins come out at the end of the month. Sounds like a good time to mention the Pumpkin Patrol. For the last couple of years, RaRa has participated in this very special and important public service. On October 30 and 31, our volunteer members will be watching the bridges that cross over the New York State Thruway. Imagine you were a traveling motorist on the Thruway Halloween evening, you are going 65 MPH, you are approaching a bridge and you see some people standing around above you as you pass under them. Got the picture? The idea is to keep the little gremlins from doing their stuff. We all know that sometimes during the Halloween season, there might be a little mischief and pranking from time to time. So long as there is someone around, with radio equipment, in an obvious place, trouble is sure to pass by. We still need a few more volunteers to help see this through. Anyone that is interested in helping out can sign up with Ed Holdsworth, N2EH at our October meeting. Of all the public service events that RaRa sponsors, I think the Pumpkin Patrol is one of the most important of all. You can play a part in this very important public service. Your help will be greatly appreciated indeed.

In closing I would like to say that Public Service is what RaRa does best. There are many events throughout the year and your continued help and participation is needed. I ask you all to come out and support your club in whatever capacity you can. Any club is nothing without the help, participation and support of it's members. See you October 3rd.

George F. Lloyd, N2UIO President RaRa

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ALL VANITY APPLICATIONS TO REQUIRE FORM 159

The ARRL has learned that when the vanity application fee jumps to \$50 on Monday, September 15, the FCC also will start requiring everyone filing a paper Form 610V Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign Request to include FCC Form 159, FCC Remittance Advice, with their application--no matter the method of payment. Applications received on or after September 15 and lacking a Form 159 will not be processed and will be returned to the applicant.

Previously, the FCC only required an Form 159 with a hard-copy Form 610V if the applicant was paying with a credit card or money order--or for a single remittance to cover multiple applications.

The change came on very short notice, and the FCC has yet to issue a formal public notice to address it. But the FCC appears ready to stand firm on the requirement starting September 15. A spokesperson at the FCC in Gettysburg said that on or after September 15, Mellon Bank--the FCC's fiscal agent--will not cash or deposit any fees which are not accompanied by a Form 159. Applications received at Mellon Bank that lack a Form 159 will be forwarded to Gettysburg for handling (the fee will not be deposited), and Gettysburg will return the entire application and the fee to the applicant with a blank Form 159 and instructions to refile.

When completing Form 159, all applicants must include a taxpayer ID number (your Social Security number) in Item 1 (FCC Account Number). In Items 14A and 14 B, Payment Type Code, applicants should write "WAVR."

FCC Form 159 can be obtained by writing ARRL/VEC, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. An SASE is appreciated. Form 159 also is available from the FCC via the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html> or <ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form159/>. You can also get the form by return fax by calling 202-418-0177 and requesting Form 000159. The FCC Forms Distribution Center also accepts orders at 800-418-3676.

If you need assistance completing Form 159 or need filing information contact the FCC National Call Center at 888-225-5322.

The FCC still has given no indication of when it will begin processing Gate 3 vanity call sign applications. It's estimated that more than 1000 applicants filed on the opening day, August 6. The FCC also has not said when it plans to open vanity Gate 4.--Bart Jahnke, W9JJ

Tnx ARRL Letter

October Calendar

- 3 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00PM - Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 9 - Rochester Area Packet Society - 7:30 - 111Westfall Road
- 16- ATV Group - 111 Westfall Road
- 18 - RaRa VE Testing, 8:30 AM - 111 Westfall Road
- 21- RDXA Testing & Meeting - 111 Westfall Road,.

AZDEN LEAVING THE US HAM RADIO MARKET

A player in the US ham radio market since the 1970s, Azden is leaving the Amateur Radio business in this country as of August 31. A letter from Azden's Lew Reinberg, W2BIE, cited "the worldwide decline of the business" as the reason for the move. "We entered the US market through this office very late in the game and with older product," Reinberg's letter states. "The lack of growth of the end-user base made it impossible for us to spend the huge amount of capital necessary to design and tool up for a more advanced model."

Azden's pullout applies only to the US market. Azden Vice President Ken Bush said this week that Azden radios continue to be sold in Japan.

Among Azden's product lineup were similar FM mobile transceivers for several bands. The company also marketed some H-Ts and a headset. The company's remaining ham radio inventory has been sold to Amateur Electronic Supply (800-558-0411; <http://www.aesham.com>; e-mail help@aesham.com).

Reinberg said that while Azden will stop selling ham radio gear in the US, the company will continue to repair its radios at its Franklin Square, New York, headquarters "for the foreseeable future." Parts and manuals for Azden gear will continue to be available as well.

Sid Wolin, K2LJH, manager of Azden's Communications Division, reportedly plans to retire. Reinberg says he will remain at Azden's Franklin Square office to handle customer questions and process service and repair orders.

For more information, call Azden at 516-328-7500; e-mail azdenus@aol.com; <http://www.azdencorp.com>.

Tnx ARRL Letter

FCC REVISES RF SAFETY "THRESHOLD" LEVELS

The FCC has revised the power level thresholds to trigger a routine Amateur Radio station RF exposure evaluation, and the changes will be welcome news for most hams. When the FCC first decreed a year ago that ham radio stations would have to comply with RF exposure guidelines, it set a 50-W threshold level. The updated guidelines, announced August 25, increase that threshold level on all HF bands except 10 meters, where it remains at 50 W. The FCC made no changes in the RF exposure limits it announced last year.

The new RF safety guidelines are scheduled to become effective January 1, 1998, for Amateur Radio stations.

The FCC went along in part with a request by the ARRL to establish a sliding scale for threshold levels, depending upon frequency. The revised thresholds are 500 W for 160 through 40 meters, 425 W on 30 meters (where the maximum legal power is 200 W), 225 W on 20 meters, 125 W on 17 meters, 100 W on 15 meters, 75 W on 12 meters and 50 W on 10 meters. The threshold for all VHF bands is 50 W. On UHF, the threshold level is 70 W on 70 cm, 150 W on 33 cm, 200 W on 23 cm, and 250 W on 13 cm and above. Stations operating at or below these respective power levels are categorically excluded from having to perform a routine RF radiation evaluation. However, all stations, regardless of power level, still must comply with the RF exposure limits.

Along with its August 25 Second Memorandum Opinion and Order announcing the changes, the FCC released the "core" text of its long-awaited Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Bulletin 65, Evaluating Compliance with FCC Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields. The bulletin contains generic equations that can be used to analyze fields due to almost all antennas, although the FCC warns that "the resulting estimates for power density may be overly conservative in some cases." Hams leery of formulas might opt to wait for the easier-to-use Supplement B to OET Bulletin 65, which will include information designed specifically for evaluating Amateur Radio installations. The supplement promises to detail how hams can determine more simply if their individual stations comply with the new regulations. The FCC says the supplement will contain "information on projected minimum exclusion distances from typical amateur antenna installations."

The FCC said it would issue Supplement B "as soon as a review of the current draft is complete." When it's ready, Supplement B will be available to

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download from the FCC's Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov/oet/rfsafety>. The FCC directed inquiries as to the availability of the supplement and other RF-related questions to its RF Safety Program, 202-418-2464; e-mail rfsafety@fcc.gov.

Last year, the FCC established time-averaged maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits for RF fields in two tiers--for controlled environments (ie, a ham's immediate household, including visitors) and uncontrolled environments (ie, neighbors, the general public). If a routine evaluation of a ham station indicates that human exposure to RF fields could be in excess of the FCC's MPE limits, the licensee must act to correct the problem and ensure compliance. This could include changing operating patterns, relocating antennas, restricting access, changing frequency, output power or emission type or any combination of these and other remedies.

The FCC says that ham radio facilities "represent a special case for determining exposure, since there are many possible antenna types that could be designed and used for amateur stations."

The revised regulations categorically exclude most mobile installations, including those in the Amateur Radio Service, from having to comply with the RF-exposure or station evaluation guidelines. Since the FCC issued its guidelines, additional questions on RF safety have been added to the Amateur Radio examination question pool.

OET Bulletin 65 and the FCC Second Memorandum Opinion and Order are available at <http://www.fcc.gov/oet/dockets/et93-62/>. More details on the FCC's latest announcement on RF safety will appear in the October issue of QST.

Trx ARRL Letter

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

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

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

**Saturday October 18, 1997
Registration - 8:30AM
Testing - 9:00AM**

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

ATV MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Greetings to all our ATV friends. Our next meeting will be October 16 at 7:00 pm. at the K2JD club station in the basement of 111 Westfall Rd. There seems to be more and more people acquiring ATV equipment lately and I for one hope this trend continues! Lets try to make this trend growing! See you all there. 73's.

George F. Lloyd, N2UIO - President, RaRa

SUNSPOT NUMBER TOPS 100 FOR FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS!

Sun watcher Tad Cook, K7VVV, in Seattle, Washington, reports: The rise in solar activity continues, and on Monday, September 8, solar flux values peaked at 119.4. The last time the solar flux was above this value was January 27, 1994. On the same day the sunspot number was 101, which has been unequaled since September 3, 1994. We are definitely through the minimum and on the upswing of the next solar cycle!

The average solar flux for the previous 90 days rose another two points this past week (to 77), as it had the previous week. September 11 was the 38th consecutive day that the flux was above the 90-day average. This greatly increased activity has brought along some geomagnetic disturbances. The most disturbed period over this past week was around 0600 to 0900 UTC on September 9. Recent projections from the NOAA Space Environment Service Center show the solar flux dropping below 100 after September 17, then rising to above 100 around September 26, and above 115 after October 4. These estimates are based upon the previous solar rotation, so new active regions on the Sun could send these numbers higher.

This new activity means that DX now is possible on the higher HF bands. Prior to now, 20 meters was the primary band for worldwide propagation.

Check 15 and even 10 meters, where openings are now possible, especially over north-south paths. Combined with the progression toward the Fall equinox, conditions now and over the next month should be the best seen in several years!

Sunspot numbers for September 4 through 10 were 56, 79, 85, 84, 97, 101 and 95, with a mean of 85.3. The 10.7-cm flux was 93, 96, 97.6, 102, 119.4, 116.1 and 114.9, with a mean of 105.6, and estimated planetary A indices were 19, 5, 7, 3, 9, 19, and 19, with a mean of 11.6. *Tnx ARRL Letter*

BEACH BALL BUNNY

In a strange twist on deliberate QRM, an Indiana ham radio fox hunter last month discovered a transmitter hidden inside a beach ball floating in the Elkhart River. The transmitter was on the frequency of a local repeater. Hours before making the find on August 11, Pete Ostapchuk, N9SFX, of Osceola, Indiana, had won first prize in a fox hunting contest involving fellow hams, according to a report August 12 in The Elkhart Truth newspaper.

The paper said local authorities were investigating the incident, the latest in a string of occurrences where devices were deployed to jam ham radio frequencies in the area. Another beach ball containing a transmitter had been found earlier in the same week. Four disruptive transmitters were found during February and March.

Ostapchuk heads the interference committee of the Elkhart County Radio Association. He told the paper that he'd found several of the devices himself using DF equipment.--thanks to Dan Caesar, K9EUV

Tnx ARRL Letter

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FM CHIEF USAF MARS/AGA3C

TO ALL USAF MARS MEMBERS AND STATIONS

BT

SUBJ: USAF MARS BDCST NR 19/97

REF: A. ARRL LETTER VOL. 16, NR. 32 AUGUST 15, 1997.

B. ASD LETTER, 28 JUN 95 (MARS CW POLICY).

1. AN ARTICLE HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN REFERENCE A, CONCERNING CW OPERATION WITHIN MARS. THIS ARTICLE IS INACCURATE.

2. AS SPECIFIED IN REFERENCE B, THE JUNE 1995 LETTER SIGNED BY THEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, EMMETT PAIGE, AND EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1996 "THE CW MODE OF COMMUNICATIONS WILL NO LONGER BE USED ON ANY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) MARS CIRCUITS, NETWORKS, OR FREQUENCIES. THEREFORE, CW IS TO BE RETIRED FROM USE WITHIN THE DOD MARS."

3. IT HAS BEEN VERIFIED THAT THIS POLICY IS STILL IN EFFECT AND WILL BE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY.

4. USAF MARS AFFILIATES WILL IGNORE ANY UNOFFICIAL COMMENTS OR REFERENCES CONCERNING CW IN MARS, FROM ANY SOURCE, NOT COMING DIRECT FROM CHIEF, USAF MARS.

SGD CHIEF USAF MARS/AGA3C

BT

Hams Assist Mock Plane Crash Drill

14 SEP 97: In a test of emergency preparedness, the West Webster fire department simulated a crash of a commercial airliner at the site of the Plank Road School. Responding to the crash were numerous fire departments, ambulance corps, military personnel and other emergency support organizations.

Supporting the drill were four local hams, WW2J(Larry), N2JAC(John), KA1CNF(Steve) and AA2LQ(Warren). Their role in the activity was to provide communications via packet radio from the crash site to the disaster response team at Rochester General Hospital. Specifically, information regarding injuries, vital signs, on site first aid and other medical information was transmitted to the hospital via packet radio as the ambulance left the crash site. At the hospital, the information was then printed and distributed to the medical team. Normally, the hospital just receives verbal radio reports from the ambulances. The printed reports assisted significantly in helping the hospital prepare for the arrival of patients. Commercial devices are available that will do exactly what was done by packet radio, however, to date they have only been discussed by the emergency response teams. At a critique session after the drill it was noted that the successful packet demonstration would provide a significant selling point for establishing such a system.

Overall, this disaster drill went extremely well. One humorous glitch was when no one remembered to tell the on duty anesthesiologist that this was just a drill. One of the actor victims was actually being wheeled into the operating room when this oversight was caught. The overall coordinator for this drill was Mary Ellen Holtz, daughter of KE2OW(Gene). The packet station used 144.39 for digital transmissions and the 145.29 Xerox Repeater for voice.

by Warren Boudrie, AA2LQ

Patrick C. Moyer, N2AIW
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Next Rag Deadline
October 17, 1997

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(716) 442-0587
 24 hours a day

Technical Job Fair

Sponsored by the Rochester Engineering Society and the Rochester Section of the IEEE
(Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)

DATE: Thursday, October 16, 1997
TIME: 9:00am - 1:00pm
PLACE: Gateway Banquet and Conference Center
4853 West Henrietta Road
Henrietta, New York 14467

COST: FREE (resume required for admittance)

Disciplines Covered

Electrical, Chemical, Mechanical, Software Engineers, Computer Programmers,
Chemists, Optical Engineers, Imaging Scientists, Industrial Engineers,
Environmental Engineers, Networking and Telephony Specialists

Who May Attend?

Engineers / Scientists / Technicians
Experienced Professionals / Recent Graduates / Soon To Be Graduates

What Companies Will Be Coming To The Fair?

Over 90 companies participated at the fair last year. The majority of the jobs will be located in and around Rochester. If you would like a list of companies signed up for the fair, send a self-addressed stamped business size envelope to the address listed below. The information will be mailed about one week before the fair.

RES/IEEE Job Fair
1806 Lyell Avenue
Rochester, NY 14606-2396

BRING ENOUGH COPIES OF YOUR RESUME TO HAND OUT

Directions from City of Rochester

Route 590-South or Route 390-South to Exit 12-A (Lehigh Station Road).
Right on Lehigh Station Road to first traffic light - West Henrietta Road (Route 15).
At the light, turn left on West Henrietta Road/second building on right is Gateway.

Directions From the Southern Tier

Route I-90 (NYS Thruway-Exit #46) to Route 390-North to Exit 12-A (Lehigh Station Road).
Left on Lehigh Station Road to second traffic light - West Henrietta Road (Route 15).
At the light, turn left on West Henrietta Road/second building on right is Gateway.

Companies interested in exhibiting may call 716 254 2350 and request an Exhibitor Registration Form.

The latest information can be found at our web site - http://www.frontiernet.net/~job_fair

PLEASE COPY, POST, DISTRIBUTE

THE YL CORNER

What did you do since my last letter, studying to upgrade, practicing code, listening on a YL net? All little steps to be a real YL. Did your OM show you how to operate the radio? Let me hear answers and if you made progress, I like feedback from you, come to the meetings and say hello. Conditions should improve for the YL Howdyday contest, September the 18, through September 20. Did you know you can operate in CW or SSB? Betty,

W2PVS was lucky to travel to the biggest hamfest in Germany with an ARRL group. I was there one year and the hall was filled with about 300 YLs from 2~ countries. What a great event it was!! I won the 7. Goldcup for the DXYL to NAYL contest, just to brag a bit, hi. Diane Ortez K2DO is the new Editor for the YL column in QST, Diane has all the qualities to do a good job. Read about YLs in Ham Radio in QST in the October Issue. I hope to see and hear you soon, 33 LIA, WA2NFY .

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