



the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 50

November 1997

NO. 3

Annual Auction - November 7th

by Rick Wells, W2RW

Our November meeting will be the annual RARA auction, so dust off the equipment that didn't sell at the hamfest and come on down! If you're looking for a nice, pre-owned radio with low mileage or a not-so-shiny "new" antenna, you'll be likely to find it on one of the tables.

Every once in a while someone brings up the subject of how much it costs to get into ham radio (and especially on HF). First of all, if you think amateur radio is expensive, try golf! Second, at last year's auction I watched as a few very serviceable HF transceivers went for \$100, \$200 and \$250 as I recall... a real buy, even for the seasoned veteran who wants an extra rig! Expect excellent buys on VHF/UHF transceivers, books, manuals, and associated pieces/parts of multitudinous varieties.

Your extremely knowledgeable auctioneers will be Ed Gable, K2MP and Dick Goslee, K2VCZ. These guys are not only entertaining in their own right but know the ins and outs of new and vintage gear. Don't let the fun and comedy of the auction overshadow the fact that these guys really know their stuff. Questions about rigs, antennas or operating practices? Bounce it off them before the action begins!

Doors will open at 7:00 PM. Sellers -- come early and setup your equipment on the tables. Buyers -- come anytime between 7 and 8 to check out the stuff and plan your bidding strategies. The action starts promptly at 8:00 PM and there will be no regular business meeting. This is a benefit to the club, so please respect the protocol of the evening by not making sales prior to the start of the auction, etc. This event is for fully paid members and their guests only. Please visit the membership renewal table inside the door if you haven't renewed for this season.

ANNUAL AUCTION
November 7th, 1997

RaRa MEETING

November 7, 1997

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road

Annual Auction

IS THIS YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE RAG?

The membership period for RARA starts the first of September each year and continues through the end of August the following year. The final membership expiration each year is October 31, which includes a 2 month grace period for payment of your dues. Check the address label on your current issue of the RAG for your expiration date. If it shows OCT. 97 your dues have not yet been received for the year 1997-1998, and this will be your last issue of the RAG. You must be a current member of RARA to participate in the auction at the November meeting so now is a good time to send your check.

You may pay your dues at any RARA meeting or send them along with your membership application to RARA, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333.

SILENT KEYS

Paul V. Brothers

AA2PH

September 29, 1997

Milton A. Salisbury

WB2JFL

Sylvester F. Beganskas

WB2DMW

Virgil Ansley, JR.

KF2XT

October 10, 1997

the **RaRa Rag**

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RaRa Hotline 442-0587

Website: www.ggw.org/rara/

Editor.....**Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP**

80 Authors Avenue, Henrietta, NY 14667 (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.....218-0265

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

Internet: goslee@frontiernet.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU.....671-7079

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

Internet: n2eh@frontiernet.net

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

Internet: jat@frontiernet.net

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Public Relations: Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

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The Prez Says

By George F. Lloyd, N2UIO

Well, it's auction time again! I don't know about the rest of you but I really love an auction. What a golden opportunity to find just about anything you might want. RaRa's auction at the November meeting I'm sure will be great. If nothing else, the entertainment alone will be worth the trip out. Things are on the move with the club. At last months Board of Directors meeting, we discussed RaRa's participation in the Rochester Museum and Science Center's exhibition they have planned. This exhibition will be taking place throughout the winter months. We are awaiting a date commitment from the Public Relations Director, Keith Freeberg N2BEL. As soon as the date is set, we will pass it along to everybody. Many of the members of the Board of Directors are participating, as well as myself and other officers of our club. At this time I am asking for your help as well. The idea is that we will have a spot at the exhibition and we will be demonstrating and describing amateur radio to the general public. We will be discussing this matter at the next general meeting and whatever questions you have can be answered at that time. This is a golden opportunity to show the community what amateur radio is all about. I hope that many of you will volunteer to help out as I have. There is also some other new developments that I have to report to you. At the September Board of Directors meeting, I raised the matter of what we will do if suddenly, we didn't have a Hamfest Committee Chairman for whatever reason. The point is, we would be hard pressed to put on another Hamfest without the proper knowledge and information. There are a thousand details and it would help out if we had some sort of guideline to assist whoever has been charged with the duties of being the next Hamfest Chairman. As you all should know, the Board of Directors and nobody else, selects whoever will be the Chairman of the Hamfest Committee, according to our By-Laws. So bearing all this in mind, I was concerned what the club will do when this happens. That is why I decided to create a new committee to deal with this inevitable problem.

I have named it the Hamfest Review Committee and there are 6 members who are serving on it, Rick Wells W2RW, Robert Gordon KB2ZGN, Robert Moore N2USB, Allen Skiles KB2VZE, Irv Goodman AF2K and myself. I will be chairing this new committee until my term as President is over next May of 98'. The purpose of this committee is to simply study the Hamfest and create an outline as to how to put on such an enormous event. Nobody could just walk into such a huge responsibility and handle it alone. That is why we need such a

guideline. I am certain that we all enjoy our Hamfest and would never want to lose it. I hope that you all support my decision to create this new committee and approve of it. I am interested in your questions and comments. I welcome anyone to call, write or Email me with your comments. My phone number is listed on page 2 of the Rag as well as my Email address. I hope to hear from you. When I accepted the office of President at the Rochester Hamfest Banquet, I promised everyone that I would do the best job that I can while in office. When I turn over the office to Rick Wells W2RW at next years banquet, I am sure that sure that he will give it his best effort as well. See you all at the Auction!

ARRL AUDIO NEWS DEBUTS OCTOBER 17

The League will inaugurate ARRL Audio News, a weekly, Web-based audio news service, on October 17. Compiled from The ARRL Letter, ARRL Audio News will include the week's top news from the world of Amateur Radio and the League. ARRL Audio News will be available in RealAudio format via the ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/>. Tucson Amateur Packet Radio--TAPR--has generously agreed to provide space on its Web server to permit the League to offer this service.

Senior Assistant Technical Editor Rick Lindquist, N1RL, who compiles and edits The ARRL Letter will be the regular on-air voice for ARRL Audio News. The service will be available free to anyone and may be retransmitted in whole or in part for bulletin purposes provided ARRL Audio News is credited as the source.

Each edition of ARRL Audio News will contain up to 10 minutes of timely Amateur Radio news. It will be available via the ARRLWeb every Friday by 9 PM Eastern Time. Dial-up telephone access to ARRL Audio News will be announced later. For more information, contact Rick Lindquist, N1RL, e-mail n1rl@arrl.org; tel 860-594-0222.

Tnx ARRL LETTER

RaRa Hotline

(716) 442-0587
24 hours a day

November Calendar

7 - RaRa Meeting - 8:00PM - Henrietta Fire Hall,
3129 East Henrietta Road - Annual Auction
18- RDXA Testing & Meeting - 111 Westfall
Road.,
5:50 PM Testing; 7:30 PM Meeting

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

**Novice - Tech - Tech Plus
General - Advanced - Extra
or
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**Saturday November 15, 1997
Registration - 8:30AM
Testing - 9:00AM**

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XARC 1997 FOXHUNT

Submitted by: 1997 Huntmasters, Judy Stonehill (N2KXS) and Fred Miller (WO2P)

The Xerox Amateur Radio Club held its second annual FOXHUNT on Saturday September 27th 1997. Based on last years results it appeared that teams vs individual efforts netted better results. This years event consisted of three teams.

- Paul Butterfield (N2PB) and Lou Peppin (KB2WEU)
- *Jon Dickinson (N2JAC) and Bob Scott* Pete Fornia (W2SKY),
- Bob Karz (K2OID), and "Doc" (WA6UCY)

All teams had assembled at the "Valley View" shelter in Webster Park by 11:45. It was a super day for a hunt, sunny a bit breezy with the temperature in the upper 60s. It was great to see the lengths that the teams went to improve their equipment over last years efforts. Each team had a yagi for long distance "sniffing" and an assortment of close in antennas. There were loops, small phase shift units and the tried and true aluminum tubes for attenuating the signal when you are really close in. The award for most sophisticated setup this year goes to Paul's team. In addition to all the previously mentioned equipment, they had GPS unit connected to a laptop to track their route, help in planning strategy and taking bearings. Jon's team also had plans to use GPS but Mr. Murphy (creator of Murphy's law) decided that this was not to be and placed his hex on Jon's GPS unit just prior to the start of the hunt.

After a flurry of final antenna tweaking and secret gadget testing, Judy took all the hunt vehicle odometer readings and reread the rules of the hunt to all the teams. This years scoring was unique in that it consisted of the total of 10ths of miles traveled during the hunt PLUS the number of minutes from the start of the hunt to when a team checked in. The lowest score would win. Check-in was via the XARC repeater (145.290) where teams would verify they had located the fox by giving us a certain letter of a word that was taped to the top of the fox transmitter.

The fox was turned on remotely at 12:15 and after consensus that all the teams were able to hear the fox signal the hunt was underway. As huntmasters it was interesting to watch the teams posturing while taking bearings. Each team tried not to give away the "true" direction they had came up with. By 12:30 all teams had left the parking lot and all we had to do was wait.

Now as huntmasters came the hard part, waiting. The hunt was scheduled to run for a maximum of 3 hours. Would they find the fox to quickly? After

all they were much more prepared this year than last year. In order to introduce another confusion factor we decided after the hunt had started to cycle the fox on and off periodically (on for 10 minutes or so, off for 1 to 2 minutes). After all as hunt masters we could introduce changes in the hunt whenever we pleased. When it began nearing 2:00 and we had heard nothing from any of the hunters we started wondering if the fox was hidden to well. So beginning at 2:00 and every 15 minutes we would stop the fox signal, give a hint on the fox frequency as to its location and turn the fox signal back on. The hints that were given were:

2:00 "The fox is located on the Xerox Campus"

2:15 "The fox is located East of Phillips Road"

2:30 "The fox is located East of Phillips and North of Klem"

2:45 "The fox is not very far from the Klem Road extension"

At 2:04:32 Pete's team located the fox and at 2:21:40 Paul's team located the fox. Jon's team, the defending champs from the 1996 hunt, caught a false reflection (see the fox statistics and location for a possible explanation) and chased a false fox signal into Irondequoit.

By 3:30, the teams returned to the park where they turned in their mileage, commiserated on the hunt, enjoyed some liquid refreshments, pizza and chowed down on some really excellent venison chili complements of Paul.

At 3:45 Judy presided over the award presentations:

Finish - Team Minutes - 10ths of miles - Total score

First Paul's Team 126.7 143 269.7

Second Pete's Team 109.5 230 339.5

Third Jon's Team 180 300 480.0

FOX STATISTICS and LOCATION

Frequency - 146.565 simplex (national fox frequency)

Mode - FM CW

Message sent - "FOX FOX DE WO2P"

Secret word - "THALASSA" (Greek for "Eureka", the word used in 1996)

Transmission duration 20 seconds ON 10 seconds OFF

Power out - 7.0 watts

Antenna - 5 element Quad

Antenna polarization - vertical

Height off ground - 16 feet

Direction of antenna - 178 degrees magnetic

The fox was located on the West bank of a large North - South running drainage ditch. The ditch is located in the North - South running cutout of a wooded area North from the East end of Klem road extension. The antenna was oriented at 178 degrees true, pointing directly into the (offset) corner of building 200. Because of the large offset the signal was reflected in a number of different directions making it very difficult to locate with a doppler or phase shift antenna systems. The minimal side lobes of the quad coupled with the RF absorbing properties of the woods to both sides of the quad made signal detection to either side of the beam very difficult. The back lobe was detectable from the North but to walk to it would have required a 1.2 mile walk from the nearest road. For over 2 hours most of the hunters were actually chasing reflections!

Next Rag Deadline

November 14, 1997

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Henrietta Duathlon

By Dave Payne, KA2J

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 21, 1997. 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, George Platteter - AA2FO, and Roger Haarnart - WB2BWQ.

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17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **Rita D'Agostino MANAGING EDITOR** Date: **9-30-97**

18. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

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- Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
- In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the trustee and the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the name and address of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing operation. In item 11, if none check the box. Use blank spaces if more space is required.
- Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
- If the publisher had second-class authorization as a general or requester publication, the Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published or printed in any issue in October or if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
- In item 15 indicate the date of the issue in which the Statement of Ownership will be published.
- Item 17 must be signed.

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PS Form 3526, September 1995 (FPA/MS)

Patrick C. Moyer, N2AIW
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September VHF/UHF Contest

My first love for a hobby is autocrossing. Autocrossing is where pylons are placed on a parking lot and the competitors drive around the course one at a time and the fastest one in each class wins. There is a fairly large group of us here in the Rochester area that compete most of the summer across the state. We have eight events right here in the Rochester area each year at various parking lots.

Once a year there is a national championship event in Topeka, Kansas. This year there was 949 people from across the US who drove to Kansas to compete. I drove my Chevrolet S 10 Blazer out, towing a friend's autocross car behind. While planning for the trip I noticed that the September VHF/UHF contest was on the weekend we would be driving back from Kansas - so I thought why not kill some time on the long drive home and try my hand at contesting.

So I downloaded all of the rules for the contest. I got the log form and the scoring sheet and sat down to see what else I needed. The problem with driving across the country is that you may not know what grid square you are in. So I was reading the latest issue of CQ VHF and there was a discussion of figuring out your grid square. I was able to create a spreadsheet that you could type in your latitude and longitude and it would give you your grid square. That part was finished, but I now needed to be able to figure out what my latitude and longitude were at all times. I realize that a GPS would tell me that, but I do not have a GPS. I checked a couple of maps I had but they did not have that information. My wife and I went to Borders Books and started looking at Atlas's and found one that had the latitude and longitude marks on the maps.

I am a member of AAA and I got a trip ticket for the trip from Rochester to Topeka. I figured it would be easier to use this to keep track of my grid square location on the trip home. So I took the trip ticket and found the latitude and longitude changes from the atlas and marked them down. After I had figured out all of the latitude and longitude changes from Kansas back to New York, I started figuring out the grid squares. For a while it was easy as I was just moving across the country almost due east so my latitude did not change. It was in Ohio where we went diagonally from Columbus to Cleveland that figuring the squares was a pain.

So Saturday afternoon I was all set. I calculated that the contest should start at 1:00 PM CDT, about the time we were just west of St. Louis. I was driving and decided that I would spend some time just listening-I had no idea how a contest went so I figured I would listen to see how to make contacts.

After a late lunch break in St. Louis I moved to the back seat. I got my HT out to scan and started making calls on the mobile rig. For the next five hours I spent lots of time calling on different frequencies trying to get at least one person to respond. At that point I just said enough and gave up. Either they do not contest in the mid-west or I was doing something really wrong.

I would hate to count the number of hours I spent getting ready for the contest, or the amount of money I spent on radio gear to talk to no one. I am not sure if I will ever try to contest again, I know I will not try by myself again. The friends I travel with have begun to wonder about the gear as well. Several trips out of the area I have tried to talk to someone, either on 146.520 or a local repeater, and have never received any response. I have to keep trying-I have to come up with some reason I have all of this equipment.

By Mike Toombs KB2WPT

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ARRL SEEKS CHANGES TO CW WAIVER RULES

The ARRL has asked the FCC to change the way Morse code exam exemptions for severely handicapped applicants are handled. The League wants to change the procedural requirements in Part 97 that must be met, prior to granting examination credit.

Under the League's proposed changes, a candidate at least would have to attempt the CW test--with any and all necessary accommodations--before being granted an exam waiver based on a physician's certification. Also, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) would be entitled to request medical information pertinent to an applicant's handicap from the certifying physician. VECs also would be required to have this information on file before the application is forwarded to the FCC for processing.

In its petition filed September 23, the League said the two "rather minor changes" are needed to restrict the waiver process to use by severely handicapped individuals "for whom the process was intended in the first place and who deserve the substantive accommodation." The League also said the changes would "stem abuses" of the waiver system without putting unreasonable burdens on examinees.

The CW waiver system has been in effect for seven years. The League says that experience has shown that many applicants without severe handicaps "have abused the process" by obtaining physicians' certifications of inability to pass the telegraphy examination. At present, 8% of those applying through the ARRL-VEC have requested a medical exemption from the higher-speed code requirement. Another large VEC reports similar experience. The League cited "a growing suspicion" in the ham community of anyone who has upgraded by using the waiver route. But the League said this is "completely unfair to those who require and deserve the exemption because they cannot be accommodated by procedural means."

FCC rules requires volunteer examiners to exercise broad latitude in administering CW exams to accommodate handicapped applicants. Measures include using a flashing light or vibrating surface for hearing-impaired applicants, pausing in sending after sentences, phrases, words or even characters to allow an examinee time to interpret, or even substituting a sending test for a receiving test. Instead, the League observed in its filing, there is "a tendency for applicants to seek exemptions instead" of accommodations.

The League said it believes the procedural changes alone will help to deter those who might abuse the process while still allowing exemptions to deserving applicants.

Tnx ARRL LETTER

FROM YOUR LICENSE CLASS COORDINATOR

Well here we are. Fall is upon us. Have we or haven't we had our Indian summer. That remains to be seen. Band conditions are definitely improving. The solar flux has been getting up into the 80's. Along with 10, and 15 meter openings.

Anyway a decent turnout for registration was held on September 15th. As of this writing, 4 students are currently in the novice cw class. Unfortunately nobody signed up for advanced. That, along with extra will be offered in the spring if they are is enough interest. Yours truly is looking for a general theory instructor for the spring session. If interested contact me at 865-2585. Happy hamming.

Lynn Rosenberg N2IZX

KC5VPF ACTIVE ON PACKET FROM MIR

Dave Wolf, KC5VPF, now aboard the Russian Mir space station for a four-month stay, has tried his hand at the R0MIR packet system. Wolf posted a message to Francisco Costa, CT1EAT, on October 5. Wolf's message said, "New at ham, but will give it a try. Dave."

His predecessor aboard Mir, Mike Foale, KB5UAC, returned to Earth early this week. While both men were aboard Mir, Foale gave Wolf a quick course in how to use the personal message system (PMS) on Mir. Wolf has little experience as a ham.

On Monday, the Mir crew encountered yet another in a series of glitches that have plagued the space station in recent months when it was unable to undock a Progress rocket. The undocking was required so that Mir could dock a new cargo ship. The crew figured out the problem--an unremoved locking device--and undocked the rocket Tuesday. The incident delayed by one day the docking of the incoming supply rocket. Cargo aboard the new Progress included fuel, oxygen, water and scientific equipment.

Tnx ARRL LETTER

SPUTNIK MODEL LAUNCH DELAYED

It now appears that the launch of a working model Sputnik 1 from the Russian Mir space station won't happen until October 18-20, and perhaps later. According to AMSAT News Service, the model Sputnik, assembled by students in Russia and equipped with a 2-meter transmitter by students in France, was to be aboard the Progress rocket that docked aboard Mir earlier this week. Earlier information from several sources--including the sponsors--had indicated the model satellite would

be launched from Mir October 4, the 40th anniversary of the original Sputnik 1 satellite.

The Sputnik-40, as it's called, reportedly will be hand-released by the Mir crew during a space walk. Latest information indicates the mini-satellite will transmit a "beep-beep" signal on 145.800 MHz (FM) from its 200-mW onboard transmitter. The batteries are expected to last a month or two.

For additional details--and photos--see <http://www.oceanes.fr/~fr5fc/spoutnik.html>--thanks to AMSAT News Service and Keith Baker, KB1SF

Tnx ARRL LETTER

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PROTEK
MUELLER
GOLDSTAR
PALADIN

Cable Ties
Test Gear
Test Leads
Test Gear
Tools