



# the **RARA RAG**

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## Mobile Telephone Service, Past, Present and Future

by Rick Wells, W2RW

It seems like the other day I noticed another new cell tower pole about a mile away from my QTH. Seems like these things are springing up all over. Actually, that's why I moved up my tower project last year so as to get through the permit process sooner than later – before the town decides not to allow towers any more! Another thing, I bet you think mobile telephone communication is a pretty recent phenomena. You're going to be surprised.

Our February presentation will cover the whole picture, where the technology is today as well as where it is heading in the future. We'll have an over of the technologies used such as analog modulation, codivision multiplexing and spread spectrum techniques.

Our presenter will be John Woika, W8JW. John is a retired ATT systems engineer with a significant background in the business of mobile telecommunications. Assisting John will be Ralph Mastrangelo. Ralph is RF Manager of Sprint PCS. These guys are the experts and will be able to answer our questions about mobile telephone service, a radio service that complements as well as competes with the Amateur Radio Service.

Please join us for this interesting and informative presentation. Remember that we're now back to the usual meeting location at the fire hall.

## RaRa MEMBERS APPOINTED ARRL POSITIONS

Congratulations are in order for two club members who recently received ARRL appointments, as announced by Bill Thompson, W2MTA, Western New York Section Manager. Edward Gutowski, KB2UQZ, has taken on the position of WNY Public Information Coordinator. Gail Heinzman, K2BCL, has been appointed regional Assistant Section Manager for Livingston and Monroe counties.

## RaRa MEETING

February 6, 1998

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall

3129 East Henrietta Road

*Mobile Telephone Service, Past, Present and  
Future*

We wish each of them well in their new capacities. Let us assure them of everyone's fullest cooperation.

## PUBLIC SERVICE 1998

Ed Holdsworth N2EH EC/RO Monroe County

The time is fast approaching to plan for our Public Service events for 1998. Listed below are those that we participate in every year. Some of the dates have not been set as of this time and are subject to change. I have indicated those that have a possibility for change with a ?.

- R. E. Ginna Radiological Pre-Drill, Wednesday, March 25.
- R. E. Ginna Radiological Drill, Wednesday, May 6.
- ADA Tour de Cure Saturday, May 30.
- Stuart Horse Trials. Saturday, Aug 1. (?)
- Walnut Hill Driving Competition Aug. 12 thru 18.
- Pumpkin Patrol NYS Thruway October 30 & 31

These are the events that I have at this time but I will keep you posted as others are made known. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE FOR THE GINNA PRE-DRILL IS IN MARCH AND IS FAST APPROACHING. PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE.

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## 1998 Hamfest Programs-Part III

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Can you think of any better way of spending a great spring or early summer weekend than at a Hamfest? Then the Rochester Hamfest being held the weekend of May 29, 30 and 31 is the place to be!! You don't want to miss it as each year it just keeps getting better in every way, from the Flea Market to the Banquet, including the Exhibitors Hall and the Program. Speaking of the programs now would be a good time to let you in on just a few more topics that will be taking place this year. I am sure you will want to schedule your time to get to some of the ones of interest to you.

For those of you that are involved in MARS there will be a **Joint MARS Forum**. Everyone is welcome to this annual update and information exchange meeting that will be hosted by Colin Corke, AFF1NY, (WB2RNS) Air Force MARS State Director; Ken Wasley, NNN0GBJ-15, (K2UTT) Navy-Marine Corps MARS; Elizabeth (Betty) Strattan, AAA2NY, (W2PVS) Army MARS State Director; and Ed Kessler, NNN0GBJ, (W2EQW) Northern New York Area Coordinator. You don't have to be a MARS member to attend this forum. If you just want to learn more about MARS this is the place to be.

Harry Dannals, W2HD will be with us once again. Harry is President Emeritus, ARRL and Past President, QCWA. and if you have never heard a talk given by Harry then you have been missing a lot of good information as well as an entertaining time. He has a wealth of information on a lot of topics and will get everyone thinking about a topic. This year he will talk on **Is Ham Radio for Everyone?** We often say Amateur Radio has something for everyone, but is that still true as we prepare for the new decade. Come and form your own opinion.

An ARRL Division Conference is always a good place to find a lot of league officials and have a chance to talk to them. This years Hamfest is no different as it is once again the Atlantic Division Conference. This means that at high noon there will be an **ARRL Forum** taking place. This forum will be made up of a panel of our officials that will include Kay Craigie, WT3P, Atlantic Division Director; Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, Atlantic Division Vice Director; Stephen Mendelsohn, W2ML, First vice President; and Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, Vice President. This is an outstanding opportunity to confer with your ARRL leaders. Questions from the floor are encouraged.

That's all the tempting that I will do this month. However, don't think that you can get rid of me that easily. I promise to be back again next month with more of the great programs that you will be able to attend this year.

# FROM YOUR LICENSE CLASS COORDINATOR

Happy New Year to all. I trust that everybody had a nice holiday season. As I write this, the weather is very mild for January. A very successful testing session was held on December 15th. A lot of smiling hams were seen leaving the session. Among them John KB2WVS who upgraded to advanced, and his new call is KG2NI. Bill not only passed his general theory but passed the CW the hard way 65 characters in a row. Congratulations to WB2SXY. Norm not only passed his general theory but surprised himself and everybody also passing 20 CW as well. Don kb2ycl passed his novice CW, and a new ham Robin is now a tech plus. Congratulations to all.

The spring session will begin on February 16th at 7:00 P.M. at 111 Westfall road for registration. Tim Magee WB2KAO will be teaching the 5 word CW this spring. Bob Gordon will be back to teach novice and tech theory. The CW will begin at 7:30 P.M. Joe Hood will teach Advanced or extra if there is enough interest. If you're interested you can contact Joe at 865-9092 or myself at 865-2585. Contact me before February 9th because I'm going out to Arizona for two weeks. Also still no general theory instructor, so that class may not be offered. Listen to K2KWK bulletins concerning this and the general cw. If anyone has any further questions I can be reached at 865-2585 before February 9th.

*73's and happy hamming. Lynn N2IZX*

For Sale: Force 12, EF-517 17 meter mono-bander, 5 elements on 30 ft. boom. Best offer takes it. Contact W2RMM@frontiernet.net

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## February Calendar

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

17- RDXA Testing & Meeting - 111 Westfall  
Road, 21 - RaRa Testing - 111 Westfall Road,  
8:30 AM

## AMSAT-NA CONSIDERS COMMERCIAL VENTURES

AMSAT-NA President Bill Tynan, W3XO, says AMSAT may go commercial to keep its Orlando, Florida, Lab afloat. In an interview, Tynan told the 200th meeting of the Houston AMSAT Net January 6 that AMSAT needs to keep the Orlando Integration Lab "or a facility of that type" going and that the organization is looking into several commercial ventures to help fund future projects and activities. Tynan said revenue from commercial projects would give AMSAT flexibility in pursuing future Amateur Radio satellite projects and additional commercial work.

"I can assure you that unless we can find some way to get a significant amount of money into the organization, we cannot keep Orlando going. We're going to have to shut it down," Tynan told the on-air gathering. One commercial prospect is the Canadian MOST proposal. Tynan said the project's sponsors have "promised us a significant financial donation" if AMSAT participates in the project, assuming it's eventually funded by the Canadian government.

AMSAT-NA Vice President for Operations Keith Baker, KB1SF, echoed Tynan's concerns. Baker, who also was interviewed for the Houston AMSAT Net, said that one lesson learned from Phase 3D is that AMSAT can no longer "stand on the corner with our hands out" to fund future endeavors. Baker said AMSAT-NA wants to pursue additional revenue sources "without damaging or putting into jeopardy the volunteer spirit of AMSAT."

Phase 3D Integration Lab Manager Lou McFadin, W5DID, said most of the modules for the spacecraft have been installed. Technicians now are installing the rest of the electronic components.

Also on the Net, AMSAT Vice President of Manned Space Flight Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, discussed ham radio equipment aboard the International Space Station. Bauer said the first ham gear aboard the ISS later this year will include H-Ts for 2 meters and 70 cm, a packet radio system, and a "digi-talker" that's being developed by hams in Germany.

Bruce Paige, KK5DO, moderates the Houston AMSAT Net. A Real Audio transcription of the entire 200th Houston AMSAT Net (and other net sessions) is available at <http://www.amsatnet.com>.--AMSAT News Service via Bruce Paige, KK5DO  
*Tnx ARRL Letter*

## SUSQUEHANNOCK TRAIL PRO RALLY

RaRa has been supporting this event for most of its 21 years. It is held in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania on the first weekend in June. Susquehannock Trail (or STPR) is organized by Finger Lakes Region, SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) which is based here in Rochester. The rally starts Saturday morning at 11:00 AM and ends around 2:00 AM Sunday. In between, prepared rally cars race on closed roads in the forests. Volunteers staff every road which intersects the rally course, to protect the public from getting on the roads. Hams are stationed at the start and finish of each special stage (race section) and at some other locations to track the progress of the cars. Two repeaters and three separate Nets keep the event moving smoothly even when incidents occur. STPR is part of a national series. If you get ESPN2 you may have already seen some coverage of the 1997 events. Speedvision has been showing some current and past world-wide events. Past Communication Coordinators for STPR include Ed Holdsworth (N2EH) and Roger Harnaart (WB2BWQ). Currently, Tim Groth (N2GON) provides coordination. In the past many RARA members also assisted with the event. However, in the past few years the number of members participating has dropped off and most of the Hams working STPR have come from other areas. Without the Ham's, there couldn't be an event. Last year there were about 50 hams helping with the event. It is our goal to have a Ham at every intersection to improve overall communication. To do that we would need between 15 and 20 additional amateurs. How can you get involved? Are you interested in finding out more about the event, and how Hams contribute. Or, if you are (or have been) involved already, come and share your ideas for improvement. Finger Lakes Region will be hosting the Northeast Division (of SCCA) spring convention the weekend of March 13-15. One of the Saturday sessions is specifically planned to discuss PRO Rally communications. Special single-session pricing has been established for RARA members who wish to attend just this session. In appreciation of the 20+ years of support from RARA, the PRO rally organizer John McArthur will cover that cost for any RARA members who wish to attend. Pre-registration is strongly recommended, as room size is limited. Contact Debbi Segall (DebbiSegall@Juno.com or 235-5032) or John McArthur ([mcArthur@kodak.com](mailto:mcArthur@kodak.com) or 533-2197) by March 1 for reservations. Debbi Segall (N2MXX) Chief of Controls, STPR  
*John McArthur (KB2WPN) Chairman, STPR*

## FCC FORMS CONTRACTOR NOW HAS NEW FORM 610

With just days to spare, the new FCC Form 610 now is available from the FCC's forms contractor. The FCC has ordered the destruction of all previous versions of the form. As of January 1, 1998, the FCC will accept only the new Form 610 for all filings. Forms 610A and 610B also have been amended. The major change in the new Form 610 is a certification that says the applicant has read and will comply with the new RF radiation safety rules that begin phasing in on January 1, 1998.

The FCC Forms Distribution Center accepts orders at 800-418-3676. That's not to say the new Form 610 simply has not been available until now. ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the ARRL/VEC sent out 43,000 copies of the revised 610 last week to VE teams across the country. The ARRL had copies printed earlier this fall and has been supplying the new forms to those who have requested them for the past six weeks. In addition, the ARRL now supplies a new handout, Additional Information for Amateurs Completing the New FCC Form 610, that contains a condensed version of how to comply with the new RF safety regulations.

The new Forms 610 also have been available from the FCC's Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>, at <ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms>, or by fax at 202-418-0177 (request index).

To order a new Form 610 from the ARRL, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to ARRL/VEC, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Include one unit of first-class postage for each Form you order.

Tnx ARRL Letter

## SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

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## DXCC FEE HIKE EXPLAINED

New fees for the DXCC program that went into effect January 1 will only cover about one half of the program's substantial annual shortfall. The DXCC program costs at least \$100,000 more each year to administer than it collects in user fees, despite greater efficiency and a smaller staff than in the past. That explanation from ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, came in the wake of comments from DXCC participants who were unhappy about the fee increases.

Sumner noted that the League "had a difficult financial year in 1996," when it posted a \$700,000 operating loss. To turn things around, Sumner said, the Board of Directors determined to curb continuing losses as well as cut other costs and seek additional income sources. In the case of DXCC and other membership service programs that serve a portion of the membership, these efforts focused on ways to reduce costs or to make the programs more self-sustaining through user fees.

"The DXCC program is expensive to administer in its present form," Sumner said, pointing out that the League plans to take advantage of new technology in an effort to further cut the program's costs without affecting its integrity. New software scheduled to come on-line early this year should increase the speed of DXCC processing. "After that, attention will turn to a program that will allow members to file DXCC applications electronically, which we anticipate will lead to further savings without sacrificing integrity in any way," he said.

"Everyone wants the DXCC program to continue and to provide the kind of service that members deserve." Sumner emphasized that the League "never considered as an option" any steps that might have affected the integrity of the DXCC program.

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

**Patrick C. Moyer, N2AIW**  
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## ARRL INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations are due to ARRL Section Managers by February 28, 1998 for the ARRL Instructor of the Year awards.

Each year, the ARRL Board of Directors selects recipients for each of four award categories. The ARRL Herb S. Brier (W9AD) Instructor of the Year Award is presented to an unpaid volunteer instructor. The ARRL Professional Educator of the Year Award is presented to a paid, professional, state-certified teacher. The ARRL Professional Instructor of the Year Award is presented to a paid instructor who is not state-certified. The ARRL Excellence in Recruiting Award is presented to an individual who recruits more than teaches.

Section Managers forward nominations to the Educational Activities Department at ARRL, and EAD will send details to nominees about how to compete for the awards. See page 12 in any QST for your Section Manager's name and address. More information and nominating forms can be found on the ARRLWeb at <http://www.arrl.org/ead/award/>. For further information, e-mail [ead@arrl.org](mailto:ead@arrl.org).

*Tnx 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 February 21, 1998  
Registration - 8:30AM  
Testing - 9:00AM**

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

# ARRL DEBUTS 160-METER DXING BOOK

The ARRL has introduced DXing on the Edge--the Thrill of 160 Meters, by Jeff Briggs, K1ZM. DXing on the Edge gives an insider's view at what it takes to make it on 160 meters. The book includes lots of interesting Topband history plus an audio CD of some exotic and exciting QSOs made from prominent DX stations. Much of 160 meter history revolves around the late Stew Perry, WIBB. His

QSL card remains prize wallpaper for amateurs around the world.

Author Jeff Briggs, K1ZM, is a well-known DXer and contest operator. He has 270 countries confirmed on 160 meters, making him one of the leaders in the DX chase and an expert on this most challenging of amateur bands.

DXing on the Edge is \$29.95 (plus shipping). Order Item No 6354. Call toll-free 888-277-5289 or see <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/6354/>.

*Tnx ARRL Letter*

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