



the RARRA RAG

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June 1998

NO. 10

ANNUAL RaRa PICNIC JUNE 20th, Noon to ?

by Tim Magee, WB2KAO

Come one, come all, RARA members and guests, to the annual RARA picnic, Saturday June 20th to be held at Ellison Park, South Lodge (same place as last year).

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.

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.

Hot dogs, condiments, drinks and salads will be provided by RARA. Don't be bashful. Be sure to bring your favorite desert to share.

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

...See you there!

SILENT KEYS

Kenneth D. Robinson

WA2ALW

April 21, 1998

Thomas P. Colt

N2TC

May 26, 1998

Alexander H. Sienkiewicz. Sr.

AA2FI

June 2, 1998

Hamfest '98 Best Ever!

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

The Rochester Hamfest for this year has now come and gone. I hope that everyone made it to the Convention this year and had a great time. If you did miss it you missed out on a lot of great deals; seeing all the new radio equipment that is available by the manufacturers; seeing and meeting great people; good programs; and an all around good time. This year the Hamfest had approximately 8,000 people that came through the gates, with a good attendance on Friday afternoon. There were 127 commercial exhibitor booths in the dome and over 1000 flea market spaces between the indoor and outside areas.

Preparation of the Dome Arena for the exhibitors was accomplished by a group of 33 "Coolies" lead by Ed Holdsworth. A few of these folks were there much of the time Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to help keep things running smoothly. Many of these same folks were also there to take all the booths down on Sunday afternoon. Thank you to all those who worked to make this years Hamfest run smoothly.

Featured this year was an indoor flea market in building #2, which opened, along with the massive outdoor flea market at 6:00AM on Friday morning. Some people were setting up as early as Tuesday afternoon (which is not a good idea as the dome is not rented by the Hamfest until Friday morning). Friday was a little warm for those in the flea market but you couldn't have asked for a better day on Saturday. Sunday was a little short of fleas as the storm watch warnings had everyone packing and getting out during the night or early morning. The storms did hit around 11:00 Sunday morning so packing up may not have been a bad idea for some.

The dome was always busy on Friday afternoon and Saturday as everyone was checking out and buying the new equipment they wanted. Also available, anything from coax, connectors, switches, antennas, or any other material needed to help put their stations together.

(Continued on Page 2)

the RARA RAG

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P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333
RaRa Hotline 442-0587
Website: www.ggw.org/rara/

Editor.....George Platteter, AA2FO
82 Colonnade Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716) 334-4488
Internet: aa2fo@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: Rick Wells, W2RW.....621-7583
Internet: wells@mail.dec.com
Vice-President: Robert A. Moore, N2USB..... 667-5802
Internet: 75767,3151@compuserve.com
Secretary: Scott A. Blystone, K9EEE..... 247-2820
Internet: k9eee@gte.net
Treasurer: Richard Goslee, K2VCZ.....334-1762
Internet: goslee@frontiernet.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU.....671-7079
Internet: wb2efu@aol.com
Timothy J. Magee, WB2KAO.....865-0384
Internet: auntcher@aol.com
John E. Woika, W8JW.....223-2133
Internet: JohnWoika@worldnet.att.net
Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH.....624-1929
Internet: n2eh@frontiernet.net
Joseph Walker, III, KA8WJH.....385-6804
Internet: jwlk3@ix.netcom.com
Keith Freeberg, N2BEL.....458-8246
Internet: kff@usa.net
Jack Tripp, N2SNL.....381-7757
Internet: jat@frontiernet.net

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Hamfest '98...continued from page 1

Major manufacturers, *Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood, Kachina, and ADI* were on hand to announce new products and demonstrate their new equipment. This was great as it gave the public a chance to see the new items on the market, ask questions, and play with things before going to a dealer and making a deal. If you were in the market for a computer or anything to go with one, it was also there. I don't think you could have asked for anything in those two fields that was not available. On top of that you could have gotten new windshield wipers for your car.

As usual there were license exams given on Saturday. Forty-six applicants took a total of 73 different exam elements in their quest to upgrade or get a new license. Newly constituted Commercial Radio Exams (GROL) were on the increase this year. These exams although not given in the same area as the amateur exams, were given simultaneously in another part of the building. The people taking exams were not just from this area. Applicants came from as far away as Pennsylvania and New Hampshire as well as from other parts of New York State.

The Rochester Hamfest also hosts the ARRL Atlantic Division and New York State Conventions. For this reason there were a lot of League officials in attendance. They ranged from Vice Presidents to Section Managers and everything in between including staff from headquarters. Some of these were visitors from other divisions such as Directors from as far away as Florida. It was great to see them here to support our Atlantic Division as well as the League. Of course Kay Craigie, WT3P, Atlantic Division Director and Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, Vice Director hosted a couple of the forums with most of the others participating or attending. It was great to see so many there to talk to people and participate in the programs and forums. Everyone should have had a chance to visit with them in the ARRL booth as they were always there.

The awards banquet on Friday evening was attended by approximately 90 people. They had the chance to enjoy a good prime rib meal and the company of the others that were there. This years Atlantic Division awards were presented by Kay Craigie, WT3P, the Atlantic Division Director. The Grand Ole Ham was received by Rolland E. Madara, W3PWG, and the Amateur of the Year was John B. Creel Jr., WB3GXW. Congratulations are in order for these two gentleman. Kay, also presented the ARRL Letter of Accommodations to the Hams of Western and Northern New York for all the service that they provided this past winter with the ice storm that hit heavy in Northern New

York. Receiving these accommodations for amateurs in their sections were the Section Managers, William Thompson, W2MTA of Western New York and Les Schmarder, WA2AEA of Northern New York.

If you have read the Rag for the past few months you know that there were quite a few programs being scheduled for both Friday and Saturday. The only thing to say at this time is that a lot of good information was passed on in these programs. For the most part they were also well attended. Our gratitude goes out to those who volunteered to be presenters; you all did a great job.

Speaking of great jobs, everyone should feel somewhat indebted to Harold Smith, K2HC and Ed Holdsworth, N2EH for putting together this great event for everyone to enjoy. It is through the long hours and hard effort they put in to organize, coordinate, and oversee everything that needs to take place that RaRa is able to offer you the Rochester Hamfest/Atlantic Division/New York Convention as you know it today. This is an endless job and I know that Hamfest 99 was being worked on by them last month and maybe even earlier. Gentleman ---**Thank You!!**. Also, thank you to all those (to numerous to name) that worked on any of the committees or in any capacity for that matter to help put this great Hamfest together.

RaRa WINS THE ROCHESTER CUP

by Pete Fournia, W2SKY

The coveted 10th annual Rochester Cup was presented to vice-president Rick Wells, W2RW at the annual meeting on May 1, 1998.

The Rochester Cup is a competition among local clubs that operate during the ARRL's January VHF Sweepstakes. It is hosted by the Rochester VHF Group to stimulate VHF activity during the contest and has been a highly successful strategy that has made Rochester, NY a hot bed of VHF activity and the RVHFG a national leader. Criteria for the local club award is based on the total number of QSO's with members of the RVHFG. This year's cup was really won by the multitude of RaRa members who operated in the contest AND who submitted logs on behalf of RaRa. The RaRa club station, K2JD, was active and contributed to the total score (43 points out of 537).

Here is a break down of the club scores.

Rochester Amateur Radio Association	537
Xerox Amateur Radio Club	159
Rochester DX Association	138
Rochester Radio Repeater Association	95

Thanks to the multitude of RaRa members who participated in the contest and for the logs that they submitted.

RaRa Donates Oldies to AWA

Ed Gable, K2MP/W2AN, Curator of the AWA Museum of Electronic Communication, wants to thank Ed Holdsworth, N2EH and RaRa for a recent donation of excess items from the K2JD inventory. Transferred to the museum were a Central Electronics 100V, a very nice Heath Apache AM transmitter, a Hallicrafters SX-101A receiver, a Harvey Wells T-90 transmitter and several other smaller items. These items are now at the restoration shop in the AWA Annex waiting their turn for fixing up by El Wagner, W2BNJ. Elmer is the Manager of Amateur Radio artifacts for the AWA. Other offerings are eagerly accepted... today's "middle aged" radio items are tomorrow's antiques. Please contact museum Curator Ed Gable, at 392-3088, to discuss the museum acquisition policy.

FOR SALE:

Collins KWM-380 c updates, A/N, \$2,900.

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SEN BARRY GOLDWATER, K7UGA, SK

Former US Senator, onetime presidential candidate, and noted radio amateur Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, died May 29. He was 89. Goldwater had suffered a stroke in 1996 and had been in failing health.

As a Senator, Goldwater's legacy included several pieces of Amateur Radio-related legislation. In 1964, Goldwater's bill to allow reciprocal operating agreements between the US and other countries was signed into law. It was his work on the bill that prompted the Arizona Senator to renew his interest in ham radio after a long absence.

While serving as chairman of the Senate Communications Subcommittee in 1981, Goldwater introduced landmark legislation proposing several changes to the Communications Act affecting amateurs. In 1982, Congress finally approved and President Reagan signed what came to be known as the Goldwater Amateur Radio legislation, enacted as Public Law 97-259. The measure established the Amateur Auxiliary and the volunteer examination programs, permitted 10-year license terms, and exempted Amateur Radio from the secrecy provisions in the Communications Act. The Goldwater bill also ended years of Congressional wrangling and authorized the FCC to set RFI susceptibility standards for home electronic devices.

A year later, President Reagan signed into law a bill including a Goldwater amendment that allowed the recovery of costs in the Volunteer Examiner program (the FCC didn't authorize the plan until months later, however).

Goldwater was a life member of the ARRL. He was elected president of the Quarter Century Wireless Association in 1971. A pilot during World War II, he held the rank of General in the Air Force Reserve and was an active member of Air Force MARS. During the Vietnam War era, Goldwater handled hundreds of thousands of phone patches. He also held a pilot's license and occasionally operated aeronautical mobile.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that of amateurs in the public sector, Goldwater was "without peer." Southwestern Division Director Fried Heyn, WA6WZO, called Goldwater "a super ham" who was "concerned about the future of Amateur Radio."

Tnx ARRL Letter

FREE: Compaq 286, printer, mint cond. sw incl. spreadsheet, wp, autocad, code practice, smith chart, flight sim. & more. COMPUTER TABLE (\$25): 48"x 30" oak grain formica. Wally 225-6192

RaRa Rag 4

Graduation - Final Exams

by Tim Magee, WB2KAO

RARA Spring Licensing Class students participated in an FCC Exam session administrated by the RARA VE Team on May 18, 1998. Eight of the eleven students passed at least one element on the road to a new or upgraded license. The four new Technician and three Technician-Plus amateurs will soon be heard on the air.

Congratulations go to:

Victor Burke, II, KC2DPK

James Cassetti, KC2DPJ

Vincent Magguilli, Jr., KC2DPI

Rachel L. Schwing, KC2DKB

Robert Taylor, KC2DPH

Marykay Vesco, KC2DPG

Allen Skiles, Sr., KB2VZE.

As the new license class director, I and the other instructors are looking forward to the 98-99 classes.

SOLAR UPDATE

Solar prognosticator Tad Cook, K7VVV, Seattle, Washington, reports: During June we will be experiencing more summer-like HF conditions, with weaker daytime signals and higher noise, due to increased thunderstorm activity in the northern hemisphere. With fewer hours of darkness and more storms, look for poorer conditions on 160 and 80 meters. Although 20 meters has been the best DX band around the clock, there is a good chance that solar activity will move higher this summer, and 15 meters could become the best daylight band for the season.

Tnx ARRL Letter

FOR SALE: HF and VHF antenna system: 40' crank up tower, Hi-Gain TH3 Mk3 tri-band yagi, 11 element 2 meter yagi, mast. Ham II Rotator. All excellent. You take down in Greece (Easy) . Priced to sell at \$295.00 or best offer. Call Ed Gable, K2MP, 392-3088 or e-mail k2mp@eznet.net

FOR SALE:

Tri-Band Antenna, TA-33 Sr. \$150.00

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I-Beam, 6 Ft. 9 In. long, for mast base \$5.00

Heath SB-220 Linear Amplifier \$400.00

Howard Caudle, W2RSU 872-4684

W2N, W2N, W2N, QRZed...

by Rick Wells, W2RW

Special Event Station, W2N, Will herald the good news and special activities; taking place during the Western New York Ham Club Picnic being; held on Sunday, July 26, at Akron Falls Park, Shelter #5, Akron, NY.

Goodies such as hot dogs, buns, condiments, potato chips, pretzels, and pop will be provided by the 11 clubs involved. If you don't or cannot eat hamburgers, bring your own thing.

Special Event Station Activity will include two HF stations, which will be operated on a variety of the HF bands. Operators will be eager to make contact with those individuals wishing to work W2N and receive the special QSL card.

To add to the fun and games.... A FOX HUNT, an in the park "on foot" foxhunt. It will be a 2 meter event and should be lots of fun for all. Certificates and prizes for the winners will be presented at the conclusion of the hunt. Bring the handheld and find the fox.

No picnic would be complete without horseshoes. There will be two or three set-ups for those who fancy the game, with some prizes; for the winners.

Eyeball-Ragchews: There will be plenty of this going on.

Now how to get there. "Tool" along Route 5 to Route 93, go 8/10 mile to a small Akron Falls Park sign at Parkview Drive. Then 1/2 mile on Parkview Drive to large Akron Falls Park entrance sign. Shelter #5 is a few hundred yards. Follow the signs.

Everyone is welcome. If groups are planning to attend, or for other details, contact Dick Stein, K2ZR.

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago

Ed Gable K2MP

June 1978: At the last regular meeting of the year four RaRa members achieved the *RaRa Distinguished Achievement Award* from President Ed Gable. This award goes to those who are not officers or board members but perform extraordinary service to the club. Those were Irv Goodman, WB2WCE, for years of service as Assistant Membership Chairman, Dwight Hill, K2KWK, for long service as Associate Editor of the *RaRa Rag*, Bob Lauzon, K2RL, for service as RaRa's Licensing Class and to Helen Smith, WA2YRH, for years of service as Editor of RaRa's Rochester Area Amateur Radio Directory. In a ceremony at the County Legislator Building, Mr. J. Richard Wilson, President of the Monroe County Legislature, proclaimed Amateur Radio Week in the county. Receiving the award were Ed Gable and Len Gessin. Speaking of awards, the NYS Amateur of the Year was greatly surprised and honored. Harry Dannals, W2HD, then President of the ARRL, received the award at the Rochester Hamfest and NYS Convention. George Biddle, WD2AIB, was the first RaRa member to receive the new Novice WD2 callsign. Heading up RaRa's Field Day activity were Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB and Fred Shippey, WA2BQA. A new advertiser was *Harvey's Ham* of Caledonia, featuring Ten-Tec, Dentron and other fine gear.

PUBLIC SERVICE 1998

By Ed Holdsworth N2EH
EC/RO Monroe County

Listed below are some of the remaining events that we participate in every year. Some of the dates have not been set as of this time and are subject to change.

- Stuart Horse Trials. Saturday, Aug. 1.
- Walnut Hill Driving Competition Aug. 12th through 18.
- Pumpkin Patrol NYS Thruway Oct. 30 & 31

These are the events that I have at this time but I will keep you posted as others are made known

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w/ Alex, NV2Y

Location- Hamfest Exams

There sat Billy. Well not exactly sitting. One moment he kneeled on his chair, the next standing, the next leaning over the table filling in the work sheet he was given with a long white pencil. You could see he was anxious to get started.

The boy listened intently as Stan, WM3D, gave instructions for taking the 5 wpm code test. There were six other people taking the test, all well past their 40's. Billy was only 8 years old.

The examinees were told there would be a one minute warm-up and they should write it down to get the rhythm of the sending and to let us know if the volume was adequate. I'm sure you remember what it was like when you sat in that chair. Well, the one minute 5 wpm code was sent and the tape stopped.

Examinees were asked if the volume was alright and if there were any questions. Everyone nodded everything was all right, but Billy reached for the sky with his one arm holding the pencil.

Stan acknowledged the boys request and Billy said, "there are too many dots on the code sent". My reaction was rather passive as I have listened to this tape a hundred times and never noticed it. One extra dot in that whole sentence- Hmph!!

The five minute code commenced and I watched Billy write each letter, number, and punctuation with that long white pencil. Cool, determined, confident.

The test was soon over and the examinees were told to go over their copy and fill in the spaces they passed over so they may be given credit for one minute of perfect copy.

After a brief period the question exam was handed out. Billy began to circle the answers. He went through the exam so fast it didn't seem he had time to read the questions.

Bouncing off his chair, he signaled he was finished and wanted to turn in his exam. As he handed me his paper he said in his 8 year old voice, "it's OK, I get a 100". Glancing at his exam questions and then the work sheet where he had copied the 5 wpm code, I found neat beautiful large print, and all between the lines. It was obvious to me at this point this kid is not putting me on. He had perfect copy, not for one minute, but for the whole exam. Checking the 10 questions he had circled verified his declaration, "It's OK, I got a 100".

Billy is now also known as KC2DQZ, and you know, he just may be right about that extra dot.

Note: QRZed, with Alex, NV2Y will be a regular monthly feature column for the RaRa Rag.

RaRa Rag 6

Rochester Hams needed for Empire State Games

By Vivian E. Douglas, WA2PUU

If you operate 2-meters and are interested in sports you are invited to participate in the communications net to cover the Empire State Games being held in the Rochester metropolitan area between July 22 and July 26. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH will be the Host City Chairman.

Over 29 sports will be taking place at some 15 plus locations. Each sport venue will have a single operator with an HT. There will be over 65 two to four hour shifts each day that must be covered. Net operation will be on the 146.88 repeater. The competition will take place from Thursday, July 23 through Sunday July 26. Opening Night Ceremonies will be held Wednesday July 22 at Frontier Field.

All operators who worked when the Games were last held in Rochester in 1993 should have already received their sign-up form in the mail. All others who would like to help (and we can always use more operators) can obtain a form by calling (315) 469-0590 anytime and it will be mailed promptly. You can also call this number for additional information.

Completed sign-up forms should be returned by June 23. Assignments will be scheduled at that time and they will be mailed the week of July 8. The forms should be mailed to: ESG-Hams, Box 15144, Syracuse, NY 13215.

Next Rag Deadline

August 15, 1998

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IN BRIEF:

Tnx ARRL Letter

Vanity update: Two years after its most recent inception, the vanity program continues to be popular. The FCC in Gettysburg reports it received 718 applications in April, nearly 600 of them filed via the Internet. The FCC has processed vanity applications received through April 16. In the last batch, processed May 6, the FCC granted 117 new call signs. Another 128 applications landed in the work in process (WIPS) stack.

New prefix for Pitcairn: The new prefix for Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific is VP6. The British possession changed its call sign prefix from VR6 to VP6 on May 1. Call sign suffixes will remain the same. As part of the reversion of Hong Kong to China, the British government also ceded the international ITU prefix block, VRA-VRZ, to China. Old timers may recall that VP6 used to belong to Barbadoes before it became independent.

YOUNGEST HAMS IN THE USA?

At a time when older hams bemoan the dearth of youthful licensees in the hobby's ranks, along come Samuel Lewis, KB9RYP, and Sarah Bruno, KB9SEG, both Gary, Indiana, and both just four years old. Samuel, who turns five on June 1, just upgraded to Tech Plus; Sarah, who won't be five until September 8, got her Novice ticket February 25.

Both are members of families where both parents and all but the infant members are licensed amateurs. Sarah's parents are the Rev Ronald Bruno Jr, KG9LY, and Pam Bruno, KB9RVX. Her siblings include Ronald III (15), KG9MH, Jeffrey (10), KB9RHO, and Joshua (5), KB9RER, who upgraded to General in December (he said the written test was hard). Their grandfather is the Rev Ronald Bruno Sr, KB9NWM, and their grandmother is Judith Bruno, KB9QZK.

Samuel's parents are the Rev Daryl Lewis, KB9RRG, and LaDonna Lewis, KB9RRK, plus siblings Gabriel (9), KB9REP--who just got his General ticket--and John (7), KB9RRF. Samuel studied several months for his ticket and said passing the code test to upgrade was difficult.

All of the youngsters attend the senior Rev Bruno's Grace and Truth Baptist Academy in Gary, where ham radio has been a regular part of the curriculum for about a year now. The school has a ham station on site and classes run 52 weeks a year.

KB9NWM says it's not uncommon for kids approaching age 4 to be able to read pretty well. He says the two families and other members of the church community use ham radio to stay in touch and for potential use during an emergency.

The eldest Bruno says he started out with his Tech license a couple of years ago, but decided he'd like to try HF and began learning the code. While he says the youngsters in his school readily grasp Morse code, he concedes the code was "a killer" for him. He now has his Advanced ticket.

The younger Rev Bruno soon will depart for the Philippines as a missionary and plans to take ham radio along with him.--thanks to Bill Peterson, N9LL

Tnx ARRL Letter

SAREX TO BE ON JOHN GLENN FLIGHT

A ham radio package will be aboard the shuttle flight that carries US Senator and astronaut John Glenn into space this fall. Word from NASA this week was that the Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment or SAREX payload would be carried on STS-95 when it flies in October carrying the 77-year-old space pioneer into orbit for the first time since the early 1960s, when Glenn became the first US astronaut to orbit the Earth.

Two hams--US Astronaut Scott Parazynski, KC5RSY, and European Space Agency astronaut Pedro Duque, KC5RGG, of Spain--will be among an international crew aboard STS-95. The launch date for the only other SAREX mission scheduled for 1998--STS-93--has slipped from August to December. Glenn already has begun his astronaut training, but it's not yet known if he plans to get his ham ticket before his return to space.

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FOR SALE::ICOM IC-725 HF All Band Transceiver, \$729 new, sell \$475. MFJ-949D 300W Deluxe Antenna Tuner w/ Cross Needles, \$130 new, sell \$75. Hustler Mobile Antenna System, Includes Foldover Mast w/ assorted hardware, RM15, RM-17, RM-20 and RM-40 Resonators. Total new \$153.55, sell \$85. Barker & Williamson AP-10 Portable 40M - 2M Antenna, Includes Window Mount Antenna w/ 80 thru 10 Meter Coils & 2 Meter Jumper, \$69.95 new, sell \$40. This equipment was purchased new in 1992, has been used very little and is in mint condition. Call Bill White, K2KAD, 671-5588

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