



the **RARRA RAG**

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NO. 2

Do You Want To Work Easy DX?

How About Contesting?

by Bob Moore N2USB

The program for the October 2nd meeting at the Henrietta Fire Station #1 will be presented by three experts from RDXA, Fred Gern K2FR, Chris Shalvoy K2CS and Rick Mintz W1TY. They will reveal the easy way to find and work those elusive countries that you have been trying to contact. The secret to this EASY DX is to be on the air when these elusive stations are there, and these stations will be there during a contest. The best thing about being on the air then is that these stations will want to contact you for the score so if you need that elusive QSO or QSL card try the easy way for super DX try contesting. See you at the October Meeting.

Volunteers Needed for Walk Communications

By Keith, N2BEL

One of the largest non-profit association's (American Diabetes Association) annual walking tour of the Rochester Park Ave. Area will be held Sunday, October 4, 1998. The walk, known this year as "America's Walk for Diabetes", is expected to draw over 500 participants including media and politicians. This event of the American Diabetes Association is a great way to raise awareness of the good that amateur radio operators are ready to do the moment they are needed.

This event needs just 9 smiling Hams to conduct communications at one of 5 rest stops or drive one of 4 Sag Wagons along the 6.4 mile loop. You will receive the thanks of all the walkers, a nice volunteer "T" shirt as a memento of the occasion and a nutritious lunch. Oh yes, there will be complimentary coffee and something available when you report in the morning. All the food and materials are donated by regional and local merchants. Come join the festive atmosphere and help your fellow humans by donating five to six hours on a Sunday morning.

Volunteer now! Call Ed Holdsworth, Public Service Director, at 624-1929 or Keith Freeberg, event communications chair at 458-8246 and leave details. Call NOW!

RaRa MEETING

Oct. 2, 1998

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road

Easy DXing and Contesting

Smaller/Late Rag

By The Editors

The October issue of the RaRa Rag is a little smaller and is being mailed a little late this month. The business/layout offices of the Rag were flooded on Saturday September 12. This was about the time we were starting to put this issue together. Unfortunately it took a little over a week to get the computers back on line and the papers dried out. We hope we didn't lose anything in the cleanup, but if we did we apologize for the inconvenience.

RaRa Hotline

(716) 442-0587

24 hours a day

SILENT KEY

Melvyn S. Stoller

K2AOQ

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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@rpa.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: Rick.Wells@digital.com
Vice-President: Robert A. Moore, N2USB..... 663-5802
Internet: RobertMoore@compuserve.com
Secretary: Scott A. Blystone, K9EEE..... 247-2820
Internet: k9eee@rochester.rr.com
Treasurer: Richard Goslee, K2VCZ.....334-1762
Internet: goslee@frontiernet.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU.....671-7079
Internet: wb2efu@frontiernet.net
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@tx.netcom.com
Keith Freeberg, N2BEL.....458-8246
Internet: kff@usa.net
Jack Tripp, N2SNL.....381-7757
Internet: jat@frontiernet.net

Club Historian: Ed Gable, K2MP
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The Prez Sez...

by Rick Wells, W2RW, President RARA

It was great to see everyone who came out to the September meeting. Even better was to see some new faces to sign up as new club members. Welcome to RARA! Also, I want to acknowledge and welcome our new associate members into the Fall Novice/Tech license class as well as the rest of you old timers who signed up for the General and Advanced classes. We are pleased to work with you and look forward to an interesting and rewarding semester. As Tim said on Monday night, "this is all volunteer work", I was thinking "but wait, you get more than your money's worth!" We are privileged to have the quality and expertise that all of our instructors bring to the table and I want to thank them for donating their time to the club and the hobby: Tim Magee, WB2KAO (5 WPM CW), Art DeBruycker, W2YGW (13 WPM CW), Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY (General Theory), and Joe Hood, K2YA (Advanced Theory).

Those that came out for the September meeting heard a very informative and practical presentation on ISDN by John Woika, W8JW. Thanks John. You certainly know what you're doing around data communications. Now you have equipped us to make an informed decision as to whether we should get into the ISDN arena.

So what do you think? Should Novice licensees have significant HF phone privileges? Should Tech-Plus licensees lose their HF privileges? Should there be only a 10 WPM CW requirement for General and none for Extra? How about a much more difficult theory test for Advanced and Extra? These are some of the questions being asked by the League and the FCC with their respective proposals. Questions this significant haven't been asked since the Incentive Licensing initiative of the mid 60s. The FCC's NPRM was fraught with problems and inconsistencies. The League's proposal seemed to make a lot more sense. Even if you disagree with some of the recommendations, at least it presents a simplified and consistent licensing plan. There is still time remaining to file comments, either directly to the FCC and/or to the League through your Atlantic Division Director, Kay Craigie, WT3P. You can even browse the League web site and input comments right there. See <http://www.arl.org/news/restructuring/>. Don't put your upgrade plans on hold however. The soonest we might see some action on this is Spring '99 and it'll probably be later than that.

(continued on next page)

Fall License Class Report

by Tim Magee, WB2KAO,
License Class Director

Registration was held on Monday September 14th as scheduled. The Novice/Tech class has seven students, General class has four students and two candidates for Advanced theory. I was surprised at the small Novice/Tech enrollment. I guess it just goes to echo the national opinion of a declining entrance of people into the hobby. I don't know exactly how to turn this around, but it certainly would be a project for further investigation. Rick and I are looking forward to working with these students and I will look at it from an optimistic standpoint that the smaller the class, the higher the success curve. I will keep our members posted on the progress of the classes throughout the Fall and Spring semesters.

Rag Chew

by Lloyd R. Caves

In the last couple of years there have been a lot of shots taken at amateur radio frequencies. It seems like every month we are being asked to send a letter to our elected government officials to try and defend why frequencies should not be removed from the amateurs and placed in another service. Outside of doing just that, what else are you doing to help keep people from looking at our frequencies? The old saying of "use them or lose them" just isn't good enough any longer. There are a lot of frequencies that are not being utilized by amateurs the way they should, but even those that are can be in danger. Look at the two meter band and 440 band where others want them. Or the part of the 220 band that we lost a few years ago. It is no longer just the microwave bands that we could lose.

One of the major reasons that has always supported keeping amateur frequencies was our ability to move traffic and assist in an emergency. Our interface with other agencies has always been a plus and for the most part we have stayed ahead of them in proving our ability to meet their demands and being a leader in technology. For the last few years this has not been the case, though. The new technology that is taking place on a daily basis is far exceeding amateur radio in everyday use. Look at the Low Earth Orbiting satellites technology or the 800 MHz trunk systems now in use by the

public safety agencies. These systems are able to handle a tremendous amount of data in the form of digital as well as voice communications. They are more accurate, faster and can carry more information than OSCARS. Motorola will be launching their IRIDIUM satellite systems before years end that will allow the use of portable cell phones, pagers, a cell phone that will connect to others in the same group at a touch of a button, and the ability to run the internet world wide. These systems will allow agencies to operate without our help if we do not stay current with technology and the use of it. If you would like more detailed information on what is going on that could take our place read a commentary "Keeping Up With Disaster Communications Technology" by Joel Kandel, KI4T which was published by the ARRL. Joel is the Technical Coordinator, Southern Florida and was former chairman of the ARRL National Emergency Response Committee.

How does this effect us at RARA? Well if you have been involved with public service at all (this seems to be a smaller group every year) you will see that others in the commercial sector are offering services to the agencies we assisted. This means that they are doing more with less help from us. True that today they are using cell phones that won't help them much if the phone system goes down in an emergency (although don't forget what I just stated about the new Motorola satellites ability). We were a leader to many agencies with our ability to send error free data in mass by way of the packet system. Where is that today; about the same place it was five years ago. Not much headway has been made to keep this system up with the pace of the internet. Our system in the Rochester area seems to be in poorer shape today than it was five years ago. Many people talk about forms that could be made to use on packet allowing a ham to fill in the blanks and supply the information that is common for an agency in an emergency. Unfortunately these easily made forms never got made or used. This has caused some agencies to make out their own forms and use cell phones, laptops, and the internet to replace us.

One of the only things that we now have going for us that can't be replaced soon is the ATV system. The problem is that only a hand full of people have ever come out on an exercise and tried to learn how to use this equipment. Even less people own this type of equipment and are operating in this mode. You know what? I misspoke when I said that this mode will not be replaced soon. It won't be long when you will be able to send the same live video over the internet using the new technologies being developed.

In summary where does this leave us. Well to start with more activity on public service events

Now that we're officially into Fall, don't forget to renew your other memberships such as the DX club, repeater organization and the like. And speaking of repeaters, they may be free to use, but they aren't free to the hams that purchase them, install them and perform the ongoing maintenance. Please consider a donation of time, expertise and/or money to the trustee or sponsor of the repeater(s) that you use.

Don't forget CQ WW phone on 24-25-October. With improving solar conditions we should have a great contest. Tired of being a ghoulish or a goblin? Come out and protect our interstate overpasses on Halloween weekend by signing up for Pumpkin Patrol. Consider teaming up with a friend. You don't want to just sit out there in the dark all alone. Tim (WB2KAO) and I spent the evening last year between VHF checkins by getting on 40 m HF. We foiled the perpetrators while making loads of 40 m QSO's.

Gud DX and CU on the bands.

73,

Rick, W2RW

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago

By Ed Gable K2MP

October 1978: The October program was a presentation on the new PASS system, or *Personal Alarm Security System*, developed by Harris RF Communications and designed for use by senior citizens to call for help or to report problems. Also highlighted in this issue was a nice article by Dwight Hill, K2KWK, describing the closing of the Canandaigua FCC Monitoring station which ran day and night for 18 years. President Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, writing for *The President's Corner*, thanked all of the over 200 members in attendance at the successful September meeting. Writing then for the Rochester VHF group was Rich Place, WB2JLR, who welcomed James Walker to the VHF Group meeting who spoke on ATV. Rich also announced that the Transverter Project was under way and would continue right up to contest time. (Year was not mentioned - Ed) Another new guest writer was a young and energetic lad who really got bitten by the DX bug early in his ham career. Bob Roberts, WA2QAU, wrote a full page on DX happenings and QSLing hints. The well known and very popular Larry Triggs, W2YBK, became a Silent Key. Larry was the former Editor of the RaRa Rag and was active in CD work and was on the Board of Directors of the Antique Wireless Association. From the Want Ads you could buy a Hallicrafters SR-46A transceiver from Florence Kirkbright, WB2QXB. The full page advertising war continues between *JR's* on Lake Avenue and *Amateur Radio of Rochester* on Scottsville Road.

General Otis School to have Ham Class

by Keith, N2BEL

One Rochester's Elementary Schools will have it's first ever Ham class for sixth graders. The class, Sponsored by Rochester Amateur Radio Association and the City School District, will have four to six students initially as an inception project. "Success here can mean the addition of many more well trained young people to the ranks of amateur radio." Says Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, the projects coordinating instructor.

Classes will be purposely short with lots of hands-on experience in the principles of radio. The project's students will be individually selected from all applicants by Janis Jensen, Vice Principal of General Otis School. The time and class space will be donated by the City School District as well as oversight of the entire project.

Guest Instructors and class trips to communications facilities are needed. Do you work in the communications field? Do you know of a "neat" class trip subject. Would your boss give you an hour to do public relations work with your companies' future employees? Do you just have a great idea? Well, don't keep it to yourself Give Keith a call at 45-8246. Call Now!

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would keep us in the forefront of everyone's minds. It is a poor commentary to our service when a club with 700 plus members can't get 10 or 15 (and is almost always the same 10 or 15 people) to help with 30 or so requests for service events a year. Worse than that there are over 3500 hams in the local area to try and draw that 10 or 15 people from with little success. You think about just that alone and you can see that there is a serious problem in this area. Also, many people have a lot of talent to stay up with technology. If they worked in public service as a volunteer and learned the needs of others it would bring out the creativity in many people.

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

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

or

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

Saturday Oct 17, 1998

Registration - 8:30AM

Testing - 9:00AM

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DX with David

By David Selbert, KA2BOK

In January of 1990 I was listening on the 10-meter band. The signals were good. I heard a "SP" station calling "CQ" and listened to see if it was a Prefix that I might not have. It was a new one for me and I answered his call. On that day there was a experience that has given me many memories. The station I worked was SP9EML. We exchanged cards and that started our friendship.

With the change in the political situation in Central and Eastern Europe at that time, I was eager to learn of how it was going to work out with the market economy in Poland. We began to write letters about life for each of us.

Mit Krezel, SP9EML, informed me that his city of Bielsko-Biala had a population of about 200,000 people. He stated that he was married with a son and daughter. He was trained in electronics and in the telephone industries and had been a ham for many years.

We sent token items of our culture and of our daily life. I have a weakness for Polish candies so there are packages arriving with regularity. I would send "Aqua-Fresh" toothpaste for his two children. Mit stated that they went from very little brushing to brushing three to four times a day. They would show their friends and they would bring their tooth brushes to his apartment to use the tooth paste. The dentists in Bielsko lost some of their cavity business after that. At that time most of the toothpastes available were only white. Mit informed me that NIFKI was coming to see him that summer. It would be his first american guest. I called Mike, NIFKI and asked if he would let me know about his experience in Bielsko, when he came back. He informed me later that he and his XYL had a wonderful trip and vacation.

It was at that time I decided that my XYL and I would visit Southern Poland. I asked SP9EML if he would like another visitor for 1991. He said that he would. We also experienced a warm family and visited with many hams in the Krakow and Bielsko region. It is quite a venture to travel in a Polski Fiat that is about two thirds the size of a Volkswagen. We spent ten days there and six days in "HA" land.

In 1992 W9PAO Roy, also wanted to meet the person who he had many QSO's with. He too had the same experience that Mike and I had. We shared our experiences in several phone conversations and felt that we would like to offer Mit the opportunity to come to the states. Needless to say he took our offer.

(To be continued)

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