



# the RARR RAG

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**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

VOL. 51

NOVEMBER 1998

NO. 3

## ANNUAL AUCTION - NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

by Bob Moore, N2USB

Our November meeting will be the annual RARA auction which presents a great opportunity to get that elusive and inexpensive piece or pieces of equipment you have been looking for. Or if the shoe is on the other foot it will be a great opportunity for you to divest yourself of that great "pre-owned" piece of equipment that has become surplus in your shack. So either way, whether you are a buyer, a seller, or both this month's meeting may present to you the opportunity to be a satisfied member.

This year as in the past you will have two extremely knowledgeable and entertaining auctioneers Dick Goslee, K2VCZ and Ed Gabel, K2MP as well as an expert audio engineer Brad Allen, KB2CHY at the amplifier controls. These fine Amateurs will amaze you with their knowledge of the equipment they are selling or at least their ability to make up some very believable story about the item up for sale. Don't let the levity and fun of the auction in any way overshadow the fact that these guys really know the ins and outs of radio equipment. If you have questions about a piece of equipment ask these guys before the auction begins.

Doors will open at 7:00 PM. Sellers come early to set up your equipment on the tables. Buyers come anytime between 7:00 and 8:00 PM to preview the selections and plan your buying strategies. There will be no regular business meeting this month so the auction starts promptly at 8:00 PM. Here are a few simple rules to follow that will speed up the pace of the auction and ensure that everyone is treated fairly.

1. RaRa assesses a fee of 10% on each sale.
2. The fee is paid by the seller from the proceeds of the sale.
3. The seller must come forward to the Treasures table as soon as the item is declared SOLD! By the auctioneer.
4. You must be a RaRa member to gain admittance to the auction. Our membership chairman will be

happy to accept your renewal on the night of the auction. Each paid up member may bring one guest to the auction.

5. Please respect the auction protocol NO PARKING LOT SALES or SALES PRIOR TO THE START OF THE AUCTION. This event is a benefit the club and important fund raiser for paying the bills.

6. Doors will open at 7:00 PM for equipment and browses so bring your goodies to the auction and let Ed and Dick extract the highest bid for your treasures.

See you at the auction.

### **RaRa MEETING**

**Nov. 6, 1998**

**8:00 P.M.**

Henrietta Fire Hall  
3129 East Henrietta Road  
**ANNUAL AUCTION**

### **RaRa Hotline**

**(716) 442-0587**

24 hours a day

### **SILENT KEY**

**Carl N. Guildenschuh,**

**KA2IXV**

September 18, 1998

# the RARA RAG

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## The Prez Sez...

by Rick Wells, W2RW, President RARA

It seems hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away. Where does the Fall go? What a beautiful time of year this is. It has been great to finish up those last minute antenna projects before contest season gets underway and the WX turns for the worse. I'm not one of those who believe that the antenna installed in sub-freezing weather works better. Lately, I've had the opportunity to do some tower work for myself and others. It's been fun. It is just another one of the many enjoyable aspects of the hobby. Hope your antenna farm is all set and ready to go for the Winter.

Speaking of which, as soon as you get home from the **Auction** Friday night (November 6<sup>th</sup>), get that HF radio fired up and fill in those log sheets by participating in the ARRL November Sweepstakes. The first weekend in November is always CW, followed by the phone portion on the third weekend. Sweepstakes is an interesting and challenging contest because of the rather different and lengthy exchange of information. Lots of fun!

Well, this is a great hobby, wouldn't you say? And inexpensive too. What, you don't agree? How much did you just pay for that stop at the fast food restaurant? You could have just paid your RARA dues. (What a bargain!) And how much did that round of golf just cost? You could have paid your annual ARRL dues with that. (Another bargain - all those people running around in Washington and WRC meetings fighting for our frequencies.) Not to pick on golfers, but how much do those new titanium drivers cost? You could take that much to the **Annual Auction** and walk away the proud owner of a new rig. I must say that last year's **Auction** will be hard to top. There were several fine pieces of very serviceable equipment sold for very reasonable prices. I was impressed. The **Auction** is just one of many places to look for gear. *Amateur Radio Trader* always has lots of stuff. The fine-print ads in QST are now on-line at the League's web site. My favorite is the Georgia 40 m Trader's Net that meets each Sunday morning on 7275 kHz at 0930 hrs local time. Belonging to RARA affords everyone a great network of contacts for equipment as does the Monroe county FM net on the local repeaters. My point, relative to other pastime endeavors is that ham radio is pretty affordable.

While I'm on the bandwagon, what other hobby has a long line of volunteers, just waiting to help you? Consider volunteer teachers and examiners who make it relatively painless to obtain your license (yes, I know, you still have to study...).

Many amateurs volunteer to hold ARRL Field Organization appointments like Technical Specialist and Official Observer, just to help you. Assuming you're a League member, you can also call HQ for help with a problem. Don't forget those bulletin stations and net control stations that host those respective activities. OK, here's the sum of it. If you're a new or prospective ham and need help, ask, or ask who to ask. If you're an old timer with years of experience under your belt, I hope your name is on the list, somewhere, of those many individuals that have made the commitment to help. There's a lot more to Amateur Radio than just operating on the air. Camaraderie and friendship, with local or DX hams makes this hobby unequalled.

73,  
Rick, W2RW

## THANK YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their recent donations to RARA while they were paying their dues for 1999. Donations were received from: Paul Hogan, Peter Wolak, Jack Tripp, Barry Blake, Ralph Baxendale, Jesse Stevens, Richard Schott, Richard LaChance, Jonathan Arney, Harvey Samuels, Daniel Quatro, Don Peters and Arthur Boone.

If anyone else would like to make a "TAX DEDUCTIBLE" donation to RARA just check the appropriate box on your membership renewal and indicate the amount you are sending. If you have already paid your 1999 dues and would now like to make a donation you can send it to P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333.

Again many thanks, RARA appreciates your support.

## RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago

By Ed Gable K2MP

November 1978: A front page spread congratulates repeater station WR2AEI on it's tenth anniversary of providing excellent service to the Monroe County area. Started by Charlie Mills, K2LDU, and always operating on 146.28/88, the repeater was eventually purchased and then operated by the Rochester Radio Repeater Association. RaRa VP Alan Komenski, AC2K, writing as program chairman welcomed all to the annual Auction where he and Ed Gable, K2MP, will sell the goodies. A new RaRa Public Relations Director was named by President Len Gessin, WA2ZNC. Aply taking the position was Jim O'Brien, K2UDP, who had generated much related experience as Director of the Retail Merchants Department of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce. Membership chairman Bob Erskin, W2NVZ, reported that membership stood at 887. Local Hams will depart early in November on a mini-DXpedition to ZB2 land, better known as Gibraltar to you non-DX'ers. Russ McKay, WA2CBU, and Irv Goodman, AF2K, are the radio minded travelers. Their ZB2 calls will be issued upon arrival on the Island. Bill Gillette, WB2KIW, writing for the Rochester VHF Group reported that their meeting topic will be on OSCAR satellites and will be given by Bob Crumrine, WB2DNN and Gerry Gietbohl, K2VFR. The full page Ad war continues with *JR's* of Lake Avenue and *Amateur Radio of Rochester* on Scottsville Road. *JR's* wins the innovation award with their ad for the month. They issued a check the box type Christmas Wish list with instructions to check off what you wanted and leave the list lying around where the XYL could find it.

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# RagChew

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

The RaRa Board of Directors have been placing a lot of attention on programs to help get youth interested in amateur radio. Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, RaRa's Public Relations officer, has been doing a lot of work on two programs. One being the General Otis School program (if you have not yet done so read his column in last months *Rag*). The other is a committee, made up of board members, dealing with the ARRL's "Radio Coaches", a part of the national "America's Promise to Youth" program. Both of these are excellent endeavors, as youth must be brought into our hobby at a young age. If we don't get their interest early they will become involved in other things in high school, college, families and careers. This means they won't be back around to Ham Radio until they are in their thirty's or forty's. It is not bad for them to get their license at that time in their lives, but it still keeps the average age of the hams tilted toward the upper end of the scale. Keith, Amateur Radio has its hat off to you and I hope that a lot of people jump on the band wagon to help you out.

Is this enough? No!!! What is going on in RaRa to keep everyone interested and involved once they get their license and become members? If you say not much you may feel like some others of us. But if that is the case what is going to keep any new members coming out to meetings and other activities? Once again the answer is not much. That in itself is a major problem. In last months *Rag* the article "*RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago*" pointed out that there were over 200 members in attendance at the October 1978 meeting. It didn't say how many club members there were in total but it wasn't many more than we have today if that. It was about 15 years ago that we hit the 900 plus mark and were going for 1000 members but instead it has been going steadily down hill. Today RaRa is now at around 725 or so members. Past Rochester Hamfest Banquets had upwards of over a thousand people attend and today it is more like 100 to 150. Why are these things happening? The only assumption that can be drawn is RaRa is not offering its members (the heart of the club) what they want. Assumptions are not always good to make, but at least it is food for thought.

What is it that you the members want? It is time to hear from you folks. You need to stand up and tell your board members what it is they are doing wrong or not doing at all. Too many activities have fallen through the cracks over the last few years like the camping trips, Valentine's dinner dance, winter picnic, and field day outings. This has happened, again, because attendance at these events was

down. There must be something you would like to see the board replace them with. Each of you should stop and think about why you don't come out the meetings on the first Friday of the month. We have a much nicer meeting room than in the past but it seems like each month fewer members show up. It is time to tell your elected officers why. You will be able to tell if your elected officials are listening to you or not as the minutes to all board meetings will be posted on the website, once they are approved. Read them and make comments to your officers.

The November meeting is the annual auction. This would be a good meeting to come out and have a good time and meet old friends and make new ones. Remember that Ham Radio is a hobby and should be fun. Lets make it fun so we can all have a good time. See you at the auction.

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## IS THIS YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE RAG?

By Alex Piccirilli, NV2Y

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. 98 your dues have not yet been received for the year 1998-1999, 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.

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# REFLECTIONS

## New Ticket, Old Gear: Relearning the Basics

By Bill Hopkins AA2YV

As I was turning the corner to 50, I noticed life was really catching up with me. The bills weren't any easier to pay; matter of fact, the three harmonics were variously through with college, in college and approaching same. Any catching up I was to do would have to have a bargain basement price tag, something not even an xyl would notice in the budget.

I knew I would have to rely on the truism that old age and cunning would beat youth and vigor. In my case at this age I had no choice, so I decided to return to my old sedentary habit: sitting in front of a hand key or bug to talk about the weather or solar flux. It also led me to multiple Elmers, beginning with Bruce Kelley (W2ICE/SK) and the AWA gang. I have finally come back to ham radio and to hamfest flea markets.

At the RARA Saturday testing session four or so years ago, Stan Avery (WM3D) gave me my 20wpm and George Platteter (AA2FO) & Co., scored the General Class answer sheet. I was to receive the call KB2TQF. It resembled my old call back in Seattle (K7NPF) only in the last letter. It was George's off-the-cuff remark that made me go right back to the books for the Advanced and Extra, when he said, You better hurry up before they run out of those neat AA2 calls!

Now I had to look for an honorable rig that wouldn't make my X generation kids laugh me out, so Len Gessin (WA2ZNC) pointed me to Carl Guldenschuh (KA2IXV)(SK) who had a Drake TR4. Now there's a rig, something I'd always wanted. I really could do my childhood over again and finally get the things I never could have then. What a hobby! The kids laughed anyway, but hey, I'm the Dad.

Well, what with the many trips out to the AWA Tuesday Annex work parties (they worked while I asked questions about E over IR), I was able to get some OJT from Manny Pires and the gang. What a group of guys! This is all I needed to try my hand at repairing the unrepairable and salvaging the unloveable.

My first makeover rig was the Hot Water 100 for 35 green stamps at the Rochester Hamfest in 97. It had no tubes, no book and was in pieces; the guy needed gas money back to PA. Well, it took me six months and a photocopy of the manual from Joel Hallas (W1ZR) and I had the rig up and running.

Since that time, I have been on the Heathkit Email reflector and have found an old VTVM to resurrect just for fun (who needs one anyway?), a Cheyenne, a VFO and a Johnson Viking Adventurer. I have added to that lil group a Hammerlund HQ-145A from the RARA spring auction (I couldn't believe you guys didn't bid on it!) and an EICO 720 CW xmtr, the latter for 5 bucks. They're all neatly stowed away in the basement on a metal rack, ready for refurbishing.

What's the fuss and why bother?, you ask. Well, I've just got to make things work. So, with the Eico, I took it all down, threw the chassis into the dishwasher (as with the HW100 xyl doesn't know), while I went out to buy all new little caps and resistors. Now it's up and running in my shack.

My latest acquisition has been the BC-348R military rcvr, which works. It was caked with tobacco crud, so I have taken it apart too, except for the oscillator and the IF's. Went into the bath like all the rest while the xyl was away at her mother's. I have the front panel and case repainted wrinkle black (keeping the little white lettering intact was fun), and am redoing the power supply with new caps. Wish me luck.

My bible in all of this is the ARRL Handbook from 1962 and 1967, two of my prizes from days of old. I figure by the time I build or repair enough to learn E over IR, well, they'll have discovered the sequel to the transistor, the IC and everything in between.

Look for me in the winter on 3590 - that's Kilocycles - at the AWA Old Timer's pre 1929 rig rag. You'll hear my 29 Hartley with a 45-er and my double 12AU7 vacuum tube keyer, hooked up to a slightly (!) reorganized Apple MacIntosh external floppy drive remade into a keyer paddle.

I can still hear Bruce Kelley bellow out to the fellas: Hey guys, he's building things with tubes, can you believe it (smile)? Thanks for the help Bruce.

*"Reflections", is a new column created to give members a chance to share with others an interesting experience in their pursuit of ham radio. Each of us has had, no doubt such an experience, either in the distant or recent past. Be it something that happened to you or someone else. Please let us know about it. You do not have to be a writer.--Ed.*

## QRZed w/ ALEX, NV2Y

In reply to my QRZed blurb about dueling for oldest amateur radio operator in RaRa, (September RaRaRag) I received a QSL card from William H. DeWitt, W2DD, of 2112 Turk Hill Road, in Fairport, NY.

Bill, I'm very pleased to have received your reply to my tongue in cheek ribbing between two old timers. Hope you don't mind, but I would like to share your QSL with the membership. After all, you are the cornerstone of the local Amateur Radio Community.

NV2Y de W2DD

Sept. 5, 1998

Re: Your QRZ

Hi Alex-

*I think I'm a good candidate for oldest club member. I am 89 years old as of June 29, 1998 and licensed for 75 years. Original call 8BRD- Mar 1993.*

*Sax Ringler (W2SAW) is older than I am but I don't think he is presently a club member. He has sold all his ham gear (living in retirement complex). Sad!*

Regards

Bill DD

Bill, you are to be congratulated as the oldest and longest RaRa Amateur Radio Operator. May you have many more good years on the air.

I would like to ask every member of RaRa to join me and send a QSL card to both Bill and Sax Ringler. Unfortunately, I am unable to find an address for Sax. Should anyone have his address please pass it on to me as I can show it here on some latter date.

Bill, over the years as an amateur radio operator I am sure you have experienced and seen some joyous, exciting and sad events.

Write me a note at your leisure so we can get some history of your 75 years in radio.

Let us hear from you, A note now and then will do. Thanks again for returning my contact.

W2DD de NV2Y Clear

land. Now I would like to tell you the rest of the story.

In 1993 Mit, SP9EML, came to spend one month in the United States. He spent five days with NIFKI, Michael, in the Rhode Island area and related some interesting thoughts.

Mit, experienced his first American baseball game at Fenway Park. He said the hotdogs were great, the beer was great, but he wasn't sure how the game was played. He took clues from others when to cheer and when to boo. I guess he could adapt well here in the United States.

Michael, NIFKI, then brought Mit to the Rochester area for the 1993 Hamfest. Mit spent sixteen days here in Western New York, an experience he had wanted to have for many years. After about twenty-five trips around the flea market I thought we had seen every item that was for sale. I was wrong. We made more trips on Sunday. What I didn't know was Mit had targeted many items I thought were of little value. On Sunday afternoon he purchased about forty kilos of "goodies" which would be shipped back to Poland. He calculated the value of the components he could sell and was correct. The following year a new rig was purchased with the money he made from parts he sold. I guess the market economy works in Poland.

The final part of Mit's trip was spent in the Indiana area. Roy, W9APO, introduced Mit to the city of Chicago and to hams in the midwest area. The beer and food was made readily available at many parties over an eight day period. Mit went back to Poland a little heavier.

DX opens the way for meeting people around the world. With each QSO there is a story. Yes, there is a sharing of a hobby, but there is also a building of a friendship with people of other cultures and languages.

One note I will share with the readers. If you extend an invitation to a ham of Central Europe or Eastern Europe, they usually do not come with any health insurance. You must see that either you or the ham has made necessary arrangements for these needs. Hams from Western Europe generally are covered for this need.

Next month we will be talking about- "DXing WITH HARMONICS". Interested?- Stay Tuned

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## DX with DAVID

By David Selbert, KA2BOK

Greetings- all you DXers, would be DXers, and all others. You may recall from last months column of the friendship which developed as a result of a radio contact with a fellow ham, SP9EML, from SP

RaRa Rag 6

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## RAG SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

When submitting articles to the Rag, please try to follow a few simple rules. This will make life much easier for the editor, and will expedite the inclusion of your article in the Rag

Rag articles can usually be submitted up to the Wednesday following the regular meeting. Please do not submit an article more than 30 days prior to the meeting date you want your article to appear. Submission can take several forms, of which hand written is the least desirable. Articles can be submitted as a typed sheet, by fax, on an IBM/PC compatible disk, or by E-Mail over the Internet

If you are typing an article on paper, please don't use small type (10-12 pt is fine), make sure the print is not too light, don't double space the lines. If you are sending an article by disk or by modem, if your word processor will let you, only hit carriage return at the end of each paragraph, don't double space, don't indent the first word of a paragraph.

You can E-mail me an article over the internet at the address: [aa2fo@rpa.net](mailto:aa2fo@rpa.net) or to [goslee@frontiernet.net](mailto:goslee@frontiernet.net). If you wish to fax, or upload an article over the phone, please call Dick at 334-1762, to arrange a transfer at a convenient time.

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## RARA Adopts Radio Coaches Program

In a vote of confidence in the potential of America's youth the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (RARA) voted to join the American Radio Relay League's Radio Coaches Program. The Radio Coaches Program is an outgrowth of 'America's Promise, The Alliance for Youth' initiated by General Colin Powell.

RARA has already successfully recruited from its ranks seven Radio Coaches; Keith Freeberg - N2BEL, Joe Walker III - KA8WJH, Laurel Wells - KB2YWM, Jennifer Wells - N2ZWF, Peter Fournia - W2SKY, Scott Blystone - K9EEE, and Rick Wells - W2RW. Keith Freeberg, Radio Coaches chairperson, was quoted as saying, "We are actively seeking a public school to work with and have received very positive reactions from the first two we have contacted."

Meetings with school administrators and lead science teachers are next on the Radio Coaches Team agenda. "Our focus", said Keith Freeberg, "is to work cooperatively with teachers to augment class activities and expand the awareness of basic electronics, radio theory, and the career opportunities that are available to people with this knowledge." A recent conversation with Mr. Ralph Shade, Rochester Science Teacher of the Year, show our premise is not only welcomed but right on target with its 'hands-on' focus for young people.

More information on the Radio Coaches Program can be found on the Internet at <http://www.arrl.org/field/club/rcoaches/> or by

calling the American Radio Relay League at 860-594-0355. More information about the progress of the local program can be found on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. web site at <http://www.ggw.org/rara/> or by calling RARA at 716-442-0587. This web site also lists the association's regular activities such as monthly presentation topics, classes and license examination sites and times.

Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. is a 700 plus member organization with five affiliated or associated clubs in the Rochester - Monroe County area. RARA has been an institution in the area for over sixty years and regularly provides volunteers for community related public service events, classes and more.

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### FOR SALE:

ICOM IC-725 HF All Band Transceiver, \$729 new, asking \$450.

Timewave Digital Signal Processor, DSP-9, \$169 new, asking \$85.

Vibroplex Brass Racer-Iambic Keyer, #EK-1, \$129.95 new, asking \$75. Dust Cover and Travel Case for Keyer, \$51.90 new, asking \$25.00 - (Keyer, Cover & Case \$90.00 pkg.). This equipment was purchased new in 1992, has been used very little and is in mint condition. No reasonable offer refused. ALSO: Heath 5" Oscilloscope \$25.00, Kenwood Phone Patch \$35.00.

Call Bill White, K2KAD, 671-5588.

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### FOR SALE:

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

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# Amateur Radio Operators (Hams) Drive for Diabetes

By Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

It was cool crisp Sunday morning; the kind you'd rather pull the blankets up a bit and continue to nap but 15 Hams answered the call in the morning gloom. Back in June when the American Diabetes Association 'America's Walk for Diabetes' organizing committee was putting together the schedule for a nearly 600 person 6.7 mile walk around the Park Avenue area they new that the 5:00 A.M. alarm was going to stir them from their sleep way too early that morning. Our stalwart Hams had no idea they would be getting up early that morning to be the eyes and ears of public safety that crisp morning.

As the organizing committee made the coffee and sliced the bagels, dedicated and caring Hams; Kevin Reynolds N2RLY, Bob Moore N2USB, Judy Stonehill N2KXS, George Shapow NY2O, Bob Smith N2YRJ, Joe Walker III KA8WJH, Wynona Walker N2UEE, Al Bowers N2JSZ, Roger Harnaart WB2BWQ, Charlie Escriva KB2SOZ, Gil Chapin WB2UTI, Aaron Mack KC2DQQ, Ed Mack KC2DRG, Lloyd Caves WB2EFU and Keith Freeberg N2BEL were making their way to Cobbs Hill Park. The accomplishments in those few hours after the sun rose in the city of Rochester were many. Some drove their cars to act as 'Toe Trucks' for those walkers, some perhaps ravaged with the mind numbing pain that advancing diabetes can bring, who needed to be brought back to the finish line. Others pitched in at Rest Stops designed to allow participants to refresh themselves and check the glucose level of their blood to avoid the severe reactions when insulin levels are too high or too low. Still others helped those; unfamiliar with the neighborhoods they walked through, negotiate the route from Cobbs Hill to downtown and back safely.

My heart-felt thanks go out to those men and women, your friends and neighbors, who so unselfishly gave of their time to help others! At the end of the day, it was a job well done. An accomplishment achieved at the price of getting up a little early once a year and spending part of your day to help others. These hours are so very valuable and so very necessary for worthy causes like this one. Each of these fifteen Hams has helped to raise awareness of the good works of amateur radio, thank you.

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## RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

**Novice - Tech - Tech Plus  
General - Advanced - Extra  
or  
Whatever Elements you need  
to complete a license class.**

**Saturday Nov 21, 1998  
Registration - 8:30AM  
Testing - 9:00AM**

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

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## Good-bye to an old Friend

Amateurs can say good-bye to the FCC Form 610 series in a few months. The FCC has adopted its long-proposed Universal Licensing System, which replaces Form 610 with a new, electronic Form 605, the Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services. Applicants may continue to use the old forms for six months after the new rules go into effect, however.

The FCC also adopted proposals to permit automatic reciprocal licensing of foreign hams wishing to operate in the US, pursuant to recent international reciprocal operating agreements.

The FCC said the ULS will "fundamentally change" the way the Commission receives and processes wireless applications and makes licensee information available to the public. The rules adopted September 17 will--in the FCC's words--"consolidate, revise, and streamline" license application procedures for radio services under the

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Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The FCC last November began initial collection of licensee data to populate the ULS. Using the ULS, applicants and licensees will be able to file, modify, and renew electronically. Access to the ULS is via <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/>.

When the FCC first aired its ULS plan, some licensees expressed concerns because ULS registration would require applicants to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number, typically a Social Security Number. In its public notice, the FCC assured that "all TIN information will be kept confidential."

The FCC's action consolidates 40 existing forms into four ULS application forms, including the new Form 605. Electronic filing in the ULS will not yet be mandatory for individual amateurs. Hams will have the option of filing electronically or on paper. However, electronic filing via the ULS will be required for Volunteer Examiner Coordinators in the Amateur Service. Mandatory electronic filing requirements go into effect July 1, 1999 or six months after the use of ULS in a particular service--whichever is later.

An official Report and Order detailing the FCC's actions is expected to be released soon. The FCC's Public Notice is available on the FCC Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/News/Releases/1998/nrwl8040.html>.

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## SPECTRUM PROTECTION BILL

It appears certain that action in Congress on HR-3572-better known as the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998, will be postponed at least until next year, when a new Congress will be in place. Even so, the ARRL and League members have continued to press for consideration of the measure during the current session. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Michael Bilirakis of Florida, has garnered 74 cosponsors.

New additions to the list of cosponsors for HR 3572 include Representatives Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii, Carolyn Kilpatrick of Michigan, Carolyn McCarthy of New York, Sam Farr of California, Cwen Pickett of Virginia, Charles Stenhold and Gene Green of Texas, and Rod Blagojevich of Illinois.

For a full review of the bill along with a sample letter to Congress, see "DC Currents," QST, June 1998.

*tnx-ARRL Letter, Steve Mansfeid~ NIMZA*

## SHUTTLE STS-95 FLIGHT

As you probably have read, the upcoming flight will not carry Space Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX), but it will be carrying two hams: U.S. Astronaut Scott Parazynski, KC5RSY, and European Space Agency Astronaut Pedro Deque, KC5RGG, of Spain.

This is the flight that will carry U.S. Senator and Astronaut John Glenn. Renowned former TV Newsman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, will be back in the anchor chair for the historic flight. Cronkite, who is 81, anchored Glenn's original 1962 space mission and he will be joining the anchor desk for the October 29th Space Mission. The landing will also be covered.

The coverage will include Glenn's nine day mission aboard the space shuttle Discovery. In the events leading up to the launch, on October 28th, on the TODAY SHOW, Roy Neal, K6DUE and Tom Miller, K4IC, will be taking part in the news coverage. You probably will remember Roy was responsible for several ARRL promotional videos. He is a retired NBC West Coast TV anchor newsman. Tom Miller is a retired Marine Corp Lt. General, and was a test pilot who helped obtain the Harrier Jet approval for the Marine Corps. Tom and John Glenn were both in the Marines at the same time and neighbors for a while. This allowed them to be great friends over the years. They will be promoting the U.S. Marine Corps. Both will be on the newscast the morning of the 28th, leading up to the launch date. A female Japanese heart surgeon, on her second flight, will also be a crew member. They will be studying effects of gravity on the cardiovascular system and bones and muscles. So all in all, this flight will probably allow some promoting of amateur radio.

*tnx-Tom, W2GIR, GRAMNEWS*

## SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

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