



the RARA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 51

December 1998

NO. 4

Radios in the Cockpit

by Bob Moore, N2USB

As in the past this December the regular RARA Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Kodak Equipment Division ARC at their facility on Elmgrove Road. In addition to the use of their fine facility they are providing an excellent and well known guest speaker. Thanks to all the "EGL" members and especially Charlie Escriva, KB2OSZ, for setting up this evening.

Our guest speaker for this meeting is Mr. Joe Hood K2YA, a noted instructor who has shared his knowledge of amateur radio with many aspiring Advanced and Extra class candidates. One of Joe's other hobbies is aviation. In addition to being a licensed Amateur, he holds a pilots license to fly small aircraft. With this knowledge as a Amateur and Pilot, Joe plans to present a program on aircraft avionics i.e. all those radios and other electronics in today's aircraft and what they do. This information will include the past, present and maybe a peek into the future. Plan to hear about Loran, ADF, VOR, GPS and many other neat electronic gadgets that you may find in today's small, and maybe not so small aircraft.

The meeting location is easy to find. (See Map on Page 7) Take Elmgrove Road to the large Kodak plant facility on the west side of Elmgrove. If you are coming off of Rt. 531 expressway, turn left and take Elmgrove southbound. The meeting will be held in Building 1. Building 1 is located immediately behind the flag pole off Elmgrove Road. Parking is in the lot to the south of that building. Turn left just before the traffic circle/flagpole and parking will be on the right. Entrance to the Building will be the 1S1 door, which is manned by security staff. There should be people along the way to steer everyone in the right direction.

Hope to see everyone there and have a happy holiday season.

Next Rag Deadline
December 9, 1998

RaRa Kodak JOINT MEETING

Dec. 4, 1998

8:00 P.M.

Kodak - Elmgrove Plant
Elmgrove Rd

(See map on Page 7)

Radios in the Cockpit

With Joe Hood, K2YA

Directory Corrections/Updates

By Dick Goslee, K2VCZ
Directory Editor

It's that time of year again. Time to make any last minute changes and updates to the information for the 1999 Amateur Radio Directory. Over the last year I have tried to assemble all the latest information about callsign changes and address corrections as well as getting information on all the new Hams in the area. If you have any information that you think I might not have (check your own information on the label on the front of the envelope your Rag came in) please let me know as soon as possible. You can call me at 334-1762 in the evening or send me an e-mail at goslee@frontiernet.net or via the postal system. If in doubt send me the info. It is better to have it twice, rather than not at all. The deadline is December 30, 1998.

SILENT KEY

William G. Yaeckel,
Ex WB2JTH
November 6, 1998

the RARA RAG

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The Prez Sez...

by Rick Wells, W2RW,
President RARA

The annual auction and the November Sweepstakes are now history. Both had good turnouts and were great fun. Several members picked up some darn good radios for very reasonable prices while the rest of us were entertained by our skilled auctioneers Ed Gable, K2MP, and Dick Goslee, K2VCZ. Thanks guys, you did a great job as usual. November sweepstakes was the usual blast. I multi-oped with Tim, WB2KAO from my station. We generally don't work a whole contest period but for the time we were on, we were very busy and maintained a reasonable rate.

Speaking of contesting, don't forget the ARRL 160 m and 10 m 'tests this month. The 160 m contest is for all you old know-code guys. Don't worry about not having a 240 ft. long dipole if you're on a city lot. Just get up something! A couple of years ago, I just added 60 ft. "down wires" hanging off the ends of my 80/40 trap. Anything you can load will let you make contacts. Tech-Plus licensees, as well as everybody else, can expect to work the world this year on 10. If the solar flux is around 140-150 that weekend, you'll see the best condx in years. Should be a lot of fun. Might even work some new countries.

Say, have you performed your station "routine environmental evaluation" for RF exposure? Yes, that's right. Filing your income tax and all that governmental red tape just wasn't enough. Now, we have to deal with RF safety! There's actually two pieces of good news here. First, you're probably already in compliance. The standards are pretty easy to meet. You may just have to do the evaluation. Second, if you aren't a new licensee, haven't filed any licensing action with the FCC since January 1, 1998 and haven't modified your station like adding an amplifier or 25 element 2 m beam since that time, you can wait until September 1, 2000 to do your evaluation. The bad news (sort of) is that your average Tech-Plus, with a new license and lacking much experience, with a 100 watt transceiver operating on 10 m (assuming the operator is using over 50 watts of output), is required to perform the evaluation. To me, this is somewhat of a confusing mess. But in reality, there's a lot of fairly simple tables available, and even some nice PC programs out there to make the job easy. See

<http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety/eval/> as well as the League's publication *RF Exposure and You*. Yup, I have to get busy on this myself. I would encourage any club members that have performed evaluations, or who have expertise in the area, to

share their knowledge and experiences with the rest of us.

That's it for this year! It's hard to believe that the holiday season is just around the corner. Seems like time goes by faster as we get older, or something like that. But things are getting better too, more sun spots, quiet winter conditions, and some time off to spend on the air, but most importantly, time to spend with the XYL, kids and family. I hope your holiday season is filled with the joy of friends, family, good health, and maybe even a new radio. Happy holidays from my family (Ginny, N2YKK, Jennifer, N2ZWF, and Laurie, KB2YWM) to yours.

73,

Rick, W2RW

Fall License Class Report

by Tim Magee, WB2KAO,
License Class Director

We've passed the half-way point in the license class instruction and I am happy to report that my original eleven students are hanging in there. Rick is right on schedule with room to spare and I'm about to teach the numbers and get into QSO formats. Bill tells me that we have four students in General theory and that Mary Kay has earned her General license. Art has one student in General CW and Norm, WB2LQB, advises me he and Alexander are proceeding well in Advanced theory. License class testing is still scheduled for December 14th and registration for the Spring semester will occur in mid February.

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We need a few capable people to assemble pc boards at home in their spare time. Would also be ideal in-home, part-time job for the wife of experienced ham willing to train and supervise. Must be able to do professional quality soldering and build from kit manuals and layout diagrams. Requires following exacting details and ability to accurately check finished product

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RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago

By Ed Gable K2MP

December 1978: Reported in this issue was the request for communications assistance by the *Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee* for the 1980 Winter Olympics. Brian Fovel, W2PBJ, of Pittsford, is heading up a RaRa team to help out. Speaking at the December meeting were Irv Goodman, AF2K (ZB2EN), and Russ McKay, WA2CBU (ZB2EM), who just returned from their Dxpedition to Gibraltar. This was also a joint meeting with the Kodak Park ARC and was held at the Kodak Recreation Center. Russ, WA2CBU, also made news regarding the initiation code practice transmissions via the Livingston Amateur Radio Society's WR2AFF repeater. Unique to this effort was that fact that the code was computer generated and self testing could be accomplished by writing for answer sheets and text. RaRa membership at this time was 691. A long article by DX Editor Bob Roberts; WA2QAU, included an interview with Bob Dray, ZD7PV, on St. Helena Island. The interesting interview was done on-the-air, probably much to the dismay of other DX'ers waiting for their turn at a ZD7. A new repeater was reported to be on-the-air in the Rochester area signing WR2APD on 147.78/18. This is a privately owned repeater by Craig Stolze, WB2AQQ, but is open to all. Featured is an open auto-patch with local calling only. WR2APD is part of the *Gridd Radio Network*. Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB, reporting for the RaRa Board, writes that the RaRa Licensing class has 80 people in the Novice class. Local ham dealers Amateur Radio of Rochester and JR's on Lake Avenue continue their full page ad wars. From the Want Ads you could buy a complete Drake 2C/2NT ham station by contacting N2AGR. N2 ?? Yes, the N2 calls started 20 years ago.

Henrietta Duathlon

By David Payne, KA2J

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association provided communications for this "3.5 mile Run - 11 mile Bike - 1.5 mile Run" individual and team competition on Sunday morning, September 20, 1998. The friendly competition, that started at the Rush-Henrietta High School, drew all ages of bikers and runners.

The event, sponsored by Henrietta Recreation Department and Peddlers Bike Shop, ran smoothly thanks to the efforts of the organizers and our amateur radio communicators Mike McNamara - KB2CHP, Roger Haarnart - WB2BWQ, George Platteter - AA2FO, and Dave Payne - KA2J.

RagChew

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

It is that season again and I am not talking about fall or winter. Actually we are between seasons. The sunny days and summer events such as field day, public service events, antenna repairs or installations, and hamfests have ended for this year. The club meetings are now in full swing for this season. So what does that leave us? Time to relax and enjoy the holiday season that is upon us. This doesn't mean that you are going to be able to, or should want to for that matter, get away from ham radio. This is also the time to settle down at the rig and work your favorite contest (remember that the January VHF Contest is still ahead of us), DX station or just rag chew with some of the other hams around the world.

While the ARRL is working to keep Amateur Radio alive around the world and maintain the frequencies that we are allowed we should all be taking this time to see how we can better our local area relationships with each other. Rochester has a large contingent of amateur radio operators and RARA is one of the largest clubs in the Northeast for this reason. However, RARA cannot be everything to everybody. That is why there are clubs in the Rochester area that are dedicated to a specific facet of our hobby such as VHF, Repeaters, Packet, and DX. This is very much needed, however, everyone must keep in mind that all these clubs need to work together for the sake of the ham community at large. This is something that over the years has been forgotten in many areas and cities and has caused a lot of dissension among the troops. We want to be sure that this doesn't happen in the Rochester area. It is because of this working together that we are regarded highly in the eyes of the general public. Use this in between season to think about that and come up with ideas to help hold us together as one and continue to make us different than other cities. That could be an occasional joint meeting of the clubs or a meeting once or twice a year of the different club officers to see how they can help each others organization. Lets hear your ideas.

Use this time, also, to think about working a few public service events next year. Talk to those that do work them and find out which ones you might enjoy. Remember that there is nothing to be afraid of on one of these events. Like Field Day or working a traffic net this is just another form of training in case of an emergency as well as helping another organization hold a safe event. Everyone that is working an event with you is there to help you so that it will be an enjoyable experience.

With that the Board and Officers of RARA would like to wish you a very happy holiday season. Thanksgiving is now behind us so think ham and not turkey.

QRZ'D with Alex, NV2Y

There are three sounds that get my immediate attention on radio. The first, I'm sure you would guess is your/my call letters. The sound of CW is always a challenge. Instinct drives me- "can I copy that"? But the sound I most enjoy hearing is the voice of a YL (young lady, including ex young lady) on frequency. They seem so rare that I have seen a group of guys stopped cold as to what they were doing to listen. Refreshing!

The RaRa directory lists 11% of the membership are YL's. Yes. I know between being a mother, home maker an outside of home worker, shopper, school meetings, checkbook, paying bills, and a host of other duties, why can't she/you sit down and make believe the radio is the backyard fence.

Yes, I know you prefer eye ball qso's. I know the best conversations are when two or more yls are talking at the same time. Won't you share some of that talent on the air

As for me, I am very tired listening to guys talking about their toy- their computers. I'm ready to scream- Get a life! Listen, I know a good number of yls who have lead, are and are planning some interesting lives. Have you visited with Lea, WA2NFY? I've seen yls mushing dog sleds in the frozen Alaskan race, and win. Oh! the stories they can tell if we listen.

Turn on to the various bands. Twirl the knob through the frequencies, the voice of a yl is as scarce as money in the bank.

Ladies, you have so much to give to amateur radio. I know you're going to say my husband and kids don't listen to me, why should anyone care to talk to me on the radio. Ha! It's not the same. Just like a real life guy is scared stiff of a beautiful yl and I guess it might be the same with a yl's ringing voice. But rest assured after a couple of deep breaths he will answer. You might even be answered by another yl who is just listening in.

The question I keep asking is why don't we hear more yl's on the air. Let me tell you, those that you hear are self confident, analytical, reassuring doers. Refreshing.

Ladies, you are by nature communicators. Then why don't we hear you on the air?

Letter to the FCC

The following is a copy of the letter that the Board of Directors sent to the FCC, expressing our opinions on the proposed changes in the Amateur Service Rules. Comments may be sent to the FCC before the end of December and any member wishing to comment may use the following letter as an example of the format to use. If you have any questions please contact one of the officers and we will be happy to help you. An electronic version of the letter is available on the RARA Web Site for you to download.

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of) WT Docket No. 98-143
1998 Biennial Regulatory Review---) RM-9148
Amendment of Part 97 of the) RM-9150
Commission's Amateur) RM-9196
Service Rules)

COMMENTS OF

Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. P.O.
Box 93333, Rochester, New York.

We the Board of Directors for the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. File these comments on November 12, 1998 in the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making WT Docket 98-143.

The Board of Directors would support a reduction in the number of Amateur license classes from six to four provided that any class that would be modified or eliminated would not incur a loss of any existing operating privileges presently held by that license class.

The Board would support a reduction in the code speed requirement currently required for operation on the frequencies below 50 megahertz to the minimum code speed required by current international treaties. We suggest that additional emphasis in the examinations on subjects such as proper operating procedures and practices, radio frequency radiation safety, and digital communications would offset the skill and knowledge that was required by code proficiency.

The board would support the FCC's position that Advanced class operators should be authorized to administer the General class code and theory examinations.

The Board of Directors would support the cessation of issuing Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service station licenses since previous action by the FCC allows any amateur station that has been properly registered with a civil defense organization to act as a RACES station.

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. is a 700 plus member organization with five affiliated or associated clubs in Rochester, New York. RARA has been an institution in the area for sixty seven years and regularly provides volunteers for community related public service events, classes and more. Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. with its membership is the largest Amateur Radio Public Service Club in New York State and the fifth or sixth largest Amateur Radio Public Service Club in the United States. We as the Board of Directors for this organization feel the responsibility and privilege to express our concerns and recommendations on this Proposed Rule Making WT Docket 98-143.

Submitted by:
Richard R. Wells, President
P.O. Box 93333
Rochester, NY 14692-8333
November 12, 1998

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REFLECTIONS

By Allen Pellnat, KX2H

Due to technical difficulties this month (we couldn't read the file on the disk) Allen's article will be delayed until next month.

Winter/Summer Addresses

By Dick Goslee, K2VCZ

Do you spend your Winter in the warmer climate of the South and return to the North for the Summer?? If you do please make sure you let us know what both of your addresses are and when you will be at either of them. This will help out in preparing the mailing labels for the RAG and insure that we are sending it to the correct address. If you don't let us know where you are the post will send your Rag back and only tells us you are "Temporarily Away" and they charge us 32 cents to tell us this.

Also when you let us know in advance what both of your addresses are I can include them both in the Directory so that other Hams will know where to find you at any time of the year

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DX with Dave

By David Selbert, KA2BOK

DXing Harmonics.

Greetings! This month I would like to introduce you to fascinating aspect of DX called "DXing with Harmonics".

There is a small group of Hams and Short Wave Listeners (SWL's) dedicated to listening for signals that are the harmonic of a fundamental frequency. They also must be some of the patient people of the hobby.

As with most signals, that are over a long distance, there are variables which enter into the equation. The frequency of the fundamental signal, season of the year, sensitivity of a receiver and of course the antenna.

What part of the radio spectrum are the Hams and SWL's listening to? For the most part they are listening to the harmonics of the broadcast band here in the United States and to stations in South America which gives the possibility of more signals that may be heard.

If a station is broadcasting at 1400 kcs, you will listen at 2800 kcs to see if there is any harmonics from the station. Some people will try listening for a second harmonic but that is very rare and hard to receive. To make sure the signal is a true harmonic, you listen to the station on 1400 kcs and check signal strength. Then go to the harmonic signal at 2800 kcs and the signal should be less than half of the fundamental frequency. If the signal is nearly the same, then the receiver should be suspect as to its operation.

Like stamp or coin collectors that have rare stamps or coins, those who chase harmonic DX are proud of the signals they have logged. In this hobby of ham radio, I think it is interesting that it

has many pieces to the pie. Harmonic DXing is one of them.

Several years ago, while listening on the twenty meter band, I came across a station from the Moscow region talking to an American ham near New York City. In the course of the conversation the Russian ham asked what was the Americans profession. The NYC ham stated that he was a doctor. From that point on the QSO turned out to be quite interesting.

The Russian ham related his closest friend had an eight year daughter which was dying of cancer. Her condition was deteriorating. He was obviously upset. The American doctor asked a few questions about the child's illness and told the Russian to be on frequency tomorrow. He would see if he could help.

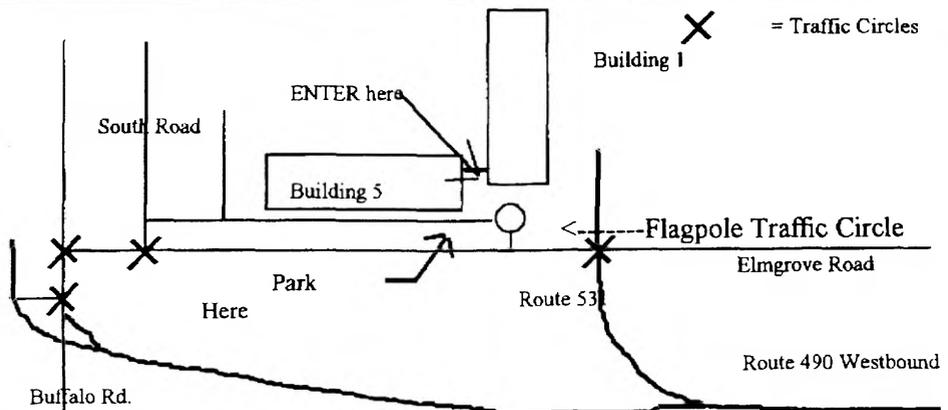
I could not resist to see if there could be any help for the child, so I read the mail again. The doctor said he had consulted with the Oncology Department of a local hospital and learned a certain chemotherapy would be the course for a case like this. The reply was it was not available in Russia. Again the doctor stated, "come to this frequency tomorrow".

Listening for a third time I was able to hear help would be forth coming. The doctor had made arrangements to get medication (wheeled and dealt) and he would get a person to transport it to Moscow within a few days. The mails were not reliable so only a courier could be used for the transportation.

After several years I still wonder if the help was able to eradicate the eight year old girl's cancer. DX has shown me there are people that care and have compassion for others.

See you next month,

Dave



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