



# the RARRA RAG

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NO. 5

## THE WORLD OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

By Bob Moore, N2USB

The January RaRa meeting program will bring us charging into the modern world of digital photography. Fear not, this charge will not be a wild uncontrolled charge but will be a learning experience led by the capable hands of Richard Witkowski, WB2TEQ and Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, both noted experts in the field. Richard and Keith will be explaining the how's and why's of digital photography; the differences in digital cameras, the importance of resolution and quality. The operation of the camera, how to store the image, how to view the image, and how to manipulate them. This will be a great opportunity to increase your knowledge on photography and see high quality samples produced by the hands and cameras of the experts. See you at the meeting and bring a smile.

## SILENT KEYS

**Julio R. Ahumada,**  
**LU7BD**

November 10, 1998

**Houghton T. Stevens**  
**WA2EIJ**

November 27, 1998

**Robert R. Winhaber,**  
**K2HYO**

December 2, 1998

**Cornelius C. Unruh**  
**KS2I**

December 8, 1998

## RaRa MEETING

**January 8, 1999**

**8:00 P.M.**

Monroe County Health & Social Services  
Building

111 Westfall Road

*Digital Photography*

By *WB2TEQ & N2BEL*

## Roch Amateur Packet Society

By Jack Tripp, N2SNL

The January meeting of RAPS will be "Newcomers Night". The meeting will be geared toward those just starting out in packet, anyone who wants to learn about packet and those experienced in packet but want to brush up on it. We plan to have "on-hands" demonstrations of different programs. The famous "RAPS" modems will be available for sale complete with documentation and the "Baycom" software program. The meeting will be Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 P.M. in the main auditorium of the Monroe County Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Rd. So, come on out and start the New Year by learning all about packet radio.

## ASSEMBLERS WANTED

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

**HAMTRONICS, INC.**, Hilton NY. 392-9430.

# the RARA RAG

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## The Prez Sez...

by Rick Wells, W2RW,  
President RARA

1998 is now in the history books. I hope you accomplished what you had planned, maybe did some unexpected things and hopefully had fun along the way. Looking back myself, I put the new yagi to good use during our IE Field Day effort and put some points on the board during this Fall's contest season. Some bureau packs came in, too, so I added some new countries to the list. The less glamorous part of my operating is getting on either the Watertown (NY) repeater or 75 m phone a few times a week with my dad for a quick update or rag chew. Something about this wireless stuff just beats the heck out of the internet, doesn't it?

What's ahead for 1999? First, I am pleased to announce that we are going to be graduating some new hams from our Novice/Tech license class. Class director Tim Magee, WB2KAO, will have a complete rundown next month as soon as the results are published in the FCC database. When these new calls hit the airwaves, remember that these folks are going to be excited...excited to talk to you. So, even if it's business as usual at your end, please make an attempt to speak (or dit dah) with them, calm their nerves and enjoy helping them along the way into ham radio. There is nothing worse than reading the occasional article in *QST* about a new ham that can't find anyone to respond to him/her on the local repeater. I know that doesn't happen here.

Now that Winter is here and you're all settled in for the long haul, getting on the bands, enjoying the quiet wintertime condx and rising solar flux, why don't you brave the roads and come out for the next club meeting? We've got hot coffee, donuts, great guest speakers and plenty of people to have those eyeball QSOs with! You'll probably need to get out of the shack and away from the rig for some exercise, anyway. I should speak for myself! Hey, at least Tim and I go to the 'Y' a few times a week. We actually ran into some other hams there, too.

If you haven't already done so, make plans now for the big show, the **Dayton Hamvention**. If you've never been, you might want to consider it even just this once. I haven't been in a few years and I really miss the occasion. Hotel space is limited (just like the fresh air in the arena when the doors swing open), so make reservations early. And don't worry, you can't bring too much money with you. All the bargains on both new/used gear and pieces-parts are there.

I'll look forward to seeing you at the meetings and on the bands. Have a great 1999. And don't let the millennium bug bite.

# Fall License Class Report

by Tim Magee, WB2KAO,  
License Class Director

The Fall semester of license classes finished on December 7, 1998. The sessions were upbeat and both Rick and I are optimistic that we will have some newly licensed amateurs. Testing will be held on December 14, 1998 and results will appear in next month's Rag.

Registration for Spring license classes will be Monday February 15, 1999. We will be teaching Novice and General code, along with Extra theory from 7-8 PM. Novice/Tech and General theory will be taught from 8-9 PM. We have the same instructors for Novice/Tech and General, and are pleased to add Bill McDonald, KG2F, as our Extra theory instructor.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation for a job well done on the part of the instructors and I appreciate their help in the upcoming Spring semester.

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# RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago

By Ed Gable K2MP

January 1979: RaRa VP and Program Chairman Alan Komenski, AC2K, announced the program to be on traffic handling and given by Don Partis, WA2AIV. Don, who was Director of the Western District Net, an Assistant Director for ARRL Atlantic Division and EC for three Western Counties, is from Batavia. Active VHF'er Mike McHugh, W2AV, wrote on the coming VHF Sweepstakes contest and urges all to participate. "Beat the Packrats" is the battle cry as last year the *Rochester VHF Group* came within 92% of their rival's top score. Membership Chairman Bob Erskin, W2NVZ, reported that last year membership stood at 734 and the current status is 682 with renewals still coming in. The new club station, K2JD, is progressing well under the direction of Ed Holdsworth, N2EH. Ed was looking for carpenters to build consoles at the station site. Dinner-Dance chairman Howie, WA2UEB, reports that this year's event will be at the Airport Holiday Inn. A new repeater joins the Rochester airwaves but this time on 220 MHz. WR2AHL is the call with Mike Rank, WB2HYP, as trustee. VHF Engineering components are used and a 928 foot antenna elevation was utilized in Farmington, NY. An unusual advertisement found WEMOCO Occupational Schools vying for students from the Amateur Radio ranks. And yes, the advertising war continues with yet two more full page ads, this time both with full photographs. From the want ads you could buy a HyGain 2 meter FM rig from John Golden, W2IRG.

## 1999 Rochester Hamfest Programs-

### Part I

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Can you believe this weather? As of this writing the temperatures are in the 50 to 60 degree range. Not bad for the first part of December. Not to put down all you snowmobile enthusiasts and skiers (sorry about that Rich) but I for one love this and it won't hurt my feelings if I don't have to put the plow on the truck this year. We should be so lucky as to have it last until spring and then warm up. By the first weekend in June we want to see the weather in the mid 70's with the sun shining. Why you ask? Because that is the weekend you want marked on your calendar for the Rochester Hamfest/Atlantic Division Conference. That's right, June 4, 5, and 6 of 1999 will be the largest Hamfest in the area and it is right in your back yard. You should all plan on being there for a great time. The flea market will be open all three days as will the new product exhibitors in the Dome.

(Continued on page 4 column-1)

There will be programs for everyone to attend so that you can learn something new or at least be able to keep up with what is taking place in this great hobby of ours.

As in the past few years this article will cover a few of the programs each so that you will know which ones will be of interest to you. This way when the final schedule is out you will be able to schedule your time to get to the programs, hear the speakers and still not miss a thing that is going on at the Hamfest. So here we go with just a few to whet your appetite.

A couple of years ago Harry Dannals, W2HD did a program on the merit of amateur radio and the internet being compatible with each other and the use of I-Phone. This year Rick Sykes, WA2EIV will take this topic to the next level and present a program on how to actually use I-Phone on the internet. More and more hams are doing it and this is a great way to find out how you can set up your computer and start using it right now. He will also touch on how I-Phone and repeaters can be utilized together to get the best enjoyment out of both.

There has been a lot of talk in the last few years about amateur radio not being out in the public eye. A lot of people speak about different ways to get information to the press and hope that some of it gets printed for the public to see what we are doing. But there are other ways to do public relations and get a lot of notice. Greg Young, KE2VW will put on a very interesting program on his public relations effort at the Erie County Fair last year. He will describe his experience and relay how much fun and how successful the venture was.

All ARRL affiliated clubs will be receiving information on the Affiliated Club Conference to be held on Friday Afternoon. Each club will have representatives invited to attend to get the latest information on what is going on with all the clubs in the division and to allow them to keep continuity in their interactions with one another and the league. Everyone should encourage their club officers to attend and then share the information with the rest of your members at a local club meeting. This is the seventh annual ARRL Affiliated Club Conference to be held at the Atlantic Division Conference and will be hosted by your Atlantic Divisions Vice Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN. Bernie will have with him other league officials to help answer any questions and pass on all available information. This is a very important conference for all affiliated club officers.

Next month Part II of this article will bring a brief description of other programs to take place at the Hamfest. For now at least get the dates, June 4, 5, and 6 marked on your calendar.

## RDXA, 50 years with ARRL

By Ed Gable, K2MP



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY “RDXA President Scott Hoag, K2ZS, receives 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award from ARRL Atlantic Division Assistant Director Ed Gable, K2MP” (Photo credit AA2FO)

RaRa recognizes and congratulates the Rochester DX Association and it's members on their fifty years of affiliation with the ARRL. To solidify it's status as a strong and viable organization, it was 50 years ago that the young *Rochester DX Association* decided to become an ARRL affiliated club. That status continued for the next 50 years and the club still enjoys a reputation of being a thoroughly modern and effective organization. The RDXA is proud to support a packet cluster at NG2P, is proud to continuously place well in ARRL and CQ sponsored DX contests, is proud to financially support major DX'peditions, is proud to publish an excellent DX bulletin, and the list goes on. Nice going RDXA here's wishing continued success for the future.

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## QRZed with Alex, NV2Y

Continuing to reply to QRZ about dueling for oldest amateur radio operator in RaRa, I am receiving some heart warming mail and phone calls. What has struck me is the deep concern these old

timers have about old friends. Where are they? What has happened to them? I hope they are alright. And one thing for certain they read the RaRa Rag and feel strongly they are still very digging gave me the address for Sax Ringler W2SAW. Roger Williams W2NES licensed in 1934 came up with Sax's telephone number-716 663-0192. Sax is now residing at a retirement complex. The name of which is Senior Center Penfield, located at, 100 Village Wood Lane 33B, Penfield, NY 14526. Guess the 33B to be the apartment number. His telephone number is 716 218-0017. Sax is 95 years old and still is writing letters. Why don't we send him a QSL card for old times sake.

I am delighted to know and encourage that this column be used for members to keep tract of old friends. This is the place to do it. Send me a note and I will take of the rest. The following are some notes and letters which have been received.

From Chet Selbert WB2ZFS, who is 90 years old. His hand writing is still solid. Chet writes, "I am now residing at the Hilton East Adult Home. No longer use the ham gear, but my son David WB2BOK has all he may ever need. "The 6 Meter Net I was on for years, I also taught code, etc., sure miss the old key, etc. but thank God I have 3 wonderful children. 73". Chets address is: Hilton East Home Care, 231 East Ave. Hilton, NY 14468, telephone number 716 392-1118.

Received the following letter and QSL card from Charles M Brelsford K2WW, 2625 E. Southern Ave. #89, Tempe, AZ 85282. "In reading the Rag I was pleased to read about my old friend Bill DeWitt. He and I started as hams about the same time. My first amateur operator license (it was issued separately in those days was dated December 3, 1923, and was living in Cleveland, OH at the time. The call was 8BMU. I too, have enjoyed 75 years of ham radio and am now 91 years old. Moved to Arizona from Rochester eleven years ago. Joined RaRa in 1939 when I moved to Rochester. My call then was W8IZK, which became W2CTA, then K2WW. Presently I am actively on the air and maintain weekly schedules with my son, K2DI, in New Jersey. Also do some rag chewing and DXing, usually on 15, 17, and 20 meters, CW. Have kept up my historical interest in the AWA and the Arizona Historical Radio Club. Now and then I have a fine QSO with Alan Kominsky, AC2K, in Washington. He also was a former president of RaRa. Keep up the good work with the club membership. Will be following the activities in the Rag. 73' Chuck~"

Recently had a call from Leland Zwack W2WPF, also known as Lea's husband. Lee celebrated his

90th birthday on November 6th. and proud of the fact he has been in amateur radio for 50 years.

Carry on. Keep the QSL's coming and if space permits, I will share them with you. It's time for me to acknowledge the two fellows who started this duel back in Sept. '98. It is about time I answered them. This is taken from their membership application-Davis S. Melman KA2UBJ, retired age, 88 years young. Ex-W8TM circa 1939. And the second from Patrick J. Hoke, Sr. W2DN. "Please let me know if I am the oldest member, 85 yrs old".

There you have it.

## Ways To Be Annoying

Specify that your drive through order is "to go".

Learn Morse code, and have conversations with friends in public consisting entirely of "Beeeeeep Bip Bip Beeeeeep Bip..."

Leave the copy machine set to reduce 200%,extra dark, 17 inch paper, 99 copies.

QRZed

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## REFLECTIONS

By Allan Pellnat, KX2H

Reading Dave Selbert's two part article about his friendship with Mit, SP9EML, prompts me to relate my story of ham friendship with another Pole.

My father came to the United States in 1923 as an immigrant. He was born in what was then known as East Prussia in a small town on the banks of the Vistula River called Elbing just a few miles upstream from the North Sea.

The Second World War and international politics merged East Prussia into Poland and changed the German name of Elbing to Polish Elblag.

When I returned to ham radio in the late seventies and began regularly working DX I kept my ear tuned for stations with an SP2 prefix hoping to get a QSO with my father's old home town. In 1986 I finally succeeded in working SP2ZFJ the "Elblag Scouts DX Club" station operated that day by Jurek Szarko, SP2ASJ. The conditions were not great and the copy was tough going but we managed the usual minimal exchange.

I sent my QSL card direct to the club station address along with a note saying that my father had been born in Elblag and that I would greatly appreciate a QSL card from there. I included a self addressed envelope and two IRCs.

(Continued on page 7, column-2)



CQ, CQ, CQ de W2AN

## 1923 DX QSO Celebration a Success

by Ed Gable k2mp/w2an

As reported in the last *AWA Old Timer's Bulletin*, the Antique Wireless Association planned an on-the-air celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first amateur two-way transatlantic QSO. The celebration, taking place on the Friday after Thanksgiving, was a great success. Using an exact replica of the 1923 transmitter, operators Ed Gable, K2MP and Bob Raide, W2ZM, went QRV at 5:00 p.m. on 3525 kHz. The well publicized event brought out many interested old timers and at times the pile up rivaled any found on DX stations. The planned use of a three tube regenerative receiver soon became impossible due to the QRM and a Collins 75A4 was pressed into service. The sound of the transmitter was what all wanted to hear. Four 203A's in a p-p Hartley circuit, with raw AC on the plates, made a very distinctive and easy to spot note. Complicating the matter was that fact that this was also ARRL CW DX Weekend. Several DX'ers broke in to say "Bad filters OM" or other such helpful remarks. About 150 contacts were logged including two W7's and an EA8 was calling but we couldn't make a go of that. The AWA has done three such events now; the IBCG

1921 transcon test, the Millen TX event and now the 1923 IMO/8AB QSO, all of which have been very popular. So what's next.... How about the first ever transcontinental 20 meter phone QSO. Let's see, we need a 204 tube, an audio choke for the heising modulator, some copper tubing.... Can do. Stand by for more.

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## RagChew

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

The dead line has passed for anyone to file their comments on the proposed changes to the amateur radio license structure. Did you file your comments? If not, why not? Remember that these rule changes can and will effect all of us. Your Board of Directors sent in the letter that was published in last months *Rag* to the FCC. You may not agree with what was said and that is why everyone was being asked to file their own comments. However, the board did a fair assessment of how they felt the rule changes should proceed to have the best effect on all RARA members. If you are a member of the ARRL, you have read a lot about the trouble that their board had agreeing on how to file their comments. I also hear people say that they don't agree with the leagues answer and if that is what the FCC goes with they will drop out of the league. That would be silly as they do more for amateur radio than any other organization and they can't be right for every

person on every subject but they do a great job in general. This is true for the RARA board also. They did the best that they could. Lets hear your comments with letters to the editor of the *Rag* so they can be published for all of us to read. These could be as short as one paragraph or even a one liner.

There are a lot of us that don't agree with dropping the code requirement or the rate of speed at which it is currently required to be received. On the other hand there are a great many of us that do. Code may have lived past its lively hood as far as a required mode of communications. That doesn't mean that the code should be abolished. Those of you that enjoy using code should have the right to use that mode just like SSB, Packet, Slow Scan TV, or any other mode. It is still a good mode to get through with a weak signal or a noisy frequency. But it should not force on those that do not ever want to use it. Remember that the original reason for code on the HF bands was to be able to read distress signals, especially from ships. Ships are no longer using radio operators that are using code for their main safety communications any longer. Therefore it is time that code should no longer be one of the requirements for any class license to be allowed to operate on HF. Five WPM is fine so that everyone understands a little CW just like they will have questions in the written exam on TV and digital communications. Or maybe 5 WPM should not even be required only some written questions on how CW works.

Now there has to be the disclaimer. The opinions in this article as in all the "RagChew" articles are not that of the board of directors or the editor of the *Rag*. They are to be thought provoking and to get each of you to think about the topic. Then pick up a pencil and write your letter to the editor so that there can be some two way communications taking place and all of the RARA members can see how we think alike or differently from one another. Remember that the RARA board, just like the ARRL board, cannot be right in the eyes of all its members and that the club itself cannot be everything to all its members. That is why it is time to hear from you so that they can do a better job and help each of you to have a better organization to belong to.

*Reflections cont.*

A few weeks later I received the QSL card and a letter from Jurek written in passable english.

Over the next two years we exchanged letters and scheduled contacts on 15 meters. I sent him my Heathkit HW-101 transceiver so that he could set up his own station and not have to rely on use of the club station. In 1988 my wife and I went to Poland and spent a marvelous week in Elblag with Jurek and his family. This was while the communist government was still in power. It was apparent to us very quickly that the Polish economy was a basket case in 1988. Anything of real value had to be obtained through the black market. Western goods were available at hard currency stores where only dollars, pounds or marks were accepted but the Polish zloty was not. People would stop us on the street and offer us three or four times the official bank exchange rate for our US Dollars. Despite these problems we were treated like royalty for the entire week.

In 1989 and 1990 the communist world fell apart. In 1991 we arranged for Jurek to come to the U.S. to visit us. He spent a year here in Rochester during which time he improved his english, was guest operator of my station in several contests, earned some US Dollars to be sent back to his family, bought several used rigs and antennas and shipped them back to Poland and learned how to make American style Pizza.

Since he has returned to Poland he has opened up the only American style Pizzeria in northern Poland aptly named "OK Pizza". While visiting him in 1988 we had an occasion to try Polish pizza in Gdansk. Lets just say that Polish pizza was really different. That experience served as the catalyst for Jurek's enterprise. Tossing Pizza dough limits his ham radio and letter writing time now so I don't hear from him as often.

Our friendship with Jurek and his family has taught us much about people's will to make a decent life for themselves and their children in spite of politics. The word entrepreneur has a whole new meaning for us having seen Jurek in action and it all happened because of a chance QSO on twenty meter CW.

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