



the RARA RAG

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VOL. 51

February 1999

NO. 6

February 5th Meeting Automatic Packet Reporting System

By Bob Moore, N2USB,
Vice President

At the February 5th RARA meeting, Jack Tripp (N2SNL) and Warren Boudrie (AA2LQ) will give a presentation on the Automatic Packet Reporting System developed by Bob Bruninga (WB4APR). APRS is a system that enables mobile or fixed stations to transmit their position in real time to remote terminals.

Jack and Warren will describe how you can participate in APRS activity using just a 2 meter radio and an inexpensive TNC. In addition, they will show how the addition of a GPS can enhance the APRS capabilities by allowing vehicle tracking over wide distances. APRS has numerous other capabilities that will be discussed so this will be a good opportunity for you to learn more about this method of communication.

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

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

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to complete a license class.**

**Saturday Feb 20, 1999
Registration - 8:30AM
Testing - 9:00AM**

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

RaRa MEETING

Feb 5, 1999

8:00 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road

APRS

*By Warren Boudrie, AA2LQ
& Jack Tripp, N2SNL*

Fall License Classes Conclude

by Tim Magee, WB2KAO
License Class Director

The concluding results of the fall license classes are most optimistic. We have four new amateurs, three new Tech-Pluses, one with General theory, and one full-fledged General. We also have two upgrades to Tech-Plus and three upgrades to Advanced. Rick and I enjoyed our experiences with these students and wish to congratulate them on their efforts and accomplishments. We look forward to them returning for upgrades in the spring semester as well as the new slate of students that will be presented to us. Following are their names, calls and operator privileges:

Colleen Larson	KC2EJO	New Tech+
Mike Larson	KC2EJN	New Tech+
Robert Buckner	KC2EMP	New Novice
Mikel Brown	KC2EMQ	New General
Jimmy Brown	KC2EMS	New Tech+
Dave Cooper	KB2DWA	New Tech+
Paul Meyers	N2OPW	Upgrade Tech+
Norm Turner	WB2LQB	Upgrade Adv.
Alexander Kuss	KB2UST	Upgrade Adv.
Marykay Vesco	KC2DPG	Upgrade Adv.

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The Prez Sez...

by Rick Wells, W2RW,
President RARA

Since President Clinton is preparing to deliver the State of the Union address to the nation this month, I thought it would be interesting to do the same for our organization. Thank goodness the impeachment managers aren't licking their chops on my doorstep. Even though I have been a RARA member for many years, unlike President Clinton who has had a rather long tenure in office, I have really only been actively involved as a club officer for the past year and a half. What follows is my considered opinion. Not everyone, officers of the corporation, members, will agree with me. But, it will be good food for thought and further discussion.

First, I'd like to position RARA within the context of all local amateur radio activities and organizations. RARA is an ARRL Special Service Club and as thus has a broad range of services. What this translates into is an extensive range of responsibilities. The club is a general interest club, which serves the needs of all area hams. Formal relationships aside, RARA has several affiliated/associated/subordinate (whatever you choose to call them) special interest organizations. Some of these groups sponsor repeaters. Some are clubs such as the DX, VHF or packet clubs. The important thing here is that RARA and the other area clubs support each other, rather than compete against each other. It also means that RARA itself doesn't have to do everything, since there are many other organizations catering to certain special interests. This is an efficient architecture for the Monroe County area and is not enjoyed in many other metropolitan areas.

I am very pleased to report that we have a strong **New Ham Development and Training** program. We graduated new hams and upgrades from our fall classes. Our instructors are dedicated and our license class director, Tim Magee, WB2KAO, has done an outstanding job of coordinating things. Hopefully, we'll have a good turnout for the spring session. I am very surprised, though, as to how few hams sign up for the "advanced" classes. Does anyone have any ideas for getting Technicians interested in an upgrade?

Public Relations, chaired by Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, has been extremely active. We have made our presence known at a variety of local community and school events. Keith has been working very diligently on our ARRL Radio Coaches Program, which will involve 5th graders from The Rochester City School District. This motivational program will give students hands-on experience with ham radio by way of electronics projects,

communications lessons and several communications/electronics-related field trips. Keith and the small group of volunteer coaches cannot be successful with this aggressive and important program by themselves. If you enjoy working with kids, won't you please volunteer just a few hours of your time and help us pass our hobby's art form on to the next generation? There are a number of volunteers still needed. If you aren't interested in actually going into the classroom, there are many other ways that you can assist and come on board as a coach!

Emergency Communications is one of the founding principles of amateur radio. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, has led this effort since the Paleolithic period. He continues to make a significant contribution to the club and the amateur service. I must say, however, that it is discouraging to hear Ed have to practically beg for volunteers to attend our various public service events. On the other hand, I have recently been encouraged by some of our new licensees expressing a primary interest in such activity. If you are interested in serving at any of these fun-filled events, and applying ham radio skills, please sign up at the meetings or give Ed a call.

Another important player in emergency communications and public service is our club station, K2JD. Don't forget that it includes an amateur TV (ATV) system. Surprisingly, I don't see a whole lot of activity at the station. We have a decent ICOM HF rig, as well as multi-mode VHF/UHF equipment. The station is available to all club members. The station presents the opportunity for members and new licensees (who don't have a rig yet) to get on the air. The ATV equipment, again, is a major opportunity just waiting for some interested parties.

For those of you who frequent our monthly meetings (an average of about 50 or so), you are well aware of Vice President Bob Moore's, N2USB, efforts in lining-up programs. Many of these programs are technical in nature and support **Technical Advancement**. This past month's program on digital photography was excellent. See Bob's article in this issue for up and coming programs.

OK, one more thing. Not unlike other organizations, this club operates due to the dedicated support of a small core group of individuals. These people take on various responsibilities because they want to, they enjoy it and feel rewarded as a result. However, we could use some new faces and additional help in many areas. This is your club. The club needs your support. You all pay your dues, but you may also think about making a charitable contribution and/or

donate your time and expertise? We need to hear from you. What brings you out to meetings? What isn't the club doing that causes you to stay at home or uninvolved? Come on out to a board meeting and observe what goes on. How would you change or improve things? **GIVE US YOUR INPUT!**

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago

By Ed Gable K2MP

February 1979: The February meeting had two topics for your enjoyment. The first had Joe Hood, K2YA, presenting a talk on the basics of microprocessors and their applications that are starting to be seen in Ham radio. The second offering was a film by the Finger Lakes Region of the SCCA depicting the exciting sport of Road Rallying. The SCCA would like to entice even more Amateurs to join those already helping out at the Susquehannock Pro-Rally in Wellsboro, PA. Howie Kingsford, WA2UEB, Chairman of the RaRa Valentines Day Dinner Dance, reminded everyone to join the fun at the Airport Holiday Inn. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, encourages everyone to spread the word on the Code and Theory classes beginning Monday nights. Novice classes cost seven dollars including club dues. The *Rochester VHF Group* (RVHFG), in celebration of their 30th year, has reinstated the Worked All Rochester (WAR) award. This was given for contacts on VHF bands and the awards chairman was Tom Richmond, WB2IEY. Other RVHFG news had Fred, W2GV, rigging a facsimile system to receive WX maps from weather satellites while Paul, W2IOG, challenged all QRP enthusiast to match his 1 milliwatt activities on the low end of two meters. Perhaps you were not aware that Joe, K2YA, and Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, were big AM operators, but the photo in this issue proved it. There they were, operating WROC radio. Joe and Len were shown as guests on the Toby Gold radio program where they explained the virtues of Amateur Radio. From the Want Ads you could get a Standard 146A HT, with 5 crystals, from Chuck Biss, WB2KIO, for only \$350.00. The full page Advertisement war continues between JR's and AR of Rochester.

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1999 Rochester Hamfest

Programs-Part II

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Doesn't it seem like a long time since there was a Hamfest in this area to attend? The winter months and colder weather make it seem like a long time from September (Buffalo and Elmira Hamfests) to March. The first Hamfest in this area is Newark in March. It is a small but friendly Hamfest and one to get everyone out for an eyeball QSO and set you in the mood for the Hamfest season. However, one of the largest and best Hamfests in the area will be held on June 4, 5, and 6 right here in Rochester. That's right folks the Rochester Hamfest and Atlantic Division Conference will be held at the Dome Arena in Henrietta again this year bringing with it the largest display of new and used equipment in the area. This is one show you will not want to miss, especially since it is your club, RARA, that coordinates and presents this attraction for you. Along with Ham and computer equipment the convention has a lot of other events for you to enjoy such as the Awards Banquet and the speakers at the many Forums. Listed here are just a few of the topics and speakers that you will be able to listen to and learn from.

Harry Dannels, W2HD, President Emeritus, ARRL and Past President, QCWA will be with us again this year. Harry is a great speaker that always has a great topic to talk about and draw everyone's interest. This year is no different. The topic this year is intitled "Yes, Sam...We Still Have Dits 'n Dahs". This will be a presentation on Morse code and its continued value to Ham Radio with some interesting sidelights. It is Harry's sidelights that always make things interesting and get you thinking from more than one perspective.

Almost every Ham has heard about the DXCC, or DX Century Club. How many of you know about the VUCC? This is the Century Club for VHF and UHF. Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Century Club Supervisor will be with us to help you learn more about the two Century Clubs and how they are different from each other and yet the same. He will, also, be bringing everyone up to date with the latest changes in the two Century Clubs. With the bands back with a lot of DX stations it is a good time to understand all the latest rules for receiving your DXCC.

As in past years the Joint Mars Forum will be held for all those that are Mars members and for those that would like to learn more about Mars and what it is all about. This year the forum will be hosted by Wayne Lightsey, AAR2NY, New York State Army Mars Director; Wells Farr, AFF1NY, New York State Air Force Mars Director; and Ed RaRa Rag 4

Kessler, NNN0GBJ, Northern New York Area Coordinator. This group contributes a great service for many of our military service man and women. This forum is a place to learn and a place to see friends that you only talk with the rest of the year.

At this time the RDXA has decided not to host a DX Forum. With this section of New York having a very active presence in the DX field and with Bill Moore from the ARRL being with us this is a little unfortunate. If anyone has any topic on DX they would like to present to the DXers of the area please contact this author. There is always a way to schedule you into the programs on Saturday. If you do not have anything yourself but know of someone that has done something unique in this field and you think it will be of interest to others let us know. We will do the follow-up and see what can transpire from the tip.

DX Happenings

By Ed Gable K2MP/W2AN

Ranking right up there with best of the modern era Dxpeditons is the just completed Campbell Island group, signing ZL9CI. If you didn't work 'em, you didn't try. Ten thousand QSO's were in the log the first day and CW rates were reported as being as high as 500 per hour. CW and SSB stations were operating simultaneously, often in the same band, offering something for any operating choice. Conditions were very favorable and signals were very good for the most part in all areas of the world.

Another recent DX tidbit was the Amsterdam Island operation by French ops signing FT5ZH. For only two operators they sure put in many hours and were spotted working the piles in EU, JA and NA seemingly around the clock.

The Holiday season also brought out semi rare and nice to log stations at T33 in Banaba, A35VR on Tonga, T2 in Tuvalu, and a JD1 on Minami Torishima. After a long wait the faithful have been rewarded with a renewed 10-meter band. Conditions have been good to excellent, with Asia, opening well into the evening.

A good way to crank up your country total is to jump into contesting., and a good chance to do that comes up on February 20th, .0000 Zulu, when the DX SSB contest begins.

RaRa Hotline

(716) 442-0587

24 hours a day

RagChew

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

On Friday evening December 4 the RARA meeting was held jointly with the Kodak Equipment Division ARC at the Kodak Elm Grove Plant. Having a joint meeting with one of the Kodak clubs has been a long standing tradition, and a great one. There was one presentation that took place Friday evening that was a little different. Bonnie Webster, Day of Event Coordinator for the America's Walk for Diabetes was there to pass out Team Award Certificates to fifteen amateurs that participated in communications for the walk this year. This is just one of many public service events that take place each year and many of you work on. For those of you receiving the award it probably gave you nice warm fuzzy feeling to know that you were recognized by someone. However, you should feel that way after every event that you operate at even though you may not have heard your name called out in front of the other club members or seen it in print someplace. The truth is that you are known to many, both in amateur radio and to the organization that you assisted just to name a couple. Your effort, also, is truly observed by the county as can be seen by the close ties and relationship that exists between RARA and the counties Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP).

At one time or another each of us experiences the benefits of our ties with county without even knowing it. In fact some amateurs that are members of other local clubs but not a member of RARA get to enjoy the benefits also. For example have you ever gone to a club meeting held at the Social Services Building at 111 Westfall Road. The meeting rooms used are free for the club to use and are scheduled through the OEP office, not just because we are nice guys. Remember that this building belongs to the Social Services and not the OEP but they still help us get what we request. This is due to RARA's close ties and the affiliations of the other clubs to RARA. It is through the public service events and emergency communications you operate at that RARA is able keep this relationship. The only bad thing is we have to pay to have our meetings at another location instead of using the free meeting rooms. The reason is because of our membership size and the turn out of members at the meetings that make the meeting rooms too small most of the time. However, with January always being the month with our smallest turn out we have been able to utilize this privilege the past couple of years and save a little rent money for you the members.

RARA does get a lot out of its relationship with the county though. Have you ever operated or even

seen the club station. Wonder how such a nice station at that location can be maintained. You guessed it! We also get to use the conference rooms for smaller meetings such as the Board of Directors meeting each month and even more importantly the licensing class and testing sessions that are held by RARA.

Many of you are known by sight by the OEP office and some even by name due to your efforts on emergency communications, drills, and public service events. Even though you may not have gotten your name in the *Rag* or received a certificate remember that your efforts are recognized and rewarded with other benefits that help not only yourself but many of your fellow hams. You should also feel a lot of pride and self satisfaction by just helping others.

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

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QRZed with Alex, NV2Y

I have been accused of telling some tall tales. But if you have been a VE (Volunteer Examiner) for some time, what seem to be tall tales are true.

Take the time we were giving exams at the Rochester Hamfest. We had about 50 people taking their exams. This fellow walked up the "bench" (This is what Stan WM3D, one of the examiners, calls the head table. He is a Cop. He spends a lot of time in police court) and in a matter-of-fact voice, introduced himself. "I am _____. My call letters are _____. I live in the town of _____."

I took a good look at him and tried to size him up. I took this all to mean, "I am a man of high moral character" (HMC). Based on his introduction the first thing I did was to see if he was wearing a halo. There was none.

"I want to know where my license is. I have been waiting for 6 months and haven't heard a word. Can't you just send in the required papers so I can get my license?"

The man of "High Moral Character" (HMC) seemed like a likeable guy. He again repeated as to who he was and that we must do something about this lapse of memory of the FCC. God forbid that we should show any intolerance for a man who introduced himself as a man of "High Moral Character." We chuckled and nodded at his stern, matter-of-fact way he spoke and showed him we were eager to help.

First some questions. Let us review the paper trail. For those of you who have paid taxes to the IRS, you know what that means. At this point his smile turned into a sneer. "I have taken all of the exams and passed. The papers were all sent in."

"Where did you take the exam, "we asked?" "From a guy who is a ham operator down where I live. "What is his name?" "I don't remember." Did he give you a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) after taking the exam to verify your new status and privileges on the air? "No. "Did he give you any papers at all to assure us that what you say is true? "Look!" He said in a belligerent voice "I am _____(HMC) and I am telling you I took all of the exams and all of the papers were turned in to the FCC. I just want you to tell them I passed and that they should send me my license." Well, making wine out of water is not within the realm of the VE's.

Now, you can fool me sometimes. You can fool some of the VE's sometimes, but you're not going to fool the whole team together.

This guy reminds me of when I sold papers as a kid. Someone would always ask, "Hey kid' gimme

a paper and I'll pay you tomorrow. You can trust me." Yeh!

His expression changed. Again he stated in a soft, smooth voice as to who he was _____(HMC) and knew a lot of people who can attest to this (HMC) in the town in which he lived.

We maintained our professional composure and replied that there was nothing we could do for him until we had some verification of what he said. The look he gave us was not fitting for a man of "High Moral Character." On a sudden, he spun around in a loud huff and bellowed something. I'm sorta glad I didn't make out what he said.

Now tell me. Would a man who identified himself as eligible to wear a halo try to con you? Would he?

WAYS TO BE ANNOYING

Start each meal by conspicuously licking all your food, and announce that this is so no one will "Swipe your grub"

Leave your turn signal on for fifty miles.

Name your dog "Dog"

Forget the punchline to a lone joke, but assure the listener it was a "real hoot"

QRZed

Reflections

By Ray Mattice, Sr. K2PWJ

I first became aware of Ham Radio as a young man while observing my fathers, K2PWJ, radio activities in the mid fifties.

Following a 2 year sprint in the U.S. Marine Corps I began studying for a ham license (Novice), and in 1958 took the test. At the time the Novice exam was administered by mail. I passed the test and eventually ended up with a Technician license, receiving the call WA2UFV.

For the next 30 years I remained a Tech, operating primarily on 6 meters, involving rabbit hunts, public service, helped provide communications in the search for Pamela Moss, etc. Saturday morning coffee at Rochester Radio with Dick Goslee K2VCZ, and Dick Job, K2RTU, was a weekly ritual. During this period of time my father became a silent key.

After retiring from Kodak in 1991, the desire for more frequencies and operating privileges was realized and the need for a General Class license soon became apparent. More books, study, and code practice became an everyday ritual. I had a

very difficult time with the code. However with a great deal of persistence, success on the day of the General exam became a reality. "General Test and Passed", what a proud day that was.

I didn't know what class of license my father held, so I began to study for the Advanced Class license, taking the test on 1-7-94 and passing. A week later took a shot at the Extra class license and on 1-15-94 I became an Extra class ham and the privilege to use the "/Extra" qualifier. Some weeks later my license arrived in the mail exclaiming me as "AA2SH".

My fathers influence was always in the back of my mind and somehow I wanted to show my gratitude for the many hours we spent together pursuing ham radio, To sort of identify with him became a reality when the era of the vanity call sign arrived. I applied for and obtained my fathers old call sign- "K2PWJ". Now I am completely happy. I enjoy talking to my fathers old friends on the radio and meeting some of them at the hamfest.

In an effort to give something back to ham radio, I then joined the VEC volunteer program with NO2Z, Mike at Kodak Park and AA2FO, George at Westfall Rd. Ham Radio is the greatest hobby I know of.

73's Ray Mattice Sr. K2PWJ

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 experienced, either in the distant or recent past. Be it something which happened to you or someone else. Please let us know about it. You don't have to be a writer.

Next Rag Deadline

February 10, 1999

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RaRa STARTS LOCAL CHAPTER OF RADIO COACHES PROGRAM

Rochester Amateur Radio Association Radio Coaches Program team leader is looking for a few good operators. The Rochester chapter of the Radio Coaches Program now has six very able coaches working on programs and projects for Rochester's Theodore Roosevelt School and is seeking a few more talented people to help with tasks such as demonstrations, field trips and kit building.

Ralph Shade's fifth grade class of 30 students will be building and using electronic devices to help them become more familiar with the fascinating and growing field of electronics in the career environment today. You can join in by lending your special skills to help eager young people learn and use basic electrical theory and find out how this knowledge will help them reach for challenging careers in communications technology, computing and the industries of the future.

Beginning in late January 1999 we will start with a no nonsense explanation of radio communications theory. Just imagine seeing the faces of thirty 10 and 11 year old youths go from a look of bewilderment to smiles as you show them just how straight forward world of electronics can be.

Now, sit back for a moment and feel the smile creep across your face knowing you already have the basic tenets of electrical theory in hand and, just for a moment, feel how good it feels to share what you know. You can be the person who helps trouble shoot a project with tomorrow's class of engineers, scientists and technicians. You can help shape young minds by sharing what you know. And, this is a great opportunity to grow your skills to create advancement opportunities for yourself.

Amateur Radio has survived the surge of cell phones, the Internet and all the wireless wonders that fascinate people today by staying involved with the community. Make this your opportunity to do something about your community, the future work force, call 716-442-0587 today to volunteer or go to <http://www.ggw.org/rara/radiocoaches> and sign up.

I thank you and the kids thank you. Community cannot exist without "U", so call today. Keith Freeberg, N2BEL – Team Leader

**Plan Now, Mark your calendar.....
The Annual RARA Spring picnic will
be held on June 19, 1999 at Ellison
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