



the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL.52

NOVEMBER 1999

NO. 3

AUCTION - NOVEMBER 5TH

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.

RaRa assesses a fee of 10% on each sale. The fee is paid by the seller from the proceeds of the sale. The seller must come forward to the Treasures table as soon as the item is declared SOLD! By the auctioneer. 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. Please respect the auction protocol **NO PARKING LOT SALES or SALES PRIOR TO THE START OF THE AUCTION.**

Continued

National Weather Service Special Event

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The NWS and the ARRL will cosponsor an on-the-air event Saturday, November 27, 1999, the final Saturday of the Atlantic hurricane season. The National Weather Service Special Event, a sort of mini-contest, is aimed at recognizing the contributions amateurs make to the NWS during threatening weather.

NWS personnel will be encouraged to get on the air under the supervision of a licensed control operator and to consider getting licensed (several of the weather office personnel at Buffalo office are licensed). The event will run November 27 from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC and will operate on 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, 6, and 2 meters. It is expected most contacts will be on SSB. All other modes, including FM, CW, RTTY and PSK31, may also be used. Operators eligible for a QSL certificate should send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the NWS, 920 Armory Road, Goodland, KS 67735. For more details go to

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gld/radio.htm>.

RaRa Meeting
November 5, 1999
8:00 P.M.
Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road
Auction Night

Continued

AUCTION—NOVEMBER 5

This event benefits the club and is an important fundraiser for paying the bills.

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.

the RARA RAG

PUBLISHED BY
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333

RaRa Hotline 442-0587

Website: www.ggw.org/rara/

Editor.....George Platteter, AA2FO

82 Colonnade Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716) 334-4488
Internet: aa2fo@rpa.net

Assistant Editor.....Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU

652 Beverly Dr., Webster, NY 14580 (716)747-1225
wb2efu@arrl.net

Print Prod. Mgr..... Allen E. Skiles Sr, W2AES

1 Burke Ln., Apt A, Spencerport, NY 14569 (716) 352-1087
w2aes@netzero.net

VOL. 52

October, 1999

NO. 3

OFFICERS:

President: Robert Moore, N2USB.....663-5802

Internet: n2usb@rochester.rr.com

Vice-President: Keith Freeberg, N2BEL.....458-8246

Internet: kff@frontier.net.net

Secretary: Norm Turner, WB2LQB.....254-0137

Internet: wb2lqb@arrl.net

Treasurer: Richard Goslee, K2VCZ.....334-1762

Internet: rgoslee@frontiernet.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU.....747-1225

Internet: wb2efu@arrl.net

Jaime Ananko, N3ZSS.....292-0032

Internet: jananko@aol.com

Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH.....624-1929

Internet: n2eh@frontiernet.net

Scott A. Blystone, K9EEE.....247-2820

Internet: k9eee@rochester.rr.com

Jack Tripp, N2SNL.....381-7757

Internet: n2snl@arrl.net

Allen E. Skiles Sr, W2AES.....352-1087

Internet: w2aes@netzero.net

Peter Fourniea, W2SKY.....377-0535

Internet: glide@frontiernet.net

Club Historian: Ed Gable, K2MP

Public Service Coordinator: Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH

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License Class Director: Tim McGee, WB2KAO

Web Page Administrator: Peter Fourniea, W2SKY

Club Station Trustee: Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH

The RaRa RAG (USPS 605-440) is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., 82 Colonnade Dr., Rochester, New York 14623. Subscription is \$5.00 per year (included in the \$15.00 annual membership dues). Periodicals postage paid in Rochester, NY.

POSTMASTER - Send address changes to The RaRa Rag, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, New York 14692-8333. Full permission is granted for reprinting articles provided a credit line is given to the RaRa Rag. The Rag exchanges, with other organizations' publications.

The Pres. Says

by Bob Moore, N2USB

This November's meeting, the annual auction, is an excellent opportunity for you to join us for an evening of great entertainment as well as an opportunity to share some of the treasures you have been hoarding in your shack with some other member of the club. And just maybe reinvest some of the wealth you gained from the sale of your treasures into some of the other fine investment opportunities that will be available from your fellow amateurs. This year will be another Dick and Ed show that will rival any other of this year's entertainment. The only thing we need is for you to come out and join in the fun.

I am also pleased to see our membership numbers on the rise again. You as a member are the most powerful recruiting tool we have. If you have an opportunity, take the time to tell one of your friends about the benefits of being a member of RARA and encourage them to join us. Remember if they wish to attend the auction it is a member's only function.

If you were not able to attend the October meeting you missed a great program. Glenn Johnson, Meteorologist at WOKR-TV gave a very informative and entertaining presentation about all the many resources required to put together a weather forecast and how very important local knowledge of the area is in presenting an accurate interpretation of the weather data. This was an 'A+' presentation.

Join us at the meetings, we have a great line up of programs for the remainder of the year. See you at the auction.

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

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

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

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

RMSC Invites Radio Clubs

by Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

Would you spend two hours to promote amateur radio in Rochester? Just two hours showing what you like about the hobby and perhaps telling a child or two about what sparked your interest in our great hobby.

It is pretty easy in a nice relaxing room filled with lots of radio stuff and other amateurs, just like you, talking to kids about the neat things you can do with radios. The two hours will fly by and it will be, regrettably, time to pack up your things and head home.

How and where will all this happen? The Rochester Museum and Science Center has invited us back to be part of their Holiday Technology Show for grade and high school students. We'll have two big tables, chairs and anything else we need all set up for us. All we have to do is talk radio. What could be more rewarding than spending just a few minutes with someone and seeing that same spark in them as when you first became interested?

We'll have our choice of one of four days, between Christmas and New Years, to bring ham radio into the new millennium. You, as a member of one of the Rochester amateur radio associations' radio clubs can promote your hobby and set a young mind to dreaming great dreams. You hold the key.

Call now to reserve your own two-hour window of opportunity. Call soon, only a limited number of slots are available. Call Keith Freeberg, in Rochester, at 716-458-8246 today!

RagChew

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

There is another type of Y2K bug that will effect the ARRL's Western New York Section (oh no, that is us!!) at 12:01 AM on January 1, 2000. Bill Thompson, W2MTA, will be retiring from his position as Section Manager. Bill, however, has taken steps to resolve this Y2K problem by announcing his replacement for the next year. Scott Bauer, W2LC, will become our new Section Manager. At least we know that this Y2K problem is already behind us so that we won't have to worry about it.

Bill has been our section manager for some time now. Twenty years as a matter of fact. He has been a main stay in keeping Western New York up to speed with what is going on within the ARRL. He could be found at almost every hamfest in the section. He even held forums at all the ARRL sanctioned hamfests to pass on information and to receive everyone's input. Bill has also been very active for years in the National Traffic System and will remain with it. He is the chairman of the Eastern Area Staff and serves as manager of the second region net (Cycles 2 and 3) and Atlantic Region Net. These are positions that Bill will not be retiring from. Bill will be missed as our Section Manager but I am sure that everyone, at least in their thoughts, will be sending him their best.

Scott is being appointed the new Section Manager replacing Bill starting in January of next year. Many of you may know Scott as he lived in the Rochester area at one time. He was known as WA2LCC at that time and was a member of RARA while residing here. Scott currently lives in the Syracuse area. He is the Deputy Section Manager for Bill as well as being the regional Assistant Section Manager for Cayuga, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, and Seneca Counties. As you can see he has had his hands full for awhile. Scott, it is with great pleasure that we welcome you aboard as our Section Manager. You have some big shoes to fill but your qualifications will make that happen. We are all looking forward to working with you in the future and wish you the best in your new position.

Don't you wish that all the Y2K topics were resolved this easily? When you don't have to depend on a computer to control things for you it is sometimes easier to make the necessary corrections.

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November Rochester VHF Group meeting

by Tim Stoffel, NS9E

Have your preamps and transverters checked out at the November meeting of the Rochester VHF group. This meeting will take place Friday, November 12 at Adaptive Broadband, 175 Science Parkway, Rochester NY. (Note location change!) Meeting will start promptly at 7:30 PM. Please try to be there on time, as security restrictions may make it difficult to get in if you are late!

The main feature of this meeting is the annual Rochester VHF Group Tune-Up clinic. Exotic VHF and Microwave test equipment will be available to measure the performance of your VHF weak signal gear. (Note this clinic is not for FM rigs, nor is it for repairs). One of the most popular thing done at the clinic is having the noise figure of preamps and transverters measured. There is always a competition to see who can achieve the lowest noise figure on a given VHF band! We will also have an exhibition of homebrew VHF gear. Bring in your best work to show off! Also don't forget the Rochester VHF Group all-band sprint on the evening of Thursday, November 11, 1999. This national-level sprint is open to all hams as single operators, and runs from 7 PM to Midnight local time. Scoring is like the January VHF contest. Although primarily a weak signal activity, expect some FM activity as well! This short contest is likely to be really intense and a lot of fun!

Fall License Class Report

by Tim Magee, WB2KAO,
License Class Director

I'm happy to report that as of the 3rd week of instruction that the Novice/Tech class has grown to 18 students. The class is going well and both Rick and I are encouraged by the level of enthusiasm. Bill reports General theory instruction is going along just fine. Tim, NS9E, has been moving right along with the Advanced class as well. Testing for classes is scheduled for December 13th and we expect to have all curriculum covered with plenty of time for review. In closing, I want to thank my staff of instructors. They are doing a great job.

For Sale:

Kenwood TS940S/AT with SP940 and MC85—
\$1000

Heathkit SB220 Amplifier—\$500

Drake MN2000—\$200

Bird 43—\$100

Contact W2MPI at (716) 265-0634

DX Report

by Ed Gable K2MP

Recently many a DX'er was disappointed by losing their Burundi (9U) DXCC credit. It turns out the Burundi office that issued past licenses was not authorized to do so. If your 9U QSO is about a year old, check with the ARRL DXCC desk to see if your contact is valid. Good news is that a valid Burundi station just became very active. Look for 9U5D on all bands, including six meters. QSL via SM0BFJ.

Last month we spoke of Iranian (EP) QSO's being easier to come by. We now learned that Abdollah, EP2FM, likes 14.186 MHz SSB at 0400Z. Semi-rare Catham Islands (ZL7) is workable via ZL4IT/7 on 14, 18 and 21 MHz. QSL via W8WC. In the same semi-rare category is Burkina Faso (XT) on for just a few weeks, SSB and CW, as XT2HP. QSL via JA1OEM. Look also for a DX'pedition to St. Peter and Paul Rocks which should be on-the-air as you read this. The transportation to the Rocks has been touch and go and the schedule keeps changing. The Rocks are pretty hard to catch and you should look for this group.

The November meeting of the Rochester DX Association is on November 6th, 7:30 p.m. at 111 Westfall Road. The program will be on stacking and phasing Yagi antennas. Everyone is invited.

RDXA also has a new information brochure available. A call to Irv Goodman, AF2K at 716-671-4430, will bring you one. See also the expanded RDXA Web Page at <http://www.qsl.net/~rdxa> RDXA Web Page at <http://www.qsl.net/~rdxa>.

Support The Children

By Norm Turner, WB2LQB

Are you coming to the Auction to find that treasure that you can't live without? Need something to appease the XYL when you bring home that boat anchor? At this years auction, we are offering the solution to your problem. We will be taking orders for a cookbook entitled "Specialties of the House", which can be procured for a mere \$18.95. Proceeds of this sale will go to two wonderful charities that help children--The Ronald McDonald House and the Radio Coaches Program. It contains over 350 exciting recipes selected from over 2000 entries gathered from coast to coast. In an easel style three ring configuration this book is great for counter top reference. Orders and payment will be taken at the Auction and the books will be available at the December RARA meeting just in time for the holidays. Thanks for your support!

Support Our Advertisers

1999 FALL ALL-BAND SPRINTS ANNOUNCEMENT

By Tim Stoffel, NS9E

OBJECT: 1). To work as many stations as possible on our VHF allocations in a 5 hour period. 2). To have fun!

DATE: Thursday, November 11, 1999.

TIME: 7 PM to Midnight local time. Stations within 50 miles of a time zone boundary may adjust their operating time to that of the adjacent time zone if they wish. You may operate all 5 hours of the event.

BANDS: All above 50 MHz, including laser.

CLASSES: Single-op, all band only. While there is no rover class per se, a station may change grids, and submit a separate log for each grid operated from.

SCORING: 1 point for contacts on 6 and 2 meters. 2 points for contacts on 222 and 432 MHz. 4 points for contacts on 902 and 1296 MHz. 8 points for all bands 2304 MHz and above. Multipliers are 4 digit maidenhead grid squares. (January VHF sweepstakes scoring).

OTHER RULES: All other rules are the usual rules for VHF contests.

AWARDS: Certificates will be issued to the top 5 finishers at the National level. We are open to alternative award ideas for next year!

REPORTING: Logs are due three weeks after the contest date. Electronic: Submit log and a suitable summary sheet to: sprint99@vhfgroup.rochesterny.org. Log should be in ARRL standard file format. Mail: Log and suitable summary sheet to: Rochester VHF Group, P.O. Box 92122, Rochester, NY 14692.

RRRA

by Tom English, N2YJY

The RRRA will have met for the second time this year by the time you read this. A program by Walt Obenhofer, NQ2O was the featured speaker.

The November meeting will be our annual tune up clinic for FM equipment to get folks ready for the January contest. We offer this in November as we do not meet in the month of December (We have a family night in December at a local eatery).

Our clubs are suffering from a lack of desire to help out in club functions. This can change. Won't you please help us and RARA combat this decline in interest? Help all of us to promote this grand hobby of ours? Support the clubs by getting involved in their programs and if you don't have any interest in the programs, then by all means make your interests known; let the elected officers know you don't like their program offerings and suggest your own. Only that way will our clubs survive the way you want them to. It doesn't help when you turn away because your interests aren't being addressed.

We, the RRRA, would like to have anyone who is interested in the programs offered by the club, to join us and we encourage you to bring a friend. Again we meet the third Friday of the month at the Pittsford Town Hall basement meeting area. Hope to see you there.

Radio Coaches appointed to Thomas Jefferson Middle School

by John Woika, W8JW

This year our RARA Radio Coaches team has taken up the challenge of teaching 6th graders at Thomas Jefferson Middle school. Over thirty eager students await our Radio Coaches team arrival on September 30th.

This year's program includes each student building his own tone oscillator and a brass telegraph key. Peter Fournia, W2SKY, has these available for your shack at the outstanding price of ONLY \$29 wired and tested. If you don't need one this year maybe you can help our RARA Radio Coaches fund this project for each of the students. Do you remember the thrill of building your first code practice oscillator?

John Woika, W8JW, is helping to fund the purchase of these kits by offering to you, the year 2000 Dine-a-Mate coupon books, for ONLY \$20. Imagine an evening out, dining and movies at 2 for the price of one! Two dinners with the coupon and

Continued on page 6

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As I See It

by Frank Distefano, WB2DZF

In an article which came to my attention relating to the "Ham Radio Future" the writer referred to 5 consecutive years of ham radio exams which showed a drastic decline each year. Initiatives to stem the rush to extinction have done little more than rearranging the chairs on the Titanic.

Why? Because our hobby will not be resuscitated by an influx of school children

By all means welcome any youngster who shows an interest but it is a fact of life that the majority of active amateurs do not begin to fully enjoy the myriad facets of ham radio until the competing pressures of their exams, genes, jobs, families, and careers have been mastered.

We are continually being told that our population is ageing and we are in the grip of "the baby boomers". The baby boomers were as much a product of WW2 as the post-war surge in amateur radio. Sadly, the ranks of "old soldiers" are thinning as rapidly as the students taking the amateur radio exams.

It's time to Shift the emphasis of our recruiting drive to an age group that has the time and the absence of competing pressures to enjoy it. If we pitch our emphasis correctly, we might even be able to show that you can enjoy ham radio from a town house or a sub-development, that you don't have to spend megabucks and you don't even have to learn Morse.

The funny thing though, is that most of the old people I know spent their lives meeting, and mastering, challenges. So perhaps we don't have to worry too much about making it easier and concentrate instead on making it welcoming. We might even consider taking our ham radio classes to them, rather than demanding they come to us. Then we might even go as far as ensuring that every public library had a copy of our current callbook.

Might not work. No, it may not. But what's so great about what we are doing now?

SILENT KEYS

HELEN A. ARMSTRONG
WA2YPT

October 6, 1999

And

JOHN D. SULLIVAN
KA2LGF

August 21, 1999

GINNA Pre-Drill

by Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

The Ginna Atomic Power Plant held its disaster pre-drill on October 6. The pre-drill is a practice drill for the forth coming drill in November. Many agencies in Monroe County participated in this State observed drill including ARES/RACES. There were fifteen Hams involved that operated on many different modes, including HF Side Band, Two Meter and 440 FM, Amateur TV, and Packet. All messages sent were to simulate a disaster at the Ginna Plant and how to handle evacuation of schools and towns surrounding the plant. This included making contact on HF and Packet to Albany as well as the Wayne County Offices and the field crews that were out taking radiation readings. Safety of everyone is the number one objective. A big thank you for your help goes out to the following: N2EH, N2UTK, WB2EFU, KC2BTW, AF2K W2AES, WB2BWQ, KB2BU, N2SNL, WB2UTI WA2GHQ, AA2FO, WA2CER, K2MP, and KA2J.



And the battery should go here? Ed Gable, K2MP, and Ed Holdsworth N2EH, work on ATV project during drill.

Continued from page 5
Radio Coaches

you have saved your \$20; the rest is all a bonus. All profits from this project will go directly to the Radio Coaches fund. You can see John at the RARA meetings or call him at 223-2133.

"Remember, radio active 'little' minds do stay out of trouble!"

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago

by Ed Gable, K2MP

November 1979: For some reason this was a very small issue of the RaRa Rag with only four pages, one of which was advertising. None-the-less, the news of the ever popular annual auction was evident stating that auctioneers would be Alan Komenski, AC2K and Ed Gable, K2MP. Editor Dwight Hill, K2KWK, wrote an article exclaiming the problem with intruders moving into our ham bands. Castro's broadcasting stations below 7.1 MHz and the then famous Russian Woodpecker were cited examples. Reported here was the fact that the FCC was ready to release rules and regulations on the use of ASCII code by Amateurs. Prior to that the only codes allowed were Morse and Baudot. President Alan Komenski, AC2K, reported that despite the efforts of Congressman Horton, RaRa was unable to obtain the call sign W2XT for the RaRa club station. W2XT was the call of silent key Eddie Dunn, a popular RaRa member, past-president and local radio personality on WHAM. Roger Williams, W2NES, writing for the Rochester Repeater Association (RRRA) reports that RRRA agreed to underwrite the maintenance and auto-patch cost of the 147.78/18 repeater. Roger also announced and recognized the donation of a 600 MHz frequency counter to the RRRA by locally owned Ramsey Electronics. Rick Berg, WA2RLQ, continued his series of DX related articles, this month on the difficulties of working the lower bands of 160, 80 and 40 meters. Harvey's Ham, an amateur radio store in Caledonia, NY, advertised specials on Ten-Tec gear.

Public Service-1999

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The time has come to get out your calendar and record the dates for all the public service events. The following dates have been set:

R. E. Ginna Nuclear Exercise	
Observed Drill	Wed. Nov. 17
Pumpkin Patrol	Sat. Oct. 30
Y2K Preparation	Fri. Dec. 31
Y2K Continuation	As Required

This will finish off this year and start next year as far as public service is concerned. That is as long as there are no real emergencies (lets hope not). If you are interested in working an event or more, contact Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, at (716) 624-1929, or use sign up sheets at the meetings.

RAPS

Packet is Alive and Running

by Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ

You may have heard, or thought, that Amateur Packet had disappeared from the airwaves. Not so! If you listen to the local packet frequencies during the evening hours it is obvious there is something exciting shooting back and forth, keeping somebody busy. That funny noise is a Packet signal, maybe on its way to you.

You can come to the Rochester Amateur Packet Society (RAPS) meetings, the Second Thursday of the month, September thru May. These are held at 111 Westfall Road, at 7:30 PM. Enjoy an informal, informational (sometimes referred to as an organized bull session) gathering of Hams who are active on Packet. The latest objective of the group is to send data over packet, using the form of the people who the data is being sent. Of course, most anything relating to packet is fair game for discussion, from "Where do I start?", to stuff that 75% of the members don't understand, yet. That's where the fun is, learning!

If you're looking for a different approach to Hamdom, join us at our next meeting, 111 Westfall Road, 7:30 PM, November 11th.

Murphy Again

The following was inadvertently omitted from the end of Alex, NV2Y's column in the October '99 issue- As Murphys' Law states, "The amount of stuff you collect is directly proportional to the amount of space you have to fill". So be it- I'm just following the "Law". Sorry about that Alex, but you know Murphy- Ed

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