



# the RARA RAG

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NO. 8

## QRP

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

Steve Auyer, N2TKX and Bob Jackson, WB2BJW will discuss QRP at the April meeting. The topics they will cover include an overview of QRP, it's advantages and disadvantages, a number of Internet sites for QRP enthusiasts, commonly used QRP hardware, and a discussion of a typical QRP kit available from the New Jersey QRP Club. Some samples of hardware will be available for inspection, as well as an operating QRP transmitter.

Lockheed Martin in Syracuse, New York employs Steve and Bob. Bob specializes in the design of complex digital systems and Steve is responsible for the production of high-power, solid state radars. Neither considers themselves "QRP experts" but both have been attracted by the ease of construction and the low cost of the hardware involved. Maybe that's another way of saying that they're "cheap tinkers."

## Fourth Annual Ontario QSO Party

Bob Chandler, VE3SRE

Just want to invite members of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association to jump on the bands for the 4th Annual Ontario QSO Party. This year it takes place on the April 29-30th weekend starting at 18:00 UTC Saturday to 18:00 UTC Sunday. It is held on all HF bands SSB/CW and on the VHF/UHF bands FM simplex, SSB, and CW. Complete details are at <http://www.odxa.on.ca/oqphome.html>.

This is a fun and friendly contest where folks can "chase" the counties of the province of Ontario. So feel free to aim those antennas "across the lake" and have some fun!

**RaRa Meeting  
April 7, 2000**

Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 E. Henrietta Rd.

**QRP**

Presented by Steve Auyer, N2TKX  
and Bob Jackson, WB2BJW

## Rochester Hamfest-Part IV

Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

The year 2000 Rochester Hamfest combined with the ARRL Atlantic Division Conference is fast approaching. This three-day Hamfest will be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> at the Monroe County Fair Grounds and Dome Center on East Henrietta Road and Calkins Road. You won't want to miss this event, as it will have the largest flea market in the area as well as a one of the largest exhibit halls filled with new equipment. The equipment manufacturers will be there to show you all the latest rigs and technology they have available. After getting this information you will be able to visit the many dealers that will be set up to sell you that equipment at some fantastic prices. At the end of the day on Friday you can relax and enjoy a great meal at the awards banquet held at the Marriott Thruway Hotel on West Henrietta Road. By contacting Jack Tripp, N2SNL at any of the RaRa meetings, you can order tickets for all events in advance. You can also order your tickets in advance by mail. Visit the Hamfest website for all the information you will need on ticket sales, exhibitors, flea market, programs, banquet and the Hamfest in general at [www.rochesterhamfest.org](http://www.rochesterhamfest.org).

Speaking of programs, this year will have a lot of interesting speakers. Schedule your time to attend the meetings that will be of interest to you. For example Ed Hare, W1RFI, ARRL Laboratory supervisor will be presenting a very interesting program called **Electronic Troubleshooting**. Many hams are a bit lost when their favorite piece of equipment goes up in smoke or they need to track down an elusive electronics problem. Ed brings many years of bench troubleshooting experience that will help solve these problems.

The **Rochester VHF Forum** will be held again for the tenth year in a row. Tim Stoffel, NS9E, this years VHF Groups chairman, will host this highly acclaimed forum. If you are interested in VHF operations and beyond this is the place to be. This has been one of the largest attended forums for that past few years.

A few years back the ARRL started a program called Radio Coaches. The intent was to get people

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# the RARA RAG

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## The Prez Says

Bob Moore, N2USB

March has been a good month for DX. There was the ARRL DX Contest, producing some rare stations and several DX expeditions were conducted and some are still in progress. To name a few there was FO0AAA on Clipperton Island, now QRT, VP5BR on Pitcarin Island, 5H3US Tanzania, 5Z4WI off the coast of Kenya and GPOSTH on Guernsey Island. Wow, what a blast to work these stations. I tried my hand at the ARRL DX Contest this year and had a respectable score for the limited time I worked it. Working these stations was the easy part, now if I can just get the QSL cards to verify the QSO's. I heard that Clipperton Island group worked over 70,000 contacts in their short stay, I guess it will be a while before I see that QSL card.

I hope you were able to attend the March meeting. The program was great. Dick Witkowski, WB2TEQ and Keith Freeberg, N2BEL explained the in and outs of digital photography. Subjects covered were how to select the best camera, how to manipulate the image after you have taken the picture, a comparison of picture quality produced on different printers using a variety of papers, and last but not least how to save money by refilling your own ink cartridges. If you missed this one you missed a very informative program.

The next program scheduled appears to be another winner "HOW TO BUILD A TRANSMITTER IN AN ALTOIDS TIN". I've seen pictures of these transmitters and I've read articles about these transmitters but this will be first hand information on these little jewels. This should be a great one for those of us who like to tinker. Mark Friday April 7 on your calendar and plan to attend. While you are marking the calendar also mark June 17, 2000 on it as the day to attend the RARA annual picnic in Ellison Park at the South Facility. Last years picnic was well attended and everyone had a good time.

See you at the April meeting and REMEMBER TO BRING A FRIEND.

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*Clubs and Nets and URLs, oh my!*

Ever wonder if there are any other YLs out there whom you haven't met, either in person or on the frequencies? Ever wonder, if there were others, how could you make contact? Well, there are a quite a few resources to help you locate other YLs and make their acquaintances.

There are many clubs that focus on YLs but two stand out: one is international in scope and the other is for those of us in "2-land". They both have newsletters, which cover YL nets, competitions, and other activities.

The Young Ladies' Radio League, Inc. (YLRL) is an international club and is an affiliate of ARRL. They exist to encourage and assist YLs to participate in amateur radio service - traffic handling, civil defense, contests, packet, satellite, and, of course, rag-chewing.

A more local group is SAYLARC, the Second Area YL Amateur Radio Club. They publish a quarterly newsletter, run nets, and have periodic luncheons to catch up on events in other members' lives.

If you'd like more information on either of these clubs, contact me at [jstonehi@frontiernet.net](mailto:jstonehi@frontiernet.net) or (716) 582-2074.

There are dozens of YL nets, too. One of the best YL DX net is on 28.433 MHz every Monday at 1600 UTC. It's one of Lia's, WA2NFY, favorites and you can find her there every week. The EURO YL net gets together on Wednesdays at 1900 UTC on 3.650 MHz and a South African YL Net is on the air every Monday at 1200 UTC on 7.060 MHz.

Every Monday at 1400 UTC, the Buckeye Belles, a large club in Ohio, runs a national net on 3.950 MHz and SAYLARC conducts a similar net every Friday at 9 AM local time on 3.950 MHz.

There are dozens of other YL nets listed on the Web along with information about clubs, conventions, and all the other activities that YLs organize throughout the year. Use your favorite search engine or start with some of these:

The SAYLARC site  
<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Pines/2122/saylarc.html>

YLRL site  
<http://www.qsl.net/~ylrl/>

Buckeye Belles of Ohio  
<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/3376>

One evening at a Board of Directors meeting someone asked how many Past Presidents of RARA were still alive. No one had an answer to the question. That started me thinking, and here are the results of my research.

There are 34 Past Presidents still alive. The only one of them to serve 2 terms is Ed Holdsworth, N2EH. He served in 1972-73 and also 1982-83. The record for being the oldest belongs to Charlie Brelsford, K2WW who was born in 1907 (Age 93). He is now living in the warmer climate of Tempe, AZ. He is followed by the youngster Wesley Jackling, W2YUT who is only 85 years old. Then Cappy Capauldy, K2UXF who is 83 years old. The other end of the record belongs to Chris Reich, WB2DYJ who at 43 years of age is a real youngster.

The record for being the oldest person at the time he was elected belongs to none other than "Mr. CW" Art DeBruycker, W2YGW who was 71 at the time. The record for being the youngest at the time he was elected goes to Alan Kominski, AC2K who was only 29.

It certainly was fun looking up the history of the Past Presidents and it sure would be nice if we could get as many of them as possible to attend the First Annual Meeting/Old Timers Night of the New Century on May 5<sup>th</sup> so that we can get a group photograph for the archives, and for the RAG. WHAT SAY GUYS. Let's DO IT.

If anyone would like a complete list of the Past Presidents please let me know and I will be happy to send you a copy of the information that I have.

## **RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing**

**All Elements Needed  
To Complete a License Class**

**Saturday April 15, 2000**

**Registration - 8:30AM**

**Testing - 9:00AM**

**Social Services Building  
111 Westfall Rd., Rochester**

**Inquires (716) 334-4488**

**[aa2fo@rpa.net](mailto:aa2fo@rpa.net)**

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# RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago

Ed Gable, K2MP

April 1980: The Golden Age of Radio was the April meeting, presented by the Antique Wireless Association, and featuring the early history of WHAM. VHF Contest winners were announced with Chuck Oneske, K2YCO, the top single operator followed by Hank Blodgett, W2UTH, Len Gessin, WA2ZNC and Ed Gable, K2MP. Bob Nezelek, W2CNS, claimed top 432 Mhz score. At this time the Novice class had 52 students, the General Class 48, and a new Advanced class was announced with Harold Munday, KD2K, as the instructor. Writing for the RDXA, Irv Goodman, ZB2EN, wrote that Rochester's *Mr. DX*, Sax Ringler, W2SAW, spoke at the last DX meeting on the Sicorro DX-Pedition. George Heron, N2APB, continued his excellent series on CW traffic handling and Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, announced the Susquehannock Pro Road Rally coming up on June 7<sup>th</sup>. From the Want Ads, you could buy an ICOM 230 FM Xcvr from Jim Tiefenthal, K2IS. The Heathkit Electronic Center on Jefferson Road remains a long time advertiser, this month featuring a Heath HX-1681 transmitter kit for \$227.95.

## Public Service for 2000

Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The requests for Hams to provide safety communications are starting to come in. All of these events are easy to operate, fun, and they give everyone practice to be prepared in case of a real emergency. The following is a list of the events to date:

R. E. Ginna Drill	May 17, 2000
STPR Road Rally	June 2-4, 2000
Tour de Cure	June 3, 2000
Stuart Horse Trials	July 29, 2000 ?
Walnut Hill Driving	August 15-20, 2000
Genesee Valley Hunt	September 10, 2000 ?
Henrietta Duathlon	September 23, 2000 ?
Walk Octoberfest	October 7, 2000 ?
JOTA	October 21&22, 2000
Pumpkin Patrol	October 30 & 31, 2000

Those marked with the ? are approximate dates. If you are interested in working any of these public service events there will be sign up sheets at the RRRRA meetings. You can also contact Ed Holdsworth at 624-1929 or n2eh@frontiernet.net.

## RaRa HOTLINE

(716) 442-0587

24 HOURS A DAY

# DX Report

Ed Gable, K2MP

While typing this I'm listening to FO0AAA work the pile from rarely activated Clipperton Island. It has been about eight years since this rocky uninhabited island has been on the air and the DX community took good advantage of this well run N7CQQ DX-pedition.

Conditions continue to improve and 'round the clock DX'ing is becoming possible with many bands open simultaneously.

The ARRL DX phone weekend was March 4-5 and lots of DX was available for those contesting or just adding to their DXCC count. Interesting calls were 3G0Y Easter Island, 9E1S Ethiopia, 4S7BRG Sri Lanka, FO0CLA Marquesas Island, JN1HOW/JD1 Ogasawara and many others. Semi-rare Pitcairn Island was easily workable last month with a visiting OH2 operating as VP6BR.

Two interesting announcements were received this month (tnx ARRL and 425 DX News) concerning upcoming DX-peditions. The first news is activation of BQ9P from Pratas in April by five BV2 hams. The other is Willis, VK9WI, to take place around May 10<sup>th</sup>. Good luck in logging these two.

The next meeting of the Rochester DX Association is April 18, 7:30 p.m., at the usual 111 Westfall Road site. The meeting will be the popular DX Quiz Night. The 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 [www.qsl.net/~rdxa](http://www.qsl.net/~rdxa).

## YL Forum - *continued from page 3*

YL Operator's page  
<http://www.qsl.net/va3rj/yl.html>

YL nets and clubs  
<http://www.qsl.net/ylrl/ylclubnet.html>

North American YL nets  
<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/3376/naylnet.html>

YL DX nets  
<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/3376/dxylnet.html>

YL Packet Net  
<http://www.sky.net/~micro/jars1.html>

Database of YLs listed in the FCC Amateur Call sign database  
<http://members.surfsouth.com/~jhardy/yl.htm>

Note that there is no space where the URLs span more than one line.

So, ladies, there you have it . . . . three ways to become more connected with the YL world, to make new acquaintances, and to have a lot of fun. Try a couple of them and see where they lead. Enjoy.

# "POWER CORRUPTS, BUT LACK OF POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY"

Howard J. Greenwald, KC2ERG

This quote, attributable to the late Adlai Stevenson, reflects the frustration often felt by those who are repeatedly denied what they believe they are rightly entitled to. It also reflects how a friend of mine, who now lives in Clarksburg, West Virginia, feels about the local power utility.

This friend is an avid short wave listener who has been encountering reception problems. Some of it might be due to the hilly terrain in the area where he lives, but some of it is definitely caused by harmful radio interference caused by utility power line noise. My friend's repeated complaints to the local utility finally brought some temporary surcease of static: the power line interference disappeared for about three weeks. Then, it mysteriously reappeared.

My friend is again complaining to his local utility, but they have been neither responsive nor courteous to him. They, like other utilities, seem to believe that they have the local monopoly to provide poor service for an exorbitant price and the customers be damned. According to one apocryphal story, the wife of the President of one such utility, one Marie A. Clinton, was reputedly heard to say "Let them inhale lethal doses of ionizing radiation" when faced with a crowd of rebellious customers who had been overcharged on their utility bills and could thus only afford to eat bread.

The arrogance of public utilities is often mind-boggling. What does one do when faced with an arrogant, inefficient financial behemoth that insists on polluting the airwaves with illegal radiation in spite of repeated protests? One answer was suggested in the "DX News" issue "Volume 67, No. 18," dated February 14, 2000. According to this issue of the DX News, the FCC contacted a West Coast Power Company (Pacific Gas & Electric Company) regarding longstanding complaints by several northern California amateurs regarding severe power line noise on the amateur bands. On November 22, 1999, the FCC wrote the utility requesting the company to correct the problem "within a reasonable time".

It appears the letter sent by the FCC in this situation is similar to an FCC form letter, a copy of which is presented in the ARRL's web site ("[http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/fcc\\_utility\\_letter.html](http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/fcc_utility_letter.html)"). The letter notes, "At this stage, the FCC encourages the parties to resolve this problem without FCC intervention." However, if this voluntary approach is not successful, and "...if necessary to facilitate resolution... the FCC may investigate possible rules viola-

tions and address appropriate remedies."

The ARRL suggests certain steps be taken if your utility is treating you with its usual level of intelligence, courtesy, and responsiveness. In the first place, "Before contacting the FCC, people should make reasonable efforts to resolve power-line interference through the normal customer-service procedures at their power-utility company." During this step, it might be advantageous to contact the ARRL for assistance; contact may be made, e.g., at the "RFI Desk," (860-594-0214).

When negotiating with the utility, you might wish to send them a copy of the form FCC letter presented in the ARRL web site. This will let the utility know not only what the FCC might do to them but also you are prepared to take whatever steps are necessary to get relief from the carcinogenic radiation infecting your ham shack.

If this first step does not work, you might then call the "Federal Communications Commission Call Center" at 1-888-CALL-FCC. The ARRL web sites recommends that "If you do contact the Call Center, be prepared to explain *briefly* the steps you have taken to try to resolve this with your power company. If you and the FCC staff agree that having the FCC send the 'RFI-Power-Utility Letter' is appropriate, be prepared to supply them with the utility name, address and, if possible, an individual to receive the letter. This individual should be an upper manager or Vice President, if possible."

If you are lucky enough to find someone at the FCC who will discuss the RFI problems you are having with your local utility, make sure you get their full name, title, address, and telephone number. Then, after your conference, write a letter to the Federal employee confirming the conversation and presenting all of the details and/or documents necessary for the FCC to act; send a copy of the letter to the ARRL "RFI Desk" and, for good measure, to your local congressmen. It is much more difficult for an administrative agency to ignore a written complaint than an oral one.

If you are experiencing harmful power line RFI, it is likely that other radio amateurs in your geographic area are experiencing the same problem. Encourage your friends, neighbors (and even your enemies) to seek redress of the situation in precisely the same manner you do; furnish them with appropriate names, addresses, and form letters to follow. Encourage your local ham radio clubs to file protests with the utilities and/or the FCC. The effect is remarkably "synergistic:" two hams complaining about power line RFI have much more than twice the credibility of one ham making such complaint.

**NEXT RAG DEADLINE**  
**April 14, 2000**

# FB SIG OM TNX QSO HR 40M BCNU ES CIAO

Bill Hopkins, AA2YV

*Editors Note: Mr. Hopkins is a language professor at Nazareth college. Enjoy the article.*

Now that the 5 wpm rule is coming on line everyone wonders if the CW sub-bands will go to the dogs. I don't think so. We all learn to speak rather well - grammar aside - and we all want to belong. Some of our new CW buddies will jump straight to the other digital modes (RTTY, PSK31, etc.) but type just as poorly, some will pick up speed and send clean code with good, open word spacing, and others will rush through letter spacing, like a country bumpkin eats *pate de fois gras* or butter-dipped lobster. But whatever the CW variation, we will all be much better off in 5 years. These newcomers to the bottom of the bands will soon find that CW is not a "digital thing" or a letter-for-a-sound torture. It is a different human language and it's international. 25 wpm is a sweet symphony of mental words, quick like a rabbit and easy to understand. But when their friends hear that they've given up some E-mail time for CW, watch out!

Incredulous friends regularly ask - with a snicker - why we hams still use Morse code. Of course, we give all sorts of reasons; maybe the military recently abandoned the digital mode only because the other superpower no longer posed an immediate nuclear threat, and one could now rely completely on satellite communication. But after your lame explanation, the friends will smile as they turn away, not even caring to roll their eyes at this Esperanto-like has-been.

What they - and we, I think - fail to perceive is the rugged tenacity of that life giving "cw fix" so many of us unquestionably turn to when the work-day has been hard or the weekend will be leisurely. Of course, the other challenge, even from within the ham community, is that CW takes too long to get out of one's "mouth." But let's remember that all spoken language - the basis of every form of intellectual communication - runs through the time continuum. This newsletter article, for example takes merely 2.6 minutes to read at 250 words per minute, while an oral reading will last almost four times that. And yet, we go to ham club meetings to hear someone publicly chew the verbal rag or out to a lecture on Tibet, when we could have read a magazine article and saved the gas money. In fact, we prefer, in all spoken languages, to drag out certain phrases and in doing so give an emotional body or cultural substance to our meaning. Short statements convey force; circuitous statements add valence to meaning. And, most importantly, wordy word groups reflect our desire to belong. Why do we

send dit-dit-dit-dah-dit or *solid copy*, or dit-dah-dit on our *over* when both gave a 579 and the code is relatively clean? Did we have to say that? Obviously, no, but we wanted to say it anyway.

Ham CW language with its abbreviations and international jargon is a curious thing, but not so curious as our friends might believe. The import-export culture has similar buzzwords such as FOB (free on board) or CIF (cargo, insurance, freight). We are much more reasonable with: *dr* for "dear"; *ciao* or *cheerio* for "so-long"; *cul* for "see you later", French *es* and *de*, and many more. Our CW language is a spoken language, which has grown up with regular usage. In fact, it has behaved the same way English has in the world development of languages. It makes extensive use of contractions and word shortenings, developing quite naturally with use. As Umberto Eco would have said in his book The Search for the Perfect Language, CW is an *a posteriori* language, taken from prior human usage and not a *a priori* language that invents words out of pure concepts. (Even Zamendorf's Esperanto is formed *a posteriori*; *skribotable* is a writing table and *krajono* is a pencil.) In the ham business non-reality based words would probably come off as a secret code and illegal - everybody understands 73 - whereas the CW "words" such as *cul*, or *bcnu*, or *btu* or *om/xyl* are formed by natural usage and are easily decipherable. Well, *xyl* is a stretch.

In our international CW language we are frugal in the grammar and syntax, but we try to retain that cultural valence, which is our "global nation riding the F layers." So, it's not just our English anymore. For those non-ham friends we truly do speak a code, a foreign language. Granted, much of it started as English; but it is now a lingua of its own. Some words are halved (*sig*), some words change consonants (*wid*), some change vowels (*fer*, *ur*), some omit vowels (*hv*, *gg*, *hpe*, *bk*), some omit vowels and consonants (*vestdy*, *possbty*, *tt*, *lil*), some omit vowels and consonants and add a change (*tnx*) some keep a vowel to avoid allophones (*abt* vs. *dah-dit-dit-dah* or BT). The letter "x" frequently replaces a near identical morpheme (*tnx* for "thanks") or replaces entire syllables (*condx*, *xr* or *xmtr*, *rx* for *rcvr*, *wx*). And some words do not carry their English meanings; *hi* is not the going western world word "hello." Real old-timers, such as Bob, K6QT, in Payette ID, say *har*.

At the 25 wpm do we hear letters? Hallicrafters no. We hear sentences. At 35 wpm do we hear words? Milhenries no. We hear talk. So why will CW stay around? It's not a digital mode. It's a language *ob*. And we all like to talk.

**Public Service Events  
Need Your Help  
Be A Volunteer**

# China Clippings

Ronald E. Roach, W2FUI

The first edition of the "Worldwide Ham-Shortwave Radio Atlas", published in 1993, listed forty amateur radio stations in its population of 1,140,000,000 citizens (the population passed 1,200,000,000 this past year). When I began living a month or two each year in China in the late '80s, the actual amateur operator population hovered around one thousand, all of whom were tied to club stations in the various cities such as BY4AA in Shanghai, BY4SZ in Suzhou or BY5HZ in Hangzhou, my home away from home.

The term "Radio Sport" is aptly named, because many of the club stations were housed in facilities shared by youth sports organizations. In Hangzhou, for example, BY5HZ was on the second floor of a sports facility that supported tennis, pin pong, and rowing teams. The make-up of the club station, with the exception of Mr. Fung, the curator of the club, consisted of high school and college students. The reversal in the downward spiral of operators in China was sparked, in the early '90s, by the liberalization of the personal operator license which freed those who could afford it to operate individually away from the club stations, which operated and was open only at certain times depending on the availability of the curator.

I spent several years, especially in Hangzhou, proposing the addition of school stations and was happy to visit the club station at the Provincial high school in Hangzhou in 1997. Like the displacement of millions to fulfill its hydroelectric needs with the current construction of the Three Gorges dam project on Yangtze River, BY5HZ fell victim to the new super highway construction several years ago and the sports building, along with the entire neighborhood that surrounded it, is now only a fond memory in the modern divided freeway that exits Hangzhou.

Next month I will challenge you to a foxhunt, Chinese style.

*Ed-Mr. Roach, a retired educator, has traveled extensively in the Orient, particularly in China, spending enough time in that country over the last ten years to be able to understand its people. He also speaks Chinese.*

*In future issues he will make you aware of the differences in culture as related to Ham radio-enjoy.*

**FOR SALE:** Just in time for the Novice classes, a very nice starter Ham receiver. This Hammarlund HQ-170 covers 160 through 6 meter ham bands and will copy SSB, CW and AM signals very well. Cabinet is tired and scratched but works great. \$55.00 with speaker and manual. Ed Gable, K2MP 392-3088 or k2mp@eznet.net.

# RRRA

Tome English, N2YJY

The RRRA had its annual auction this month (March). We anticipate being back at the Pittsford Town Hall for the April 21st meeting.

We all know what DSL is right? If you don't have a clue as to what this term is, then come on along to the April meeting. Pat Lynch from Frontier will enlighten us as to the meaning of what this term is all about. It looks to be a rather fun and interesting evening.

It's still not too early to start thinking about helping out with various functions for the Hamfest. One of those functions is the Talk-in station. This involves helping out of town hams looking for directions to the Hamfest. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with this event, contact me at 716-381-4018. I will return all messages left if not at home. You do not need to be a member of RRRA to do this function. It's a great time and it's also a great benefit to the ham community.

That's all I have for this month. Hope to see you at the meeting April 21, 2000. Remember, we're meeting back at the Pittsford Town Hall that evening. Lets all come out to hear Pat Lynch and learn about DSL. See ya there.

## WALKER TOWER

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## SILENT KEY

**Clarence R. Van Der Broeke,  
W2OUM**

**March 1, 2000**

# Antique Wireless Association Museum

Ed Gable K2MP, Curator-Director

The AWA Museum is gearing up for its May 2000 opening. Located in nearby Bloomfield, NY, the AWA museum features displays of electronic communication from the telegraph period through modern cellular telephone techniques.

New displays for this world-class museum include Transistors, the devices and their early applications, personal communications through the decades, a series on types of detectors and improved tube displays. The old favorites, the 10, 500 and 1 kW spark transmitters, remain to thrill the old timer and scare the wits out of the casual observer of these thunderous old spark jobs.

Hams will delight in seeing vintage equipment by Hallicrafters, National, RME, Howard, Collins and other manufacturers. I'm sure you will enjoy the 1925 radio store and listening to working radios of that era. You and the family can gather around the three-inch pilot TV and enjoy a ball game, just as they did in 1949.

The museum is located at 2 South Avenue in Bloomfield, at the site of the Bloomfield Historical Society, just across from the Village Green. You can see a preview and a map by visiting [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org). The museum, like most, is run by volunteers and is open weekends from May to October, except closed on major holidays. A special invitation to RaRa members is hereby given and we hope that you all plan a visit this year. Your admission is free. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer guide at the museum is encouraged to contact the Curator, Ed Gable, at 392-3088 or via [k2mp@eznet.net](mailto:k2mp@eznet.net). The Museum telephone is (716) 657-6260.



## Paragon Tuner and Detector

Example of 1920's commercial radio fully restored by AWA staff member, George Platteter, AA2FO.

# Rochester VHF Group Annual Awards Banquet Announced

Tim Stoffel, NS9E

The eleventh annual awards banquet of the Rochester VHF Group will be held on Saturday April 15th at the Burgundy Basin Inn, 1361 Marsh Rd., in Pittsford, NY. Cash bar will begin at 6:30 PM, with dinner to follow at 7:30 PM.

This annual event is held to honor those VHF'ers who braved the heat of competition in the January VHF Contest, and emerged victorious. For those who maybe weren't so victorious, it is a time to gather and mingle with friends old and new! In any case, this event is one of the high points of the year for the Rochester VHF Group.

Besides a sumptuous dinner and awards, there is always some form of live entertainment. Len Gesin, WA2ZNC, our Banquet Chairman, has never failed to bring us something interesting and entertaining. So, why not take a break from doing your taxes, and join us for a good time! Your significant other is also encouraged to attend, and the entertainment is not all 'radio talk'!

Tickets are \$18.50, and must be purchased in advance. The tickets are available from Len, WA2ZNC (229-5470); Irv, AF2K (671-4430); Tim, NS9E (247-4798); Paul, N2OPW (425-1301); Jeff KB2VGH (424-8406); and other officers of the Rochester VHF Group.

For membership information, contact Jeff Luce, KB2VGH at [vhf@vhfgroup.rochesterny.org](mailto:vhf@vhfgroup.rochesterny.org) (Note new address!), or visit the club's website at: <http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org>, or by mail at: Rochester VHF Group, P.O. Box 92122, Rochester NY 14692.

## DON'T FORGET RaRa's SPRING PICNIC June 17, 2000

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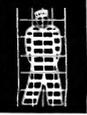
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# Spring License Class Update

Tim Magee, WB2KAO

Registration was held for the license classes on February 14<sup>th</sup> and we are in full swing. We have approximately 20 students in the Technician class, seven in General and eight in Extra. The students appear to comprehend the material.

The General class is being taught for 1.5 hrs each week and the Extra class for 2 hrs per week.

I am interested in people volunteering to be instructors for the fall semester. Those persons who might be interested can contact me by phone or e-mail [wb2kao@mytalk.com](mailto:wb2kao@mytalk.com).

My thanks to the staff of instructors, who are doing an outstanding job.

We are planning on holding class testing on Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Hamfest - *continued from page 1*

working with students in schools to teach them a little on electronics in general and not just Ham Radio. RaRa joined this bandwagon by forming a local Radio Coaches Team which as been used by the

ARRL to help with their training information. Peter Fournia, W2SKY, a member of RaRa's local team will host a program titled **Radio Coaches**. A panel of coaches will present their program, how it happened, and how they do it. They have completed their 3<sup>rd</sup> highly successful 10-week program in the Rochester City Schools. For more on this program attend the meeting and their website at [www.ggw.org/rara/radiocoach.htm](http://www.ggw.org/rara/radiocoach.htm).

Are you a CW buff? If so be sure to stop by the W2"RUF 'n READY" both and see Kevin Kedzierski, WA2FKV to test your skills. This is a Morse Code Proficiency test that is given by the Radio Association of Western New York in honor of Clara Reger, W2RUF, 1898-1980. A beautiful four color certificate will be given to those participants who copy at least one perfect minute at 7.5 WPM or more showing the date and speed achieved. A copy of this certificate is pictured below on this page.

Next month there will be a schedule published with the times and places of all the programs that have been covered in the past four months. Be sure to review it and attend the meetings of interest to you.

**Rochester Hamfest-June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th**

# Radio Association of Western New York

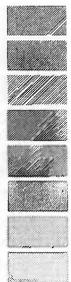
Morse Code

# W2"RUF 'n READY"

Proficiency



Color includes the highest speed attained



Color includes the highest speed attained

Has, on this day June 5, 1999, at the Rochester Hamfest demonstrated the ability to copy the International Morse Code for one full minute without error, at least seven and one half words per minute. Subsequential increases in levels of code speed shown, prove that this "CW OPERATOR" means business, always improving CW skills in the true CLARA REGER spirit.

Clara Reger, W2RUF 1898-1980

"Say it in code or don't say it"

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