



the RARA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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May 2000

NO. 9

Old Timers Night

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

For year 2000 we will be going waaaaay back into the history of ham radio, back to the very beginnings of the first licenses in 1912. We will look at the formation of the ARRL, RARA and even touch some real ham rigs of the period. A video tape depicting the actual voices of those who were there during the formative years will delight all attending. So come and hear Ed Gable, K2MP/W2AN, Curator of the A.W.A. Electronic Communication Museum, share these fascinating times.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. will be held at the Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 E. Henrietta Road, Henrietta, New York on May 5, 2000 at 8:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

- To elect officers
- To elect a Board of Directors
- To determine the dues for 2000-01.

RARA Picnic - June 17, Ellison Park

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Will we beat last year's attendance?

Last years annual picnic was well attended. Maybe it was because of the free food or maybe it was because of the laid back enjoyment of eyeball QSO's. This year will be more of the same. Please join us Saturday June 17 at the South Lodge in Ellison Park after 11:00 AM. Ellison Park is on Blossom Rd. between the Browncroft Blvd. and Blossom Rd. exits of NY Rt. 590. There will be a sign to the South Lodge at the park entrance on Blossom Rd.

Look forward to a relaxed picnic with your fellow hams and significant others. Jon Dickason, N2JAC will challenge us to find his hidden transmitter, so bring your HT and your best body fade technique. We'll also be ready to play volleyball and baseball. The picnic is an enjoyable benefit of your RARA membership.

NYS PRB-1 Bill

Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

If you are not aware of it yet, there was a bill introduced in the New York State Assembly on March 7, 2000 that is very important to every Amateur Radio Operator in the state. That is Bill A9947 that concerns Amateur Radio antenna support structures.

Thanks to the effort of Frank Fallon, N2FF, ARRL Hudson Division Director there is a bill that has been introduced that would ease an amateur's ability to install towers or other antenna support structures. In part the bill reads "no local ordinance, by-law, rule or regulation, or other local law shall: (a) restrict amateur radio support structure height to less than ninety-five feet above ground level; or (b) restrict the number of antenna support structures". Complete wording and detail can be found at <http://www.arrlHUDSON.org/a9947.html>. Frank encourages everyone to write their state assembly and state senate members to ask them to support the bill and/or to sign on as a co-sponsor.

In the past few years many of us have had to deal with the town zoning boards and get permits to install a very modest antenna. This experience has not been easy for most of us. In some cases it was even an expensive proposition. Now we have the chance to get a law passed in New York that could change all that. Lets all support this bill as Frank has requested. Remember that this is an election year and the governor was a Ham at one time. There is a good chance that if we all show our representatives that we support this bill it could be passed and put into law in a very short time period. Now is the time to act!!

RARA Annual Meeting

May 5, 2000

Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 E. Henrietta Rd.

Election Night and Old Timers Night

Presented by Ed Gable, K2MP/W2AN

the RARA RAG

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The Prez Says

Bob Moore, N2USB

CONGRATULATIONS! To all who received license upgrades in April 2000. I would think this was the greatest number upgrades the FCC has ever seen. I'm writing this on the evening of the 14th of April and I must say I am like a kid (a 57 year old kid) awaiting the arrival of Christmas morning. As I have said before I hope you, like me, were able to take advantage of this opportunity. And I can't wait to use my new privileges.

I cannot believe the year has gone by so quickly, it seems like it was just last month I opened this years meeting season. As you know the May meeting is the Annual Meeting for RARA and you will be electing your leaders for the upcoming year, please come out and participate in the running of your club.

As usual the May meeting is "OLDTIMERS NIGHT" and Ed Gable, K2MP will be entertaining you with a great program. I have never known Ed not to have a most entertaining presentation.

There are still two major Club events to take place this year. The first is the Northeast's largest Hamfest, the Rochester Hamfest and ARRL Atlantic Division Convention, to be held on June 2nd, 3rd and 4th. The banquet will be held on Friday evening the 2nd of June. Get a ticket and join us at the banquet and the hamfest. The second is the annual spring RARA Picnic to be held on June 17th at the South Lodge in Ellison Park. In addition to the great eats and good company we will have a Foxhunt, thanks to Jon Dickason, N2JAC for providing the fox and the expertise, and probably a few mobile radios around if you just can't stand to be away from a key or mike. Last years Foxhunt was a great success and was enjoyed by young and old alike. I have been asked by many of those who attended last year if we were going to have one again this year. Come out and join in the fun IT'S YOUR PICNIC.

I would like to thank you for all the nice comments I heard about the Club this year and would like to thank you for your support during my term as President.

See you at the May meeting and bring a friend. The more people that are involved in the club activities the better the club will be.

SILENT KEYS

Charles E. Butterfield, WA2VUF
March 21, 2000

William A. "Hank" Resch, III, K4VOS
April 3, 2000

YL Forum

Judy Stonehill, N2KXS

Well, spring is finally here. Whew. We probably won't get more than six more inches of snow now. Spring means something else, though, that's even better than getting rid of the white stuff: Several excuses for all of us to get together, have a good time, and help out our community. Uh oh, you say, here comes a commercial. Well, sort of, but only because I've seen first hand what great experiences these events are.

Of course, I'm talking about the safety communications that RARA members provide at several events in the Rochester area. Why should we YLs give up time to get involved in yet another project? Well, I'll give you some reasons:

- 1) It's a piece of cake and a lot of fun. Honest.
- 2) It's a good excuse to get better acquainted with RARA members.
- 3) It's a great way to meet new people.
- 4) You'll learn about other interesting activities, groups, and sports.
- 5) You'll give support to your club and your community
- 6) You'll show, by example, what amateur radio is all about and the value we bring to the community. You might even recruit a new ham or two.
- 7) The community realizes the importance of our contributions to these events and tells us ... it gives you a real good feeling when you hear what they have to say. Just one example: one of the judges at the Walnut Hill Driving competition told me that many competitors come only to the Walnut Hill event out of all the competitions in the country because they know that our amateur radio communications provide a higher level of safety than is provided at any other location. Neat, eh?
- 8) Of course, you'll hone your operating skills.

This safety communications stuff isn't just a guy thing - everyone is made to feel welcome and needed. The events and related communications are well organized with plenty of clear instructions and guidance given by other RARA folks. There are a wide variety of event types so you can choose to participate in something that's familiar to you or, instead, help out with something brand new that you would like to learn about.

Check out the list N2EH, Ed Holdsworth, publishes in the *RARA Rag*, pick out one or two events, and get involved.

If you still aren't confident that you would like to do safety communications work or find that first time tough to face, give me a call at (716) 582-2074 or drop an e-mail at jestonehi@frontiernet.net. If my schedule permits, I'll meet you at the event. I know that you'll have a great time.

DX Happenings

Fred Groner, W2TZ, Wins RDXA Award

Ed Gable, K2MP

At the RDXA Annual Banquet, a smiling Fred Groner, W2TZ, was the recipient of the RDXA KE2WK memorial Award. Given annually, this award recognizes the DX'er who has done the most to promote DX'ing, Contesting, and service to the RDXA. Fred was cited for all of these as well as his many years devoted to promoting Field Day.

Last month DX'ers were busy filling their logs with two new countries, East Timor (4W) and the just approved new DXCC entity, Chesterfield Islands (TX0). East Timor was fully represented by a slew of 4W stations from United Nations personnel stationed there as well as very active 4W/W3UR. Chesterfield was equally workable with a DXpedition signing TX0DX. This group did a wonderful job working all bands and modes for the waiting swarm of eager DX chasers. They logged over 72,000 QSO's before going QRT ahead of schedule due to bad weather conditions which could have prevented them getting off the island. If that wasn't enough hang on to your yagi for more.

May 1st through the 12th brings the long awaited return of Bhutan (A5). The Kingdom of Bhutan has just reinstated Ham radio and is currently listed as the #2 most wanted country worldwide. All bands and modes will be active and 24 hour a day operation is planned with three simultaneous CW and SSB stations as well as a full time RTTY station. The callsign has not been announced. And yes... there is still more. Just announced is an operation to Yeman (7O) planned by German ops signing 7OIII on CW and 7O1YGF on SSB.

Now, any bets on North Korea? There has been a HMØ signing from N. Korea (#1 Needed worldwide) but signals seem to be coming from JA land.

Six meters was exciting the week of April 10th with many South American stations worked and a slew of Aurora activity up through 222 Mhz.

The next meeting of the *Rochester DX Association* is April 18th, 7:30 p.m., at the usual 111 Westfall Road site. Anyone interesting in DX'ing or contesting can obtain a new Rochester DX Association brochure by contacting Ed Gable, K2MP, at 392-3088 or k2mp@eznet.net. Tnx ARRL and 425 DX News.

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

For Advanced Ticket Sales
Contact
Jack Tripp, N2SNL

Candidates for Club Officers

Editor

The Nominating Committee, made up of Alex Piccirilli, NV2Y (Chairman), George Platteter, AA2FO and ED Gable, K2MP presented a slate of members that agreed to run for club officers for the 2000-01 RARA season. These people are: President-Kelvin Freeberg, N2BEL; Vice President-Peter Fournia W2SKY; Secretary-Howard Greenwald, KC2ERG; Treasurer-Richard Goslee, K2VCZ; Board of Directors-MaryKay Vesco, KC2DPG; Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH; Cliff Milner, K2SKO; Jack Tripp, N2SNL; Allen Skiles Sr., W2AES; Jaime Anaanko, N3ZSS; Scott Blystone, K9EEE; Tom English, N2YJY.

Below is a brief biographical sketch of each candidate as presented by him or her:

Vice President:

PETER FOURNIA, W2SKY

The VP is chairman of programs and will become president of RARA in the 2001 - 2002 term. I have thoughts about both of these important duties. We have a diverse and exciting range of interests in our hobby. Common to them all is our intrinsic interest in learning. Keeping abreast of technologies, procedures, regulation, organizations, programs, techniques... and having fun doing it. Our enjoyment of the hobby comes from personal achievements and social interactions while participating. This is true for all ages. Part of the enjoyment is sharing our experiences and talents with others. Our members have a lot to share as witnessed at our monthly meetings.

RARA has many wonderful activities: monthly programs, ham classes, license testing, public service, Radio Coaches and more. I want to continue them and encourage participation from current members and future members. I look forward to enhance them and assure they meet the needs of current members and have the excitement to captivate the attention of future members.

The ARRL has initiated a Continuing Education program that many expect will revitalize interest in the hobby. I agree and look forward to involve the CE courses in our RARA programs as they evolve.

I received my first amateur radio license in 1958 at age 14 and have been an officer in 4 different amateur radio clubs. I have also been an officer at the local, regional and national level of 5 skiing and hang gliding clubs. In RARA, I have initiated and maintain the web page, am active with the Radio Coaches, and participated at Board of Directors meetings for the past 4 years, of which 2 years were as a BOD member.

Treasure:

DICK GOSLEE, K2VCZ

First licensed in 1956 as KN2VCZ, Dick holds an Advanced class license (and will be an Extra as soon after the 15th of April as the FCC acts. He has been a member of RARA for 19 years and has served on the Board of Directors for the last 16 years. He is a past President and has been serving as RARA Treasurer since 1987. He taught theory for the Novice/Tech class for RARA for 5 years and has also taught the Advanced class. Dick is the Editor of the annual RARA Directory, and is a member of the K2JD Engraving Team.

Dick is employed as the Director of Engineering for Quality Protections Systems, and combining his love of Drag Racing with employment he is also employed as an IHRA Certified Technical Inspector and the Chief Starter at NY International Raceway Park, in Leicester, NY, and he also works at Norwalk Raceway Park in Norwalk, Ohio. When he can find some free time he enjoys fishing and camping with his wife Susan (N2HKA) and his daughters Karen (KB2CHE) and Cathie (KB2ESZ).

Board of Directors

MARYKAY VESCO, KC2DPG

I have lived in East Rochester for sixteen (16) years and am a member of both RARA and the ARRL.

In my professional capacity, I work for Mazzola Insurance Agency, Inc as a Property and Casualty Broker. I am also a Notary Public and a Life, Accident, and Health Agent.

The interest in Amateur Radio began when, I complained to Joe Silver at A & B Electric about the CB bands being overcrowded and overpowered. He suggested I take the RARA Classes and become a ham.

Ham radio has been very enjoyable, particularly in areas where I can make a contribution, such as, working as an Editorial Assistant for the RARA Rag. In another area, I worked rapidly to obtain an Extra Class license, which also enabled me to work most effectively as a VE on the RARA Volunteer Examiner Testing Team.

I am very much interested in RARA reaching and fulfilling the needs of its members and feel I can make an effective contribution, in time and effort, by serving on the Board of Directors.

ED HOLDSWORTH, N2EH

I have lived in the town of Mendon since I was released from active duty with the Navy in 1954. Joyce and I have five sons, four who live in this area and one that lives with his family in Western Colorado. I was first licensed in 1968 with the call WN2EJR, and now hold the Extra class license with the call N2EH. I have been active in RARA since getting my first license and have served RARA for the past thirty-one years. I have served as Secretary, Vice President and President and have served on the Board of Directors for thirty years. I assisted with

the license class when I was first licensed, starting as an assistant and then as the director for several years. I also planned and coordinated several camping weekends each year during the 1970's and 1980's when we had more activities than we presently have. I am presently the Assistant General Chairman of the Rochester Hamfest and have worked on the Hamfest for the past twenty nine years. I am also the Emergency Coordinator for ARES and RACES Radio Officer for Monroe County and the Affiliated Club Coordinator for the Western NY section. I am the trustee of our club station, K2JD, a post I have held since 1971. The station has grown over the years since it got the first piece of equipment, a Heathkit HW-16. It now has two HF stations, one 6 Meter station, 6 VHF/UHF stations on 2 Meters, 220 and 450, 4 Packet stations and an ATV repeater/station, plus a great deal of peripheral gear. I am also a live member of RARA, ARRL, and Amsat and a member of QCWA.

JACK TRIPP, N2SNL

I have been married for 39 years to my wife Marilyn, have 4 children, 7 grandchildren, all of whom are living in the Rochester area. Very unusual in this day and age. We have 1 doctor, 1 accountant, 1 CPA and 1 architect.

I am retired and have been a ham for 7 ½ years. This gives me lots of time to play radio and computer. During this time I have been active on VHF, HF, packet. I have participated in several public service events, Pumpkin Patrol, Ginna Drill, Walnut Hill Horse Carriage Driving Competition to name a few. I am currently on the RARA Board of Directors completing my fourth term of office. I have been a Holdsworth Coolie for several years, helping set up for the Hamfest and again this year I am in charge of advanced tickets sales. I was Chairman of RAPS (Rochester Amateur Packet Society) for two years and am currently editor of the RAPSsheet.

THOMAS E. ENGLISH, N2YJY

I took the amateur radio exam in Feb. of 1994, receiving the actual ticket in March of that same year (you all remember we had to wait for the actual ticket to arrive in the mail before operating). I entered as a Technician operator.

Prior to becoming an amateur operator, I was a member of the Perinton Volunteer Ambulance for three years, serving as a dispatcher. It was during my tenure with Perinton that I was asked to get my ham ticket. I declined at that time due to time restraints among other things.

I have been an officer of the RRRRA for the past two and a half years, the past year as President. I have also put together the talk-in station for the Hamfest since the 1995 event.

As my term of office comes to an end at the RRRRA, I have been nominated to become a member of the RARA Board. I look forward to working for the members of RARA as we enter into the twenty-first century.

JAIME ANANKO, N3ZSS

I am originally from Long Valley, New Jersey and lived in Northeastern Pennsylvania for 18 years. My educational background is an associate degree in Electrical Engineering Technology from Penn State University and an associate degree in Broadcast Communications from Luzerne County Community College. I relocated to Rochester in 1998 and want to remain in the area permanently.

Most of my work experience has been in broadcast radio and television in operation, engineering, and technician /maintenance engineer positions. I hold dual SBE certification as a Radio and Television Broadcast Engineer.

I was licensed as an Amateur Radio Operator in 1997 at the Technician level, and have subsequently upgraded to Advanced Class level, passed element 4B and will be upgrading to Amateur Extra. I have been a member of RARA since 1998 and have served on the Board of Directors for one year. I hope you will re-elect me to your Board of Directors.

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Rochester Hamfest-Part V

Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

This is the last issue of the *RARA Rag* you will receive before this years Hamfest. Don't forget the dates, June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Your club officers and Hamfest committee chairs all hope that you will be able to attend this years great event.

The last four issues of the *Rag* have given you an idea of what this years Hamfest will be like. They have listed some of the events to take place and a brief description on the speakers and programs that will be available for you to attend. The following is the schedule and locations of these programs so that you can plan your time to make the ones of interest to you:

Friday Afternoon-June 2nd

Second Floor-Room A

2:30-5:00 Atlantic Division Affiliate Club Conference

Saturday-June 3rd

Second Floor-Room A

9:00-10:00 Electromagnetic Interference and the Amateur

10:30-11:30 Audio Science

12:00-1:00 ARRL Forum

1:30-3:30 VHF Forum

Second Floor-Room B

9:00-10:00 Western New York Section Meeting

10:30-11:30 National Traffic System

1:00-2:00 Electronic Troubleshooting

2:30-3:30 Amateur Television

Dome Floor-Room 3

10:30-11:30 Joint Mars Forum

11:30-12:00 Navy-Marine Corps Mars

1:00-2:00 RadioCoaches

Saturday On The Dome Floor

All Day W2"Ruf and Ready" Code Proficiency Tests

Hopefully knowing this schedule ahead of time will be of assistance to you.

Don't forget to get your tickets for the Hamfest and the Awards Banquet in advance. You will save yourself some time and money to use at the Hamfest.

W2EV Wins QST Cover Plaque Award

Ed Gable, K2MP

RARA is pleased to recognize and congratulate Ev Tupis, W2EV, of nearby Holly, NY, for his winning of the ARRL QST Cover Plaque award.

Ev's very innovative article covered how to use standard APRS software and modest two meter FM equipment as an automated Meteor Scatter station and is found in the November, 1999, issue.

A QST Cover Plaque award is very difficult to earn, as first you need to have an article accepted for publishing. The high standards of the QST Editors make that a challenge in itself. Then, you need to have your article selected by the QST readership as the best published.

The venue for the plaque presentation was the annual Rochester VHF Group Awards banquet and was presented by ARRL's Atlantic Division Assistant Director, Ed Gable, K2MP.

Tolerance And A Welcome Mat

Frank Fallon, W2FF

April 15, 2000 marked an important milestone for Amateur Radio in the United States. It was the first time in over 60 years that US Amateurs can operate throughout all the HF bands without having passed a Morse code test at 13 WPM or higher. In 1937 the FCC upped the code speed to 13 WPM from 10 WPM.

Many of the new upgraded hams will now be using the HF bands for the first time, and it appears there will be a lot of them from reports of crowds at recent VE sessions nationwide. They will be operating both phone and CW, and some of them won't know what life is like on HF. They may not realize that one doesn't call CQ on HF by tuning to a quiet spot and announcing that they're "Listening on frequency." They won't know much, if anything, about band plans, about nets, about working "up", or a host of other things. They will need help, just as badly as you and I needed help when we first went on HF. They will need to learn things that have never been part of any FCC test. They will need guidance, not hostility and transferred anger from those unhappy with the new FCC license structure.

Please, oh please, be generous with your help! Be tolerant of their mistakes and be friendly and tactful when you offer suggestions for improvement. Please, put out the welcome mat for them. Let them know also when they've done something right, not only when they've done something wrong. We certainly don't want a bunch of grouches turning them away from ham radio! It's going to be our task to Elmer them into Amateur Radio. Let's all provide them with a warm ham welcome.

Thanks to the Hudson News

RARA RAG 20 Years Ago

Ed Gable, K2MP

May 1980: This meeting featured a well produced slide show on Batavia's FD operation by Scott Simpson, W2UYY, and Leo Heiland, N9TE. The venue for this meeting, which was also the annual business meeting, was changed to the Gleason Recreation center, which has hosted several RARA meetings in the past. Nominated for the 1980/81 season were: Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB, as President. To VP was Don Drennan (sk), W2EBF, with Dave Coleman, N2AOB as Secretary and Gil Chapin, WB2UTI as Treasurer. The Board of Directors was Harold Smith, K2HC; Ed Holdsworth, N2EH; Jim O'Brien, K2UDP; John Golden, W2IRG; Irv Walters, WA2SOK; Tom Richmond, WA2IEY (now VE3IEY) and Alan Komenski, AC2K (now AC2K/7). Hamfest Ticket Chairman Ed Gable, K2MP, wrote urging people to order ahead and get one dollar off the \$5.00 gate price. Flea market spots were two dollars and the Banquet a modest \$14.00. *JR Amateur Radio* also acted as a ticket agent. Membership Chairman Bob Erskine, W2NVZ, reported there were 823 members. Two Silent Keys were reported. One was a good friend to RARA, Mr. Jim Fisk, W1HR, who was the Editor and Chief of *Ham Radio Magazine*. The other was a popular VHF operator and originator of the Champagne net, which currently is still in operation 25 years later, Mr. Ed Barry, WB2AMC, of Hilton. Writing for the RDXA, Rick Berg, WA2RLQ, argued that a flexible station, capable of working well on any band, is the key to DX success. A new advertiser is *Harvey's Ham* of Caledonia, NY, and operated by KB2LB. From the Want Ads you could buy a complete S-line from Don Breimer (sk), K2ISP/W2HZ.

RRRA

Tom English, N2YJY

The RRRA held its April meeting at the Pittsford Town Hall. Please note that we will be meeting at this location for the remainder of the year.

This month we will be featuring Steve Arnold. Mr. Arnold will be discussing Blue Tooth Technology. This appears to be an up and coming technology and although I'm not familiar with this type of technology, I intend on attending this meeting to find out what it is. I invite you to come as well, and learn just what exactly this technology entails.

I'm still looking for people to help 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

China Clippings

Ronald Earl Roach, W2FUI

While enjoying an extended stay in the city of Suzhou and operating from BY4SZ, the local amateur radio operators celebrated the visit of the Mongolian amateur from JT land who served as the radio operator during one of the successful ascents of Mount Everest. A foxhunt was organized as part of his visit. The usual electronic equipment seen at any foxhunt here in the United States was in evidence, however I discovered one of the items not normally considered here was an important element of the hunt, namely, running shoes.

The foxhunt I witnessed involved multiple hidden transmitters secreted along a cross country route miles in length, with both young male and female runners competing, not only to discover the location of the hidden transmitters along the route, but to complete the course in the shortest period of time. Teams competed against one another, using checkpoints to have their times and discovery of a given "fox" validated along the way, much like road rally events here in the United States.

Once again, the Radiosport Association demonstrated the fusion of technical and physical ability inherent in the placement of club stations in a sports environment, appealing to a younger participant or the athletic part of the event, while still providing participation for the older amateurs who functioned as planners of the route, checkpoint officials, and planters of the "foxes".

Next month I will examine electronic equipment sticker shock, and the "Elmers" who provision the gear for China.

Cookbook Mother's Day sales

Norm Turner, WB2LQB

Mother's day is May 14th. Do you need a quick gift? Come to the May RARA meeting where the "Species of the House" cookbook will be sold. They will be \$20.00 and proceeds will go to the Ronald McDonald House and our own Radio Coaches Program. I will be set up at the sign up table at the meeting entrance. Thanks for your support.

this event, please 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 learn about Blue Tooth Technology on Friday May 19th at the Pittsford Town Hall.

That's The Strangest Looking TV Antenna I Ever Have Seen

Howard J. Greenwald, KC2ERG

Relief is on the way for amateur radio operators oppressed by petty bureaucrats attempting to limit our rights to erect huge antenna structures. A move is underway in the New York legislature to introduce and pass a bill, which will protect these rights.

Our esteemed Governor is (or was) an amateur radio operator, and this is an election year. Because amateur radio operators tend to vote in higher numbers than the general populace, it is possible that the bill in question may soon pass.

What if you are now embroiled in a dispute with one of the local towns and cannot wait until the bill is passed? You should consider filing a "Petition for a Declaratory Ruling" with the Federal Communications Commission.

The March 2000 issue of "Monitoring Times" (Volume 19, No. 4) contains an article on "Antenna Law" on pages 10-15. According to this article, an amateur radio operator who is seeking reception of "alternative TV programming" cannot "be barred from setting up a satellite system in your home, condo, townhouse, or high rise" (see page 12). If your rights to erect or maintain such a structure are challenged, you can file a Petition for a Declaratory Ruling with the FCC. Details on how to do this may be found on the web at www.fcc.gov/ocsb/facts/otard.html.

The beautiful thing about this process, according to the articles, is that the "...procedure is a lengthy one and you shouldn't expect a ruling in under a year. Meanwhile, under the rule, you may continue to use the disputed device and not incur additional penalties while the Petition is in progress..." In other words, until a decision is rendered on your petition, no non-federal official can bother you.

You might be wondering how a procedure relating to a television antenna can help amateur radio operators. You might consider that many antennas are hybrid structures, containing elements designed to receive and transmit on different bands. What if, on one mast, one were to erect an antenna with a multiplicity of elements, some of which were adapted to receive the television bands, and some of which were adapted to receive the HF radio bands? Might not such a structure fall within the protection of the FCC's "Over-the-Air Reception Devices Rule?"

If you built such a "hybrid antenna" and it was challenged by the local zoning authorities, what would prevent you from filing a Petition for a Declaratory Ruling with the FCC, and continuing to use your antenna for at least a year? By the time you get your FCC ruling, the new New York State law protecting hams might be in effect.

"Where there's a devious mind, there is a way."

Amateur Television-Part V Profiling a point to point radio link

Bill McDonnell KG2F

In the past we discussed the effects of interference on successful picture reception. We reviewed the importance of selectivity in the design of the receiver's RF amplifier stages and the use of antenna directivity to further improve the signal to noise ratio of our Amateur Television system. This month we will start investigating the actual transmission path between the repeater and Walt, NO2Q's station. We will become familiar with topographical maps and there use in profiling a transmission path. We will use the information obtained from the maps to calculate the Free Space path loss. With the data obtained from the maps and the index of refraction for this area we will investigate just how well the repeater signal will travel to Walters QTH. We will also study the effects of diffraction as the signal propagates. It will be interesting to see how it is possible for radio signals to actually propagate beyond the visual line of sight while adhering to ground wave propagation.

The first place to start is to introduce the topographical map. RARA has purchased a complete set of maps covering Monroe country for the express purpose of calculating the performance of the Television Repeater around the county. The maps are published by the United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey. Our particular map set is of the 7.5-minute series. The maps depict primary and secondary hard surfaced roads, landmarks of significant importance, aircraft landing strips, county lines, marshy areas, latitude and longitude and more importantly land elevation profiles. This particular series displays elevations in 5-foot intervals. The maps appear a little daunting to read at first, but don't let this disappoint you, as with a little practice it will soon become second nature.

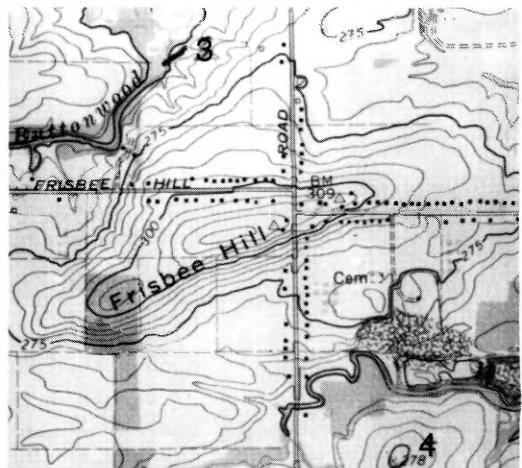


Fig. 1-Frisbee Hill

If you will refer to Figure 1 I will explain the use of the maps. These particular maps have an elevation profile interval of 5 feet. You will notice contour marks on the map where the darker lines have the elevation in feet noted. The first step is to locate the [nearest] darker colored line nearest the desired map coordinate. Next locate the next closest dark colored line to determine if the elevation is increasing or decreasing. Using a magnifier will help especially if the desired coordinate happens to fall near a sharp rise or fall in the elevation profile. From here simply count the number of elevation marks to the exact coordinate to determine the elevation profile. As an example figure 1 depicts the elevation profile around Frisbee Hill. You will note a penciled in number 3 just above Frisbee Hill and a penciled in number 4 just below and to the right of the hill. These are mileage markers I added while profiling Walters's path to the repeater site. Walters's path to the repeater is almost directly in line with the peak of Frisbee hill. To determine the exact heights first note the 275-foot elevation marker just above Frisbee hill road. Next count the elevation profile lines heading towards the peak of Frisbee Hill. You will notice there are four lighter colored elevation marks and then a darker colored 300-foot marker. Remember each profile contour represents a 5-foot increment. From the map we can tell the peak of Frisbee Hill is about 320 feet.

To get started with profiling Walters path I will need to spread the maps out over a large flat surface, in this case my basement wall. Once the maps are laid out properly, i.e. lining up the Latitude and Longitude tick marks we will first identify Walters's location and then K2JD. I find it best to use a yardstick and use a pencil to strike a line between the two points. Once the path is outlined the next step is to measure the distance between the two points. There is a convenient scale located at the bottom of each map just for this purpose. While making the measurements I like to make a small tick mark along the path at one-mile intervals. Later we will go back and log the elevation profiles at these markings.

After obtaining the end-to-end distance the first calculation to be performed is to calculate the Free Space Path Loss. As the name implies, this is the loss incurred in free space of a radio signal. The loss is directionally proportional to the distance and the frequency of operation. In analyzing our system performance we will actually have to separate path loss figures to contend with. Remember the repeater is transmitting at 925.0 MHz while Walter will be transmitting at 434.0 MHz. The formula for Free Space Path loss is given below:

$$L_{dB} = 36.58 + 20 \log^{10} D + 20 \log^{10} F$$

Where:

L = Loss in decibels

D = Distance in statute miles

F = Frequency in MHz

Log¹⁰ = Base 10 logarithm

After plotting we find the distance between Walters station and K2JD to be 16.5 statute miles. Lets first calculate the loss when Walter transmits to the repeater. Substituting 16.5 miles and 434.00 MHz into the Free Space Path Loss equation we arrive at a loss of -113.68 dB. Write this figure down as Walters transmission Free Space Path Loss. Now let's repeat the calculations only this time lets substitute the Repeaters transmit frequency, which is 925.0 MHz. The free space loss of the repeater at Walters QTH is -120.25 dB. Write down this figure as the Repeater Transmit Free Space Path Loss.

That's all the room we have for this month. We will finish up this section in next months Rag.

Spring License Class Update

Tim Magee, WB2KAO

The classes are going along just fine. We are working toward a testing date of May 22nd.

In CW, numbers were taught at the April 17th class, with QSO formats being worked on during the remaining classes. In the Technician theory, we have covered 8 of 10 modules, with a review session scheduled for the May 1st class. Then a final RF Safety module will be taught on the following Monday, May 8th. On May 15th, we'll do a sample test and further review.

I want to thank Marv, K2ZAA and Norm, WB2LQB for their sub work in the Tech class during Rick's and my absence.

We did have one student, Dick, K2ROZ pass the 5 WPM CW test at the Kodak April test session. Congratulations Dick!!

And of course, as usual, I appreciate all.

Once again I ask for any volunteers wishing to instruct for the up coming year to contact me at 865-0384, or auntcher@aol.com.

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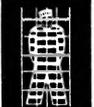
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