



the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL.53

SEPTEMBER 2000

NO. 1

PSK31 Demo At September 8th Meeting

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

A hands-on demonstration of the new and popular digital mode, PSK31 will start this season's meeting program. Bill Hopkins, AA2YV has prepared this informative program that will have you hear, see and feel PSK31! (We'll leave the taste to your imagination.) Bill will describe this digital mode, make HF contacts with it and give you the information that you need to get it going in your shack.

PSK31 has rapidly gained popularity in the past year because of its simplicity. Most hams have the essentials in their shack... their transceiver and their computer sound card. You can make it run in your shack with a little free software, interconnecting wires and some simple experimentation.

Another reason for its rapid growth is the intrinsic reliability under adverse band conditions. People have stated that they got the message when they couldn't hear the signal. PSK31 is rapidly becoming the preferred mode for reliable digital HF communications.

Come to the RARA meeting September 8, 8:00 PM, to get your first hand experience with PSK31. The meeting location is at the Henrietta Fire Hall at 3129 East Henrietta Rd. about 0.3 miles South of the Dome Arena entrance.

RARA Meeting September 8, 2000

Henrietta Fire Hall,
3129 E. Henrietta Rd.

PSK31 Demo

Presented by Bill Hopkins, AA2YV

Buffalo Hamfest September 16

Harold Smith, K2HC, General Chairman

The 11th annual Buffalo Hamfest and Computer Show combined with the ARRL Western New York Section Convention is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, at the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg, New York. The event is operated by RARA's hamfest committee. It is provided as a service to the amateur radio community in Western New York. The event attracts as many as 2,500 people from New York, neighboring states and Canada. Tickets are \$6.00 each. There is no parking charge.

NEW THIS YEAR:

- This year, the huge 50,000 sq. ft. International Agri-Center at the Erie County Fairgrounds will be turned into this areas largest world class electronics flea market. Tables to demonstrate and sell wares are available for the incredibly low price of only \$10.00 each. The low price is the same for all participants including merchants of amateur radio equipment as well as computer dealers. The huge indoor area protects everyone from the unpredictable weather we experience.

- An outdoor tailgate flea market area will be available to participants as well. Parking spaces in the outdoor area cost only \$5.00 each.

- The event opens to all at 6:00 a.m. Saturday, September 16. Indoor and outdoor vendors may set up Friday afternoon, September 15 at no additional cost.

- Programs are scheduled to start at 10 a.m. Brennan Price, N4QX, Field and Regulatory Correspondent at the ARRL will tell about the ARRL Field Organization. In addition, he will cover the OO (Official Observer) program. That deals with how OO's are selected and why they do what they do. In addition, there will be an ARRL Forum with Atlantic Division ARRL Director, Bernie Fuller, N3EFN.

The site is easy to find. Take the New York Thruway, (I-90) to Buffalo. Continue on the Thruway to exit 56. After paying your Thruway dues, turn right, then immediately turn left at the

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The Prez Says Shift Happens (say it carefully, please)

Keith Freeberg, President

Here it is already, another season of warm and friendly club meetings, opportunities to tell stories of summer-gone bye and plant the seeds for dreams of radio to come. How did it happen so soon? Summer certainly has not spent its last 'hurrah,' why the last major hamfest of the year (we hope that means Buffalo on September 16th to you) has not played out its dance of bargains quite yet. All that sounds 'par for the course.' So what is the 'shift'?

Your Board of Directors has been busy meeting over the recent warm summer months (sometimes even when we would rather have sat back with a tall cool glass . . . ah, I digress.) We've found several ways to enhance the service the membership receives at no additional cost to you our member. However, some twenty five hundred Greater Rochester Area Hams may grumble to you they did not receive their "annual" copy of the RARA Rag.

It is true, they didn't get a copy of this publication and you will not be paying for it. In past years we sent out complementary copies to encourage other area radio enthusiasts to join your ranks. Now, with our Internet web page (www.ggw.org/rara) and our 24-hour telephone message service, anyone can find out when and where the meetings are, that is true. Only you, our valued member will receive the informative and thought provoking newsletter, our acclaimed annual directory and an invitation to our family summer picnic. With the savings, we've decided to continue expansion of the RARA Rag's the popular series of exciting articles by local hams. Timely community based, amateur radio related information would be at the core.

Revitalization has long been a call to arms for the amateur community. We hope to make that more than an empty cry during the coming months with programs that target youth involvement in amateur radio. What, you may ask, you want more of my time for a program of the month? No, the program has already been through the agonies of start-up and has survived for nearly two years! The Radio Coaches Program will run again, this time increasing its focus on licensing for those that are moved by the lure of RF and its many facets. The school we are working with has even agreed to provide space for a permanently installed station!

The steady decline in membership in our local clubs (Read; 'difficulty attracting and keeping new younger members') reminds me of Patrick Henry. "We must all hang together or surely we shall hang

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YL Forum

Judy Stonehill, N2KXS

Well, it's time to face the fact that summer is almost over. Was it ever here? It sure seemed short. But, in my opinion, in this area, we have about the best weather in the country – no hurricanes, tornadoes, mudslides, earthquakes, prolonged bouts of 100-degree days, wildfires We (usually) have it pretty soft.

Under the topic of "What I did this summer": This spring, thanks to AA2FO, George, I talked to 7P8BB, Carolyn, on 15 meters. She is currently living in Lesotho, Africa with her husband who practices ophthalmology in a clinic in Maseru, the capital of Lesotho.

Carolyn is originally from Washington State and Oregon and became interested in amateur radio when friends pointed out to her that she could use HF to maintain contact with her Stateside friends. She worked on her code and novice theory with some help from U.S. friends in Africa, and later took the rest of her tests during furloughs in the States. She's now a licensed Extra!

Besides keeping in touch with friends in the U.S., Carolyn uses her Kenwood TS430S to maintain contact with the other medical clinics in Lesotho because there are no telephones in her area. When I asked her if the local villagers were interested in her radio at all, she replied that, yes, they sometimes use the rig to talk to relatives who are in hospitals a long distance away from the village. At times, this is the only way parents can communicate with a child who has been hospitalized. Carolyn is, of course, the control operator.

I asked Carolyn when she thinks she and her husband will be returning permanently to the U.S. She isn't sure. They have been in Lesotho for ten years and she misses her four children who are in the States but her husband's medical skills are desperately needed by the villagers. In her words, "in the United States, this would be just a job in Africa, it's a mission".

Occasionally, Carolyn will hop on the HF bands "just to talk". She finds chatting with fellow hams is a perfect way to maintain ties with a familiar culture. Very often, AA2FO will serve as the relay if Carolyn and her west coast U.S. friends have difficulties with propagation conditions. Several times during these QSOs, hams would notice that Carolyn's signal would fade after several minutes of exchanges. After some cogitating, they decided that the problem might be due to the fact that Carolyn runs her HF rig from a battery, which runs out of "juice" during a QSO. She doesn't have access to a 120-volt supply so she charges a 12-volt battery from the 220 volt house supply, then uses the battery to power her TS430S.

AA2FO decided that a power supply that had 220

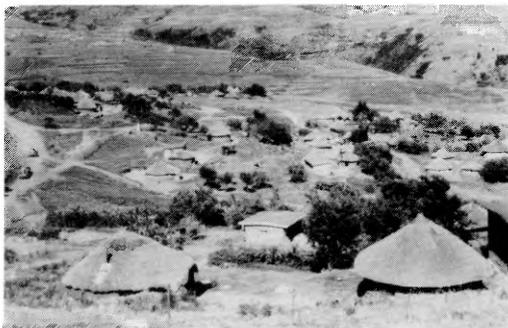
volts in and 12 volts out would be just the ticket to help Carolyn stay on the air. He found one at a hamfest, checked it out, and cleaned it up. This July, he and I both met Carolyn at a Toronto convention for an eyeball QSO. I've never seen a person hug a power supply before, but that's exactly what Carolyn did – her QSOs mean a lot to her.

During our conversations, Carolyn mentioned wistfully the facts that her kids aren't hams and that it's difficult to keep in touch with them because of the slow mail service and the lack of telephones. So, I pulled an AA2FO trick and started looking into ways that technology could help. After web searching and book reading for a few weeks, I found that, using her HF rig, a PC, a TNC, and some software, Carolyn could access the Internet and e-mail. So, I'm now cleaning up a TNC, building cables, and testing software. This is great fun – learning about something that's totally new to me and, as a result, building something that's going to help out a fellow YL.

So, all you YIs and XYLs, let the rest of us know what you've been up to in the amateur radio world. If you'd like to get into a new area of "hamdom" and aren't sure where to start or have started investigating a new topic and have bumped into some tough questions, call on your fellow RARA members. We're all here to learn, teach, help out, and have fun.



Carolyn, 7P8BB



Lesotho, Africa, Home of 7P8BB

It does not seem possible that summer is leaving us already. Every year the warm months seem to get shorter and shorter. Lets hope that everyone has been making the best of it and has been having a good time. The propagation has been on a high, which should have made your airtime experiences great. There have been some hamfests in the area to attend and allow you to keep up the eyeball QSO's even though there have not been club meetings to attend. Of course these will be starting up again very shortly.

RARA had their annual family picnic this past June. I know that many of you did not make it this year and that is too bad as there was a good time had by all that did. There were just over thirty people in attendance that took part in some good food with the hot dogs being cooked by Bob Moore, N2USB the



"MmmMmm Good"

outgoing president. There were two or three transmitter hunts that most people enjoyed participating in. There were even some prizes awarded to the winners of a couple of these hunts. There was a contest to guess how W2NFY with a new 2000 ARRL Handbook being presented to her for guessing 703. The picnic was held the same day as National Kids Day. However, this did not put a damper on the kids or adults that attended participating in this program. Thanks to Irv, AF2K and his



CQ Kids Day

September 1980: RARA's long standing meeting room at the Farm and Home Center suddenly became unavailable and the season kick off meeting was hosted by the Gleason Works ARC on University Avenue. Mr. Frank Orienter, from the RG&E, presented a program on energy sources. New Officers for the season were President Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB; V-P Don Drennon, W2EBF; Secretary Dave Coleman, N2AOB and Treasurer Gil Chapin, WB2UTI. Out going RARA president Alan Komenski, AC2K, was awarded a farewell dinner upon his departure for points West. Alan was cited for many contributions including the fuzz-buzz system connecting the .28/.88 repeater to local emergency dispatch people. Membership stood at 834 and was the highest ever, but the treasury held but \$111.03. Summer activity included a RARA Field Day event held at Brockport's Northhampton Park, the STPR road rally with 53 Rochester hams participating, and providing race communications for the Scotch Bonnet yacht race. During all of this activity volunteers found time to erect a 65 foot tower and HF yagi at RARA's club station, K2JD, then located at the IOLA complex. License class director Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, announced a new format for the classes where Novice and General classes will be held but once a year but in an extended format. The extra time will be used to concentrate on operating techniques, equipment selection and other practical instructions. Emergency Coordinator George Negus, K2OIU, announced a simulated emergency test (SET), which will concentrate on hospital communications. JR Amateur Radio of Scottsville Road continued to be an advertiser with a full-page ad of used equipment.

RagChew—continued

mobile HF equipment everyone was able to get on the air and make kids day a good event. Everyone should remember the good times and next year maybe there will be more members and their families in attendance.

The RARA Board of Directors have met three times over the summer months to lay out the plans for the 2000-2001 season. Hopefully it will be a good one and many of you will be able to make the meetings and events that they have planned. Remember the board meetings are open to all members to attend. They are scheduled for the first Wednesday evening after the regular Friday meeting. The time is 7:30 PM and the location is the County Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Road. If you are coming to bring up a topic to be discussed please contact the president so that you are added to the agenda for the evening.

An Elmer's Encounter

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

It's nice to hear about things that work right. Here's a little story about stepping forward and getting involved.

You may recall a discussion at the March general meeting about coordinating a connection between people with a need for a little assistance and other people who are available to lend a hand. Thanks to that discussion, John May, KC2DVX stepped forward to serve as our elmer coordinator. Although John's service was listed on the RARA web site, not much came of it until a ham in need left a message on the RARA hot line. Irv Goodman, who delivered it to the Board of Directors, received the message. We remembered John's service and contacted him. John responded immediately.

An equipment problem was successfully solved, however, much more was accomplished. John was treated to a wonderful encounter with an older gentleman and his wife. Here's what he wrote about his experience.

"Thanks for the wonderful opportunity to get me out of the house on a worth while mission. I just met a wonderful gentleman and his wife. We had a great time getting everything working to his satisfaction. My MFJ analyzer is great. All I had to do was remember that if the frequency is too low, you make the antenna shorter, not longer. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and my help was appreciated. The only problem I had was escaping after the problem was solved. This wonderful couple just kept talking and talking, but I must admit I didn't help much and my attempts to escape were rather feeble. If you get any more requests for help, let me know. I just might be interested if it's within a reasonable distance (Webster might be too far, but give it a shot)."

John, KC2DVX

This is the value of elmering. Everyone is enriched... the people in need, the people giving help, the club and the hobby.

You can get involved too. Got a problem, question or need a hand? Ask for help via the hot line of use our elmer web page. Contact information is listed in the *RARA Rag*. Want to lend a hand? Contact John. He will want to know a little about you so he can match you with a person's need. Radio QSO's are fine but eyeball QSO's are the real thing!

NEXT RAG DEADLINE
September 13, 2000

Fall License Classes

Tim Magee, WB2KAO

The Fall Semester of the RARA License Classes will begin on September 18, 2000 with registration at the Monroe County Social Services building at 111 Westfall Road in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.

The classes will run for 13 weeks ending with a test session on December 18, 2000. We will be running instruction for five WPM Morse code, Technician and General Theory, and possibly Extra theory if an instructor can be found.

We are looking for an instructor to teach the Extra theory class. Tim Stoffel, NS9E, will be leaving the area to pursue new employment opportunities in Nevada. If there is interest in the Extra Class instructor position, you ay contact me at 716-865-0384 or by e-mail at wb2kao@yahoo.com.

I wish to recognize my team of qualified instructors for the upcoming year.

Norm Turner, WB2LQB	Technician Theory
Bill Kasper, WB2SXY	General Theory
Tim Magee, WB2KAO	5 WPM Morse code

People having questions concerning the classes may contact me using the aforementioned means.

ARRL WAS and VUCC Awards Checked Locally

For those of you wishing to apply for the popular ARRL Worked all States (WAS) or VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) awards, RARA has arranged that you can do so locally without the need to mail your precious cards to ARRL Headquarters. For information contact Ed Gable, K2MP, at 392-3088 or k2mp@eznet.net.

SILENT KEYS

Addison N. ("Sax") Ringler, W2SAW
June 26, 2000

James L. Miller, N2IMS
July 15, 2000

Clement F. Becker, KB2HYP
July 19, 2000

RARA HOTLINE
(716) 442-0587
24 HOURS A DAY

The Prez Says— *continued from page 2*

separately.” The “hanging together” in this case is the Rochester Area Amateur Radio Associations; RARA, RARRA, RVHFG, RAPS, RDXA, KARC, XARC and BARC to name a few. (I apologize if I inadvertently left anyone out.) The need is clear to me (and I hope to you) to work cooperatively to leverage the talents, time and specialized interests of each group to bring this great avocation into clear focus for young people.

I know the siren call of the Internet speaks loud and clear to our nation's ever increasingly computer literate youth, we cannot let that call sound retreat for our efforts to introduce them to a spark of the excitement that became our burning interest in radio. One such spark can be the lure of an exciting well paying job, perhaps right out of high school. Yes, our nation needs digital designers. However, the media focus on digital has left a huge gap --- analog engineers and technicians. The broadcast and telecommunications companies need qualified people and consider an amateur radio license proof of knowledge — at least to get you an interview.

Think of the possibilities. For the foreseeable future we need broadcast engineers, analog design engineers, telecommunications engineers and RF engineers to fill our nations craving to become a wireless society. This is a future we can participate in and attract others to as well. Perhaps, starting in the schools we can send our message about the key that amateur radio offers to youth that has not already become satiated with Internet chat and instant messaging.

Speaking of youth, we can also start sending the message this October by donating an hour or so of our time Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). A few minutes spent with 10 – 12 young people at this special scouting amateur radio oriented event can supply the real scoop on radio from your perspective. Amateurs of all ages are needed to spend just an hour helping young people make an HF, Packet, VHF, UHF, Satellite, Fast Scan or Slow Scan TV contact. Wow, I wish I had the chance to go to one of these when I was a kid!

If you'd rather spend a few hours using your HT or mobile to increase the public awareness of just why we have this privilege and to help us all keep on the “winning ways” path with local legislators, come join me at the first public service event of the new club season. On Saturday, September 23, the American Diabetes Association (ADA) will have its annual Walk. (A list of other public service opportunities can be found elsewhere in this publication or at our web *continued on page 7*

DX/Contesting Report

Ed Gable, K2MP

DX for most has taken a bit of a back seat during the summer, but things are heating up. Next month look for Kingman Reef with a major DXpedition. KH5K is #2 most wanted in Europe and #16 worldwide. Twelve days of operation and 6 stations should assure this one gets knocked way down on the list. In the mean time, KH6ND/KH5 is operating from semi-rare Palmyra Reef and is operating as much as work will allow. QSL via K4TSJ. QSL's are hitting the mail box from last winters major Dxpeditons; 4W, TXØ, BQ9P, XZØA and others. One days mailing brought this writer's needed QSL's for Honor Role status.

Working 'em was easy; getting the QSL's to ARRL is problematic. Currently the ARRL DXCC desk has over 800 applications and over 80,000 cards in queue waiting action and the new DXCC 2000 program has all but eliminated effective field checking of DXCC cards.

Six-meter openings have been varied with E openings to Europe and very strong Aurora, but the quantity of openings has been a bit disappointing for most. RARA would like to congratulate the Rochester VHF Group for their 2nd place finish in the 2000 ARRL January VHF contest. Local high scorers were Tim, NS9E, 26.7k for single operator low power, Jim, N2JMH, 63.4k for single operator high power, Jack, WX3P, 13.7k for QRP and the K2PA multi-op effort yielded 399.9k points.

Field day saw the Rochester DX association (last year's 3rd place winner) actively seeking another big score at their Webster park venue. A new strategy for increasing SSB Q's may have backfired by causing fewer CW contacts. None-the-less, over 12.5 k was logged in 3A, nearly equaling last year. Scores are announced in December.

The next meeting of the Rochester DX Association will be September 21, 8:00 p.m. at the usual 111 Westfall Road location. The program will be a video of the ZL9C1 DXpedition. 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. (Tnx ARRL and 425 DX News)

Buffalo Hamfest— *continued from page 1*

traffic light. Continue south on NY Route 62 (South Park Ave.) for four miles to the fairgrounds. Turn left to the huge paved parking area.

This is the last major hamfest of the season in our area. Complete and updated information is available at the hamfest web site, www.buffalohamfest.org.

Europe On Thirty Meters And 2.5 Watts

Bill Hopkins, AA2YV

This summer I was back on the road to Berlin. I would be with a business colleague, so I couldn't count on maximum opportunities to do hamming. Our work kept us in Berlin for seven days; then we hit the road: one in Dresden and two in Prague. Back in the same villa in the Berlin section of Grue-newald, I would have only one night to set up the antenna and give it a go.

Last summer, you may remember, I took the HW-8 and made nuff gud QSO's on 40 and 20. Still, the rig was a bit large for easy transport. Wondering about my opportunities on 30 meters – not too active a band – I said, “what the hey; take the chance.” I had just built and tested out my DSW-30 kit at 2.5 watts from Small Wonder Labs. With lots of DX contacts already in the log, this rig would do the job. Now, what about the antenna? Last year's 40 and 20 dipoles were class act construction, but a bit too obvious. Back down at the basement workbench I scared up 50 feet of 22-gauge wire and cut my three insulators from 6 inches of rubber auto gas line. Butch Porter, N2HWB, found 20 feet of 300-ohm TV feedline hanging in his basement; all I needed was a quick attachment scheme for the feed to the dipole. For this I used small screws, washers and nuts. This trip fewer tools and thingies went into the odds-n-ends bag, together with the connectors, home-brew keypad, earphones and the nylon string for hoisting the dipole.

At this point my colleague Joe was intrigued – only a bit – during my July 12th late dusk set-up of the dipole over the villa's back lawn. (Not another soul was around that evening.) I couldn't get the wire up high at all, just to a repairman's scaffold at 15 feet and then up 10 feet to a baroque banister on the other end. Back in the room, I flipped the 220-to-14 volt PS to ON and bam!, here came John, IQ3JAC from Treviso, Italy. Without adjusting the tuner for this one I gave my call sign, DL/AA2YV. Have you ever had a dickens of a time making a QSO to impress a visitor? Well, this was a rush for old Joe. He just might get hooked on ham radio. (He will have to share his new hobby time with beer brewing.)

It was a quiet band but that's good for QRP work on 30 at night. In about 2 hours I brought in F2YT, LY2PX, IX1CKE, F6BLK/QRP and Robert, GØWHO, in Scarborough. John in Treviso and Bernie in Clermont gave me a 559, but all the rest were 579 or 599. At 0043 local time I crept back out through the ivy and dismantled the antenna.

The next day Joe told me it was so quiet outside that he could hear the CW from my earphones next door through his window. (Actually, I think he was

dreaming about being a ham.) But maybe the Berlin air is especially conductive, because in next day's newspaper the annual “Love Parade” downtown youth bash was reported as being cited for hitting 96 decibels at distances from 300 to 110 meters; the nighttime permitted limit was 45.

Then it was on solo to Wolfenbuettel, just south of Braunschweig. Here I moved into the 3rd of a 4 story late 19th renovated century water mill. The antenna setup would be creative here, because my small room had two windows set over 6 feet apart. So on the 25th I just let the curly 300-ohm feedline spiral across the room, and between the windows it attached to each side of the 24' 4" dipole sides. That means they hung through small metal window frames down along the brick sides, ending above the steel catwalk just over the rushing water. Here the danglers faced west across the pond. At 2235 local (Middle European Daylight) time I thought I snagged the special events station, IQ3JAC. But sri no cpi, only a 339 on that end. I was surprised to hear several stations from all directions. UR3IFD came in strong but he didn't hear me, then GJ3XZE too. But I got a 579 report, sending a 599 to Joe, PA3GNO in Middleburg. Close to 2300 Ben, and I got a good pipeline. He was running as LA/DK7MQ out of Trysil nr Lillehammer, “on holiday.” I heard JA stations but I wasn't going to get lucky this time.

Two nights later the band was lively enough that my signal got crushed. So I packed it in. While spending Sunday the 30th at the EXPO 2000 in Hanover, I thought I might run across some club's yagi sticking above a pavilion, but none appeared. On Tuesday, just before returning to the States, I spent the day up in the hill country (Odenwald) east of Heidelberg, and thought: “wow, a 30 meter dipole would look great next to those sail plane hangers. But I didn't have my rig bag along.

The Prez Says—*continued from page 6*

address.) The Walk will wind along 6.4 miles of the upscale Monroe and Park Avenue areas of Rochester with plenty of rest stops along the way. They will need hams at rest stops and in “Sag Wagons” throughout the route. Twelve or more volunteers will make the task so easy the time will fly by. Of course, don't forget breakfast and lunch on the ADA. If you'd like to help fill out our online form, email the ADA at cmason@diabetes.org or call them direct at 458-3040. My phone number can be found inside the front cover of this publication. This one is coming up fast so please call today.

All that said, we have only scratched the surface. Please write, email or call me with your ideas. I'd be happy to sit down and discuss them with you.

See you at the meeting on Friday September 8th.

AWA Museum News

Ed Gable, K2MP

The Antique Wireless Association's *Electronic Communication museum* is enjoying a nice season with increased visitation and new displays. If you have not enjoyed the free visit, or if it has been a while since your last tour, you should stop out some weekend afternoon. You will see wonderful displays of communications items from the telegraph period, onto the telephone era, then wireless, and onto modern communications. There are, of course, many ham items to enjoy including a working 1914 spark transmitter that you can key. The museum is located in East Bloomfield, just off Rt 5&20, at #2 South Ave. Hours are 2 to 4 on Saturday and 2 to 5 on Sunday. Contact the museum Curator, Ed Gable K2MP, at 392-3088 or k2mp@eznet.net, for additional information and openings for Tour Guides.

RARA Amateur Radio License Testing

All Elements Needed To Complete a License Class

Saturday September 23, 2000

Registration - 8:30AM
Testing - 9:00AM

Social Services Building
111 Westfall Rd., Rochester

Inquires (716) 334-4488
aa2fo@rpa.net

LIFE, ACCIDENT & HEALTH AGENT

MARYKAY VESCO

KC2DPG

310 Commercial Street
East Rochester, NY 14445
716 381-7773 Fax/Phone

P&C BROKER

NOTARY PUBLIC



Public Service

Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Did you know that public service is the basis and purpose for amateur radio according to the FCC? The very beginning of the FCC rules state this in the General Provisions, Part 97.1(a). It reads in part "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary non-commercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications". RARA provides the opportunity for each of us to fill this requirement by coordinating many different public service events with other agencies. The training that you receive by working on public service events will allow you to become ready to serve if a real emergency should come along (lets hope we are never required to use these skills for a real emergency). Not only that, they are a lot of fun. Below is a list of the few events that are left for the remainder of this year:

Pumpkin Patrol on October 30 and October 31 from 7:00 pm to 11:59 pm each night

The Genesee Valley hunt in Geneseo, September 10 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

The Walk Octoberfest on September 23.

As you can see we are running out of events for this year, however, there will be a new list coming out after the first of the year. Please sign up to help on these by signing the sheet for the event you want to work. This can be found in the back of the room at each of the general club meetings. Or you can also sign up by contacting Ed Holdsworth, N2EH at (716) 624-1929. Ed is the ARRL's Emergency Coordinator (EC) and RACES Radio Officer (RO) for Monroe County and RARA's Public Service Coordinator. Just a few of many hats that he wears.

Come out and spend a couple of hours using your radio and being with your friends. You will find it very enjoyable.

Advertiser Wanted: If you have a business, either part time or full time, you may want to consider using the *RARA RAG* to advertise in. The rates are very reasonable. Discounts apply to any add that is run in eight of the ten issue published each year. Contact the editor for details and see if it doesn't add to your profits.

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-180 HF Transceiver. 100 watt SSB/CW, full featured, all solid-state radio in as new working condition. With matching Kenwood power supply and external speaker with filters. Includes manual. Bargain at \$275.00. Ed Gable K2MP, 392-3088 or k2mp@eznet.net.

RAPS

Jack Tripp, N2SNL

RAPS is the Rochester Amateur Packet Society. Membership is open to anyone in the amateur radio community who has an interest in packet radio. Experienced packeteers, as well as newcomers, are welcome to join. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month from September through May, at 7:30 P.M. in the first floor auditorium of the Monroe County Social Services Building at 111 Westfall Road. Dues are \$5.00 per year. Our first meeting for the coming year is Thursday, September 14th.

The members of the RAPS organization promote the use of packet radio and are willing to help anyone interested in getting started in this great part of amateur radio. The club has built an inexpensive modem to help get you started in packet radio which can be purchased for \$25.00. This includes a copy of Baycom software and instructions for connecting the modem to your computer and radio.

Why should you use packet you ask. How about doing something different than repeaters, DX. There are many satellites orbiting the earth that have ham radio links. Think of the thrill of connecting to MIR, the Russian space station or ISS, the International Space Station soon to be occupied and will have a ham station. You can send messages all over the world or hook up to Bulletin Boards to see what radio bargains are out there. You already have most of what you need to get into packet. All you need is a computer, which you probably have; a 2 meter radio, and who doesn't have one of those and a modem or TNC (Terminal Node Controller).

Come on out to our first meeting of the year. Visit our web site at www.ggw.org/raps.

For further information contact Jack Tripp, N2SNL, e-mail: n2snl@arrl.net or by phone at 381-7757.

RRRA

Tom English, N2YYJY

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA) is, as its name implies, a repeater group. More to the point, the club owns operates and maintains two repeaters: the 146.28/88 and the 442.7 (+). The club also affiliates with several other repeater owners in this area that run the gamut from 10 meters all the way up to 70 cm's. Our repeaters offer telephone patch, signal strength meter among other things. We have a voting receiver on the Cobbs Hill Radio tower and are presently looking to place another voting receiver in the Greece area. This will help with handheld coverage that is somewhat spotty in that area. Our group meets at the Pittsford Town Hall on S. Main Street in the village of Pittsford (in the basement meeting room) at 8:00 PM on the third Friday of every month except for June, July, and August (we do have times when we meet elsewhere but they are known in advance). We encourage you to join us. Our dues are still only \$10.00 and the friendships are forever.

RARA Meeting September 8, 2000

Henrietta Fire Hall,
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Presented by Bill Hopkins, AA2YV

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