



the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 53

OCTOBER 2000

NO. 2

A DX Primer - At The October 6th RARA Meeting

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Operating DX is one of the original thrills of our amateur radio hobby. Now paralleled by chat rooms and Internet phone that opportunity has been broadened to everyone with an Internet connection. People without radio equipment can collect contacts from countries and interesting QSO's from the Internet. However, to amateur radio operators the thrill is heightened by the use of our own transceiver, antenna and operating skills. The thrill is further stimulated by Mother Nature's control of the ionosphere which adds unique challenges to radio communications. Timing and frequency selection requires a significant knowledge of radio wave propagation and the skill to apply it. QSL cards and DXCC count are a verification of our skill, character and luck. Most hams from beginners to advance on LF to UHF share these thrills.

This knowledge and skill is the topic at our October 6th meeting. It is a primer on working DX. The presenter is a skilled veteran of DX and DX Contesting, Fred Gern, K2FR. Fred will be covering the topic including where to listen, how to operate and QSLing. There will be a lot of tips. Although focus is on the new DX operator, this will serve as a refresher for the experienced operator. Ed Gable will be available for VUCC and WAS QSL card checking.

Come to the RARA meeting October 6th, 8:00 PM, to get primed for DX. The meeting is at the Henrietta Fire Hall at 3129 East Henrietta Rd. about 0.3 mile South of the Dome Arena entrance. Know a friend who enjoys the Internet form of DXing? Invite him to the presentation. He just might like the added thrill that comes with using radio!

RARA Meeting

October 6, 2000

Henrietta Fire Hall,
3129 E. Henrietta Rd.

A DX Primer

Presented by Fred Gern, K2FR

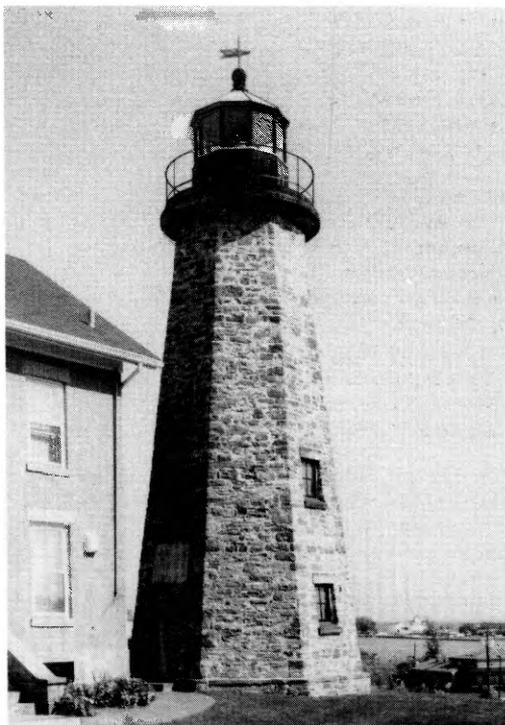
International Lighthouse Weekend

Allen Skiles Sr., W2AES

Members of the Brockport Amateur Radio Klub, RDXA, and RARA activated the Charlotte - Genesee Lighthouse for the International Lighthouse Weekend. The event began at 0100 August 18th and ended at 1159 on the 20th UTC. Eleven hams made a total of 826 contacts during this time. There were 34 DX contacts and 17 Lighthouse contacts.

We are planning on doing this again next year. So, make plans to participate at the same time as this year on the 18th and 19th. You can get information at: www.waterw.com/weider/lh-ham.htm and www.nyfrf.org/lh-home.htm.

The event begins with antenna erection on Friday evening the 17th and we go on the air at 9:00 PM EDT. More details will be announced as the event draws nearer.



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PUBLISHED BY
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333
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VOL. 53 OCTOBER 2000 NO. 2

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The RARA RAG (USPS 605-440) is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., 24 Elaine Drive Rochester, NY 14623. Subscription is \$5.00 per year (included in the annual membership dues and may not be purchased separately). Periodicals postage paid in Rochester, NY.

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

The Prez Says New Net Forming — Just For Youth Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

That's right! A Net just for kids. What if young people, those 18 and under, had a special time set-aside just for them? Oh sure, they can participate in all the other Nets, too, but this one is theirs alone.

"Lets give it a try." That is just what both the Genesee Repeater Association (GRA) and the board of Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA) said when the ideas for just such a service were outlined. So now that we have it, when is it? I guess we are not sure what evening is best, but thought Thursday evenings at 7:30 would be the best available time slot to kick it off. October 5, 2000 will be the inaugural Net Roll Call promptly at 7:30 P.M. on the RRRA two-meter repeater, 146.88. October 12 (Happy Columbus Day) the Net will have its inaugural Roll Call on the GRA repeater on a frequency of 146.79 MHz.

Who can participate? Anyone under the age of nineteen. Must you be licensed? No! However, a licensed operator must be present and responsible for operation of the radio equipment. Get your license, and you're the one controlling the radio the whole time! What can you talk about? Anything you want within the limits of FCC regulations.

What do we need to get started? A Net Manager (must be under 19) who will coordinate and manage the Net's operation from week to week. The Manager will keep track of all those nitty gritty details that go along with operating a net from week to week. Like, how many people were on the net, who was the Net Control that week, etc.

We also need Net Control Operators. The catch is, you need to be licensed for this job. Your job is to keep track of all the people that log into the net and in what order. You would call each station when it was their turn to speak on the topics that day. Why? So every one gets a chance to talk about what they want to talk about, and a chance to give you their take on topics others may have raised for discussion.

Anyone got questions? Anyone 'got game' but just wants to know a little more? Call me, Keith, at 458-8246 or send me an email to kff@frontiernet.net. And, if you prefer, just cruise on over to www.ggw.org/rara and click on the New Net link (up at the end of August) for more info.

This Net is jointly sponsored by RRRA and GRA to promote ways for youth to expand their education through the enjoyment and the exploration of the many fields of amateur radio.

RARA HOTLINE
(716) 442-0587

The YL Forum has been a very popular column over the past year. It has been enjoyed by the OM as well as the YL's with many favorable comments from all the readers. It is unfortunate that Judy Stonehill, N2KXS who was the author of this monthly column has had to reduce her workload. In doing so this column is one of the activities that had to eliminate from her busy schedule. Everyone should let Judy know what a great job she did each month. It has been great! Judy, thank you for all your work and efforts in putting out a great column.

At this time the RARA RAG editors are looking for someone to pick up where Judy left off. If you are interested in authoring this monthly column please contact one of the editors today. With all the great comments that have been received over the past year and interest in this column it would be nice to see it continue.

RARA Amateur Radio License Testing

All Elements Needed To Complete a License Class

Saturday October 21,
2000

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

Social Services Building
111 Westfall Rd., Rochester

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

This years RARA season is now well under way. The first meeting held on September 8th was on psk31. This turned out to be a very interesting subject and a very interesting mode. Something new to get us excited and bring us to life again. Something to want to try with out a lot of cost in new equipment. If you missed this presentation and demo by Bill Hopkins, AA2YV you missed a good one. However, there is going to be a whole year of good programs so plan on being at the meetings each month.

RARA also sponsored the Buffalo Hamfest on September 16th. This was a small Hamfest compared to Rochester's but still one that you shouldn't have missed. Harold Smith, K2HC, the Rochester Hamfest Committee Chairman was able to put together a great location with a large indoor and outdoor flea market. He even got the weather to turn out nice even though they were forecasting rain and thundershowers. This was the tenth year that Harold and his committee were able to coordinate and operate the Buffalo Hamfest at the Erie County Fair Grounds in Hamburg. Did you know that it was your club that made this possible?

There are still things to come this season besides meetings. There are still a couple of public service events taking place before the end of the year and of course the list starts over after the first of the year. The annual auction will be held in November as always and is a fun time and chance to clean out your shack. Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) will be held in October. As you can see there are all kinds of things in store for you. If you have other ideas that you would like to see take place contact your club Officers and Board members to discuss it. They are always ready to listen and talk to you.

JOTA is one area that RARA did drop the ball a little this year. There is a lot of coordination and effort needed to pull all the equipment, people and other clubs together to make this a real success and RARA didn't provide as much assistance as it should have. However, the Scouts Eagle District and Otetiana Council on there own with a little help from RARA and some of its members is going to make this event one of the largest ever held for the Scouts in this area. There is still plenty of time for you to get involved and help the Scouts get on the air for the weekend. Help them to learn what amateur radio is all about and how it works. If you wish to do so contact Kevin Kinnally, JOTAAree 2000 Chairman at (716) 533-1981 or at navet608@frontiernet.net. He will be glad to hear from you and could use your help.

There are many of you that have been involved in a lot of different things with amateur radio. You
continued on page 4

Henrietta Duathlon

Dave Payne, KA2J

Rochester Amateur Radio Association provided communications for this "3.5 mile Run - 11 mile Bike - 1.5 mile Run" individual and team competition on Sunday morning, September 17, 2000. The friendly competition, which started at the Rush-Henrietta High School, drew all ages of bikers and runners. The event, sponsored by Henrietta Recreation Department and Peddlers Bike Shop, ran smoothly thanks to the efforts of the organizers and our amateur radio communicators Roger Haarnart - WB2BWQ, Ken Haarnart - N2MXB, George Plateter - AA2FO, and Dave Payne - KA2J.

RRRA

Rachel Schwing, KC2DKB

RRRA has begun our new season of meetings after taking the summer off. We meet at the Pittsford Town Hall on Main Street in Pittsford at 8 PM on the third Friday of the month. This is where we will be meeting in October and November.

November is the annual "tune up" clinic. If you have some equipment that could use a tune up, bring it to the meeting and our resident experts will see if they can help you.

New faces and old familiar folks are all welcome. We hope to see you on October 20th!

RARA RAG 20 Years Ago

Ed Gable, K2MP

With the ever increasing need for 12 volt, high current power supplies for those new solid-state devices, the October program featured Bob Rabideau, N2AFR, of Sykes-Datatronics, speaking on ideas for home brewing. This was also the first meeting at RARA's new location, the Statesman's Club, high atop the First Federal Building at State and Main streets. Featured is free underground, rain free and guarded parking. No antennas, however. Thanks to John March, W9KFQ, who was instrumental in finding this new venue. RARA Secretary David Coleman, N2AOB, reported the Ed Mahar, WB2ZJY, and George Walker, N2BIR, have been appointed to the new positions of Membership Committeemen. They, in turn, reported that the RARA annual picnic will be moved to Ellison Park and that RARA Tee Shirts are now available to members. Writing for the Rochester DX Association, Rick Berg, WA2RLQ, announced that their program will be a film on the recent Spratly Island DX-pedition. The Licensing Class is alive and well with Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, Chairman, assisted by Chris Reich, WB2DJY, Bud Young, WA2UGE and Joe Calzaretta, K2VI. The Rochester VHF Group announced their meeting, held at Harris Corporation, will have a program on RF Interference presented by Pete Sitter. From the Want Ads, you could by a Lafayette HE-45B from Cappy Capaldy, K2UXF.

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SILENT KEYS

Robert C. Dengler, KC2QS
August 15, 2000

RAGChew — *continued from page 3*

have had a lot of different experiences that you have enjoyed and in some case maybe not enjoyed. In either case have you ever thought about writing them out for an article in the *RARA RAG*? The editors of your newsletter are always looking for articles to print for the members to enjoy and learn from. Most people use the excuse that I can't write that well. The truth is most of us can't until we push ourselves. You will be surprised. Not only that, but the editors will be glad to help you with the article after you have your thoughts on paper. So lets give it a try!

Engineers Needed

Engineers interested in working on true leading edge RF-on-CMOS ASIC design right here in the Rochester area should contact Clyde Washburn Jr., K2UE, at 249-8535 or k2ue@arrl.net

News From The Rochester VHF Group

Mark Hoffman, K2AXX

The second RVHFG meeting of the year will be held October 13th at 111 Westfall Road, starting 7:30 pm. AC3A, Scott Olitsky, will be presenting the Basics of Moonbounce (EME). Scott has been very successful with a relatively small station (4 x 9 Element yagis) and will tell you that more on how YOU can make contacts via the moon! Scott, a Buffalo resident, is also an active DXer and travels often to Southeast Asia, with a dream of activating Vietnam on 2m EME. The ULTIMATE DX.

VHF Academy 2000 -- Rochester, NY

The Rochester VHF Group is sponsoring a one-day immersion into the world of VHF and above operation. Saturday, November 11, 2000 is the date for VHF Academy 2000. Spend the day at The Academy learning about VHF Propagation, Satellite Operation and VHF Contesting Strategies. Two more sessions on that day will deal with a technical treatment of equipment performance measurement and a hands-on lab in which Cadets will be able to actually build their own high-performance Rover antenna!

The day will begin at 8:30 am with a continental breakfast and end at 3:00 pm. By signing up early, The Rochester VHF Group will provide a full tuition (no cost to attend!). Additionally, a lunch will be provided (also at no cost). By signing-in at all five sessions throughout the day, you will also qualify for a one-year free membership in the Rochester VHF Group, with members-only access to their website (where you will be able to download the latest issues of The VHF Journal, the club newsletter).

Free VHF Academy attendance is open to any person, licensed or unlicensed, that is presently not a member of the Rochester VHF Group and who signs-up prior to November 5th. The academy will be held in the Rochester suburb of Greece, New York and is easily accessible by I-390. More detail to come.

Interested? Visit the Rochester VHF Group website at: <http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org> for more information and an e-Mail link. Otherwise, drop a note to express your interest to academy@vhfgroup.rochesterny.org. More information about the RVHFG can be gotten at our Website, <http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org> or by sending an email to vhf@vhfgroup.rochesterny.org

Attention: To the person who purchased the Pyramid power supply with the missing meter at the November 1999 RARA Auction, please call 671-4430 to retrieve the meter.

DX News

Ed Gable, K2MP

With a name as difficult to say as to work, May DX'ers were glad to hear Trista deCunha and Gough on-the-air as ZD9ZM. He was easily worked on many bands and modes. It is nice to hear so many DX'ers now offering RTTY QSO's as well as the traditional SSB and CW contacts. QSL ZD9ZM via K3CIA. As reported earlier, don't forget to look for Kingman Reef on this month as KH6ND/KH5K. This may be the last opportunity to work KH5K as it is turned over to private hands. Also exciting is Agalega (St. Brandon) coming up as 3B6RF. See www.agalega2000.ch for details. It is with deep regret that we announce here that Carlos Luis, KD4SYB and Pero Simundza, 9A4SP, were killed during a militia assault in East Timor (4W). Luis and Pero were UN employees who enjoyed putting unusual QTH's on the air. On now is 8Q7AB from Maldives operated by W7MP. (Nice call - Ed) Look all bands and modes. Many DX'ers received their A52A Bhutan QSL's this month confirming a long needed new one. Now, it appears A5 will be relatively easy to log with the addition of A51AA as this countries first Club Station. Thanks to the French Clipperton DX Group for the installation. The next meeting of the Rochester DX Association will be October 17th, 7:30 p. m., at the usual 111 Westfall Road site. Everyone is welcome.

(Tnx 425 DX News and ARRL)

**NEXT RAG DEADLINE
September 13, 2000**

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KC2DPG

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

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