



# the RARRA RAG

Published by

**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

VOL.53

NOVEMBER 2000

NO. 3

## Annual Auction - November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Auctions have never been this much fun! This year, as in the past, we will have two extremely knowledgeable and entertaining auctioneers. Dick Goslee, K2VCZ, and Ed Gable, K2MP, along with an expert audio engineer Brad Allen, KB2CHY at the amplifier controls. These fine amateurs will amaze you with their knowledge of the equipment they are selling. Done with great humor and levity you may think you are attending the "Dick and Ed comedy hour"! Kidding aside, these guys really know the ins and outs of radio equipment. If you have questions about a piece of equipment, ask these guys before the auction begins.

This auction is a great opportunity to find that elusive and inexpensive piece of equipment you have been looking for. Conversely, it's a great opportunity to unload that surplus equipment in your shack. We ask that you be considerate when selecting the items you offer for sale.

Doors will open at 7:00 PM. Sellers come early to place your equipment on the tables provided by the club. Buyers come anytime between 7:00 and 8:00 PM to preview the selections and plan your buying strategy. There will NOT be a RARA business meeting so the auction starts promptly at 8:00 PM. Following are a few rules to keep the auction going at a good pace and assure everyone is treated fairly.

RARA will assess a 10% fee on each sale. The seller pays the fee from the proceeds of the sale. Both the seller and the buyer must come to the treasurer's table as soon as the item is declared "sold" by the auctioneer. You must be a RARA member to gain entrance to the auction. Membership renewals can be done at the auction. Each paid member may bring one guest to the auction. Please respect the auction protocol, NO PARKING LOT SALES or SALES PRIOR TO THE START OF THE AUCTION. This event will benefit the club and is an important fundraiser for paying our bills. Donations to RARA are tax deductible.

Treat yourself to an entertaining Friday evening with your ham radio friends. Doors open at 7:00 PM at the Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 E. Henrietta Road. Refreshments will be available.

## Is This Your Last Issue Of The RAG?

Richard Goslee, K2VCZ

The membership period for RARA starts the first of September each year and continues through the end of August the following year. The final membership expiration each year is October 31, which includes a 2-month grace period for payment of your dues. Check the address label on your current issue of the RAG for your expiration date. If it shows OCT. 2000 your dues have not yet been received (as of October 10) for the year 2000-2001, and this will be your last issue of the RAG. In addition you must be a current PAID UP member of RARA to participate in the auction at the November meeting so now is a good time to send your check.

You may pay your dues at any RARA meeting or send them along with your membership application to RARA, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333.

RARA would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many members that have taken the opportunity to include a Tax Deductible Donation to RARA along with their dues payment. So far we have received \$214.00 in donations. Thank you very much.

## RARA Auction

November 3, 2000

Henrietta Fire Hall,  
3129 E. Henrietta Rd.

Auctioneers

Ed Gable, K2MP

And

Dick Goslee, K2VCZ

# the RARA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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# Greater Rochester Area Youth Net (GRAYN)

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, President

The Greater Rochester Area Youth Net (GRAYN) has, at this writing held its first two directed net sessions just for youth. GRAYN alternates between the RRRA (146.88 with 110.9 PL) and the GRA repeater (146.79) on a weekly basis. The first net on October 5<sup>th</sup> had 2 licensed youth, 2 unlicensed youth who were listening but were a little microphone shy and 3 licensed adults who checked in to see what was going on. Josh, KC2FGP is the Net Manager and presently grooming Net Control Operators.

Each meeting of the net has a topic for discussion or questions for both the licensed and unlicensed youth (participating as third parties). The first topic; "How many uses for radio do you think there are? And please name a few." The second meeting, October 12, 2000, on the GRA repeater asked the question; "What is the amateur radio abbreviation for 'location'?" This stirred answers from all participants many of who correctly guessed the answer Net Control was looking for, QTH. All were thanked for participating.

The net encourages third party check-ins as well as licensed youth. If you like, turn your hand held on before the net gathering time of 7:30 PM and invite young people and their parents to join in the fun. The net usually only lasts 15 minutes so not a lot of time is required for you to brighten the image of amateur radio in the eyes of your neighbors.

As always, our thanks goes to RARA for organizing the net and RRRA & GRA for stepping up so selflessly to help encourage the interest of our area youth in the fine hobby of amateur radio. If you have any questions, please direct them to the GRAYN Net Manager, Josh, KC2FGP at (716) 728-5534 or email him at Articat440@juno.com. I have the privilege of acting as his advisor and would be glad to help answer your questions as well. Please direct your question about net operation to Josh first. Josh will certainly turn to the appropriate resource for answers he does not know.

So, tell the youth in your neighborhood you can show them how to talk to someone 50 miles from Rochester (Josh) on just a small radio. See if they think this is "Cool" to talk to someone their own age about things that interest them? What do you think? Are you willing to help it happen? This could be the spark that makes them want to get their license!

As always, our thanks go out to Rochester Amateur Radio Association Inc., Rochester Radio Repeater Association Inc. and Genesee Repeater Association for making this net possible.

# 2000 — 01 Amateur Radio License Testing Season

George Platteter, AA2FO

Get licensed or upgrade as the official 2000-01 RARA Testing Season is now in operation. Testing sessions are held monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, with the exception of the Hamfest. Sessions are also held at the conclusion of the fall and spring License Classes.

The exams are conducted at the Monroe County Social Services Building, Cafeteria, 111 Westfall Rd., Rochester, NY. Registration is at 8:30 AM, and the exams start at 9:00 AM. Exam dates are as follows:

October 21  
November 18  
December 16  
January 20  
February 17  
March 17  
April 21  
May 19

Hamfest - Refer to Hamfest schedule for date, time and location.

Walk In or Mail/Call reservations to:

George Platteter, AA2FO, 716 334-4488  
82 Colonnade Dr.  
Rochester, NY 14623

In addition to a pen and pencil, all applicants should bring with them two (2) forms of identification (one picture), your original FCC license, a copy of the license (the copy will be turned in), and the original and a copy of any applicable Certificates of Completion (CSCE) passed at another test session.

A fee, currently \$6.65, will be charged for the session. Handicap applicants are welcomed. Please phone in advance if there are any special requirements.

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## RAGChew

Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

How many of you are happy with what your hobby and your club is doing for you? Many of us are happy just operating on 20 meters (or some other band) or chasing DX. A few of us are content with going to a club meeting once a month just to see old friends. However, is that all there is to this hobby of ours? Lately it seems more and more like it is. If so it is no wonder that they say this is a dying hobby. Granted there are a lot of other high tech hobbies to occupy our minds and draw the attention of the younger generation such as the Internet. But one of the things that Ham Radio can do is draw us closer together as friends if we get out there and do things together. We should use club meetings to meet new friends. You will be surprised at how much many of us have in common if you take the time to talk with someone new. You don't get that by surfing the net.

You have all heard in the past how working on public service events is fun and it gets us together like a club meeting does. It also gives us training on emergency communications. Hamfests draw crowds of amateurs that have somewhat the same reason for attending. However, in both cases, just like the monthly club meeting, the attendance is declining. Everyone's schedule is busy but that cannot be the only reason. If you look back over the years our schedules have always been busy, just for different reasons. That must mean that there are other reasons for not attending these and other functions.

If you read this month "20 Years Ago" column you will read about a Valentine Dinner Dance that the club used to have for its members that has gone away. In the past there were picnics with 300 or more attending and hamfest banquets with over 1000 enjoying each others company. Camping trips for the weekend or for a whole week. What has happened to all these things? People have lost interest...maybe. However, there must be other interests that have taken the place of these things in each person's lives. What would you like to see your club do for you and your family or friends? Have you told anyone?

Elsewhere in this issue is a column called "Comments and Concerns." Maybe more of us need to do what this person did and speak up about what we like or dislike. Let the club and its officers know what you would like and how you feel. The RAG is one way you can do this. Lets hear from you. Remember that this organization is doing a lot to try and encourage youth to get interested in ham radio, but don't let this organization forget about you and your needs. After all you are the members of today and the youth are the members of

*continued on page 7*

# Comments And Concerns

At times someone in the organization has a comment (good or bad) or concern that they would like an answer to or share with others. These can be submitted to the *RAG* Editor, club officers, or a committee chairman. The following is one such letter that was received and the answer to it.

(Anonymous)

I was first licensed in 1963 and have been going to local hamfests for many, many years. Over the last few years, I have attended both the Rochester and Buffalo Hamfests and am appalled and disappointed at the trend. Both hamfests are mere shells of what they used to be. While I was unable to attend the Rochester Hamfest this year, I did attend Buffalo, and it was absolutely the worst.

While I was at the Buffalo Hamfest this year, I had to keep checking what my ticket said, since I could have sworn I was in the Bazaar tent at the Erie County Fair. I go to hamfests for "amateur radio" related exhibits and booths, as well as computer related exhibits and booths, since computers are so integrated in today's amateur radio. Leather belts, ceramic doo-dads, car windshield cracks booths have NO place at a hamfest. Major "amateur radio" dealers have steadily disappeared.

Please put the "amateur radio" back in the hamfests. I have to say that after this year's hamfest, I will have to think twice about attending next year. I know that I am not the only local ham who holds this opinion and I know many who have already stopped attending for the same reasons.

(Response by Harold Smith, K2HC, Hamfest General Chairman)

Thank you. Your message says precisely what has been happening to hamfests, not only at Rochester and Buffalo, but nationwide — in Miami, Orlando, Baltimore, Dayton, Dallas, and Huntsville to name a few.

I have been general chairman of the Rochester Hamfest since 1963 and of the Buffalo Hamfest since it was inaugurated in 1990. The Rochester event has grown steadily over the years. The mid 90's were most successful at Rochester.

With the excellent facilities at the Erie County Fairgrounds, I had hopes that the Buffalo event would grow and surpass the Rochester show. Like Rochester, the mid 90's were the most successful at Buffalo.

The Rochester and Buffalo Hamfests are operated as a service to the amateur radio community — not as money raising events. We hope to cover expenses. There have been times at both events where we failed to meet the expenses. Fortunately, there is an adequate reserve to cover such situations.

We are able to bring in nationally known speakers

and major manufacturers in the exhibit areas. Non-amateur merchants do order booths at the shows. We are not in a position to tell them to go away. We need their booth revenue to help pay the bills. Most people have no idea how much it costs to operate a major event such as Rochester. Cost is around \$25,000 just to rent the grounds and Dome Center at Rochester — bare bones. Everything else is extra — and there are lots of extras. Having said that, here is the problem:

Because of the advancing age of the amateur radio population, many active people are now inactive — on the air and attending events such as hamfests. They have been there — done that. And so, attendance declines. As attendance declines, dealers and exhibitors tend to stay home as well. As that happens, attendance declines even more. It is a Catch 22 problem. It has been so bad, there has been failed and canceled hamfests throughout the nation.

Unfortunately, most of the dealers and exhibitors are not astute businessmen. They need to show attendance at a hamfest on their advertising budget, not their direct sales budget. An appearance at a hamfest is absolute advertising. If you see someone in person, you may consider buying his product.

The major dealers held formal meetings at the Dallas and Huntsville shows this year to discuss this very problem. I attended those meetings. They all know what is happening. None of them would commit money or work to solve the problem. The meetings ended with no resolution.

We cannot force any merchant to attend a hamfest. We cannot force any amateur to attend a hamfest. We (the hamfest committee staff), work our butts off trying to make our event world class. We do not set out to create a failure.

The amateur population is facing an emergency situation. When the lights go out or there is a disaster of some sort, amateurs are on the spot to make things better. Hamfests are an amateur disaster at this time. Amateurs themselves are the only ones who can fix the situation.

Next spring at Rochester, June 1-2-3, the amateur population of upstate New York and southern Ontario should send a message to the amateur radio industry (people who make their living from amateur radio). The amateur population should turn out in record numbers at Rochester. If that happens, the merchants working the event will go home very happy. Those people talk to their contemporaries at other shows. You can bet the number of merchants at Rochester in the year 2002 will exceed all existing records.

The problem can be fixed. You, and all those who find fault with the hamfest decline, must be willing to contribute one day — attending a hamfest. I have contributed nearly every day for decades. I cannot fix the problem alone. I need your help.

# RARA RAG 20 Years Ago, November 1980

Ed Gable, K2MP

Carrying on an already long tradition, the November meeting was the annual RARA Auction with Ed Gable, K2MP and Ray Demers, W2KVP as auctioneers. President Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB, in a letter to ARRL President Harry Dannels, W2HD, forwarded to League HQ a copy of the locally produced Ham Radio Public Service Announcements. These professionally produced PSA's were the result of the combined efforts of RARA and WHEC TV. RARA also recognized WHEC's Bob Erskin, W2NVZ and Paul Tanner, WA2MVK, for their personal contribution to this fine production. Included in this issue was a survey by Jim O'Brien, K2UDP, requesting input on how many members would be interested in purchasing RARA QSL cards. Lee VanGrol, WA2YEK, reported that plans were complete for the February 14<sup>th</sup> Valentines Day Dinner Dance to be held at the Beahan Road Party House. A four piece band and steak dinner were yours for \$12.00. Writing for the RDXA, Rick Berg, WA2RLQ, reported that the November meeting would be Dr. Jack Williams, K2JFV, reporting on his just completed trip to China. Frank Cannon, N2AFP, writing for the RRRRA, reported that their program is a tour of the new 5<sup>th</sup> floor communications center at the Public Safety building. Silent keys reported were Ray Jobs, W2IM and Van Wuyckhuysse, W2CR. VHF Group Chairman Tom Richmond, WB2IEY and VHF Group Transverter Project leader Doug Wilson, KA8IGS, reported that the 432 Xvtr's were now being built at the K2JD facility on Westfall Road. *JR Amateur Radio* of Scottsville Road remains a long time advertiser with this month special the new AEA Isopole 2 meter FM antenna. From the want ads, you could buy an Atlas 210X Xcvr from Len Gessin, WA2ZNC.

## License Classes

Norm Turner, WB2LQB

The class registration took place for the fall semester of RARA's license classes for the 2000-2001 season on Monday, September 18, 2000. There were four students registered for the Technician theory, nine for the General theory, five for the Extra theory and nine for the 5 WPM code class. A special thank you goes to the members of the RARA Board of Directors who took the time from their schedules to greet and welcome the new class of eager prospective hams.

The first class of instruction was held on Monday September 25, 2000 at 111 Westfall Road. 5 WPM code and Extra Theory begin at 7 PM and end at 8 PM. Technician and General Theory and an additional hour of Morse code run from 8 PM to 9 PM. Additional applicants are welcomed and encouraged to join in.

## RARA Amateur Radio License Testing

All Elements Needed  
To Complete a License  
Class

Saturday November 18,  
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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# 2000 National Weather Service Special Event

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

The ARRL and the National Weather Service will once again team up for an on-air-event during the first weekend of December. This Special Event is primarily aimed at recognizing the contributions that amateur radio operators make to the National Weather Service (NWS) during times of threatening weather.

The event will provide an opportunity for NWS personnel and amateurs to learn more about each other and their capabilities during severe weather situations. It will also give amateur radio operators an opportunity to examine NWS operations and technology. NWS personnel will be encouraged to get on the air — under the supervision of a licensed control operator — and to consider getting licensed themselves.

The 24-hour Special Event will take place from 7 PM EST on December 2<sup>nd</sup> through 7 PM EST December 3, 2000. Participating stations will operate on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters...as well as the 70-centimeter UHF band. While the bulk of the contacts will be on SSB, all other modes — including FM, CW, RTTY, and PSK31 — may be used. Repeater contacts are also invited. Last year, 56 National Weather Service Offices participated.

The object for all amateur stations will be to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service Special Event stations as possible. The special event stations must work on the grounds of participating NWS offices. Certificates will be given to those stations that work a significant number of NWS offices...or a majority of offices within a particular region. Detailed information on these certificates, QSL cards and the special event in general can be found on the Internet at [www.nws.noaa.gov/event2000](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/event2000). If you do not have Internet capabilities, event certificates may be requested from: National Weather Service Special Event, 920 Armory Road, Goodland, KS 67735. Simply enclose a self addressed stamped envelope along with a list of NWS worked.

For the National Weather Service, the object of the special event will be to contact as many other amateur stations as possible. The Buffalo office of the NWS will provide the base operators with a place to work the event, access to an area outdoors for additional antennas, power to run the equipment, and of course...coffee. Those interested in working as a base operator at the NWS office should contact Ed Gutowski, W2GUT. His email is [skywarn@intotem.net](mailto:skywarn@intotem.net). You can also contact Bob Hamilton, N3QOT, or Judy Levan, N2TEZ, at the NWS Buffalo Office.

## DX News

Ed Gable K2MP

RARA would like to thank Fred Gem, K2FR, for his very entertaining and informative talk on DXing at the last RARA meeting.

Bad news for the DX community is the cancellation of the 3B6RF DXpedition to Agalega/Brandon. Transportation and political problems has delayed the party until May of 2001.

Even non-DX'ers (could there be any) have enjoyed the return of 10 meters for the past few weeks with DX available to low powered stations well into the evening time. Other bands have been equally good with early mid-October yielding all continents simultaneously on 20 meters. Easily worked were such items as the ZD9 as reported in the last issue, along with KH5, 5V7, 4S7, 4W/K7BV, 3W, XU and many others.

As a new DX'er just a few years ago, I looked at the empty 3W (Vietnam) slot on my DX list and thought I'd never work that in my lifetime. Now, they're all over the place and workable almost any evening. Same with A5 in Bhutan. Will P5, North Korea, the top of the most wanted list, be next? Yes, I think so. With the improving political cooperation I'm predicting there will be a P5 operation in 2001.

Standby. Six meter operators are enjoying much more activity from DXpeditions lately, especially the European-Africa transequatorial route. Good for them, not so good for North America where African 50 Mhz openings are rare.

The next meeting of the Rochester DX Association will be November 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 PM, at the usual 111 Westfall Road site. The program will be 160 meter operation by Mark Hoffman, K2AXX. Everyone is welcome.

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

### 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](mailto:k2ue@arrl.net) for details.

# RRRA

Rachel Schwing, KC2DKB

RRRA met at the Pittsford Town Hall on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM. If you wondered what is new in the ARRL or in our Western New York Section, you should have attended the meeting in which Scott Bauer, W2LC, was our speaker. Mr. Bauer is the Section Manager of Western New York ARRL.

On November 17, RRRA will host our annual "Tune Up Clinic" Bring out your radios and let our knowledgeable volunteers tune them up for you. Starting time is 8 PM at the Pittsford Town Hall. We hope to see you there!

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## NEXT RAG DEADLINE November 10, 2000

# Are You The Clubs Oldest Member?

Richard Goslee, K2VVCZ

While I was processing the incoming membership applications I came across a note on one of them saying that this member (W2DD) thought he was the oldest. Well sorry Bill, you are only a youngster. The prize for being the oldest member goes to none other than Chester Minges, W2VVG who is 93. He is followed by David Melman, KA2UBJ and Leland Zwack, W2WPF who are 92. Next come a couple of 91-year-old youngsters, Bill DeWitt, W2DD and Chester Selbert, WB2ZFS. The real youngster of the group is Pat Hoke, W2DN. He is only 90.

## RAGChew — continued for page 3.

tomorrow. We must work on tomorrow to keep this quality hobby alive, but we can't forget about today and the people in the hobby now or we will lose them as well as not get new hams.

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h. Total (Sum of 15g and 15f)	<b>634</b>	<b>650</b>
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15g times 100)	<b>98.69%</b>	<b>98.40%</b>
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication required. Will be printed in the <b>NOVEMBER 2000</b> issue of this publication <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required		
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <b>Richard A. Goslee, TREASURER</b>		Date <b>9-29-00</b>

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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