



the RARA RAG

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NO. 4

December 1st Meeting Teaching Radio to 6th Graders (The Rochester Radio Coach Program)

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY

This month's topic is about teaching radio to 5th and 6th graders. The Rochester Radio Coaches will share their experiences gained from teaching students in the Rochester City Schools. This is a joint meeting with the Kodak Amateur Radio Club. We will meet at Kodak's Theater on the Ridge and start at 8:00 PM. Exhibits will be displayed prior to the meeting.

The coaches have a ten-week program that is taught in the classroom. To date, 4 of these have been delivered to 80 students. This has involved 2 different schools and 4 classrooms. Twelve different coaches have delivered segments in the classroom with 8 other hams involved with the field trips. Many additional hams and non-hams have supported the program through donations and special skills.

The Radio Coaches are proud of their achievement and have many stories to tell. About 8 coaches will participate in this presentation. It will give the audience a good feel for what they do and how they do it. Many of the electricity demonstrations that they use in the classroom will be described.

The Rochester Radio Coach Program has roots in Presidents' Bush and Clinton's 1998 "America's Promise, the Alliance for Youth". The ARRL designed and launched its Radio Coach program shortly after. The goals and methods that they use were derived from these programs. RARA sponsors this Radio Coach program drawing on volunteers in the ham radio community. The first class was pioneered in the spring of 1999.

This presentation will focus on what they do in the classroom and how they do it.

The meeting starts at 8:00 PM at Kodak's Theater on the Ridge, 200 Ridge Rd. West, located just one

continued on page 2

Thank You For Your Donation

Richard Goslee, K2VCGZ

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their recent donations to RARA while they were paying their dues for 2000. Donations were received from:

Dorothy Dubert, Richard Schott, Eric Melenbacker, Roland St. Louis, Paul Reger, Frank Lisuzzo, Jack Tripp, Norm Turner, Rick Wells, Robert Knox, David Williams, Michael Vesco, William O'Donnell, Jonathan Arney, David Stanwix, Barry Blake, Nate Minosh, Charles Escriva, Jeanne Crone, Anthony Di Lettero, Donald Paters and Barry Quinn.

If anyone else would like to make a "TAX DEDUCTABLE" donation to RARA just check the appropriate box on your membership renewal and indicate the amount you are sending. If you have already paid your 2000 dues and would now like to make a donation you can send it to P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333.

Your donation may be made to RARA itself or you may specify that it be made to one of our two special projects. These are the "RADIO COACHES PROGRAM" or the "BUCHAN/RESCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND". The Radio Coaches program is an ongoing program where RARA members are teaching electronics and communications to children in selected city schools. The Buchan/Resch Scholarship Fund will be presenting scholarships to students going on to college. For additional information please contact the RARA Hotline at 442-0587.

Again many thanks for your help; we appreciate your support.

RARA Meeting

December 1, 2000

8:00 PM

Kodak's Theater On The Ridge
200 Ridge Road West

Teaching Radio To 6th Graders

Presented by The Radio Coaches

the RARA RAG

PUBLISHED BY
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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RARA RAG 2

Radio Clubs Invited to RMSC Dec. 27 - Dec 30

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Amateur radio is again invited to the Rochester Museum and Science Center December 27, 28, 29, 30 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We need your help to staff the demonstrations.

The RMSC is always a great place for the family to visit...any time. There is a new look and feel at RMSC that features many fun hands on technology exhibits. Keep it in mind when family and friends are visiting.

Special technology exhibits occur during the Christmas holidays and amateur radio will be one of them. The Rochester Radio Coaches will be there with a few of their fun demonstrations featuring Morse code and electronics. They are asking for your help to staff it. Room for other clubs is available beside them. Plop down your educational exhibit for 2 hours or for multiple days.

Rochester DX Association has made special arrangements to provide a complete HF station with a vertical antenna on the roof! They will be sharing the excitement of DX with the youth and museum visitors. RDXA can also use your help for a 2-hour block.

This is fun stuff guys! There are too many positives to pass up. The prerequisites are a positive attitude, and a willingness to share. Brush elbows with some fellow hams that know their stuff. A lot can rub off in 2 hours. The children are curious and love to play with the basic demonstrations that are provided. If you have a ham license you will quickly catch on to the principals and enjoy helping the children discover it.

Please call Peter Fournia, W2SKY for information and to sign up for a 2-hour slot. (716) 377-0535 or W2SKY@arrl.net.

December 1st — *continued from page 1*

block West of Lake Avenue. Ample and convenient parking is across the street. Directions to the meeting room (Camera Club Theater) will be posted in the building. Handicap people may use the elevator off the entrance lobby. Refreshments will be available after the 1-hour presentation. A map to Kodak's Theater on the Ridge and further information on the Radio Coach Program is on the RARA web site at <http://www.ggw.org/rara/>. Use the 146.88 Mhz repeater for talk-in.

RARA Family Picnic
June, 2001
Watch For More Details

RARA RAG 20 Years Ago, December 1980

Ed Gable, K2MP

VP and Program Chairman Don Drennan, W2EBF, announced the December meeting as a joint effort combining RARA and the Kodak Park ARC, to be held at Kodak Park. Dick Dodd, WA2SDK, and Jim Schueckler, WB2YZL, will speak on micro-processors in the hamshack. They demonstrated CW sending and receiving, logging and slow scan television. An unknown author wrote a large article on the formation of a new radio company in Rochester, Sideband Technology, Inc. SBI is taking advantage of a new technology call amplitude compandored sideband or ACSB. ACSB allows up to five voice channels in the same bandwidth currently used by one channel. President Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB, wrote asking for nominations for RARA's Amateur Of The Year award. The selection committee was made up of Bud Young, WA2UGE, Chuck Brelsford, K2WW and George Walker, N2BIR. Long time Broadcast Engineer and past RARA President (1940) Elmer Grabb, W2DOD, a DX'er with 358 countries, past away suddenly from a heart at attack at age 70. The Rochester VHF Group and the Rochester Radio Repeater Association had a group meeting with the program *Care and feeding of Batteries*. And yet another unknown author wrote telling about Rochester's *Flour City Net*, which met each Wednesday evening on 28.725 USB. A new advertiser was Sideband Technology looking for Electronic Engineers and Technicians. From the Want Ads you could by a used Collins 75A4 with two filters and speaker for \$375, from Bob Erskin, W2NVZ.

License Classes

Tim Magee, WB2KAO

All classes are going along just fine and moving toward the Dec. 18th testing session. We have had a lower dropout rate this semester and those who are attending class seem to be enjoying the experience. The instructors have been flawless in their attendance and presentation of the material. I wish to express my appreciation of their efforts.

Alex, NV2Y, will be attending the Monday, Dec. 11th class to brief the students on the upcoming examination and to put them at ease. I expect that we will have good success with this project. Thanks again, students and instructors.

NEXT RAG DEADLINE
December 8, 2000

Comments And Concerns

The following is in reference to the letters in this column in the November issue:

Hello Harold,

Your response to AA2OK was right on the money, and I hope he'll read it thoroughly and then willingly consider giving something back to the hobby that he has enjoyed for so many years.

73/Hugh, W3ABC

Remember that this column is a good place to voice your concerns and/or comments. We are willing to hear the bad things right along with the good. Let us know what needs to be changed or improved as well as the things we do well. So lets see more letters to the editor, club Officers, Board of Directors, and Committee Chairman.

YL Forum

The RAG editors are still looking for someone to write articles for the YL Forum. If you have an interest, please contact us as soon as possible.

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China Clippings

Ron Roach, W2FUI

HANGZHOU CITY, CHINA; The recent restructuring of the U.S. amateur radio service license classes was preceded by a similar restructuring of amateur radio in China, completed in 1997.

Although personal call signs were instituted in 1990, and a Chinese amateur operator could sign portable from any of the twelve provinces and autonomous regions in the country, it was still necessary to operate from a club station.

However, beginning in 1997, four separate license classes were established and Chinese amateurs are now allowed to set up individual stations in their homes. Club stations, supported by municipal government, still exist to provide access to those licensees without equipment of their own. Government owned companies are allowed to establish club stations if they are so inclined.

While the actual numbers of licensed operators in China total approximately 10,000, active operators, country wide, remain at about 1,000. For example, here in Hangzhou City, with a population of 1.6 million inhabitants, there are twenty licensed operators, with only two or three actually active.

Next month I will outline the restructured license classes and the "long march" through these classes by a Chinese amateur, which might shed some light on why there are so few in China.

DX/Contesting Report

Ed Gable, K2MP

RARA congratulates the Rochester DX Association (W2RDX) on their 4th place finish, world-wide, in the hotly contested ARRL Field Day contest, in category 3A, with 12,250 points. They were first place in New York and WNY and had 23 participants.

As you read this the operators of the successful K5K Kingman Reed DXpedition should be arriving home. Over 75,000 contacts helped to move this entity down on the most wanted list. QSL K5K via K4TSJ. On the way home the gang operated as KH6ND/KH5 on Palmyra and were lucky to find a nice 6 meter opening into the US. Mark, K2AXX, was one of the lucky locals to log this one.

Sending precious QSL cards off to the ARRL for DXCC has always been a scary thought. Now you can determine the status of your DXCC application by going to: <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/app-status.html>.

The next meeting of the RDXA is December 19th, 7:30 p.m. at the usual 111 Westfall Road site.

December contests include ARRL 160 meter CW on Dec 1-3. Dec 9-10 will be the ARRL ten meter cw/ssb contest and December 31st is ARRL straight key night.

Visit the RDXA Web site at www.qsl.net/rdxa.

(Txn ARRL and 425 DX News)

Do Not Forget

Change In RARA's
Meeting Location

Month Of

December Only

Kodak's Theater On
The Ridge

FOR SALE: Amplifier, 432 Mhz, 500 watts, K2RIW design. Factory built AR-COS model, pair 4CX250B's, manual, excellent. With HV power supply parts. Asking \$275.

Edward Gable, K2MP, 392-3088 or k2mp@eznet.net

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News From The Rochester VHF Group

Mark Hoffman, K2AXX

The Rochester VHF Group just held its 2nd VHF Academy on Saturday November 11th. This is a forum where we present as many aspects of VHF and above operation to those who may be interested in exploring it. Moonbounce, Satellites, weak-signal DXing and the like. All told, it was a re-sounding success. I'd like to especially thank Ev Tupis, W2EV, for all his efforts in making this event happen. Without him, it wouldn't be.

Also just completed, is the RVHFG All-Band Sprint. This was the 2nd year of its running, and has been pretty successful. The idea behind Sprint contests is limited time operation! In the span of 5 hours, you must work as many stations as possible over as many bands as you have. We decided this format might just be fun, since the traditional sprint operation is done on a single band. We're already looking to next year for some different awards. For next year, we might be looking to introduce plaques for the top-5, and other variations. Check our Website for more information about the sprint: <http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org>.

In December we are proud to have Steve Kostro, N2CEI as our Guest speaker. Steve is owner of *Down East Microwave*, manufacturer of transverters and other equipment for 6 meters up to 10GHz! Steve will be giving us a tour of his operation, hints on proper construction (I think!) and perhaps even a peek into some future projects! This is a meeting you DON'T want to miss.

The RVHFG is doing yet another club project! We are focusing on the Down East Microwave 5760MHz transverter! Similar to the 10GHz units we built last year; this should prove to be a challenging yet rewarding item to round out the microwave bands! We are also allowing orders for OTHER EQUIPMENT than the 5GHz unit, but the construction sessions will be only for 5GHz. The final payment date is the December 10th meeting, as the order will be sent shortly thereafter. You must be a member to take advantage of this offer.

Our Website has all the appropriate details listed there: <http://vhfgroup.rochesterny.org>.

Any questions? Feel free to send me a message at k2axx@arrl.net. I'll do my best to get you the answers you need. Don't forget, the RVHFG meets every 2nd Friday at 111 Westfall Road in the auditorium. Hope to see you there.

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

RRRA

Rachel Schwing, KC2DKB

The last RRRA meeting was held on November 17th and was the annual "Tune Up Clinic". We hope that you brought your gear and let our experts tune it up for you.

We meet 8 PM at the Pittsford Town Hall. In December we will have a "Family Night" dinner at Old Country Buffet. Details will be published next month. Hope to see you all there!

RARA Amateur Radio License Testing

All Elements Needed
To Complete a License
Class

Saturday December 16,
2000

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

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111 Westfall Rd., Rochester

Inquires (716) 334-4488
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