



# the RARA RAG

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**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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NO. 10

## RARA Picnic

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

The RARA picnic starts at 12 noon Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Creekside Lodge in Ellison Park. Soda, condiments and utensils will be provided. We ask that you bring a dish to pass. Lawn chairs are a good idea although ample picnic tables are available inside and outside the lodge.

You will have multiple chances to find the hidden transmitter. Don't forget Kids Day starting at 2 PM (see below). We will try to be available on the 146.88 repeater. We also hope some HF mobiles will make their rig available.

The Creekside Lodge is in Ellison Park near the Brighton - Penfield area. Take the Blossom Rd. exit off Rt. 590 North and drive about 1 mile away from the city. Look for our sign at the bottom of the hill. Talk-in will be on the 146.88 repeater.

## Kids Day

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Kid's day will again occur during our June 16<sup>th</sup> RARA picnic. It runs from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM local time. Amateurs are encouraged to invite youngsters into their shack to enjoy the fun. The youngsters exchange name, age, location and favorite color. All participants can download a personalized certificate. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day." Kid's Day rules, frequencies and other information are on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html> and in the June issue of QST, p 48.

**RARA Family Picnic**  
**June 16, 2001**  
**Creekside Lodge**  
**Ellison Park**

## RAGChew

Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Elections are over and your new Officers and Board members are now in place and ready to serve RARA and its members for next year. The results of this year's election are as follows:

President: Peter Fournia, W2SKY  
Vice President: Marykay Vesco, KC2DPG  
Secretary: Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY  
Treasurer: Richard Goslee, K2VCZ  
Board of Directors: Keith Freeberg, N2BEL  
Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ  
Ed Holdsworth, N2EH  
Bill Hopkins, AA2YV  
George Masny, KA2GPJ  
John Rogers, W2JTR  
Jack Tripp, N2SNL

While these people work through the summer to set the stage for the next year, it is up to you to give them input as to what you would like to see your club do or become. Their e-mail addresses and phone numbers can be found on the RARA website. Don't be afraid to contact anyone of your officials and let them know what you are thinking.

The dues structure for RARA will stay the same for next season. This was also voted on at the annual meeting in May. Don't forget that you can get a life membership for just twenty times the annual dues.

Your new officers hope that everyone is looking forward to a great 2001-02 season. See you in September.

## SILENT KEYS

Norman E. Letsche, KA2TYT  
March 27, 2001

Chester W. Minges, W2VVG  
April 18, 2001

Walter S. Taylor, K2MLT  
April 20, 2001

Albert W. Wise, N2AL  
April 26, 2001

# the RARA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

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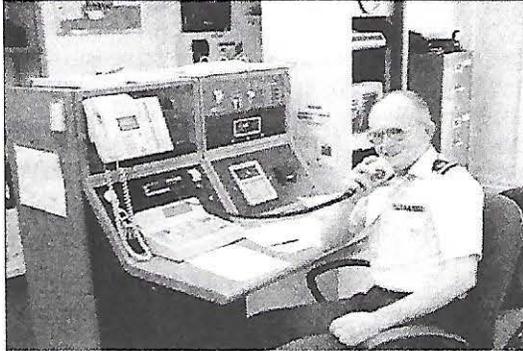
RARA Life Membership is available for twenty times the annual dues.

RARA RAG 2

## U.S. Coast Guard Dedicates The Robert M. O'Connell (NF2Z) Communication Center

Ed Gable, K2MP

In a ceremony held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Rochester Station, USCG, dedicated its newly renovated Coast Guard station and an all-new Communications facility named the Robert M. O'Connell.



Frank Kloc, USCG Auxiliary, on radio watch at the Robert M. O'Connell Communication Center

Communication Center. While we, as part of the RARA community, remember Bob O'Connell, NF2Z, for his dedicated service to RARA and his many years of service to our Code and Theory classes, the Coast Guard shares those same memories. Those same qualities that we appreciated so much were paralleled in his volunteer USCG Auxiliary duties. Bob taught Coast Guardsman radio operating techniques and the all important rules and regulations. He stood regular radio watches at Rochester Station and thus freed regular USCG personnel to perform life saving duties off shore. Bob was also responsible for the formation of AUX-HAMS, a radio net that continues today. In just ten short years with the Auxiliary, Bob rose from Flotilla Commander, to Division Captain and finally Rear Commodore, 45<sup>th</sup> Flotilla. Speaking highly of Bob, and telling the 150 people in attendance a history of his service, was Bill Bach, WB8JPX, a friend and fellow Auxiliary member. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the station saw Bob's wife, Frances, doing the honors. RARA joins the USCG Rochester Station in remembering one of our own, Robert M. O'Connell, NF2Z, 1931-1999.

**NEXT RAG DEADLINE  
AUGUST 10, 2001**

# KB2CHC Wins W2OMV/K4VOS Scholarship

Vic Gauvin K1PY

**Kellie Gauvin KB2CHC** has won the first award of the **Bill Buchan W2OMV/Hank Resch K4VOS Memorial Scholarship**, administered by RARA.



Kellie is the daughter of Vic, K1PY and was first licensed nearly 14 years ago. That's a long time ago for someone who is now only 24 and pursuing her Master's Degree in Education at Cornell. Here's what Kellie said about it in the scholarship application.

*I became a Ham when I was 10 yrs. old because I thought it seemed cool. The thought of all the equipment and talking to people in faraway places excited me. I also fell in love with Field Day. I have only missed one Field Day since I got my license. It was always fun to be part of something so big. I based school speeches and Science Fair experiments on Ham Radio (for example, one on propagation entitled "Night vs. Day--The Battle of the Airwaves"). It was also something that my father and I did together. It made me part of something and exposed me to so many fascinating people. Because of this, Ham Radio had a starring role in much of my childhood.*

*Right now because of school, I am not as active as I would like to be. (However, it was quite funny when I first visited the Cornell radio club station and was standing in the doorway, the guys hanging around couldn't believe that a female Ham had shown up!) I have moved several times in the last 3 years, and with school it is very hard for me to do anything else. I do miss all aspects of Radio and am very jealous of my father who gets to contest all the time.*

*One of the greatest things about my involvement in Ham Radio is that as a teacher I*

*have a very real and exciting way to teach my students about technology and even a little physics. When I start teaching, I will be what used to be called a 'shop' teacher, and able to do lots of "hands on" work. So I will have the facility and the equipment to be able to construct Ham Radio equipment and perform experiments with classes. I cannot think of a better way to capture high school students interest than with something that can be as much fun as Ham Radio!*

Since then Field Day involvement has been less, but Kellie has at least visited the RDXA Field Day site to say Hi each year. This is how she got to meet both Bill and Hank, who were FD regulars. Her comments...

*I am pleased yet sad to apply for this scholarship. Pleased in that, if I am fortunate to be the recipient, it will help me towards my goal of becoming a high school science teacher. Sad, though, because it's a memorial to two very nice people that I had been fortunate to meet and know slightly.*

*I remember both Bill (W2OMV) and Hank (to those who knew him) (K4VOS) from RDXA Field Days, where they were both very active. I was still a "young kid" at that point, and both of these gentlemen were very warm and welcoming to me. I remember thinking of Bill as a "patriarch" of radio — he must have been already in his 70's when I first met him, and still super active! He was always the most polite and refined person, with a welcoming smile. I always felt great when he remembered me and said "Hi Kellie" when I'd show up at Field Day. Hank was the same way, but also very light-hearted and jocular. At FD, he was our "Mr. Packet Radio," and he'd always be willing to take the time to show me the setup and how it worked. He also had fun as the natural power guy, and he'd explain that setup to me and everyone else as well. With his easy-going, laid back style, I was surprised to learn that he was a Physicist at Kodak.*

*I think seeing "real people" involved in science helped me in my decision to take that path in my own education. I'm sorry that both of these fine gentlemen became Silent Keys in so short a time, but I was at least privileged to have known them for some time at least. They will both stay on as fond memories in Ham Radio for me.*

As they will for all of us.  
Congratulations Kellie!

## Irv Goodman, AF2K Receives Chairman's Award

Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

There have been a few years that the Rochester Hamfest General Chairman has elected to present an award called the Chairman's Award. This does not happen every year and is at the discretion of the General Chairman. This award is presented to an individual that has made many viable contributions to the Rochester Hamfest with many of them being behind the scene. This year was no exception.

Irwin (Irv) Goodman, AF2K is this years recipient of the Chairman's Award. He received this



award at the Friday evening Hamfest Banquet for the many years of dedicated service that he has performed for the Hamfest. Irv has worked behind the scene for many years to help bring a bigger and better Hamfest to the Rochester area. Without taking a committee chairman's position he has helped the entire organization perform their jobs better. Making viable suggestions for improvements as well as working to implement them.

Irv was the advance ticket salesman for years. Even after giving this position up to another he still has assisted by attending other club meetings (VHF, RDXA, and RRRRA to name a few) in the area so advance tickets were available for those club members to purchase.

He has been instrumental in helping get the *Hamfest Times* out to over 30,000 people each year. He has made many suggestions on its appearance as well as its content. His ability to proof read this each year to be sure that it is mailed out error free has been a great asset. He also has been responsible for the printing arrangements and coordination.

One thing that Irv has done over the years at his own expense has been to attend other Hamfests across the country and pass out information on the Rochester Hamfest. He has talked up the Rochester Hamfest to vendors at these Hamfests gaining their interest in attending Rochester. These other *Ham*

*continued on page 6*

## Atlantic Division Ham Of The Year – Roy Heimel, AB4XS

Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Roy Heimel, AB4XS is this years recipient of the ARRL's Atlantic Division Ham of the Year award. It was unfortunate that Roy was not able to attend this year Rochester Hamfest/Atlantic Division Conference where this prestige's award is normally presented at the Friday evening Banquet. Arrangements will be made to present this award at one of his local club meetings in the near future.

Roy is a member of the Headwaters Amateur Radio Club in Coudersport, PA. He is currently this years club Vice-President and has been a former Secretary for three years as well as their Newsletter Editor. While a member of this club he has become an ARRL/VE and organized a number of test sessions over the past four years. When not doing this for his club he has been a Novice/Technician Class instructor helping others receive their licenses. He is also the clubs station and repeater Trustee, N3PC.

Roy was first licensed in 1954 as WN3IUL and then became W3IUL. His license expired while in the Air Force where he served for 22 years. In 1990 he went back and tested to receive his new license and current call.

Associated with the Boy Scouts for 22 years Roy was Merit Badge Counselor in Radio, Signaling, and Electronics. Currently serving as Unit Commissioner for a Boy Scout Troop and a Cub Scout Pack in Coudersport. Former Scoutmaster, Assistant Scout Master, Chartered Organization Representative, Webelos Cub Scout Leader, and Girl Scout Leader are just a few of his titles in the Scouts.

He donated much of his time to others over the years. For example he is President of National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and a Support Group Facilitator for family members. He is a member of the Speakers Bureau and talks to other groups, such as churches, about the mentally ill. He is also Vice-President of Habitat for Humanity Potter County. Active in his church as an Elder and former Deacon he has been involved in many church community functions such as participation in the Nicaragua Mission Team that spent two weeks building houses with the Church World Services for those whose house was destroyed by Hurricane Mitch.

This is not all that Roy has been involved in but gives you the idea of the type of gentleman he is. Congratulations to you Roy for all your work and for receiving this award.

**NEXT RAG DEADLINE  
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# Atlantic Division Technical Achievement Award Presented To Dennis Silage, K3DS

Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Each year the ARRL Atlantic Division presents the Technical Achievement Award to a person that has made great advancements in Amateur Radio through his technical ability. This year is no different with this award going to Dennis Silage, Ph.D. He is a



Professor and Director of the System Chip Design Center at the College of Engineering at the Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. He has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering; M.S. in engineering; and Ph. D. in Electrical and Biomedical Engineering. Dennis "resume" of accomplishments would fill this issue of the *RAG*. It is filled with awards that he has won over the years as well as funded research projects that he has been responsible for. In the past fourteen years he has had 10 articles published in engineering magazines.

As an Amateur he was first licensed as WN2LGI in 1963. Since that time he has held the call signs WB2LGI, WB3AYR, G5EMU and currently holds K3DS. He is the Technical Chairman for two clubs in his area, the Delaware County ARA and the Mid-Atlantic ARC which both have repeater systems. He is also heavily involved with the Temple University ARC where he is Trustee for their station, K3TU.

Over the years Dennis has presented many technical talks to clubs in the Philadelphia area. He is a person that will always be there to help his fellow amateurs with problems that they were unable to solve. His door is open for others to bring their technical problems to and he will help solve them. Over the years he has helped many amateurs get back on the air after trouble shooting a problem rig that quit working or helping someone who is building a new low power rig that they had trouble getting to work properly.

You too, Dennis, are very deserving of this Achievement Award. From everyone in Rochester as well as the Atlantic Division "congratulations!"

## RARA Rag 20 Years Ago, June 1981

Ed Gable, K2MP

The results of the 1981/82 RARA elections were as follows: President - Don Drennan, W2EBF; VP - Ed Holdsworth, N2EH; Secretary - Gary Perkins, WB2MDC; and Gil Chapin, WB2UTI as Treasurer. Elected to the Board of Directors were: Harold Smith, K2HC; John Golden, W2IRG; Harold Mundy, KD2K; Irv Goodman, AF2K; and John Schooley, K2NC.

Also new this season was a new Editor for the *RARA RAG*. Taking over for retiring Harold Smith, K2HC, is the new Editor Ronald Jakubowski, K2RJ. Harold had been Editor for over 20 years and was responsible for a new editorial policy, a new look and printing style, more local news using local Authors, a renewal of the popular Membership Directory and the use of advertising to offset production costs. During Harold's Editorship the *RARA RAG* rose from a ho-hum, one folded page newsletter to an award winning official organ for the Corporation. Taking over for Harold was Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ. Ron, an Electrical Engineer with Harris/RF, was also RARA's Treasurer, Board member, and an active member of the RRRA and Army MARS. Dwight Hill, K2KWK, continues as Assistant Editor.

In response to several concerns with the current RARA meeting venue at the First Federal Building downtown site, the Board has agreed to look into other opportunities.

A continuing long time advertiser was *The Rochester Hamfest*. Be sure to always support our sponsors.

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## License Classes

Norm Turner, WB2LQB

The following is a roll of successful candidates for the 2000-2001-spring session of the RARA License classes:

**Extra Class Upgrades** — Robert Krenzer, KC2FNE; Allen Skiles, W2AES; Bill Gibson, KB2CHD; Ray Pickens, WA2MYG; and Mike Lavelle, KF2WH.

**General Class Upgrade** — Mike Shaffer, KC2HTL  
**Element 3 Credit** — David Bowman, N2VDO and Frank Iachetta, KC2FVL

**Five WPM Code (Element 1 credit)** — Mary Remenicky, KB2WSD and Tony DiLettera, N2MPE.

Congratulations to all of our successful students. We hope to see those who need to continue the upgrade process do so in our fall session.

Thanks to all who made this test session possible — George, AA2FO; Terry, K2HO; Warren, AA2LQ; and Alex, NV2Y for their efforts in the Volunteer Examination process.

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## Chairman's Award — *continued from page 4*

*ests* have not been limited to those in the New York area but include Dayton, Miami, and Orlando.

Many of you do not know that K2JD Engraving is a subcommittee of the Hamfest, but it is. Irv has assisted with this team for many years. He is currently not only a part of that team, but is responsible for the license plate tags that are available through K2JD Engraving. He keeps track of the equipment and the stock as well as making the tags wherever K2JD Engraving is set up.

As are many others, Irv is a dedicated member of the Holdsworth Coolies that set up and tear down the Hamfest each year. It takes a lot of work by many to have the Dome Arena ready for all the exhibitors each year. Not only the setting up and tearing down of the Dome but also helping take care of all the details that come up during the Hamfest is very important each year.

It is not only the fact that Irv has been a large part of making the Rochester Hamfest what it is today but also the way he goes about doing things. Everything that he works on is done and done correctly. His goal is to do everything he is involved with perfect. He leaves nothing to chance, which is why he has been such an asset to the Hamfest and the General Chairman. This award was well deserved. Irv, receive it with pride.

NEXT RAG DEADLINE  
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RARA RAG 6

## RDXA Field Day

Fred Groner, W2TZ and Vic Gauvin, K1PY

**Field Day!** — Mark your calendars: June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, with setup Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

RDXA traditionally puts on a major Field Day effort, and this year is no exception. This is a key annual event since members have the opportunity to work side-by-side at one location in a team effort that has regularly resulted in top 10 national-level standings.

The FD site is in Webster Park just south of the campground in the area of the old Boy Scout campground commissary. This also happens to be the location nice open fields, tall trees, and a tremendous 90-foot flagpole that screams “antenna support” to any ham that sees it!! We will again operate in the tough and very competitive 3A Class:

The SSB-only station captained by **Fred, W2TZ** will operate 75, 40, and 10 using 2el wire beams on each band — yes, a 2el 75m wire beam! These antennas, designed/built by Fred W2TZ, have allowed us to command a frequency with 100W and have 100+ contacts/hour in prime time.

The second station (captains TBD) will operate 80 CW, 20 CW, and 20 SSB using the club TA-33 tribander and an 80m dipole up 60' on the flagpole (courtesy **Mike, N1OKL** and **Paul, N2OPW**, the GIZMO captains).

The third station captained by **Raj, N2RD** will operate 40 CW, 15 CW, and 15 SSB using 2el wire beams.

The Tech/Novice station captained by **Gayle, N2TWI** will concentrate on 10 SSB using the club 10M monobander. **Tim, WB2KAO's** Novice Class has been invited to come by and get in some hands-on operating

**Bonus points** will be an interesting and major area of activity this year, even bigger than before. These bonus activities provide wonderful opportunities to satisfy the varied interests of many hams, and gives everybody a chance to participate at a level comfortable for them.

**“Non-traditional mode” demonstrations** — These may be APRS, ATV, SSTV, or Portable Packet. We plan to do at least 3, and demo captains and workers are being sought. This is one of those areas that allows for creative ingenuity — let's see what happens this year! Everyone is welcome to stop by and check these out, and even give a hand if this is one of your interests!

**Irv, AF2K** always does a superb job with **message origination, message handling, public info booth, and W1AW bulletin**. If you come to visit, make sure you say hi to Irv at the info booth and sign our guest register!

**Alternate Power** is done using solar charged

batteries provided by **Ed, K2MP** and a QRP rig provided by **Mike, N1OK..** If this is an area you're interested in, come check it out -- we bet they'd love a hand.

**Satellite QSO(s)** have been done in previous years by **Walter, NQ2O** and **Scott, K2ZS**. This is always a major effort and a popular station. Depending on passes, it can be active over major portions of the FD weekend.

The **VHF station** will again be captained by **Paul, N2OPW**, who along with **Walter, NQ2O** is another of our many dual **RVHFG-RDXA** members (as well as numerous **RARA-RDXA** members -- we have a lot of sharing in this community!). This is another major operation and the potential source of a big bunch of contacts. Discussions are under way to get some VHF radiators to the top of that flagpole this year. *This team will enthusiastically welcome any visitors bringing along their single - or dual-band HT's and mobiles and giving them a contact!!!!*

There's many things that haven't been mentioned that are major parts of what makes FD happen: Food, power, shelters, logistics, teamwork and a helping attitude at setup and takedown -- these are the things that make FD the one activity where **everyone is needed** and can contribute in so many ways. This is also what truly makes it an Emergency Preparedness exercise -- it's good ol' basic training in how to do things in the field as a team (*regardless* of whether you think it's a contest too!). **It's the ultimate club and team event!**

If you want to see one of the more unique FD operations (we feel *anywhere in the country*), stop by Friday afternoon, maybe give a helping hand, and then see the raising of the tri-bander up the side of that flagpole we mentioned using the (patent-pending) **K1PY FD-Flagpole GIZMO**. As many have observed, "it's awesome" (we think they might mean it's awesome it **works** or stays up there!!!). But it is guaranteed to be something to behold. If you can't make Friday during setup, it's still up there (we hope!) during the rest of FD.

So, if you haven't been out to Field Day in years, are curious, or just want to see what a national top-10 FD effort looks like, **come on by!** (*And bring that HT!!*) The more the merrier!

**Directions:** 590N to exit for 104E (over Bay Bridge). Take Holt Rd exit, then L (North) on Holt. L (West) at end of Holt at lake onto Lake Rd. After 0.6 mi, L (South) into Webster Campground. Straight past campground onto dirt road for about 0.1 mi, and it opens into a beautiful grassy field and your eye goes like a magnet to the flagpole! You're there! And welcome!

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## International Lighthouse Weekend

Allen Skiles Sr., W2AES

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

We are planning on doing this again this year. So, make plans to participate at the same time as last year, August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. You can get information at [www.nyfrf.org/lh-home.htm](http://www.nyfrf.org/lh-home.htm).

The event begins with antenna erection on Friday evening the 17<sup>th</sup> and we go on the air at 9:00 PM EDT. More details will be announce as the summer proceeds. Keep checking the above website or contact Al Skiles Sr. at [w2aes@arrl.net](mailto:w2aes@arrl.net). The more operators the more contacts and fun will be had by all. So keep these dates open.

### RARA Amateur Radio License Testing

All Elements Needed  
To Complete a License Class

Saturday

September 15, 2001

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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P&C BROKER NOTARY PUBLIC

RARA RAG 7

# RAPS

Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ

The Rochester Amateur Packet Society (RAPS) is still up and running, trying to keep packet on the airwaves and useful. At the last meeting final preparations were made for the packet booth at the RARA Hamfest and the STPR (Rally), where packet used is to send scores from the woods to a scoring van. This final meeting of the year was also election night. The following officers were elected for the 2001-02 year:

Chairman J. D. Dermody, N2OYG  
Secretary Mike Toombs, KB2WPT  
Treasurer Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ  
RAPS Sheet Editor Jack Tripp, N2SNL

The fall season starts on September 13th, the second Thursday, and is open to anyone interested in Digital communications. Join us to find out what all that funny noise is for.

# Historical Bits

Ed Gable, K2MP

- 1921 — ARRL Membership stood at 6,000 transmitting members.
- 1936 — Edwin Howard Armstrong introduces FM as a mode for static free reception.
- 1945 — Amateurs given 6 meter band at 50-54 Mcs, 2 1/2 meter band moved to 144 Mcs.

## PUBLIC SERVIC SCHEDULE

Stuart Horse Trials  
July 28, 2001

Walnut Hill Carriage Show  
August 15-20, 2001

## RARA Amateur Radio License Testing All Elements Needed To Complete a License Class

Saturday

September 15, 2001

Registration - 8:30AM

Testing - 9:00AM

Social Services Building  
111 Westfall Rd., Rochester

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

FOR SALE: Icom IC-T2H 144MHz handheld transceiver.  
Contact George, AA2FO at 334-4488

## NYS PRB - BILL

If you have not yet done so please write to your state Assemblyman or Senator and ask them to support this Bill. This is the last month for the Bill to get passed or it will be starting over again next year. For more information and sample letters you may check out <http://www.arrlHUDSON.org>. Please act now!

FOR SALE: Icom IC-275H, 2 meter multimode, 100 watts, EC, voice module, \$ 900.00  
Icom IC-475H, 440 multimode, 100 watts, EC, voice module, \$ 900.00  
Contact Len, WA2ZNC, — 716-229-5470, wa2znc@juno.com



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## China Clippings

Ron Roach, W2FUI

HANGZHOU CITY – My discovery of a touch-screen Chinese/English translator, during a visit to Hangzhou department store, while Han, BZ5HAN was at work, prompted me to mention my interest in the unit when we met for supper that evening. What followed was another testimony to his expertise in evaluation a wide range of computer and electronic devices and for me another inside look at the growing class of entrepreneurs in his country.

Han scheduled a visit to one of the electronic centers on a rainy Saturday morning, assuring me that a more attractive price could be had at one of the converted state factories. Like the computer center visited previously, this center was housed in a multi-story factory divided into very small stalls no more than nine feet long and several feet deep on either side of a very narrow aisle.

A young couple ran the stall selected by Han. Every square inch of the back and sidewalls of the stall were stacked with palm pilots, scientific calculators and similar hand-held devices. Above the low ceiling of the stall was an open loft, reached by a bamboo ladder, also crammed with additional stock.

Validating the quality of the Electronic Translator, Han concluded the negotiations regarding the price of the unit, and a cellular phone call was made to a distribution center elsewhere in the city to have the unit delivered. A couple of folding bamboo chairs was provided while waiting.

Forty minutes later a courier arrived with the translator resting in the wire basket of his bicycle, wrapped in plastic to protect it from the rain. Han indicated the \$200.00 price equaled a two-month average salary in the city.

Our Saturday outing ended with a visit to a music and video center, also housed in a converted factory and crammed with more expansive stalls to accommodate what seemed to be endless displays of audio CDs, DVDs, and VCDs, popular because of their lower market price. He thought it might prove interesting to demonstrate the difference in the way these products are marketed in China.

Selecting audio and video items involved "play before pay". Each stall was equipped with a video monitor and associated audio system; previewing each item, while seated comfortably in the back of the stall while the proprietor opened and installed the disks, waiting for a nod of approval or rejection regarding each purchase, provided an interesting end to a pleasant morning here in Hangzhou City and a deeper appreciation of the many-faceted talents of BZ5HAN.

NEXT RAG DEADLINE  
AUGUST 10, 2001

## Teacher Wanted

Norm Turner, WB2LQB

I will be taking over as License Class Director for the 2001-2002 year of classes and testing. I need a volunteer to teach the Extra Theory class for the Fall and Spring semester of that year. Please contact me at 254-0137 or by e-mail at wb2lqb@arrl.net. Thanks very much.

RARA HOTLINE  
(716) 442-0587

## Your RARA RAG

Editor and Staff

This is the final issue of the *RAG* for this season but we will return in September. We want to wish everyone a safe and fun summer. Enjoy yourselves with everything that you do and keep safe. We want to see you at the RARA meetings in the fall.

During the summer many of you will have some experiences that you or a group may have been involved in that included Amateur Radio. If so how about sharing it with the rest of us. Write an article about it and send it to the Editor so that it can be published in the fall issues of the *RAG*. You don't have to be a writer either. The *RAG* staff will be glad to help you with anything that you submit.

Once again, have a great summer and we will be looking forward to hearing from you.

RARA Family Picnic  
June 16, 2001

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For All

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RARA RAG 9

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	Tools & Accy		