



the RARR RAG

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NO. 1

RF From Ecuador

George Platteter, AA2FO
Peter Fournia, W2SKY

When tuning the HF bands one cannot escape the strong signals related to religious broadcasting. For example listen on 9.745, 11.960 or 15.115 MHz and you will know that someone is transmitting some powerful RF. Our guest speaker Rich Place, WB2JLR will tell you all it about!

Rich volunteered to work 3 weeks at HCJB World Radio in Ecuador. The place really impressed him and he took a lot of pictures with his new digital camera. Rich writes:

"They've got 45 towers, as high as 450 feet, spread out over 110 acres supporting dozens of antennas. They've got a dozen state-of-the-art short-wave transmitters, designed and built by missionary volunteers, with powers up to 500 KW. Then they've got a dam and power plant capable of generating 6 Megawatts electricity to power it all. As you can tell I get excited talking about it."

Rich is a RF Engineer at Microwave Data Systems in Rochester. He has been involved with many professional and amateur radio projects in the area. One has been the periodic repair to the Xerox repeaters on 145.29 and 444.825 MHz.

Join us Sept. 6th for the RARR Meeting at the Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Rd. It starts at 8:00 PM sharp with a brief business meeting followed by WB2JLR's enlightening presentation about RF from Ecuador.

RARR Meeting

Sept. 6, 2002 at 8:00 PM

Henrietta Fire Hall,
3129 E. Henrietta Rd.

RF From Ecuador

Presented by
Rich Place, WB2JLR

Lancaster Trophy

Donald P. Dunn, AB2NM

I attended the Hamfest hosted by the Lancaster Amateur Radio Association, in the town of Williamsville, on Sunday 4 August 2002. The following is a chronological narrative detailing my involvement with the trophy.

At approximately 11:30 AM, I was engaged in flea-market activity at the Lancaster Hamfest. An announcement was made over the PA system soliciting members of various clubs to enter a contest. It is my understanding that the contest was some sort of test wherein members of the same club were permitted to collaborate, thus increasing the likelihood of winning. I had considered joining this effort, on behalf of RARR, but decided not to as flea market activity was brisk.

At approximately 1:00 PM on the same day, another announcement was made for a "representative of RARR" to visit the LARC table. The announcement indicated that the matter was "of an urgent nature." Again, I was involved in conversation at the time. So as not to be rude, I waited until the conversation had concluded. Approximately twenty minutes after the second announcement, I inquired at the LARC table whether a RARR representative was still needed. I was informed at this time that RARR had won second place in the aforementioned contest. Again, I stated the fact that I was not a part of the team whose skill and effort procured this trophy. That honor belongs to Bob Roberts, WA2QAU and Bill Hopkins, AA2YV.

The trophy was then placed in my care, photos with ARRL dignitaries were taken and congratulations were offered. A member of the LARC team did mention that it was fortuitous for me to return the trophy to Rochester.

(Continued on page 3)

the RARA RAG

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

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The Prez Says

Marykay Vesco, KC2DPG

Well, I hope everyone had a great summer. We had a good Hamfest last year and look forward to making 2003 better. As this is an ongoing project, if anyone is interested in volunteering to help the Hamfest committee please feel free to contact Harold Smith: email info@rochesterhamfest.org or phone (585) 424-7184.

The Hilton AppleFest this year is October 5th and 6th. If anyone is interested in participating or for more information, the web site is www.hiltonapplefest.org or call Dave, N2CK at (585) 392-3183.

I would like to announce that our new Awards Chairperson will be Greg Michels, KC2GXV. If anyone is interested in helping him or has any ideas on where to get some good deals for the door prizes, his email address is kc2gxv@arrl.net. In addition, I would like to publicly thank John Rogers for doing this last year, as he did a great job!!

Tom Austin, KA2GXX will be doing our refreshments again this year. We are very thankful to Tom, as he has volunteered to do this for several years now and has not received much recognition. Thank you very much Tom, you are greatly appreciated!!

Our licensing classes begin again starting the first Monday after Labor Day. If you or someone you know is interested in upgrading or getting a new ticket come to 111 Westfall Rd at 7:00 PM on September 9th, 2002 and register for the classes.

Now a little food for thought: I read on the Internet that there is a team of Australian scientists that have proposed a revolutionary idea, that the speed of light may not be a constant. This could unseat one of the most cherished laws of modern physics, Einstein's theory of relativity.

Well, that's enough for now; see you at the next meeting.

FOR SALE: T-50H Aluma heavy duty Tower. 50 feet tall, rated for 100 Mile winds and tilts to work on the antenna. Retail for \$2,500. Asking \$2,250. Detailed technical specs at <http://www.alumatower.com>. Also, Yaesu G-1000SDX heavy duty antenna rotor. Retail for \$469 + S&H, asking \$400. Buy both for \$2,600!!! Call (585) 746-5118.

RARA License Test Schedule, 2001-2002

George Platteter, AA2FO

GET LICENSED, UPGRADE — The fall season is fast approaching, and it's the advent of the 2002-03 testing sessions.

These sessions are held September through May. The sessions are held on the third Saturday of the month with the exception of September when it is held on the 4th Saturday of the month and at the Hamfest, whose date varies.

THE PLACE — September through May; Cafeteria, Monroe County Bldg., 111 Westfall Rd., Rochester, NY

REGISTRATION — 8:30 AM, Exams 9:00 AM
HAMFEST — Hamfest location, refer to Hamfest schedule.

SCHEDULE —

September 28, 2002	
October 19, 2002	
November 16, 2002	
December 21, 2002	
January 18, 2003	
February 15, 2003	
March 15, 2003	
April 19, 2003	
May 17, 2003	
Hamfest, per Hamfest schedule	

Applicants need to bring the following in addition to pen and pencil: Two forms of identification, one being picture ID (Drivers License), original FCC License (if you already have one) and a copy, Certificate of Completion and a copy if credit is to be claimed for elements passed at another test session.

We welcome handicapped applicants. Please phone in advance, (585) 334-4488.

Lancaster Trophy—(Continued from page 1)

“Otherwise”, he said, “we’d have to call one of your officers to drive down and pick it up, cause we’re not about to deliver it.” He was joking ... I think.

Upon my return to Rochester, the trophy along with congratulations from LARC was presented to the RARA Board.

RARA RAG 20 Years Ago, Sept 1982

Ed Gable, K2MP

The meeting was an unusual one for a ham radio club with the title “*Tactical Accident Reduction*” and presented by the STAR unit of the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department. The venue was the Eisenhart Auditorium at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. Stan Zack, KA2U, wrote on the Diabetes Bike-A-Thon, which took you on a four-hour trip through Pittsford and Fairport for charity. Writing for the K2JD club station was RARA President Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, who reported that the move to 111 Westfall was complete and all equipment was operational. Tom Richmond, WB2IEY, writing for the Rochester VHF Group, reported their new officers were Dan Pedtke, WB9EAE, President; Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, VP; and Tom Richmond, WB2IEY, Secretary/Treasurer. On July 1st, 1982, the FCC instructed Staff people to draft a rulemaking on provisions for a codeless ham license. Rick Berg, KS2F, writing for the Rochester DX Association (RDXA) revealed their new officers as Gary Winkleman, KB2NU as President; Fred Groner, W2TZ as VP; Rick Berg, KS2F as Secretary/Treasurer; and to Directors: Bruce Sanborn, KB2WN; Mike Rice, KB2SG; and Jeff Ach, W2HPF. Rick also described the RDXA’s first Field Day operation at H.H. Spencer Park in Ontario, NY, running 3A with 1096 QSO’s. In the same issue was a report on the venerable Band-Dit-Dahs Field Day group, in their 21st year, operating from the Beneway farm in Ontario, NY, managed 1200 QSO’s in 3A with 14 operators. Miltin Meteyer, WB2QYK, was listed as a silent key. From the Want Ads you could buy a TR4C from John Sullivan, WB2KBT. The Heathkit Center announced a 30% off sale on all merchandise.

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Review Of ARRL Emergency Communications Level 1 Course

Allen Scalise, KC2IMK

The ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program has created a medium for amateurs to learn more about his or her hobby. It's a great compliment to local club activities. The first topic created is Emergency Communications. Because the topic of emergency communications is so diversified and so much information is available, the courses are broken into three levels: Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced Emergency Communications (Levels I, II and III). Courses are available on-line, thanks to ARRL's partnership with the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC).

Here is my review of the Introductory Emergency Communications (EmCom) Level 1 course: Why did I take the EmCom Introductory course? As a new amateur radio operator, I wanted to formally build communication skills, gain confidence in operating, and be available to my community to assist in times of emergencies. An ARRL course is just the ticket for formally building skills and obtaining certification. I highly recommend this course.

First impressions? Well-written, organized course. Student activities are very manageable.

How long does it take to finish? I enrolled in early November and had until mid January to finish. The course took 40 hours over 8 weeks. I finished early, during the holiday week.

How is the course structured? Each course has been developed in segments — learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities, and quizzes. Courses are interactive and include direct communications with a Mentor and other students. Each Mentor assists ten students by guiding them through the course. Students in the ARECC Level I course take three 25-question multiple-choice assessments (exams) during the course (75 questions total).

Where is the course held? The entire course can be completed on a PC with Internet access. ARRL has made arrangements to use the Con-

necticut Distance Learning Consortium web site complete with coursework, on-line testing, progress reports and grading.

How much does it cost? ARRL members register for the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications on-line courses at \$40 for each Level, and non-members at \$70. Shortly, the ARRL will implement nationwide emergency communications training funded by the recently announced \$181,900 Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) grant. Look for updates on this program.

How is a student graded? Students must pass the three 25-question assessments. Your grade is instantaneously displayed.

What does a student get after completing the course? Upon Successful passing grade, ARRL issues a handsome certificate and ID Card. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for all ARRL Certification and Continuing Education courses. On a side note, I personally documented all my coursework activities with answers then created final document in MS Word as a reference guide. It is 85 pages and is a great resource!

Who is the instructor? A mentor (fellow ham volunteer) is assigned to help answer questions and get feedback on progress for as little or as much as needed. My assigned mentor was Mary AA7RT, Spokane, WA. Getting answers to your queries is simple. Communication is done via email. Answers to activities are emailed to your mentor and verified.

What was learned? Three important things: Positive attitude and behavior during public service events, operating protocol, and readiness. Positive attitude and proper behavior is highly important when interacting with public officials and other volunteers. Safety is also vitally important.

What will I have to do? Understand and learn how amateur radio is a valuable resource during emergencies. Your tasks include general research, ID important contacts and critical web sites, understand Radiograms, actively participate regularly in the NTS (WDN), understand Incident Command System, organize a basic "jump kit," know ARES and RACES organizations, and create emergency plans.

What percent of the course was theory and operating? 90% theory and 10% operating.

What equipment is needed? 2 meter rig or multi-mode, packet, PC with Internet access. If you don't have everything, your local club

station likely has the needed equipment or visit an Elmer or a fellow ham's station to complete the work.

What license class is needed? Technician or higher class.

What existing knowledge did you have? No public service or NTS knowledge. Just a willingness to learn new operating skills and be available to help the community in case of emergency.

What research is needed to complete the course? Both written and electronic resources were used including: ARRL Handbook, ARRL EmCom Level 1 Book, Public Service Manual, ARRL web site (NTS, Repeater, Radiograms), Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness Web Site, Brighton town, Fire and Police web sites, FEMA web site, Western District Net (NTS) web site, and local RARA club web site.

Who was contacted to help (e.g. hams, public service officials)? Mary Moore, AA7RT (course mentor); Scott Bauer, W2LC; Karl Weir, N2NJH; Irv Goodman, AF2K; Todd Ricker Battalion Chief, Brighton Fire Department; Mary Louise Meisenzahl, Administrator Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness. Special thanks to AF2K for loaning me equipment and also to the participants of the Western District Net (NTS) on the 146.640 (WA2CAM) repeater.

How cooperative were the people involved? Very. I was very amazed at the quick response and thankful to all that helped. It was a team effort!

What was my (author's) score? My final score was 98.9 and ranked 5 out of 58 in my class.

Why should a ham take the course? You benefit from improved operating skills and become a great resource to your community as well as your local club. The bottom line is this: train well before any emergency so that you can be a productive, knowledgeable asset during time of need.

For further information, e-mail your questions to cce@arrl.org, or write to ARRL C-CE, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 or visit the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/cce/>. For more information about local public service events, contact your local club or Emergency Coordinator.

About the Author: Allen Scalise, KC2IMK, is a new amateur operator, licensed on Septem-

ber 21, 2001 as KC2IMK and lives in Rochester, NY. He also holds a Restricted Radiotelephone Permit for commercial broadcasting.

RARA Amateur Radio License Testing

All Elements Needed
To Complete a License Class

Saturday
Sept. 28, 2002

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

Social Services Building
111 Westfall Rd.
Rochester, NY

Inquires (585) 334-4488
aa2fo@rpa.net

FOR SALE: AEA 2 meter Isopole-\$10.00; AEA; 440 Isopole-\$10.00; C.C. 10/15/20 Vertical-\$25.00; C.C. AFM-4DA, 2m. 4 pole-\$25.00; C.C. 6 m. 4 el. Beam-\$25.00; C.C. 220, 11 el. Beam-\$25.00; C.C. 440,11x11stack beams-\$40.00; Shakespear 11m. S-176, vertical-\$15.00; Aluminum 48 ft. tower, 8x6' sects.-\$50.00; Steel 40 ft. monopole tower-\$50.00; Many more antennas & towers offers; Ameritron AL-811, AMP. 600 watts 1 hr. on time, like new-\$450.00 Len, WA2ZNC, (585) 229-5470, wa2znc@juno.com.

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Doing JOTA This Year?

John D. Van Griethuysen, N2BNE
John M. Gilly, W3OAB

For the Monroe County area this year, JOTA will be held at the J. Waren Cutler Scout Reservation (JWCSR) during the Otetiana Council 2002 Challenge Trophy Camporee that will be held on Oct. 18, 19, and 20, 2002. This is the 4th annual series in the Challenge Trophy Camporee. Camp Cutler is located approximately 45 minutes south of Rochester, NY in the Finger Lakes region. Boy Scout Troops, Venturer Crews and 2nd year Webelos may attend for the entire weekend. Crews, Troops, Webelos and Cubs may attend on a Saturday Day Pass and participate in the events. They also need senior youths to step forward and become staff.

There are a few things to remember:

A)—This event will be taxing the maximum capacity of Camp Cutler's infrastructure.

B)—Arrivals will be on Friday evening with hundreds of cars heading for two tiny entrances off poorly lit rural roads.

C)—There is spotty cell phone coverage and somewhat disjointed response from emergency services.

D)—Many drivers will be coming there for the first time.

E)—Some vehicles will be "dropping off" and trying to leave "against the flow".

F)—Some of the First Aiders will only have FRS radios to use on "non-line-of-sight" paths. They need our help.

G)—There will be heavy foot traffic looping between busy active parking areas and sub-camps.

There is no doubt that this situation constitutes a need for intensive communications support during this arrival phase. Throughout the weekend, there will be LOTS of First Aid activity. Even hams that don't want to participate in JOTA will help by relieving the JOTA volunteers from the health and safety operations. We are expecting that approximately 1600 people could potentially be introduced to ham radio. On the practical side, there is a need for enhanced communication for an event of this size, especially medical, safety, and security. As of Aug. 3, 2002, close to 1100

Cubs, Scouts, Ventures & Leaders have registered to come to this event with 1600 people being the stated goal.

It is worth mentioning that we already have equipment and activities planned that just might need some backup "control-ops" during meal breaks, etc. We have several operators that have said they will bring their rigs and/or antennas as well as computers to demo APRS and PSK-31. We do ask hams to bring fully charged two-meter H/T's though.

Here are a few questions and answers:

Q)—How close can you park (how much walking is required?).

A)—Program cars or Trucks can park in the Staff lot, (between the Dining Hall and the Trading Post). We will be limited on space so car-pooling is suggested.

Q)—What kind of ham operations and times will be required this year?

A)—HF through UHF under a 1x1 Special Event call of K2O. As you can see, we will need many operators to work in rotation as well as describe what we are doing to the people watching the following presentations: Peter Fournia, W2SKY and Walt Obenhofer, NQ2O will be running an AMSAT display and if the orbit is favorable maybe work the ISS this year; Jon Dickason, N2JAC and Don Bickle, KC2DQR will be running a small version of a Fox Hunt; Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY will be acting as Station and QSL Manager; Bill Kraft, WB2IHM and some of his Scouts will also be helping out, as we will have more than one HF station.

Q)—Are there real flush toilets with running water?

A)—Yes, full size M&F Rest rooms, just off main room and at least one stall is Handicap Accessible.

I have heard a fair amount of people complaining about how the numbers of younger people entering Amateur Radio seems to be way down from what it once was. I for one think that the people that did the complaining should volunteer just one weekend (this weekend). If they just went to their local Boy or Girl Scout office and told their local Scout Council that they are willing to help participate

(Continued on page 7)

RRRA

Brad Allen, KB2CHY, RRRA President

Wow! Summer is almost over and another year of club meetings is upon us. RRRA's first meeting of the year is the third Friday of the month. We usually have a conflict in September so be sure to listen on the nets for the actual date if there does have to be a change.

The '88 repeater has been working very well so far and we will be getting ready to start phase 2 of the project. Keep your ears open to find out what that may be.

We have been running the repeater in full PL mode for most of the summer due to the incredible skip we have had. Repeater users in Canada on a regular basis hit us. That is not so bad though, as it is still easy to open the repeater if you do not have tone. The controller is in a mode that needs COS or PL. That means if you were to TT in a 5 and release the mic, the repeater will say error. Disregard that and while the tail is up, you can talk all you want with no PL. Once the tail drops, you will have to do the code over. Sorry if you don't have TT. I am working on that as well. We can make it so a certain number of key clicks will open the repeater as well and I am working on a way to make it real easy for everyone.

The code to take the repeater out and into PL will be determined soon. Remember, one needs to ID before tones and after QSO is complete. I am not going to let many codes out till some of the kerchunking stops.

I hope you all had a great summer and I look forward to another year as president of RRRA. Let's show some support and make it a point to attend the meetings. See you in September.

SILENT KEYS

Ronald E. Sippel, WA2WHL
December 7, 2001

Joseph A. Mon, Sr., N2BHJ
June 10, 2002

Roger M. Williams, W2NES
July 9, 2002

Hilton AppleFest

Dave Wright, N2CK

Last year at the Hilton AppleFest, a combined group of RARA, RDXA, BARK and RVFH put a special event station on the air from the grounds. On display were an active HF station, VHF, portable ATV (thanks to George, N2UIO) along with handouts and plenty of knowledgeable folks to talk to attendees about their favorite hobby – ham radio!

The dates for the AppleFest this year are October 5 and 6th. The web site is www.hiltonapplefest.org for further information. If you are interested in helping out, give me a call at 392-3183. Thanks in advance — Dave.

Doing JOTA?—(Continued from page 6)

in this year's (and next years) JOTA we would get a larger number of youths joining the world of Ham Radio.

This is how I was first bitten by the HAM Bug (no, I don't mean the old Vibraplex keyer) in '66 when I got to talk on the radio to a US Arm-Forces Base overseas curtesy of some of local MARS Hams running mobile operations during a Boy Scout Camporee. I see JOTA as a way to "pay back" Amateur Radio, Please Help!!



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