



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
Founded in 1931

JANUARY 2016
VOLUME 68, ISSUE 5

REPEATERS

ANAND CHOUDRI, KC2KPG - RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Our monthly topic for January will be on repeaters. We can all use a refresher on repeaters no matter how long we've been in the hobby.

Mike Rink, W2HYP has been licensed since the early 70's. He is the Electrical Supervisor for Strong Memorial Hospital at the University of Rochester. Mike, together with Jim Stefano, W2COP, built and maintain the current 145.11 repeater system on Bristol Mountain.



Mike - W2HYP

Established in the 1990s at its current site on Worden Hill atop Bristol Mountain, the 145.11 repeater antenna is the highest in this area at an altitude of 2325 feet. This site overlooks Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, Livingston, Yates and surrounding Western NY counties, with mobile coverage as far north as Watertown and HT coverage to the cities of Rochester and Canandaigua. The 145.11 repeater will operate on Emergency Backup Battery Power if the Mains go down.

The 145.11 repeater offers many services, including communications for local charity/public service events such as those supported by RARA. The repeater also plays host to many local Nets such as the Western New York District Net and RACES.

The 145.11 repeater is currently the official SKYWARN repeater for the Genesee Valley and Northern Finger Lakes. If the National Weather Service in Buffalo activates SKYWARN, listen for WX2BUF.



SPECIFICATIONS

- Tx.Freq.: 145.110 MHz.
- Rx.Freq.: 144.510 MHz.
- PL.Freq.: 110.9 Hz.
- Chassis: Moto MSR2000
- Rx.Sens.: .1uV @ 20dB quieting w/17db preamp
- Duplexer: Sinclair 4 cavity Bp./Br.
- Pwr. Out: 40 Watts
- Ant.: APS682 4.5 db
- Ant. Ht.: 175 Ft.
- ERP: 100 Watts
- Controller: S-Comm7K
- Remote: GE DELTA UHF 16ch. / 10 watts
- Remote Ant.: 8 pole Remote Ant Ht.: 190Ft.
- Power Supply: 12 V 30 Amp., charging a 500Ah. storage array.
- Coverage: 10,000 sq. mi.

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Mike will talk about the repeater on Bristol Hill that he and Jim Stefano manage, and about the plans he has for a new Motorola repeater. He will also explain about off-sets, PL tones, CTCSS codes, etc. for our newer members of the club.



145.11 Tower Site In S. Bristol, NY



Mike Is Accessing The Transmitter / Receiver Bay

Join us on Friday January 8 at 7:00 pm at the Boys Scouts of America building on Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road. Remember that the January meeting is on Friday the 8th, not the 1st.



Can You Spot The Transmitter Building?

PREZ SEZ

WILL MULLANEY, KC2VSJ—RARA PRESIDENT

Hello RARA friends; welcome to another edition of Prez Sez! This will be the final article for the 2015 calendar year. Happy holidays to all of our members, friends, and family as we wind down the year. As a first point of business, the next RARA meeting will be held on January 8th at the Boy Scout's HQ in Brighton. This is the SECOND Friday of the month; the first Friday will be January 1st, hence the move. Remember, the meetings are open to all regardless of membership status, and in addition to our normal topic, we will be continuing a breakout session for newer hams. Please stop down and give us a visit.

At our last meeting, we had a long discussion about the history and the future of our Hamfest. It was clear that there was a lot of energy in the room and a bunch of people came forward to volunteer their ideas and their help in producing the next Hamfest. I am happy to announce that we have a Hamfest producer who will chair the committee for this year. Ev Tupis (W2EV) has stepped forward and is approaching this like a festival or stage production where success is had through the participation and dedication of the "cast".

With thanks to a sign-up sheet that was circulated at the last RARA meeting and a follow-up web-form, a cast of over 60 volunteers has been formed. From that list, there are a few "Associate Producers" to find and many roles to fill.

Even if you may have missed signing up as a cast member, Ev says that there is still time to get involved. He says to stay tuned for updates both through the RARA RAG and through personal contact by other cast members (who may do some recruiting of their own).

It should be noted that Ev's two 16-year old sons (Ethan, KD2IRK and Spencer, KD2IRH) will be active cast members. Ev invites you to ask your kids or grandchildren to consider being part of the cast, too (even if they aren't licensed)! There will be meaningful roles for them, too!

As this goes to the RAG's editor, potential venues have been identified and are being vetted, and cast meetings are being scheduled. If you signed up at the meeting or on the subsequent Google Forms sheet, you should be receiving more information shortly. Ev is always available directly at HFproducer@RochesterHam.org. He is the best source for direct comment or information.

In addition to the Hamfest, the board and coordinators are continuing to work on several other initiatives, which include: our upcoming Winterfest gathering, the selection of permanent club space and creation of a subsequent physical station(s) for use of membership, upcoming monthly meeting topics, and additional meetings and events outside our normal monthly meeting. Now is a great time to become involved in the hobby and the club, and our board is dedicated to increasing the value and interactivity of membership with RARA.

As a final note, many hams like myself live in an area where a restriction from a homeowner's association, apartment com-

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 8TH - RARA General Meeting
7:00 PM at BSA Headquarters, 2320 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd

JANUARY 14TH - RARA Board of Directors
5:30 PM RIT Engineering Hall, Room 2110

JANUARY 16TH - RARA VE Testing
10:00 AM RIT Gleason Hall, Room 9-3139

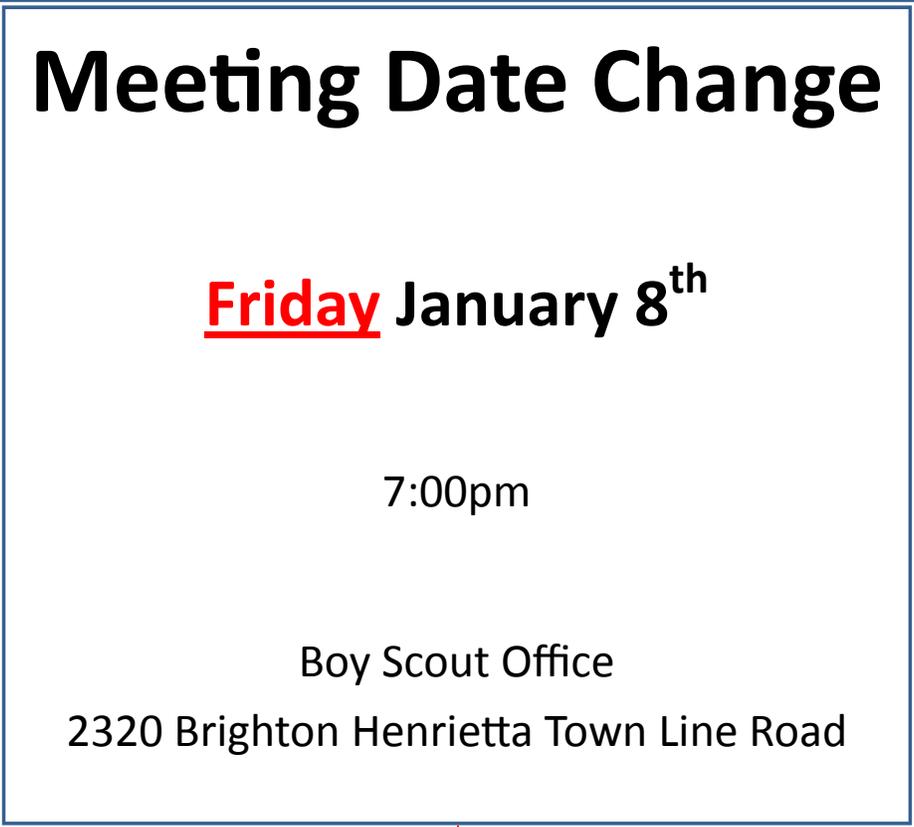
plex, or other covenant prevents them from erecting antennas and other RF equipment. In the past few months, there has been much discussion, including in our own RARA RAG, regarding the Amateur Radio Parity Act that is currently moving both through the US House and Senate. Please take a moment to read these articles, or to read the articles on the web available from sites such as the ARRL, or our own Facebook page. Even if you are not currently affected by restrictions, your support is needed.

By supporting the expansion of reasonable accommodations, more people can be brought into our hobby, including younger members who will become the lifeblood of the hobby as all of us existing HAMs continue to age. Additionally, securing rights in this arena will make it more difficult to undo the existing rights and privileges that we enjoy with regard to local and state governments, laws, and ordinances. Please give an hour or so of your time to do some research, review the information provided, and contact your senator and congressman/woman.

Thanks for your time and I hope to see you all at our next meeting, January 8th, at the Boy Scout's HQ on Town-Line Road in Brighton.

Happy Holidays from the Board of Directors of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association!
Regards,

Will Mullaney, KC2VSI



Meeting Date Change

Friday January 8th

7:00pm

Boy Scout Office
2320 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Road

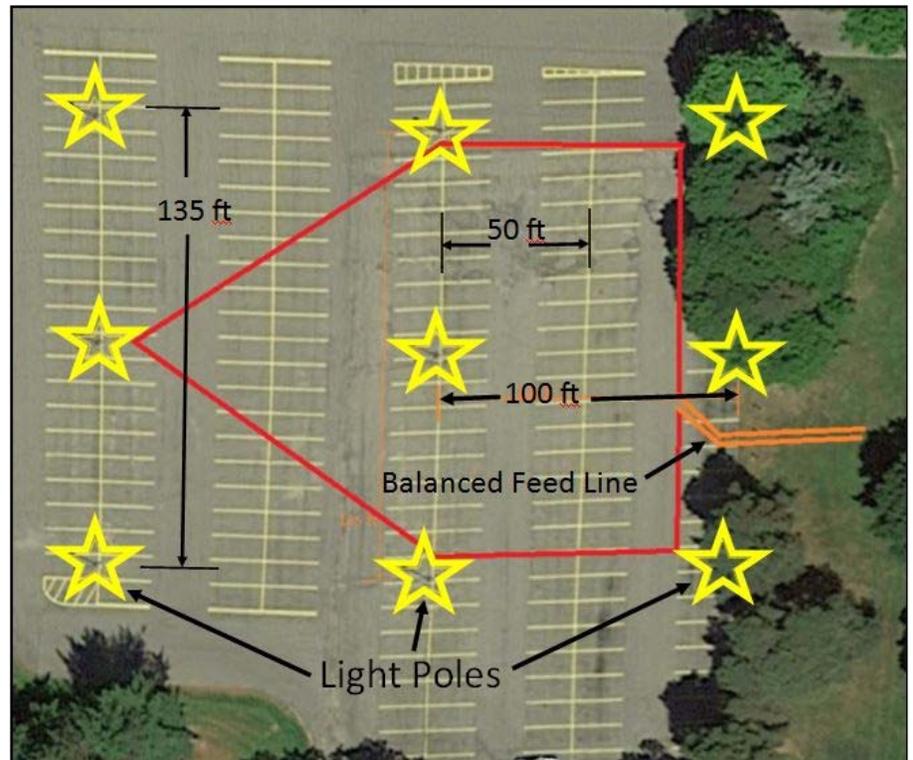
A TRANSPORTABLE ALL BAND WIRE ANTENNA, PART 1

Paul Conaway, KD2DO

This article describes a full size horizontal loop antenna that is cut for resonance on the 160m band. It is fed with balanced feed line but uses a conventional low cost auto tuner to give all band performance. This antenna has been successfully used on three field day events and takes about an hour to erect.

Site Selection

I have had good success using a parking lot with widely spaced and tall light poles. I first do an aerial survey using Google Earth. The picture to the right shows a site survey where I have marked the light poles with yellow stars. It is easy to spot their shadows. Then using the measurement tool in Google Earth or some convenient known distance on the ground, I measure the distances between the poles and plan the layout. In many parking lots the distance between the centers of two rows is 50 feet. In the picture the proposed layout was drawn in red. This perimeter measured a little over 600 feet, so I made a mental note to reduce the size slightly with the "extension" lines to be discussed below.



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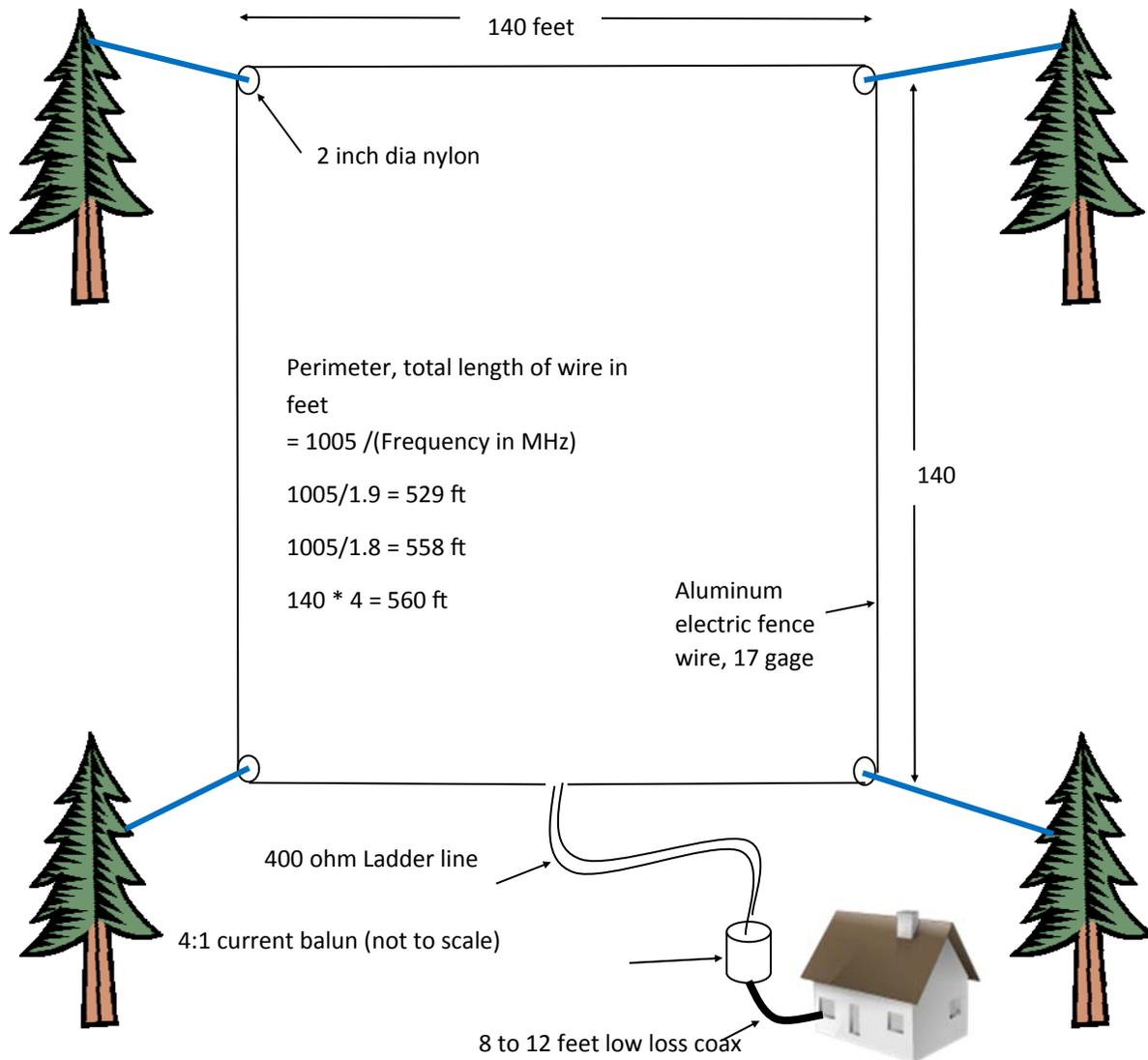
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Calculations

The basic formula for the length of wire in a Horizontal loop in feet = $1005 / (\text{frequency in MHz})$.

So at the low end of the band: $1005 / 1.8 = 558$ ft. If one had a square layout of 140 feet on a side, that would give a 560 foot perimeter, and encompass a little less than a half-acre.



The figure above shows some of the salient features of the antenna. First it uses lightweight aluminum electric fence wire. This costs about \$25 for a quarter mile at your local tractor supply store. Next notice that it uses 2 inch diameter plastic pulleys for the corner insulators. This allows the entire antenna system to be rotated once in place. This comes in handy for adjusting the feed point for convenience, for example if you have a fixed length feed line and suddenly have to move your station out of the rain.

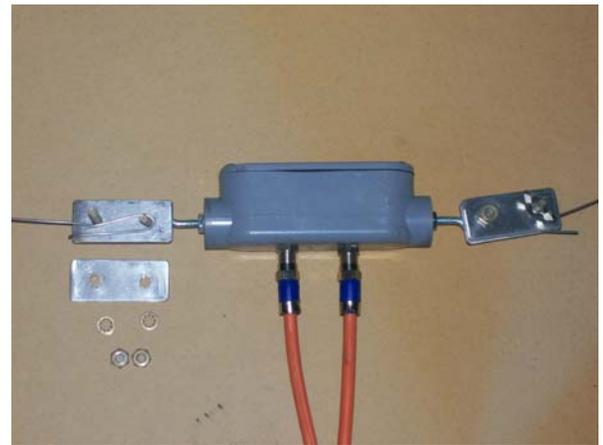
The third salient feature of this antenna is that although it is fed with balanced line you can use a conventional, low cost, unbalanced, coax tuner such as any of the LDG models. The "Remote Balun" from Radio Works is a 4 to 1 current balun and is specifically made to drive balanced feed lines.

Feed point

The previous picture shows a balanced feed using ladder line which is good for fixed installations. For portable work however I have had very good success using paired runs of RG6 coax instead. With paired coax you do not need to maintain distance from the feed lines to nearby conductors. You can lay it on the ground. Some paired RG-6 comes with a support wire that can be used if desired for overhead support.

I tie the shields together at the transmitter end and connect them to Earth. At the feed point I just use the center conductors. See the figures for details of the feed point.

The box is a standard 1/2 inch plastic electrical conduit junction box. I turned down some pvc block material to the proper size and glued these plugs into in the ends. A hole through the center with a couple of eyebolts makes the mechanical and electrical connection. Standard cable TV bulkhead connectors mate to the coax. The antenna wire is wrapped around two bolts and pinched between two pieces of aluminum plate. This gives a secure mechanical connection and prevents any sharp bend in the wire. The box is sealed with a gasket on top and there are some drain holes in the bottom to let out condensation.



Feed point with parallel RG-6



Inside the feed point box

Here you can see a large flat washer cut to the dimension of the inside. This adds to the mechanical strength so one does not rely on the glue to hold the strain. Also under the nut of the eyebolt is a crimped terminal with a short length of coax center conductor to the RG-6 connector. This wire fits perfectly of course.

Note that parts like this are fabricated well in advance and are reused year to year.

Elevation

The next unique thing about this installation is that for support it does not go over or through any light fixtures. Each one is different and very few would be usable. So I use just the pole. Using a large diameter rope, either 3/8 or 1/2 inch, I tie a slippery clove hitch around the pole. The clove hitch holds well for a

sideways pull and when it comes time to dismantle it, simply pulling on the slippery end releases the knot and it all just tumbles down.

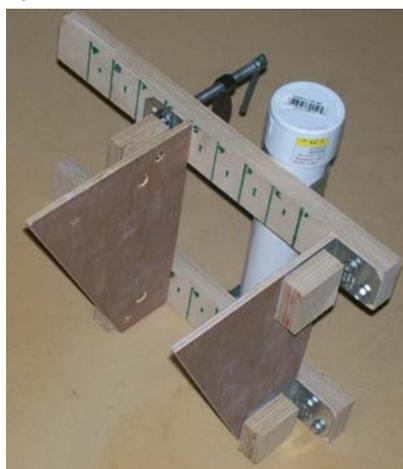
Using a long pole like used for pool cleaning or painting, I push the knot up as high as it will go. This is 20 to 30 feet in most places, more in some. When you try this you may find that it is difficult to push the knot up the light fixture's pole. I have used two people pushing simultaneously on opposite sides of the knot. This is adequate but requires 2 people and 2 long poles. So I threw together a little wooden fixture that will slip under the knot and push it up from 3 sides at once. The figure below shows this rope pusher. It is adjustable in width, because light poles are different and some are tapered. The capped PVC pipe serves as the push point for the painter's pole as shown below.

Part 2

The conclusion of this article will appear in the February 2016 issue of the RAG.

Topics to include:

- Extension
- Erection Procedure
- Modifications
- Summary
- Bibliography



Rope pusher



Rope pusher in position



Slippery clove hitch

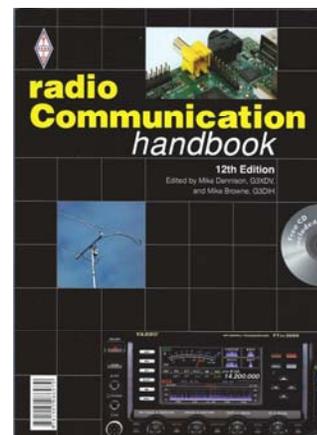
PEAK THE GRID

Forest Shick, WA2MZG

In the April 2015 issue of the RAG we looked at a few books from the Amateur Radio Relay League. This month I would like to look at 3 from the ARRL and 1 from the Radio Society of Great Britain.

Let's start with the "Radio Communications Handbook" from RSGB. Although this is an amateur radio publication, there is considerable focus on electronics. The first chapter, "Principles", starts with topics such as: Structure of Matter, Conductors and Insulators, Electrical Units and more. The book opens with the basics on the first page.

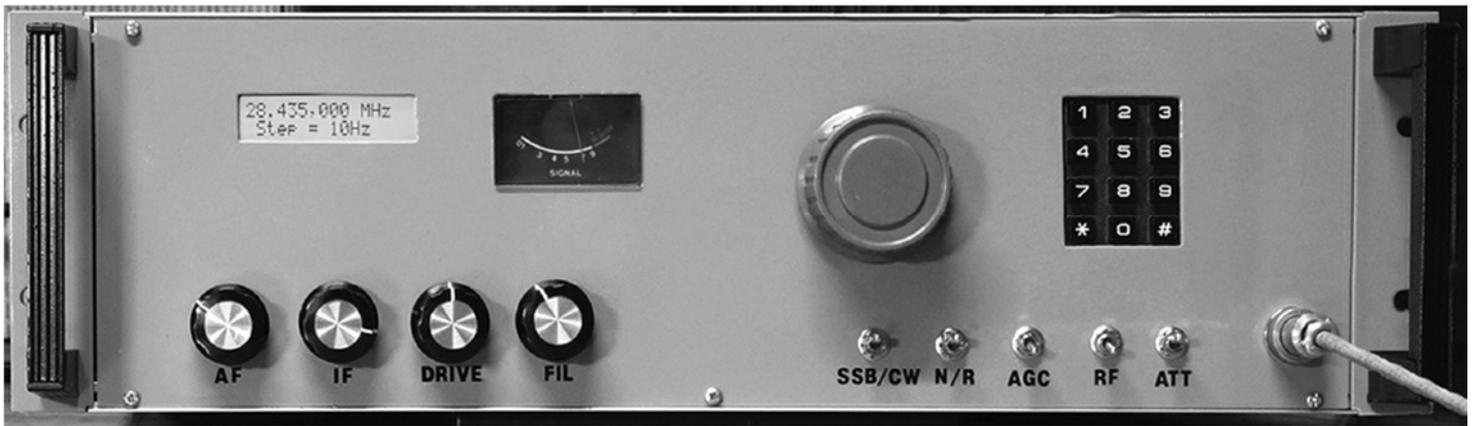
Compare this with the "ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications" (note the similar titles) with a first chapter titled "What is Amateur (Ham) Radio" and topics such as "Do-It-Yourself Wireless" and "Joining the Ham Radio Community".



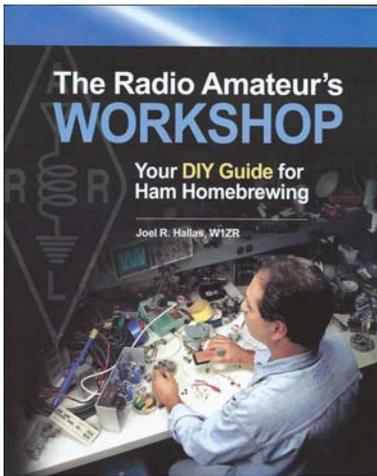
The following is a comparison of chapter titles:

Chapter	RSGB	ARRL
1	Principles	What is Amateur (Ham) Radio?
2	Passive Components	Electrical Fundamentals
3	Semiconductors and Valves	Analog Basics
4	Building Blocks 1: Oscillators	Digital Basics
5	Building Blocks 2: Amplifiers, Mixers, Etc.	RF Techniques
6	HF Receivers	Computer-Aided Circuit Design
7	HF Transmitters and Transceivers	Power Supplies
8	A Homebrew Transceiver Project	Modulation
9	VHF/UHF receivers, Transmitters and Transceivers	Oscillators and Synthesizers
10	Low Frequencies: Below 1 MHz	Mixers, Modulators and Demodulators
11	Practical Microwave Receivers and Transmitters	RF and AF Filters
12	Propagation	Receivers
13	Antenna Basics and Construction	Transmitters and Transceivers
14	Transmission Lines	Telemetry and Navigation
15	Practical HF Antennas	DSP and Software Radio Design
16	Practical VHF/UHF Antennas	Digital Modes
17	Practical Microwave Antennas	RF Power Amplifiers
18	The Great Outdoors	Repeaters
19	Morse Code	Propagation of Radio Signals
20	Digital Communications	Transmission Lines
21	Computers in the Shack	Antennas
22	Electromagnetic Compatibility	Component Data and References
23	Power Supplies	Construction Techniques
24	Measurement and Test Equipment	Station Accessories
25	Construction and Workshop Practice	Test Equipment and Measurements
26		Troubleshooting and Maintenance
27		RF Interference
28		Safety
29		Assembling a Station

As you can see, the books are similar. There is theory and explanations, examples and pictures to go with the explanation and also projects in both books. If you already have the ARRL book, then the Radio Communications Handbook from RSGB would be an excellent addition to your bookshelf and one that you would desire to keep.

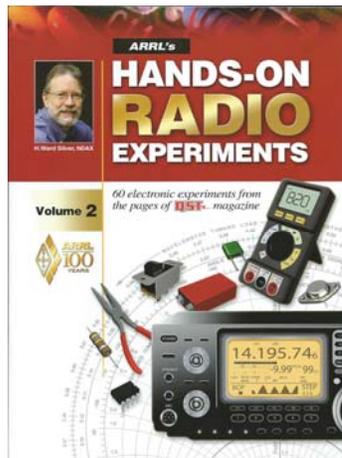
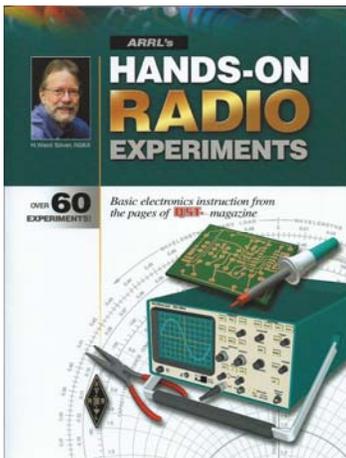


Homebrew transceiver from the Radio Communications Handbook



"The Radio Amateur's Workshop" from the ARRL is a new release, copyright 2015. Lots of very interesting information for a person who is looking to build up their own electronics workshop. The book touches on everything you might need to get started: electrical to mechanical, screwdrivers to soldering irons, software to antennas. For the DIY Ham beginner, it is an excellent purchase. The book discusses the how and why of many topics such as the difference between a chisel blade and a hollow-ground screwdriver. There is something for everyone - I never knew the difference between a chisel blade and hollow ground screw driver. I do now!

The book is easy to read and you just might learn something!



I first flipped through "Hands-On Radio Experiments (vol 1)" at a radio store 1 1/2 years ago while I was on vacation. It looked very interesting. Yes, I know the books are a collection of articles from QST but now they are all in one place. So I broke down and bought them.

They cover basic topics such as designing a common emitter amplifier, to intermediate topics like active and notch filters, to advanced subjects such as circuit simulation and PCB Layout.

A couple more books I intend to keep around the shack!

NOTE: Pictures in this article have been copied from the related books.

To summarize - these are 4 very good books to have in your library.

REPAIRING TO LEARN. ITEM: AN OLD HEATHKIT “T-2”

BILL HOPKINS, AA2YV

This past November’s RARA Auction featured only a few old-timey radios. One cool receiver sold for the pitiable sum of \$24, if I’m correct. This tells me that the younger set of Hams has little-to-no connection to (or interest in) tube-type equipment. For many reasons, of course. One is, they may see no point in it any longer. I know there are other “good” reasons, but humor me a bit here.

I see it differently, and I do so by admitting my biases up front. I am wondering whether hams in general really understand the inner workings of solid state, beginning with the 2N3904 transistor, not even to speak of a MOSFET. The knowledge required to operate a push-button DSP transceiver roughly emulates what one really knows about computers by working at the Apple Store.

The result is that virtually no one builds things anymore. Because we don’t know how. Even high-flung universities now admit students to their electronics programs, showing little interest whether the candidate has any practical knowledge of circuits and building. (Didn’t these college-bound hopefuls ever take their mother’s old iron apart?) We’re moving away from the object. What’s left mostly?: SSB contests for the young-er; rag-chewing for the old.

I would most like to see 30-to-55 year old hams – just an estimate here – get their hands onto vacuum-state (OR solid-state parts, for that matter) and learn how to blow something up. The teenage, uncontrollable type, will do it without prodding. Their minds are thankfully OK.

I love smoke. There’s nothing to focus the mind like the trace of burned electronics and a quick reach for the OFF-switch. I do like it better, when 190 volts DC are in the mix. You might say, there’s more skin in the game. I have been bit by HV only once. Now I know a lot better how not to let that ever happen again. By the way, smoke from 13.7 smells much the same. And in any case, you can get the self-same RF burn from a solid state amplifier, if you’re not careful.

Let’s get back to tinkering and in the process make it count for something. What then? I suggest an old piece of test equipment – anything that will help me understand *how* things work, *why* they work or *whether* they work at all.

Recently, I went back to the year 1949 when Heathkit, right after WWII, was buying up surplus military parts for a stingy song. I acquired the ubiquitous T-2 Signal Tracer from the AWA Museum (check out their EBay listings) and almost totally rebuilt it. It has few parts, and the replacements are mostly electrolytics. How about \$15 maximum for the parts and postage? Also, I shamefully re-spray-painted the box to a look-alike blue-gray. So what’s this good for, you ask?

Well, as equipment rated at only 110 VAC, not for a very long period, whatever its use. Of course, I can use it to trace signals in a receiver. For me though, this is the perfect audio amplifier for a do-it-yourself tube powered Regenerative receiver with a high impedance audio output, where old earphones are usually used. (Last night I copied ZS3D from South Africa using the 6SN7 double triode; “build it and they will come in.”) I had to turn down the volume on the T-2, because it



Using the schematic and pictorials to rebuild



Comparison of old (left) and “new” (right)



Two T-2’s repaired

would have disturbed those in the household already in sleep mode. I just don't let the tracer heat up too much by running it for hours.

And if you're over 55, maybe now's the time for you too to find a hobby: tinkering. Why not ask others for some junk parts and a li-ol bi' o' elmering?

EDITOR'S NOTE

Forest Shick, WA2MZG

With this issue, I start my 3rd year as RAG Editor. 24 issues behind me and many more to go, I hope! I am really grateful for all the people who contribute to the RAG. Without you, this would be a very short newsletter.

Here are a few hints for you that would help me!

1 - All text is 10pt Arial.

2 - Do not do any fancy formatting as I will undo your work to fit the format of the RAG. Although, placing pictures where you would like them in an article is very helpful. Captions are also nice.

NOTE: Sometimes your formatting consumes considerable time to find it and remove it!

3 - The text box on the RAG page is 7.8 x 10 with 0.14 left and right margins.

4 - Receiving your article as a MS WORD document is the preferred method. Some send their articles as the body of an email and this causes problems in formatting because different email programs add their own formatting.

5 - Pictures are another source of problems. If you look at some back issues of the RAG, there are pictures that look very nice and others that are a bit fuzzy. The problem here is the "dpi", dots per inch. To get a good picture, we need 200 - 300 DPI. This is not the same as pixels so be careful when trying to adjust this. In my understanding pixels are for screen resolution and dpi is printer resolution.

N2EH, K2JD STATION LOTW

Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

In part, the bylaws (Section 3.5.A) of the Rochester (NY) Amateur Radio Association (RARA) promotes an "interest in amateur radio communication and experimentation"... supports "public welfare through the use of amateur radio equipment and amateur radio operators"... and fosters "education in the field of electronic communications." To this end RARA encourages all types of radio operations for members and would-be members and maintains several licenses for the various types of operating styles: casual operations use N2EH, contests use K2JD, and Field Day operations use the W2EOC callsign. RARA maintains 'Logbook of The World' and eQSL logging accounts for those enjoying these club resources.

25 Records Shown (1-25) Sorted by QSL Date (0.000773 seconds elapsed) Showing WAS Award data for K2JD-WAS									
	Call sign	Worked	Date/Time	Band	Mode	Freq	QSL	WAS	
Details	K2JD	WI1S	1994-11-06 04:52:00	80M	CW		UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vermont: 80M CW
Details	N2EH	K1N	2015-02-09 09:27:00	80M	CW	3.52400	NAVASSA ISLAND		
Details	N2EH	K1N	2015-02-09 09:00:00	40M	CW	7.03200	NAVASSA ISLAND		
Details	K2JD	XE2DV	1995-03-05 01:35:00	20M	SSB		MEXICO		
Details	K2JD	XE2DV	1995-03-04 23:52:00	10M	SSB		MEXICO		
Details	K2JD	XE2DV	1995-03-04 18:38:00	15M	SSB		MEXICO		
Details	K2JD	XE2DV	1994-10-30 18:30:00	15M	SSB		MEXICO		
Details	K2JD	K2LIM	2015-01-25 00:51:02	2M	FM	146.55000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/>	New York: 2M; Phone; Phone 2M; Triple Play
Details	K2JD	KC2UES	2015-01-25 00:50:02	2M	FM	146.55000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/>	New York: 2M; Phone; Phone 2M; Triple Play
Details	N2EH	W1AW/1	2014-11-18 02:26:00	80M	SSB	3.80500	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rhode Island: Triple Play
Details	N2EH	W1AW/7	2014-11-05 18:02:00	10M	SSB		UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Washington: 10M; 10M Phone; 5-Band; Triple Play
Details	N2EH	W1AW/8	2014-10-23 22:22:00	40M	SSB	7.20300	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	West Virginia: 40M; 40M Phone; 5-Band; Triple Play
Details	K2JD	KA2ENE	2015-01-25 01:05:02	2M	FM	146.55000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/>	New York: 2M; Phone; Phone 2M; Triple Play
Details	K2JD	K2SI	2015-01-25 00:42:02	2M	FM	146.55000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/>	New York: 2M; Phone; Phone 2M; Triple Play
Details	K2JD	KA2ENE	2015-01-25 00:36:02	6M	SSB	50.18000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/>	New York: 6M; Phone; Phone 6M; Triple Play
Details	N2EH	VC7J	2014-02-09 00:48:00	10M	RTTY		CANADA		
Details	K2JD	RZ3DZ	1995-03-25 14:03:00	20M	SSB		EUROPEAN RUSSIA		
Details	N2EH	KH6ZM	2014-02-09 00:44:00	10M	RTTY		HAWAII	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hawaii: 10M; Digital; RTTY; 10M Digital; 10M RTTY; 5-Band
Details	N2EH	WX2I	2014-01-25 23:08:00	80M	PSK31	3.58000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Jersey: 80M Digital; 80M PSK31; Triple Play
Details	N2EH	W1AW/7	2014-06-02 23:49:00	20M	CW	14.03400	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wyoming: 20M; CW; 20M CW; Triple Play; 5-Band
Details	N2EH	W1AW/4	2014-07-16 07:47:00	40M	SSB	7.18500	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	South Carolina: 40M; 40M Phone; 5-Band; Triple Play
Details	N2EH	SV5KKU	2014-04-10 03:00:00	40M	JT65	7.07600	DODECANESE		
Details	N2EH	W1AW/4	2014-04-10 02:33:00	80M	CW	3.52600	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Virginia: Triple Play
Details	N2EH	9H1SS	2014-03-19 20:33:00	15M	JT65	21.07600	MALTA		
Details	N2EH	W100AW	2014-03-14 16:38:00	40M	SSB	7.24800	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Connecticut: Triple Play

To grab an assignment for use of the club calls, jump in and contact Station Trustee Jim DiTucci N2IXD@arrl.net! RARA currently holds Worked All States (WAS) and has 93 countries confirmed toward DX Century Club (DXCC). If you have worked any of these calls and would like a nice picture QSL card, send an SASE and your QSL to RARA, PO Box 93333, Rochester NY, 14692. We will research your contact for paper confirmation. RARA maintains accounts for N2EH, K2JD and W2EOC on eQSL also for people using that service. If you do operate any of the RARA club callsigns, please forward any logs that you create to WB2SXY@arrl.net.

VENTURE: MAKE BOLD

William Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

“Dare; not be afraid”; “dare to go (out), esp. outdoors” and “make bold”, are Oxford Dictionary definitions of ‘Venture’. These phrases also define the Boy Scout Venture Crew program being formed by the Rochester (NY) Amateur Radio Association (RARA) in connection with the Seneca Waterways Boy Scout Council. For more years than anyone can remember, ‘The JOTA Guys’ – RARA’s many ‘Jamboree on The Air’ ham operators – have tirelessly worked events at Scout Camps Cutler, Massawepie and Babcock-Hovey in addition to many scout meetings and ceremonies demonstrating Amateur Radio to Scouts and their family members. Having fun and ‘making bold’ are primary goals of the Venture Crew.

Have you wanted your younger family members to develop hobby type interests in amateur radio, electronics, and the sciences, but did not know where to start? Are they interested in today’s electronic marvels but they do not have the required background to dig in and understand the under-the-hood workings? Do you know how many people have learned the rudimentary aspects of all the sciences through their association with ham radio, and are now deeply involved at the leading edge of current discoveries? Do you know that almost all of the International Space Station astronauts are hams? Ham radio, as a hobby, as a ‘venture’, can help everyone discover their potential and help pave the way for them.

Venture Crews are organized around fun, hobby-type themes enjoying club like activities, as opposed to Scout Troops based on advancement, or Explorer Posts based on careers.

RARA’s Venture Crew advisor team identified many On-The-Air activities for the members: ‘Aim a Satellite Dish Antenna’ and ‘Slow Scan Television’ through ‘High Frequency Contesting’ and ‘Public Service’. Members operate ‘On-The-Air Activities’ before they are licensed while working with control operators, and progress once licensed as sole operators of their own radio stations. Many ‘Off-The-Air Activities’ highlight members’ leadership qualities in public service, and in training other operators. The Venture crew works closely with the special-interest radio groups in the area to benefit from the many areas of expertise available locally. Forty practical learning modules, from basic electric safety, integrated circuits, soldering, reading schematics and circuit analysis are already in place for Venture Crew members.

Some of RARA’s current advisor team:

Steve Fell, K2SRF, has been involved in Scouting for over 60 years; was twice a high adventure crew leader to the Philmont, NM, Scout Reservation; holds Wood Badge; is a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow and currently serves as Assistant Scout Master of Troop 208. Steve worked 13 years with Egypt Fire Department and 9 years with Perinton Ambulance and holds an Amateur Extra ham license. Giving back to the Boy Scouts has been his goal for many years; on the Camp Cutler Committee, he maintains the phone and alarm systems, locks and camp radios.

John Werner, KC2TNO, a former Boy Scout and adult leader, is a patent holder, works as an author and embedded software engineer. John is an organizer of performance and road rallies and a rally safety instructor. Although he spent time with hams in college, nearly 15 years later John got licensed so he could work communications for performance auto rallies based in Wellsboro, PA.

Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY, a scout and adult scout leader for over 12 years and a ham since age 14, holds an FCC commercial broadcasting license (+ radar); has worked locally as an engineer at TV channel 10 and in military TV, a wireless-microwave internet engineer, a trainer for the Technician- and General-Class ham radio courses, an electronics instructor at the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center; and as a unix computer administrator and programmer. In ham radio, Bill holds an Amateur Extra license, an 8 Band Worked All States award, a 5 Band DX Century Club award, Scout’s Wood Badge and Brotherhood Order of the Arrow. Bill held RARA officer positions for many years, and holds a Management BS degree.

Youth family members 14 - 20, and adults will enjoy the High-End Science and Adventure aspects of radio and electronics as part of the of the co-ed Scouting Venture program. Signup for Venture Ham Radio Crew #73 at the January 8, 2016, 6:30 PM RARA meeting at Scout Headquarters and Service Center, 2320 Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road, Rochester,

NY 14623, immediately north-west of the Clay Road intersection. So, "Make Bold: Venture", RARA wants you and your family as members of Venture Crew 73!

Ham Radio Venturing Program

On-the-Air Activities

Before You're Licensed
With a Control Operator
After You're Licensed
Have Fun

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Venturing Advancement
Have Fun

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and
Amateur
Radio

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Ultimate
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Connection!



RARA RAGS OF THE PAST

Ed Gable, K2MP – RARA Club Historian

20 YEARS AGO, DECEMBER, 1996

Most every RARA RAG I've seen, and that has been a bunch of 'em, starts out with a nice article describing in great detail the program to be enjoyed at the next meeting. Not this issue. Here's whatcha got "Grounding, Bonding and Shielding" by Larry Hill, N2AJX." The opening column was instead filled with a nice, but unsigned, article introducing the idea that the future holds a possibility of no code Amateur licenses. Not a new idea, certainly, but gaining credibility by being introduced by the New Zealand delegates at the just completed World Radio Communications Conference, WRC-95. Who knows.. stay tuned. This unknown author also filled page 1, column 2. Then page 2, column 2 and finally page 3, column 1. Note to Editors, give credit so who ever is writing "20 Year" articles, twenty years from now, will know who's who. Our current Editor has done that better than anyone. The remaining five pages contained no RARA or local club information what so ever, just fill material from the League and other news letters. With regret it was reported that Bud Virkus KA2UBP, Daniel Smith KB2JW and Russ Foster NE2B, were reported as Silent Keys. From the Want Ads you could buy an ICOM IC-2KL linear amplifier from Irv Goodman AF2K. Patrick Moyer N2AIW, Attorney & Counselor-at-Law, remained a long time advertiser.



the RARA RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 48 January 1996 NO. 5

THE CODE IS DEAD! LONG LIVE THE CODE!

The death knells of code are still premature, but at the latest World Radiocommunication Conference, WRC-95, New Zealand introduced a proposal to eliminate the Morse code requirement for amateur operations below 30 MHz. Even though a handful of other countries joined in the proposal, the Working Party took no action on the matter other than to refer it to the committee which establishes the agendas for future conferences. Look for this issue to be discussed in the World Radiocommunications Conferences of 1997 or 1999. Meanwhile, get on the bands and operate some code!

Within the past two years CW has been abandoned by the Coast Guard, Western Union, AT&T, and as of October first, by the MARS program and all Department of Defense agencies. Whether we like it or not, the rest of the world has realized that modern digital modes and modulation techniques are more reliable and require less operator training. The argument that CW is the only signal that gets the message through when nothing else will, is obsolete. At my place of employment, we regularly pass digital traffic over HF at speeds of up to 2400 bits per second, with 100% reliability. No, this equipment is not yet available to amateurs, but I am convinced it is only a matter of time. Of course, you can still argue convincingly that CW equipment is much easier to construct; it is.

Being that amateur radio competes for young peoples attention with modern personal computers (and lamentably loses, in most cases), the more we can integrate the use of PCs over ham radio, the more young people we will see entering the avocation. Should CW die? I would never advocate that, but you can't ignore the great increase in our ranks since the advent of the no-code license. By the way, do you know why Japan has so many licensed hams? The Japanese have had a no-code option for quite a while longer than us; and most Japanese hams elect it.

Continued on next column

RaRa MEETING

January 5, 1996
8:00 P.M.
Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road
Grounding, Bonding and Shielding
by Larry Hill, N2AJX

Did you have a ham radio club in your high school? Did you have one in your college? Have you bothered to see if there is still one there, or one in the school in your neighborhood? Does the school sponsor a science fair? Why not contact the science teacher and suggest an introduction to ham radio. If you don't feel like making a presentation yourself, the ARRL can lend you videotapes that will do the job for you. When the tape is finished, you sit back and answer questions. As I am writing this, I also prepare for just such a presentation for a church group and a cub scout pack. I have the video from the League, who was kind enough to also send a stack of their *Archie's Ham Radio Adventure* comic books. These services are provided by the ARRL at no charge to members. You ARE a member, aren't you?

Your membership to RaRa can cost you a mere eight dollars if you take advantage of our ARRL membership program. As an affiliated club, RaRa membership program. *continued on Page 2 Column 2*

SILENT KEYS

Harold "Bud" Virkus
KA2UBP
November 23, 1995

Daniel R. Smith
KB2JW
November 30, 1995

Russell T. Foster
NE2B
December 2, 1995

40 YEARS AGO, DECEMBER, 1976

Program chairman Jim Collinsworth WB2EDT, reported the program for the next meeting would feature Mr. Richard L. Schoenberger, Superintendent of Public Safety Communications for Monroe County, reporting on the county's life saving Mobile Coronary Care Unit. The 15th annual RARA Valentine's Day Dinner-Dance was actually held on Valentine's Day, February 14th, at the then new Holiday Inn Airport just off Route 47. Gene Molter, WB2BAM was the Master of Ceremonies and the co-chairmen for the event were John Schooley, W2BLU and Bud Young, WA2UGE. RARA President Bill March, WA2CER, reported that the current membership stands at 400. Not a bad number, but some 70 have not renewed and Membership Chairman Bud Young, WA2UGE, encouraged those with memberships now expiring to squeeze out the five dollar dues and renew. There were many changes made to the local Civil Defense office including a change in name. The familiar blue CD logo is gone and the new name "Office of Emergency Preparedness" becomes official immediately. The new Director is Major General Edward Smith and Marv McIntyre, K2ZAA, remains Communications and Warning officer. Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, was named RACES/ARES Emergency Coordinator with assistants: Ed Holdsworth WA2EKR, Ed Gable W2MPM, Bill March WA2CER, George Negus K2OIU, John Scholley W2BLU and Joe Hood K2YAH. Dwight Hill, K2KWK, a familiar voice on many local VHF FM frequencies, was appointed Official Bulletin Station. Dwight's Sunday night broadcasts were listened to by many who were eager for local ham news. RDXA held their annual meeting recently and a group photo was published in this issue. Twenty-two smiling faces were shown. Only two remain today. From the Want Ads you could buy a Drake model 2C receiver from Irv Goodman WB2WCE. CFP Communications, of Horseheads, NY, featuring ICOM equipment, remained a long time advertiser.

The RARA RAG

Published by
The Rochester Amateur Radio Association
INCORPORATED

VOL. 28 JANUARY 1976 NO. 5

VALENTINE DINNER-DANCE ON VALENTINE'S DAY

The fifteenth annual Valentine Dinner-Dance of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, will be held on a red letter day, Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14. The location is the new Airport Holiday Inn, 911 Brooks Avenue, just east of the airport and at the Brooks Avenue (east) exit of Route 47 West.

The first of the series of dinner-dances was an outgrowth of the club's annual ladies night at the club meeting. It was inspired by Cappy Capauldy, K2UXF, and was held on a very cold blustery Saturday night (February 10, 1962) at the Manger Hotel in downtown Rochester. The Manger has since disappeared from Rochester. It was replaced by the Seneca Office Building, a part of the Midtown Plaza complex.

The dinner-dance is the one night each year that local amateurs can take their spouses out for a night on the town, and still be with their dear friends. However, radio talk is forbidden at the dinner.

Gene Molter, WB2BAM, will be Master of Ceremonies. There will be entertainment and an orchestra for dancing.

Tickets for the evening cost \$10 each (or \$20 per couple). Pick them up at the club meeting. If you are unable to attend, they may be ordered by mail.

LAST CHANCE

Club records indicate a few people have failed to renew their memberships. Some of the names are long time members. Others are recent members. No matter which category these people fit, we want them to continue in our organization.

The club By-Laws state that a member is no longer in good standing when his membership lapses past the 60 day point. All memberships expired on October 31. The magic hour then becomes midnight on New Years Eve.

Dues are \$5 for regular memberships, \$6 for family memberships and \$2 for associate (unlicensed) memberships. For regular members, that cost is .0135995 cents per day. Since 1976 is a leap year, membership becomes a real bargain...only .0136612 cents per day.

You can stay on the member list by renewing at the January club meeting or by sending your check to Rochester Amateur Radio Association,

Mobile Coronary Care Unit Is Subject of January 2 Meeting

by Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT

Mr. Richard L. Schoenberger, Superintendent of Public Safety Communications for Monroe County will present an overview and explanation of our community's life saving Mobile Coronary Care Unit.

The RaRa Meeting is at 8:00 p.m. Friday, January 2, at the Farm and Home Center, 248 Highland Avenue.

Anyone who has watched the popular television series "Emergency" must be impressed with the hardware and techniques employed to communicate the telemetry of a patient's condition and to render subsequent on-the-spot treatment under the guidance of a doctor many miles away.

Our local facilities, in conjunction with STEP (Society for Total Emergency Programs) now provide similar care. Many of you will recall our communications support for the "Cycle for STEP" campaign a couple of summers ago. The request for our assistance came through our speaker, Dick Schoenberger. This project was aimed at raising funds to provide the high level of training required and to draw public attention to the new program. Two local ambulances (Perinton Volunteer and National) are now operating Mobile Coronary Care Units with trained paraprofessional medic crews. Other equipped ambulances will be added as crews can be trained.

Basically, the responding crew attaches sensors to a suspected heart patient. Then, using a 15-watt portable/mobile UHF, FM transceiver, through a repeater at Cobbs Hill, connected to the hospital, they transmit an electrocardiogram (ECG). The same circuit is used simultaneously for voice communications.

With the data provided, the physician at the hospital can direct advanced life support treatment administered by the trained emergency medical technicians.

Come to the meeting to get a good view of both this new valuable service, and the communication technology and equipment employed.

P.O. Box 1368, Rochester, New York 14603.

This is the last copy of the Rag you will receive if dues have not been paid. IMPORTANT - If you fail to receive a copy in February but have paid your dues, be sure to check with Bud Young, WA2UGE, membership chairman.

RARA CALENDAR

Tim Barrett, K9VB

January 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 QRP ARCI New Years Sprint	2 PODXS 070 Club PSKFest Original QSO Contest (QRP CW) ARRL RTTY Roundup
3 Original QSO Contest (QRP CW) ARRL RTTY Roundup Kids' Day Contest	4	5 QRP Fox Hunt Phone Fray UKEICC 80M Contest	6	7 QRP Fox Hunt NCCC RTTY Sprint	8 RARA Monthly Meeting 7:00pm, BSA HQ, 2320 Brighton Henrietta TL Rd Old New Year Contest	9 UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest NA CW QSO Party Old New Year Contest
10 UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest SKCC Sprintathon MidWinter Contest NA CW QSO Party DARC 10M Contest	11 SKCC Sprintathon	12 QRP Fox Hunt Phone Fray	13 SIARC 7.30pm	14 QRP Fox Hunt AWA Linc Cundall CW Contest NCCC RTTY Sprint	15 LZ Open Contest	16 NA SSB QSO Party
17 AWA Linc Cundall CW Contest	18 Run For The Bacon QRP Contest	19 QRP Fox Hunt Phone Fray	20	21 QRP Fox Hunt NCCC RTTY Sprint	22	23 Montana QSO Party UK/EI DX Contest CW
24 UK/EI DX Contest CW	25	26 QRP Fox Hunt Phone Fray SKCC Sprint	27	28 QRP Fox Hunt	29	30 Winter Field Day
31 Winter Field Day						

Print this calendar and leave it by your radio.

NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES NEWS

The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend.

The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, January 28, 2016, at 7:00 PM.**

Meetings are held at the **Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.** (Located behind the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 Main St. E.)



ARES NET: Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 8:00 pm, on the 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

WEB: www.monroecountyemcomm.org

Severe Weather Alerts: Summer often brings severe weather in the form of heavy rain, wind, hail, lightning and thunderstorms. If you experience any of these forms of severe weather, and especially when accompanied by damage to property in your area, listen to your local ARES/RACES repeaters for information. While official ARES/RACES activation could be a possibility, it is more important that we open a spontaneous net simply to share information about weather conditions in your immediate area. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Pick up the microphone and start a net. If you don't have a copy of the directed net protocol, you can find one at the WEB address listed above. (Activities/ARES Net/ Net Script/ Downloads)

NBEMS: Want to learn about Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS)? It's the latest and easiest way to "Go Digital!" Bring your laptop computer and 2-M handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2016.

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION, RRRRA

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

The Rochester VHF Group holds monthly meetings on the second Friday of the month between September and June. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and are held at the Spencerport Wesleyan Church, 2653 Nichols St. (NY Route 31) in Spencerport. Visit our website www.rvhfg.org for details.

The Rochester VHF Group sponsors an informal On-Air Net every Monday at 2100 local time on 144.260 MHz USB and a 6 Meter Net every Thursday at 2100 local on 50.200 MHz USB.

More club information can be found by visiting www.rvhfg.org or just calling in any Monday or Thursday night. All are welcome to check in to these nets.

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

January Meeting: Tuesday January 19, 2016

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Monroe County EOC Building, upstairs
1190 Scottsville Road, Rochester, NY 14624

Program - Bill Rogers, K2TER, will present on his indoor station including his experience using the venerable Apache Labs ANAN-200D HF/6M and his indoor antenna farm. Bill has improved his attic antenna farm that covers 160 - 10 and will talk on his latest configuration that maximizes the coverage of his 4 statically mounted tribanders.

All are welcome



XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club meeting is 6PM on January 14, 2016 at the Webster Recreation Center. For all the latest news and info visit <http://xarc.us>

SQUAW ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC) meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM with the regular meeting beginning at 7:30PM. The January meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00PM.

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER

A.R.A.S.T., took a small break from its regular schedule of meetings for the month of December and will resume meetings in January. AARES meets the first Tuesday of the month except February. ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Town & Country Fire house in Horseheads.

There are a lot of things coming up in the new year including the September hamfest and the Wineglass marathon in October. Committee meetings will resume in January for the Hamfest. The Wineglass has started to enroll runners so we can expect a large group of runners for 2016. Help is always needed for the wineglass and the southern tier in the fall is always a good day trip around that time of year.

The National Soaring Museum has been awarded a contract with the International Space Station sometime in 2016. ARAST has been asked by the museum to handle the communications for that event. More information on this event will be forthcoming.

COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

The Community Amateur Radio Club focuses on emergency communications via simplex (When the repeater goes down, We're already on simplex!) and helping to ensure our community is disaster ready. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics including: DTMF usage, net protocol, and digital signaling. Due to the holidays, the date has changed for the next meeting - join us on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 7pm. Meetings are held at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY). The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9pm (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, we'd love to hear you check-in! Take a look at the club website for more info: www.k2srv.org

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP is happy to report that the DStar hotspot located high above the RIT campus is back on the air and is demonstrating excellent coverage throughout the area. The hotspot is a simplex device based on a [Raspberry Pi](#), a [DVRPTR](#) and a GE Phoenix radio. The callsign is W2RIT and the simplex frequency is 446.125. We invite you to try operating through the hotspot using the normal DStar addressing conventions using the B user and G gateway ports. Of course a DStar radio is required but if you have one please give the hotspot a try. Very recently two of our members started experimenting with DMR using inexpensive Chinese [handhelds](#). Hopefully we'll have more to report about those efforts very soon. You can learn more about DCAP and our digital explorations here www.dcap-kb2vzs.net.

INTERLOCK ROCHESTER - K2HAX - ROCHESTER'S HACKERSPACE

Here's some of our events for the month of January:

Tuesday, January 5, 7pm: Monthly Business Meeting & Member Presentations, open to the public.

Friday, January 8, 7pm: Software-Defined Radio (SDR) Meetup

Friday January 15, 7pm: TOOOL Rochester Meeting - <http://tooolroc.org>

Saturday, January 16, 12pm to 4pm: Linux Workshop - get your Linux questions answered

Interlock is also open most every Tuesday night at 7pm. We're in the Hungerford Building (1115 East Main Street, Rochester NY), just north of Village Gate. Come to Door #7 (next to Comics Etc) and buzz Suite 200.

Visit our website at interlockroc.org and contact info@interlockroc.org with any questions, or find us in #interlock on Freenode IRC.

Hamfests

Skyline ARC Winterfest

January 16, 2016 Marathon, NY

<http://www.skylineradioclub.org>

LARA Hamfest

January 23, 2016 Lockport, NY

[Www.lockportara.us](http://www.lockportara.us)

Winter Hamfest

February 27, 2016 Big Flats, NY

<http://www.ka2lim.com/7.html>

Dayton Hamvention

May 20 - 22, 2016

<http://hamvention.org>

RARA Hamfest

Date: TBD

Check <http://www.rochesterhamfest.org> for the latest info

Ithaca Hamfest

August 6, 2016 Trumansburg, NY

<http://tcara-ny.org/hamfest/>

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

- CONSIDERATE** Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
- LOYAL** Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
- PROGRESSIVE** With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
- FRIENDLY** With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
- BALANCED** Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
- PATRIOTIC** With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

VISIT THE RARA WEBSITE!

Did you know that your club's website (www.rochesterham.org) offers these features and more?

- Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- Rochester Hamfest information!
- Online membership & renewal
- Track and redeem your Reward Points
- Public service info & sign-up
- VE testing info
- Back issues of the RAG in PDF
- Officer contact
- List of past presidents
- Online membership directory
- Order RARA logo products
- Useful Internet links
- Ham Radio 101 – tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings



RARA MARKETPLACE

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The above prices are **per year** - not per month as is typical in other publications.

Your advertisement will be seen by amateurs in Rochester, Monroe County, New York State, the United States and even the rest of the world. RAG circulation is approx. 8,000.

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OFFICERS

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Webmaster	Frank Schramm, WB2PYD	w2pyd@gmail.com

FEBRUARY RAG DEADLINE

JANUARY 15, 2016



**RARA meets at 7PM on the
first Friday of each month;
come join us at:**

Seneca Waterways Council, BSA Headquarters
2320 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd
Rochester, New York 14623

[Get Directions](#)

[Rochester Area Repeater Listing](#)

ROCHESTER AREA RADIO CLUB CONTACTS

Antique Wireless Association (AWA)
Lynn Bisha, W2BSN: lbisha@rochester.rr.com

Community Amateur Radio Club (CARC)
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Published by

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