

HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

NET meets each Monday at 9:00 P.M. local time on 28.7 megahertz



August 1971

We must face the facts of life... other radio users are on the increase and the number of ham operators is not.... It's a dying hobby.

Each month about 15 different electronic magazines land on my desk. Three of them are ham magazines, some are broadcasting trade journals, while others are business electronics magazines. Everyone is screaming for more frequency space. And, their screams are backed up with money ... big money from such giants as Motorola, R.C.A., Collins, and General Electric. Believe me, money talks, even to the F.C.C. The only thing we have on our side is the grandfather clause... we were there first. But how much longer will that work? Especially when the grandfathers are gone and no new operators are wanting to inherit the frequencies. So new blood is needed and needed NOW. We must have it so we can keep our bands, as crowded as they may be. A crowded band is better than no band at all.

R.A.R.A. does its part. For years we have conducted annual schools to make it easy for anyone to obtain the novice class license. We are now working on turning this task over to Rock Valley College as part of their evening class program. They have the facilities to teach more students as well as laboratory facilities for demonstration of electronic principles. Already K9UCM reports more than forty inquiries into this class, before any publicity efforts. And, if the interest is there, the college may continue with classes for the General class license, too.

Now, let's do more. We need a two fold program in our area. One, we need to tell area citizens what Amateur Radio is all about. We are not a bunch of nuts with yellow lights on our cars chasing every ambulance. A few of our members brought up the idea of amateur radio displays at public places... shopping centers, fairs, etc. That's a great idea. Now let's put it to work. We need other good publicity too. Every time some area amateur accomplishes some special feat, we should pass the word to our local papers. Perhaps it's just a story about someone passing a test for a higher grade of license. No matter how trivial it is, someone will probably print it, even if it's just a weekly paper. The second part of the program is to re-activate some of the old long lost fellows. We need to catch them before their licenses lapse and get them back on the air, or at least back in the club. I hope some of you give these ideas some thought, and bring your suggestions to the meeting.

de K9PAK

AUGUST MEETING

Friday, the 13th, will be a lucky day for R. A. R. A. members. We will get back to our regular schedule of meetings on the second Friday of the month, with a big, three course, extravaganza. First, we have obtained the booking of the new HAM'S WIDE WORLD movie. This is the color version. Next, ARRL is sending the ALASKAN EARTHQUAKE film. If you remember we were supposed to have this film last February, but due to some film breakage problems at ARRL, it did not arrive. Well, we will have it this time, since the film is already here. Finally we will have a short presentation by the Northern Illinois Repeater Association. This is a newly formed organization in Rockford which will soon be operating a VHF repeater in the area. So there is going to be something for everybody at this meeting. Remember, Friday, August 13th, 7: 30 p.m., Rock Valley College Classroom building #1.

JULY PICNIC

If you missed the R. A. R. A. July family picnic you really missed a good time. About 50 attended and consumed all the food, soda pop, watermelon, and other goodies, prepared by the finest gals in the world. Thanks to all that helped make it a big success. Baseball was the other order of the day, with games both before and after the food. Lots of sore muscles on Saturday!

RADIO EXPO

On the weekend of July 10th and 11th was held the first, and hopefully not the last, Radio Expo. As, hamfests go, it was beautiful. The facilities couldn't have been better.... lots of indoor display space, dining room, good parking. One of the big feature was the manufacturers displays. Here you could see products of most major and many minor manufacturers of ham gear, and talk with their sales and engineering people. All MARS branches had manned stations in operation, some in QSO with Viet Nam. All amateur publications had booths, as did many retail amateur stores. Now all that was needed was people. Attendance could have been much better. But then, a \$3.50 entrance fee, and lack of decent door prizes probably caused that. I got my money's worth, but many went away grumbling. The swap fest had good display facilities but they lacked both sellers and buyers. Anyway, I hope the Chicago boys decide to hold it again next year. It could turn into the best hamfest in the midwest.

TICKET DEADLINE

The Hamfest Association has set August 25th as the deadline for advance sales of tickets to the Belvidere Hamfest. This means that the club that sells the most tickets by date takes home the biggest share of the net profits. We will need to have your money turned in to our treasurer by August 23rd at the latest. If we haven't heard from you we will have to get busy and call everyone that is delinquent. So please save us the work. Bring your money to the next meeting, or mail it to Jim Nilson, WB9ETH, 4412 Marsh Avenue, Rockford 61111, with checks made out to the club. (Although it is possible to turn in unsold tickets in lieu of cash, this practice is frowned upon by your club officers.)

NORTHERN ILLINOIS REPEATER ASSOCIATION

The Northern Illinois Repeater Association has been formed in the Rockford area to construct and operate a VHF FM repeater. Heading the group is Dave, WB9EEH, who recently returned to Rockford after graduating from U. of Wisconsin with an E.E. While in Madison Dave was active in two repeater clubs. As present plans stand, the repeater will receive signals on 146.46 MHz. and retransmit them on 146.88. For initial testing the repeater will operate from a home of a group member, and after the bugs are out, will be moved to the top of one of Rockford's tallest buildings. For information on the club, come to the August R. A. R. A. meeting for a presentation by WB9EEH.



H A M A D S

For sale: HQ-100 receiver - \$60; 10D microphone on G stand - \$20;
or will take trades. W9TAG, Chris, 633-4765.

For Sale: SB-34 Transceiver, just 3 months old. WB9GEB, Randy.

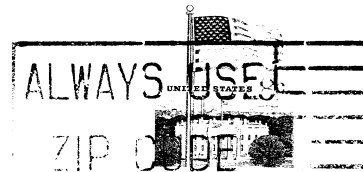
For Sale: HyGain Tribander, new, \$75; Motorola 80D 2 meter FM
rigs, Motorola T43 12 volt mobile 2 meter FM.
Call Herb, K9AMJ, 399-6822.

For Sale: Heath SB-110 SSB Transceiver with P.S., Hammarlund
HQ-110A-VHF with 2 meters, Heath Seneca for 6 and 2, G.E
FM transceiver with FET preamp, Radio Compass, BC-603
six meter receiver, Eico scope, Eico TV sweep generator,
Eico Transistorized power supply, 3400 VDC power supply,
more odds and ends. Call Ken, WA9QBG, 633-0270.

For Sale: HQ-110A receiver, Like New. Bob, WN9ERZ, 968-0116.

For Sale: TR-4 SSB transceiver and AC power supply. Call Dave,
WB9EIE, 399-5471

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