

HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

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



A January Editorial

Fellow Members of RARA: "Happy New Year"!

1972 has come and gone with our club activities ending for this year in the convivial atmosphere of the Christmas party, held on this occasion at the Pink Pony Restaurant. Looking back over the twelve months just passed, it has indeed been an excellent year, a year of good growth, a year of renewed interest for "ham radio" in the Rockford area. The increase in membership while not phenomenal, has been excellent and due primarily to our novice class programs so ably promoted by Vito Fiore K9UCM, Lucy Hilpert W9USR and Dale Veline WA9BWK.

We have also been fortunate in having as president during 1972 the dynamic leadership of Gunnar Ohlson, K9WTS. "Gunnie" moved all the club activities along with untiring zeal and more than ordinary devotion in his responsibilities to the club membership. He has created, with the help of his staff, an enviable record and now as "Gunnie" surrenders the RARA gavel to the successor whom you will elect in January, let all of us pledge to the new president our best effort and energies to make 1973 another excellent year. One area where we might devote some of our attention in the coming months is the delinquent membership list. We need the help and support of ALL our former members and we have plans to consistently follow up these old friends with personal contacts, letters and phone calls. You can help by volunteering for any kind of service assignment, making contributions to the "Ham Rag", and, special efforts to interest likely prospects in our novice or general class license programs.

de K9UWN

JANUARY ISSUE 1973



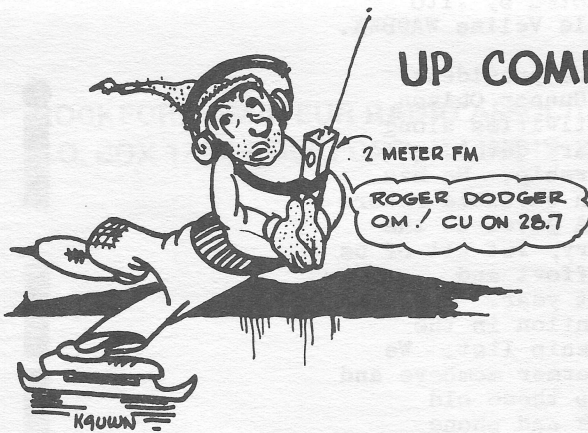
The Christmas dinner was a big success, a new RARA record was set with 90 members and guests attending. The management of Pink Pony was cooperative and we all owe WA9WMI, K9VJJ, W9MAP and W9BAV a thank you for making all the necessary arrangements.

K9UCM, Vito Fiore, was nominated the RARA ham of the year and received a plaque to put up on the wall in his shack plus a plaque that will be awarded yearly by the RARA board of directors to the most outstanding member. Vito did a real fine job on the novice and general classes at Rock Valley College, arrangement for our monthly meeting places (he fixed the coffee pot too) and is the custodian of WB9KUR the RVC club station. Besides that he always seems to have time to give any young ham a hand.

K9UIY, Vic Shields, did win the RARA club contest. Vic is a hard working contest operator and with his Ranger transmitter (75 watts) and dipoles, none higher than 30 ft, he has worked 220 DXCC countries. Congrats Vic!

Support RARA attend the next meeting and vote!

de K9WTS



UP COMING EVENTS!

ELECTIONS - ELECTIONS - ELECTIONS - ELECTIONS

JANUARY MEETING, ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE

FRIDAY JANUARY 12, AT 7:30 P.M. IN ROOM NO. 222
ENTER FROM SPRING BROOK ROAD TO NORTHEAST CORNER
OF PARKING LOT.

ELECTIONS - ELECTIONS - ELECTIONS - ELECTIONS

COFFEE AND DONUTS WILL BE SERVED

EXAM QUIZ NO. 4
GENERAL CLASS LICENSE

24. If 2 capacitors are connected in series the effective capacitance is always equal to:
- A. The sum of the individual capacitance values.
 - B. The difference of the individual capacitance values.
 - C. The product divided by the sum.
 - D. The quotient divided by the sum.
 - E. The product of the capacitance values.
25. If the 10th harmonic of a signal is 71.75 MHz the fundamental frequency is:
- A. 7.175 MHz C. 717.5 MHz E. 7175 MHz
 - B. 71.75 MHz D. 0.7175 MHz
26. A triode radio frequency amplifier having input and output circuits tuned to the same frequency requires neutralization to:
- A. Prevent degeneration
 - B. Maintain high Q
 - C. Maintain maximum plate efficiency
 - D. Increase the amplification factors of the stage
 - E. Prevent oscillation
27. Which of the following Q signals means, "I am being interfered with"?
- A. QRM B. QRN C. QRX D. QRT E. QSY
28. Which one of the following symbols is used in the commission rules to indicate amplitude modulated telephone?
- A. A1 B. A3 C. A5 D. A2 E. A4
29. The length of a 1/2 wave dipole antenna for operation in the 7 MHz amateur frequency band is approximately:
- A. 7 meters C. 65 feet E. 10 meters
 - B. 130 feet D. 40 meters
30. Math formula $I = \frac{E}{R}$ is known as:
- A. Euler's law C. Bernoulli's formula E. Tesla's law
 - B. Ohm's law D. Mass/weight ratio
31. A vacuum tube having one grid element is called a:
- A. Monode C. Heptode E. Triode
 - B. Tetrode D. Diode

32. The Farad is the unit of electrical:
 A. Energy B. Resistance C. Potential difference
 D. Current E. Capacitance
33. Electrical current is normally measured with a:
 A. Voltmeter B. Ammeter C. Frequency meter
 D. Lecher wires E. Watt meter
34. Electromotive force is normally measured by:
 A. An Ammeter B. A voltmeter C. Capacity meter
 D. Frequency meter E. Electroscope
35. A wattmeter is normally used to measure electrical:
 A. Energy B. Potential C. Resistance
 D. Current E. Power
36. The instrument normally used to measure frequency is:
 A. Ohmmeter B. Voltmeter C. Target galvanometer
 D. Frequency meter E. Ammeter

Answers to Exam Quiz. No. 4

24. Two capacitors in series would have an effective capacitance of the product divided by the sum.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 C_1 \quad C_2 \\
 | \quad | \\
 \text{---} | \text{---} | \text{---} \\
 | \quad | \\
 C_1 \quad C_2
 \end{array}
 \quad C = \frac{C_1 \times C_2}{C_1 + C_2}$$

25. If the 10th harmonic of a signal is 71.75 MHz the fundamental frequency is 7.175 MHz.
26. A triode RF amplifier having input and output circuits tuned to the same frequency requires neutralization to prevent oscillation.
27. QRM means "I am being interfered with."
28. A3 is the symbol for amplitude modulated telephone.
29. 65 feet is the length for a 1/2 wave dipole for 7 MHz.
30. $I = E/R$ is known as Ohms law.
31. A triode vacuum tube has one grid element.
32. Farad is the unit of electrical capacitance.
33. An Amp-meter is normally used to measure current.
34. A voltmeter is used to measure Electromotive force.
35. A Wattmeter is normally used to measure power.
36. A frequency meter is used to measure frequency.



CW OPERATION IN THE NOVICE BANDS

How many times have you heard poor procedure and just plain lousy code in the CW Bands? It seems to me that a HAM should exhibit some pride in operating his Station with a bit of expertise. I feel a word is in order, especially, for the newer or hopeful hams on the approach to an efficient CW QSO.

To begin, I would suggest that new hams obtain a copy of the ARRL publication, "Operating an Amateur Radio Station", its free to members.

Chapter One "Operating Practice" was a great help to me in getting my 49 States, mostly on 80 meters, and my assorted DX on 15 meters.

Of course, CW is not the fastest mode of communication and you phone boys may skip this article entirely (if you have read this far). However, CW can often get through QRM and QRN where phone contacts are impossible.

In CW operation, the following comments lists things "NO TO DO."

1. Spacing: Evidently a lot of operators skip the chapter on "Learning to Send." Page 17 (Learning the Radiotelegraph Code) goes into great detail about the time duration of the DOT, DASH, ELEMENT SPACING, CHARACTER SPACING and WORD SPACING. The relative time duration is 1, 3, 1, 3 and 7 respectively. I seem to hear a lot of KEQ's instead of CQ's lately, it is difficult to copy letters if the character space has been reduced to a mere dot. I have heard a WN2... calling who literally ran the last two characters together and of course he got no response.
2. In spite of many articles and letters in QST on the usage of AR, KN, K, SK and CL the correct employment of these signals are still very poor. Please, don't use (?) for a (-) even though current practice seems to make this popular.
3. Long CQ signals are not only boring but is unnecessary. Many beginning operators still feel it is important to send CQ at least 12 times before Signing (maybe 10 times), followed by more CQ's.

Three short calls with Station ID is preferred.

4. Sequence of transmission also is important. Most operators use RST, QTH and NAME then break for response. I have experienced many calls starting with an ADDRESS!!

5. About BUGS - KEYERS and KEYS. A novice seems to think he must get a BUG right away, and as soon as possible, an electronic Keyer. I am not knocking a Keyer (I will get one some day, I hope) but please, know how to use it effectively before putting either a BUG or a Keyer on the air. Some LIDS know only the error signal when they use a Keyer.
6. Many Stations on the air have a single letter call sign, "V." They seem to be on the air all the time. Although FCC regulations require identification after every transmission. These Stations go on and on and on with an assumed test (or loading) and the result is nothing but QRM!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

de WN9IOG

FEATURE

LATE SMOKE SIGNALS FROM NORTHERN
RESERVATION - de OLE CHIEF "PAK"-ON-A-BAK

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Here's hoping 1973 will be the year of a new rig in your shack, DXCC-350, and more band allocations.

Sorry I was unable to join all of you for the Christmas Shindig. Hope all had a good time and won some of the FB prizes. Not much news from the state to the north. My ham activities have been sorely limited due to the demands of the new occupation. I am involved in a group constructing a UHF repeater to operate on the 440 MHz. band. We are now filing for the license under the new repeater rules. If the license goes thru, it will set some precedences and clear up some of the ambiguity of the new rules. For example, we are proposing remote control of the repeater over regular dial-up telephone circuits. An unlisted number at the repeater site will be used as the control link. To perform a control function, it is only necessary to go to any phone, dial the unlisted phone number which will automatically answer itself, and then send the proper tone(s) over the phone. A secondary control link will be on the receiver of the repeater which will respond to an emergency shut-down tone on the repeater input freq, should the phone line not work. We have discussed the method with FCC officials at length and they have verbally approved the system.

January 1st will mark a new era for the FCC and business radio users. As of this date all licenses for business, and public safety two-way radio will be granted from a new Chicago regional office (this applies to licensees within 150 miles of Chicago). We hope this will cut down the time it takes to get a license for two-way radio use. Presently, it has been taking 3 months! Amateurs, CBs, and other services will still file with Washington or Gettysburg as in the past. The new Chicago Regional Office is located in Park Ridge, and is not connected with the FCC office in downtown Chicago.

Since the licenses for two-way radio have been taking so long the past few months, we found that a sure-fire way to speed up a license was to let the local congressman know about the problem and ask him to assist in speeding up the license. This method worked so well that it almost became routine. In some cases the congressman could cut the waiting period to just a few days! Upon investigation we discovered the FCC has a special office set up to handle favors and inquiries from Congress. Contrast this, if you will, to the opinion of the ARRL that Congress has no "jurisdiction" over the FCC, and that appeals to congressmen to help in matters involving Amateur Radio are of no use. I think this example shows this opinion to be naive. It's time for a Washington lobby for Ham Radio.

To you who buy, or may be approached to buy late model two-way radio equipment, BEWARE. In past few years the black market in hot (and luke-warm) equipment has been big business, especially in Illinois. Recent raids by the IBI and other law enforcement agencies has resulted in some arrests and plugging of "leaks." Still, many small time operators abound. One local fellow here was visited by the sheriff recently and had a hard time explaining the circumstances under which he bought his equipment. Seems as tho he got a good deal from a "friend".... his friend is now in jail. Again, BEWARE!

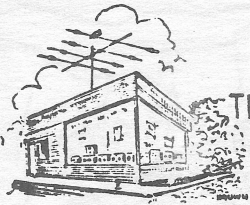
73, de K9PAK



We occasionally are contacted by amateurs in foreign countries where government or political restrictions make impossible their subscription to American ham magazines, or the importation of the most common electronic repair parts.

What we need is readily available without question. But this is not true in countries like Ceylon, Argentina, etc., and we never realize that we live in a ham's paradise in America until we get, almost apologetic requests from foreign amateurs, asking for used catalogs, QST, CQ and 73 magazines. They are delighted to have these items after we are finished with them. This month we mention the need of PADDY GUNASEKERA, 4S7PB, 9/1 CLAESSEN PLACE, COLOMBO 5, CEYLON, ASIA. He will be grateful for back copies of all American ham magazines and electronic catalogs. Mail them to PADDY directly, using the above address.

de W9DDL



THE TRADERS
CORNER

FOR SALE: SX101A RECEIVER, LIKE NEW CONDX. CALL JOHN, WN9IST
PHONE 399-1695

SWAN 250C WITH REMOTE VFO AND POWER SUPPLY. LIKE NEW
CONDX., REASONABLE PRICE. CALL 633-0087.

DX 60 TRANSMITTER EXCELLENT CONDX. CALL ED, WN9HCL
397-4614

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INC.

NAME _____ CALL _____

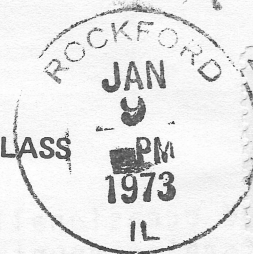
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

MAIL TO: "HAM RADIO" BOX 1744 ROCKFORD, ILL.

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INC.,
P.O. BOX 1744, ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61110

FIRST CLASS



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