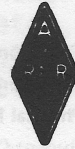


HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

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



JUNE ISSUE, 1973

BUY SELL BUY SELL BUY SELL BUY SELL BUY SELL BUY SELL

Already you have found your ten tickets to the 1973 BEL-ROCK HAMFEST. We are sure you are aware that these ticket sales are the life blood of our club treasury. We urge you to remit for all or as many tickets as you possibly can.

We remind you that the inter-club division of net profits is proportional to the advance sales by each club. Let's make certain RARA gets its rightful share of the gate receipts. Another reminder, these tickets represent money; do not misplace or lose them. If you find it not possible to buy or sell all ten tickets, return the excess to the club treasurer, Clyde Aspling WB9KOT 4970 Linden Rd. Rockford 61109 before August 15th.

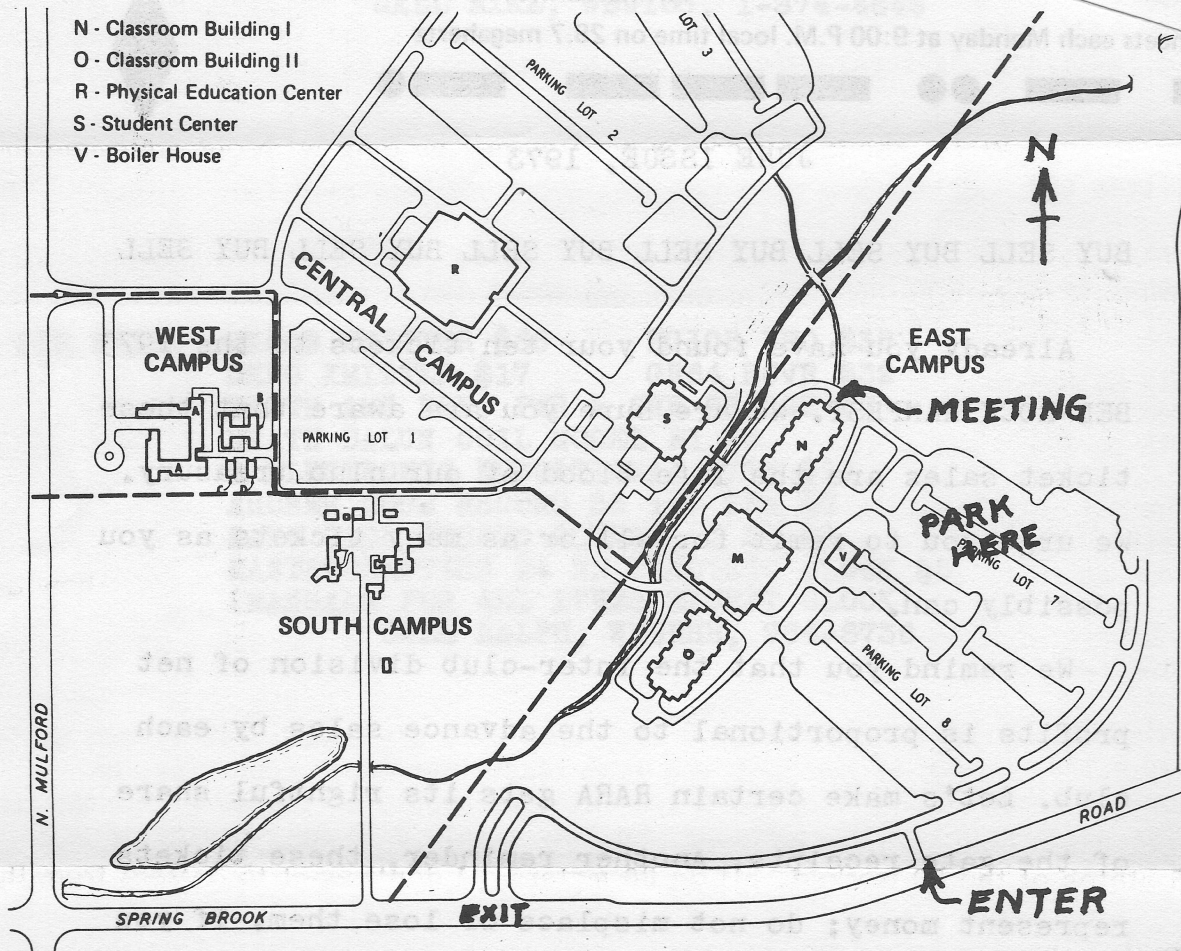
de WB9HHH
Hamfest Comm.

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSO. INC.
P.O. BOX 1744, ROCKFORD, ILL. 61108
1973 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GUNNAR OHLSON, K9WTS - 399-8289
LEE GEHLHAUSEN, WA9WVY - 399-3716
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MIKE SOUHRADA, WB9IOG - 1-874-4646
CLYDE ASPLING, WB9KOT - 1-874-2330

YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND CRITICISMS ARE INVITED - PHONE ANY TIME.



NOTICE

There will be no formal meetings and no HAM RAG in July and August. Instead, there may be a picnic in July if interest is shown in this at the June 8 meeting, and the Ham Fest takes place on August 26th. This is in accordance with a long-established precedent.

Look for the next HAM RAG around September 7th, and expect the first fall meeting on September 13th.

Happy vacation, good DX, see you at the Ham Fest, and=

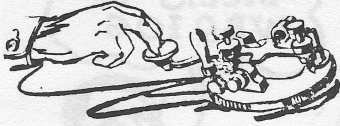


PRESIDENT'S LOG

Well, about half of our season will be over with our next meeting on June 8th. We were not able to obtain the slides from the ARRL as mentioned in last month's column; we have something better. For the June meeting (all VHF) Paul Dean WB9HGZ and Art Nelson WB9HNJ will present the program. Paul will be talking on 2 meter communications, and will demonstrate his home made Tesla coil which has earned him some notoriety in town. Art will be showing off his newly acquired APX-6 which is a 1215 MHz unit. We are still working on a third event. So, all you VHF'ers, how about showing up at this, our last formal meeting of the season? Of course, we may be having a picnic in July, and don't forget the August Ham Fest, too.

Just listened to the ARRL bulletin and the forecast for DX is not too good. Seems that the sun spot cycle for the rest of the year will show a low count. Highest forecast for May is 51, going down to 34 next April. So better get that beam up to 70 feet if you intend to work DX regularly. Of course there's always rag chewing, contest work, net activity, etc. to keep up your communication skill. Speaking for myself, I'm partial to 80 meters and have a rig for 160, no power supply yet, but you may find the low bands fun, as these bands improve with low sun spot activity. Really hope to work KL7 land, and then will have a WAS for 80 meters CW almost in the bag. Think I have about 45 states of the 50 worked, all on 80 meters. I don't want to detract from the upcoming meeting on VHF, so let me say that I've developed a real interest in working through Oscar, when I am in a position to obtain the proper gear. Anyone in the club with this kind of experience? Would like to hear from you.

One last item of business before I QRT. At our May board meeting we discussed the propriety of the election of officers, and our official year. The start and finish of the year is not designated in the Constitution, and the election process leaves a lot to be desired. Sort of a "baptism of fire" for those newly elected. Therefore we expect a discussion from the floor at the June meeting about changing Article III, Section 2, to permit elections at least two months prior to the January meeting, the first official meeting of the RARA year. This will give the new officers an opportunity to sit in with the incumbents at two board meetings and provide ample time to set up their programs for the first meetings of their term.



NOVICE AND BEGINNER

Attention is again called to the Novice course in radio theory and operation to be offered by Rock Valley College, beginning on June 4 and running 10 weeks, Monday nights from 7 to 9 PM, at a cost of \$16.00 for tuition. For information, phone 226-2650.

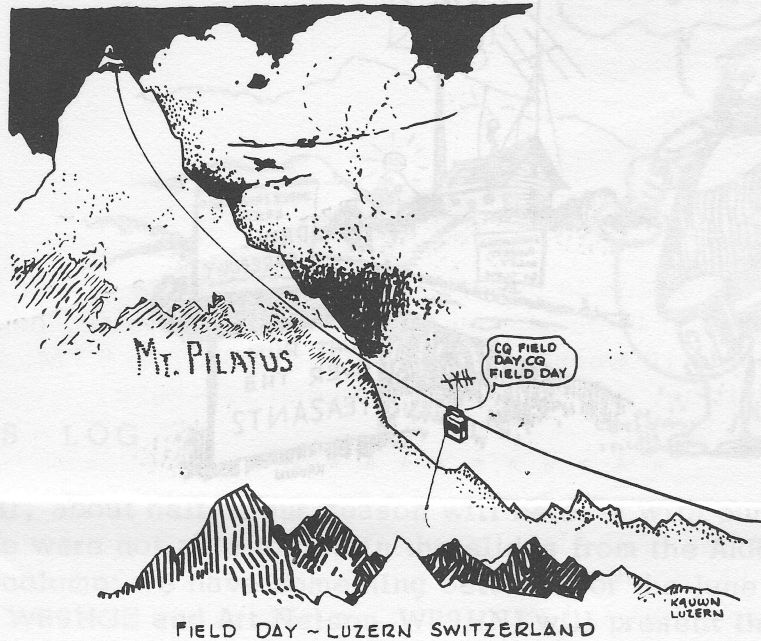
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The RARA Slow Speed CW Net, active Monday and Thursday nights at 7:00 PM on about 21175, which was started on January 28th, was moderately successful and lots of fun. Participation averaged about six stations per night. Most check-ins were novices, with a sprinkling of Generals and Advanced grades. A few timid souls were scared out by code a little faster than they could copy, but others gained noticeably in their proficiency. Still others, probably equally scared, took over Net Control, and really did a fine job of it.

Now, final exams, summer vacations, up-grades, etc. are taking their toll. Also, with the band staying open later, that frequency and time often conflicts with DX stations. Everything considered, your Board of Directors decided that this is the time to suspend formal network operations until fall. Of course, the frequency and time are not patented, so those of you who would enjoy local rag-chewing are encouraged to do so on an informal basis.

During the September meeting, steps will be taken to re-activate this net, and to attract the new licensees who are hatched during the summer. An early meeting should then be set up, by Novices, to plan operations for the ensuing year. There should be a program whereby Net Control would rotate on a scheduled basis so everyone would get the benefit of this experience. There should also be a planned program that would ensure progress toward good network operating technique, and the ability to exchange more information in less time at the same code speed. Less verbiage, more use of Q signals, and a gradual increase in speed would be major aims.

This years' participants included: WN9KXZ, WN9KZQ, WN9HHH, WN9LEF, WB9KOS, WB9IOG, WN9IST, WN9KOR, WN9KOO, WN9HHG, WB9HPV, K9UWN, WN9MIA, and probably others. Tom WN9KXZ and Jim WN9KZQ are to be commended for their leadership in this activity, also John WN9IST and Earl WN9KOR for taking net control on short notice. Note how many of these men have advanced their grade since January!

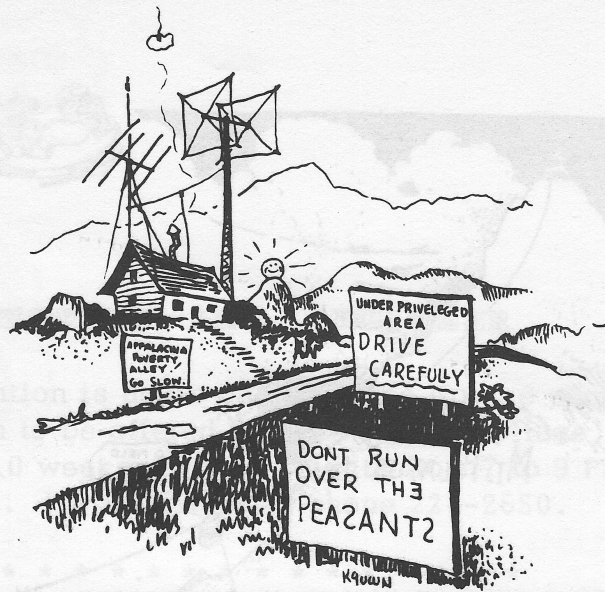


HAVE YOU UPGRADED?

The officers and the members of RARA, as well as ARRL, are interested in knowing about your up-grade. We want to give all deserved recognition to you for your accomplishment. Trouble is, many of you are too bashful to say anything about it except to your closest friends. So o o - -

If you upgraded in 1973, or when you upgrade in the future, would you please tell your Secretary by radio, twisted pair, card, in person or by carrier pigeon, the date, former grade, and new grade? Then he can keep the club records current, notify ARRL, and see that you are properly recognized.

Your present Secretary is Bill Ridgway, WB9KOS, 877-2315, 2420 Shady Lane, Rockford, Illinois, 61107. No pigeon landing mat.



Novice classes are going to be held at Rock Valley College from June 4 to August 6, 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. on Monday nights. Vito, K9UCM, who has taught the previous Novice classes will be the instructor. For more information contact the Technology Department at Rock Valley College. The phone number is 226-2650.



DON'T FORGET SIX METERS

In this day of KW linears, fairly compact high gain antennas, comparatively low priced towers, DX contests, WAC awards and the inevitable yen to get a QSO with "that little island out there in the Pacific," I think we have lost sight of a source of much enjoyment -- Six Meters! 50.1 MHZ - 54 MHZ. Well, you say, "ya' can't hardly get to Chicago on Six Meters -- what fun is that." Well, that's not exactly true! Under normal weather conditions, that is, normal mid-west weather conditions, continuous communications are experienced almost every day between Rockford and Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago suburbs, etc., and when the band "opens up" as it did on February 3, 1973, our VHF people were talking to Louisiana, Arkansas, etc., on AM with as little as seven watts out!

Many VHF men have confirmed 45 states on six meters, AM low power, with a three or four element beam antenna. There is a lot of room on Six Meters, no QRM, little QRN, and all you need is a few watts out for good local copy.

Ask Jim, W9BAV, about a "Heathkit Sixer" he bought at Wheaton Hamfest. It's about as big as a lunchbox -- puts out about two watts at the most, and he works W9AVG in Sharon, Wisconsin, with little problem.

Six Meters is also a way to get on phone without spending a great deal of money. Usually a Six Meter AM rig can be picked up at a Hamfest anywhere from \$15 to \$70. Add a "mic" and two or three crystals and you're in business.

The Six Meter beam antennas are relatively small in size compared to the 10-80 meter beams and can be rotated and supported with TV hardware. This also cuts down on costs quite a bit.

A dipole also works very nice and can be strung up in the attic as it is about nine feet long.

This takes us to a point which I feel very strongly about. It is fun to "get way out" and talk to the East and West Coasts and other countries, no question about that. But don't you think we should at the same time get to know our amateur brothers better who live within a 75 mile radius of us? There are many knowledgeable amateurs in this area whom I would have never met if it were not for Six Meters. And they are fine, good people to know.

So, what we're saying here is if you have a Six Meter rig, wipe off the dust and get on the 9:00 PM Stateline Ragchewers Net. Everyone is welcome. Meet some of your neighbor amateur brothers. The Net is on every night and we sure have a lot of fun. Let's use all that space we have been allotted on Six Meters. Net frequency is 50.4 MHZ.

"73"

WB9KOT, Clyde

K9WTS/6
STARTING APRIL 6 - ROCKFORD TIME
14290 ± QRM @ 9PM EVENINGS
21360 ± QRM @ 11, 12AM, 1PM SUNDAY
USING SB-102 AND POOR ANTENNA

TRADER'S CORNER

WANTED: 6-METER RIG LIKE HEATHKIT "LUNCHBOX" OR SIMILAR. MUST BE REASONABLY PRICED.
CALL AL, W9PAE, 398-2699

WANTED: LINEAR AMPLIFIER PARTS! ESPECIALLY FIVE-POSITION BAND SWITCH AND PLATE CHOKE.
CALL MIKE, WB9IOG, 1-874-4646

FOR SALE: DX60B XMITTER \$65 HG10B VFO \$35
DX20 XMITTER \$17 GR64 RCVR \$32
HEATH AMZ REF. PWR & SWR BRIDGE \$7
HEATH BALUN COIL MODEL B1 \$5
3 ELECTRONIC EDUCATIONAL KITS \$15
ARCHER CODE RECORD 33 1/3 RPM \$2
SAMS CODE RECORD COURSE, 3 LP \$3
MASTERCRAFTERS 24 HR ELECTRIC CLOCK \$5
(MANUALS FOR ALL ITEMS EXCEPT CLOCK)
CALL RALPH, WB9HHH, 964-8736

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