

# HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

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



\*\*\*R.A.C.E.S.\*\*\*

MARCH 9, 1973 is the date of our NEXT MEETING - 7:30 P.M.

\*\*\*\* NEW LOCATION THIS MEETING\*\*\*\*

AMERICAN RED CROSS BUILDING 727 N. CHURCH ST.

JAY HART, W9RGU NET CONTROL, A FAMILIAR VOICE TO THE MONDAY NIGHT 10 METER NET WILL PRESENT THE PROGRAM:

"RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE"

Protect your license privilege! Remember the fundamental purpose of the amateur service according to par. 97.1 (a) is to provide communications in time of emergency. As a group amateurs must be organized should the need arise. Are you prepared? Is R.A.R.A.? Come to this meeting and find out how you might assist; no arm twisting-promise. Also if you havn't seen the Red Cross shack- this meeting is a must! Six operating stations including RTTY- someting to see. Sip coffee, get fat on doughnuts, and just say hello, we want you there. Coming up-- Olde Tyme Radio--.

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

GUNNAR OHLSON, K9WTS.  
LEE GEHLHAUSEN, WA9WVY.  
DICK CONNORS, WB9IED.  
BILL RIDGWAY, WB9KOS.

JACK STUMAN, K9UWN.  
RALPH SHAFF, KN9HHH.  
MIKE SOUHRADA, WB9IOG.  
CLYDE ASPLING, WB9KOT.

---

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INC.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
MAIL TO: "HAM RADIO" BOX 1744 ROCKFORD, ILL.

---



## President's Log

The February meeting on Linears by George Stinson W9KDK is an example of the quality program your board of directors wishes to present. It seems the topic was timely, as a number of homebrews have been completed recently and some are in process. Thanks again George for the interesting presentation; we'd like to have you back again.

Last month this column re-defined R.A.R.A.'s purpose. Your directors agree that the following objectives for 1973 will help our organization meet that aim:

1. Increase membership to 100.
2. Plan practical and interesting, member oriented, meetings through February 1974.
3. Strengthen R.A.R.A.'s emergency capability.
4. Participate in major contests.
5. Initiate a Novice Net.
6. Revise the club contest to simplify participation.
7. Establish annual budgets and review the uses of revenue.
8. Continue to up-grade the quality of the "Ham Rag".

Personally I feel we are off to a good start on many of these objectives. We need your 100% support in order to do it. No organization is worth belonging to unless it has achieved meaningful goals. We're going to be calling on you to take part. If you can contribute something no matter how small it should be well worth your effort.

SK de WB9IOG

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I was calling CQ Dx the other day trying to get a TF3 working near 21.05 Khz and heard a faint signal -9-VP? . Tuned in my HQ 170A a bit more -17 knobs!- and out of the mud came WB9HPV/4, Dave Larson. Dave was on vacation in Florida and working me on all of 2 watts! (t-w-o). Bet he has a few stories to tell. For those of you interested in QRP Dave has a Heath HW 7.

\*\*\*\*\*

Received word from A.R.R.L last month on the League's official position on recent FCC rules. The following will be brought up next meeting ; dockets 18803(repeaters),19245 (message traffic), 19162 (phone band suballocations) and 19555(environmental protection). Suggest you bring us up to date on your reaction to these dockets at that time. A.R.R.L. would like to know how R.A.R.A. members feel about these changes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sunspot count for the months of February through April- 57,55, & 53 respectively. Seems to me that's about rock bottom.

---

## ARRL DX-CONTEST

The first weekend is over. W9AXD (RARA club call) was active in the CW-portion operated by K9UIY, K9WTS and WB9IOG. About 300 contacts were made with 121 band/countries. Hawaii, KH6RS, was worked on 160 meters. On 20 meters 53 different countries were worked including JT0AE, (Mongolia), two stations in Laos, VU2DX (India), and others.

Murphy (yeh good old) showed up Saturday nite and made K9WTS load up the 10/15 meter beam on 20 meters. The balun did not take the KW! 15 meter was operated Sunday with a quickly erected sloping longwire. It worked, but not like the beam.

Next weekend? Plans are made to fix the 10/15 meter duo-bander, erect sloping dipoles with reflectors on 40 meters and "shoot" for 1 million points. By the way, we need one or two more CW operators.

de K9WTS

# NOVICE



## BEGINNERS AND NOVICES

LIVES THERE A NOVICE, YOUNG OR OLD, WHO WAS COMPLETELY CALM OR COLLECTED WHEN HE WALKED INTO THE FCC OFFICE TO FACE HIS GENERAL CLASS LICENSE EXAM? I DOUBT IT, AND I CERTAINLY WAS NO EXCEPTION. MY LIFE STYLE IS IN A DEEP RUT, AND ANY TIME I HAVE TO LEAVE THAT RUT, LIKE A TRIP TO CHICAGO, I FEEL LOST. I'M SURE IF I HAD APPEARED AS NERVOUS ON THE OUTSIDE AS I REALLY WAS ON THE INSIDE, THE FCC GUY WOULD HAVE ASKED TO HAVE A DOCTOR IN ATTENDANCE.

ANYWAY, HERE IS THE FRIDAY JANUARY 26TH THAT WAS. THE "LEAVE THE DRIVING TO US" EXPRESS (IT MUST HAVE SOLID RUBBER TIRES) LEAVES AT 0730 AND YOU GET TO THE FEDERAL BUILDING AT ABOUT 1000 HOURS. YOU GO UP TO ROOM 1863. IT LOOKS MUCH LIKE A SMALL SCHOOL CLASS ROOM. IT MEASURES ABOUT 22 X 35 AND HAS MAYBE 40-50 CHAIR/DESKS. SIX OF THESE ARE ALONG ONE WALL AND HAVE HEAD PHONES AT THE READY. THERE IS A CODE SENDING APPARATUS. UP FRONT THERE IS A STANDARD OFFICE DESK FACING THE ROOM AND THERE SITS THE MAN. HE SAYS, "COMMERCIAL OR AMATEUR?" AND POINTS TO A STACK OF 610S AND 3X5 CARDS. YOU DO THE NECESSARY ON THESE AND HAND THEM IN. THERE ARE ABOUT 8 - 10 GUYS WORKING AT THEIR THEORY EXAMS. THE MAN PUTS A DATE STAMP ON THE 610 AND LAYS THEM ASIDE. YOU TRADE A \$10 BILL FOR A \$1 BILL. HE SAYS, "SIT IN ONE OF THE CHAIRS WITH THE HEAD PHONES." THESE "CANS" MUST BE WORLD WAR I SURPLUS, THE DIAPHRAGMS ARE RUSTY AND THEY ARE NOT COMFORTABLE. HE SWITCHES ON THE CODE MACHINE. IT SENDS SOME CW AND HE SAYS, "IS THE VOLUME OK?" THERE IS NO QRM, QRN; THE TONE IS GOOD. THE MAN SAYS, "THIS WILL START WITH A SERIES OF SIX V'S AND END WITH AR". ANOTHER SWITCH CLICKS, THE V'S START AND THE BUTTERFLIES GATHER IN GREAT PROFUSION. BEFORE YOU REALIZE IT, YOU HEAR AR AND BOYS, THAT'S IT FOR THE CODE TEST. THE PAPER, WHICH IS DATED AND YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY SIGNED AT THE TOP, IS SNATCHED UP IN A NANO SECOND. THE MAN TAKES IT UP TO HIS DESK AND YOU SIT THERE AND SHAKE. HE SCRUTINIZES IT CAREFULLY AND YOU FINALLY SEE HIM DRAW A COUPLE OF LINES ACROSS THE PAPER AND HE CLIPS IT TO YOUR OTHER PAPERS AND LOOKS UP. YOU GO UP TO THE DESK AND HE SAYS "OK, YOU PASSED THE CODE." THE LINES HE DREW WERE UNDER ONE MINUTE OF ERRORLESS COPY REQUIRED. WELL, ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE BUTTERFLIES FLY AWAY AND YOU COULDN'T BE MORE PLEASED IF HE HAD SAID "HERE IS A COMPLETE COLLINS STATION AND IT IS ALL YOURS FOR FREE."

NEXT, THE MAN HANDS YOU THREE ITEMS, THE EXAM QUESTIONS, A SCORE SHEET (HE SAYS BE SURE TO START YOUR ANSWERS AT NUMBER 51) AND ONE DATED SHEET OF PAPER WHICH YOU SIGN AT THE TOP AND USE FOR FIGURING AND DOODLING. THIS IS TURNED IN WITH YOUR OTHER PAPERS SO YOU CAN'T MAKE NOTES OF THE QUESTIONS AND TAKE THEM WITH YOU. MY EXAM STARTED WITH QUESTION 51. I'LL GUESS HE HAS ABOUT SIX DIFFERENT EXAMS AND HE HANDS THEM OUT IN ROTATION OR HELTER SKELTER AS THE EXAMINEES COME IN.

SO YOU WORRY THRU THE 50 QUESTIONS, WITH THE BUTTERFLIES GOING AND COMING AND YOUR MIND AND MEMORY IN A THICK FOG. TO ME, THERE WERE THREE KINDS OF QUESTIONS. FIRST THERE ARE QUITE A NUMBER YOU KNOW INSTANTLY, LIKE YOUR XYL'S FIRST NAME. THEN THERE ARE SEVERAL THAT REQUIRE SOME FIGURING OR A SECOND OR THIRD CHECK BACK IN YOUR MEMORY, LIKE THE XYL'S BIRTHDAY. THEN YOU HAVE A FEW, LIKE THE DATE YOU WERE MARRIED, YOU THINK YOU READ ABOUT IT SOMEWHERE BUT YOU HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST. SOMEHOW THE NEXT HOUR OR SO PASSES AND YOU SAY TO YOURSELF, "WELL HERE GOES NOTHIN' - I'LL HAVE TO STAND OR FALL ON THIS" AND YOU HAND YOUR PAPERS TO THE MAN. HE SAYS, "SIT DOWN AND I'LL CALL YOU." YOU WATCH HIM REACH INTO HIS RIGHT HAND DESK DRAWER AND TAKE OUT A BOUND SET OF TEMPLATES, TURN TO THE ONE FOR YOUR PARTICULAR EXAM, AND LAY IT OVER YOUR SCORE SHEET. HE MAKES MARKS ON THE PAPER. YOU STILL HAVE THE TWO THIRDS OF THE BUTTERFLIES YOU HAD WHEN YOU STARTED AS HE PUTS THE TEMPLATES BACK IN THE DRAWER. HE WRITES IN THE UPPER CORNER OF THE 610 AND BEFORE HE CALLS YOUR NAME YOU WALK UP TO HIS DESK WITH FEAR AND TREPIDATION. HE SAYS, "YOU PASSED THE THEORY" AND YOU BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF. I WOULDN'T HAVE BET A PLUGGED NICKEL WHEN I FINISHED THE CODE TEST AND WOULD HAVE BET NO MORE THAN THAT ON THE THEORY. SOMEHOW I SKINNED THRU AT LEAST ONE MINUTE OF CW AND ANSWERED AT LEAST 37 QUESTIONS CORRECTLY. SO BE IT! NOW I HOPE I HAVE THE GUTS AND GUMPTION ENOUGH TO STUDY FOR THE ADVANCED TICKET IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

OH, YES, YOUR CODE SENDING TEST IS CONDUCTED BY SOME GUY WHO COMES OUT OF ANOTHER ROOM. THE KEY FURNISHED (YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN KEY, BUG, WHATEVER) SURELY MUST BE ABOUT A 1910 MODEL. YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT IN ADJUSTING IT AND PRACTICE A MINUTE OR SO. MY SENDING WAS A LITTLE FASTER BUT CERTAINLY AS RAGGED AS IT WAS 18 MONTHS AGO AND I WAS ASHAMED TO HAVE ANYONE IN THE ROOM HEAR IT. MORE MARKS ON THE 610 AND THE MAN SAYS, "OK YOU HAVE YOUR GENERAL." WOW! I WAS ON CLOUD NINE.

DE WN9HHH

---

MARCH 24-25 IS THE DATE OF A HOBBY AND CRAFT SHOW AT THE KEN-ROCK COMMUNITY CENTER. THE SHOW IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND THERE WILL BE MANY AND VARIOUS EXHIBITORS. IN AN EFFORT TO EXPAND OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS, OUR CLUB IS GOING TO SET UP AND OPERATE A STATION. WE WILL NEED SOME GEAR, IN PARTICULAR A PHONE STATION, AN ANTENNA, AND SOME COAX. ALSO WE NEED HELP TO MAN THE BOOTH DURING THE SHOW. PLEASE CONTACT DICK, WB9IED (877-7722). WE NEED YOUR HELP.

## feature

### 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 knowledgable 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

CONFIDENTIAL DATA ON RARA MEMBERS

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_ LIC. CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

AGE GROUP 8-17 18-25 26-35 36-50 51-64 65 up

FIRST LICENSED \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER CALLS HELD \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVE ON BANDS \_\_\_\_\_

GEAR \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE? \_\_\_\_\_ EMERGENCY GENERATOR? \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE PATCH? \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER ARRL? \_\_\_\_\_ AWARDS HELD \_\_\_\_\_

HAM INTERESTS (MARK PREFERENCE 1, 2, 3, ETC)

\_\_\_ DX      \_\_\_ NETS      \_\_\_ TECHNICAL      OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ CONTESTS      \_\_\_ RAG CHEW      \_\_\_ CONSTRUCTION      \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTS, SKILLS, AND HOBBIES OUTSIDE HAM RADIO: \_\_\_\_\_

AVAILABLE FOR CLUB COMMITTEE WORK? \_\_\_\_\_ COMMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

SUGGESTIONS FOR MEETING TOPICS, ACTIVITIES, ETC: \_\_\_\_\_

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TRADER'S CORNER

FOR SALE:

VIKING NAVIGATOR - 50 watt CW transmitter, solid state rectifiers, automatic receiver muting with built-in TR relay. EXCELLENT built-in VFO. Ideal novice transmitter. \$75.00

AUTOMATE ELECTRONIC KEYSER and VIBROPLEX PADDLE. Excellent condition. \$25.00

COLLINS 51J3 RECEIVER, excellent condition. - - - \$300.00

CALL: CHRIS, W9TAG, 633-4765

FOR SALE:

COLLINS KWM-2 w/Collins AC supply - - - - - \$750.00

VIKING ADVENTURER transmitter, 50w. input to 807 final, w/VIKING VFO and antenna relay - - - - - \$40.00

HEATHKIT CB RIG \* - - - - - \$45.00

VIKING ADVENTURER transmitter - - - - - \$25.00

T-CRAFT 6 meter converter w/T-craft AC power supply - \$25.00

HEATH SIXER w/6 VDC power supply - - - - - \$30.00

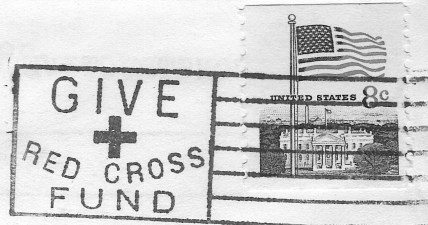
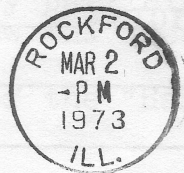
GONSET 6 band converter - - - - - \$15.00

WANTED:

HEATHKIT Q-MULTIPLIER

CALL: STEVE, K9LLI, 815-965-3757 days or 815-398-1876 evenings.

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



PAUL DEAN, WB9HGZ  
317 SHAW STREET  
ROCKFORD, IL. 61108