

HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

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



NOVEMBER ISSUE, 1973

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 7:30 PM
ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE, ROOM 222

Remember the change to Central Standard Time

* * RAG CHEW NITE * *

FILMS - - - - TRANSISTORS, IC'S, HAM RADIO

SHOW AND TELL - BRING YOUR LATEST HOME BREW XMITTERS,
RCVRS, KEYERS, LINEARS, TRANSMATCHES,
SURPLUS, ETC. LET'S SEE WHAT YOU HAVE
DONE, AND TELL US ABOUT IT.

QRU TIME - - - - EXPOUND ON ANY SUBJECT ON YOUR MIND

SIGN OFF - - - - GUARANTEED AT 9:00 PM

COFFEE AND - - MIGHT BE A LITTLE SURPRISE THIS TIME

SEE PAGE 7 FOR AN IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT
GETTING YOUR NAME RIGHT IN THE DIRECTORY

2.

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

P. O. Box 1744, Rockford, Illinois 61108

1973 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ray Lenburg, WB9ILH, 399-7733	Mike Souhrada, WB9IOG, 1-874-4646
Ralph Shaff, WB9HHH, 964-8736	Clyde Aspling, WB9KOT, 1-874-2330
Jack Stuman, K9UWN, 399-3890	Lee Gehlhausen, WA9WVY, 399-3716
Bill Ridgway, WB9KOS, 877-2315	Dick Connors, WB9IED, 877-7722

Your suggestions and criticisms are invited - phone any time.

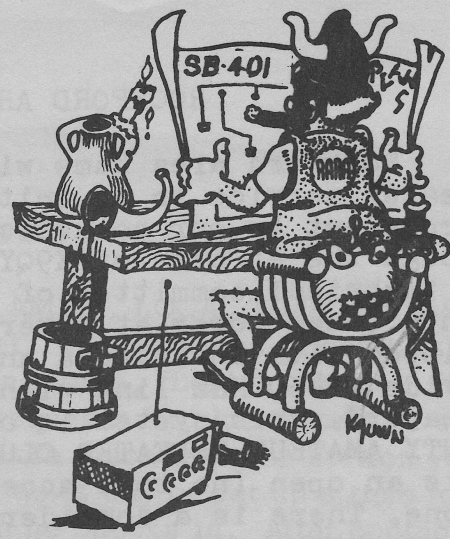
PRESENTING YOUR OFFICERS FOR 1974

PRESIDENT : GENE HARLAN, WN9MMM, licensed since May, 1973, runs a home brew 1-tube transmitter. Working on his General Class, and a new 100-watter to go with it. Gene, his XYL Sherri, with youngsters Shawn (8) and Wendy (3) live at 4106 Abbottsford Road, 398-2683. Works at Osco Fairview, where he sells and puts out good advice on cameras, records, candy and pets. Other hobbies are photography and music. He is in the 26 - 35 age group.

VICE PRES : DICK CONNORS, WB9IED, re-elected, runs Drake and six meter gear. Currently working on a 1296 MHz rig. Licensed since 1970, and upgraded to Advanced this year. He is an industrial engineer at Barber-Colman, and is in the 26 - 35 age group. Dick lives at 3204 Orleans Ave., with XYL Jean and two bright kids, Jimmy (8) and Kathy (4).

SECRETARY : EARL DAVIS, WB9KOR, holds a Tech ticket, and is good on CW, license permitting. He is nearly ready to go on six meters, and seriously considering 1296 MHz. Earl installs drapery for Carpetland, and finds time for full time electronics courses at Rock Valley College. He is in the 36 -50 group, and lives at 1694 Jennie Drive with XYL Wanda and five harmonics, 7 to 16.

TREASURER : JOHN WACKER, WN9IST, runs Drake and Hallicrafter gear, and is working hard on advancement to General Class. He manages the Ingersoll cafeteria, among other duties there. John is the 36 - 50 group, and lives at 1412 Comanche Drive with XYL Elena and daughter Juanita. Three handsome sons have grown up and left the nest.



PRESIDENT'S LOG

I'm a pretty honest and straightforward type, and I must tell you that attendance at our last meeting was a disappointment. We had about 25 people at the start, and four were guests. Maury Nelson-W9FL and Art Johnson-W9HGQ had prepared an excellent program on commercial broadcasting in Rockford. Some of their experiences went back to the early 1900's. It was very well put together by Maury and Art, quite interesting and humorous at the right times. You missed it.

If you weren't there, you also missed an election. It was announced in the RAG and still you didn't come. Why not? It's your club. We'd like to see you at our next meeting for sure!

Format in November is relaxed, informal, a few films, rag chew, coffee and.

A biographical sketch of your new R.A.R.A. offices appears elsewhere in this issue. They are going to need your help in 1974. Positions such as RAG Editor, Assistant Editors, Program Chairman, Contest Chairman, Field Day Coordinator, Ham Fest Chairman, etc. need you to fill the job. We cannot continue as a club with all these tasks the direct responsibility of your new officers. It's simply too much of a burden. The alternative; limit activities, publications, and have a weaker program. I can assure you that if the latter is necessary, the club could lose any progress we've made this year. We ask that you volunteer now for any of the above positions. If I've missed something you feel needs doing and you want to get it done, call Gene Harlan, or myself, and we will put you on the roster.

Personal News--finally got my tower up. We're at 50' with 20 meter 203B and 58' with 10/15 interlaced home brew beam. Ham-M works fine and polypropylene guys work best. SB-401 also on the way from Heath; should be able to join the 10 meter net soon and get back on C.W., as all gear except HW-32 now sold. Next step-finish (4) 811A linear. Anyone interested in working contests as W9AXD (club call), let me know. The season is just around the corner. What say Vic-K9UIY? A1-W9YRA? Others?

73's De WB910G

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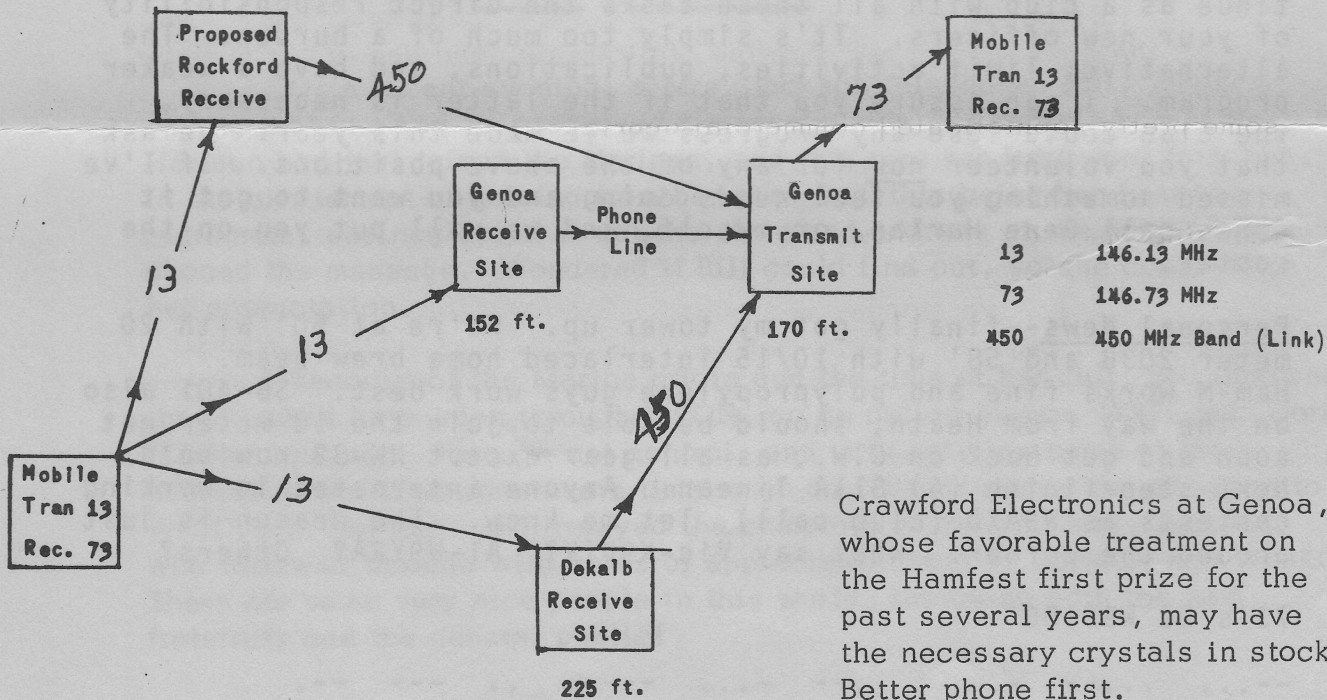
ROCKFORD AREA REPEATER SERVICE

Rockford area hams with two meter gear will welcome the repeater service to be initiated very shortly. This much needed improvement in our communications coverage is made possible through the efforts of K9QYY Jay, WA9BWK Dale and the Officers and technical committee of an area repeater club. The Winnebago County owned tower at River Bluff on North Main Rd. will be equipped with an antenna and associated transceiver gear to provide a 450 MHz link with WB9ADW, commonly called the "Genoa Repeater". This system is owned and operated by the DEKALB COUNTY AMATEUR REPEATER CLUB, 301 Main St. Genoa, Ill. 60135. It is an open (no tone access) repeater and may be used by anyone. There is a considerable expense in equipping, maintaining and operating any repeater system. Because of this, those RARA members who equip their rigs with .13/.73 xtals and regularly use the system are encouraged to help defray the cost by becoming members of the repeater club. Dues are \$15.00 annually and at this time it will be satisfactory to join for the 1974 calendar year. Please send your remittance to the address above.

Fred Bounds, Belvidere WA9BLI furnished this drawing and information about how the "Genoa Repeater" works. You will note the station, mobile or base(lower square) transmits a signal on 146.13 MHz, which is received by any one, or all three receivers at Genoa, Rockford, Dekalb. At the Genoa site a General Electric Voter, which contains a comparator circuit, automatically selects the strongest signal for retransmission or "repeating" on 146.73 MHz. Within a considerable distance surrounding the Rockford antenna it will be possible, under most propagation conditions, to talk to the Chicago area with a one watt handle talkie. HOW ABOUT THAT?

de WB9HHH

WB9ADW Repeater



NET INFORMATION

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3. MIDCARS SERVICE - SSB - DAILY - 7:15 AM on, LOCAL TIME - 7.258 MHz

This is a SERVICE, rather than a net. It is a means of establishing communication with specific stations of your choice, fixed or mobile. It is used heavily for weather, road conditions, requests for aid, reports of accidents, as well as for making QSO's. To get in touch with the station you want, you can check MIDCARS to find out if he is on, or set up a time for a later QSO and MIDCARS will notify him when he checks in. After contact is made, you QSY, as no actual traffic is handled on the service frequency.

The service is opened at 7:15 am by Paul, W9JLL, in Mount Vernon, Illinois, and control passes to others throughout the day. John, WB4VIK is in control sometimes. He does an excellent job despite being handicapped, and he operates with his toes! Try that sometime! If late afternoon skip is bad, the service may operate additionally on 3.903 MHz.

New check-ins are welcome, and control will answer your queries. Note that "break" is not used, but call "contact" when you hear the station you want to work. Regulars pay \$5.00 per year for this service, and receive monthly bulletins. There is an annual picnic in the midwest.

Numerous Rockford stations use MIDCARS, including Paul, K9VJJ who is member #88, Ray, W9VTL, and others.

For an interesting, snappy, professional operation that is a credit to Amateur Radio, listen to 7.258 throughout the day, including Sundays.

Data furnished by Paul, K9VJJ

4. SIX METER STATE LINE RAG CHEWERS NET - 50.4 MHz, AM

8:00 PM LOCAL TIME MONDAYS, 9:00 PM TUES THRU SUNDAY.

This net is dedicated to passing general local news and views, and for the promotion of rag chewing, fellowship, and use of our 6-meter band. Equipment ranges from third hand Benton Harbor Lunch Boxes to some pretty sophisticated commercial gear.

Check-ins average about 10 stations during the summer, and as many as 20 during the winter. They cover a large area, frequently reaching Madison and Milwaukee. When conditions are right, some good DX shows up, too.

Lately, the Monday session has been building up emergency operating technique in conjunction with the Red Cross station, W9RGU.

Here is where you will find the interesting local hams that you always would like to talk with, but seldom hear on the HF bands. On this net, they have plenty to say, on a wide range of subjects, and all pretty informal. All local hams are invited to rig up for 6-meter AM and join the fun.

Art - WB9HNJ

6.

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THE CHRISTMAS PARTY SHAPES UP

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John Wacker, WN9IST and Paul Klein, K9VJJ have nearly completed arrangements for the RARA Christmas Party. Soon you will receive a card announcing the details. There will be a return portion for your reservations.

RARA members in good standing may attend this affair. Their dinners will be paid for by RARA. Your YL's and XYL's are more than welcome. Dinner for the ladies will cost their escort \$5.50 each, including tax and tip. All drinks are at your expense.

The party will be held in the lower dining room of the Rockford Elks Club, which has been reserved exclusively for RARA. Cocktails will be available in this room, beginning at 6:30pm, and dinner will be served at approximately 7:30pm. The date is:

SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 15, 1973.

The other day, Ray, W9VTL had his first QSO with Woody, W6ANX. Woody asked that Ray send his QSL card via Woody's nephew, Jimmy, who regrettably has always had insufficient power in his mental circuitry though 20 years old now. One of his pleasures is in taking incoming QSL cards and locating the sender on a map. A little thing, but pretty important to Jimmy. Ray, of course, was happy to comply.

On a recent evening, a Mrs. Jackson telephoned Bill, WB9KOS, saying that she had just received a message from her son via ham radio. Her son had just joined the Marines, and this was her first word from him. In the excitement of hearing from her son, and this being her first ham radiogram, she neglected to get the name and address of the amateur who phoned the message. Wondered if Bill could find out, so she could write her appreciation.

Because of the Marine origin and the time of her call, Bill guessed that it might have been through ILPON, so he called Maury, W9FL who works ILPON regularly. Through net control, and with only the name of the addressee and the approximate time to go on, Maury traced the message to WA9CDI in Harvard. Bill relayed the complete address to Mrs. Jackson, who followed through with notes of appreciation both to WA9CDI and WB9KOS. There are some very nice people in this world, including both the ham fraternity and the general public!

REQUEST FOR VERIFICATION

The December issue of your HAM RAG will include a complete directory of current RARA members. One list will be arranged alphabetically by name, and will include call sign, address, and phone number. A second list will be arranged alphabetically by call sign.

Please look again at the address on the back of this November issue, and see if we have your name the way you want it, and your right call sign and address. If these are not right, or if you suspect that we do not have your present phone number correct, please see Bill, WB9KOS at the November meeting, or phone him at 877-2315 before the meeting if you can not attend. It takes a lot of time to get the list in shape for the printer, so don't put it off, please. No changes can be made after November 28.

POTPOURRI

WB9JAU Mike, one of our newer General licensees is sporting a new Tempo I. He checks in on the Monday net on 28.7 and handles his transmissions like a pro. WB9HPV Dave, is now operating SSB with an FT200, the Japanese designation of the Tempo I. K9WTS/6 Gunnar is heard infrequently from California and visited Rockford for a few hours recently. He does not yet have a tower and beam. W9UIJ and W9KG, Bill and Bud had a FB fishing trip to Canada in September and kept in touch with Rockford using a lamp cord in a tree antenna. WB9IOG is assembling a new SB401 Xmtr using a 150 page manual and a large quantity of solder. He has also a homebrew linear in the wings but not completed. K9UCM, W9MAP, WB9IOG and WB9HHH have put up towers and beams recently. R.A.R.A. new members in last several weeks are WN9NFE, Mark, WA9EQM Jack (Tiny) and W9HGQ Art. Some of the newer six meter devotees are W9PAE Al, WB9HPV Dave, and WB9IED Dick. New calls heard on two meter mobile in last several weeks are K9VJJ Paul, K9VJE Stu and WA9PBQ Paul. WB9KOT Clyde has had a new 250 Charley 6M. xcvr. Now that his General ticket is on its way from the FCC, we think he is looking for a converter that will make it operate on 10-80M. Hi. WB9HHH snagged a 2XSSB DX, Salisbury, Rhodesia, ZE7JV running QRP 5 watts 21.355. Must be a cracker jack antenna on his end. The 6 meter emergency net on Monday nights is getting around 10-15 checkins and is increasing weekly.

de WB9HHH

Jack Stuman, K9UWN, our HAM RAG editor, writer, illustrator, and what not was forced to leave the October meeting early because of a sudden, acute illness. He spent about a week in the hospital, mostly on the test bench, but has now returned to his home QTH in fairly good shape. Meanwhile, a half dozen RARA members cooperated in getting out this issue of the HAM RAG. If it doesn't have the usual professional look, perhaps that is because it was done by amateurs.

TRADER'S CORNER

Free service to members of RARA.
Deadline for copy = two weeks before next meeting.
Mail, phone, or hand copy to HAM RAG Editor.

SELL: Heathkit AT-1 Novice Transmitter with two xtals - \$23.00
Land line to Mark, WN9NFE - 397-6808

SELL: APX-6 converted to 1296 MHz - \$20.00
Call Art, WB9HNJ - 633-8647

WANTED: 500pf air variable capacitor
Dick, WB9IED - 877-7722

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



Paul Dean - WB9HGZ
317 Shaw Street
Rockford, Ill. 61108



FIRST CLASS