



# THE HAM RAG



JANUARY ISSUE, 1974

Affiliated with ARRL

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

CW NET meets each Sunday at 7:00 PM local time  
on 21.150 megahertz

## Program:

JANUARY 11, 1974 MEETING  
ROOM 222  
ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE  
7:30 PM

**LIGHTING DETECTOR!!!**

**LOW FREQUENCY CONVERTER!!!**

**OLD RADIOS!!!**

Bud Koepf, W9KG, will be here to tell us how to build a lighting detector using an oscilloscope tube. Also he will show how to build a low frequency converter covering 10 KC up to 500 KC, frequencies below the broadcast band....

He says it didn't cost him anything, but with new parts it would run about \$10-15. Make sure you have pencil and paper so you can make your own.....

Bud will also have on hand four or five old radios from the 1923-29 era and will tell about the changes made in radios in that time period. Sounds like a real interesting meeting, so lets make sure we have a good turn out.....

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P. O. Box 1744, Rockford, Illinois 61110

1974 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                       |            |                     |          |
|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|----------|
| Mike Souhrada, WB9IOG | 1-874-4646 | Gene Harlan, WN9MMM | 398-2683 |
| Dick Connors, WB9IED  | 877-7722   | Earl Davis, WB9KOR  | 633-4225 |
| Bill Ridgway, WB9KOS  | 877-2315   | John Wacker, WN9IST | 399-1695 |
| Clyde Aspling, WB9KOT | 1-874-2330 |                     |          |

Your suggestions and criticisms are invited - phone any time.

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OUR THANKS

Early in 1973, our former printer became seriously ill, and was unable to handle the Ham Rag. At the last minute, Roger Remer came to the rescue, and has been doing our printing ever since - - and we all agree that it is the best we ever had, and at a very favorable price.

Roger is in charge of printing operations at a local industrial plant. When it came time to pay him for the November and December issues, Roger insisted on donating his excellent services for these issues because he thinks RARA is a good and deserving organization. RARA takes this opportunity to express many thanks for his cooperation and for his most welcome generosity.

Roger is not, unfortunately, a radio ham, but he is active in the Civil Air Patrol (a commercial pilot) and would like to be able to call on RARA when his group needs special radio communication service. He can be assured that RARA will go all out for CAP when we are needed.

WB9KOS

## PRESIDENT'S LOG

Ah, yes - a new year, a new president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, committees.....

Did I say committees?? Yes, we do need some and haven't had many volunteers. We should have a very interesting year with good meetings, Ham Rag, Field Day, Hamfest..... But the four officers can not do this by themselves, Our XYL's just won't let us!!! If we all do just a little, I don't think they will mind at all. HI

A list of committees that need help are:

1. HAM RAG - Need someone to take the bull by the horns and two or more assistants. Ralph Shaff, WB9HHH, has agreed to help with the mailing.
2. MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICITY - Need people to help Dick Connors, WB9IED, to let people know there is a club called R.A.R.A.
3. CONTESTS AND FIELD DAY - Jim Dunlea, WB9KZQ, has volunteered and could use plenty of help. Sounds like he's all out to win this year. Let's start planning now and do it...
4. PROGRAM COMMITTEE - Need ideas and people to do something with them.
5. HAM FEST - Have only heard from Paul Dean, WB9HGZ on this one. We can use a good crew this year.
6. IFT COMMITTEE - Clyde Aspling, WB9KOT, will call on Bill Ridgway, WB9KCS, if he needs help with this one, but I'm sure they wouldn't turn down any offers of help. Who knows, we might even learn something....

We need to fill in the empty spaces now so we can plan for 1974. I'll be looking for thr phone to be ringing off the hook before our Jan. 11th meeting. Call right now before you forget.....

Personal notes - I'm working on a Heathkit SB 102 Transceiver that my gracious XYL Shari gave me for Christmas. Took me 80 hours to put it together and now I'm spending 80 hours trying to get it to work... If I don't get it going pretty soon, my XYL might put me out of the house. HI!

"73" WN9MMM

Gene

## RARA SLOW SPEED CW NET

The RARA Slow Speed CW Net, which meets every Sunday at 7:00 p.m. local time of 21150 has been set up for many reasons.

First, to the novice, who does not get the opportunities to get into a net, it offers experience in net operations.

Second, to the beginning ham, it offers the chance to get code proficiency up and to the more experienced ham, who may be on phone most of the time, it gives him a chance to practice his C.W.

And thirdly, it lets you ragchew to hams that you might not regularly talk to on the air.

The speed of the net will be about 8 to 9 W.P.M. and it will be run in the same fashion as the 10 Meter Emergency Net, with check-ins and then a generally informal round-table. So come join the fun on Sunday nights. Any criticism or suggestions would be appreciated. Just call Jim, WB9KZQ, 398-7389. See you on the net! 73

## LOCAL CALL FREQUENCY

One of the club members (who doesn't have 2 meter FM) suggested we have a local call frequency. It sounds like a good idea since many of us do not work 2 meters.

It was decided the best frequency would be the same one used by the 10 meter Rockford Emergency Net on Monday nights, (28.700 MHz).

So, if you're "just around the shack" but not actually operating, monitor 28.700 Mhz. If you hear someone, fine, if you don't, then call CQ. Who knows, maybe half the county is monitoring. See you on ten.

.....WB9IED

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1974 is here fellas, so empty these piggy banks, clean out all your old trousers, look under the sofa cushions and bring all your loose change to the January meeting. We will be happy to exchange it for a brand new 1974 Membership Card. Same rates, \$5.00 regular dues and \$2.00 students.

### CLASS FOR BEGINNING AMATEURS

It has ben announced that Rock Valley College will offer a class in basic radio for beginning amateurs, Communications Theory and Operation to begin Saturday, January 26 thru March 30th. Classes will be held from 8:00 to 12:00 AM each Saturday morning and will be conducted by Prof. Vito Fiore, K9UCM, in the excellent laboratory facilities at the school.

If you know of anyone who is interested, please have them call Vito Fiore, 226-2650 for further information.

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### DUST COVERS

Dust, dirt and grime, let's eliminate it!

There is no question that dust and dirt is an enemy of electronic gear of all kinds, especially ham gear. Many radio shacks are located in areas of the home where dust can really be a problem. The gear is designed to provide good ventilation for cooling and in so doing brings dust and dirt into the enclosures which in inevitably deposited on the unprotected components such as relays, capicitors, etc.

I was determined to do something which would minimize this destructive condition by making covers to shield the gear when not on the air. I dept looking for a nylon reinforced plastic sheet without seccess, but eventually found some nylon yard goods such as windbreaker jackets are made of. The material is white in color and comes 45"wide, priced at \$1.99 a yard. I found it at Mary Lesters out in the Colonial Village Mall. The material is soft and slinky and can be thrown into a drawer if you are neat or on the floor if you are not. The material can be sewen on your wife's sewing machine to the sizes you require.

I think the residue left by tobacco smoke is worse than dust, and the only way to eliminate that is to not smoke in the shack ( and that ain't easy ).

de WB9ILH

## THE UNIVERSAL LAWS OF JOHN R. MURPHY

### Construction and Trouble-Shooting:

The hammer will fall off the shelf not only on a tube, but on a very expensive tube that must be ordered from the factory.....The wire connected to the wrong terminal is the one wrapped 100 times around and welded on.....The meter bought at a surplus store for 50¢ has a 0-1A scale. The meter unexpectedly turns out to have a range of 0-1 ma. ....The interlock switch that's supposed to interlock doesn't ....After tearing a piece of equipment apart and finding nothing wrong, and it is plugged in, you notice the electric clock on the wall has said 2 PM for at least three hours.... That piece of co-ax on the lawn turns out to be a snake.

### Operating and Contests:

The station in the rare country gave you his report, receives yours, and disappears. You check your log and see that you forgot to write down his call.....The strong local will invariably come on in the middle of all your QSO's with new selections.....The number of duplicate contacts increases in proportion to the square of the number of hours operated.

### Antennas:

When pruning antennas, the first amount cut off will always be too much.....The probability that an antenna will blow down is directly proportionate to the trouble it was to put it up.....The probability that an antenna will blow down is directly proportional to the damage it will cause coming down.....The probability that an antenna will blow down is directly proportional to the amount of use it gets - on contest week-ends, this probability is multiplied by 1000... ..Happiness is standing back and looking at your newly completed antenna shining in the sky.....Misery is noticing that there is no feed-line going to the shiny new antenna.

Stolen from The Mike & Key  
Cleveland, Ohio

One henpecked husband to another: "My wife has a slight speech impediment. Every now and then she stops to breath."

The time for learning is about an hour before your ignorance taught you an expensive lesson.

The honeymoon is over when instead of "I DO" she says, "You'd better!"

## 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.

**WANTED:** 2 Meter AM transciever. Would like CW provisions, but would not be necessary. Also, would like any information concerning OSCAR.  
Call Jim, WB9KZQ 398-7389

**FOR SALE:** Hallicrafters SX110 General Coverage Reciever. Best Offer. Heath AT-1 CW transmitter. Can be modified for 6 meter AM. Best Offer.  
Mark, WN9NFE, 397-6808

**WANTED:** Low band communications reciever. Budget priced. Also will trade SX110 for right reciever.  
Call Mark, WN9NFE, 397-6808

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**FIRST CLASS**