

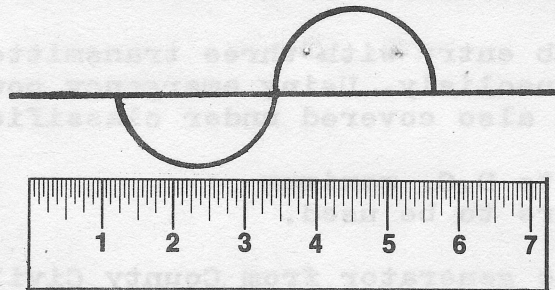
HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

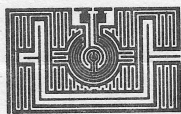
NET meets each Monday at 9:00 P.M. local time on 28.7 megahertz



JUNE ISSUE 1974



V H F



SOLID STATE

2 METER SYSTEMS

Art Nelson WB9HNJ, with the aid of some other VHF operators will present a meeting about the aspects of the world above 50 MHz. If you would like to get started on VHF or would just like to hear what the bands are all about come out and hear about it at the June RARA meeting.

See you there: Friday June, 14, 1974. Rock Valley College
Classroom bldg. 1 Room 222. 7:00 pm.

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASOC. INC.
P.O. BOX 1744, ROCKFORD, ILL. 61110

1974 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gene Harlan WB9MMM	398-2683	Bill Ridgeway WB9KOS	877-2315
Dick Connors WB9IED	877-7722	Clyde Aspling WB9KOT	1-874-2330
Earl Davis WB9KOR	633-4225	Al Lund W9PAE	398-2699
John Wacker WN9IST	399-1695	Jim McNaught WB9MJO	877-5966



FIELD DAY 1974

It's Here!

When: June 22 1800z (1:00) start
June 23 1800z end
Set up: 9:00 A.M.
Where: Rock Valley College Mountain West end of campus
North of football field
Call: W9AXD/9
Entry: 3A Club entry with three transmitters operating
simultaneously. Using emergency power. Novice
station also covered under classification.

Power

Category: 200 watts D.C. maximum

Housing: Tents are to be used.

Power

Source: Gasoline generator from County Civil Defense

Rigs: 2 SB-102s; Swan 250C; HW-202; Motorola 2m FM base;
HW-16 & VFO; Communications receiver for WWV checks.

Antennas: 80m Inverted Vee; 40m 2 element Quad; Tri-bander;
6 element wide spaced 6m beam; 9 element 2m beam;
Long wire and matchbox.

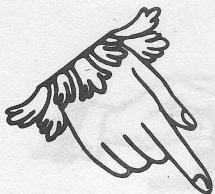
Mounting: Push up masts. (2 50' push ups loaned to us by
J&M Electronics)

Publicity: Newspaper, TV, and Radio to be notified by WB9HGZ.
If it can be worked out, a declaration of, "Amateur
Radio Week" by the mayor will be set up as was done
last year.

Committee: Jim WB9KZQ
Paul WB9HGZ
Jerry WB9LOM
Duane WB9LEF
Mark WN9NFE

Needed: Crew to set up and take down; operators; tables;
chairs; lighting equipment; loggers

MURPHY SAYS: "The probability of ham radio equipment breaking
down, burning out, or absolutely refusing to work
increases as the square of the requirement or des-
ire of the operator to use it."



Memo from the President



I would like to thank Ray Lenburg, WB9ILH, for the extra fine meeting he presented on Oscar. It was in terms so even I could understand it! That's the kind of meeting I like! With the enthusiasm we had, I know, it won't be long before Oscar will know Rockford, Ill. Eric Frank, W9OVY, has sent for XTALS and my order is written but still setting on my desk.

Sounds like things are going very well for field day and for hamfest. Jim, WB9KZQ, says they are going to put the 40 meter quad together in the next day or two. I'm getting anxious to start! The date is creeping up fast. This has to be my last plea for operators and I hope you will participate. Call Jim right now and tell him what times you can be there to operate. If you don't like to be behind the mike with all the pressure of field day, there are plenty of other jobs to do also, such as keeping the generator going, logging, setting up, and making sure things stay up! There are jobs and room for everyone.

Hamfest seems to be coming along smoothly with Paul Dean, WB9HGZ, in charge. Tickets have been in your hands now for a month and I hope you are out pushing sales! We have a good crew organizing it this year and I think it will be a great success. Lets all work hard at selling tickets as this is our "bread" for the following 12 months.

Personal notes-- sorry to those who were listening on 2 and 10 for me at the campout, but we were rained out. It has been rescheduled, but I won't be able to attend.

I checked into Midcars yesterday and net control asked me to take over. I was a bit nervous, but jumped in anyway. Good practice for field day, Hi!

My folks were hear a couple of weeks ago and my dad saw me use the rig on voice for the first time. He was so enthused he took my key, code records, oscillator and books! I guess when you get the bug you really get it. Hi!!

73

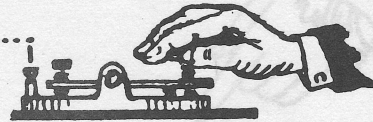
WB9MMM Gene

PUBLIC NOTICE!

REMEMBER: Sell those Hamfest tickets early to avoid the rush!
Extras are available by calling Steve WB9JAV at 399-1306.
Let's make sure RARA sells its share this year.

WB9HGZ

NOVICE



CQ FD CQ FD

Attention all Novices! The Novice Field Day station needs U! From what I have heard our club is looking for first place this year! We are depending on the Novice station to add a few points to our score.

There is also a 100 point bonus for a contact made using "Natural" energy (e.g. solar). Anyone interested in building a rig or has any ideas, get in touch with me.

We also have a need, not only in the Novice section, but in all of the stations, for folding chairs and tables. If you can assist in this respect, please get in touch with any FD committee member.

The Novice station could use some help with respect to operating and logging. We also need several people to help set up tents and antennas. If you can be there on June 22 & 23, come on out! There will be sign-up sheets at the June meeting. Support your club and come out to Field Day. This FD promises to be FUN!

73,

Mark WN9NFE

A NOTE FROM YOUR HAM RAG STAFF

As you may know, this is the last official issue of the HAM RAG until September. Should there be enough news this summer we will put out an issue of a shortened version, a Mini-Ham Rag so to speak, in July or August.

At this time, we'd like to thank all of the people who have helped to make the RAG a success this year. John Wacker, WN9IST has done a tremendous job in getting the paper to the printer, folding, stapling, and various other chores related to putting the paper out. We are grateful to Roger Remer, who has worked on occasion late into the night printing the RAG for us. He has done an excellent job this year not only on the RAG but he also printed our Hamfest tickets and fliers and Field Day logs. Also, Ralph Shaff WB9HHH, has faithfully gathered the local grapevine goodies and submitted his "Potpourri" column each month. Along with these people, we'd like to thank all members who have from time to time submitted articles. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated. Each article has, in its own way helped to add something to the HAM RAG.

With that, we'll say thanks again, 73, and have a NICE SUMMER.

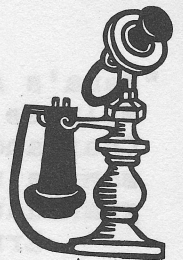
Your Ham Rag Staff,

Al Lund W9PAE

Paul Dean WB9HGZ

Steve Donaldson WB9JAV

P O T P O U R R I

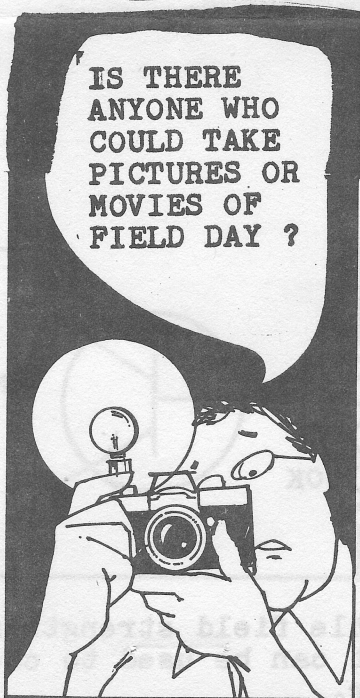


Now that W9BAV Jim, has his Rohn "45" tower 60', TH6DXX, 4 element 6M. beam and 2M. ground plane on the air, he owes me an "S" meter -- 60 over 9 on 20M. K9VJE Stu, and WB9KZQ Jim, have put up beams for 2M. WB9JAU Mike, has a TA33Jr. up temporarily and expects to get it on a tower this summer or fall. Several participants in K9UCM Vito's class at Rock Valley College will take Novice exams soon. All Amateurs in our vicinity can thank their lucky stars for Vito's interest and help in the furtherance of our hobby.

We commend WB9KOS Bill, on his Advanced license and wish we would get up the gumption to study for the same. The Winnebago County Civil Defense communications trailer and several CD operators will be stationed at the Loves Park-North Park ~~pete~~ July 4th Celebration. By the time you read this, W6RTT, formerly W9LVT will have visited in Rockford and entertained fellow Hams with slides showing Southern California activities. Rumor is that the Hilperts, W9USR Lucy, and K9DJG, Connie, may move to W/K3 land. We sure wish they wouldn't but if it comes to pass, it will be our great loss and Pittsburgh's gain.

Our local newspaper mentions Rockford's participation in the upcoming 1976 Bicentennial. Do any of our readers have an inspiration about how R A R A and Ham Radio can show its wares? Because my primary interest in the last several months has been DX, I have accumulated a considerable amount of QSL information. 1974 QSL Managers Directory -- and more. Maybe I can help you, landline 964-8736. If your rig uses #47 6.3V. bayonet type dial etc. lamps, switch to #1847s -- they last immeasurably longer and are well worth the slight additional cost. If you would like to see the new Regency HRT-2 5 channel 2W. hand held XCVR, we will have one at the R A R A meeting June 14th. DXCC report -- 109 countries worked, 94 confirmed.

de WB9HHH



If there is,
please contact:
Gene WB9MMM 398-2683
Jim WB9KZQ 398-7389
Paul WB9HGZ 397-6363

➔ RARA PERSONALITY PROFILE ➔

"Mama's Angel Papa", W9MAP, Ernie Storer age 69, XYL "Peg", QTH 2031 Melrose St. Rockford Ill. Phone 9684910. One grown son "Dick", his XYL Char and two grandchildren reside in Des Plaines, Ill. Jeff, the grandson, a novice WN9LLM is hoping to make General this summer. Jill the granddaughter is a high school sophomore and already notices the boys.

Ernie retired from Commonwealth Edison Co in 1969 after 38 years as an Electrical Engineer.

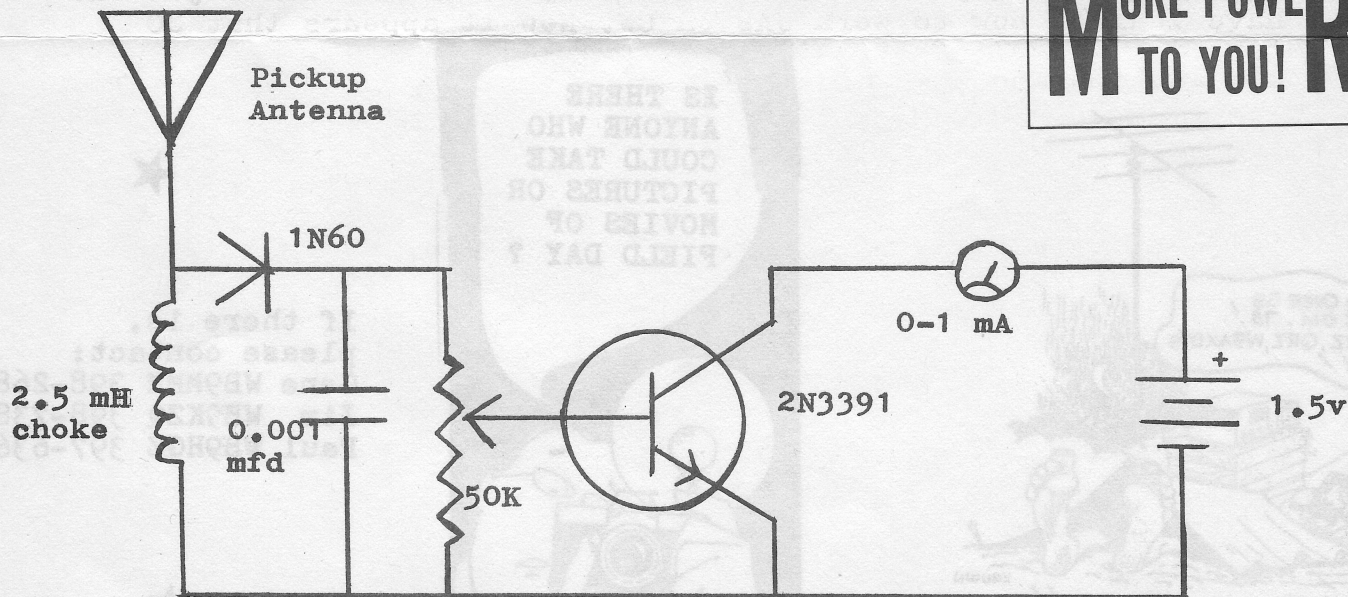
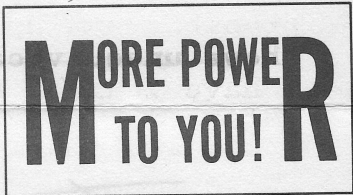
First licensed as a Radio Amateur in 1920 and assigned the call 9DEX, later changed by Uncle Sam to W9DEX. Was on the air in Rockford from 1920 to 1923. Let license lapse while at university. (Cornell College, and the U of Iowa.) After finishing school, chased girls for awhile then narrowed the field to one and got married. All that time the old "Ham Bug" kept biting harder and harder and finally in 1933 brushed up on the Code, - Took the exam again and was issued the Call W9MAP, which I have kept active since.

Enjoy operating, designing, and building ham gear. During the years have built 3 complete "spark Transmitters, the largest of which was 1 K.W. Also several Phone Transmitters, one a 50 watter with Class A Modulation and another, My Pride and Joy, the 1KW. rig shown on MY old QSL. card. It had two complete R.F. sections, one, designed for 20 and 10 Meters, the other designed for 75 and 160 Meters. The Class B Modulator and power supplies could be switched from 1 R.F. section to the other, thus giving fairly good efficiency on all A phone bands without the use of Plug in coils. It worked beautifully. Then came along SSB and soon the old pride and joy became obsolete, and was finally replaced with the Drake Twins. The T4XB Transmitter and the R4B Reciever. Its almost unbelievable but those two little black boxes do as well as the big old "Boat Anchor."

Since 1951 I've been intersted and active in helping to maintain an Amateur station at the Local Red Cross. Regular nets are conducted each Monday nite from this station W9RGU on 28.7-50.4-(147.30-146.82) and also several other C.D. Nets. W9RGU is activated each Monday nite to insure its readiness in case during a disaster back up communications should become necessary. The home station is active on 75-40-20-15-10-6 and 2FM. Antennas: Inverted V for 40and 75; Hygain TH4 Tribander 20-15-10; 2 meter 5/8 groundplane.



SUPER SENSITIVE
FIELD STRENGTH METER



CQ QRP! Here's a neat little field strength meter that will read even low power signals. It can be used to check oscillators, QRP rigs or any low power gear.



NEWS FROM W6-LAND
 LETTER FROM PETE GRILLO W6RTT (ex W9LVT)
 PART 2

In the spring of '73, Gunnar, W6PWW (ex K9WTS) showed up. It was great to have someone around who was sympathetic to my situation. You guys knew Gun- he can make you feel like you're doing great when really you belong in WB2-land! We had a lot of skull sessions and ran a few tests. Since Gun wasn't quite ready to fire up yet, we decided to see if we could improve the setup at W9LVT/6. It was decided that a 40 meter beam was a must. Also, the 10/15 duobander was useless on 15 meters-narrow bandwidth, high SWR, and essentially no gain. All summer we worked on a configuration for 15 and 40. The big problem was limitations in wind loading for the extra aluminum that would be required. We struck upon a real winning combination: 3 elements full sized on 15 meters while hanging 2 full sized 40 meter wire elements from the 15 meter boom. The only hangup was the mechanical construction. The spreaders were originally made of yardsticks (picked up a dozen of them at a hardware store free). After about 2 weeks on the tower at 60 feet, the yardsticks snapped from the element tips. We then went to 1/2" P.V.C. tubing and 3/8" wooden dowels. This did the trick. Results in the ARRL SS are due in May QST and CQ WW probably in April CQ. Both of these tests were with my W9LVT/9 call.

Although I made a clean sweep (all 75 ARRL sections worked) on both modes (phone and CW), I found out later that performance was severely curtailed merely because of the callsign. "Portable six" added unnecessary and confusing information, drastically slowing the QSO rate. My next project was to get a decent W6 call sign. W6RTT arrived on December 20. Wow, what a Christmas present! I couldn't have done better if I had planned it that way. Even Alan (W9YRA) was surprised.

Now we come to 1974. The real marathon: ARRL DX contest in February and March. From the preliminary results it would appear that I will place 2nd or 3rd in L.A. and 5th or 6th in California, in the CW test. All I can say about the phone test is that I will probably end up in the top ten in California. The main result shows unequivocally that the 40 meter \$5.00 beam did its job and I have learned how to work JAs on CW. Now it appears that 80 meters is in need of attention. Does anyone have any ideas that could give me about 10 db gain (forget the California Kilowatt suggestion) on 80 meters. That looks like an interesting challenge, but certainly something must be done.

My 1974 project is to streamline my station by adding a second transmitter and two-band linear amplifier. I'll let you know how that works out. I guess I have just about talked myself out by now.

73 es DX,

Pete W6RTT

HAMFEST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Don't forget our next meeting. Tuesday, June 25, 1974.
 Same time and location: 7:00, Fairview meeting room.



PLEASE PUT IT IN THE CAN
By Larry Kleber, K9LKA/W9CPD



Back in the good old days B.B. (before bedlam) it was always possible to find plenty of "wide open" space on your favorite band where you could "tune-up" your transmitter without the carrier interfering with another signal or a QSO. With today's crowded bands, probably the greatest source of UNNECESSARY interference is the unmodulated carrier that comes on top of a QSO without rhyme or reason.

Literally thousands of amateurs are guilty of this "sin" without even realizing the havoc they are wreaking! Generally their receivers are not tuned to the transmitter frequency and so they never hear the cries of anguish caused by their thoughtlessness.

Actually the answer to this problem is quite simple and the cost is so small that it won't stretch the radio budget to the breaking point.

In the past ordinary light bulbs have been used as dummy loads because of their low cost and ease of use. They have, however, left a lot to be desired when it came to maintaining the nominal impedance over a wide range of frequencies. Non-inductive resistors, of the proper wattage, were the next choice but they too began to deviate from the nominal impedance as 3 megahertz was approached. At 10 megahertz the deviation was as high as 10% and above that frequency the impedance just "went to pot!"

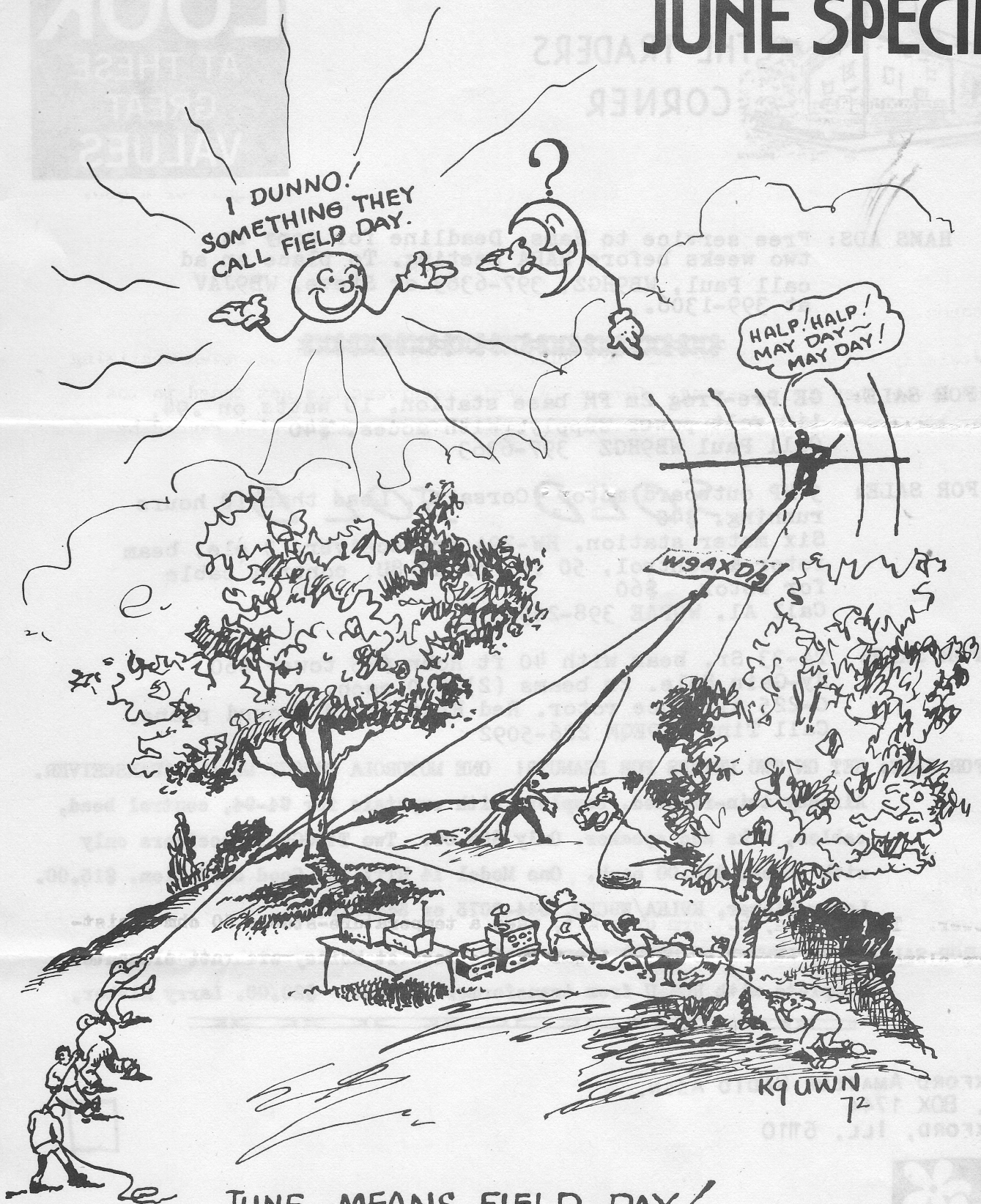
Just when it seemed that the problem was insurmountable, for the average ham, the Heath Company developed a Dummy RF Load that will handle a full kilowatt of power. The unit, in the form of a kit, uses a temperature-stable 50 ohm resistive element that provides a very low VSWR (voltage standing wave ratio), up to 400 megahertz. A special circuit, using a half-wave diode rectifier and resistor capacitor-network, is incorporated to provide a DC voltage for monitoring relative output power. Best of all it is priced at only \$10.95.

In actual tests, the VSWR was found to be less than 1.5 to 1 on all bands 80 through 2 meters. (We were unable to test it on higher frequencies). The monitor circuit provides a simple way to check the power output of the transmitter for maximum efficiency.

The resistive element is immersed in a bath of oil (not furnished) contained in a gallon can (furnished) and provides the unit with its intriguing name - CANTENNA!! Although it has been around for 14 or 15 years there are still lots of hams who have never heard of this useful tool.

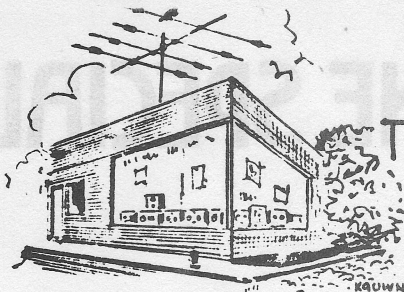
Wont you please help rid our bands of unnecessary carrier interference by putting yours "IN THE CAN!!!!"?

JUNE SPECIAL



JUNE MEANS FIELD DAY!
MAKE YOUR PLANS TO PARTICIPATE.

SEE YOU THERE JUNE 22 & 23!



THE TRADERS CORNER

**LOOK
AT THESE
GREAT
VALUES**

HAMS ADS: Free service to Hams. Deadline for copy is two weeks before RARA meeting. To place an ad call Paul, WB9HGZ, 397-6363 or Steve, WB9JAV at 399-1306.



FOR SALE: GE Pre-Prog 2m FM base station. 10 watts on .94. 110 volt power supply. With acces. \$40
Call Paul WB9HGZ 397-6363

FOR SALE: 5 HP outboard motor Corsair Less than 10 hours running. \$40
Six meter station. HW-29A transceiver, 3 ele. beam rotor & control, 50 ft. of RG-8U, control cable for rotor. \$60
Call Al, W9PAE 398-2699

FOR SALE: TA-33 Sr. beam with 40 ft Rohn #25 tower \$60
Hy-Gain 8ele. 2m beams (2) \$10 each.
C-225 Alliance rotor. Red Head 2m FM ground plane.
Call Tiny WA9EQM 226-5092

FOR SALE: GET ON TWO METERS FOR PEANUTS! ONE MOTOROLA T43GGV MOBILE TRANSCEIVER.
Already twin-frequed. Complete with crystals for 94-94, control head, cables, mike and speaker. Only \$65.00. Two T43GGV transceivers only with tubes. \$15.00 each. One Model 14 RTTY TD. Good condition. \$15.00.
Larry Kleber, K9LKA/W9CPD, 544-2075 or 544-3794.

FOR SALE: TWO ELEMENT 40 METER SHORT BEAM. Rebuilt Mosley with new elements. Complete with RGS-U from transformer to mast. \$20.00. Larry Kleber,



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NICE SUMMER!



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