

HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

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



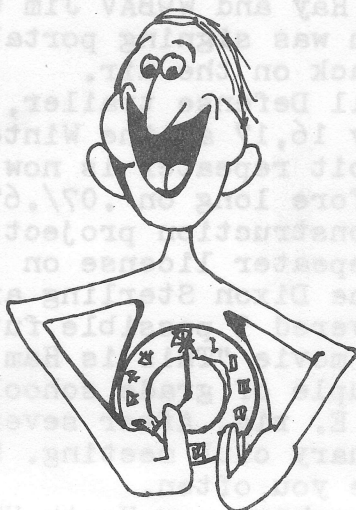
MARCH ISSUE 1974

CW NET meets each Sunday at 1900 local time at 21.150 MHz

MARCH MEETING FRIDAY THE 8th

NEW TIME

7:00 PM.



NEW TIME

7:00 PM.

PROGRAM

FILMS FILMS FILMS FILMS FILMS FILMS FILMS FILMS

Come see, "THE DAY THE EARTH MOVED" a film about Amateurs and their service in emergencies.

NEW! DOOR PRIZE! 1974 Handbook. Donated by Clyde, WB9KOT

REMEMBER! Rock Valley College Bldg. 1 Room 222
7:00 Friday March 8

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	Al Lund, W9PAE	398-2699

Your suggestions and criticisms are invited-
Phone any time.

HAM RAG CORROSPONDENCE: Direct to Al W9PAE, Paul WB9HGZ,
or Steve, WB9JAV

POTPOURRI

ALL HAIL! to our new HAM RAG editor, W9PAE, Al and his assistants, WB9HGZ Paul and WB9JAV Steve. We predict the RAG will have a high "Q factor" and that Al will keep it right on frequency. The sick list includes W9VTL Ray and W9BAV Jim who had minor surgery and WB9LEF Duane. Jim was signing portable 9 from RMH. All are doing well and are back on the air.

The Winnebago County Civil Defense trailer, manned by several members, was on duty February 16,17 at the Winter Carnival at Rock Cut State Park. The Beloit repeater is now licensed and is expected to be in service before long on .07/.67 (open). The Dekalb repeater still is a construction project. K9EEH Dick, in Sterling reports that a repeater license on .25/.85 is being applied for, to operate in the Dixon Sterling area.

WB9HGZ Paul says he uncovered 3 possible future Hams as a result of his showing of the movie "This is Ham Radio" and his 2 M. on the air demo at a couple of grade schools. WB9IED Dick is a new 2M. mobileer with a G. E. rig. After several months absence, WB9ETH Jim attended the February club meeting. We know business comes first Jim, but lets see you often.

W9OVY Eric, and W9EZQ Vern have new Heath HW202s on the air. WB9IOG Mike has his homebrew linear belting out high power on the low bands. K9KZQ Jim now "has it all"; he is on 6 meters, too. Checkins to the RARA Emergency Net 28.7 Mondays are running 14 to 18, up considerably from last summer and fall. Recent new members on the RACES roster are K9VJE Stu, Ass't Radio Officer, WA9PBQ Paul and WB9IOG Mike.

WB9ILH Ray is becoming quite interested and yes, involved in OSCAR satellites. It is a very complicated subject and Ray is feeling his way cautiously. To go with his TR4C Xcvr, WB9KOT Clyde has an R4C Rcvr which gives him the required selectivity for CW. K9LKA Larry will retire from his business about March 1 and is expecting to do more hamming than in the recent past. K9KGV Lloyd is the first of our group to visit (eyeball) with WA7YFR Erl, formerly WA9WMI, in Mesa, Arizona. Lloyd erected a 40 M. antenna for Erl. Now he can ragchew with the California Kilowatts.



Memo from the President



Blew it again..... Tried for my general again, 2nd try, Feb. 15th and the only good thing that happened was that I made a new friend! Nelse Cole, WN9KKW from Belvidere, went along to the Windy City & nerves got the best of both of us! I was surprised that there were only 2 other guys there to take the test. He checked the code tests at his desk about 6 feet from from us and naturally I watched as closely as I could (without being too obvious about it!). First he seemed to read it as a story, putting little red x's where I'd made mistakes, then he'd count the letters between the x's. I really got frustrated when he counted one section a second and a third time. I wish they would give prizes for closeness, as a matter of fact, I'd settle for the prize being the information on how close I came to passing HI! HI!

Jim Dunlea, WB9KZQ, is our chairman for field day this year. He found out the city has elevation above sea level charts for this area, and hopes to use these for finding the best spot for this year. We need a lot more people to operate, ect., if we intend to have a good score this year. If you plan to be there, give Jim a call on the landline or 2 meters. Your more likely to get him on 2 meters, HI!

As of this writing we don't have a chairman for hamfest, but we have to get started as there are some things that have to get done now, such as reserving the fairgrounds. Haven't had many volunteers for this onese please give me a call if you can help.

Meetings will start at 7PM instead of 7:30 from now on. The janitorial staff has requested we be out of the building by 9:30 so they can start their cleaning. If you have someone picking you up please make sure they can be there at 9:30 sharp, or arrange a ride home with one of the other members. I don't think this is too much to ask for the use of such nice facilities.

Took my rig along in the car over the weekend on our trip to Iowa & heard W9FX on a net Fri. nite. U were coming in loud and clear around Manchester, Ia. Red! Also heard a chess match being played.....by WB0QQQ and WB0EEE..... Wonder what u have to do to get those triple letter calls?? Do u know Ralph??.....

De WN9MMM

Gene

**CHECK
THIS
SPECIAL!**

LATE SMOKE SIGNALS FROM OL' CHIEF PAK ON THE BACK

DE K9PAK/SB9 (SB=Snow Bank Mobile)

As there is a five-foot snow drift in my driveway this morning, I decided this is a good day to pound out one of my occasional contributions to the HAM RAG and to keep in touch with all my Rockford friends. Just before Christmas we moved QTH's, and I'm now longing for better weather so some antennas can go up. New QTH now is 448 Hartwood Lane, Hartland, Wis. 53029. (He who addresses HAM RAG's please note...). Hartland is a small village nestled in the lake country about 20 miles west of Milwaukee, just north of I-94. Elevation is pretty high here and TV reception is excellent with rabbit ears from Madison about 60 miles away. So I am looking forward with great expectations to getting some antennas up. One of my first projects will be getting on the .13/.73 repeater so I can work Rkfd. I saw Terry, K9GZA, at the Waukesha Hamfest a few weeks ago, and he said mobiles are getting into the system from Madison since the Rkfd input went up. About the only activity on the ham bands I've seen since moving north has been on the MARS circuits. We have MARS repeaters throughout the state just outside the 2 meter band. Some are permanently linked together so mobile to mobile QSO's across the state are possible. The Eau Clair rptr is linked over to Minneapolis and so forth so the system is growing. Of course, on MARS there isn't any of the licensing hassle as there is now with FCC. How about some interest in Rockford in a MARS rptr? And then we could link into the Wisconsin system. If anyone wants more information on MARS let me know. By the way, I'm in Air Force MARS. If you want to just listen in, tune 3309 KHz. SSB Sunday evenings at 6:00 PM. This is the Wisconsin Administrative Net and the VHF-FM repeaters are also repeated out on this freq for the net. It's really nice to sit at home with a VHF low powered portable and check in and monitor the SSB net throughout the state! Listen in sometime (AFA9UBC is net control). Congrats and good luck to the new officers of RARA. A club needs a good bunch of officers to keep the ball rolling but it takes the work of all the members to succeed. I was always grateful for all the help I got from the board members and committee chairmen when I was Prexy. Remember, nobody wants to join a club that doesn't do anything, yet you can't have any activities unless you have active members. And, good luck to Al, W9PAE, who I see is going to take the helm of the HAM RAG. Al, you may want to look into joining the Amateur Radio News Service. They send out a monthly bulletin chock full of articles specifically designed for re-printing in club papers. I was a member a few years ago when I put out the RAG. They also sponsor a contest for club papers and I think we took 2 awards with the RAG a couple years ago. Also, try sending out the Rag to all Rkfd area hams in the call-book for one issue with a return coupon to join. This always worked wonders in years past. Must QRT... if any of you get up to Milwaukee please give me a call.

73 de K9PAK

A LETTER FROM ERL
(FORMERLY WA9WMI)

ERLING MALMER/WA7YFR
2032 E. BIRCHWOOD
MESA, AZ. 85204



DEAR OM:
W9PAE

Needless to say, I was quite pleasantly surprised to receive your most gracious letter, informing me of your advancement in the literary world.

I will try to give you a brief run-down as to what has transpired since we took leave of the land of ice and snow.

My Brother-in Law and his XYL, my sister, and my XYL, plus yours truly; left Rockford on the 9th of Oct., 73. It was close to 2000 miles of pretty fast driving; we cruised at 80 most of the time. We arrived in mesa on the 12th., about 2:30 that afternoon.

My old buddy, W8NAV/7 and brother-in-law, proceeded to wire my shack for 220 and they put up a vertical; which I am still using; a few days after we arrived. It is a rough deal to try and get Europe out here, but the Pacific really comes booming in; Hawaii sounds like a local.

Yes, I keep in touch with Rockford thru Lloyd and Ray; K9KGV and WB9ILH, that is. We have talked to quite a few of the boys from up there and by the time that you get this letter, Lloyd will be ready to take off for this QTH. He is leaving Rockford on the 11th of Feb. It is kind of rough to get out on this vertical but my Thunderbird will be going up some of these days and then lookout!

In regard to the climate out here; well you know that this is the "garden-spot" of the great south-west, hi, hi. We are very glad that we made the move when we did and it looks like this is where we are going to stay. There are plenty of "Hams" out here and a lot have offered to help me put up the sky-hooks.

I would get on 14280 more often, but the line noise that I have out in this area is unbelievable. I try to get on 14235 every morning at 1600 Coordinated universal time and then again at 2200 Zulu. After I get up some more antennas: I am going to call the power company and find out if those kids can get rid of that lousy line-noise. It sounds like that transformer in the backyard, is leaking.

Well Al, you may have some idea of the set-up out here by now; maybe you can get enough out of it to pass along to the readers of the "Ham Rag".

Fraternally yours,

Erl/ WA7YFR

THE BLIND AND AMATEUR RADIO



When "Vic Ekwall" of Rockford, whose wife is blind, joined the local Lions, he had to eat his lunch with a blindfold over his eyes. He had the experience of being blind. If one could put themselves in a sightless person's shoes an understanding could be had as to what it means to learn enough electronics to secure a general class license for amateur radio.

That is what Jonas Johnson and Mervin Phinney are trying to do. Both these men have had experience with radio before losing their sight, but not as hams. The problem is enough information, which the F.C.C. will accept. It is difficult to measure how much both men have added to their knowledge by this course.

We started by getting in contact with the Hadley School for the Blind in Evanston, Illinois. They provided us with tapes and braille books. The course is divided into units, each has its tape and braille counterpart. Each unit has questions at the end and that is where I came in, with the discussions at the Center once a week. The answer to the questions were put on tapes and sent in to Hadley for so-called grading after our meeting. Both men have done very well and received good grades on their tapes, but I made a mistake by not starting code at the beginning. However, for a blind person who knows the code, to get a word, and put it in his brain pocket, to recall in forming a sentence, is difficult. Words, one at a time can be mastered. As a result I have gone back to McGuffey's Reader and use sentences as "See Jane run". (Reading Teachers please forgive me.) It works, so when we make the grade, we will go to see how we are doing with the F.C.C.

We hope to go to Chicago some time in March depending on the WX. It is interesting to note that we go in on a Monday or Tuesday. It is somewhat like an appointment. They will have people there who, I understand, work especially with handicapped people as an examiner. I do not know all about the procedure but I will find out.

I wish to thank Jim Nilson (WB9ETH) for the key and code tape and Lee Shelain (W9ZZL) for the code oscillator which was given to the Blind Center. Those of you who check in the 10 meter net have both Merv and Jonas as listeners.

"DE CLAUDE, W9VZ"

MILITARY RADIO CHECKS

From Minnesota MARS Newsletter via
Yellow Thunder ARC's "SMOKE SIGNALS"

Radio checks between Marine patrols in Vietnam were quite common. During a relatively quiet period, one Marine was overheard testing with the following, "Eeeney, Meeney, Miney, MO, how do you read my radio?" Not to be outdone, his counterpart on the receiving end replied, "Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum, loud and clear with a little hum."

NOVICE



NOVICE AND BEGINNER

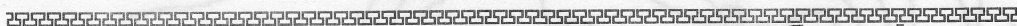
Ten Meters, a new band given to novices about 14 months ago, is considered to be quite a dead band. One reason for this is the Sunspot Cycle, which we are now on the bottom. As the Spot Number picks up the condition on ten will make it one of the best DX Bands around since its ship distance will never be less than 1500 miles. Also its ground wave makes it good for local contacts up to 100 miles if conditions are good.

One secret to ten is to listen for other stations. Most stations heard on ten will be weak, but can be reached. Try sending a CQ, sometimes the band will be opened without anyone knowing it, and a CQ might really get things started. You could have the whole country listening.

Ten Meters seems to be in its best condition during mid spring (May), and mid fall (October). For example, last May, working 75 watts and a vertical antenna on the novice section (28.1-28.2) I worked five stations in one day, mostly W3 and W4 and even one TG9KJD, Guatemala. This period will last for about one week and then ten will slow up again.

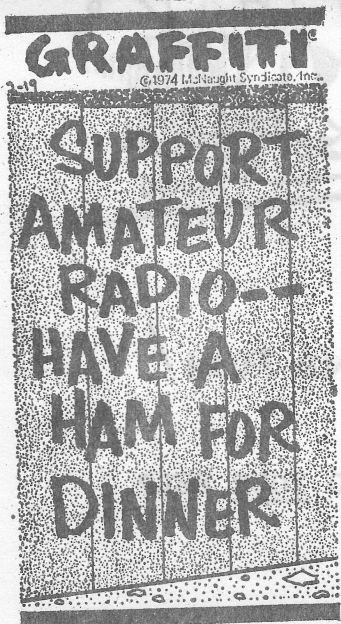
Ten meters is a strange band. It can open up any time of the year, day or time. So try ten meters, you might be surprised at what you may find. CU on 10

73's
WB9KZQ



HAMS IN THE NEWSPAPER

(You say Hams aren't recognized by "The Media" ?



Help!

Q—I am new to Rockford and am interested in learning about amateur radio and earning a license. Are there any classes for potential radio amateurs offered in the Rockford area? — Helen Dolezal, Rockford.

A — Neither Rockford nor Rock Valley College offers an amateur radio course, but the Rockford Amateur Radio Association does periodically. The club meets the second Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Classroom Building B at Rock Valley College. There are 45 members in the club and they have such activities as transmitter hunts in the summer. Call Eugene Harlin, club president, for more details.

FROM FEB. 5 MORN. STAR

Register-Republic,

Feb. 19, 1974

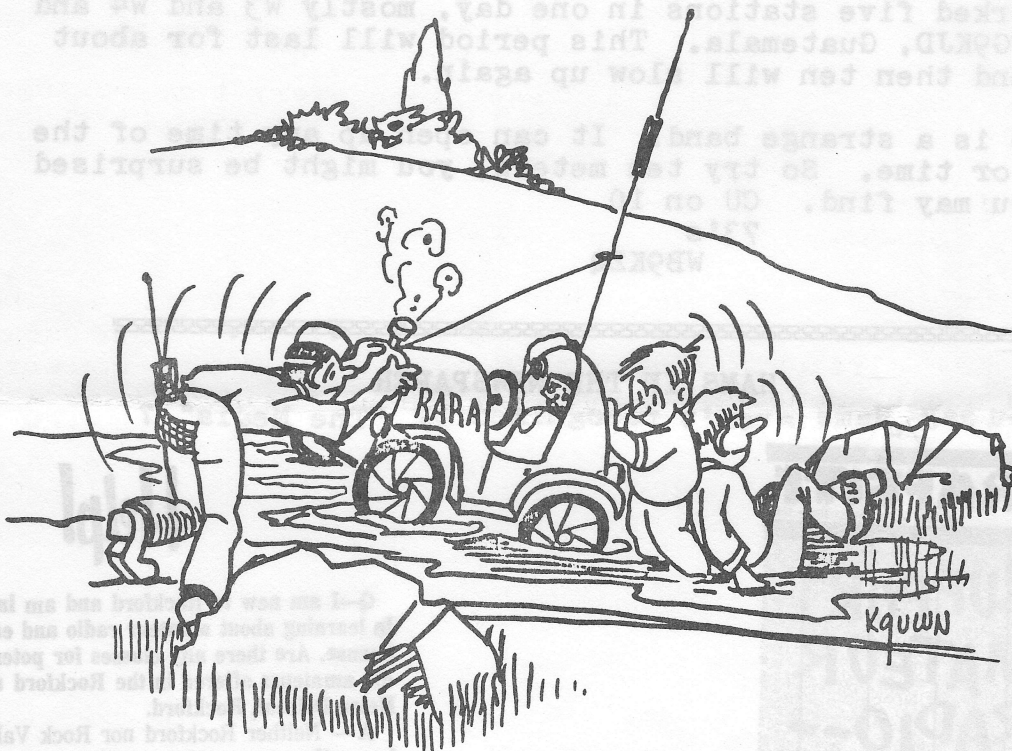
SPECIAL

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM ?

Did you know that the quantities you use every day in electronics are actually metric quantities? They are derived from the basic units of mass, length and time. Here is a chart showing several electronic quantities and their dimensions.

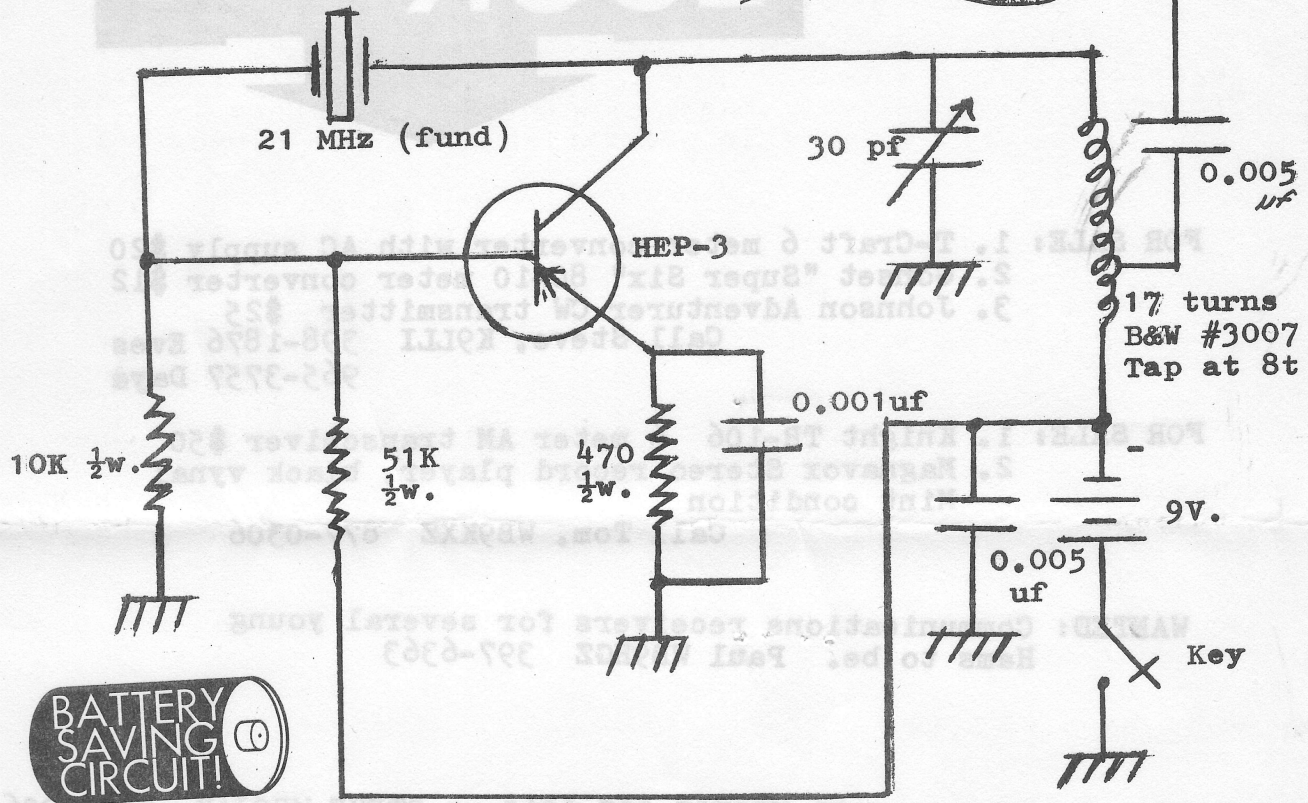
Quantity	Symbol	Unit	Unit symbol	Dimensions
Capacitance	C	farad	f	$a^2 sec^4/kg m^2$
Electric Charge	Q	coulomb	c	a sec
Field strength	E	volt per meter	v/m	$kg m/sec^3 a$
Frequency	f	reciprocal second	sec ⁻¹	sec ⁻¹
Inductance	L	henry	h	$kg m^2/sec^2 a^2$
Magnetic flux	Φ	weber	wb	$kg m^2/sec^2 a$
Power	P	watt	w	$kg m^2/sec^3$
Resistance	R	ohm	Ω	$kg m^2/sec^3 a^2$
Voltage	V	volt	v	$kg m^2/sec^3 a$

In case you are not up on metric units, the basic unit of mass is the kilogram (kg), of length is the meter (m) and of time is the second (sec).



LET'S ALL GET BEHIND RARA AND PUSH!

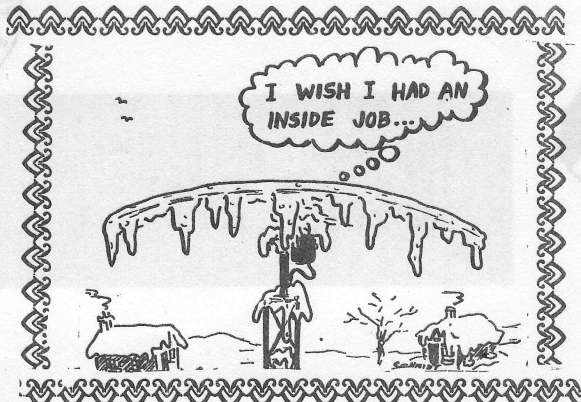
IT'S A NEW YEAR WE NEED YOUR HELP



Here's a neat little rig that belts out 100 mw on 15 meters. It is best to use a metal chassis and good RF wiring techniques are important. If it does not oscillate every time, change the value of the 51K resistor slightly until you obtain reliable crystal operation.



It is with this issue we must announce the move of still another local ham to the lands to our west. As you read this, Don Jackson, W9BQC will have already moved to Arizona. Although not currently enrolled as a club member, this former Roscoe resident knew a lot of the "Gang". He also conducted a program for a RARA meeting a few months ago entitled, "The Wonderful World of Integrated Circuits". The club will miss Don just as we miss the rest of our friends who have moved from the area.



NEW MEMBERS

LOOK AT THESE GREAT VALUES

FOR SALE:

1. T-Craft 6 meter converter with AC supply \$20
2. Gonset "Super Six" 80-10 meter converter \$12
3. Johnson Adventurer CW transmitter \$25

Call Steve, K9LLI 398-1876 Eves
965-3757 Days

FOR SALE:

1. Knight TR-106 6 meter AM transceiver \$50
2. Magnavox Stereo record player, black vynal
Mint condition

Call Tom, WB9KXZ 877-0306

WANTED: Communications receivers for several young
Hams to be. Paul WB9HGZ 397-6363

TO PLACE AN AD CALL: PAUL WB9HGZ 397-6363 or STEVE WB9JAV 399-1306

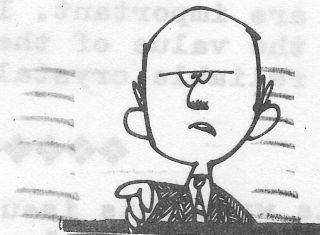
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P.O. BOX 1744, ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61110**



Paul Dean, WB9HGZ
317 Shaw Street
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