

HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

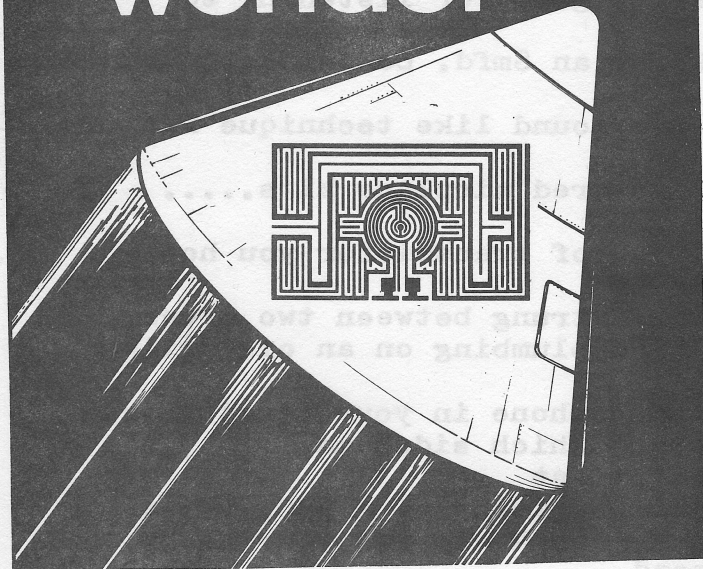
NET meets each Monday at 9:00 P.M. local time on 28.7 megahertz



MAY ISSUE 1974

OSCAR

THE
space age
wonder



★
Ray Lenburg, WB9ILH will
be presenting a program
about OSCAR and how to
use him at the May RARA
meeting. Come and get
informed about this
space age wonder!

★
See you there; Friday May 10, 1974. 7:00
Rock Valley College classroom bldg. 1 Room 222

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
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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.

THE WAY IT GOES

By Julian Jablin, W9IWI. Circuit Board. Via ARNS Bulletin

Nothing seems to emphasize the fact that one is getting older than the beginning of a new year. However, there are certain other indicators which are equally significant. So... you can be sure you're really an Old Timer if:

- the term "Kilohertz" sounds funny to you
- you beep HI on your auto horn when you pass another car with a ham license plate.
- you have a 6 foot relay rack in the basement with a 20 meter transmitter mounted therein
- you believe that FM is primarily good for listening to classical music
- you walk into Allied and ask for an 8mfd. condenser
- you can remember Allied
- the word "Rettysnitch" does not sound like technique for your XYL's needlepoint
- you remember when Heath manufactured airplane kits..... for real airplanes
- the term MOPA described the kind of transmitter you hoped to build
- a skywire meant a piece of wire strung between two trees, and not a collection of aluminum plumbing on an oil drilling rig
- you used an F-1 button as a microphone in your first AM rig
- you used AM, with no sense about which sideband.
- a Novice meant a probationary priest
- CQ was a signal you sent at the beginning of a QSO, 73 was the signal you sent at the end. Ham Radio was your hobby, and QST was a magazine you read
- a drain was only the hole in the middle of the kitchen sink
- you had a pair of earphones which reproduced the same signal in each ear
- you had a receiver into which these earphones could be plugged
- you think 10-4 is the score of a Cubs-Detroit game
- you remember having read out of the articles mentioned in the "25 years ago" column in QST



I was very pleased with last months attendance!! For those that were not there, we had people sitting way in the back row!! I wish we would have that many people every month. Many of those present were not members and some not licenced yet. The film we had showed them what fun can be had with ham radio and what service it provides. John Wacker, WN9IST, gave a talk on membership and told how many of the members have contributed to make this a great club. Afterwards we had some typical ham gear to show brought by Clyde, WB9KOT; Jim, WB9KZQ; and myself.

Hamfest seems to be getting off to a good start with Paul, WB9HGZ, in charge. Tickets are to be included with this Ham Rag. Let's all get busy and sell as many as we can. I'm sure we can all sell the 10 sent us. If you need more, call Steve, WB9JAV. Remember that the hamfest is what keeps our club in bu\$iness year around. Proceeds are divided between the two clubs according to how many tickets were sold in advance by each club, so naturally we want to sell as many as we can. Our dues don't even cover the cost of mailing the Ham Rag to each member for the year so we each need to get out and do our share.

Everyone wanting to help with field day give Jim, WB9KZQ, a call. It is getting close and the planning has started. A meeting has been slated for May 1st, 7PM at Jim's QTH for those participating. After the RARA meeting I overheard Jim talking with several others and it sounded like some great ideas were brewing.

Ernie, W9MAP, has accepted a new job as club historian. We needed someone to keep track of the pictures taken of club activities. I have been given a few pictures, but I don't know what has happened to other pictures taken in past years. If anyone has any pictures pertaining to the club, please get them to Ernie so he can add them to our album. I think this would make a great program for some-time in the future.

At the home QTH I've been having fun with a 15 meter beam I bought from Duane, WB9LEF. I have two South American contacts now!! I have switched back and forth between my dipole and the beam. The difference is really fantastic!! Also Earl, WB9KOR, loaned me a Heath Sixer to use when I get my general. It didn't work on recieve, but on replacing an open rf choke between the detector and the amplifier it worked just great!! So----- watch out 6 meters, it won't be long.....

73

De

Gene

W()9MMM

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HAMS: Articles are needed for the next issue of HAM RAG!  
If you have anything to contribute, please get in touch with one of the editors.

Al W9PAE 398-2699  
Paul WB9HGZ 397-6363  
Steve WB9JAV 399-1306

NEWS FROM W6-LAND  
LETTER FROM PETE GRILLO W6RTT (ex W9LVT)  
PART 1

We arrived in California to decide on the new job during the Christmas and New Years week of December, 1972. Our first impressions were full of excitement with the warm temperatures, proximity to beaches and desert, mountains, freeways, Disneyland, etc. Of course you all know that in the back of my mind I was thinking of a hilltop residence, away from the crowds, 5 minutes from work, and for the prime QTH to DX and contest from. I couldn't help but notice the towers, tri-banders, quads, and dipoles as we drove for miles looking for a QTH. I had never seen so many crank-up towers. After the first impact of the new area was made, I had a chance to study the situation. I rationalized that crank-ups are the answer for the following reasons: it never freezes in the Los Angeles basin, high winds are extremely rare - but when they come, they are predictable. The strong winds come from the desert. (They are called Santa Ana winds) However, they build up gradually, giving you time enough to crank the tower down. I also began to realize that I would have to compromise and suffer some other trade-offs. Hilltop sites soon became just a dream. Storage space was out of the question. The ham shack would never be as private as the typical Rockford basement shack. We don't have basements. Most homes are built on a slab or elevated above ground enough to provide a crawl-space for maintenance of water pipes, etc. As for proximity to my job, I soon learned that all distances are measured in minutes rather than blocks or miles. We finally selected a QTH approximately 25 minutes from work, just south of Mount Wilson in the San Gabriel Valley. It is about 10 miles due east of W6RR, who just happens to be the one we all try to beat in the DX contests. My best directions are from JA down through VK, KC4, S. America, and S. Africa. Europe and VU short path are the worst, with Mt. Wilson taking the blame. Of course, prime consideration had to be with regard to schools and neighborhood for our young family. We truly enjoy living here.

1972 was a year of consolidation for me. I put my 55 foot self-supporting Tristae crank-up tower and 4 element 204BA 20 meter beam with a 3 element duo-bander 10/15 stacked 6 feet above in a similar configuration to what I had in Rockford. 40 & 80 were covered by inverted Vees. It didn't take me long to realize that competition in 6-land during my favorite contests (SS, CQ WW, ARRL DX) was more than I had first realized. But, as naive as I am, I continued to struggle in the second layer of QRM in the pile-ups. By the end of '72, I realized that something had to be done about my performance on 15 & 40 meters. 80 was next to hopeless. It turned out that the other guys were smashing me by working two or three times as many JAs as me. You probably know by now that Japan is supposed to be the answer to our woes in making high scores from here. Rather than give up, I decided to improve my situation in 1973: get better antennas and learn to work JAs.

73 es DX,  
Pete W6RTT

NEXT ISSUE: Conclusion! More on 6-land life from Pete in the second part of his letter.

P O T P O U R R I



Tower projects -- WX permitting: W9BAV Jim, will soon erect a 50' crank-up; WB9IED Dick, has a new 25G 60' foldover under construction; K9UIY Vic, is really ambitious, with a 110' job on his drawing board in Freeport. Which reminds me, if there is a young tower climber reading this, who likes short towers, WA9WVY Lee has a minor repair job that needs attention.

We enjoyed seeing former RARA President and HAM RAG editor K9PAK Dave, at the Dekalb County Amateur Repeater Club meeting in Rockford April 10th. We believe K9YRA Al, attended the Fresno International DX Meeting April 27/28, hosted by the Northern California DX Club. K9UCM Vito, expects that by the end of June, the VHF department and the emergency power gear of WB9KUR will be installed. The FB station at RVC will then be virtually complete. K9VJJ Paul, whom we have heard only as mobile/9, is putting up a base station skyhook for 2M. and will add a K9UWN Special for 40M. later.

The Rockford area 2M. people welcome new mobileers K3NGF Mick, WA9AXG Jim, WB9OHI Randy and WB9JFF John. Mick is moving here from Pennsylvania, is interested in 6M. and is a new member of RARA. Jim has a new SB144. Randy was WA8ZYX in Michigan and has moved to the Belvidere area. John is here temporarily, before going on to W/K 2 land to study a military course in Wave Propagation.

Winnebago County Civil Defense volunteers furnished communications for the Muscular Dystrophy Walkathon April 20th. The following late afternoon the C.D. people and the Rock River Valley Emergency Squad (Citizens Band) were called out to assist Ogle County officials in evaluating their tornado damage. The FCC is said to be working on a plan to permit all US hams to use special calls to commemorate the Bi-Centennial in 1976. K7UGA Barry, (Goldwater, that is) has introduced Senate legislation declaring the week of June 17 thru 23rd as National Amateur Radio Week.

Radio wave propagation continues to be quite poor. WWV has been reporting mostly U5 and W5. On the other hand, at one time about the 15th of April they put out a forecast of N7, the first time since September 1973. Just in case you don't know where to get these forecasts, listen on exactly 10, 15 or 20 mHz at fourteen minutes after the hour.

de WB9HHH

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# LOOK

HAMFEST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Don't forget our next meeting: Tuesday, May 21, 1974.  
Same time and place: 7:00; Fairview Bowling Lanes  
meeting room.

WB9HGZ

## FIELD DAY

With Field Day coming up fast, only 2 months away, things are starting to look pretty good, equipment wise that is. Just doesn't seem to be the all out interest in Field Day that we had when Gunny and Pete were here, but it looks like we are on our own, and we'll have to do our best. Vic Shields, K9UIY, who is one of our C.W. Operators, is really going all out, just what we need. So come on fellows, lets get going!

The equipment we'll be using are two Heathkit SB-102's, 180 watts P.E.P., on 80-10 meters, a six meter rig has not been decided on yet, but any offers would be accepted, and a Heath HW-202 will be used for in the city communications. Hopefully we will have a Novice station, using the clubs HW-16 and VFO.

Antenna wise, we need more help. We will use a Quad on 40 meters, and hopefully beams on 20, 15, 6 and 2 meters. Any offers for beams would really be appreciated since we do not have any yet. On 80 meters a dipole will be used.

The Field Day site has not been cleared yet, we have several possibilities however and these will be discussed at the next meeting.

Other things we need are tents, 5 gallon gas cans, and the most important thing of all, operators. So come on fellows, lets really go out and see what we can do.

The first organizational meeting was May 1, with another on Monday May 20, at the Fairveiw Bowling Alley Lounge(basement), East State and Fairveiw, at 7:00 PM and EVERYONE is invited and needed.

73's Jim WB9KZQ



**⇨ NOW! ⇩**

**HAMFEST SEASON IS UPON US!**

You probably have already found the ten Bel-Rock Hamfest tickets enclosed. These are your advance sales tickets. Please try to sell all ten. (Advance price \$1.50) In past years, some members have sold 20, 30 and even 40! The hamfest is the lifeblood of our club treasury. Remember: the profits are divided in proportion to the advanced tickets sold. Let's be sure RARA sells its share of tickets! More tickets are available by calling or contacting:

Paul Dean WB9HGZ 397-6363  
Steve Donaldson WB9JAV 399-1306  
George Fulop WN9KED 399-9493

If you find it absolutely impossible to sell all ten you may return unsold tickets. However, cash is preferred to tickets by the hamfest committee and club officials. At any rate, all money and tickets must be in on or before August 20, 1974.

Mail to:

Paul Dean WB9HGZ  
317 Shaw St.  
Rockford, Il.  
61108

Steve Donaldson WB9JAV  
408 Parkside Drv.  
Rockford, Il.  
61108

Make checks payable to "Bel-Rock Hamfest"

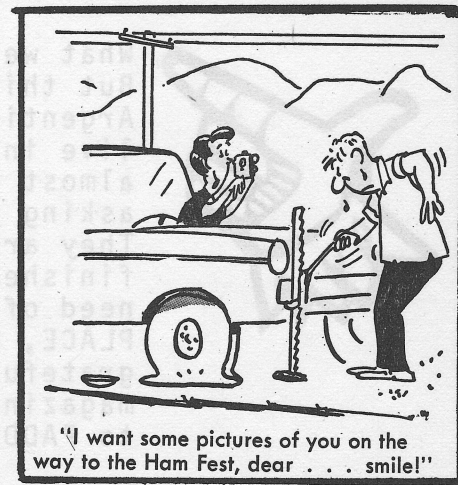
If you are going to a radio store or hamfest, be sure to take along some fliers. Paul, WB9HGZ and Mike, K9ORU both have a good supply on hand.

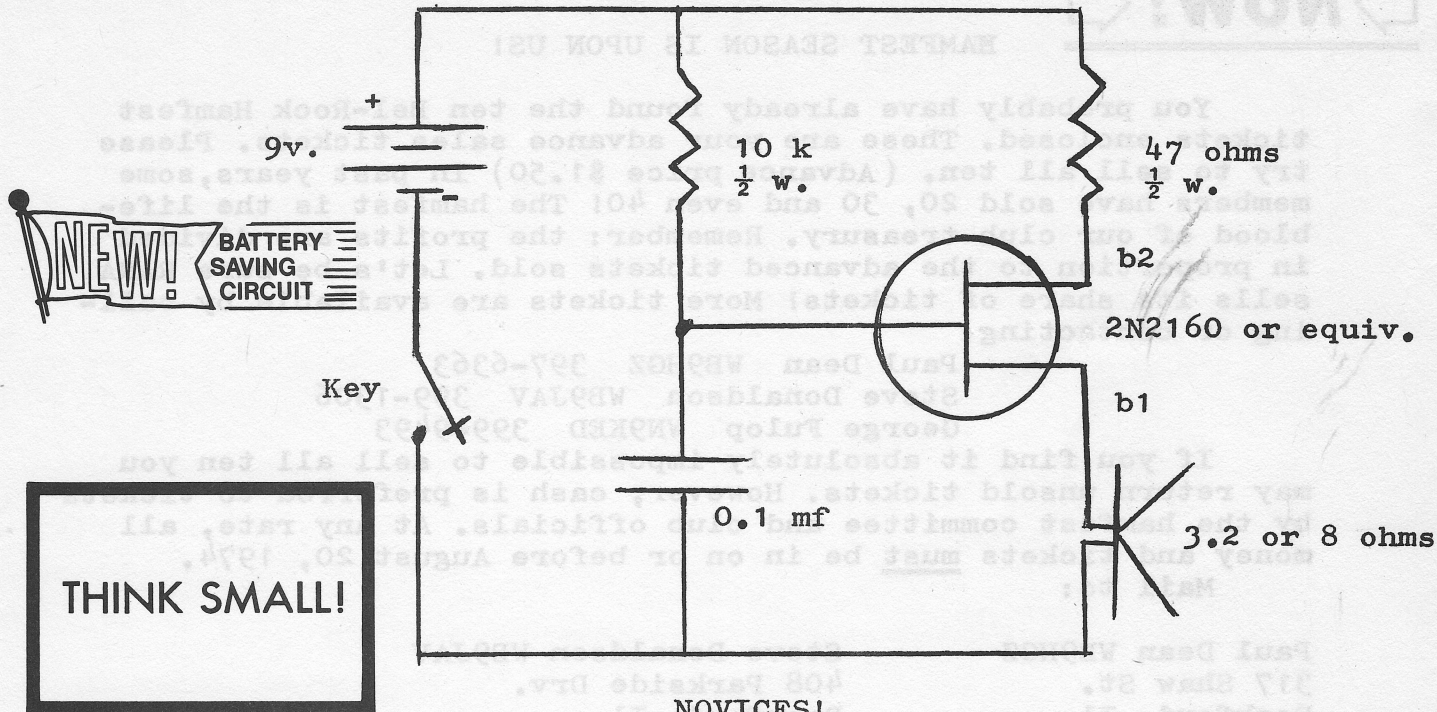
If not sooner, see you at the hamfest August 25.

73 and good luck,

Paul WB9HGZ  
Hamfest Committee Chairman

Speaking about hamfests here's some  
**HAMFEST HUMOR**





NOVICES!

If you need to practice "Brass Pounding" here's a project just for you. This little unijunction transistor code practice oscillator should put out enough sound to be heard in a fairly quiet room. It won't blast your ears out but will provide quite ample sound for code practice. To change pitch vary the value of the capacitor. An earphone may be substituted for the speaker if desired. Parts placement and lead dress is not critical so most any construction method will do.



# WANTED!

We occasionally are contacted by amateurs in foreign countries where government or political restrictions make impossible their subscription to American ham magazines, or the importation of the most common electronic repair parts.

What we need is readily available without question. But this is not true in countries like Ceylon, Argentina, etc., and we never realize that we live in a ham's paradise in America until we get, almost apologetic requests from foreign amateurs, asking for used catalogs, QST, CQ and 73 magazines. They are delighted to have these items after we are finished with them. This month we mention the need of PADDY GUNASEKERA, 4S7PB, 9/1 CLAESSEN PLACE, COLOMBO 5, CEYLON, ASIA. He will be grateful for back copies of all American ham magazines and electronic catalogs. Mail them to PADDY directly, using the above address.





RARA PERSONALITY PROFILE

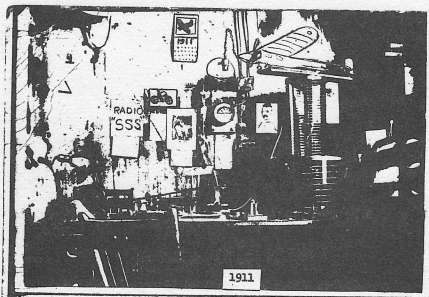


Red Smith W9FX age 81 retired electrical contractor after 51 years in the electric field; made the first radio in 1911 and was licensed in 1914 and still holds the original call.

Worked in a steam driven light plant at the age of 17 years. For two and a half years voltage was 1100V 133 cycles AC and 2500V DC for street lights. Needless to say that I needed no call as with a 133 cycle note on my carrier everybody knew Red was there.

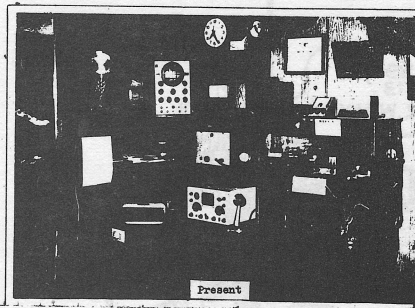
Played checkers with Carl Hands (CH)-Rockford High school and Hiram Morgan 9AP in Beloit while I was in Pecatonica in 1912. The squares were lettered and the checkers were numberd. It took all winter to play the game two nights a week.

Dropped out of radio between the first and second war years then got my old call back. Active on 75-40-20-10 and 2 meter FM. Have first issue of 1913 call book. Equipment includes: Swan 250C-Drake TR-4--Rengency HR212 a 80-40 meter inverted V and a TH3 Thunderbird Jr. up 60 feet.



ROCKFORD ILLINOIS  
1157 ARTHUR AVE  
W9FX  
WILSON (RED) SMITH

RADIO W1221 ° XMTR 70W-5  
DATE 10/20/62 ANT 1/4 in  
TIME 11:00 RCVR \_\_\_\_\_  
UR SIGS 3-17 BAND 3  
REMARKS 1st winter with sig



# Bargain Days

HAM 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: Globe Mobile line 6 meter transceiver, 20 watts input. With Halo. Best offer  
Call Chuck Divine WA9FGO 398-5219

FOR SALE: Heath AT-1 Transmitter- can be converted to 6. \$10.00

Heath DX-60B Transmitter, \$80.00

Johnson Viking VFO, 80-10 meters-\$15.00

Allied 2516 Communications Receiver 80-10

ssb-cw-am and WWV setting, \$75.00

Call Mark WN9NFE 397-6808

WANTED: MORE ADS!

Did you hear about the Ham who was concerned about conserving electrical energy?

He only turns his clock on when he wants to read the time.



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



FIRST CLASS