

# HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

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



NOVEMBER ISSUE, 1974

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 7:00 PM  
ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE, ROOM 222

## THIS BIG PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE:

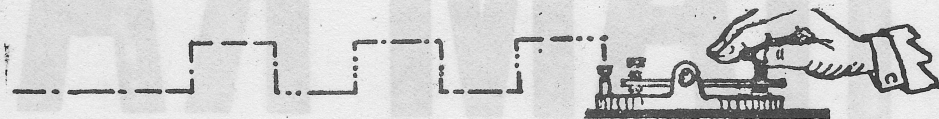
1. Herb Eckstein, K9AMJ, Technical Director of the 2M FM Repeater Project, will report on progress to date, and will talk about present and future plans.
2. Ernie Storer, W9MAP, one of the founding fathers of both RARA and EARS, will talk about the early history and the present functions of both of these organizations, their relationship to each other, and about the part that EARS is playing in the Repeater Project.
3. Of special interest to beginners, Novices, and others who would like help in getting started, getting on the air, or upgrading their license, there will be an opportunity to pair off with experienced members of RARA -- a "Big Brother" arrangement.
4. There will be an auction of equipment, supplies, and goodies, open to all who attend. See details inside this HAM RAG.
5. Coffee, donuts, and rag-chewing session.

SEE PAGE 15 FOR AN IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT  
GETTING YOUR NAME RIGHT IN THE DIRECTORY  
COMING OUT IN THE DECEMBER HAM RAG.

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASOC. INC.  
P.O. Box 1744, Rockford, Ill. 61110  
1974 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dick Connors WB9IED- 877-7722  
Earl Davis WB9KOR- 633-4225  
John Wacker - 399-1695  
Bill Ridgeway WB9KOS 877-2315

Clyde Aspling WB9KOT-1-874-2330  
Al Lund W9PAE - 398-2699  
Jim McNaught WB9MJO- 877-5966



## PRESIDENT'S LOG

Well, I finally got it done. Way back last May, I got my Rohn 45G tower (60') and it took me all summer to put it up. The tower itself was completely installed the first part of September. Then on October 20, John Wacker, Tom Silletti, my brother, a friend of mine from work and myself put the antenna up, a Hy-Gain TH6DXX. This tri-band antenna is something new to me as I have operated almost exclusively on 40 meters since I was first licensed as a novice in 1970. My first QSO on this antenna was HC1QRC, Ecuador, S.A. That's really something for me when you consider that my only other DX contact was a Montreal station.

Starting with this November meeting, we want to pair off the novices with more experienced hams. We want to start a "Big Brother" program where the novice will have someone to call if he has a radio problem. In respect to this, I am appealing to all of you experienced hams to see me before the meeting and get your name on a list. I will draw from this list to give our new novices a name to call. Please help. A small effort on your part can make a big difference to a beginning ham.

I'm sure everyone will join me in giving a hardy welcome to next year's club officers. I know that these people will make every one of next year's club activities meaningful and interesting for all aspects of ham radio. The new officers are:

President--John Wacker  
Vice-President--Jim Clark  
Secretary--Frank Baker  
Treasurer--Jack Muntz  
Board Members--  
Mike Oberg  
Paul "Mick" McBride

Congratulations to all of them.

Auction time- bring your goodies to this month's meeting and put them on the auction block. This will be a good time to sell some of those items around your shack you no longer need. Also bring some cash; I know you will find something you need. For more details, look elsewhere in this issue.

de WB9IED

## 1975 CLUB OFFICERS, A Short Study in Profile

The October 11 meeting of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association convened as usual on a hopeful note, amid the happy chatter of eyeball QSOs, some bragging about the latest DX and anxiety, unspoken of course, about the evening's agenda. This was election night. After the usual democratic process of voting the evening finally closed with the following slate of new officers to guide the destiny of our club in the new year just ahead.

Few, if any members doubted that Claude Middleton, W9VZ, had done an excellent job with his unwelcome responsibility of preparing a list of possible new officer candidates.

For president you have chosen John Wacker, WN9IST, who is currently your treasurer and who did an excellent job in his club capacity during 1974. To earn a living, John is the Cafeteria Manager for the Ingersoll Milling Machine Co. His major hobby is amateur radio, which I understand he entered with vigor from a zero background. John will go to Chicago on Nov. 8 for his general class exam and we have every confidence he will pass the hurdle. All of our best wishes go with John on this important journey.

Jim Clark, W9BAV, will be our vice president for 1975. Before his retirement, Jim was an ammunition inspector for the Army Materiel Command. He brings to amateur radio an excellent electronic background, an extraordinary interest in photography, a genial and humorous disposition and a delight in traveling just for the pleasure of seeing what's on the other side of the hill.

Your secretary for 1975 will be Frank Baker, WB9OGD, whose booming voice can be heard on 2 meters FM on many occasions. Frank lives out in the Ledges and has a business background in contracting and real estate.

Jack Muntz, who operates an electrical business in the Forest City, will be our new treasurer. His current call is WN9PCA but Jack is working on his general class exam and will soon eliminate the N in his call. Back in 1920 when Jack was living in Elgin, Illinois, he was active in early ham radio along with Bill, WB9KOS. He has just completed the assembly of a Heathkit SB303 receiver, is currently building a SB401 transmitter and can soon put to full use his all band vertical antenna.

The two new directors named to the club's board are Mike Oberg, WB9JAU and Paul McBride, W9NKQ. Mike runs a Tempo one to a TA33 Jr. beam and a 40 meter double bazooka coaxial dipole. He is Shipping Supervisor for Mechanics Div. of Borg-Warner Corp. and an amateur gardener with a green thumb. Church activities and ham radio take up most of Mike's spare time.

Paul, commonly called Mick, moved here from W3 land in Pennsylvania and is employed as an aeronautical technician. We are glad Mick came our way when he decided to leave "Dutchland". To

To all these worthy gentlemen, who bring so much experience and talent to the direction of our club, we should all remember our individual responsibilities to help them make 1975 our most successful year.

de K9UWN

\* \* \* \* \* ABOUT THE NOVEMBER AUCTION \* \* \* \* \*

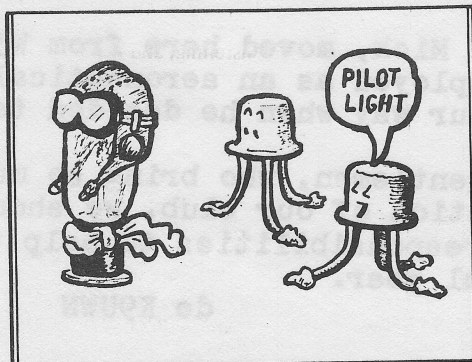
RARA is going to try something that might be a lot of fun. If it is, and there is enough enthusiasm and participation, it could become a regular feature several times per year. It's up to you.

Members and friends of RARA are invited to bring to the November meeting, their excess equipment and parts, to be auctioned. This can range from good, salable apparatus, down through miscellaneous parts, and to even ridiculous junk. Each item or lot should be accompanied by a slip showing the owner's name, a description of the item for identification, and the minimum acceptable price. It is hoped that some items will be donated outright to RARA, in which please so indicate. These slips should be given to the auctioneer, not shown to the public.

Being new at this, some rules may have to be made up as the the thing progresses. Tentatively, it will work like this: The items will be sold to the highest bidder, at or above the minimum price specified. The minimum price, plus one half of the excess, will be paid to the original owner. The other half of the excess will go into a special fund, administered by the Club Treasurer, and applied to such worthy Ham Radio projects as are chosen and approved by the members later. Any unsold items will be returned to their owners, unless these owners choose to donate them for the next auction.

We know of one club in 5-land that has these affairs about four times per year, and they go over big. There is one large, useless piece of apparatus there has been sold and resold many times. Someone buys it, takes it home, removes what he wants, and resells it at the next auction. The cycle then repeats, all to the amusement and profit of the members.

RARA hopes that there will be an interesting assortment of good, useable equipment as well as attractive junk, and that there will be some donations for the benefit of the Club. So please bring your stuff (and money) to the meeting on Friday, November 8th.



**Rx**

FOR  
HUMOR !

## ROCKFORD REPEATER NEWS

Documents have been filed with the FCC applying for a the license for our new repeater station. Work is going forward on the equipment and crystals for the gear are awaited. A transmit frequency of 146.01 and a receive frequency of 146.61 has been approved by the repeater council. The antenna has been installed at the site on Nimitz Road. The batteries for auxiliary power, the duplexers and other items are also there. The building which houses the equipment has been wired for lighting which will permit work to be done as required at night.

Two organizational meetings have been held at the Red Cross building on North Church St. The next meeting will be held on Nov.17 at seven in the evening. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Voluntary financial support is being solicited for building the station. Twenty dollars from those gainfully employed and ten dollars from students and retirees has been suggested. "Stu", K9VJE is treasurer.

The following "Repeater Tips" has been taken from the back page of the ARRL repeater directory. If we use it as a guide, it will help in getting our repeater off to a good start.

### WB9ILH

**DO KEEP ALL TRANSMISSIONS SHORT.** Emergencies don't wait for monologues to be finished. If you talk to hear your own voice what you want is a tape recorder, not an fm rig.

**DO THINK BEFORE YOU TRANSMIT.** If you can't think of anything worth saying, don't say anything.

**DO PAUSE A COUPLE OF SECONDS BETWEEN EXCHANGES.** Someone with a high-priority need for the repeater may want to break in; also, some repeaters are configured so that a brief pause in transmissions is necessary to reset the three-minute timer.

**DO IDENTIFY PROPERLY.** "W6XYZ mobile" is not enough, even if you're three hundred miles from another call area; "W6XYZ mobile 6" is required. You must give the call of the station with whom you were in contact at the end of the contact.

**DO BE COURTEOUS.** A repeater is like a telephone party line, and requires the same kind of cooperation in its use.

**DO USE SIMPLEX WHENEVER POSSIBLE.** Leave the repeaters available for those who need them.

**DO USE THE MINIMUM POWER NECESSARY** to maintain communication. Not only is this an FCC requirement, it's also common courtesy.

**DO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL REPEATER CLUB.** even if it doesn't require all users to be members. Maintaining a good machine is an expensive undertaking, and you should do your share.

**DON'T ABUSE AUTOPATCH PRIVILEGES.** business messages are not permitted in the amateur service. Don't force the control operator to terminate your call in order to avoid a violation.

**DON'T BREAK INTO A CONTACT** unless you have something to add. Interrupting is no more polite on the air than it is in person.

**DON'T FORGET THAT AMATEUR RADIO IS ALLOCATED FREQUENCIES BECAUSE IT IS A SERVICE,** not just a hobby. Don't neglect the public service aspects of vhf fm communication, such as accident reporting, emergency preparedness, etc.

**DON'T TRY TO PROVE WHAT A GREAT OPERATOR YOU ARE** by criticizing the operating techniques of others on the air. Instead, set an example which others will be proud to follow.

**DON'T MONOPOLIZE A REPEATER.** The best repeater users are the ones who do a lot of listening, and little transmitting.

**DON'T FORGET THAT WHAT YOU SAY OVER A REPEATER CAN BE HEARD OVER THOUSANDS OF SQUARE MILES** by anyone with an inexpensive "public service band" monitor. These people are potential hams; if they like what they hear on the air, they will want to get licenses and join us. Don't leave them with a bad impression of our hobby by making thoughtless or off-color remarks.

Repeaters as listed in May 1974  
ARRL Repeater Directory for the  
states of Illinois, Wisconsin and  
Iowa

Location	Area	Call	Input	Output
<b>ILLINOIS</b>				
Addison	NE	WA9ZPT*	146.31	146.91
Alton	SW	WR9ACA	146.16	146.76
Alton	SW	WR9ACB	146.19	146.79
Aurora	NE	WR9ACE*	147.40	147.81
Ava	SW	WR9AAD	146.25	146.85
Batavia	NE	WA9WVA	146.04 147.66	146.58 146.58
Bloomington	Cent.	WR9ADF	146.19	146.79
Bloomington	Cent.	WR9ADE	146.22	146.94
Carbondale	S Cent.	WR9ABU	146.13	146.73
Chicago	Chicago	WR9___*	146.01 147.40 147.45	146.61 142.40 142.45
	Chicago	WR9ABH	146.07 223.34	146.67 224.94
	Chicago	WR9ACC*	146.10	146.85
	Chicago	WR9ABY	146.16 148.75	146.76 143.75
	Chicago	WR9ACK*	146.28	146.88
	Chicago	WR9AAF	146.34	146.94
	Chicago	WR9ABC	146.37	146.97
	Chicago	WR9ACL	147.00	147.60
	Chicago	WR9ACH	147.09	147.69
	Chicago	WR9ACO*	147.12	147.72
	Chicago	WR9ABZ	147.15 147.45 147.50	147.75 147.75 147.75
	Chicago	WB9IEZ	147.87	147.27
	Chicago	WB9AEU	447.30	442.30
	Chicago	WB9KCQ	448.25	443.25
	Chicago	WB9ADT	448.30	443.30
	Chicago	WR9ABB*	448.60 1250.00	443.60 1280.00
	Chicago	WA8TDR/9	449.00	444.00
	Chicago	WR9ADC	449.85	447.85
Danville	E Cent.	W9MJL/9	146.22	146.82
Elgin	NE	WR9ABQ	146.19	146.79
Flanagan	Cent.	WA9SGJ	146.10	146.94
Genoa	N Cent.	WR9ADH	146.13	146.73
Gillespie	SW	WR9ACD	146.22	146.82
Dixon	N Cent.	WR9ADG	146.37	146.97
Jacksonville	W Cent.	WR9ACS	146.16	146.76
Joliet	NE	WR9AAA	146.22	146.82
Kankakee	NE	W9AZ	146.34	146.94
Peoria	Cent.	WB9AEF	146.16	146.76
Rock Island	NW	WR9ABX	146.34	146.94
Springfield	Cent.	WB9JCL	146.28	146.88
Urbana	E Cent.	WA9WVB	146.15	146.76
Waukegan	NE	WR9ADB	146.43 147.63	147.03 147.03

Location	Area	Call	Input	Output
<b>IOWA</b>				
Ames	Cent.	WR9ACO/φ	146.16	146.76
Burlington	SE	W9LAC	146.19	146.79
Cedar Rapids	E Cent.	WR9AEH	146.16	146.76
Cedar Rapids	E Cent.	WA9VVI*	147.00	147.60
Clarinda	SW	WR9ABY	146.37	146.97
Clinton	E Cent.	WA9HLM	146.07	146.67
Clinton	E Cent.	WR9ADE	146.16	146.76
Clinton	E Cent.	WA9YGA	146.22	146.82
Council Bluffs	SW	WR9ACE	146.10	146.70
Creston	SW	K9GPV	146.19	146.79
Davenport	E Cent.	W9GOU	146.01	146.61
Davenport	E Cent.	WR9AEB	146.04	146.64
Davenport	E Cent.	WR9ABS	146.22	146.82
Davenport	E Cent.	WR9___	146.28	146.88
Denison	W Cent.	WR9___	146.28	146.88
Des Moines	Cent.	WA9LEW	146.22	146.82
Des Moines	Cent.	W9AK/φ	146.34	146.94
Dubuque	E Cent.	WR9ABD	146.34	146.94
Iowa City	E Cent.	WR9ACU	146.28	146.88
Marshalltown	Cent.	W9DYS	146.28	146.88
Ottumwa	SE	WR9ADC	146.04	146.64
Spencer	NW	WR9ACF	146.22	146.82
Waterloo	Cent.	WA9INC	146.22	146.82
Waterloo	Cent.	WA9SNS	146.34	146.94
<b>WISCONSIN</b>				
Appleton	E Cent.	WR9ACM	146.16	146.76
Baraboo	S Cent.	WR9ABE	146.28	146.88
Beloit	S Cent.	WR9ACN	146.07	146.67
Cedarburg	SE	WR9AAE	146.37	146.97
Elkhorn	SE	WR9ABV	146.37 146.37 * 146.34	146.97 146.97 146.94
Fond du Lac	E Cent.	WR9ACQ	147.69	147.09
Green Bay	E Cent.	W9AYR	146.28 147.72	146.88 147.12
Madison	S Cent.	WR9ABT	146.16	146.76
Madison	S Cent.	WR9ACV	448.75	443.75
Manitowoc	E Cent.	WR9ACP	146.01	146.61
Milwaukee	SE	WR9ABF*	52.80 * 147.99 449.50 1250	52.525 147.39 444.50 1220
Milwaukee	SE	W9WK	146.07	146.67
Milwaukee	SE	WR9ABS	146.25	146.85
Milwaukee	SE	WR9ABM	146.31	146.91
Milwaukee	SE	WA9POV	448.75	443.75
Oconomowoc	SE	WR9ABK	146.22 146.04	146.82 146.82
Plymouth	E Cent.	WB9FXS	147.84	147.24
Slinger	SE	W9MQD	146.34	146.76
Sturgeon Bay	NE	W9AIQ	146.13	146.73
Superior	NW	WR9ABG	449.625	442.625
Wausau	N Cent.	WR9AAB	146.22	146.82

## R A R A PERSONALITY PROFILE

JACK MUNTZ, WN9PCA, has only one birthday and that was in 1908 - - - - but have had many anniversaries! HI! XYL is Helen, whose brother, Al Schaeffer, was a Belvidere ham way back when. Two sons, one in Rockford and one in Marblehead, Ma. Both married and each has two of our fine grandchildren.

Long time friend of Bill WBK9OS since school days at Illinois. Thanks to his sort sell I am back as a ham with happy memories of a station in the early twenties as 9AKZ and later associated with 9OS, all in Elgin, Il. Have been busy with fine help from Professor Vito K9UCM at RVC trying to learn transistor language.

Heath's sophisticated but most satisfying "puzzles" are my joy at present. Have an SB303 SSB receiver completed and an SB401 SSB transmitter half finished and will be on the air soon. One thing I will really miss is the romantic sound of the rotary spark-gap and the pungent smell of ozone. May look for a sound track and couple it to some Ozone After Shave!

'74 has been a pleasant year with RARA. Met many fine friends and had fun helping at Field Day and Hamfest. Treasurer-elect, so have your dues ready come January.



# WANTED!



\* \* \* \* REQUEST FOR VERIFICATION \* \* \*

The December issue of your HAM RAG will include two complete directories of current RARA members. One list will be arranged alphabetically by name, and will include call sign, address, zip, and telephone number. The second will be alphabetically by call sign, and will list name only.

ONLY PAID UP MEMBERS OF RARA WILL BE LISTED, so if you still owe for your dues, please pay up at the November meeting.

Please look again at the mailing label on the back of this November issue, which shows exactly how your listing appears now. If your name, call, address, zip, and telephone number are not the way you want them, 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 these lists ready for the printer, so do not put it off, please. No changes will be made after November 11.

## "HOW TO QSL" de W9YRA

1. Make sure you actually made a QSO!
2. KEEP ACCURATE RECORDS
  - a. time in GMT (a must)
  - b. write out month. 12 Dec 74, NOT 12-12-74 or 12-xll-74
  - c. write clearly.
3. USE AN "ATTRACTIVE" QSL
  - a. include all info on QSL
    1. your full name and QTH
    2. county
    3. equip ment and antenna
    4. write a personal note--"ur my first--QSO",  
"need ur QSL for DXCC"

REMEMBER you want his QSL, he dosen't necessarily  
wnt yours.

4. IF POSSIBLE QUESTION the DX station during the QSO as to  
QSL manager or if callbook address is OK.
5. Use up to date and accurate QSL info.
  - a. recent callbook
  - b. DX publications "QSL MANAGERS DIRECTORY"
6. USE AIR MAIL. Sufficient IRCs (I prefer IRCs w/ U.S. mint  
stamps-the prettier, the better).
7. DO NOT include call signs or any reference to radio on  
envelopes going to Iron Curtain countries.
8. WAIT a reasonable length of time before re-QSLing,  
especially USSR stations.
9. BE PROMPT in your QSLing. I always try to QSL a "new"  
country the same day as QSO. After 17 years of DXing  
QSLing with 325 worked/325 confirmed from W6 land, I  
find this to be very important.  
Ask me and I'll tell you why!

73 and I hope you receive ALL of those

PS- Don't forget to keep sufficient envelopes and postage  
at the ARRL W9 QSL Bureau

## NOVICE NET

The Rockford Novice Net was re-activated Oct. 14. WB9KZQ, WB9NFE, WN9PBO, WN9PBY and WN9PBZ chewed the rag for about an hour. On the 21st, there was somewhat less enthusiasm--- WB9KOS, WB9KZQ and WN9PBZ checked in, although others attempted to do so also. Was it the Bears/Packers game or the band conditions? The primary purpose of the net is to give area novices a chance to practice and improve their code. We welcome the support and encouragement of Mark, Bill and Jim and would like to extend an invitation to all area hams to help us out.

There are several novices who have yet to make their first contact and their participation is especially desired. We intend to keep the code speed down to 8 wpm. When we got our tickets, the ARRL sent us a copy of "Operating An Amateur Radio Station" where net activities are described starting at page 15. RNN (Rockford Novice Net) provides all amateurs with a good opportunity to improve their fists and gain valuable operating experience in an informal atmosphere.

Join us every Monday, 8:00 pm CST at 21.165 MHz.

de WN9PBZ

R. A. R. A. CHRISTMAS PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Our Annual Christmas Party will be held at the Elks Club on Saturday,  
December 14, 1974 - Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. - Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

As in the past, R.A.R.A. will pay for the members. Wives and sweet-  
hearts are welcome. The price for their dinner will be \$5.75 including  
tax and tip. The men will be:

Tomato Juice

Broiled Kansas City Strip Steak

Baked Potato

Tossed Salad

Rolls and Coffee

If there are any of you who require a special diet, let us know and we  
will arrange for the diet. Call John Wacker at 399-1695 before  
December 7, 1974.

In the weeks ahead, you will receive a notice asking you to put in your  
reservation for this date.

This year we will have the private room downstairs at the Elks Club  
with our own set-up, and, of course, everyone will pay for his own  
drinks.

**TRADER'S CORNER**

For Sale: 2 m trans. (Motorola base) 2 freq. mint cond. \$50  
6 m converter, works on 40 MHz rec. (Ameco) \$15  
Call Steve WB9JAV, 399-1306

For Sale: Swan 350C xcvr \$325  
117 xc ps

Will consider trade of above equip.  
on 2 m. gear.

Johnson Viking phone patch \$15  
Hy-Gain TH3 \$50  
Knight P-2 SWR bridge \$10  
EV 519 desk mic, dynamic \$15  
Turner 350 mobile mic \$5  
Or all above for \$400

Delco CVT-1 2 m. FM commercial X\*mitter  
converted to 144 MHz with squelch and audio  
amp. New control head modified to ARRL Repeater  
Manual specs \$70

Eico scope #460 \$15  
Eico signal-tracer 3147 \$8  
Eico cap. bridge #950A \$8  
Triplett 530 w \$25  
2-9" Bench test pix tubes with all cheater cables

Best offer

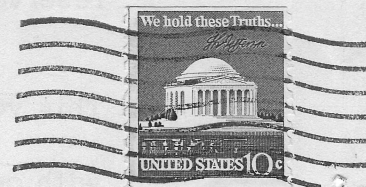
Pickett model N4-Es Vector log slide rule  
w/case and book. Dual base \$10 or best offer  
Call Randy WB9GEB, 399-7277

**Wanted: counter for roller coil**  
350 pf air variable suitable for transmatch  
Byron WN9PBZ, 965-2519

**Wanted: 15 meter 3 el. beam**  
Dennis W9DDL, 877-6768

A Free service to Hams,  
To place an Ad call: Duane Hyland, WB9LEF at 398-7597

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



Paul Dean, WB9HGZ  
317 Shaw Street  
Rockford, Il. 61108  
397-6363

**FIRST CLASS**