



# HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

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



OCTOBER ISSUE

NOVICE  
NIGHT

AND

ELECTION  
OF OFFICERS

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASOC. INC.  
P.O. Box 1744, Rockford, Ill. 61110

1974 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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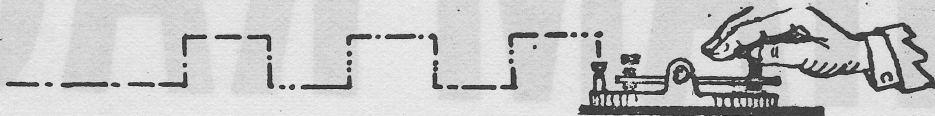
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Jim McNaught

WB9KOT-1-874-2330

W9PAE - 398-2699

WB9MJO- 877-5966



PRESIDENT'S LOG

Congratulations to Claude Middleton, W9VZ, for the fine presentation he made at the September meeting. Both the film and slides were informative and interesting. All of us learned something new about the blind and the Winnebago Blind Center. Great show, Claude.

Congratulations are also in order for:

Ralph Shaff, WB9HHH. On Sept. 23 he received his DXCC award from the ARRL. Note-Ralph worked his 100 countries during the time of "rock bottom" for the seven year sunspot cycle.

Gene Harlan, WB9MMM. His call is listed in the October issue of QST. He finished 6th in our District for the Novice Round-Up. (He was "N" at that time.)

The October meeting is Novice Night. Look elsewhere in this issue for a list of recent graduates from Vito Fiore's (K9UMC) electronics class at R.V.C. Vito did it again as ALL 15 students passed their novice exam and have their calls. Interesting notes-included on this list are three father/son teams who are getting into ham radio together. Another entry, Jack Muntz WN9PCA, was an active ham in the 1920's when he lived in Elgin.

Remember, this is Novice Night. If you know a Novice, be sure and bring him to the meeting. If you don't know one, find one, and bring him to the meeting too. You can look forward to some very interesting demonstrations and presentations of interest to all at this month's meeting.

The October meeting is also the time for our annual election of officers. Your vote is important, and we need your support in selecting next year's officers. Don't shy away for fear of getting railroaded, you won't! Come, see, select, and vote--all of next year's club business depends on it.

de Dick WB9IED

POTPOURRI

No doubt about it! Rockford will soon have a 2 meter repeater on the air. Mick W9NKKQ, formerly K3NGF/9 is providing details in this issue. Here is a figure many of us have pondered -- of about 250,000 licensed Amateurs in the U.S. approximately 179,000 are active, about 70%. We were happy to see Gene WB9MMM, made sixth place Illinois in the February 1974 Novice Roundup. And our good friend W6RTT Pete Grillo in California placed high in the ARRL International DX Competition, March 1974. Clyde WB9KOT has returned to 2 meter FM with a Standard SR-C146A handie talkie. Dick WB9IED has his Rohn 25G tower erected and we are wagering it will not take as long to get the antennae on it as it did to get the tower up. I suspect Dick will enjoy chasing DX. Jim W9BAV is more than a little delighted with his new Yaesu FT101B. That rig gets rave notices from about everyone who uses one. My DX Century Club Award came in September 23rd and I blew \$1.97 for a frame. OK, that's a start. I wonder if the interest in DX will continue.

There are several new 2 meter FM calls on the air. Among the newest are Frank W9HP and Arthur W9HGQ. The two have been in the amateur radio game many, many years. Lloyd K9KGV is scouting for FM gear. Ray WB9ILH used his recently acquired KWM2 at his home on Lake Superior this last summer. Tiny WA9EQM happily, has decided to remain in Rockford rather than move to the New Orleans area. Red W9FX had an extended trip to several western states. Jack K9UWN toured the Great Northwest recently. The new Regency HRT\*2 hand held FM rig is reviewed in the October QST. With the wild proliferation of repeaters in the U.S., it seems surely that the popularity of these hand held units will grow -- and grow. Since very little logging is now actually required by the FCC, it eliminates a much hated chore in the operation of a 2 meter FM base station. I can see no or very little value, except perhaps, for Oscar contacts, in logging 2 meter FM. On the other hand, I shall continue to log low band contacts almost without exception.

de WB9HHH

The following is a list of recent graduates of Vito Fiore's class at Rock Valley College. All in class passed the novice exam. Several have been on CB but appreciate the advantages of ham radio.

Ben (Harold) Bethard	1-239-1626	WN9PBP
Mark Bethard	1-239-1626	WN9PBQ
Carl Cacciatore	398-0732	WN9PBR
Anthony Cacciatore	398-0732	WN9PBS
Walt Christensen	397-6858	WN9PBT
Dennis Christensen	397-6858	WN9PBU
Byron Dale	965-2519	WN9PBZ
Bruce Jacobs	877-1155	WN9PEX
James Michna	968-7380	WN9PEY
Jack Muntz	964-1842	WN9PCA
George Welker	399-3284	WN9PBV
Larry Welker	399-3284	WN9PEW
Harold Cartwright	874-4159	WN9PEO
Nelson Cole	574-5197	WB9KKW
Al Nelson	962-1802	Studying for gen.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF 2 MTR. FM:

There is no doubt that anyone involved with amateur radio has in the last few years been exposed to 2 mtr. FM in one way or another. This has probably been done by either reading the different magazines or eyeball QSO's at club meetings and for some it's meant many happy hours of actually operating 2 FM.

One of the most effective uses of 2 mtr. FM is thru the use of repeater stations. Many of us who lack an 80' tower and exotic antenna array can, thru the use of a repeater still enjoy reliable long distance 2 mtr. communication on extremely low power (like 1 or 2 watts). Since high power is far from necessity this in itself encourages mobile and portable operation with very little drain on the batteries.

As many of us know there is a very interested and active group which recently formed in Rockford known as Experimental Amateur Radio Society (EARS). It has attracted several well qualified technical people and many others interested in putting Rockford on the repeater map. As you may know, EARS is the holder of W9RGU, the Red Cross emergency co-ordination station. Since a repeater can be a vital communication link during time of emergency the EARS organization has been adapted as the vehicle for organization of the repeater activities. EARS' primary purpose is that of providing reliable communication via amateur radio on all modes. EARS is not intended as a club in the social sense of the word. It is the intention of EARS to solicit and promote public service and amateur radio progress and not interfere with any of the local club activities.

As of this writing the repeater antenna is installed at a height of 170' near Forrest Hills Rd. and Ill. 173. Preliminary testing indicates excellent pattern and coverage. Herb, K9AMJ, is primary technical co-ordinator with many other very capable amateurs assisting with work on the other various systems necessary to build and operate the repeater. Bill, WB9KOS, Jim WA9BNK, Roy WA9UNA, Frank WB9OGD and Jerry WB9LOM are but a few of the people putting out vast amounts of effort toward getting the repeater on the air.

Although much of the equipment involved has been donated general construction and operating expenses abound. These expenses are currently being met by an initial contribution of \$20.00 per member and \$10.00 for students and retirees. If you think you would like to become a part of this exciting and constructive aspect of amateur radio, contact EARS treasurer Stu Willcox K9VJE or any of the other members, who can usually be found on 146.94 Mhz FM.

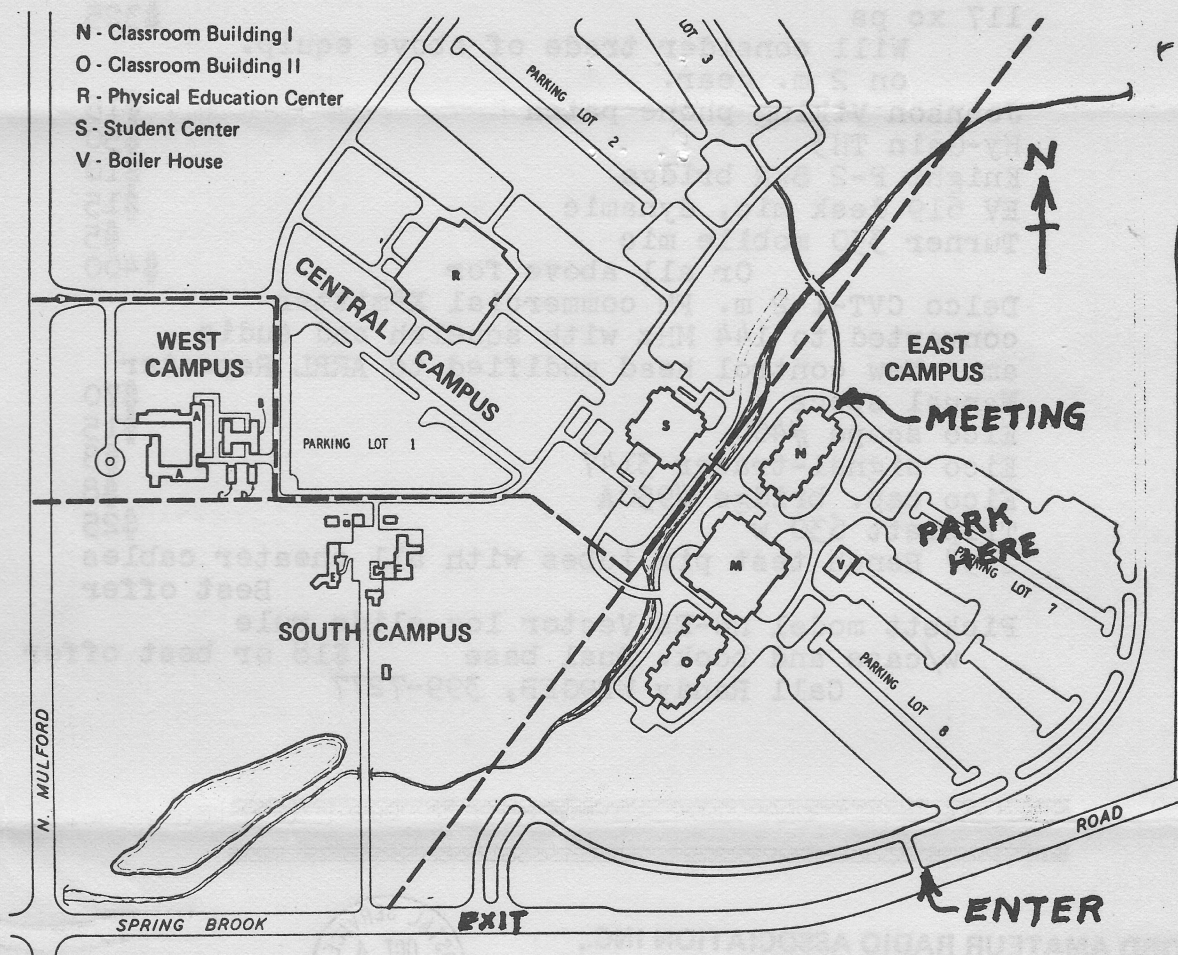
73's  
Mick, W9NKQ

EDITOR'S NOTE

We need people to contribute articles for this paper. Could use articles on novice activities, DX, RTTY, 2 meters, nets and general ragchewing. Would appreciate anyone who could help with any of these to contact Duane WB9LEF or Mick W9NKQ 399-7973.

## DXCC NOTES

RARA was well represented at the DXCC convention at Itasca by Al W9YRA, Vic K9UIY and Larry K9LKA. All were lucky at winning prizes in the form of handbooks, subscriptions, etc. Main speaker was LU5HFI who was kidnapped and shot and lived to tell about it. Also movies and talks about 9-land DX stations and antennas. Al YRA now has 280 countries confirmed since moving to Rockford. Nice going, Al.



## NEWCOMERS ON 2 and 6

We have two newcomers in the VHF ranks in town. WA9NTT Bob is working 2 meters now. Mick W9NKQ, ex-K3NGF hopes to be active again soon on 6 and 2 after the big move from 3-land. There's no doubt that he'll miss that 2000' mountain top sight, near Williamsport, Pa., which was great for the VHF bands. Can the flatland compare is the only question he has and says he'll find out providing the Indians don't get him on 6.

**TRADER'S CORNER**

**A Free service to Hams,**

**To place an Ad call: Duane Hyland, WB9LEF at 398-7597**

**For Sale: 2 m trans. (Motorola base) 2 freq. mint cond. \$50**  
**Hal. transmitter 80-6 m AM 75 w. out \$35**  
**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.**

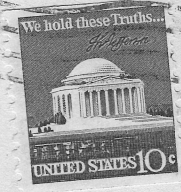
**Johnson Viking phone patch \$15**  
**Hy-Gain TH3 \$50**  
**Knight P-2 SWR bridge \$10**  
**EV 619 desk mic, dynamic \$15**  
**Turner 350 mobile mic \$5**  
**Or all above for \$400**

**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**  
**Triplet 630 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 \$18 or best offer**  
**Call Randy WB9GEB, 399-7277**



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**Paul Dean, WB9HGZ**  
**317 Shaw St.**  
**Rockford, Ill.**

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**FIRST CLASS**