

HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

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



BEL-ROCK HAMFEST

SUNDAY AUGUST 24, 1975

Sponsored By:

Big Thunder A.R.C.

Rockford Amateur Radio Association Inc.

**PLACE: BOONE COUNTY
FAIR GROUNDS**

NORTH OF BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS ON HIGHWAY 76

FREE COFFEE AND DONUTS 9:30 - 10 :00 A.M.

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE: SANDWICHES, COFFEE, MILK, AND POP

TICKETS: \$2.00 AT THE DOOR, ADVANCE TICKETS \$1.50

TALK-IN FREQUENCY 146.94

EARLY BIRD DRAWING 10:00 A.M.

MAIN PRIZE: REGENCY HR-212 FM TRANSCEIVER
COURTESY CRAWFORD ELECTRONICS, GENOA, ILLINOIS

SECOND PRIZE: EICO GRID-DIP METER KIT

ALSO OTHER VALUABLE PRIZES

PRESIDENT'S LOG

Well, it is that time again to set down a few lines on paper. We did not have a regular meeting in July, but there was an interest by the membership. We put out a full Ham-Rag for the month of July. A great big thanks to Stu, K9VJE, and Mick, W9NKQ, for the hard work they put into the Ham-Rag. I think you will all agree that each issue gets better, and that is proof of their work.

I regret to tell you that one half of this great team, Stu, K9VJE, will be leaving our area after this issue of the Ham-Rag. Stu will be moving to Fort Collins soon after the middle of the month. Stu, many thanks for all the hours you put in for R.A.R.A. We are going to miss you, and I am sure the feeling is the same with the E.A.R.S. group.

On July 20, I had the opportunity to go to the meeting of E.A.R.S. at the repeater site. I arrived as the meeting was in progress and, as a result, missed the tour of the station. After the meeting, I got the tour conducted by Herb, K9AMJ, and Paul, K9VJJ. For those of you who missed going out to the site, you really missed something. When you think of it, that within less than a year, the repeater went from the talking stage to a working reality, that is something. It took a lot of enthusiasm, co-operation, and work. A tour of the repeater site shows the result of excellent team work. All of you who had a hand in this project have a right to really be proud of it. I was really impressed, and my brother (from Lincoln, Nebraska), who was with me at the repeater site, was really impressed with the team effort of the group.

Byron, WN9PBZ, has spent a lot of time in recent months trying to generate interest in a Novice Net. The purpose is to give Novices and others who are interested a chance to get on-the-air experience and improve their code. There has been very little response to this program. We are going to try and get it going again in September. I feel very strongly about people taking advantage of this opportunity. If I had spent more time during the time I had my Novice ticket on the air and had taken advantage of the Novice Net, I wouldn't be having problems now — of this I am sure. Do not be afraid of getting on the air and making a blunder or two. Every day there are people on the air who make blunders, but they hang in there; and eventually they make the grade. As a dear friend of mine keeps telling me, it takes practice to reach your goal. So once again, let's make the Novice Net a success this fall.

As we approach the fall, your Board of Directors are busy planning for a busy and interesting season.

PROFILE

Our Who's Who for this month is Jim Clark, Vice President of R.A.R.A. Jim's interest in radio started back in the early days of radio and in the era known as the "Oatmeal Box-wound Tuners and Galena Crystals". Jim was first licensed in 1930 as W9BAV and W9MBS. W9MBS was strictly for portable use and was later dropped when regulations were changed to permit a single license for both portable and fixed operation.

During his tour of duty with the Department of Army as a Civilian Ammunition Inspector (Surveillance - Quality Control), he had the opportunity to travel extensively in this country and in Europe and has held such calls as W9MBX, W9BAV, W0BAV, W0BAY, W7PCL and DL4WA.

On returning from his European tour as an Ammunition Inspector, Jim was assigned to the Army Materiel Command Ammunition School at the Savanna Army Depot, Savanna, Illinois where he served alternately as Chief of the Conventional Ammunition Department, Nuclear Weapons Department, and the Large Rocket, Guided Missile and Chemical Department. While at the school, he introduced many new teaching methods including educational television.

During his career, Jim taught high school sciences and mathematics and chemistry at the Pueblo Junior College, Pueblo, Colorado. At the college, his specific areas of instruction covered both Qualitative and Quantitative Inorganic Analysis.

Jim is now retired and lives with his wife, Gertrude, at 1815 Hollyhock Drive here in Rockford. Between his hobby of "Ham Radio" and as Chairperson of the Christ United Methodist Church Day Care Center, his days and evenings are kept full, and he says, "Never a dull moment".

The Clarks have four children: Jim, Jr. of Belington, West Virginia; Mrs. Charles Lantz (Joyce) of Rockford; Janet of Savanna, Illinois; and David, stationed with the U. S. Navy in Athens, Greece.

SOLID STATE CLASSES

A series of three solid state classes will be held at Rock Valley College beginning this fall.

Each class will meet on Saturday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to noon in Classroom Building 1, Room G27.

The schedule of classes is as follows:

716H Solid State Semiconductor Devices — Theory
 and Application

Starts: 8-23-75

Ends: 10-25-75

717H Solid State Semiconductors — Circuit Analysis

Starts: 11- 1-75

Ends: 1- 3-76

718H Solid State Semiconductors — Network Analysis

Starts: 1-10-76

Ends: 3-13-76

The cost of each course is \$30.

If you would like more information regarding these courses, please call Vito Fiore at 226-2650.

A MINIMUM ELECTRONIC KEYER

The majority of radio amateurs, at one time or another, have desired an electronic keyer of some kind in order to experiment with the "art of finger talking", as one of my oldest friends described it. Quite early, I learned it gets a little hard and tiresome to form good CW characters at 20 wpm with an old J-38. Then I saw another friend proudly demonstrating a new electronic keyer, and the "bug" literally bit me. (I touched the wrong contacts.)

After deciding the cost of a store-bought keyer at that time was more than my budget could accommodate, I began to watch all likely magazine sources for an inexpensive home-brew job. A Canadian amateur finally came up with a design that at least fit my pocketbook requirements very closely.

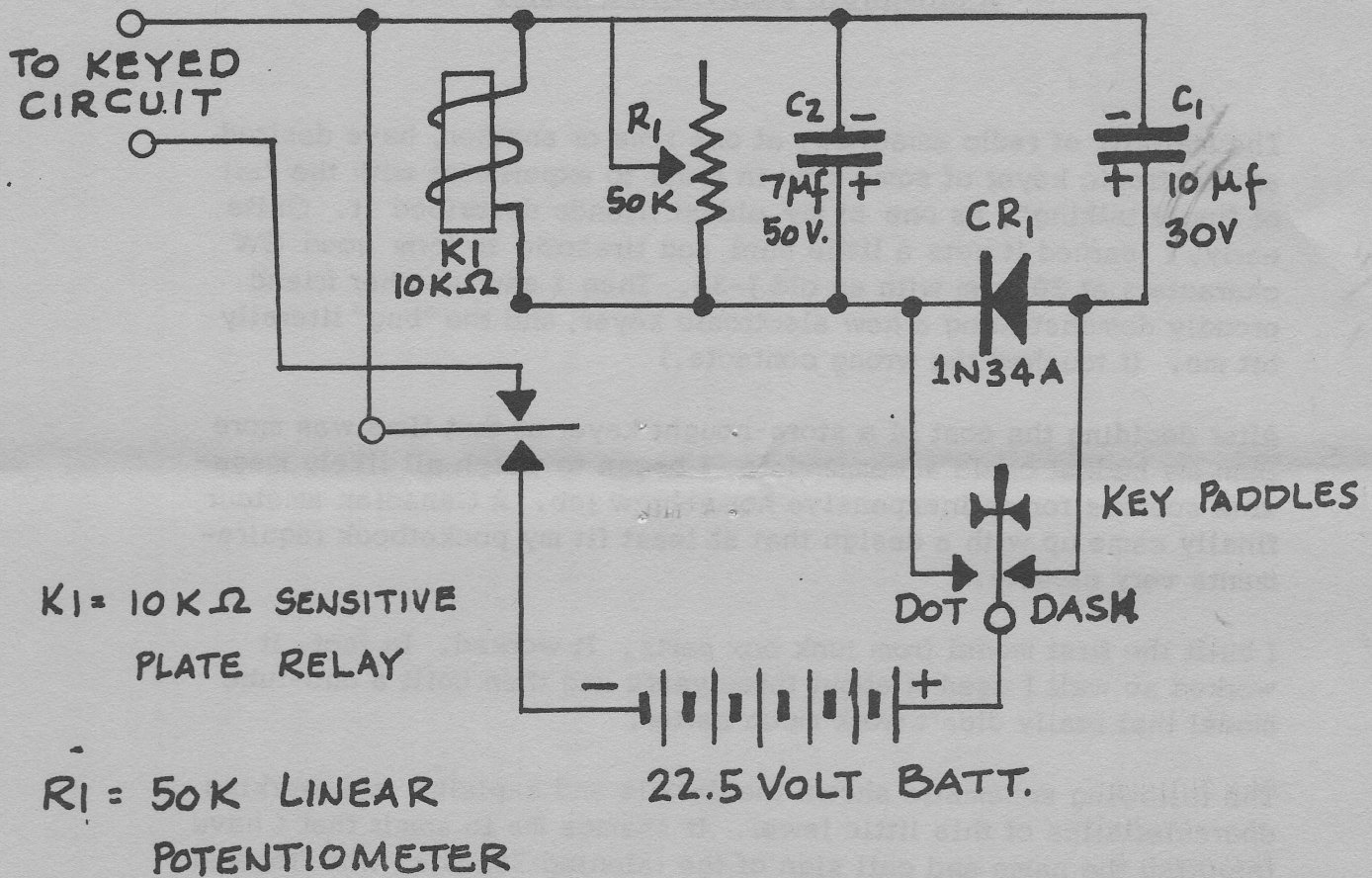
I built the first model from junk box parts. It worked. In fact, it worked so well I used it about three years and then built a one-tube model that really didn't work much better.

The following schematic shows the details and explains the working characteristics of this little jewel. It shames me to admit that I have forgotten the name and call sign of the talented Canadian who dreamed up this little keyer, but he will always have my thanks and admiration. You will note this is correctly styled a "minimum keyer" because it contains only the essential elements necessary to form telegraph characters at varying speeds. Don't let the lack of side tone oscillators and other so called refinements fool you. This little battery-powered keyer will send excellent code, and the battery I used lasted well over two years of almost daily use.

SUGGESTION: Remove the batteries when not in use.

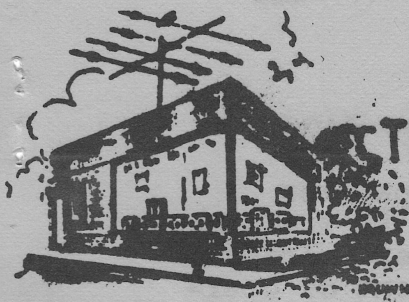
de K9UWN

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IN DOT POSITION, C₂ CHARGES & RELAY K₁ CLOSES. IN CLOSING, RELAY BREAKS CIRCUIT TO C₂ WHICH DISCHARGES THRU RELAY COIL & R₁. WHEN C₂ DISCHARGES TO A CERTAIN VALUE, THE RELAY DROPS OUT, COMPLETING THE DOT. IN DASH POSITION, C₁ CHARGES & DIODE CR₁ CONDUCTS, CONNECTING C₂ WHICH ALSO CHARGES. THE SAME CYCLE IS REPEATED AS IN THE DOT POSITION, EXCEPT THE DELAY IS LONGER DUE TO THE HIGHER VALUE OF CAPACITANCE. CIRCUIT IS SELF-COMPLETING AND R₁ PROVIDES A SPEED CONTROL RANGE OF ABOUT 10 TO 45 WPM.

DE K9UWN



THE TRADERS CORNER

FOR SALE: 20M 1KW GG Linear Amplifier, Homebrew (worked 300 DXCC).

- Can be modified for all-band operation.
- Single 4-400A or PL-175A w/spares.
- Whisper fan cooling; vacuum variable tuning capacitor.
- Husky power supply; 2-872As with time delay on fil.
- Power xfmr. from Collins KWL, 110 or 220V primary.
3200-0-3200V. 1A secondary.
- 19" Rack mounting, black finish.
- \$125 firm.

Al Friedman, W9YRA. 5911 Alma Dr. 399-0118.

FOR SALE: HEATH Wattmeter/SWR bridge Model HM-102. Perfect.
\$20.00. Reason: Bought Drake Wattmeter.

Ralph Shaff, WB9HHH, 964-8736.

WANTED: SWAN VX-1 VOX unit in the 19 to 21 dollar price range.
Call Art, WB9HNJ, 633-8647 after 5:30 weekdays.

FOR SALE: T43GGV Motorola 2M FM rig converted to .94 by WB9HNJ .
Standard rack mount, AC power. \$30.00.
Stu, K9VJE. 399-4571.

FOR SALE: (2) 8-el. Hy-gain 2M beams; T-23 ARC-5 Xmtr (2M); ARC-5
receivers, complete set 200KC to 9.1MC; Browning labs
multiplex receivers. Motorola T43GGV Xcvrs; Motorola
80D Xcvrs; Motorola 30D mobile & base; Magne recorder rack
mounted and suitcase recorders; Bogen amplifiers;
Motorola console unit for car; Delco mobile telephone
unit 25W; HEATH Seneca 6 & 2 mtr. xmtr; Hallicrafters
SR-42 xmtr; HEATH DX-100; Oscilloscope for video CCTV;
Motorola HT-200; (2) 5 el. 6M Telrex beams; 5 doz. hot
dog cooker & bun warmer; 10-15-20 Mtr Beam; Regency HR-212;
Shelving & standards; Collins 51M6 receiver; 19" rack;
Corner reflector ant. for 2M; 5/8 gain antennas; J-pole
antennas; Coaxial antennas; 35-55 MC & 146-152 MC unipoles;
Industrial 2-way mobile phone; GE dispatcher 2-way unit;
Motorola control console; Motorola Quick-Call system;
Precise VTVM; Cushcraft 6DB omni vertical gain antenna (2M);
Communication Products Station Master 6DB omni 2M ant;
Several rotators, control boxes; Microwave gear 6GC -14GC;
4ft. & 7ft. parabolas; Coax cable; Numerous other articles,
Call Herb, K9AMJ. 399-6822.

FOR SALE: REGENCY HR-2B, HR-212, AR-2 Amplifiers; Hy-gain & Hustler
antennas for 2M, .01/.61 crystals in stock for Regency
and other popular rigs.
SATAN BRIMSTONE 2M FM fully synthesized transceivers.
Jim Nilson, WB9ETH, Dealer for Regency, Satan, Hy-Gain,
and Hustler, at Traveler Motor Coach, 202 N. Second St,
965-8811.

W9NKQ WINS SMIRK CONTEST

Mick, W9NKQ, HAM-RAG co-editor and illustrious(?) 6M operator recently captured top honors for the state of Illinois in the First Annual SMIRK contest. SMIRK stands for the Six Meter International Radio Klub and is dedicated to the encouragement of operation and activity on six meters. Congratulations on a job well done!

K9VJE LEAVES AUG. 22

Since I'm writing this, I'll try to be humble.... You know, there are some things about this area I'll miss, and most of them are connected with Ham Radio. It's been great being associated with all of you guys, and I've enjoyed the VHF game and RARA a lot. Art, WB9HNJ, is taking over my spot on the Ham Rag, so look for some great work next month. If I ever get some low band gear again, listen for W0IHV from Ft, Collins, Colo. 73 & all the best to you all.
...Stu, K9VJE

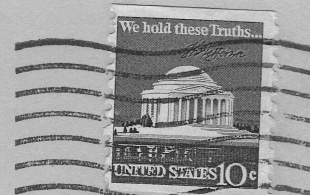
SILENT KEY

Art Bennett, formerly of Rockford and holder of W9KBB, passed away in Florida on June 30, 1975. Art was W4MSY in Florida, but dropped his ticket in recent years due to illness. Many of you OTs will remember Art from years back. As you may also know, he was a double amputee and blind. RARA extends sincere condolences to his family.
...de W9HP

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.
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317 Shaw St
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FIRST CLASS

61108