

# HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

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



GET THE FACTS STRAIGHT ON THE FCC'S LATEST NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING, DOCKET 20282, AT THE JANUARY MEETING OF RARA. THIS PROPOSAL AFFECTS US ALL (SEE PAGE 3) AND REQUIRES OUR MOST CONCENTRATED ATTENTION.

NEXT MEETING FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 7:00 PM  
ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE BLDG. I, ROOM 222.

## PRESIDENT'S LOG

1974 is gone and 1975 has arrived. First of all I would like to thank everyone who had a part in making 1974 another successful year. The efforts of all of you who have contributed to the programs (Field Day, Ham-Fest, and the Christmas Party), and served in many other ways is much appreciated. Let's make 1975 the best year yet.

Please support your Officers and Committees who have made good plans for '75. Be a R.A.R.A. Booster whenever you can, and let's keep our membership roll intact. Your Officers in 1975 will attempt to continue to have programs that will interest all of the membership.

In the weeks ahead, some of you will be asked to serve the club in some way. Please find a way to accept and help if you can. If we all take a small part in club functions, we will enjoy our membership in the Club more. And who knows? We may even learn from our experiences. Watch the Ham-Rag for announcements of things to happen in the coming months.

A Note of Immediate Interest: Docket No. 20282 before the F.C.C. is now in print. There are many things proposed in this docket. Some are good; others are bad. We all should get acquainted with docket 20282 and let our feelings be known to the F.C.C. and our representatives in Washington, D.C. These letters should not be emotional chatter, but good sound facts that would be worth considering by the F.C.C. More about this at our January meeting.

It is my hope that we continue to stay alive in '75.

73<sup>'s</sup>

DE

JOHN

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P.O. Box 1744 Rockford, IL 61110

## 1975 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Wacker, Chmn.	399-1695	Earl Davis	WB9KOR	633-4225
Frank Baker	WB90GD 1-623-2008	P.D. "Mick"	McBride W9NKQ	399-7973
Dick Connors	WB9IED 877-7722	Jack Muntz	WN9PCA	964-1842
Jim Clark	W9BAV 226-5696	Mike Oberg	WB9JAU	399-5295

## F.C.C. LICENCE RESTRUCTURING PROPOSAL

By Art Nelson WB9HNJ

As probably every one knows the F.C.C. recently released a license restructuring proposal. The new proposal would create a structure permitting operation in either or both of two sections--section A (short wave) and section B (VHF and above). A new no code license would be added for operation in the VHF and UHF spectrum with limited power and privileges. The classes have been put in outline form so you can easily understand the proposed structure. Only changes in the original structure are shown.

## I Novice

- A. Five year license, renewable.
- B. 250 watts input power.

## II. Communicator

- A. 250 watts input.
- B. F3 emission only.
- C. Bands from 144Mhz up.
- D. No code test.

## III. General

- A. 500 watts PEP output
- B. A1, A3, and F3 emissions only
- C. Frequencies below 29 Mhz.

## IV. Technician

- A. 500 watts PEP output.
- B. A1, A3, and F3 only.
- C. Frequencies above 50 Mhz.

## V. Experimenter

- A. 2000 watts PEP output.
- B. All modes.
- C. Frequencies above 29 Mhz.

## VI. Advanced

- A. 2000 watts PEP output
- B. All modes
- C. Frequencies below 29 Mhz

## VII. Extra

- A. 2000 watts PEP output.
- B. All modes
- C. life time operator (not station) license.

Comments on this proposal are not due until June 16, 1975. Because of this docket's complexity and importance, we are being given an extraordinary length of time to formulate and submit our comments on it. We have time to digest the docket thoroughly along with all of its ramifications and truly think out what we want to say before we say it. The January meeting of RARA will deal more in-depth with the proposal. Please make every effort to attend.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE LOCAL REPEATER

At this writing, the "EARS" two-meter FM repeater station, WR9AES, is close to being on the air. Dues paid by the members of the repeater group, currently amounting to about \$400 annually, will just about cover the cost of running it. Construction of the station, which will be worth approximately \$7,500 when completed, has largely been financed by donations of equipment, labor, and money. About \$700 is still needed for completion, not counting membership dues.

WR9AES is a community asset, with great publicity value. It will be a stand-by facility for Civil Defense. At least 45 members of RARA are now active on 2M FM. With these things in mind, it was decided at the November RARA meeting that RARA should support this project in the construction stage. Your Directors were instructed to review the status of the station construction and the financial position of the RARA treasury, and then determine the size of a contribution that could be made without compromising the RARA finances. The recommendation of the Directors is to be presented at the January, 1975 meeting for discussion. The members present at this meeting will then vote on the amount to be contributed.

Your Directors have determined the amount of money now actually on hand in the RARA treasury, and the amount anticipated from unpaid dues, based on 72 members (we had 103 in 1974). Nothing was included for what might be received from the 1975 Hamfest.

Total expenses were estimated item by item for the entire year of 1975, including Hamfest and Christmas party. The estimate turned out to be 33% higher than actual expenses in 1974. Details will be available at the January meeting.

It appears that, after deducting anticipated expenses, there will still be a comfortable surplus. Therefore, your Directors will recommend at the January meeting that a contribution be made in support of the construction costs of WR9AES. The specific amount will be determined during the discussion, after which the members present will ratify it. Additionally, your Directors recommend that the proceeds of the November auction, \$106.00, now be turned over to "EARS" as was the original intention when the auction was announced.

For perspective, it is interesting to note that our neighboring Ham club, Big Thunder at Belvidere, with about 25 members, has already contributed \$50 to "EARS". They have also contributed \$50 in each of two successive years to the Genoa repeater.

Submitted by the Directors of RARA  
By John R. Wacker, President.

ROCKFORD NOVICE NET IS ALIVE AND WELL ON 21.165, 8 PM MONDAYS

The Rockford Novice Net provides everyone with an opportunity to practice their code in an informal atmosphere. Anyone sending at a speed of 10 words per minute is welcome and invited to participate. Join the rag-chew Monday evenings at 8:00 PM CST on 21.165 MHz.

#### NOVICE TIPS

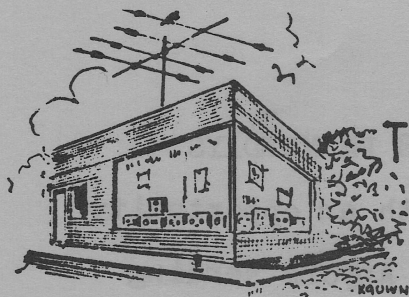
It's easy to miss contacts after a CQ if you forget to do a bit of knob twisting at the receiver. Remember, although many Novices now use a VFO and are able to zero-beat your signal, there are still a few who are crystal controlled. It's a good idea to listen at least 5 KHz either side of your transmit frequency to make sure you aren't missing someone coming in 599.

Many hams have found it handy to keep an alphabetically arranged file of stations worked. A 3" x 5" recipe box and a pack of dividers can be obtained reasonably and make an excellent file. Instead of buying pre-cut note cards, it is less expensive to cut to correct size any old paper which is blank on one side. A quick glance into this file (after you've entered records of several contacts on the cards) tells you immediately if you've worked someone before, and can save time by not having to repeat your QTH. It also pleases the other station that you remember having worked him, and adds a little something extra to the QSO.

- WN9PBZ

#### HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Those of you who have not, please be reminded again that payment will be accepted at the next meeting, or it can be mailed to the Treasurer or to the Post Office Box. Anyone who is delinquent by the February meeting will be dropped from the Ham Rag mailing list.



## THE TRADERS CORNER

WANTED: KEYSER PADDLE, hand or bug. 1 or 2 sections 25G Tower. Have excess Heath HW-32 (20 Meters) and PS-23, very good condition. Contact Mike, WB9IOG, 1-874-4646.

FOR SALE: DRAKE MN-4 MATCHING NETWORK. 80-10 Meters. Like New. \$60. Contact Lloyd, K9KGV, 399-4867.

WANTED: HEATH SB-400 or SB-401 w/crystal pack at a reasonable price or trade for ?? Contact Gene, K9IKP, Saturday mornings at 963-6445.

FOR SALE: ASSORTED TRANSFORMERS. Contact Art, WB9HNJ, 633-8647.

TRADER'S CORNER is a free service to Hams. To place an ad, call "Mick" McBride at 399-7973.

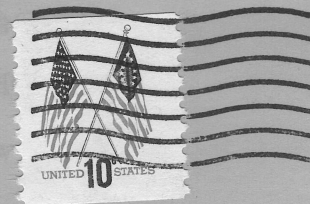
### READING THE MAIL

Connie and Lucy Hilpert, well-known RARA members, were in the area during the holidays for a visit. Their present QTH is Manor, PA, where they are now known as W3HTH (Lucy) and W3HTL (Connie). Purpose of the recent visit, besides seeing old friends, was a trip to the South Dakota School of Mines to see son Fred receive his Civil Engineering degree and his Army Second Lieutenant Commission.

New calls heard on 2M FM lately: W9IBO, WB9GEB, WA9WSR, WA9NTT, K9GUQ. K9KGV (who?), WA9WAQ, K9ITW.

It is it really true that WB9LOM is now a confirmed CW man and DX-chaser?

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FIRST CLASS