



ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 1744 ROCKFORD, ILL 61110

1975 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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RARA FAMILY PICNIC, JUNE 22

Here's a chance to involve the rest of the family in some good times with a ham radio flavor. The annual RARA Family picnic will be held on June 22 this year (we assume summer will arrive by then) and all RARA members, wives and families are invited. Look for a special reply card in the mail later concerning time and location; it will contain a reply form so that we can guesstimate the number of those attending and plan accordingly. Look forward to a good time!

BICENTENNIAL CALL SIGNS

The FCC has announced that Radio Amateurs will be permitted the use of special prefixes during 1976 to commemorate the United States Bicentennial. Check QST for further confirmation of these prefixes, but as we understand it, use of the special calls will be strictly voluntary, and may be used anytime during 1976. Merely substitute the prefix shown below for your own:

- W becomes AC
- WA becomes AA
- WB becomes AB
- K becomes AD
- WN becomes AK.

Repeater calls will drop the WR and use AF.

No application need be made to use the new prefix, just jump right in. But not before January 1, 1976.

RACES NEWS

As we go to press, the RACES repeater is on the air, for use in emergency situations only, by RACES members only. The machine has excellent coverage and should be a great asset during times of public need. For information on becoming a RACES member, contact Jay, K9QYY, Frank, WB9OGD, or Jim, WA9BNK.

PRESIDENT'S LOG

I would like to thank everyone who showed up for the April meeting. It was wonderful to have such a good turnout, and it pleased the speaker, Don Jurgens, to see the room filled with people.

As of this date, we have had several meetings of the Ham-Fest Committee, and I am pleased to report that everything concerning the Ham-Fest is right on schedule.

With the mailing of this Ham-Rag, we have updated our mailing list. Hopefully, we have correctly printed your name and call. Please contact me if there are any errors so we can correct them.

Recently, I have talked with some of our members who failed their exams in Chicago, and they seemed discouraged by this. Please let me encourage you to press on until you reach your goal. If the examinations were too easy, we would not be as proud of passing them as we can be now. I, myself, am having problems passing the examination, but I am determined to get it. We should all be proud that we have an agency of government that is thorough in its job. So again I say, let's press on until we reach our goal, and we will really be proud of that ticket when we get it.

I am encouraged by the phone calls made by various members to me concerning the Club. A question or a suggestion, all of which are welcome, shows you have a genuine interest in keeping the Club alive.

I would like to thank Harold Cartwright for his contribution to the Club. Harold has, on several occasions, taken people to Chicago who are trying to upgrade. He has also spent time working with people who are trying to upgrade. This giving of his time to members and prospective members is greatly appreciated. Harold is truly a "Club Booster". In the months ahead, I will mention others who are "Club Boosters".

The Club needs articles for the Ham-Rag. Would you help us in this need so we can continue to bring you a good paper. Ours is one of the best in the area. I hope we can continue to keep the pages filled with interest.

Let's have a good turnout for the May meeting. We have a good meeting planned and have a small surprise for some of our members.

73

John Wacker

April 25, 1975

FIELD DAY - - - - FIELD DAY - - - - - FIELD DAY

RARA will participate in field day this year, hopefully with fewer muddy feet, smashed antennas, and pneumonia cases than last year. We have been offered the use of the facilities at Rock Valley College, and have accepted, with many thanx in advance to Vito, K9UCM and the Electronics Technology staff at RVC. Participation will be the word this year, in lieu of downright backbreaking labor; the Field Day committee decided that it would be as good a test of our emergency capabilities operating at the RVC station under emergency power as it would be if we set up in a field this year. So let's set the weekend of June 28-29 aside for a few hours of operating during field day! There will be a meeting of all those interested in organizing operating schedules and discussing the plans on MAY 12, 7:00 PM, in the cafeteria at Ingersoll Milling Machine Co.

Questions? Call Jerry, WB9LOM, Field Day committee chairman, at 633-2345 (home) or 633-1444, ext. 233.

MEETING SCHEDULE

There will be no meeting in July, to allow for vacations, tower erection, and recuperation from field day. However, we will publish a HAM RAG; There will also be no meeting in August, since we will be involved with the Bel-Rock hamfest during that period.

AWARDS

Kudos (whatever they are) are in order for Paul Boeing, WB9AJU, who has recently received the R6K award from Russia. This award is for 6 Russian contacts, and one contact with each continent. Congratulations, Paul. Also, although many of you may already realize this, Ralph, WB9HHH, who is a realtive newcomer to Amateur Radio, has DXCC+, having worked 125 countries with 119 confirmed. No small achievement considering he has had a General ticket only about a year and a half, since September of 1973\*! Mighty fine work, Ralph, and we wish you another 200!

IDENTIFYING

Did you ever notice how many different ways you hear hams identify themselves when operating, especially on 2M FM? Everyone seems to have his own idea of what is necessary, and we wind up with either confusion or a lot of extra conversation containing nothing but call letters. Let's look at what the FCC considers as correct procedure. First, a station must be identified when commencing the initial transmission of the QSO. The called station must be mentioned, followed by the calling station, i.e. "W9ABC this is W9XYZ".

OK, we're into the QSO. Now, mentioning the call is not necessary for another ten minutes unless some change is made, such as sign off, or the entry of another station into the QSO. In the case of the second station breaking in, on your next transmission his call should be mentioned, i.e. again, "W9CDE this is W9XYZ." This is all that is required until sign off, or until ten minutes has elapsed. It is not necessary to repeat the call signs of everyone concerned after every transmission, as so many of us do.

Now, when signing off, the phrase "this is W9XYZ, clear" by itself is not sufficient. You must include the call of the other station in your statement, i.e. "W9ABC this is W9XYZ, clear." Or, if the other station clears, you must mention his call when acknowledging his signoff, i.e. "W9ABC this is W9XYZ clear with you." Overusing call letters can be as annoying and unnecessary as "...Red dog, this is Green Hornet." Following the above guidelines could well keep us legal and result in more time for communication.

New Novices

As Vito's class draws to a close there will be people who need a bit of advice on setting up their stations. It would be a nice gesture on our part to share our knowledge with these new novices. If each member of the class knew one licensed amateur he could call and ask questions of, no one of us would be overly burdened. We made similar arrangements last fall, but most new-comers had already set up their stations and were beyond the point where they needed the help very much. One side benefit of such a "big brother system" might be greater interest in RARA. Anyone willing to volunteer to help a new novice please call Byron at 965-2519. Your help will be appreciated.

**Novice Notes**

Participation in the Novice Net is at its lowest point this season. We meet Monday Evenings at 8:00 CST, 21.165 MHZ. Unfortunately my rig is down and I am among the unlucky ones who haven't been able to check into the net. Hopefully this situation will be rectified in the very near future. I hope so, because there have been a few DX stations broadcasting on 15 meters in the afternoons - and me without a rig.

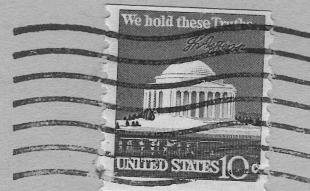
de Byron, WN9PBZ

BIG 10-4

While the use of "Ten Signals" has not met with general acceptance on the Amateur bands, a knowledge of them can be invaluable when dealing with public service agencies such as the police & sheriff's departments, CD networks, and volunteer fire people. Following is a list of the more heavily used Ten-signals as approved by the Associated Public Safety Communications Officers, Inc.

- |      |                                  |              |  |
|------|----------------------------------|--------------|--|
| 10-1 | Unable to copy--change location. | 10-20        | Location   |
| 10-2 | Signal good                      | 10-21        | Call ---- by telephone   |
| 10-4 | Acknowledgement (OK)             | 10-22        | Disregard  |
| 10-6 | Busy (Unless urgent)             | 10-23        | Arrived at scene   |
| 10-7 | Out of Service                   | <u>10-33</u> | <u>Emergency</u>   |
| 10-8 | In Service                       | 10-50        | Accident (F-fatality,<br>PI-personal injury<br>PD-property damage) |
| 10-9 | Repeat                           | 10-70        | Fire alarm   |
|      |                                  | 10-76        | En route   |

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FIRST CLASS