



HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

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



- APRIL 9, 1976 MEETING -

Rock Valley College

Bldg. CL-1, Room 222

7:00 p.m.

"Come Out And See The Old-Timers" Night

(We're sure there'll be some good stories told that night!)

PRESIDENT'S LOG

It is that time of the year again when we start making plans for the outdoor activities.

The Field Day Committee consisting of Frank Reiter, K9UWO, Chairman; Jack Stuman, K9UWN; Lloyd Kissick, K9KGV; and Bill Ridgway, WB9KOS, held a planning meeting. Field Day will be held outside this year at the QTH of Clyde Aspling, WB9KOT. The location is excellent, and Frank and his committee are planning a nice workable layout for Field Day. They are going to be looking for operators; so if you receive a call from Frank's committee, please help them out. They need the use of a tent for the food if any member can help in this area.

The Ham-Fest Committee has had a very thorough planning session. The Ham-Fest will be Sunday, August 29, 1976. Plans are being made for a very nice Ham-Fest, and we will need help to make it another successful one.

The Novice Class is in its fifth session. Classes are held at the Red Cross Building on Sunday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. The instructors are Jack Stuman, K9UWN, for Code; Carl Cacciatore, WN9PBR, and Paul Dean, WB9HGZ, for Theory; and Jim Dunlea, WB9KZQ for Regulations. These men are doing a fine job of presenting the material, and we hope to have another nice group of Novices when we are through with this class.

Our April meeting program will be in charge of Ernie Storer, W9MAP, and is going to feature an old-timers' night. Please come out and hear about the "good old days". It will be an evening well spent because these men have many interesting subjects.

See you at the April meeting.

73 John Wacker
WN9SGF

March 30, 1976

DON WALLGREN, formerly WN9KOQ, has just been relicensed as WN9TNB. The time elapsed between his code test and issuance of his license and call was almost exactly three months

GUS DURDIN, formerly WN9KOO, is working toward a new ticket. He has passed his code test, and will have taken his written test by press time.

STEVE WILLER, the son of PAUL WILLER, K9IUD, has also passed his Novice code test, and is waiting for his written exam to arrive.

* * * * *

The NOVICE CLASS sponsored by RARA is almost half way through the planned program, and the progress being made by most of the students is good. The class meets every Sunday afternoon at the Red Cross Headquarters. There are now about twenty students, ranging in age from 11 years to about 50. Among the hardest working and most enthusiastic are several YL's.

Code instruction is being handled by JACK STUMAN, K9UWN, who would rather talk with his fingers than use a mike. CARL CACCIATORE, WB9PBR and PAUL DEAN, WB9HGZ handle the theory end. JIM DUNLEA, WB9KZQ instructs in regulations and operating procedure. The whole teaching effort is quite a challenge, because most of the students are starting with very little knowledge of electricity. But they are responding very well to the ministrations of the distinguished faculty!

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How about someone volunteering to write an article for our HAM RAG on the subject of dry batteries? What kinds are available? How much do they cost? What is their shelf life? How does useful life vary with the discharge rate and duty cycle? How does the voltage vary with useage? How many watt-hours per dollar? What is the truth about recharging?

Such an article might also be interesting (and worth money) to the Ham magazines. Battery manufacturers such as Mallory, Burgess, Ray-O-Vac, National Carbon, and others probably would be quite willing to cooperate and furnish technical data. And there is no problem at HAM RAG with printing line drawings and charts.

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

OFFICERS				1976	DIRECTORS			
Pres.	John Wacker	WN9SGF	399-1695		Paul McBride	W9NKQ	399-7973	
V. P.	Jim Clark	W9BAV	226-5696		Mike Oberg	WB9JAU	399-5925	
Sec.	Byron Dale	WB9PBZ	965-2519		Clyde Aspling	WB9KOT	1-874-2330	
Treas.	Jack Muntz	WB9PCA	964-1842		Bill Ridgway	WB9KOS	877-2315	

HAM RAG EDITOR - Art Nelson, WB9HNJ - 633-8647

Your questions, suggestions, and criticisms are invited. Phone any time.

One of the regularly scheduled activities of many RARA members (and some others who ought to be members) for many years has been participation in the Monday Night 10-Meter Emergency Net, which is semi-formal, and controlled from Red Cross Headquarters, W9RGU. Its serious purpose is to check regularly on the availability of stations in good working condition, in case they are needed for an actual civic emergency. The net is most often controlled by ERNIE STORER, W9MAP, and in Ernie's absence by JAY HART, ART NELSON, PAUL DEAN, PAUL PLASTERS, and others. CHUCK DERWENT is most always on hand for operating assistance.

This net, besides its serious purpose, ends up with a lively round robin rag chew, interspersed with technical discussions, trouble-shooting, ham news, gossip, an occasional story, and just plain fun. Ernie's interesting, informal, and wide-ranging comments keep the ball rolling, and are a distinct pleasure to listen to.

There have been more than 20 stations check in per evening in the past. But for some reason as yet not identified, the most recent weeks have had a few as four show up. The usefulness as well as the fun is multiplied by the number of stations joining in. So make it a habit to tune up on 28.700 at 9:00pm local time, Mondays. Those who have been away for a while, we will welcome you back. But if you have never tried this schedule, please do give it a try -- you will like it.

During FIELD DAY 1975, Rock Valley College kindly offered their excellent Radio Station WB9KUR for this annual competitive event. Many RARA members and friends gave the WB9KUR low band, VHF, and RTTY equipment a good, round the clock workout.

Unfortunately, during this contest, the big linear amplifier gave up the ghost amid fireworks, anguish, dismay, and embarrassment. One of the two Eimac 3-500Z finals went dark. The linear has been out of service ever since.

Now it has been discovered that the factory had failed to make a secure mechanical joint where the 14.5 ampere filament lead connected to one of the tube sockets. The solder finally failed. That threw high current through a little RF choke, which then burned up. Both costly tubes appear to be OK, and it is expected that as soon as a replacement choke is received from the factory, the rig will be back in service, at a cost of about a buck.

So now those of you who were operating when she blew can now rest easy. And if by chance any of you have ever made a bum connection, cheer up -- even the professionals do it once in a while!

This is a reprint of an article appearing in the March 1976 issue of C.O. Magazine

THIS MONTH'S BIOGRAPHY

Have you ever felt left out? That you were missing out on a lot of fun? Well, I have. Whenever I saw Gene get that special contact — and now I know each one is special—I would get the feeling that I was missing out on something good. For Gene to spend so much time in front of the radio, there had to be a lot of enjoyment. So, after spending many evenings alone and going to sleep to the tune of CQ, I decided that if I couldn't beat Gene at his game, I might as well join him.

Then, reality set in — I would have to study and learn code well enough to pass the Novice test. Here I am, a wife and mother with two very active children to run to school, ball practice, scouts, etc., a house to care for, a lawn and garden to look after, and, last, but not least, a husband who doesn't think I'm serious. How am I ever going to find time to study theory and practice code? Well, if one wants something badly enough, he or she can always find that extra minute.

The OM suggested I enroll in the Novice class at Rock Valley College. In the middle of March, I went to class for the first time. Was I lost! Ohms law, current, electromotive force, parallel circuits — I might as well have been studying Einstein's theory of relativity! The lab work really belw my mind — I just knew I would blow up every piece of equipment!

Vito, K9UCM, said that by the end of the classes, we would understand it all. The whole class doubted this, but went along. So between all the numerous duties of a wife and mother, I managed to practice code 30 minutes a day and read the assigned pages. Vito was right! Now, when my OM talks about an IC or PC board, or power supplies or dipoles, I know what he is talking about, and I can join in with thoughts of my own.

I enjoy so much being a part of this and not feeling left out. I enjoy getting my own special contact—even in code. Now, even the nervousness of being on the air is gone, and I feel as though I have friends all over the world. I'm no longer just WB9MMM's XYL, I'm me, with my own identity, my own call, and receiving mail addressed to "Dear OM" just like all the other guys. Now, if I can just pass my general class test, I've got it made.

de

WN9SFT
Shari

March 30, 1976

Zero Bias

Just at press time we received word through W4UMF that a new Senate Bill S.3033 had been introduced in the 94th Congress by Senator Barry Goldwater, W7UGA. The Bill could be an important step towards requiring manufacturers of Consumer Electronic products to bear responsibility for the susceptibility of their products to RFI - Radio Frequency Interference. You may know of it as TVI.

Senator Goldwater's Bill is similar to one introduced by Congressman Vanik of Ohio, so it would appear that with the proposed legislation being pushed from both ends of the Capital, likelihood of passage is good. Support for the measure by your own Senators and Representatives is always helpful, so let your elected representatives hear from you. Don't let the TV industry lobbyists short circuit this much needed legislation.

The following are Senator Goldwater's remarks to the Senate, and the actual wording of S.3033, as reprinted from the Congressional Record for Feb. 25, 1976.

By Mr. GOLDWATER:

S. 3033. A bill to amend section 302 of the Communications Act of 1934 to authorize the Federal Communications Commission to prescribe regulations with respect to certain electronic equipment

that is susceptible to radio frequency energy interference. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. GOLDWATER. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce today a companion bill to legislation proposed by Congressman CHARLES VANIK of Ohio to drastically reduce the amateur and CB radio bugaboos of television interference, hi-fi interference, and other radio frequency interference to home electronics equipment.

Most consumers do not understand that when they may encounter interference with their home television or radio set after an amateur or citizen band radio operator moves next door, the source is not a defect in the equipment of their neighbor but with their own radio or television receiver. It is perfectly legal and appropriate for the ham or CB radio operator to be using his or her unit in accordance with FCC regulations and the fault actually lies with the radio, phonograph, or television equipment which is not, but could easily be, adequately shielded from unwanted signals. This interference can be corrected in almost all cases by the installation of simple filtering or shielding parts and could be accomplished most efficiently and economically if it were done by the manufacturer.

Mr. President, the bill I am introducing would help to clear up radio frequency interference not only in radio and television receivers, but in all home audio and visual electronic equipment. It would authorize the Federal Communications Commission to prescribe regulations with respect to home electronic equipment that is susceptible to this interference so that the equipment would operate free from such interference.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3033

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) section 302 of the Communications Act of 1934 (82 Stat. 290; 47 U.S.C. 302a.) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) of such section is amended—

(A) by inserting "(1)" immediately after "governing" in the first sentence;

(B) by striking out the period at the end of the first sentence and inserting in lieu thereof ", and (2) the use of protective components in audio and visual electronic equipment which are capable of reducing interference to such equipment from radio frequency energy."; and

(C) by striking out "shipment, or use of such devices" in the second sentence and inserting in lieu thereof "or shipment of such devices and electronic equipment or the use of such devices";.

(2) Subsection (b) of such section is amended by striking out "ship, or use devices" and inserting in lieu thereof "or ship devices and electronic equipment or use devices".

(3) Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(A) by inserting "or electronic equipment" immediately after "devices" wherever such term appears in the first sentence;

(B) by inserting "and electronic equipment" immediately after "Devices" in the second sentence; and

(C) by striking out "the common objective of reducing interference to radio reception," in the second sentence and inserting in lieu thereof "the objectives of reducing interference to radio reception and to electronic equipment";.

(b) The heading for section 302 of such Act is amended to read as follows:

"INTERFERENCE WITH RADIO COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT".

73, Dick, K2MGA

From-Here-and-There:

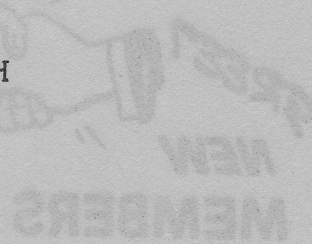
According to a recent "Extra" issue of The HR Report, any expansion of the 27 MHz band for the CB group and the 220 MHz proposal has been delayed until at least early 1977. The CB industry had hoped for early expansion in the 27 MHz sector to 40 or 50 channels. The FCC delayed any changes until "new technical specs for CB equipment can be developed" It is thought that this delay could work to the advantage of the Amateur Radio Service as it could encourage some of the growing CB hobbyists to consider Amateur Radio as an alternative to those CB people who have serious technical interests. As you may know we have seen some of this movement in Rockford. It will be interesting to watch this develop..

Dates have been announced for some of the area hamfests. Amboy is set up for April 25. The DeKalb affair for May 2 at the Notre Dame site. Tentativley the Bel-Rock hamfest has been set up for August 29.

Saw an item that Michigan Amateur Radio call sign plates will go to \$25.00, if a proposed bill is passed. Up to now they have been available at no extra charge. At twenty five bucks a throw they can justifyably be called vanity plates.

By now some of the die-hards that lamented the change in format of CQ, Ham Radio and QST magazines certainly must be converted. The new size is something to be admired. The larger type can be read without a magnifying glass, there seems to be a noticeable improvement in content with something for everyone in all aspects of ham radio. Do I recall an article about a ham who was reluctant to use a bug killer in his shack so he sprayed them with freon and froze them to death? What do you do with freeze dried cockroaches?

WB9ILH



TRADER'S CORNER

FOR SALE HeathKit HW-16 Novice transceiver. Package includes a Speaker, SWR bridge, four forty meter crystals and one 15 meter crystal. \$90.00

Two meter crystals for Bearcat or other scanners with a 10.8 MHz. I.F. 146.76, 146.52 and 161.67 which is WRRR news freq.

Digital clock with hours, minutes, and seconds in case with 24 hour logic ~~\$300~~ \$10.00

Contact Bob Mackey WN9QPP AT 226 8074

WANTED Novice transceiver. Contact Milt Otwell at 1-335-2264

WANTED SOME ONE to make layouts and circuit boards from some of my drawings. Contact Art Nelson WB9HNJ AT 633-8647 after 6:30 weekdays

Amateur Radio Gear, Estate of Arthur Johnson W9HGO

B&W 5100B & SSB Units \$100.00

Swan 500 Trans.& 117XC Power Supply Mint \$385.00

SBE 34 SSB Transceiver. Just overhauled and aligned at factory at a cost of \$77.00 -----\$250.00

Matching SB21A Linear \$125.00

Genave GTX200 2 meter FM transceiver with Clegg 416 -12volt Reg. Power supply \$200.00

RME 6900 Receiver and SSB adaptor \$75.00

National NC 400 General coverage and band spread receiver, Excelent \$350.00

Ameco TX62 Transmitter & 621 VFO \$75.00

Mosley TA33 JR Tri band beam \$40.00

Gotham Tri Band Quad Rotator, cables 20 Ft. section of tower \$75.00 Buyer to take down.

Joystick all band antenna with Antenna Tuner \$35.00

B&K Tube checker \$30.00

Eico 920B Cap. Checker \$30.00

Midland SWR Meter (new) \$12.00

BC221 Freq. Meter (Mint) \$50.00

Hallicrafters High Freq. Receiver \$25.00

RME VHF 152A Excellent \$20.00

Simpson 260 Volt Ohm Meter \$35.00

Misc. other radio gear and parts

NOTE: Call Mrs. Johnson, 964-1542 or W9HP, 399-3482

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FIRST CLASS