

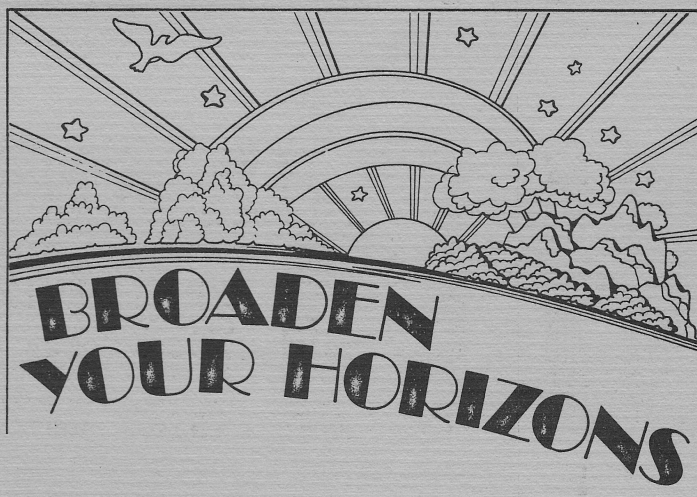
# HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

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



GLORIOUS FEBRUARY ISSUE



THIS MONTHS MEETING HAS BEEN DESIGNATED "GET ACQUAINTED NIGHT". THE MEETING STARTS AT SEVEN O'CLOCK IN ROOM 222 AT ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE. BE THERE

THE MEETING DATE IS FEBRUARY 13th. THAT'S ON FRIDAY.

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## PRESIDENT'S LOG

Here we are entering the Month of February and the days are already getting longer.

I want to thank all the members for their concern during my recent visit to the hospital. I am very happy to report that the doctors say I am in good shape.

I understand that the auction, which was a part of the January meeting, was a success and fun was had by all. I want to thank our Vice President, Jim Clark, W9BAV, for stepping in on a minute's notice and conducting the meeting. I also want to thank our auctioneer, Paul McBride, W9NKQ, for his work, ~~as~~ well as Frank Baker, WB90GD.

Please attend the February meeting if at all possible because it should be a good meeting. There will be some announcements concerning future events.

Elsewhere in the Ham-Rag is an important item concerning Novice classes. I hope you will read it and if you can help in this program in any way, that you will step forward. It is going to be an important job to do and we need your help. The Officers and Directors will appreciate any help given in this area.

I also would like to ask at this time that if there is anyone in the club who has a special talent that the club could use, the Officers and Directors would certainly like to know about it. We are always looking for help, and it is wonderful when someone steps up and says, "Here I am—I want to help the club." With over one hundred members, it is getting harder to keep track of everyone's special talents. But we will be more than happy to use them if we know about them.

See you at the February meeting.

73

John Wacker

## NOTICE

DUES MUST BE PAID BY MARCH 1ST IN ORDER TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE HAM-RAG. DUES ARE \$5.00 PER YEAR—\$2.00 FOR STUDENTS. THEY MAY BE PAID AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING OR YOU MAY SEND THEM TO:

R.A.R.A.  
P.O. BOX 1744  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61110

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, AT 7:00 PM  
ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE, ROOM 222.

An unusual event will follow the important business portion of this meeting. Most of the members of RARA are real tigers when they have a key or a mike in their hands. But at meetings, many of these tigers turn into shy little kittens, mainly because they have not gotten around yet to shaking hands with people they see month after month at these meetings. RARA members are really friendly people with a common interest in a fascinating game.

Our business of singing out calls progressively at meetings has not been as successful as it might be. So we have cooked up a scheme that, hopefully, will let everyone present tie together faces, calls, and individualities, and break the ice all around.

Please try to make this meeting a well-attended one. It will be fun, and the improved acquaintanceship should make the fun last far into the future.

#### SILENT KEY

R.A.R.A. lost from its membership Arthur A. Johnson, 86 years of age, who lived at 1506 School Street. He passed away Monday, February 2, at St. Anthony Hospital.

Art was a pioneer in the field of radio here in the Rockford area. In 1920, he started what is believed to be the first Radio Broadcasting Station in this area and operated with the call sign of WIAB.

Many members of the Club will probably remember the interesting presentation by Art and Maury Nelson in October, 1973, of their experiences during the early days of broadcasting and in the improvising of operating equipment. He conducted a very interesting question-and-answer period which was enjoyed by all, especially the younger members of the Club.

The members of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association extend their deepest sympathies to Art's widow, Maude.

## PLANS FOR A NOVICE CLASS

For four years, our Community has been very fortunate in having classes leading to a Novice ticket offered by Rock Valley College and ably conducted by Vito Fiore, K9UCM. About 50 people have passed their exams. Most have become active hams, and many of these have joined RARA, and we are proud to have them as fellow members.

Now, RVC has exceptionally heavy commitments to teach technical subjects with wider appeal. One of the key members of the faculty in the Technology Department is seriously ill, and his classes either added to the load on other instructors, or cancelled entirely. So it will be impossible for Vito to run another Novice class this year. The future of this arrangement is indefinite. There have been quite a few inquiries about a Novice class. Your officers and directors have discussed this situation at length, and have arrived at some conclusions.

RARA is morally obligated to make a NOVICE CLASS available to would-be hams in the Rockford community. This should have been started several months ago, so now we must start it certainly by the first week in March, which is before our next general meeting. Therefore, at the up-coming February meeting, we will ask for three or more volunteers, qualified to teach one or more specialties such as code, regulations, or technology, and who would be able to do so on a dependable schedule. Hams who took part in RARA classes of earlier years are especially wanted. We will proceed with the class if we can get at least three, otherwise RARA will have to admit failure.

Because this will be a new experience for some of us, the class size will be restricted to twelve students. First priority will go to present members of RARA; next to non-members who have already expressed interest. If this does not add up to 12, additional students will be invited on an individual basis, first come, first served.

We have tentatively been promised the Red Cross building for twelve weeks, Sunday afternoons, beginning the first week in March. If, at the February meeting, we get three or more qualified volunteer instructors, we will announce the class. Between now and March, a detailed program for each 3-hour class session will be written, so that the subjects will be covered so effectively that every student will, hopefully get his ticket, and so that his interest in the fun side of Ham Radio will grow during this period.

Most of you have expressed a desire to get more people active in Ham Radio. What better way than to take those whom we know want to get started, and personally lead them to their first ticket? Come on, fellow hams, please volunteer your sincere effort in this direction!

## DON'T ASK FOR A SURPRISE

An interesting item appeared in a Milwaukee Ham Club paper concerning the rash of two-meter F.M. thefts. The article went on to say that with the large number of scanning-type police monitors now being sold, the work of an enterprising thief has been made much easier.

All an enterprising thief needs to do is go to a dealer of police scanners and buy crystals covering the amateur frequencies. He then sits around and listens and will probably hear some Ham say that he is going to stop in at some particular store for an hour. With this information, the thief then drives over to this particular location looking for an antenna or radio amateur license plate and then proceeds to remove the two-meter F.M. equipment.

It was a simple task to perform; and to the thief, the cost of a scanner was just a drop in the bucket. Think of this the next time you say on the air that you will be at a given location for an hour or so.

## THINK ABOUT THIS

Almost daily you read something in the newspaper relative to how radio has provided a public service. Infrequently, these articles do not concern the use of Amateur Radio.

R.A.R.A. could utilize the services of a good public relations man who, through the newspapers or other media, could keep the people informed of our activities. In the past, R.A.R.A. has set up an amateur radio station at Colonial Village Mall and demonstrated how amateur radio could play an important part with regard to public service.

Such an activity as this and our participation in Field Day are just two ways by which the general public can be made aware of the part that the Amateur Radio Operator can play in the event of an emergency.

To make such activities as those mentioned above a success, the wholehearted support of the club is needed as well as a good public relations committee who will be continuously looking for ways in which our hobby can be favorably presented to the public.

IF YOU SPIT ON THE FLOOR AT HOME, FEEL FREE TO DO IT HERE

Through the kindness and cooperation of Rock Valley College, RARA has been privileged to hold many of its meetings in what is surely one of the best locations/enjoyed by any radio club, and at no expense. This arrangement is made possible by the sponsorship of Vito Fiore, K9UCM on a month to month basis. Where else would we find such pleasant, air-conditioned surroundings, with ample parking space, plenty of comfortable (?) seats, motorized black boards, projectors for movies, slides,overheads, audio systems, access to laboratory equipment, an elevator to help tote heavy stuff when necessary, and excellent janitorial service?

But did you ever notice those signs that say "SMOKING IN SLATE AREAS ONLY", which means NOT ON THE CARPETS. No one can explain why RVC puts ash stands in the corridor (carpeted) outside Room 222, but since it is not slate, obviously they do not welcome smoking there, either.

The social hour following the meeting normally is held in the lab on the lowest floor whenever Vito can be there. Serving coffee and donuts in Room 222 is a very recent and risky experiment that will terminate very abruptly when the first coffee is spilled there, and Vito is certain to be frowned upon by the authorities.

So that we may continue to enjoy the hospitality of ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE, and to keep K9UCM from being consigned to the dog house on account of his uncouth friends, please let's - - -

1. SMOKE ONLY IN SLATE AREAS.
2. BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL NOT TO SPILL THINGS ON THE CARPET.



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

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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.

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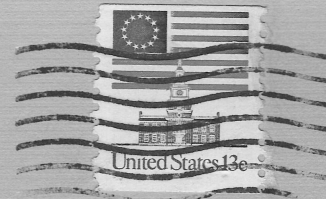
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again so keep ypur eyes and ears open.

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GREET  
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Paul Dean, WB9HGZ  
317 Shaw Street  
Rockford, Il. 61108

FIRST CLASS