

Ham Rag

Rockford Amateur Radio Association

BELROCK HAMFEST

GET YER GENUWINE POSTER
FROM THE DEMOPUBLICAN
CONVENTION, GOING AT 3
BUCKS EACH, A REAL STEAL,--
GET..YER.....



President's Log

WN9SGF

On September 2, I notified the Board of Directors that because of my health, I was under the doctor's orders to curtail some of my activities. This meant that I would have to resign as President of R.A.R.A. It is with deep regret that I do this, as there are some items I would have liked to see through to completion.

I thank all of you who have given so generously of your time in the efforts of the club. It was a great time for me, and I enjoyed every minute. R.A.R.A. has a fine group of members, and I hope that R.A.R.A. will continue to grow.

The Ham-Fest was a success, and a great big thanks to all who helped on this event. I think Bel-Rock Ham-Fest is well established now as an annual event.

There are plans being made for another Novice Class. Details will be given as soon as they are firm.

Plans are also being made for a display to be set up by R.A.R.A. in the Mall at Cherryvale for December. Watch for details.

Again, I want to thank everyone for their part in making my term as President a pleasant experience.


73 John WN9SGF

September 7, 1976

Editor's QRM K9KTS

I've been scooped! As I sat down to the typewriter to work on this column, I had what I thought was an exclusive story. Several interesting presentations of the news of K9QYY's movie career came to mind. After all, I had the inside track after a conversation with Mrs. Hart. Then the roof fell in. I opened the envelope with WB9HHH's Potpourri column. That's right! Ralph beat me to the story. One of these days, I will figure out how he does it.

For those of you who haven't heard, Al Friedman made it safely back to California. Dennis, W9DDL, keeps a sked with Al and passed on his address which is as follows:

Allen Friedman
146 N. Stanley Drive
Beverly Hills, Ca. 90211

Jim, Byron, and I are pleased and flattered with the compliments and opinions offered by the members to us concerning the new format of the Ham Rag. I hope that I am not risking these good feelings with the editorial offering in another part of this issue. It is solely my opinion and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Board of Directors. If you would like to oppose or amplify this position, feel free to submit your comments. They will be printed in an unedited manner if you keep the copy to a one-page limit.

It has also given us a good feeling to have members submit stories and news items to the Ham Rag. At this point, it appears that the Emergency column, which started as an unsolicited story, will be a regular or semi-regular feature. To repeat our earlier offer, if you have an idea or project that you would like to develop for the Ham Rag, call us, and we will help you with it.

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

September 1976

OFFICERS - - - - - 1976 - - - - - DIRECTORS

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In 1957, I was introduced to the wonders of Ham Radio by the late Art Johnson, W9HGQ. With extraordinary patience, he explained, demonstrated, and re-explained theory, code, and procedures that would be needed in my radio career. His determination was even more remarkable because I was 13 years old at the time. This piece of nostalgia came back to mind a short time ago when I was a part of a conversation concerning the static number of Hams in the United States over the past ten years. There were great laments that the CB'ers were taking over and that the Ham was becoming a forgotten breed. In that same session, one person remarked that he "would help a CB'er to become a Ham, but would not encourage or solicit a CB'er to try for a license."

This struck me as the same form of elitism that caused the demise of some of the great manufacturing names in Ham radio. It also smacked of the feeling that we should be so self-centered to deny to other people what I refer to as the ultimate fantasy, the thrill of communicating with different parts of the country and the world.

In another part of this issue of the Ham Rag, there is a story concerning the result of the club's effort to provide training for would-be amateurs. It seems to me that this is the **type** of positive step that is needed to increase the number of Hams in the country and, at the same time, maintain the level of technical ability needed to comply with the law. It is true that it is a part of my job to sell (along with other appliances) CB radio; however, I have found that a great percentage of our customers will ask about Ham Radio during the transaction or will return to the sales floor and talk about getting a Ham license after they have been exposed to the limitations of CB.

I think that the time has come when we, as Hams, can no longer sit back as oracles and self-satisfied snobs waiting for the American public to come crawling to us for cleansing of their CB sins. We should redouble our efforts to spread the good word about Ham radio and actively seek new converts while, at the same time, maintain the high ideals and standards that are the hallmarks of amateur radio.

An increase in the numbers does not mean an automatic decline in the quality of Ham radio, nor does it mean we will become a unified force. On the other hand, the International Radio Conference in 1979 is not that far into the future. A larger constituency of amateur radio operators can only work to our favor.

The F.C.C. has acted and as a result of the hard work of the team of amateurs participating in the R.A.R.A. Novice Class, the air will be filled with perfectly formed CW characters. The new "Birds flying out of the nest", the description used by WB9KOS, are:

WN9VLI	Mitch Vogan
WN9VLJ	Gayle Vogan
WN9VLK	Diana White
WN9VLL	Bill McGuire
WN9VLM	Bill Spires
WN9VLN	Roger Sawvell
WN9VWO	Dan Neubert

The members of R.A.R.A and the staff of the Ham Rag welcome these new Hams and wish them the best of luck.

At the same time there have been other new hams that have been granted licenses, but studied independently of the R.A.R.A. class. They are:

WN9TNB	Don Wallgren, formerly WN9KOQ
WN9UOD	Dale Willer, who through a mistake by the editor was omitted from a earlier Ham Rag. In the meantime Dale has passed his General and is awaiting his new ticket.

At the present time there are plans in the works for another license class and when this is firmed up there will be an announcement in the Ham Rag. The editors also wonder if there would be enough interest in providing a course for higher class licenses. Let your board members know your feelings on this matter.

One of the cornerstones of Amateur Radio is the availability of dependable communications in the time of emergency. There is a concerted effort to improve and develop this resource in the Winnebago county area. An immediate need for more amateurs to participate in the R.A.C.E.S. program has become a priority.

The months of June and July were fairly active for the members of the Winnebago County R.A.C.E.S. The following is a synopsis of the activity during that period.

JUNE The R.A.C.E.S. team was called upon by local authorities to provide manpower for a search for evidence following a Double homicide in Pecatonica. Those assisting were: W9FX, WA9FFL, WB9OGD, WB9HNJ, K9VCJ, K9ORU, K9KCX, WB9HHH, WB9BHY and a few others I know I have missed.

JULY July started off with the North Park-Loves Park Fourth of July celebration. Members participating in this effort were: WB9HNJ, W9NKQ, W9FX, WA9BWK, K9ORU, K9QYY, WA9FFL, WB9LEF, WB9LOM, and WB9HHH.

The second call for assistance come following a double airplane crash on North Main Road at the city limits. We were asked to provide crowd control and security at the scene. Those members assisting were: W9FX, W9BAV, WB9OGD, K9KCX, K9PGW, WB9KZQ, WN9SGF, WB9ILH, and WB9HNJ.

I want to add my special thanks to Ralph, WB9HHH, who is our phone man and base station operator. He is always there when we need him.

At the same time I would like to thank all the area Amateurs who give of their time to help others, together we are a valuable community asset. Don't be afraid to offer your assistance if called upon to do so and don't be afraid to help even if not called upon. We are an organization of volunteers and we cannot survive without your help.

Potpourri WB9HHH

One annoyance that is mostly absent this dry summer is rain static on the beam. Radio wave propagation is at a low ebb, and the sun spots are still declining. The experts predict poor conditions into early 1977. Invitations to the 24th annual meeting and banquet of the W9DXCC Century Club September 11, at the Holiday Inn in Itasca have been received. Prose Walker, formerly of the FCC, is expected to be one of the speakers.

Erl Malmer, WA7YFR (WA9WMI), is a visitor from Mesa, Arizona. We are very sorry to say goodbye to Al Friedman, W9YRA, who has returned to W6 land. The information he furnished for last month's TECH TOPICS article is solid gold. Paul, K9VJJ, is vacationing in Wyoming. Red, W9FX, will soon head for a holiday in San Diego. Harry, WB9PBO, is trailering in the W4/W5 call area and radioing along the way.

Jay, K9QYY, has returned from Colorado where he "just happened" to run into a temporary job as a TV actor. He was chosen for a bit part in an NBC Special named "Sister Aimee" (Aimee Semple McPherson). The pay was \$20 a day for just an appearance and \$120 a day if there were speaking lines. Not bad if they let you speak! HI! Watch for it in October.

Al Rogahn is now WB9UBE with a Technician ticket. The FCC is still slow — six weeks from exam to receipt of license. I thought last month's HAM RAG was a blockbuster. If you think so, too, tell Fred, K9KTS, and his assistants, Jim and Dale. Ray, WB9ILH, left town August 2 for his summer home in Northern Michigan. Larry, K9LKA, appeared recently in a local TV news item saying kind words about amateur radio. Vic Shields, K9UIY, has been awarded DXCC CW#87 using 150W. a maximum power. You see, it can be done without that loudenboomer!

Because a very great many of the people involved in the Thompson River flood disaster were visitors in the area, the health and welfare traffic on amateur radio was both voluminous and frantic. It was quite different from the usual where most of the persons affected live at or near the site of the happening.

I am astounded that so many mobile rigs are made available for thieves. All, or at least most, insurance companies will soon exclude coverage for two-way radios and its equipment, except if an additional premium, probably about \$20, is paid. This cessation of coverage can be blamed on the rig (CB and 2M.FM) owners. If half to two-thirds of those rigs had not been ripped off, insurance people would not find it necessary to exclude coverage.

The following little stratagem may not appeal to everyone, but it might help. If slotted screws are used to hold the unit in place, fill the slots with solder or metal epoxy, so that a screw driver cannot be used. If bolts are used, the same materials filling the threads around the nuts will make it tough for the 30-second grab and run thieves. It follows, of course, that if you want to remove the rig, you will have to melt out the solder, etc.

Ham Mart

For Sale

- * Hygain 12 AVQ Vertical
- Hygain Three Element 15 meter beam
- CDE TR 44 Rotator with 100 feet of control cable.

Bob Gustafson, WA9SRD 877-8723

For Sale

- Hygain four element Tribander with BN86 Balun \$70.00
- Will consider a trade for a 18AVT/WB vertical or a HA-6 or HA-2 transverter
WB9JFP 1-547-5806

For Sale

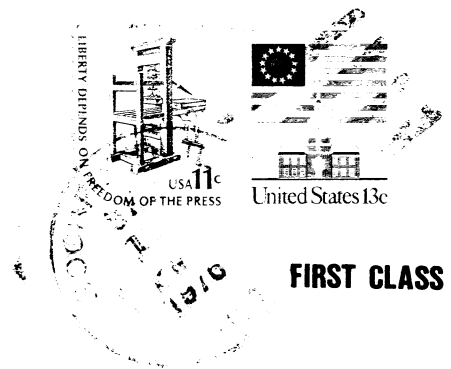
- * A distinguished looking 14 AVQ vertical which will not win the "Eye Delight" award but comes with a 3 foot tripod and full set of radials and insulators. \$25.00

Fred Johnson, K9KTS 398-6584

**ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1744 ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61110**

Nets:
28.7 Mhz. Monday 9:00 P.M.
50.4 Mhz. Nightly 9:00 P.M.
146.94 Mhz Monday 8:00 P.M.
RACES Monday 8:30
145.65 Mhz In
147.00 Mhz. Out

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



FIRST CLASS