

Ham Rag

Rockford Amateur Radio Association

September, 1981

WELL, YOUR APTITUDE TESTS
INDICATE YOU'D MAKE A GOOD
BURGLAR, HIT MAN OR A
HAM RADIO OPERATOR!



President's Log

Welcome back to the fall season of club activities. I hope everyone had a safe and happy summer. It was too bad we could not hold a Hamfest, but at least we still had our picnic. I was unable to make it at the start because of work but still made it at the end. As usual, Dale and Jo Ann Landis gave us an exceptional picnic.

I would like to thank Ernie, KA9FSK, for a good presentation on home brew projects. I know the members enjoyed it. Ernie certainly has a lot of enthusiasm for these projects.

As you know, almost all this year our meetings have been at the Harlem Community Center along with our hams-to-be school. We would like to thank Hue Smith for its use and for his help and understanding. Without him we would have been hard pressed for a meeting place. Mr. Smith runs a well organized community center. "Thank You, Hue."

Beginning in September our meetings will again be held at Rock Valley College thanks to the work of Don Rastede, N9AWZ. We really appreciate your effort, Don.

I understand that we had a good Field Day. Frank, KB9KH, chairman for the second year said we did a lot better than last year. Frank really had everything in hand including a trailer, lots of equipment, etc.

There were a lot of things that happened in Rockford over the 4th of July weekend. I want to thank Bill, KB9UR, and Paul, K9RNR, for the marathon and Shari, WB9SFT, for the Confederate Air Force fly in.

The best news I got this summer was a letter and pictures from Laird Campbell, W1CUT (*American Radio Relay Museum Committee*). Erney Storer's, W9MAP, spark-gap transmitter is now on display. It is being shown as donated by Mrs. Storer and the club. Jim will print a photo if space permits. The letter read:

Dear Bruce,

The spark-gap transmitter is now on display in the museum in the Headquarter's lobby. I enclosed a couple of photos showing the unit in the display case. Please share these with the club

and Mrs. Storer. Please visit us sometime and see this for yourself.

-73, Laird W1CUT

We have three things coming up between October and the end of the year. First, the election of officers and directors. Gertrude, KB9PC, is the chairman for the nominating committee. I am sure that if you have any ideas or suggestions she would like to hear from you. Second, the Christmas Party in December chairman will be Maurice (Mo Jo), N9CCE. I am sure he would welcome any suggestions, ideas, and of course HELP. Last, but not least, you as club members will be getting a form in the *Ham Rag* to name your choice for Ham of the Year. I think it is important that we officers and directors get more input on this than we have in the past. Your opinions, as club members, direct our choice. Please give your reasons for nominating a candidate careful consideration, as this is the basis of our choice. **We need your input!**

In the June *Ham Rag* I stated that we need at least twenty orders to send for club jackets. The orders have to be in by our September meeting or the money will be returned to the ones who have ordered. This is the last chance and we need about 15 more orders.

If you are looking for addresses for calls you can't find in your callbooks, call me or ask at the meeting. I have supplements for U.S. and foreign callbooks, both spring and summer.

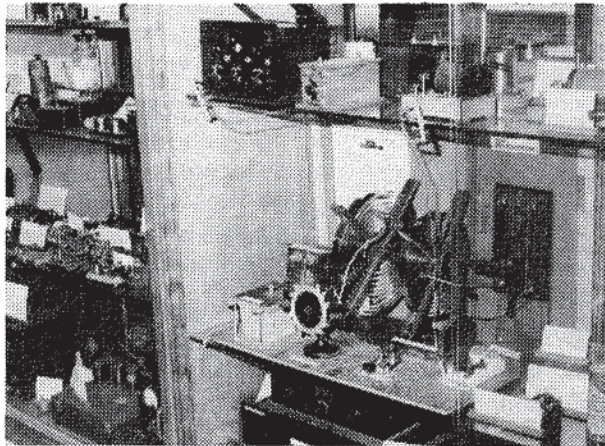
Our program this month will be put on by Cliff Anderson, W9TWM, from DeKalb, Illinois. It will be a slide show and talk on the history and development of transmitters, receivers and antennas from 1920 to the present. The meeting will be on Friday, September 11, at 7p.m. Location is classroom building 1, room 222 at Rock Valley College. Call up some friends or fellow members to remind them of time, date and change of place.

-73, KB9OW

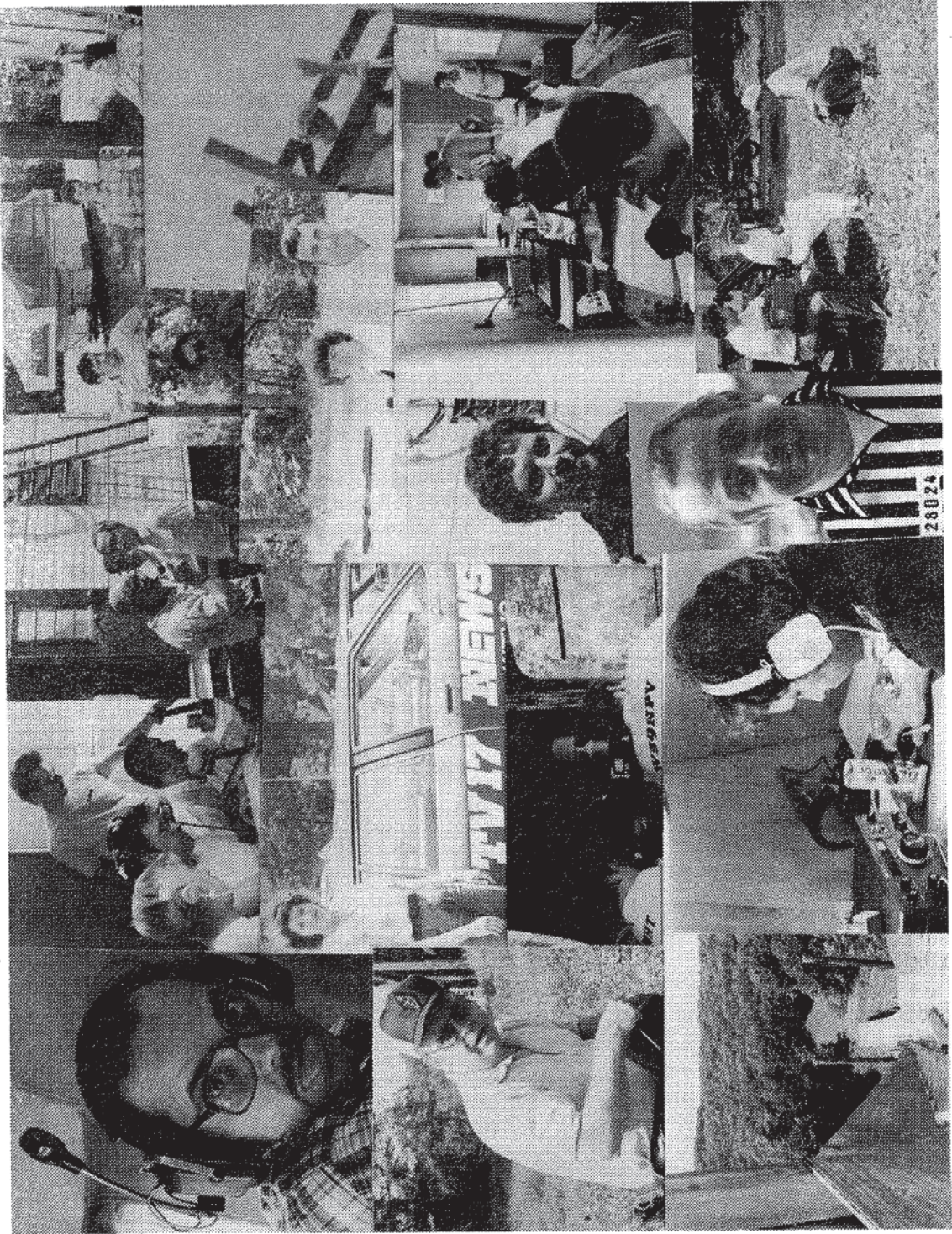
Bruce

Ten Commandments of Electronics

1. Beware of the lightening that lurketh in an undischarged capacitor, lest it cause thee to be bounced upon thy buttocks in a most ungentlemanly manner.
2. Cause thou the switch that supplies large quantities of juice to be opened and thusly tagged, so thy days may be long on this earthly vale of tears.
3. Prove to thyself that all circuits that radiateth and upon which thou worketh are grounded, less they lift thee to high-frequency potential and cause thee to radiate also.
4. Take care thou useth the proper method when thou taketh the measure of high-voltage circiuts so that thou doth not incinerate both thee and the meter; for verily, though thou has no account number and can easily be replaced, the meter doth have one, and, as a consequence, bringeth much woe unto the Supply Department.
5. Tarry thou not amongst those who engage in intentional shocks, for they are surely non-believers and are not long for this world.
6. Take care thou tampereth not with interlocks and safety devices, for this will incur the wrath of thy seniors and bringeth the fury of the safety officer down about thy head and shoulders.
7. Work thou not on energized equipment, for if thou doeth, thy buddies will surely be buying beers for thy widow and consoling her in other ways not generally acceptable to thee.
8. Verily, verliy I say unto thee, never service high-voltage equipment alone, for electric cooking is a slothful process and thou might sizzle in thine own fat for hours on end before thy Maker sees fit to end thy misery and drag thee into His fold.
9. Trifle thou not with radioactive tubes and substances, lest thou commence to glow in the dark like a lightning bug, and thy wife be frustrated nightly and have no further use for thee except thy wage.
10. Commit thou to memory the works of the prophets, which are written in the instruction books, which giveth the straight dope and which consolrth thee, and thou cannot make mistakes, sometimes, maybe.



Unknown





Photos by: Carol Holmes,
Sue Melton & the ARRL.

Field Day '81

Early fall greetings from your 81 FD commander. I hope everyone had a good summer, a rare DX contact or two, or possibly a room full of new goodies.

Field Day was again held at the grounds of the Rockford Ski Club on Rotary Road. Although the weather was hot, humid and had its share of biting bugs we survived the weekend - I think. We also had a short but heavy thunderstorm around 6 a.m. Sunday morning. Despite the previous mentioned adversaries, we managed to have a good time and best of all score a few points.

Thankfully, again, we had no major accidents to participants or equipment. The ski slope is getting into a sad state of disrepair, with boards missing, loose railings, etc., and may someday soon be unusable. The only loss of property was 1 sledge hammer (mine) and a tire (Ed Scott).

This year we had an excellent choice of equipment, rigs and antennas. The two big problems we had were one tower we could not put together and worst of all two rotors which would not turn. The rotor problem was due to trying to use the multi-wire telephone cable as rotor cable. With some wires broken in the cable, the remaining wires, even when paired, would not carry enough power to the rotors. We lost many points on 15 meters. Back to arm strong.

Although the final score was the result of a joint effort by all of those who helped in some way, there were two outstanding efforts. A special thanks and recognition of their efforts should be noted. On 40 meters, Russ (N9AUZ) and Gene (AK9N) with a 2 element 40 meter Quad made 540 cw and 66 ssb contacts for 1146 points. Dave (W9SUP) and Dale (KA9BTA) made 428 ssb contacts. Although Dave and Dale had some help, the 2 element 20 meter Quad at 40 feet did a super

job. This is not to say that "Hammers" like KA9BOD, WB9HPV, KA9HHT, the Schott family- KA9IMZ, KA9INA, KA9INB with others like WA9FFL, KB9UR, WD9HQV and the others who made many contacts. *Hope I did not forget anyone, and sorry if I did.)*

There is just not enough room to list or properly thank all who helped. Some came to help set up and or take down. K9LUX showed us all how to take down a 40 foot tower with a Quad on top. I would have bet it wouldn't work.

I want to thank Paul (KOVJJ) again for the excellent publicity we received. Also to those who helped in the interviews during Field Day. Also a special thanks to Chuck Howard, President of Rockford Blacktop for the use of the trailer at the site.

I would like to make a suggestion for Field Day '82. All of you please notice how 2 teams scored most of the points. I believe teams, for each band, responsible for their own equipment, set-up, take down and radio would score more points than we did. Individual teams working for a common score could put RARA on top of Field Day.

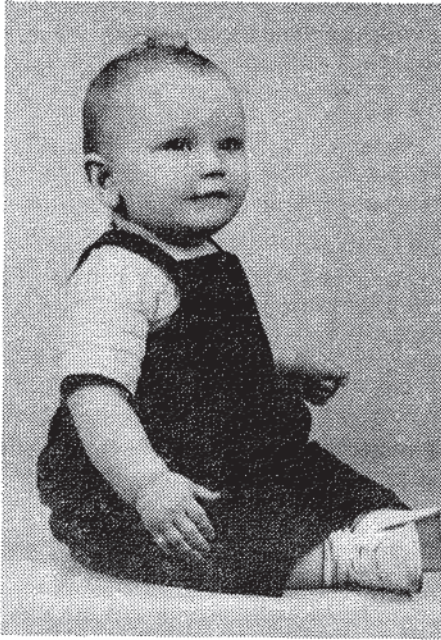
Thanks again to everyone - wish more could have joined in or even stopped by to say hello.

-73, KB9KH



Another novice class is being planned for the fall. More information is available from Gene-AK9N. So gather up your friends, relatives and CB good buddies and give Gene a call.

YL News



**CQ, CQ, World!
Anyone Out There?**

- 1.) Born in Freeport, Illinois.
- 2.) Was a "Rolly Polly" baby and still is.
- 3.) Had trouble growing hair.
- 4.) Eyes hazel now.
- 5.) You would not believe it, a very picky eater.
HI HI.

Good luck with this month's "BABYHAM". Our last one was Hannelore Steinhauser-DK3XJ. I hope all of you had a nice summer and I hope to see all of you at the next meeting. By the way, Mr. President/KB9OW. I know that a real friend is a person who, when you've made a fool of yourself, lets you forget it. I will, tomorrow. HI HI.

-73 KB9PC

Ray Lenburg • February 8, 1905 — July 14, 1981

Ray Lenburg, WB9ILH, was born in Marquett, Michigan. He lived in Rockford for 54 years coming here from Marquette. He married his YL MAE in Rockford in 1932. Ray was co-founder in 1936 and a partner of Factory Supplies Co., retiring in 1966. He was a member of Lyran Singing Society, Rockford Massonic Lodge 102, A.F. and A.M., Freeport Consistory, Tebela Shrine Temple, Tebela Horse Partol, EARS and RARA.

Services were held July 17, 1981.

William Canterbury • May 1, 1911 — July 12, 1981

W9UIJ, "Wild Bill" to those on .Ø1/.61 was born in Springerton, Illinois. Some time during his younger years the family moved to Sterling where he lived until he was 31. Bill married his YL, Dora, in Sterling in 1938. After moving to Rockford, Bill was employed as a millwright and carpenter by Sjostroms for 25 years. He retired in 196Ø. He was a member of the Loves Park Massonic Lodge 1145, A.F. and A.M., Freeport Consistory, Ancient Scottish Rite Valley of Freeport, Tebela Shrine, Eastern Star and Loves Park Shrine Club. He was an amateur radio operator for more than 4Ø years and was a member of Quarter Century Wireless Association, EARS, and Old, Old Timers Club.

Services were held on July 14, 1981.

Up Close & Personal

As the new season begins for the *Ham Rag* staff, I am pleased to present RARA's highest licensed female radio operator. By this time most club members know who holds such an honor, but for those who don't, her name is Carol Holmes, K19G. She is married and has five children, one of them is KA9JSY, Richard. Her husband of 22 years is Jim, KC9AP who holds an advanced ticket.

Carol's progress in acquiring her amateur license is considered to be on the unusual side. Having no practical experience in electronic theory and only average math background, she began. On October 15th her novice ticket arrived. A month later she was off to Chicago to take her general exam. Failing the code but passing the written with little trouble, Carol came home a technician. Still wanting to reach her personal goal a revised study program took shape. After a few months of work and waiting she was headed eastward to the big city. This time the results were different. Passing the code (general) she requested the advanced test. The months of hard study paid off. Carol passed with no problems. Then taking a few minutes to collect her thoughts she passed the extra code and theory tests.

"It's a big thrill for me. I put everything, I mean everything aside to study for that day. It sure worked." Carol points out, "Without the help of my husband Jim, all this would have been very difficult to achieve. There were times when at the oddest hours I would ask Jim to explain a question or two. He was very patient and deserves a tremendous amount of credit. I had good instructors in my classes. AK9N and WB9MMM

were there for my novice class and again for the general/advanced class. Also, K19F was there to help with code practice". So there you have it, from October to June - novice to extra. Congratulations.

Besides amateur radio, Carol has other interests. She enjoys photography and is the current *Ham Rag* staff photographer. According to Jim the editor. *"She does a very good job for us and all at her own expense."* Sewing and knitting have become a part time job for her with 5 children.

In conclusion, let me speak on behalf of all hams. Congratulations to you Carol - you sought your personal goal and found gold at the end.

Note: If you would like to see a fellow ham featured in *UP CLOSE & PERSONAL* please let me know. Thank You.

-73,WD9FVE



Potpourri

"Summertime when the living is easy." Remember the lines to this old standard? Well for RARA members summertime meant a lot of very busy days. So much has happened to our club members since our last "rag" I don't know if there is enough room to write it all.

With the ending of the novice and upgrade classes the first of June and the resulting trip to downtown Chicago, we have a good many successful upgrades. I hope I don't miss any — KA9BTA, Dale is now a general; WA9FFL, Paul to advanced; WD9APQ, Ray to advanced; Cherry, KA9JTB now N9CNC to tech; Margarite, KA9JTA now N9CNB to tech; Carol, KA9JHY now K19G and extra; Sid, KA9JEJ to tech; Leland, WD9HQU now KC9CL and advanced. Congratulations to all who upgraded. In a few short weeks we should have three new novices who will be burning up the airwaves.

We also have some call sign changes to report — WD9FVE, Jim is now K19F; N9CDZ, Dale is KC9BN; and KA9GSV, Jim is now KC9AP. Perhaps we should write these in our books in pencil so that when they change again we will be ready.

NEWS FLASH!!! Jim-WD9FVE/K19F was the latest "TAIL END CHARLIE" in RARA's last foxhunt held June 14th. The fox, KB9IW (Steve) was parked in Loves Park. The first hunter in was KB9UR, Bill, with a time of 13 minutes. Second was Dale, KB9WD, with a time of 37 minutes. Tail End Charlie took a full 54 minutes to find the fox. Now I wonder what Jim will do to redeem Himself?

Over the 4th of July weekend RARA members were kept quite busy. The 26 mile marathon went according to schedule with Bill-KB9UR and Paul-K9RNR spearheading the event. Our other activity for the weekend was the Confederate Air Force Air Show on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of July. RARA had 20 members helping provide communications on the ground. We were helped on Saturday by 20 members of the Sterling-Rock Falls

A.R.S. and one fellow from Beloit. Some of the Sterling group came back on Sunday to work. All of the amateurs had a good time and saw a great show while getting good sunburns. I recently received a note of thanks from Ann and Bob Webber for our help in making the air show a success. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those 40 amateurs who did such a great job for me out at the show. Space does not allow me to list the names and calls of each but you know who you are.

Our neighboring club, *Big Thunder* from Belvidere, had some bad luck for their hamfest on August 2. It seems August has turned into monsoon season here and on August 2 we almost needed an Ark! Even though it rained a good many area hams turned out and looked around at all the goodies set up at the fairgrounds in Boone County. When the rains came they moved inside and had some good "eyeball QSOs".

Monsoon time once again on the 9th when RARA members turned out for the 3rd annual pig roast. (*I'm glad we had a shelterhouse. For a while we really had club togetherness.*) The weather cleared just before we sat down to eat and the 35 families that came enjoyed the fantastic meal of roast pig. Dale and Jo Ann, KB9WD and KA9DNQ do such a great job on this event every year.

During the summer we had two silent keys; W9UIJ, Bill Canterbury and WB9ILH, Ray Lenburg. Both will be greatly missed. At the time of this writing W9FL, Maury Nelson is in Swedish-American Hospital. Let's all hope Maury will soon be home.

-73 Shari, WB9SFT



P.S.

Which club member is known as "P.P."???

Ham Mart

FOR SALE

Kenwood TS-520 \$425. Autek Research QF-1A SSB/CW/AM Audio Filter \$35. 6.3 Volt C.T. 20 Amp Filament Transformer \$8. A 5 Volt at 21 Amp \$8. 2 813's \$4. each. Call Chuck-W9JLN at 3972265.

FOR SALE

Kenwood AT-200 Tuner. One year old in mint condition \$130. Drake DL-300 Dry Dummy Load \$20. Call Bruce-KB9OW at 963-6606 after 6 p.m.

WANTED

CW RIG any model any power. *CHEAP!* Call Murry-N9MP at 654-9886.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

WANTED

FOR SALE

Swan 350D 200 watts PEP, 10-80 meters. Digital readout. Absolutely mint condition, 2 years old. \$400. Call Mike-KA9N at 1-732-2501, Oregon, Illinois.

FOR SALE

YAESU CPU 2500 RK 2 Meter FM with keyboard mike. \$325 firm. Call Terry-WA9TTY at 547-8896 weekends.

There is a 220 MHZ repeater in McHenry County. Call is K9XI/R and is 222.10 in and 223.70 out. Power is 40 watts at 300 feet with a G7-220. Coverage is Janesville to Chicago to Kenosha to Rockford. For more information call or write Art-K9XI.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

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P.O. BOX 1744 ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61110

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21.130 Mhz. Thursday 9:00 P.M.