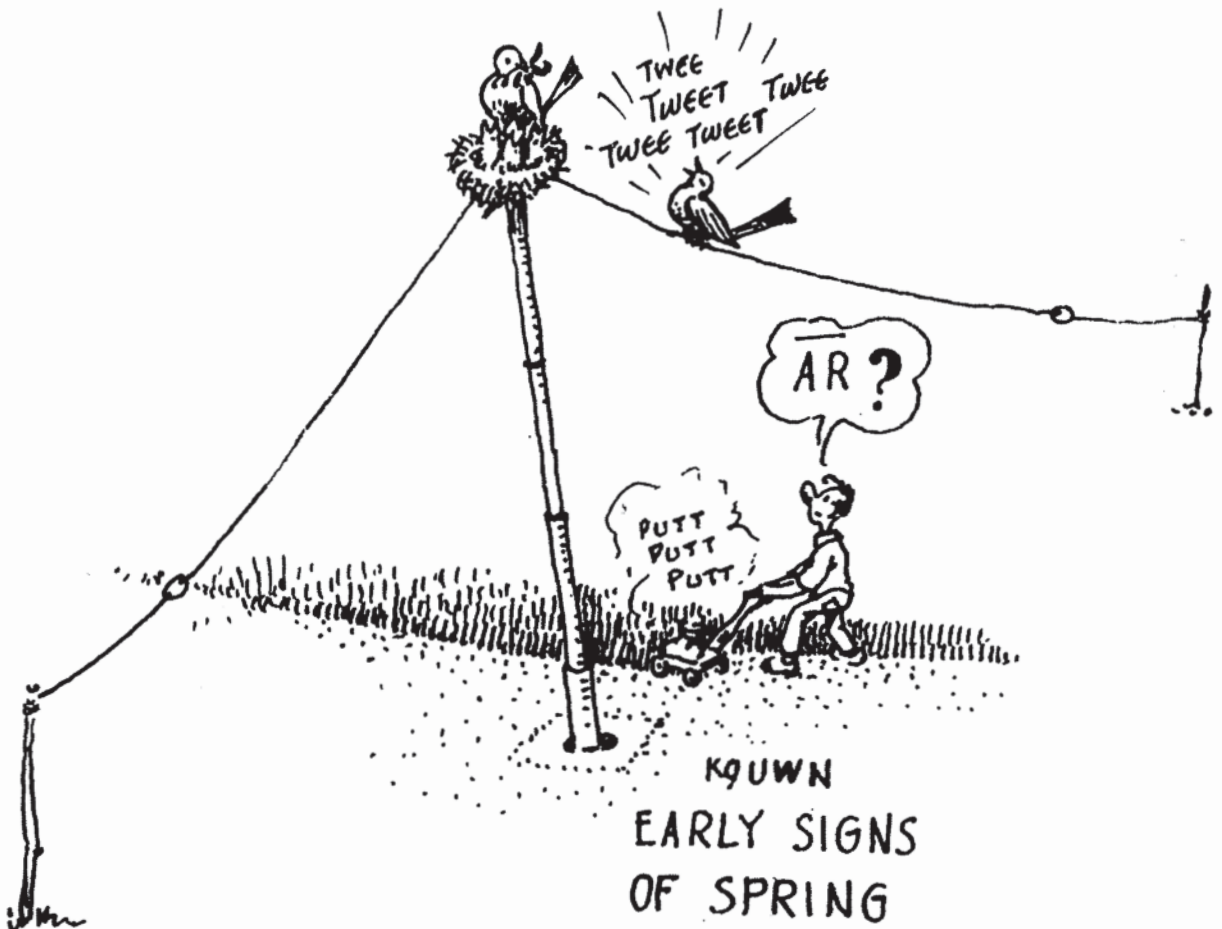


Ham Rag

Rockford Amateur Radio Association

April, 1982



President's Log

QRZ - Senor's and Senorita's - Greetings for this first month of spring when our hearts turn toward erections, antenna parties and to far flung hamfests. I am begining to hear rumbles and clashing of gears as several members talk of their projects. KB9IW and KA9BOD have new towers and antennas to poke skyward. AK9N has most of his tower up, but needs to add two sections plus guys and his various bird perches. Gertrude needs to reaffirm her KLM to a horizontal position. I would also suspect that others have similar ambitions on antennas plus those of us who want to re-do or install the familiar dipole or longwire. What ever you are doing along amateur radio lines take a few pictures so we can put them in the **RAG**. How else are we to learn how not to do it. By the way, all pictures for the **RAG** must be in black & white. With the spring weather also comes the familiar thunderstorm. When was the last time you checked your grounding system or guy wires. You don't need a direct lightning strike to cause a large amount of damage.

Since we have escaped this past winter I have a question for you all, for which I have no answer - do you? Here it is - If it is 0 degrees, how cold is it when it gets twice as cold? Not a ham item but just to see if you read this QRM. When you read this our second annual **AWARENESS DAY** will be past history. As I write this log, it's the day before; cloudy, cold, and raining. I am thinking about the 2 and 6 meter antennas we still have to install. The forecast for Saturday doesn't sound too good. Anyway, I hope everything goes well. I wish to thank Paul-WAOFFL for taking this responsibility, his crew, and all those who will have participated on March 20 to make this a successful event. You should have seen Paul and Bruce-KB9OW putting up KA9BOD's bean in the 30 mph wind gusts the previous Saturday. Some people just don't know when to keep their feet on the roof.

Sorry I had to miss the March meeting, but I just wasn't up to parr. I understand our **VICE PRESIDENT** did a fine job. Thanks Jim. This will give you a taste of the power in the oval office. Just don't try an insurrection or I will have to alert the banditos for a midnight raid on the beer cooler. HI⁵

I would like to express my appreciation to the *Commodore Computer Store* in Freeport for coming up with a speaker at the last minute. *The Computer Store* of Rockford had to back out due to business conflicts and expressed a desire to make up the

hardship at a future meeting. They made a sincere effort to complete their commitment. We may try them again in the fall if you would like.

The April meeting will be on Friday the 16th, the 3rd Friday of the month. The 2nd Friday is **GOOD FRIDAY** so we moved it back one week. Please note this on your calendar. The program for this meeting, thanks to Gene-KA9BOD, will be a movie and 2 video tapes on the design and construction of transistors and chips. The movie is thru the courtesy of *Honeywell* and the video tapes are from *Texas Instruments* which they use in their in-house training program.

It has come to my attention, especially after the March **RAG** came out that there are some comments about the article presented by our esteemed editor-K19F. I would hope that everyone understand that it was not aimed at anyone in particlar but only his poinion. I would like to see someone write an opposing point of view. We will print it. In order to keep the **RAG** up to its high quality I would like to see more of our members express themselves in the **RAG**. Know a good clean joke - send it in. You don't like something we do - say it - or vice versa. Got some old pictures of club activities? Maybe there are some movies or slides that would be of general interest. We are looking for items for the **HAM RAG** or possible meeting program.

The June issue of the **HAM RAG** will be a biggie. It will concern itself with the traditional *Field Day* theme of the month. Besides having the current *Field Day* information, Jim will have a several page cartoon potpourri of *Field Day* issues past. Think back and remember some of the great cartoons of years long past. Well in June many of them will be back.

As a parting comment, I expect Sue Melton has fully recovered from her March 16th operation. However, that not quite fully recovered skinny fellow with her is a victim of his own cooking. Now we know he could afford to loose a few kilograms but just think of their two boys, having to eat just hot dogs and beans lo these many days. So when you talk to AK9N and he only barks and toots at you you know why.

ARF-VEEDER-SEIN

**EL PRESIDENTE
KB9KH**

FRANK

WA9EQM/SK

John W. Morrison Jr. WA9EQM, "Tiny" as the Rockford hams knew him died February 28, 1982 in Rockford Memorial Hospital after a long illness.

"Tiny" was born February 8, 1922 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he lived most of his life. He moved to Rockford nine years ago. He married his wife June in Winter, Wisconsin on June 10, 1945.

"Tiny" spent many hours enjoying his hobby as a ham. He also spent many years raising bulldogs. He was a former member of RARA, a member of EARS, and a member of the Bulldog Club of America.

Memorial services were held March 3, in Greenwood Cemetery Chapel.

Any ARRL and RARA member can send his/her outgoing foreign QSL's thru RARA at no cost other than attending a RARA meeting. Just sort your cards alphabetically by prefix, bundle them up along with a QST mailing label and turn them in to Bob-WA9NTT or Gene-AK9N. Within a week they (*the cards, not Bob and Gene*) will be winging their way toward ARRL Headquarters and subsequently onward and outward.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that there is a net being run in Rockford every day of the week 365 days a year. Yes, you are right it's the 6 meter State Line Rag Chewers Net. It is run at 50.4MHz A.M. at 9:00 p.m. You can get in on this fun for about \$25 by buying an older tube type crystal 6 meter rig at a hamfest and making a wire dipole antenna. TVI really isn't a big problem running low power like most of us do.

Let me tell you a little about this friendly little net. It has rotatable net control every night of the week. With Carl Cacciatore WB9PBR starting it off on Sunday Night, Scott Francis-WB9APA on Monday Night, Lee Shelain-W9ZZL has Tuesday, I have Wednesday Night, Uncle Claude-W9VZ, who some of us like to call the "Mayor" because he is the backbone of the net, has Thursday Night, Friday Night Bob Mitchell-W9IGB does the honors and Saturday Night Mike Oberg-WB9JAU is at the stern.

Usually there are about 10 to 14 hams who check in from Belvidere to Winnebago and Madison to West Brooklin. We have even had check-ins from as far away as Canada during band openings. We have a good little go around even on New Years Eve and Christmas Eve, or in other words you will always find someone on 50.4MHz at 9:00 p.m. Why not fire up that old Gonset III, Sixer or Lunch Box and join in on the fun???

Don't advertise on the local repeater or 6 meter net of your vacation plans!

You might be inviting someone with a scanner to visit your domicile while you are away. This happened to a group of CB people in the Quad Cities a few years ago and they learned the hard way when 50% of them were ripped off while on a winter vacation.

Also, don't advise others of the current vacation of area hams as well. You may just be helping them get ripped off as well. If you hear someone calling for a local ham on vacation, call that person on the telephone and advise them of the fact etc. It is great temptation to be "helpful" but it might be "hurtful" instead.

When I go on vacation, I ask a good ham friend of mine to respond to calls for me via the telephone and I do the same for them in return.

Paul Klein, K9VJJ

Awards

The following is a nice write-up explaining why to QSL. You **MIGHT** send a copy to that guy who owes you his card since more than a year but you **SHOULD** read it and follow it.

WHY THE QSL CARD?

All through life we carefully preserve documents and valuable papers showing that in such and such a year on such and such date some important event (*to us*) took place, events such as the date we were born, the date we said our first word, the date the first tooth came through, date vaccinated, married, acclaimed, honored, and finally the date we died on.

The QSL card which the ham finds in his mailbox is his document of a worthwhile event and accomplishment. It is tangible proof of his accomplishment.

Without QSL cards there would not be any award such as: DXCC, WAC, WAS, 5BDXCC, WAE, DUF, WBE, WAP, etc. and your pride of accomplishment would not be recognized.

The ham who works hard for his license sets up his rig (*maybe even building it*), spends possibly untold hours getting his antenna "*just right*", maybe even hours trying for a certain contact (*maybe even YOU*) certainly deserves a QSL for his efforts.

Not everyone likes QSL cards, some are not "*interested*", but those of us who take the trouble to send QSL cards certainly indicate that they **WANT YOUR CARD**, and I am sure that you must feel the same way about this as I do. To make the QSL chore a little easier many stations send along IRC's or stamps of the country worked and a SAE.

QSL's make me **HAPPY**, won't you help by sending me **YOUR CARD**? Thank you and I hope it makes **YOU HAPPY** too!

73 and DX

HOW TO GET QSL'S FROM THE BUREAU?

To receive QSL's from the bureau, you must have stamped SAE's on file. Otherwise your incoming cards will be discarded after a couple of months.

The easiest way to SASE's it to use postage and envelope credits. Here is how it works:

Send your request with the number of envelopes wanted with your call and mailing address and check to: **Ken Neuffer, W9ZA, 9th Area QSL Manager, 371 Oaklawn, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126**. The cost will be 50¢ per envelope or \$5.64 for 12. (*Includes 20¢ postage and addressing*). If you expect to get more than 6 cards per month, include enough extra postage at 17¢ per ounce. Each additional 17¢ will cover about 9 more cards.

EXAMPLE: 12 envelopes with 20¢ postage
= \$5.64
12 Ounces of extra postage
= \$2.04 (12 x 17¢)
\$7.86 Total

Only one call per envelope.
This is for "9"-Calls only. For other calls request information from your call-area QSL bureau.

de N9UN



PSE QSL

CQ DX

HI DXers:

A lot of good DX has been on lately, hope you've been getting your share. Remember patience in DXing is your most important friend. A perfect example happened to me last month with the arrival of a QSL from Heard Island VK0HM, seems I had a QSO with him January 19, 1970. Now that's what I call slow mail HI HI! Most importantly keep envelopes at the bureau, for many DX stations only QSL that way.

Propagation forecasts look for the early spring, so don't forget to tune 10. The band has had good openings to Asia, South America, and the South Pacific as late as 10 p.m. local time.

QSLing direct can be very expensive as you know. One easy way to cut costs in half is the buddy system. The way it works is you and a friend exchange your country lists and call each other when a new one comes on. After you both work him send your cards together. I do this with KB9IKP, KB9OW and KB9PC and have found that the QSL return rate has been better also.

In chasing DX when you run into the impossible pile up, that is you've called for 30 minutes or so and not even been heard at all don't stay on that spot, tune the rest of the band and chances are very good you will find another one you need or come back and work him later.

D68AB COMOROS is on every Tuesday 18:30 GMT list is taken by K0VV 21.285 QSL WB2OHD.

T31AD possible in May this is the old VR1 Brit. Phoenix Island is now a part of KIRIBATI, CENTRAL. Right now Kiribati counts as 3 countries but it may soon be only one so you best get it this time.

A35RF Rep. of Tonga March 26-April 15.

3D2RF Fiji Is. April 16-20

K4LTA/J6 St. Lucia April 24-May 2

VP2EC Anguilla March 20- April 10

BY CHINA the government has given approval for club station operation only, and Ft107, KWM380s, and Th6DXX equipment is already there. So some good signals should be coming soon!!!

DX CONTESTS

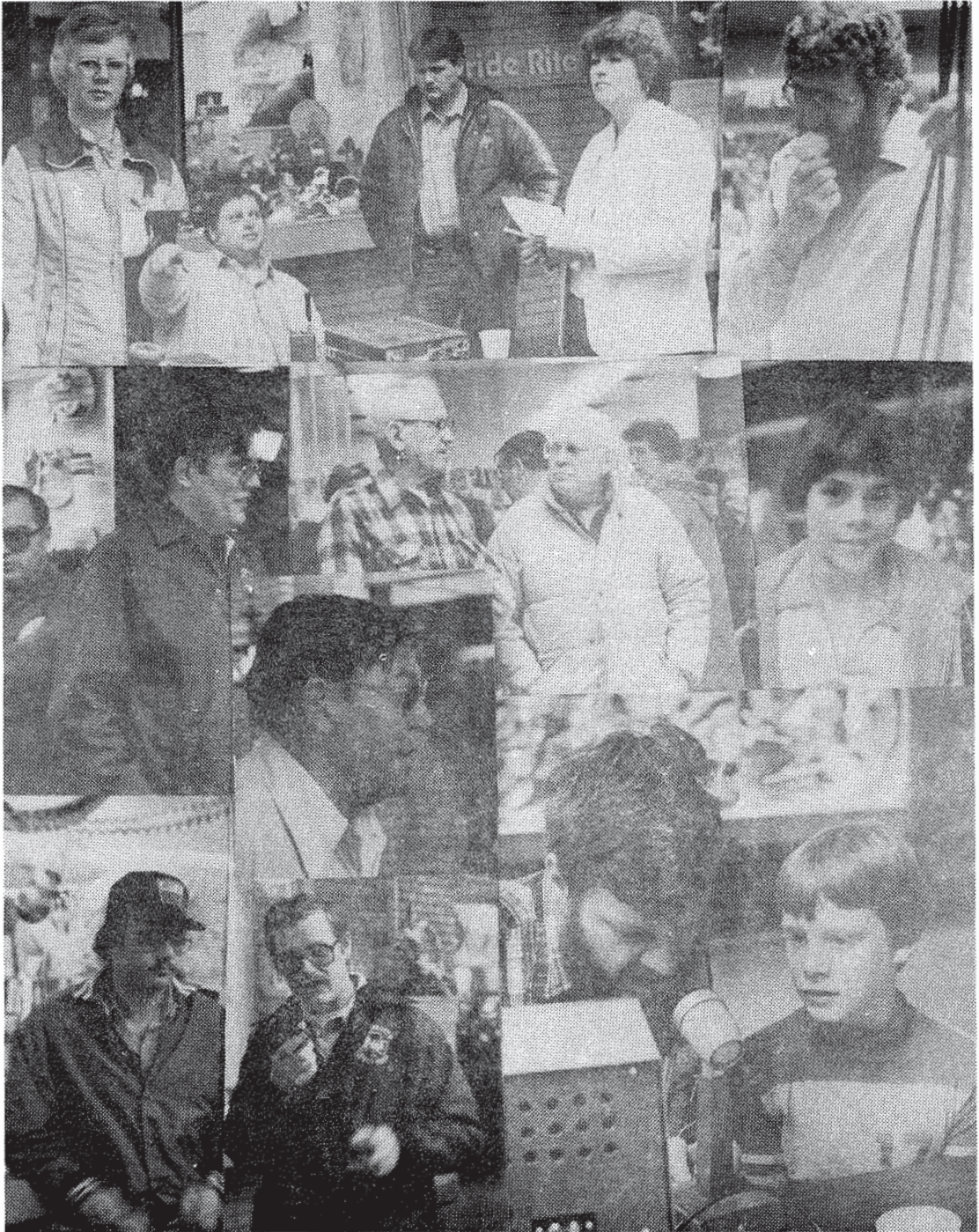
APRIL 7- 8 DX YL TO NA YL
 APRIL 10-11 CARF Commonwealth Phone
 APRIL 14-15 DX YL TO NA YL
 APRIL 24-25 SWISS "H26"
 APRIL 24-25 KING OF SPAIN
 APRIL 24-25 YL ISSB Phone QSO Party

LOCAL NEWS

UL7, UM8, VP8, 9H1, ZK2, and P42 on CW. HZ1, CS0, SV/, AH8, 5B4 & 9K2 on SSB. All worked by WD9DBC in the ARRL DX CONTEST so get in there guys & gals!

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

OFFICERS		1982	DIRECTORS			
President	Frank Hirsch	KB9KH	397-6966	Bruce Hamilton	KB9OW	963-6606
V. Pres.	James Ambruso	WD9FVF	654-3620	Frank Baker	WB9OGD	623-2008
Sec'y	Maurice Bolte	N9CCE	877-5439	Zygmunt Podgorny	W9MOS	968-1244
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Distribution Manager * Photos & Layouts				Gene Melton	AK9N	654-0675
	Carol Holmes	KI9G	633-3249	Dick Steinhauser	N9UN	397-6653
Circulation Manager				Gertrude Kindell	KB9PC	963-4050
	Dale Landis	KB9WD	633-0520	Gene Harlan	WB9MMM	398-2683
Artists				Gene Duncan	K9IKP	393-4751
	Jack Stuman	K9UWN	399-3890	Dennis Eksten	W9SS	877-6768
	Bob Davidson	WA9NTT	877-6274	I. M. Lippy	?????	??????
	Gertrude Kindell	KB9PC	963-4050	Henry Choke	?????	??????





PHOTOS & LAYOUT
CAROL, K19G

Awareness Day

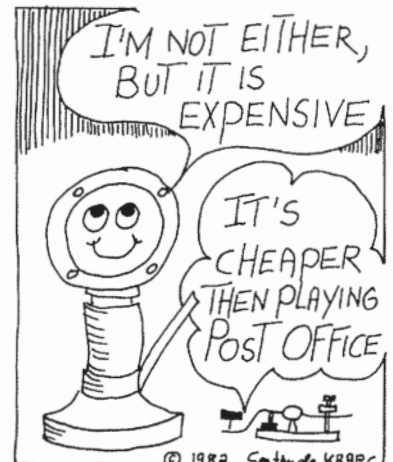
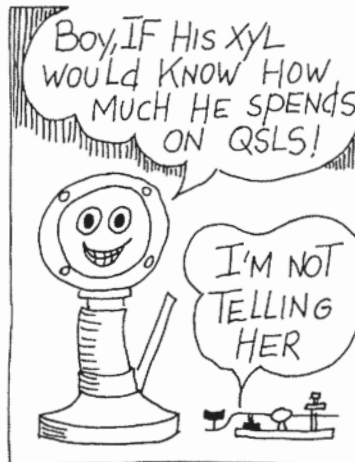
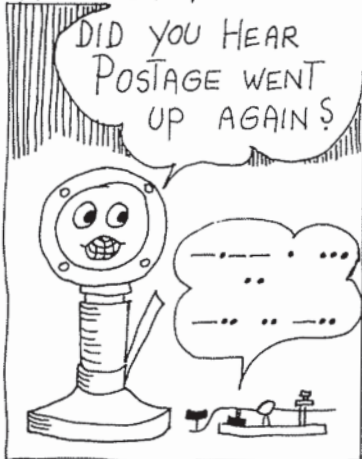
On March 13, RARA had an antenna party at Colonial Village for our *AWARENESS DAY*. It was a little windy, but what better time to see how 100 mph winds are going to affect your new antenna! Right Gene! Much help was provided by Ziggy-W9MOS, Frank-KB9KH, Bruce-KB9OW, Moe-N9CCE, Larry-K9LUX, Mark - WD5GYW, Duane-WB9LEF, Leland-KC9CL, and Gene-KA9BOD with his new tribander. It was so windy in fact that the elements on Gene's antenna were bending about 3 to 4 feet at the ends. It was a tough job done well, and all involved deserve a pat on the back. Thanks Guys!

On March 20th, RARA's second annual *AWARENESS DAY* transpired. The antennas erected the previous Saturday worked beautifully, and we were active on 4 bands. We had a lot of support from club members and a lot of interest from the public. Several expressed a desire to get a ticket, and get on the air. Channel 23 was there and gave us a nice piece on their 10:00 p.m. news.

We used a very nice Icom 730 furnished by Dick-N9NUN on HF while Moe-N9CCE loaned us a Swan 250C on 6 and his all mode rig for 2 meters. (Paul's Kenwood was the fourth rig - Editor) Mark-WD5GYW and Moe got in a lot of operating time with some relieve help from Paul-K9VJJ who stopped by for a while. Paul by the way was responsible for all the nice publicity we recieved.

Jack-WD9DBC operated HF quite a bit and explained the principles of Ham Radio to quite a few. Dale-KC9IJ spent a lot of time talking to the public as did Duane-WB9LEF, Paul-K9RNR, Frank-KB9KH, Chuck-N9CCH, Bob Sue Fiduccia-WD9JDZ

MIKE + Mc KEY



© 1982 Southvale KB9PC

WD9JDY, BruceKB9OW, Dale-KC9BN and Nancy-N9BZT. Dick-N9UN and Hanna-DK3XJ were there and Ziggy-W9MOS were active all day. Carol-KI9G was all over with her camera, but would not come up to the roof and take a picture of the antennas!

The only one I saw working CW was Dave-WB9HPV, but there may have been others as at times we were surrounded by people. Marv, now N9BXQ, was there helping out. Jennifer, Jeff and Ed Schott (KA9INB, KA9INA and KA9IMZ) were there with Ed trying to get a public message to Indianapolis for a couple, but the people at Indy were not talking. Jim-KI9F brought the club newspapers we had left over and we distributed them to interested parties.

Dick-N9CWQ and Art-W9WSG lent a had for a while as did Milt-W9FFQ. Ron-KA9MOL stopped by to chat and mentioned he needs a little help with his antenna to get on the air. Randy-K9QOT was there to say hello and said he would like to get back in the club. Several others with tickets concurred with him.

All in all it was quite a day. It took a lot of effort on the part of all who helped to man the radios, talk to the public, put up antennas, tables, etc., and then take it all down and clean up the mess. It was a lot of fun meeting the public and hams I didn't know. I think the club should do it again next year. The public seemed very interested. To those that were there all day my heart felt thanks, they worked their hearts out, and did a wonderful job. Frank even got talked into climbing the tower. See what ya missed!

If I have missed anyone, which seems to happen, I regret the error as all help was appreciated.

Paul - WA9FFL

CQ Contest

CQ CONTEST APRIL

Now that all of the snow has melted (*and hopefully no more heavy accumulations are ahead of us*), it is time to survey any winter time damage done to our antenna systems. Now is when you want to find and correct any minor problems before they grow into major ones. Such as that run of old coax that would become a short circuit around New Year's Day (*prime tower climbing weather*). While up on that tower don't do anything stupid either. We don't want to start having RARA meetings in the cast department at the hospital.

The ARRL 160 meter contest results popped up in the April issue of QST. WD9DBC is the only local listed. Jack made 118 QSO's with 30 multipliers for just over 7K points. After seeing his QTH, I wonder how he gets out on that band. He must load up one of those towering trees in the back yard. Sure wish my trees would grow. Here at AK9N there was some activity the first night of the contest with a neighbor coming over and trying to sent my call. However due to some beer spillage, the logs were in no shape to send in. Probably should have, but they were even unreadable before their bath.

Time is getting short to get in your results from our *FCC Special* run last February. The response to date has been far from overwhelming. If we could double the number of logs received so far, we would have a grand total of four. In other words our next contest or completion will most likely be the last. We promised the DX chasers a contest for them, so keep part of the month of June available. Some of the reason for having these things is to get some of you who are stuck on the FM mode back to the low band rig again. Dust off the Kenwood, have some fun! Enough soapboxing.

If you thought the last contest was rather unusual, we have some good ideas for the next

one also. On the subject of strange exchanges, drag out the April copy of QST and take note of the *ARRL Morning Special* in the Contest Corral.

It is not too early to start thinking about *Field Day*. The two co-chairmen, Don-N9AWZ and Russ-WD9FVI, have been hard at it already rounding up various pieces of equipment and finding volunteers for the needed team captains. Once again the club will be going out to the ski jump off Rotary Road. Any and all types of aid are appreciated. If you can't bring a rig, rotar, or rhombic; a pair of hands and willingness to pitch in and work would be a help. Call Russ or Don or any board member.

That just about dries up the well again for this month. Happy Contesting!!! Hope to see you on the air.

AK9N

Electronic Numbergram,

	1	8	8	6		4	6	5		8	5
8	4		7	0	0			3	6	0	0
	1	5	0	0				2	0	0	0
5	0					3			0	0	0
0		2	7	1		5					
		1		2	3	8	0			2	2
		1	5				0		2	4	8
	2	0	0		3	7	6	8	0	0	5
1	0				0	0	5			0	0
9		2	0			3				7	
4		1	7	0	0		6			0	
6	3	6				3	0	0	0	0	0

Potpourri

The latest song out is "Late Again" but I M Lippy. Yea-the days go by so fast here. I am late again and batting 1000. Perfect score tho, right Jim? HI.

N9CCE-Chuck recently received a QSL from years ago under his old novice call sign. Better late than never.

W9JLN-Chuck has a new amplifier on 2 meters. Commonwealth Edison will love him! Once a month.

For the "Going Homers" around 3:30p.m., there is a nice short net on .94. They don't solve too many worldly problems but it is courteous and congenial.

KA9HHT-Lars recently spent 10 days down in Florida with his grandparents (*Dave's dad-KA4MSA*). What ever happened to truant officers? Daily skeds were held without "Ma Bells" consent. Oh well, everyone stop what you're doing and let's all get in the warm weather.

That old snow/rain storm on the 19th left many bewildered as to when spring will ever arrive. Our tulips have been up for a week or so. Will tower and antenna raising time ever come???

The 2nd annual *Awareness Day* at Colonial Village was okay. A mini field day. I think I conned one boy and his mom into starting ham radio. Coax was courtesy of: KB9UR, N9CCE, W9MOS, WB9LEF and WA9FFL.

I had a nice time at ther Sterling hamfest. The food was as good as usual. I think their turnout was real high. At least I bumped a lot of elbows.

Congrats to KA9IMY-Harold and KA9MCS-Jerry, both of whom returned from the big city as generals. FB guys.

The 8th wonder of the world is rkported to be the "Leaning Tower of Landis". Hope they get it fixed soon.

Word has it that AK9N-Gene got a square meal yesterday. Either Sue is up and around or she should be. HI.

The grapevine says that W9UFH-AI is in SwedishAmerican. Get out of there and get back on the air soon.

73, I. M. Lippy

RARA's OVER THE HILL CONTEST

Due to popular demand, (*two or three people complained*) RARA is sponsoring a DX contest. (*Anything over the next hill is DX, right???*)

1) Work anybody, anytime, any band, any mode. No limits at all so good luck with lists, nets, and other contests.

2) On the log sheet enter date and time (*GMT of course*), call of station worked, signal report (*both ways*), band, and mode.

3) To make the dupe sheet business easier, work any station only once. Submit dupe sheets for more than 100 QSO's.

4) Phone QSO's score one point. CW QSO's score two points. (*Who said anything about fair*).

5) Same classes as before: Novice/Technician, General, Advanced/Extra.

6) Multipliers are the *FIRST LETTER OR NUMBER IN THE CALLSIGN* of station worked. In other words; G4AWE is the same as GW4AWE but

different from 9Y4AWE. You can get 4 different multipliers from U.S. stations (*W, K, N, and A*). Maximum total of 36.

7) Contest period: any nine consecutive days during the month of June. If your first QSO is at 0410z on June 12 your last one will be no later than 0409z on June 21.

8) Scoring is simple. Multiply the sum of your QSO points by the number of multipliers.

9) Bonus: Anyone who works Field Day with a club (*Active helper*) scores a bonus of 1000points.

10) Contest logs should be submitted to **P.O. Box 1744, Rockford, Illinois 61110** by July 15. Awards to be given out at the club picnic in August. In case of ties we will tear the certificate or saw the trophy in half.

Ham Mart

FOR SALE

Kenwood TS-820S with Remote VFO, Remote Speaker, MC-50 Mike, Extra Set of Finals.
Dentron MLA-2500 2KW Linear, 160-10 Factory Installed.
Heathkit StationuConsole Clock, Phone Patch, SWR/Power Meter.
Call **Kurt Eversole-WD9JCC** aftr 5:30 at 965-0640.

FOR SALE

~~~~~  
**WANTED**

4NB for R4-C, QF-1A --- Call **LARRY-K9LUX** after 6 p.m. at 654-0080.

**WANTED**

~~~~~  
FOR SALE

MFJ Delux Model Keyer plus Paddles) Call **JIM-WD9FVF** at 654-3620.

FOR SALE

~~~~~  
**FOR SALE**

Drake TR4C with MS4 Power Supply and D-104. \$550. Call **PAT** in Belvidere at 544-9150.

**FOR SALE**

~~~~~  
FOR SALE

FT 101EX A-1 MINT. One Owner with Bill of Sale. Has 10-160 Meters, WWV, AM, CW, SSB, RF Processor, and Mike. CALL **TOM-N9BUL** in Beloit at 365-0854.

FOR SALE

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

ROCKFORD, IL
Permit No. 230

NETS;

28.7 Mhz. Monday 9:00 P.M.

50.4 Mhz. Nightly 9:00 P.M.

146.01/.61 Mhz. Monday 8:00 P.M.

BLACK HAWK VALLEY

TEN TEN INTERNATIONAL

28.925 Mhz. Wednesday 9:00 P.M.

21.130 Mhz. Thursday 9:00 P.M.