

HAM RAG

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



FEBRUARY 1985

PRESIDENTS LOG

First I would like to thank Roger Sawvell for the fine job of putting together and MC'ing the awards banquet. I think that everyone had a good time. If anyone went away hungry it was their own fault (can you believe all that food....). I haven't heard any bad comments, so if anyone has comments that the board needs to hear, good or bad, speak up now as reservations for next year need to be made right away.

Don't forget that the February meeting is the auction with someone that like to clown around being the auctioneer. Bring all the items that you would like to dispose of and your checkbook (lots of cash will do fine...) to pay for all the new goodies you take home (might want to bring a two wheeled cart also!!). Should be lots of fun so why not bring a friend from work or anyone that is interested in electronics or ham radio. This is a good meeting to introduce your friends to our group.

CONGRATULATIONS

I think everyone was surprized when we had TWO hams of the year!!! Congratulations go to both Carol Holmes and Gene Stankiewicz. All the club members appreciate the things that you each contribute to RARA and ham radio in general. Just think of all the photos that would not have appeared in the HAM RAG or students who would have had to find a different teacher if it wouldn't have been for Carols efforts. And Gene has put together some very interesting programs for our RARA meetings and exposed many Boy Scouts to amateur radio. And in both cases they did it because THEY ENJOY IT!!!! That's the neat thing! Again, congratulations to both of you.

Some things to think about coming up:

1. Awareness Day - Northtown Mall- February 23 - Call John Wacker if you want to participate.
2. Cerebral Palsey walk-a-thon April 20 - Call Shari Harlan - WB9SFT
3. March of Dimes Walkathon- April 27 - Call Shari Harlan - WB9SFT
4. Field Day - June - Want to set up a team? Call Dale Mather or Frank Hirsh
5. Hamfest '85 - Do we want one in Rockford this year?? Even a small one would be fun!! Only if we have some volunteers to chair this event. Call me if interested.

As I write this I'm thinking of the upcoming Wheaton Hamfest this Sunday. If I buy too much there, I'll bring the excess to the auction.

See ya at the meeting!
Bring a friend!

ham classes ham classes

Beginning on March 14, 1985 at 6 P.M. and continuing for 12 weeks, the Rockford Amateur Radio Association will be holding a Novice class and an Advanced/Extra SEMINAR at the Harlem Community Center on Roosevelt Road. The classes are three hours each Thursday night and the cost is \$15.00/\$25.00 respectively.

The books needed for each class are:

NOVICE

Amateur Radio Novice Class Theory Course (Ameco) \$5.00

FCC Rule Book (American Radio Relay League) \$4.00

Morse code tape and code practice oscillator \$10.00

SEMINAR

A general outline of subjects for any given night will be followed, but no specific textbooks are required. Some suggestions may be: either Schrader book, ARRL Handbook, ARRL License Manual, Orr's Radio Handbook, FCC publication #1035C/D, etc.

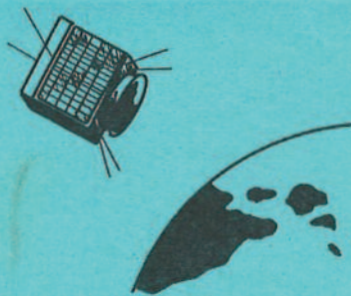
The two books for the Novice class will be available at Canterbury Books in Edgebrook Center, while the code tape and practice oscillator for Morse code may be obtained at the class.

To learn more about Amateur (at NO expense but time), visit us at our first meeting on March 14, 1985. See some of the equipment, perhaps a film, find out what is involved in earning your own license and getting "on the air", and talk to some of the Rockford area hams.

For more information:

Carol Holmes K19G	Gene Melton AK9N
633-3249	654-0675
after 3 P.M.	after 5 P.M.

Rockford Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 1744
Rockford, IL 61110



oscar

This month for the first time we are adding a column on Oscar. Emil, WD9HAK, has agreed to join our HAM RAG staff and contribute some of his experiences and some information on working Oscar.

This month there was some information about DX and was confirmed on Oscar 10 thanks to WBDX, G3IOR, and WOCY sharing their scorecards with us.

A7, CE, CE0A, CT, CX, LU4ENQ, DJ, DK, DL, EA, EAB, EI, F, FC, FK, FM, G, GI, GJ, GN, GW, HB, HBO, HC, HG, HL, HZ, H44, I, JA, JY, K, M, N, KG4, KG6, KL7, KP2, KP4, KV4, LA, LU, LX, DE, OH, OK, ON, OY, OZ, PA, PJ2, PY, P2, SM, SP, SV, TI, TR, TU, UA1, 3, 4, UA9, O, UB, UL7, VE, VK, VP2, VP8, VP9, VS6, VU, V3, WH6, XE, YB, YD, YU, YV, Y2, ZD8, ZK2, ZL, ZS, Z25, ZS3, 3A, 3D2, 4U1, 4X, 5N8, 9H!, 9M2, 9Y4,

Next month we will talk about antennas. Hope to see you on Oscar 10 soon.

73, Emil, WD9HAK

NOVICE CORNER

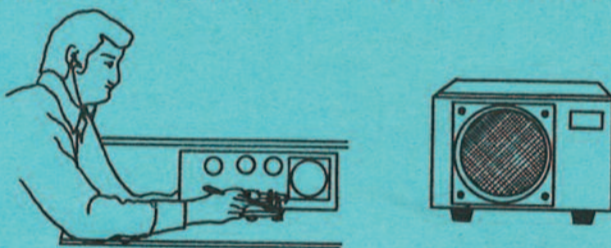
Hello again from KA9LTR. I hope everyone had a nice time at the awards banquet. The topic that I would like to write about this month is QSLing; both receiving and sending QSL cards. This happens to be an aspect of ham radio that is rather important to me. After managing to acquire (with a certain amount of difficulty) the needed 50 QSL's for my novice worked-all-states, I set out to begin working on my 5-band worked-all-states. This meant that I needed 200 more QSL cards-the right ones, of course!

Let's assume that you're going to try for an award such as worked-all-states. This means that you would like to begin collecting QSL cards, one from each state. The old cliché "if you want QSL's then send QSL's" works-up to a point. I'll try to explain what I mean by this. Most hams are glad to QSL; especially other novices that want QSL's themselves. However, a very few will not QSL even though they might have told you "FB on QSL" or "I'll send my QSL as soon as I get yours", etc. Whether or not they think that they are getting one up on other hams by just sitting back and not sending any QSL's in return for the ones they received themselves, is beyond me. Anyway there are always a few of these types around to deal with.

To increase your chances of getting your QSL return rate as high as possible, there are a few steps that can be taken. The first thing you should do is to ask the other ham during your QSO, if it is ok with him to swap or trade QSL's. Doing that commits him (hopefully). While tuning the bands I have heard some of the newer hams tell the other ham in QSO to send a QSL; not ask, but tell! To my way of thinking, not only is this poor manners, but it is downright rude; so ask if it is of on QSLing.

Another method for insuring a return QSL to yourself is to send out self-addressed-stamped-envelopes (SASE's). This might seem like a rather time consuming and expensive way to go but many times is very worthwhile to do this. I'll try to explain what I mean. Some hams might not be as well off, financially, as you or I might be. They might be retired, disabled or on a very limited income. This is not as strange as it may sound, especially with the economy being what it is today. A good tip-off is to be listening in the QSO for the other ham's age and whether or not he is retired. So be listening for these clues.

There is another good reason for sending SASE's. In some instances, the other ham may live in one of the more "rare" or "hard to work" states, such as Vermont, Alaska, Hawaii, etc. He may not want or need 100 or 200 QSL's from Illinois on a particular band. Would you? There might be a bit of exaggeration in the numbers here, but I think you get my point. That is, you want his QSL and he might not necessarily want yours. So-an SASE could really pay off in a situation like this.



When filling out your QSL to the other ham, it is very important that you do the job right. In my quest for 5BWAS, I have received quite a few QSL's that had some part of them either filled out with the wrong information or the information was absent from the card. Remember that the other ham might be going for an award, too, and the awards people who check the QSL's take a dim view of QSL's that have been changed or modified in some way. Here are some important things to keep in mind when filling out your QSL's for the other ham:

- (1) Your call sign. If you were portable or mobile, it should be so stated on the card.
- (2) The geographical location of your station; city and state. Again, if you were portable or mobile during the contact, your QSL should indicate the location at the time of the contact. Showing the county that you are in is a good idea too, since the other ham might be a "county hunter."
- (3) The callsign of the other station worked. Make sure that the other ham's call is exactly right. Also, if he was operating QRP and maybe trying for a QRP award, it is a friendly courtesy to show this after his call. For example-KA9XYZ/QRP.
- (4) The date and time of the contact. To avoid confusion, it is a good practice to use Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) or UTC, which stands for Universal Coordinated Time. UTC is the same as GMT.
- (5) The frequency. Show the band wave length or approximate frequency. for example-40 meters or 7.125 MHz.
- (6) The mode of operation. Abbreviations can be used, but be specific.
- (7) Signal report in standard R-S or R-S-T format.
- (8) Make sure that the QSL actually confirms a 2-way contact. Use "confirming QSO with", "2-way" or "2x" before the other station's call.
- (9) Other items such as rigs, antennas, etc. are optional. If you make any errors in filling out a QSL, it is best to destroy the card and start over. As I mentioned before, awards people can be very "sticky" about disqualifying QSL's that have had changes made on them. By making sure that your QSL's are properly made out, you are helping set a good example for other hams. Good luck!

73, KA9LTR, Brad

**RARA MEETING
FEBRUARY 8
7PM ROCK VALLEY
COLLEGE - ROOM
222 CLASSROOM
BUILDING 1**



1985 RARA AWARDS BANQUET





Photos by: KI9G, AK9N & KC9AP
Layout: KI9G

One half of the last selected hams of the year has many talents and skills (along with other assorted skeletons that KA9BOD has been trying to keep hidden) that should be made known to all that are here assembled. Before coming to the fair city of Rockford, he was living in Milwaukee (53201). Communication with the desk sergeant at the local precinct yielded no information due to the statute of limitations still being in force. The word on the street though is that BOD was requested to leave before the breweries ran dry.

Before Gene wondered his way into the ranks of amateur radio, he spent many hours, days, and week ends trying to determine which side of the tree the moss grew on. Before the reader is led into believing that Gene isn't a camper that Smokey the Bear wouldn't be proud of, would you follow a person into the deep woods who can't properly pronounce the words from a prayer book?

In his efforts to escape from what he thought was a bear in the woods, he went to his second line of defense.

Working quickly, he set up a ring of fire, got his scouts into the ring with himself in record time (it was a very small ring). The bear, opps turns out the bear is an Ewok, came crashing out of the brush with a fire extinguisher, expertly doused the piddling flame before it did serious damage to a national forest. Shaking his finger at the grimy soot covered scouts and our hero cowering before him, he said "Only you can prevent forest fires."

Not to be outdone, the next trip down to the southwoods produced a real calamity. after unloading the coolers, the grills, the axes, the jar of preparedness (that all good scouts carry all the time); some sharp Bobcat noticed that the tents and sleeping bags were missing (like nowhere to be seen at all). Not one to let a small setback put a damper on the festivities, Gene grabbed the nearest canoe and a set of Iambic paddles and started rowing upriver toward the closest Army-Navy surplus store. Due to not being mentally awake (no preparedness) and of a somewhat agitated state of mind at this time, our hero forgot to paddle on both sides of the canoe, causing circular polarization in the middle of the river. Gene is still looking for that troop of scouts that he left without shelter, but in the meantime they have all earned their Explorer badges.

As is well known scouts are requested to do a good turn daily, however Gene is always prepared to do a good daily turn.



Gene's scout training also carries over into his work world (career?). He has been recently observed reverently standing before a broken main-frame, waving an axe over the control terminal and mumbling incantations to the laws of Ohm and a few $E=mc^2$ squared for good measure.

Most of the local businesses that have need of computer repair services are now requesting that the guy who tries to load the hard disk on 20 cm, be sent somewhere else.

While attempting to interface the TRASH-80 to the HF transceiver at home, Gene had the misfortune to bifurcate the floppy RAM, much to the consternation of the TRICOM IV B communications-satellite that promptly left orbit and crashed into the wilds of Siberia. Learned scientists believe this may have had something to do with the recent drop in the sunspot numbers.

One fine day (poor planning for a tower/antenna project), while climbing a tower to attempt a repair on a cross polarized tri-bander, Gene almost experienced the dubious honor of becoming famous for the first 3 1/2 gainer with full double twist in the history of amateur radio. The last General assembly has recognized Gene's oversight, and recently enacted the State of Illinois' first mandatory seat belt law.

Enough has been written here while hopefully staying on the near side of libel, so the disclaimer is--any similarity between any Ham of the Year, active or inactive, is purely intentional and what was being hoped for in the first place.

u ben had

potpourri

Our friend Gary, K9LJN, is on the mend after having knee surgery. Of course this little setback doesn't keep him from searching the bands for DX. We wish him the best and hope he will be back to normal real soon.

Wouldn't it be nice if hams would use a dummy load when tuning up? It is really irritating when a carrier comes on the same frequency during a QSO. I feel pretty sure most of us own a dummy load.

Auction night is coming up at our February meeting. Bring any related ham gear that you might want to get rid of. Maybe it will be something that somebody has just been looking for. The Byron repeater (147.270 up 600) has added an amplifier, about 50 watts. The added coverage over the northern Illinois area should result in more use of the repeater. It is an open repeater by the way.

There is a new call sign in the area--so watch out gang. It is N9EYA ex KA9QZV our RARA Treasurer. KA9LYO, John, is awaiting a new call sign. John upgraded to Tech at the last testing session. Remember tests for upgrading are given the third Saturday of every month with the next session to be February 16.

The Whealon Hamfest is history and what history! Rockford had a record 26 degrees all of them below zero with a terrific wind that made the wind chill index about 75 degrees below zero. Even so some hardy souls from the Rockford area made their way to Arlington Park Race Track and found many good bargains. Wonder how come KC9WF and N9DRL got stuck in one of the toll booths???

I hope I wasn't the only one who went away from our awards banquet in January with a belly ache.

MAKE 1985 A GOOD YEAR!

73, Chuck, N9CCH

The other half (that is not to be confused with better) of the 1984 Ham of the Year is really a very nice person until you get to know her better, when the true personality begins to plod through. As a local medical practitioner once stated when looking for a cranial fuzball; "I see nothing but creeping senility here!!"

Not wanting to be known forever as 'CRASH' or 'PARNELLI' Holmes (something to do with defenseless mailboxes and shopping center parking lots), she is the only instructor foolhardy enough to leave the classroom during Kung Foo night at the Novice classes.

A proud possessor of a third degree black tongue, our heroine states proudly, "Straightens those little rummies right out!"

Before venturing into the world of amateur radio, Carol spent time with photography. Ask to see some of those obscene tree photos.

Have you ever attended a RARA function and gone away with whiplashed retinas? How about another another lens in your own shot?

Maybe someone telling you to shut your aperture? With rumor of her declining photo activity, the price of Kodak fell 14 points, since the cost of silver is directly proportional to her use of film. At the various club meetings and functions, we should all be very careful of our actions. An innocent peck on the cheek can be recorded on film to come back as a haunting blackmail note. Even the moose and the alligator refuse to be seen together anymore.

Like many of the rest of us, Carol has plunged into the personal computer hobby, much to the chagrin of her friends and acquaintances who barely even know how to spell CPU. Her boss at work became totally unglued one fine day when she tore his \$8,000 IBM asunder to install some new memory chips. This heathen act has spawned a new interface mode-ROIGD: Radio Operato In Garbage Out.

Her vast technical knowledge extends even into amateur radio activities. Being meticulous at everything, she periodically switches the ends around on coax feed lines so the electrons do not get all piled up in the tuner. Otherwise a vacuum cleaner is in order. Her Yaesu is fortunate that she does not speak Ohm's Law fluently. The FCC has inserted a clause into KI9G that forfeits the ticket if she ever removes the cover of the rice burner.

Her operating tactics have set CW back farther than even Mr. Sam himself. The ham ticket made the linear from the previous service almost legal, which perhaps is one reason KS9B moved fartner down river. The sunspots have not affected the bands as seriously as might be imagined. 20 meters has been shut down in an attempt to get Carol to go away. Who else would ask a phone station to go to CW just to win a bet. She recently has been monitored working the North American Service of the BBC on that mode. Even asking for aid in identifying rare CW DX over the telephone is not too far to stoop. This kind hearted benefactor should be able to also share in the spaghetti din-din.



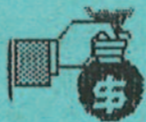
We all have made mental pictures of the hams that we hear on the air. Carol's mental picture from her captivating, totally enticing, mind bogglingly sensuous, toe curling voice wafting through the speaker, melting your ear wax while grabbing all that underserved DX with its 15 db advantage fits the real person in one respect---both are female.
u ben had

a "new one" for dxcc from arrl letter january 17, 1985

The question of separate DXcc country status for UK Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus has now been resolved, and DXers will no doubt be combing their logs and old shoe boxes of QSL cards in search of contacts with ZC4 stations on Cyprus.

The ARRL Awards Committee voted 6 to 1 to accept the recommendation of the DX Advisory Committee to recognize the UK Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus as a DXCC country separate from the Republic of Cyprus. When the Republic was established by treaty effective August 16, 1960, the United Kingdom retained sovereignty over both the Akrotiri and Dhekelia military bases. The DXCC Countries List failed to recognize this distinction. The Sovereign Base Areas are part of Great Britain and easily meet separate country status by virtue of separation by foreign land. Both the DX Advisory Committee and the Awards Committee reviewed the treaty, and both review panels were satisfied that the UK had indeed retained its sovereignty over the bases since 1960, when the Republic of Cyprus was formed. Perhaps the most perplexing question is why no one has come up with such convincing evidence before. Handling the credits will be a bit complicated since all ZC4 contacts were NOT made from the sovereign base areas. In the early 1960s there was apparently some lag time before SB4 callsigns were authorized by ITU for the Republic, and during this time the ZC4 prefix continued to be used throughout cyprus.

To allow time for the word to spread worldwide, submissions for credit will not be accepted before June 1. Any contacts with ZC4 stations BEFORE August 16, 1960, will continue to be credited to the Cyprus listing, since this predates the effective date of the treaty. QSLs for ZC4 contacts AFTER the 1960 date will be credited to the new listing if they indicate that contact was made from a sovereign base area. For ZC4 contacts of questionable location, the DXCC Desk will be compiling a list of callsigns that are good for Sovereign Base Areas credit, and all questionable cards may be submitted for the DXCC Desk to sort out. Anyone having ZC4 cards that were previously credited for Cyprus may resubmit for the new credit, along with a SB4 card for Cyprus. All SB4 contacts, of course, count for Cyprus. Any questions-feel free to contact the DXCC Desk at Hq.



**A.R.A.R. DUES
ARE DUE**

HAM MART

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