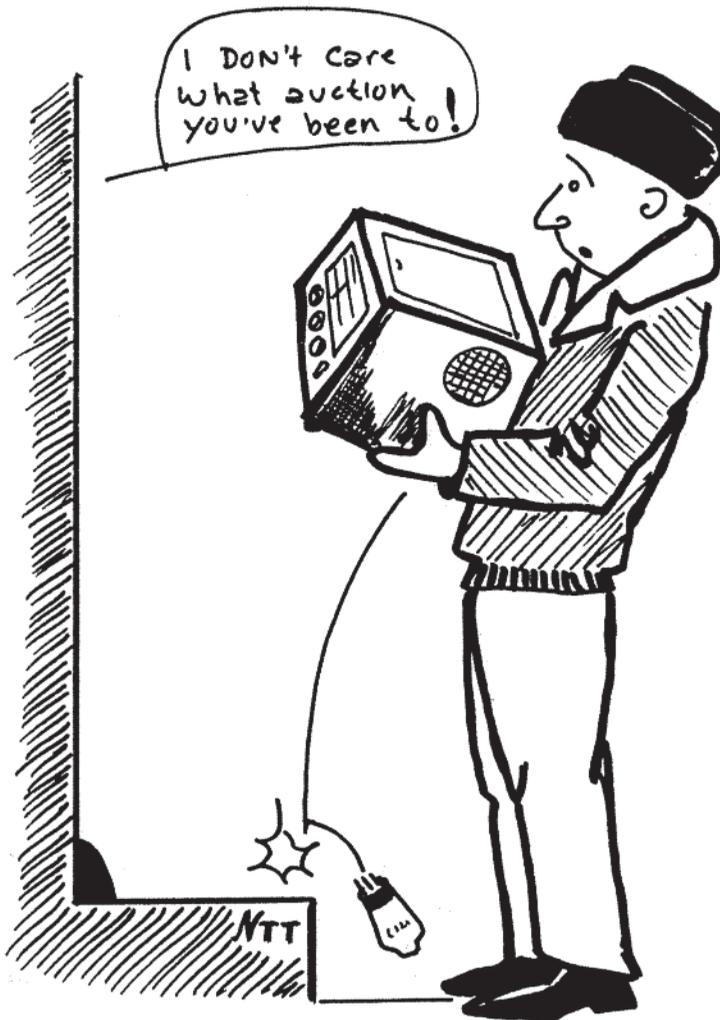


# Ham Rag

Rockford Amateur Radio Association

February, 1982



# President's Log

Since we last met, we have had several severe cold, windy storms go through the area. I have not heard of any antenna or tower casualties but I know my rotar was a little stiff during the -20° weather. I am surprised there was not at least one antenna party. Hi! (*Since turning in this article, Frank has had trouble with his antenna.*)

I would like to thank Mr. Edward Polewarczyk for his excellent presentation on the *Space Shuttle Program*. Did any one book a seat on a future flight? We can thank Gene-KA9BOD for making the necessary arrangements for the program. I also appreciate the effort of all those club members who came to the meeting on such a cold night.

The February program will be our annual club auction. Bring all your goodies and boat anchors. Remember the club will receive 10% of all sales. The Treasurer says we can use the green stamps. In March, the program will be on computer basics. What you need to get started, how much, books, software, etc. Hopefully, it will help you from buying something you can't use. It will be chaired by the "COMPUTER STORE" on West Auburn Street.

As we mentioned during the January meeting, we have several members who have volunteered to head up committees for our club activities. These people will need all the help they can get. If you would like to help, either in a big or small way; let them know as soon as possible. We know how many of you will show up at the last minute, which is okay, but it sure drives the committee chief crazy in the meantime. The more who help, the less each will have to do. Committee heads will be listed at the end of the log.

Novices classes will begin **February 23, at 7 p.m. at the HARLEM COMMUNITY CENTER, 900 Roosevelt Road**. This is about 2 blocks east of Machesnet Mall Shopping Center. The first night will be an informational night to answer,

hopefully, any questions a prospective ham will have. We will also try to have some radios on display. We are attempting to put posters in various stores, high schools, etc., to advertise this class. So pass the word around. We would like to have some members show up and help on this night. At the present we have only three instructors. Anyone interested in teaching, either Novice or higher class license courses please contact me or Gene-AK9N.

I would also like to get a group of licensed hams who would be willing to act as advisors (*ELMERS*) for the novice class. This group would work on a personal contact with the novice to help answer questions that may come up during their studies. This would save considerable time during the class. Also, this *Elmer* could advise on equipment selection when that time comes. It would also show club interest in the new class.

**Field Day** is a long way off. However, Russ-WD9FVI and Don-N9AWZ, this year's co-chairman would like to get an early handle on what kind of participation they can expect with our "TEAM CONCEPT" this year.

**Awareness Day** will be held March 20th at Colonial Village Mall as last year. Paul-WA9FFL this year's chairman needs rigs, antennas and people. Equipment for SSTV and RTTY are also being sought.

**Hamfest** chairman is Paul-K9RNR. We all know this is a monstrous task to head. I am grateful, thankful, on bended knees for Paul to take this project. Many members have told me we should have a local *hamfest*. Well now is your chance. This is not a few member project as Field Day or Awareness Day. It is a whole club project. It is the income we need. When you are asked to help—please cooperate with Paul.

Have anything for the "RAG"? Jim can always use articles, short stories, pictures, or whatever.

**-73, Frank, KB9KH**  
"el Presidente"

## The following is a list of committees:

**HAMFEST - Sept. 5**  
Paul-K9RNR

**PROGRAMS - monthly**  
Gene-KA9BOD

**FIELD DAY - June 26-27**  
Russ-WD9FVI Don-N9AWZ

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Nancy-N9BZT

**NOVICE CLASSES**  
Carol-KI9G Gene-AK9N  
**AWARENESS DAY - March 20**  
Paul-WA9FFL

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

**OFFICERS**

**1981**

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I. M. Lippy ?????? ??????

Henry Choke ?????? ??????

**A FEW LAUGHS COMPLIMENTS OF W4MPY**

**MURPHY'S LAWS**

If anything can go wrong, it will and at the worst possible time.

Everything takes longer than you think, and costs more than you originally planned.

Whenever you set out to do something, something else must be done first.

If you do something which you are sure will meet with everybody's approval, somebody won't like it.

The probability of anything happening is an inverse ratio to its desirability.

When working on a project, if you put away a tool that you're certain you're finished with, you will need it instantly.

Never try to replicate a successful experiment.

All the good ones are taken.

**MURPHY'S ENGINEERING LAWS**

Always draw your curves, then plot your reading.

Do not believe in miracles — rely on them.

Firmness of delivery dates is inversely proportional to the tightness of the schedule.

Dimensions will always be expressed in the least usable term. Velocity, for example, will be expressed in forlongs per fortnight.

Any wire cut to length will be too short.

Tolerances will accumulate unidirectionally toward maximum difficulty to assemble.

A fail-safe circuit will destroy others.

A transistor protected by a fast-acting fuse will protect the fuse by blowing first.

Any error in any calculation will be in the direction of

most harm.

If a safety factor is set through service experience at an ultimate value, an ingenious idiot will promptly calculate a method to exceed said safety factor.

In specifications, Murphy's Law supersedes Ohm's. Given any problem containing 'n' equations, there will always be 'ntl' unknowns.

Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

**MURPHY'S COMPUTER PROGRAMING LAWS**

Any given program when running is obsolete.

If a program is useful, it will have to be changed.

If a program is useless, it will have to be documented.

Any given program will expand to fill all available memory.

The value of a program is proportional to the weight if its output.

Profanity is the only language all programmers know best.

**MURPHY'S BUSINESS LAWS**

If more than one person is responsible for a miscalculation, no one will be at fault.

The organization of any business is very much like a septic tank — the really big chunks always rise to the top.

The man who can smile when things go wrong has thought of someone he can blame it on.

'ntl' trivial tasks are expected to be accomplished in the same time as 'n' task.

# CQ Contest

My only comment on the frigid weather that we have been enjoying lately is that we all usually complain during the heat of August also.

While speaking of mid-summer heat; any high levels of RF you may have noticed during the CW portion of *Radio Sport* last July, came from the QTH of Jack-WD9DBC. After all of his work he finished with almost 700 QSO's worth nearly 140,000 points. This fine effort put him in third place on CW in W9 land. Second place is within reach Jack, good luck again next year. Another local who blasted some holes through the ionosphere recently was Paul-W9OPO during the ten meter contest in December. With 700 QSO's and a fair amount of multipliers, he should finish well up in the standings.

The next *BIGGIE* coming our way is the *ARRL International DX Contest*, CW version, to take place the weekend of February 20 and 21. Full particulars were in the December issue of *QST*. A multi-op effort is being planned at AK9N, so if there is anyone out there who wants to work some of Mr. Morse's please get in contact with me. The SSB portion of this contest is coming up March 6 and 7. Any of these contests are a fine way to increase your DXCC count. Just do some tuning around and you will be surprised at what is out there.



If you planned on working the *Novice Round Up*, now is probably too late (*today is late January*) since the contest will be over on February 7th. Keep in mind that any QSO's made during NR do count toward *RARA's FCC Special*. Hopefully the participation will be better than for the *WAS* competition last October. If enough interest is shown, we will continue with more

nonsense in a similar vein. Rumor has it that a DX type of contest is in the planning stages for sometime later this year.

For those who have acres available for the antennas, the *CQ WW 160 Contest* is taking place February 27th and 28th. If your rig is blessed with this band, at least give a listen if you have never operated on the top band.

For the 5BDXCC types there are some 40 meter contests this month. *The Radio Society of Great Britain* sponsors a 7MHz contest; SSB on February 6th and 7th and CW on February 27th and 28th. A YU amateur is sponsoring a 40 and 80 meter contest on February 13th and 14th. This one is CW only, fortunately or unfortunately as the case may be. It is possible to work DX on 7MHz from the Midwest, even barefoot into dipoles and verticals. Not all of it is in the Extra CW band either, especially with a contest of some sort going on. As far as 80 meters is concerned, I have to plead ignorance. K9IKP knows all the secrets on that band.

Keep in mind the state QSO parties if you are heading toward *WAS* or *5BWAS*. On page 88 in the February issue of *QST* there are ten QSO parties listed. If the last one you need is not there, be patient, it eventually will be.

That is all for this month. May you all have a good time enjoying your favorite facet of amateur radio.

**-73, Gene, AK9N**

# CQ DX

## Hi Gang!

Well the bands have been up and down, but conditions are improving. We will probably see many disturbances in the propagation in the future. Sometimes the opening will be very short with many hours of quiet band except for some some stateside and caribbean openings. A good DXer tunes around a lot during these times. It is also a good time to fill out those QSL's, update your filing system, or fix up your rig. HI!

9N1MM Father Moran is very active on 20 usually around 0100 to 0300 SSB. He appears to be in good health after his surgery and busy schedule while in the states. He said to say hello to everyone at RARA.

FB8WG-Crozet is still haunting W9SS, K9LUX, KB9OW and K9IKP. Patience. He has been on the W7PHO family hour on 20 meters in the mornings.

Remember to keep quiet when a DX station is talking and follow instructions. When calling a DX station use VOX and let it drop out after you have given your call. Try to keep your calls in sync so you don't talk while his is. Be sure to listen carefully because there is usually a large number if stations calling. When he calls for a station, **that station only** should transmit. Many hams do not do this and cause a very bad QRM problem for the DX station. Sometimes a DX station will get mad and go QRT. **REMEMBER, COURTESY** is very important.

W6KG-W6QL Iris and Lloyd Colvin are traveling again. They are active now in PZ-Surinam. They have been very popular DXers for many years. They are very good operators, working both CW and SSB on all bands. They helped me with new countries many times. The following is a copy of some of their achievements.

As of January 1977, Lloyd and Iris have worked half of the active amateurs in the world, traveled in 130 countries, made over 370,000 QSO's, worked amateurs in 353 countries, received and filed over 200,000 QSL's, worked under 30 different calls, and hold 370 awards. They are sponsored by an organization called **Yashme**.

There purpose is to travel to DX spots and help everyone with a new country.

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## LOCAL NEWS:

4x4	Israel	KC9AP	RTTY
TL8CK	Cen. African Emp.	K9LUX	
5H3BP	Tanzania	K9LUX	
W6YB/3D6	Swaziland	KB9OW	21
9Q5VT	Zaire	KB9OW	21
ZD8TC	Ascension Is.	KB9OW	21
EA9JV	Melilla	KB9OW	28
3D6BS	Swazilahd	KB9OW	28
VP8ANT	Orkney Is.	KB9OW	14
VP2KBS	St. Kitts	KB9OW	28
ZB2GR	Gibraltar	KB9OW	28
VP5RAC	Turk & Caicos	KB9OW	21
FY7BY	Fr. Guiana	KB9OW	28

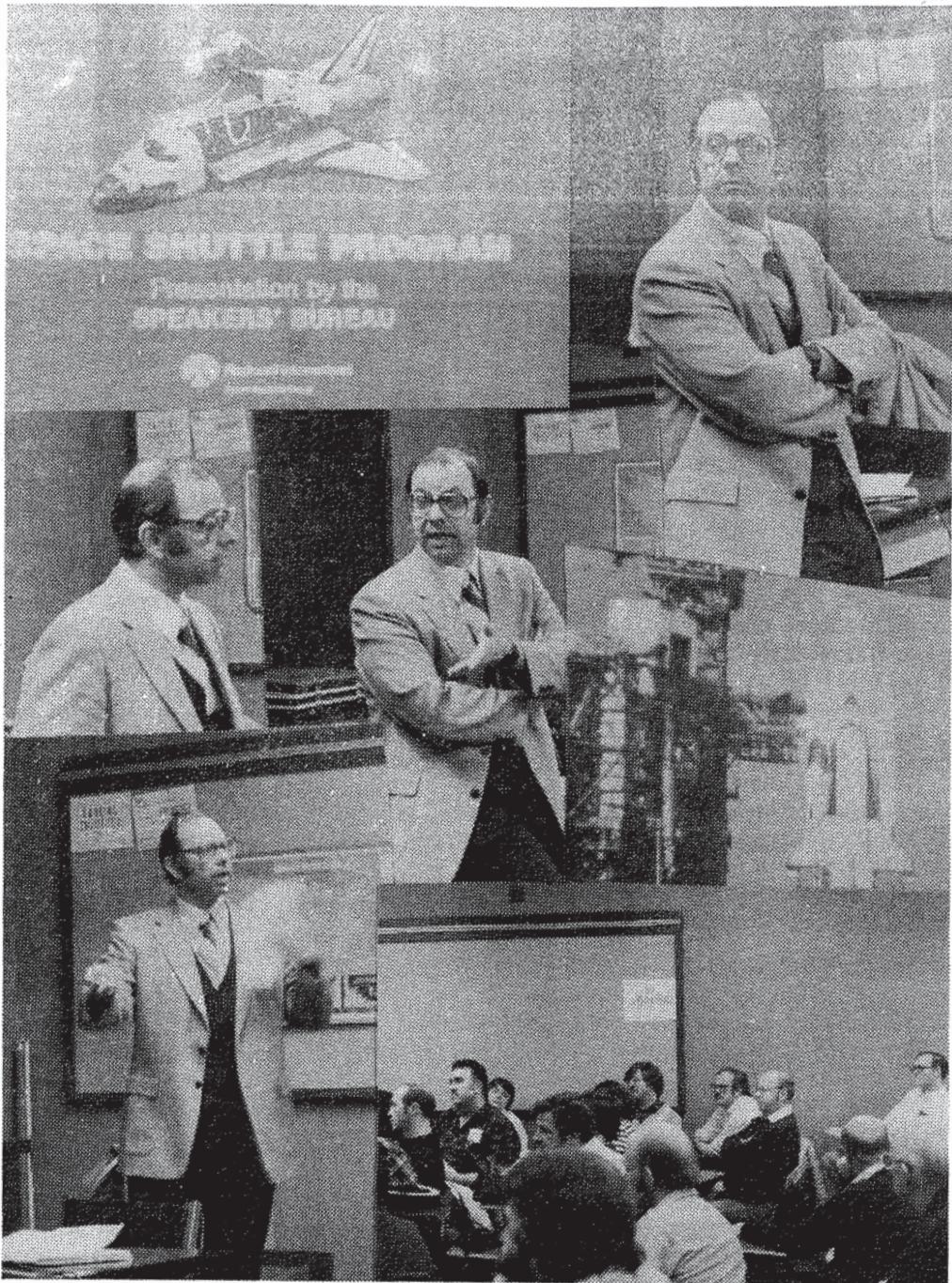
On December 28, K9IKP worked 108 JA's in one evening on 15. Carol-KI9G recently worked South Korea, Antarctica, Ivory Coast, Brazil, Argentina and Finland.

A lot of DXers use the telephone or two meters to alert a fellow DXer. It would be nice to have a 2 meter simplex channel in the Rockford area. Ever wonder why the W4s and W6s seem to pile up all at once on a frequency. They keep in touch with repeaters.

We still need input for this column. Please help regardless of how small it may seem to you. It may be very important to someone else.

**-73, Gene, K9IKP**





**PHOTOS & LAYOUT  
CAROL, KI9G**

# WIND CHILL TABLE

		°F. Temperature																
Wind MPH		35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
		WIND CHILL INDEX																
Calm=0		35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
5		33	27	21	16	12	7	1	-6	-11	-15	-20	-26	-31	-35	-41	-47	-54
10		21	16	9	2	-2	-9	-15	-22	-27	-31	-38	-45	-52	-58	-64	-70	-77
15		16	11	1	-6	-11	-18	-25	-33	-40	-45	-51	-60	-65	-70	-78	-85	-90
20		12	3	-4	-9	-17	-24	-32	-40	-46	-52	-60	-68	-76	-81	-88	-96	-103
25		7	0	-7	-15	-22	-29	-37	-45	-52	-58	-67	-75	-83	-89	-96	-104	-112
30		5	-2	-11	-18	-26	-33	-41	-49	-56	-63	-70	-78	-87	-94	-101	-109	-117
35		3	-4	-13	-20	-27	-35	-43	-52	-60	-67	-72	-83	-90	-98	-105	-113	-123
40		1	-4	-15	-22	-29	-36	-45	-54	-62	-69	-76	-87	-94	-101	-107	-116	-128
		<b>VERY COLD</b>	<b>BITTERLY COLD</b>	<b>EXTREME COLD</b>										<i>(Wind speeds greater than 40 mph have little additional chilling effect)</i>				

## TEMPERATURE PLUS WIND IS SOMETHING ELSE

This chart shows how existing temperatures and wind velocities combine to produce the wind chill index, shown as an equivalent temperature. For example, a temperature of 25 degrees with 20 m.p.h. winds equals a temperature of minus 4 degrees with no wind. Solid lines show combinations of wind and temperature and the categories used to describe them by the U.S. Weather Service.



## Awards

### ANTIGUA INDEPENDENCE AWARD:

During November 1981, Antigua, former VP2A... got its independence and many stations were on the bands using the new prefix V2A... If you worked 4 or more you may apply for this certificate:

Submit a copy of your log showing call sign, signal report, time of contact, and band, together with SAE and \$1.00 to: **Independence QSO Party, Box 550, St. John's, Antigua, W.I.**

### THE FREEBOOTERS' STATUETTE:

The Freebooters' Statuette is an exclusive trophy issued by the Freebooters' Radio Club. You get the statuette with your callsign engraved on a silver plate, if you have had a contact with the club-station SK7BK and with 5 members of the club. So look for SK7BK and start hunting. Information about members is available by writing to: **The Freebooters' Radio Club, P.O. Box 150, S-28101 Hesselholm, Sweden.**

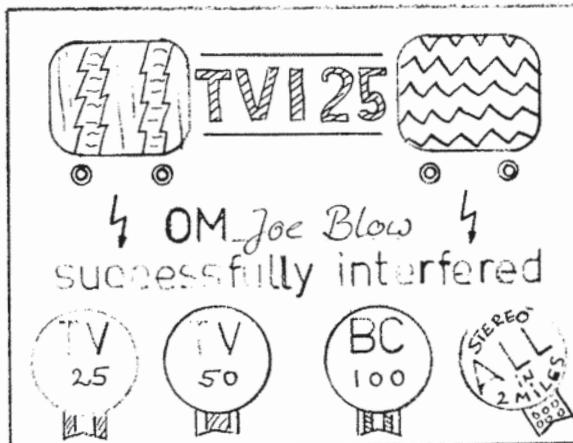
### OK-SSB:

Work Czechoslovakia stations on 10 to 80 meters. Required are 25 points for the basic certificate, additional 25 points for each endorsement. Each contact on 10, 15 and 20 meters counts 1 point, on 40 and 80 meters 2 points. Submit log and QSL cards or a verified log (from a RARA officer is OK) and 5 IRC's to: **Central Radio Club, P.O. Box 69, Praha 1, Czechoslovakia**

### 100 OK

Work any 100 OK/OL stations after January 1, 1954, any band and mode. Endorsements for 200, 300, etc. Other information like OK-SSB.

**de, N9UN, Dick**



N9UN

**DUES ARE DUE!  
HAVE YOU PAID YOURS?**

# Guest Speakers

After listening to our local repeater I have a very good idea as to the length of time an operator has been a ham. What gives the best clue? Is it procedure used or the vocabulary?

Procedure is fairly easy to learn and most new operators are very good at adhering to correct procedure. So then, it must be vocabulary that is the clue. Vocabulary - the common usage - that is actually changing our ham bands.

Many times when listening to conversations on the repeater I feel the Ham has picked up the vocabulary from some other source of two-way radio. The problem is how does one avoid sounding like an ex/CB'er if there is no one around to advise on the kind of "key phrases" to avoid. It is possible that these new hams, hearing such "key phrases" on the bands think this is "ham slang"? Does this type of vocabulary promote itself? What is "ham terminology" anyway?

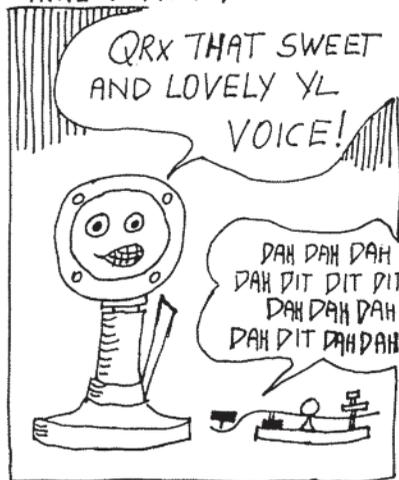
What follows is my opinion of some of the comments on may hear on 146MHz and elsewhere that tends to "give it away" as far as I am concerned. These phrases were not heard on the ham bands prior to the 11 meter CB band.

"Come back on that" "Come back" "Bring it back" "Got a copy on me?" "Radio check" "Back to ya" "Base" "Home base" "What's your personal?" "Got a copy" (a copy of what?) "Breaker".

Some of these have subtle differences. You may not agree with some, and you may have some good examples not mentioned. Our common English usage changes with time - as does our ham English. Where do we go from here?

A list of rules and guidelines is not needed in general, but there are many on the bands that do not understand the difficulties that can be experienced by both the DX station and the manager. Split frequencies has been the best way to control pile-up so I will use this technique whenever I can. I will work only one mode at a time no split mode contacts. List and list operations have no place in amateur radio. List operations result in a contact for some, but there are limitations in any list operation too numerous to mention here. I abhor some guy that works a rare station and then says "Listen for my buddie" because he only has 100 watts and a dipole. The Buddy actually has a pair of 8877's and six over six. Therefore no buddy contacts, sorry; say hello to him for me. My operations will generally favor the low band edges, and listening up 5 or 10. Same for both CW and Phone. Any station found operating outside of their subband allocation in the US will not receive a QSL card. His QSL request and all log information will be forwarded to the ARRL DXCC for appropriate action. Remember rule 12, and live by it. The QSL manager AK3F has means of checking license class information that is literally up to the minute. AK3F will as part of his chore as QSL manager check all license classes of calls that appear to be out of subband. While on the subject, AK3F is handling the cards as a service to you the DX'er. Both AK3F and myself enjoy amateur radio as a hobby, a pleasure, and not a job. Working 150 stations an hour is something that wears thin after a while. It can easily become quite a chore. When you look at these rules, remember this: the card you are requesting will possibly give you a new one but for me it's just another QSL. Please remember I want to enjoy the hobby and sometimes I may just want to make a few contacts and discuss something other than signal reports and name.

MIKE + McKey

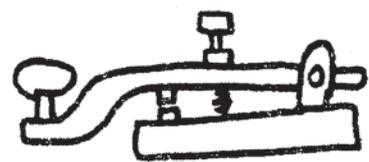
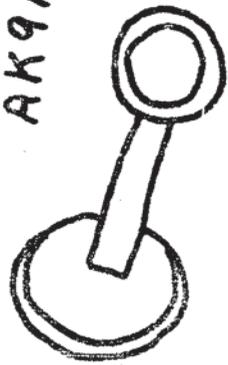


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KI9G

PSL VIA BUREAU

PART 97

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AK9N



# Novice Announcements

Do these various terms and symbols seem strange to you?

Do you want to know more about amateur radio and perhaps earn a ham ticket of your own?

If so, the *Rockford Amateur Radio Association* has an opportunity for you. Starting the 23rd of February and continuing for approximately ten weeks, we will be conducting classes to help you obtain your *Novice Class* amateur radio licenses. The first class will be a get acquainted night. Come by at 7 P.M. to see our demonstration at: **HARLEM COMMUNITY CENTER, 900 Roosevelt Road.** HCC is east of Highway 51 from the south end of Machesney Park Mall.

See you there.

### For More Information Contact:

- Carol Holmes ..... 633-3249
- Frank Hirsch ..... 397-6966
- Gene Melton ..... 654-0675



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K89KH



# Potpourri

Hello — Well, here I am again.

On December 24th, I heard Gene's (3Ms) dad (WBØQHH) inbound for the holidays from Iowa. I am sure they all had a nice time.

Dave's-WB9HPV dad KA4MSA and his rear fence neighbor W3AX worked Gunner as W6YB/3D6 while he was in Swaziland.

Dale-KC9BN has a recent under-cloud aluminum factory. A KT34XA or whatever you call that thing.

Recent news is Shari-WB9SFT is entering the hospital for some maintenance. The way she travels is no wonder. Is this a 40 year checkup or 400,000 miles. HI! No offense Shari, I know you are only 17 and have two teenagers. HI!

Also, Jack Stuman-K9UWN just escaped from the hospital. The old 4Ø meter CW man must have had new skin grafted to his index finger and thumb. Too bad you can't send code with your left hand too Jack, HI!

Through the grapevine I hear the EARS autopatch code is to be changed. I guess its not really grapevine information as I just got the card in the mail. So, **"It is the LAW"**.

I hear that Ed Schott-KA9IMZ upgraded to Advanced and his kids received 13 WPM code credits. Great going to all.

Just think, as of yet we have not had any super ice storms to stress our beams and dipoles. Spring will be here at the wink of an eye and it will be FD time shortly also. I didn't vote for Frank-KB9KH for 'el *Presedente*' as I figured I would vote for him or point the finger towards him for FD chairman. He sure does a super job as an organizer for such appenings. Don't forget the RARA contest, I suppose the first place prize will be a course in using the A, B, C's or 1, 2, 3's.

I hear Dave-WB9HPV has now confirmed all 5Ø states on 2Ø meters at 2 watts or less output. He also only needs 39 more confirmations for a 5 band WAS on 2 watts output. Call him about any

information in the *QRP Amateur Radio Club International*. There are lots of awards and 2 or 3 contests yearly.

Dale Landis-KB9WD reportedly has Pneumonia and is spending a lot of time in bed. Gene-AK9N failed to follow his own advice, not keeping one hand in his pocket, and put his hand where it did not belong in an electrical circuit causing a bad burn. I hope you guys get well soon.

I haven't been DXing lately so I called Duane-WB9LEF to see of any news on DX, and was informed he was in the hospital. Get well soon and get back on the bands.

Shortly the popularity of warmer weather *Hamfests* will begin in our area. Let's all get out and *"check the coffee"* at these and brouse around. It is fun just to get out of the city early on the morning and check our farmers progress while traveling to the *Hamfests*.

Moe-N9CCE has a trip tentatively planned to the FCC. I have not heard of any date being set yet

**-73, "I.M. Lippy"**



# Ham Mart

## FOR SALE

5/4 Pine Wood Callsigns. \$6.00  
5/4" thick by 2 5/8" high by any length.  
Any call, 3 dimensional, any finish.  
Call Dave-WB9HPV at 399-8205.

## FOR SALE

## WANTED

A Good 6 Meter (53MHz) Radio Control System  
For Planes.  
Heathkit or Ace System, wanted. May be  
interested in your 27MHz or 72MHz system.  
Call Dave-WB9HPV at 399-8205

## WANTED

**□ CLUB DUES ARE DUE! □**

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

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

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## **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.**