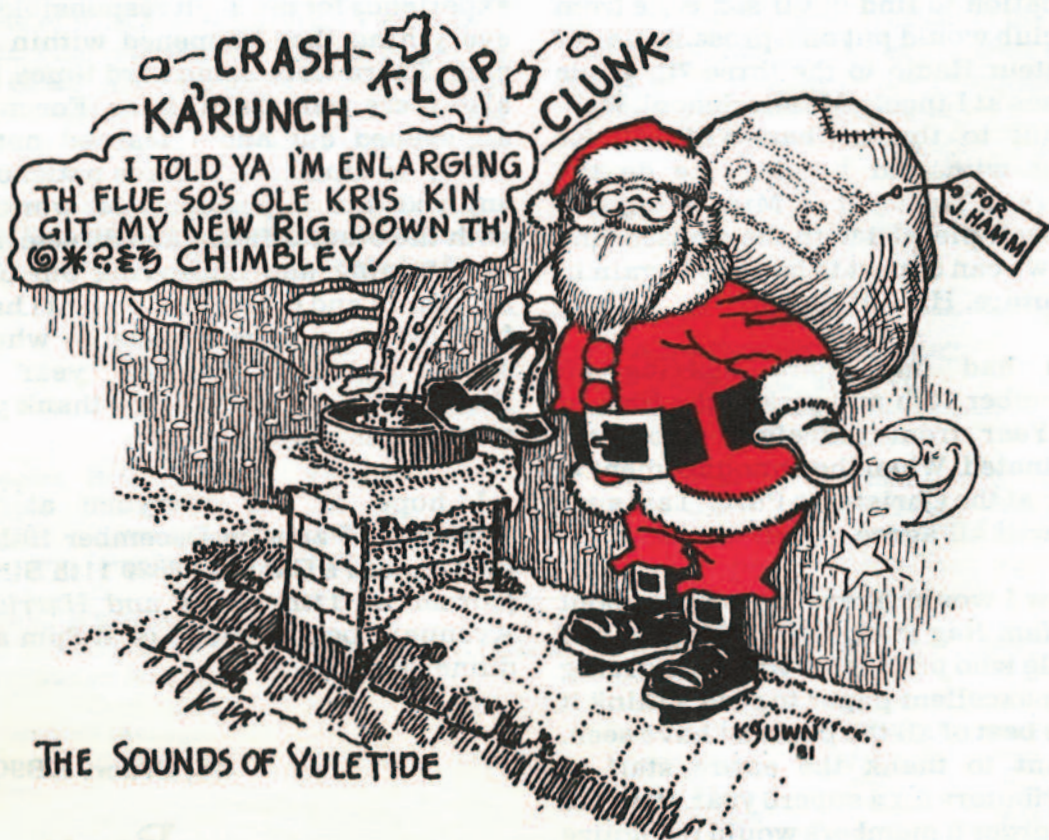


Ham Rag

Rockford Amateur Radio Association
December, 1981



THE SOUNDS OF YULETIDE

President's Log

I would like to thank our honorary club member, *Father Moran-9N1MM*, for giving us such a spectacular program. I can see why so many other clubs try to get him as he only comes to the United States every 5 years. A special thanks to Jerry-W3BL in Florida, and Frank Moran and family for their help.

In the first part of November, I was called by the Regional Office of Education to find out if someone from our club would put on a presentation of Amateur Radio to the three 7th grade classes at Lincoln Middle School. Well, I want to thank Shari-WB9SFT for going with and helping me do the program. The teacher, Miss Klingbeil, was well pleased with the classes. She said we can expect to be asked again in the future. HI! HI! Shari.

We had our board meeting on November 15th and picked the *Ham of the Year* from the eight who were nominated. When the announcement is made at the Christmas Party, I am sure you will all agree on our choice.

Now I would like to say a little about the *Ham Rag* staff. They are a group of people who put a lot of time into giving us an excellent paper to read. I think it is the best of all the papers I have seen. I want to thank the entire staff of contributors for a superb year. It would be in order if members would recognize a good article, cartoon or feature by

letting the individual know that they have done a good job.

If there is anyone who has not let Maurice—N9CCE (*Christmas Party Chairman*) know how many in their family are going to the Party, please call and let him know. He has to tell *Captain's Cabin* within 10%.

This will be my last President's Log. It has really been a learning experience for me. I felt responsible for everything that happened within the club. There were some hard times, but also there were good times. For me it all evened out and I learned not to worry so much and to have patience. I enjoyed the experience of working with the other officers and directors in maintaining and improving our club standards and ethics. I hope that I have fulfilled your expectations on what I should have done this year as President. I enjoyed it and I thank you very much.

I hope to see everyone at the Christmas Party on December 19th at the *Captain's Cabin* at 2620 11th Street (*corner of 11th street and Harrison Avenue*) Cocktail Hour is at 6pm and dinner at 7pm.

-73, Bruce, KB9OW

Bruce

Editor's QRM

Well, it's 9pm and I am sitting in the kitchen and press time is in the early morning. As usual, Gene-AK9N is here trying to beat the deadline with me. If I finish first I might get him to type our columns as well as a couple other that are awaiting my attention. Word has it that Gene uses two fingers which should make him twice as fast as I am. Also this month I must thank Carol-KI9G who not only took the photos and did the developing, but she also did the layout. Not bad for less than a day.

Near the back of this issue is a page telling of RARA's latest form of organized chaos. I am referring to a contest called the **FCC SPECIAL**. This mass of TVI is meant to get some of you to turn off your TV and get back on the air. For some of you to get on the low bands might require you to get out the manual for the boat anchor. For some this may even be dangerous been so long. As a result, the contest includes 2 and

6 meters for your interest and safety. **PLEASE BE CAREFUL!** The current call sign system may be hazardous to your health. Have a good time!

As I close on the first year as Editor, I look back to good and bad. Several ideas have been tested on you in these pages. One happy result was the now monthly feature on DX. The *Ham Rag* came out of the spring shut down with a new look - crisp and clean - do to our printer. We are sponsoring contests to get people to send in articles, cartoons and stories while trying to get more people back on the air. To me it seems the year certainly balances out to the good. I know I speak for the entire staff of the *Ham Rag* when I say its been our pleasure. We hope you have enjoyed it.

God Bless You All in '82.

-73, Jim, KI9F



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

OFFICERS			1981	DIRECTORS		
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	Bob Davidson	WA9NTT	877-6274			
	Gertrude Kindell	KB9PC	963-4050	Henry Choke	?????	??????

CQ Contest

Here it is December already and most of us are hoping that the snow doesn't get too deep. It's difficult to keep the hourly rate up when you are out in the driveway moving the fluffy white stuff around. There are no results to report this month; I guess most of us were too busy working on antennas and other outdoor chores.

A few from the October RARA WAS CONTEST have managed to find their way into the contest office. There are enough for a trophy in each of three classes. The goodies will be awarded at the Christmas Party; that's where you find out who the winners are. While on the subject of club sponsored contest, there is another one coming up shortly. In honor of the current call sign system (?) by the FCC (*I shouldn't poke fun - AK9*), our February competition will be called the *FCC SPECIAL*. Whether or not we will add to or subtract from the existing confusion is yet to be determined. The general idea is to have some fun. More detailed rules appear elsewhere in this issue.

For those if you out there who still lack some of the 50 for WAS, try doing some operating during the various state and district QSO PARTIES. For instance, the WISCONSIN QSO PARTY which is normally held in April, we can assume that there will be more Wisconsin stations on the air than at other times. From the *Contest Corral* in the December issue of QST (page 102) we see the following QSO PARTIES approaching: 0 DISTRICT with the states of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, North and South Dakota. The North Dakota and Texas QSO PARTIES together with the TWO-LAND QSO PARTY of New York and New Jersey are all coming soon. A couple of those states are hard to find. Even more so if it is the last one for your ALL BAND WAS.

For the speed demon, hot shot type CW operators out there who have memory keyers, keyboards, and computer interfaces; there is a CW type contest which begins New Year's Eve. It is NOT a 60 QSO

per hour, work all multiplier variety of contest - not really a contest at all. It is called *STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT* and full particulars are on page 102 in the December QST.

One more contest plug and it will be time to QST. 73 magazine is sponsoring a contest on 40 and 80 meters the weekend of January 9 and 10. For the 5BWAS chasers, it will be a way to fill up the empty spaces on those two bands. Perhaps some DX will find its way into your log also. It is a phone only contest, I guess that mode hasn't died out yet. Complete rules in the December *Contest Corral* and probably in a recent issue of 73. I see by the clock on KI9F's wall that it's time to go home. May every one have a happy holiday season. See you in '82.

-73, Gene, AK9N

- Dec. 10 W1AW QUALIFYING RUN
- 12-13 ARRL 10 METER CONTEST
HA-DX CONTEST
EA-DX CONTEST (CW)
CANADA CONTEST
- Dec. 27 W1AW QUALIFYING RUN
- Dec. 29 STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT
- Jan. 1 ARRL CD PARTY (closed ssb)
- Jan. 2-3 ZERO DISTRICT QSO PARTY
WEST COAST QUAL. RUN
- Jan. 6 ARRL CD PARTY (closed cw)
- Jan. 9-10 40 & 80 PHONE CONTEST
HUNTING LIONS
W1AW QUALIFYING RUN
- Jan. 11 ARRL VHF SWEEPSTAKES
- Jan. 16-17 160 PHONE
TEXAS QSO PARTY
- Jan. 23-24 NORTH DAKOTA QSO PARTY
RARA's FCC SPECIAL
- Feb. ??? NOVICE ROUNDUP

CQ DX

Hi gang! The bands are doing pretty good so take advantage of them. This is the 81-82 winter season with low noise levels on 40 and 80 meters. Also remember the sunspot cycle is going down and soon it will be too late.

Six meters has had some very good openings to JA, ZS, etc. Who is going to have the first DXCC on 6? Six is like Ten when it is open. Low power and good antennas will do wonders. Ten meters will usually follow the sun-Europe early and Asia late.

FB8WG, Crozet, is getting more active. Murray-N9Mp worked him. W9SS, K9LUX and of course K9IKP are still trying hard but so far without any luck. We will keep trying. FB8WG is on the W7PHO net (14.225) in the mornings. He is also on 21.320 Saturday mornings with FY7AN.

HOT NEWS — 3Y BOUVET ISLAND

DK9KD says the Cologne DX group plans to go there in January of 1982. Estimated cost of the trip is \$45,000. This is needed to rent a ship for starters. Bouvet is on an ice covered island year around. Landing is very difficult because of high seas. Call signs to be used are 3Y0A and 3Y0B. 5 or 6 stations will be taken to the island. If you can work them, do it. Bouvet Island is probably more rare than FB8W-Crozet.

KB9PC-Gertrude has a new KT-34XA KLM beam up. The pile-ups are going to be wild now. Guess I better order a new antenna so I can keep competitive.

TO BE, WE HOPE

ZL1AZC/C	Chatham Island
HC8MD	Galapagos Islands
CT2BZ	Azores
7O1AB	Peoples Democratic Republic of Yeman
ZF2FK	Grand Cayman Island

ZL3AFH	Campbell Island (14.096)
ZK1BM	North Cook Island
3Y0A, 3Y0B	Bouvet Island

WORKED OR HEARD

UO5OAK	Moldavia	14.249	0331z
C5AEG	Gambia	28.550	SSB
		21.295	
		14.205	
YJ8RW	New Hebrides	28.550	2330z
WB5LBJ/DU6	Philippines	28.595	0000z
VS5DD	Brunei (rare)	28.550	0000z
ZS6BCZ	South Africa	14.205	0400z
	-exK9WTS - Gunnar Ohlson		
HL-HM	Korea	28Mc	
LU-PY	Argentina-		
	Brazil 28Mc	2300 to	0200z
AP2MQ	Pakistan	28Mc	0039z
VS6IC	Hong Kong	28.595	0028z
UA9's	Asian Russia	14Mc	0400z
EA6GK	Balearic Is.	14Mc	0400z

THE FOLLOWING STATIONS HEARD IN 10 METER NOVICE BAND • 1500-1600z

11/11

SM7LFX	Sweden	SM5CMS	Sweden
DL2NAI	Germany	DL3EM	Germany
Y41ZM	E. Germany	DL1RBT	Germany
ON6TL	Belgium	G4KPK	England
		G2GVA	England

WORKED ON 10 SSB • 20 SSB BY AK9N

11/14	UA0FAP	Asiatic Russia	28.5	0200z
	DU6EI	Philippines		
11/15	HV3SJ	Vatican via		
		I0DUD	28.612	1500z
11/16	YJ8RW	New Hebrides	14.024	0540z
	FK0AF	New Caledonia	14.021	0550z

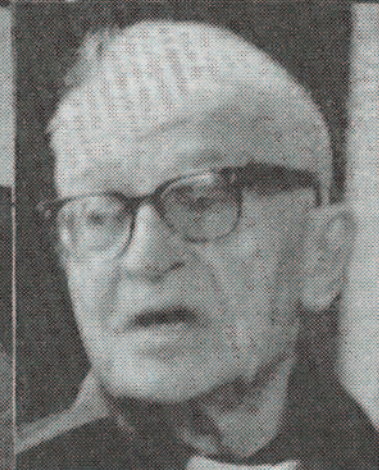
There is a big Ten meter contest in December, a good way to get some new countries for your count.

Of course DX input is still needed for this column. Novices-what have you worked? 6 meter people? And the rest of you?

Thanks to Gene-AK9N and Larry-K9LUX for their help this month.

-73, Gene, K9IKP





PHOTOS
Carol, KI9G

Carol

Up Close & Personal

This month's *Up Close & Personal* features a very interesting man. Later in this column you will understand why. His name is Dale Mather-KC9BN. Born in Racine, Wisconsin, Dale came to Rockford in 1949 at the age of 14. He attended area schools which lead him to become a successful businessman. Self-employed for the past 16 years, Dale enjoys his present life style.

Like most businessmen, Dale wears a three piece suit to work each day, but not by choice. You know how it is when you have to deal with the public. However, like other businessmen, Dale likes to get away from the everyday routine.

Some hit the golf course, others take off for an extended weekend. But not Dale; who comes home, changes from the appearing executive looking suit into a hard core leather suit complete with hat and sunglasses and jumps onto a HOG. Oh no! Not one you would find on a farm but a HARLEY HOG — King of the Roadway.

Dale rides a 1981 Harley Davidson motorcycle to serve as his get away from the everyday routines. He enjoys it so much that he owns three other Hogs: a 1958, 1978, and 1/2 of a 1963.

I asked Dale, "Why such an extreme change?"

Dale commented, "I can ride the wind, leaving behind a troubled society. It's my way of relaxation. It's a feeling all must experience. Generally people remain in a rut all their lives. Not me, I'm 45 years old and I'll be free until I'm too old to ride. I love it!"

Setting a personal goal, Dale has been to 46 states on his two wheeler. As proof Dale has a scrap book filled with pictures capturing state line signs, all of which has been done over the past two summers. Dale recently completed a contest which began

last summer. The objective was simply to ride as many miles as you can in one riding season. Dale feels like he won first place in the contest sponsored by a local cycle shop.

He explains, "My total mileage came up to 18,266. A lot of sore butts, but worth every minute. One one trip I rode from York, PA to Rockford straight through, OK, YA, I stopped but no longer than 20 minutes at a time. Just long enough for a quick smoke and go ____". You know he said, "One who rides 5,000 miles would say they had a great year".


Dale, I would say you had a hell of a year. CONGRATULATIONS!

Recently elected as RARA's club treasurer, Dale anticipates 1982 as one which will overcome those problems encountered last year.

"I am pleased to have been elected, I am looking for bigger and better things for RARA. But we need help from every member. I know it is the philosophy of all the newly elected club officers to generate new ideas and activities to stimulate club interest. With our club membership exceeding the 150 mark there is no reason why we cannot have an active club. I urge all members to take part whether it may be in a small or large way".

Dale received his novice ticket in November of 1980. Not wasting any time he began studying for his general. On a cold and windy day in January of 1981 he passed the exam. Later, in April, Dale found his way to the advanced class.

If you should happen to meet Dale in his three piece suit you will see a very distinguished man. For you ladies he sports a well groomed hair style streaked with gray and a full beard. One would say he looks somewhat like Kenny Rogers. He brings to us years of business experience, which certainly will benefit our club. We wish you well as you take on a leadership role in this great club of ours.

 -73, WD9FVF, JIM

YL News

FCC SPECIAL



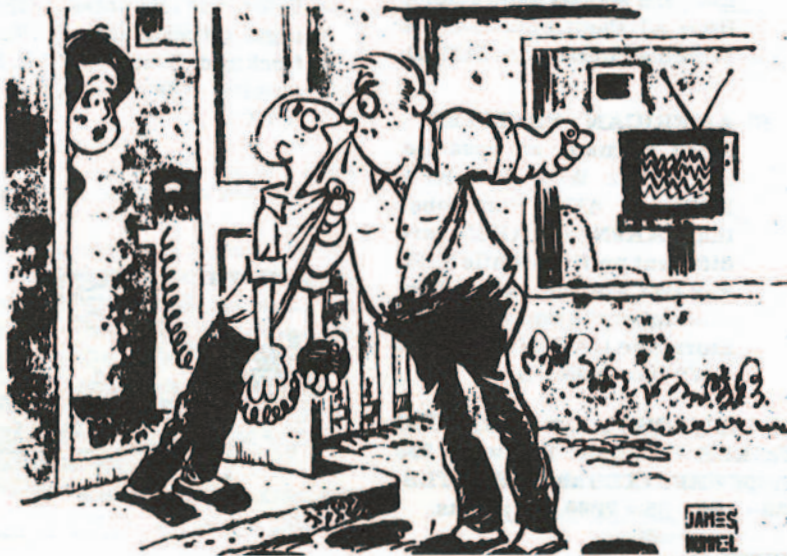
"I dit dit dit dit it."

- 1.) Born in Rockford, but did not live there until 1959.
- 2.) Hazel-Green Eyes.
- 3.) Likes flowers and code.
- 4.) Is developing beautiful.

Good luck with this one. Last month's *Baby Ham* was **Jim Holmes-KC9AP**.

I want to thank everyone that helped with my beam. It works great. Merry Christmas and all the best to everyone in 1982.

Geoff Hulse -73, KB9PC



JAMES
NOVAK

SOURCE UNKNOWN

FCC SPECIAL

- 1). **CONTEST PERIOD:** The month of February. You may work the full 673 hours or any portion thereof. Logs must be in GMT.
- 2). **BANDS:** All except 27Mhz. (*They are confused already.*)
- 3). **OBJECT OF CONTEST:** To have members of RARA contact other amateurs around the country thereby stimulating an interest in the hobby.
- 4). **EXCHANGE:** RST and state.
- 6). **CLASSES:** A) Novice/Technician
B) General
C) Advanced/Extra
If you upgrade during the contest, the highest license held determines class.
- 7). **QSO's:** One point for each AMERICAN station worked. Determined by callsign only.
- 8). **MULTIPLIERS:**
 - A) **50 STATES plus PUERTO RICO.** All Caribbean stations are scored as in Puerto Rico. All Pacific stations are scored as in Hawaii. **TOTAL IS 51.**
 - B) **AMERICAN PREFIXES.** Work as many as possible. Examples: WB2, W1, KP4, KL7 and AK9. Remember that AK9N & AK8N are different prefixes while KI9F & KI9G are the same. Also remember the portable operators like DK3XJ/W9 who is a W9 like W9MOS.
- 9). **SCORE:** Multiply QSO's times STATES times PREFIXES. Example: You work 200 QSO's with 100 PREFIXES and 35 STATES. That is $2000 \times 100 \times 35 = 7000,000$ points.
- 10.) **DUPE SHEETS:** Duping is required for any score over a million. This means a dupe sheet for QSO's and a dupe sheet for PREFIXES as well as the numbering of new STATES as worked.
- 11). **AWARDS:** A trophy or plaque to the winners of each class. If participation is good there will also be certificates to the next 5 in each class. (*Good means at least one more than we had in the RARA WAS CONTEST.*)
- 12). **ADVANTAGES:** To correct any unfair advantages some may have; **NO NET** or **CONTEST QSO's** are permitted. The exception that proves the rule is **NOVICE ROUNDUP**. You may work novices until they turn green.
- 13). **DISQUALIFICATION:** Violation of the Amateur Radio Regulations or the rules of this contest. Un sportsmanlike conduct or excessive duplicates. (*More than 2%*). Actions of the contest committee are final.
- 14). **DEADLINE:** All entries must be post-marked no later than **April 14th.** (*The day before the IRS starts looking for you.*) Send logs, dupesheets, etc. to: P.O. Box 1744, Rockford, Illinois 61110. Put contest on the outside of the envelope or lose 5,000 points. (*OUCH!*)

-73, Henry Choke



No point tryin' to give him a rubdown when 10 meters is open!

SOURCE UNKNOWN

Potpourri

It's that time again gang, I think this is one of the hardest jobs I've ever had to do. Filling up this page every month is no easy task.

It seems we have had some antenna parties during the last month. Ziggy-W9MOS hosted an antenna rasing party on October 31st. Gertrude—KB9PC I hear via the grapevine hosted one on November 15th. Don't these people know antennas **DO NOT** work right when they are put up during decent weather? The weather must be **COLD & WINDY** with a wind chill about -20F° for an antenna to tune up properly. There is still hope for the area. Gene-KB9BOD is the proud owner of a tri-bander. So when he gets his tower perhaps the ham community will be redeamed and an antenna party will be held on an appropriate inclement weather day.

A new call heard on the air recently is **KC9IJ** "INSTANT JELLO" belonging to Dale Harner formerly **KA9BTA**. Word has also reached me that Pete-**KA9LQY** has upgraded to tech. **FB** guys!

I had a phone call recently from **W3ILG**-Mick reporting his son Matt is now a novice. His call is **KA3IDD**. Matt, by the way, is 10 years old. Mick has upgraded to advanced. Congratulations. I should mention that both Mick and Althea-**WB3FUR** have now worked all continents on 6 meters. Good Going!

W7DI, formerly **W9ERU**, Gene Hubbell was featured recently in the *Arizona Republic* - a newspaper serving the Mesa, Tempe, Scottsdale area. Gene had two different stories plus a picture in the paper featuring his station and antenna systems.

OSCAR 9 is now in orbit. This latest satellite was launched on October 6th from Vandenberg AFB California aboard the NASA rocket that carried the Mesosphere Explorer mission into space. The satellite is the first built by radio amateurs in Great Britain, however many of the components that went into the spacecraft were donated by various sources worldwide making it truly an international effort.

Unlike previous **OSCAR** spacecraft, **OSCAR 9** does not have two-way communications

capability. Instead the satellite will be used to conduct a variety of experiments. While in orbit, about 300 miles above the earth, the satellite will be used by scientists to study the various ways radio signals travel in the earth's ionosphere and the suitability of different frequencies for use in future satellites. Scientists will conduct two experiments never before carried on by radio amateurs. One involves a camera, which is mounted on the satellite that will send digital images back to earth. These images will provide weather information and will be used to augment classroom science programs. The other amateur first is a speech synthesizer. The system has a vocabulary of 120 words and will enable scientists to relay data worldwide through the satellite in "English".

Because of its polar orbit, which means the earth revolves under the satellite as it moves from pole to pole, total coverage of the earth will be achieved. Ham operators in every part of the world will have access to the satellite to monitor its progress and receive any information sent by it.

Before I say 73, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed doing this page every month - even though looking at a blank piece of paper is sometimes rather depressing. Thanks to all who have supplied me with information during the year. Make 1982 the best ever!

-73, **WB9SFT**

Skari

LAW OF LIFE'S HIGHWAY:

If everything is coming your way,
you're in the wrong lane.

SHIRLEY'S LAW:

Most people deserve each other.

FROM THE WINONA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Winona, MN

Ham Mart

FOR SALE

Kenwood TS 820s with matching speaker, VFO, MC, 50 mike, fan, CW & SSB filters. There is an extra set of finals. Manual, *MINT CONDITION*. Call Kurt-WD9JCC at 965-0640 after 5pm.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

The radio equipment of Ray Lenburg-WB9ILH/SK.

Regency HR 212, 2 meter with power supply.

Collins KWM 2 meter with speaker, tuner and 254C mike.

Kenwood TS 700 SP.

Heathkit 2102.

Heathkit SB610.

Drake R4B, T4XB, L4B and C4 station mon.

Yaesu FT 101EE.

Argonaut 509.

Wilson Mark 2 HT.

Tri-band antenna (*make unknown*).

Call Richard at 399-7733.

FOR SALE

HW-2021 Crystal Controlled 2 Meter HT. 5 crystals, new ni-cads. Call Don-N9AWZ at 654-8780.

FOR SALE

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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.