

# Ham Rag

Rockford Amateur Radio Association

December, 1982



# President's Log

## Fellow members:

My last log and as usual Jim/KI9F had to call and remind me that I'm late. Anyway, now that I've started, it doesn't seem possible another 12 months has slipped by. I can still remember no. 1 and 3 etc. After the election, I had second thoughts and really wondered if I bit off more than I could chew. Back in my years in the Army, someone said "Don't volunteer for anything". Actually it has not been that bad, nor all that much work. In fact, it has been a lot of fun and hopefully Bob/WA9NTT will have the same experience.

There are lots of reasons why, but the biggest has been the cooperation of my fellow Officers and Board of Directors. Without their support and encouragement, this job could have been like a pile up on 20 meters. Also, of equal importance, has been the cooperation from the club. Without your willingness to support our activities it would all be for naught.

We all should thank the following for taking on various projects: Program: Gene/KA9BOD; Auction: SteveKB9IW; Awareness Day: Paul/WA9FFL; Field Day: Russ/WD9FVI and Don/N9AWZ; Computer Demo: BillKB9UR & group; Picnic: Ziggy/W9MOS & Moe/N9CCE; Pictures: Carol/KI9G; Rag: Jim/KI9F; GO FOR'S-Advisors: Kim/WD9FVF, Dale/KC9BN, Moe-N9CCE, Ziggy/W9MOS Bruce/KB9OW, and all those who I forgot, especially those who wrote articles for the RAG, the faceless ones who show up anytime help is needed and don't get recognized, like now.

I would also like to single out several people who have helped me this year but more important have, the club, it's members and amateur radio.

Paul/K9VJJ has done an outstanding job promoting RARA and Amateur Radio by obtaining TV, Radio, and Newspaper coverage for Field Day and other events.

Maury/W9FL recently retires as Trustee of RARA's club license-W9AXD. He has served in this capacity for several years. His health has not been the best, so if you get a chance, drop him a card. I'm sure he would be glad to hear from you.

Then there is John/WB8HW, Chaplin at Woodward Governor, always finds time to visit when one of us is sick or needs his guidance.

Many others find time to teach, help with antennas, construction projects or what ever needs we have.

We thank these gentlemen for their efforts. The club will be only as good as you want it to be. I thank you for your support and hope you will extend that support to the new El Presidente.

So you will know what your dues has produced for you, our treasurer, Dale/KC9BN, has tabulated the first 10 months.

## INCOME

DUES .....	710.00
COFFEE .....	117.87
ARRL MEMBERSHIP .....	127.00
INTEREST CHECKING .....	32.60
INTEREST SAVINGS .....	170.81
DOOR PRIZES .....	193.00
DONATIONS .....	10.00
AUCTION .....	70.41
NOVICE-GENERAL CLASSES .....	300.00
MISCELLANEOUS .....	27.00
COAX .....	407.70
PICNIC .....	190.00
TOTAL .....	2356.39

## EXPENSES

HAM RAG .....	350.00
POSTAGE .....	202.00
QSL CARDS .....	32.00
DONUTS .....	72.94
DOOR PRIZE .....	126.53
AWARENESS DAY .....	4.24
FIELD DAY .....	200.38
COFFEE .....	10.94
MISC. OFFICE SUPPLIES .....	58.14
ARRL MEMBERSHIP .....	117.00
PICNIC .....	293.81
SECRETARY OF STATE .....	5.00
VIDEO TAPE .....	17.84
COAX .....	741.70
TOTAL .....	2232.52

November and December will change this slightly, we will begin next fall by having a novice class at Rock Valley College and a general class during their spring term. Hopefully this will increase the attendance with the notification going out to some 100,000 tax payers. Class size will be limited to a reasonable number.

There will be a December meeting on the 10th at 7p.m. at Rock Valley College, Building Number 1, Room 222.

The RARA Banquet is January 15, 1983 at Josey Wales, 5803 North Second Street, Loves Park, IL. Cost \$6.00 plus or minus a few cents per person. A flyer will be sent to each member. Hope to see all of you.

Thanks again for all your help and support.

**Good DX; 73 - 88**

**El Presidente**

**FRANK**

# Editor's QRM

What a rotten time of year this is!!!

It is the day after Thanksgiving and I am over fed to the point of pain. My wife, who has spent years of trying to get me to put on weight, refers to me as "the building". I fail to understand the humor of it all. I can still see my toes if I bend over far enough.

The weather has turned cold and large flocks of ducks and geese have been flying over, headed to Miami Beach and points warm. I, meanwhile, am once again trapped in what some people call a "Winter Wonderland". I don't wish to offend anyone, but snowmobilers and cross country skiers have frost for brains.

Pro-football has returned to TV while a local High School team wins a state title and rates only highlights at 10:30. The NCAA has jumped another college for doing what everyone else is doing. I'm sure glad basketball season is here!!!

Not to be forgotten is the fact that today began the Christmas shopping season. Items go on sale without changing price. Large groups of people herd together into small areas and imitate Twenty Meter DX. Shopping Center Traffic looks like a pair of three-year-olds are playing "Hot Wheels".

The seasonal surprises from the Gas and Electric people will soon begin to arrive. The economy is still a mess and mycar is like my job; it only works part-time. What a rotten time of year this is!!!

This issue of the **HAM RAG** is my last as Editor. The two years have gone by fast and I hope you have enjoyed helped, I wish rather to simply say "THANKS". The list of people on staff has changed in two years, but it has never been too short. Each of you has helped to make my task easier & fun.

— 73, K19F, Jim

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

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# CQ DX

## HI GANG!

This is the DX season as the sunspot cycle is still good. All bands are open, but primary importance goes to Ten Meters because the decline of the cycle. Let's use it while it is still open.

Remember to tune for rare DX (new countries). If you hear something unusual - work it. The motto is "WORK IT AND WORRY ABOUT IT LATER". HI! Strange prefixes usually can be located in the ITU Call Prefix Index in the ARRL logbook.

When QSLing use the bureau, QSL manager or go direct. Listen to the DX station as he will often say what he wants. If going direct remember to use stamps of their country while making sure to use the proper amount of postage. With Green Stamps, DO NOT use call signs on the outside of the envelope.

When hearing a DX position, listen a while before calling and see how he is answering calls. Have your beam or Quad in the right direction and BE ALERT. If he is operating fast, be fast and precise. If he is calling by districts, wait for yours to be called. Sometimes they listen for the last letters in your call. Use phonics that can be understood through the QRM. If he calls for a particular call that is not yours; DO NOT TRANSMIT. You may make him mad so he won't work you. He may even go QRT.

Get your ears familiar with the QRM and weak signals. That new country may be only S1 or S2 instead of 59++. This is a general rule on 40 and 75 meters, but applies to all bands. If he goes QRT he will usually say when he is going to be back. Knowing his schedule is a big help. If you keep missing a contact, sometimes it is possible to arrange a schedule by letter. If you are on a list follow the NCS rules and when they call you BE THERE. Lists are very good for getting new countries, but can be terrible when sloppy operators mess it up.

Keep a good file on your DX contacts. The ARRL DXCC aids are very good. When you work a station put it in pencil. When the card arrives you then erase the pencil marks and write it in ink. File cards also work very well. If you work different modes, try to keep your contacts and QSL's organized so when you send them in for DXCC you won't have to separate a mess. ARRL DXCC is in three categories: Phone, Mixed or CW. A photo album also works good for storing your DX QSL'S by country.

Plastic QSL holders are also available. I used them for 5BDXCC. For regular QSL cards, I use the ARRL DXCC aid prefixes and store them in a shoe box. My QSL's are easily found that way when I am looking for special awards. Remember there are around 315 current DX countries, so being organized is important.

QSL cards are needed for ARRL documentation. The stations call, QTH, name, your call, signal report, date, time and the frequency must be right. When sending into the league use

their forms and follow the directions. If it is not done right they simply send them back and you get NO credit. DX expeditions usually have to submit documentation to the league and be approved before you can get credit for the country. This assures the operator is where he claims to be...Your contact must be on land and not on a boat. DXCC rules can be obtained from ARRL Headquarters.

Boy I wish that CE0X was good, but they found out he was in Chile. One down for K9IKP, HI! Remember it can happen to you. That is the breaks in DXing.

When moving to a new QTH don't lose those QSL's and logbooks. They are light and if you aren't too interested now, someday you may need them.

In the area of things heard and worked, Larry/K9LUX reports DPOLEX/Antarctica; AP2MQ/Pakistan; 7P8BL/Lesotho; XT2AW-Volta and TL8GE/Central African Republic. Sounds like he is using his new Extra Class subheads. Gary/K9LJN reports a BY1AC on 10SSB; BV2A on 20CW; ZL4OY/A on 10SSB; VS5HG on 10SSB; T31AE on 10SSB & CW; 9M6MO on 10SSB; WB6WOD/CE0Z on 20SSB; VS6CT on 10SSB; T32AJ on 20CW and H44BS on 10SSB. Gary makes me wonder if I am spending too much time studying for the Extra test. HI!

A big thanks to Duane/WB9LEF for a very FB DX article last month. Congratulations to Dennis/W9SS who is now a DXCC Honor Roll member. The ARRL DXCC Honor Roll is very difficult to attain. It is comprised of those call signs which have been credited with at least 309 countries of the 318 countries currently on the list. Dennis and Larry/K9LKA are the only people I know of around here that are DXCC Honor Roll Members.

**-73, K9IKP  
Gene**

# CQ Contest

As anyone can tell by doing a little casual listening on the bands, contest season is well under way once again. How does that adage go? Time flies when you are having fun. I hope that all of your antenna work has been done, since it is rather cold out there not to be climbing towers or cthe paper. Rather than list each person who has rawling around on the roof. It has been said that there are some of us who would rather wait for snow-flakes and cold blustery winds before even contemplating our antenna projects.

There does not appear to be too much in the way of contest results to report on this time around. I would like to thank those few club members who took the time and effort to work some of the Sweepstakes and to send in their scores for club credit. In addition to SS, the CQ World Wide DX contest is over, along with the ARRL 160 meter contest. Coming up the weekend of December 11 and 12 is the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. The idea here is to work as many states and foreign countries as possible. If you are the 5BWAS or DXCC type, the 10 Meter 'fest' is the way to increase your worked totals. As always, good luck on the cards. There will be a limited number of sheets for this contest available at the December meeting.

I have enjoyed writing this column for the last two years, although at times it has seemed more like 20. It is hoped that those of you who have read these words have in some way benefitted from them. Like some of the other local 'patos cojos', yours truly plans on disappearing from the masthead of the **HAM RAG**. If there is someone out there who does not want to see the contest column dry up and blow away, polish up the pencil and paper and give the editor a call.

Here's hoping that all of your QSO's are enjoyable, the DX is rare, and the QSL's arrive quickly in 1983.

**73, Gene**

## HAM OF THE YEAR NOMINATION BALLOT

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

I feel that the above person is qualified and deserving to receive the "**Ham of the Year**" award because of the following reasons:

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_

The "**Ham of the Year**" ballot is very important as it helps the board of directors make the selection. This is not a popularity contest, but input is necessary from the membership.

# Novice Corner

Hi, I'm Brad Anbro/KA9LTR. I thought I'd try to put together a column in the Ham Rag each issue, in hopes of helping some of the new-comers to this great hobby of Ham Radio

First of all I thought I'd tell a little about myself. I was first licensed on October 1m 1981 as a novice. I operated as a novice until May 15, 1982 when I upgraded to Advanced Class, which is my current license class. In the near future I plan to start studying in hopes of earning my Extra Class ticket. I promised myself I would not get on "Fone" until I got my Extra Class license. I have kept the promise so far and plan to stike with it until I do get my Extra Class, however long it takes.

My first Ham Stattung, which I am still using, consists of a pair of 21 year old Hallicrafters rigs; an HT32B transmitter and a SX-115 receiver. My antenna system is comprised of four inverted Vee dipoles made out of RG58A/U coaxial cable. They were made to resonate on the 80, 40 15 and 10 meter novice sub-bands. With this equipment and a lot of perseverance I was able to earn my novice "worked-all stations" award in a little less than five months. Thses simple antennas also gave me twenty-one countries.

As a reward to myself for upgrading, I went out and bought a seven element Hy-Gain TH7DX beam and a Ham 1V rotator, which I put on top of my 62 foot tower. In order to put up the new beam I had to take down the TV and FM antennas which were already on top of the tower. The resulting loss of TV picture quality caused whatever interest and/or enthusiasm my XYL had for my hobby to rapidly decrease. But all was not in vain. I made a phone call to Cablevision and they were more than happy to reconnect the house to their cable system, as it once upon a time had been. That put the TV back in service and the XYL and I have been enjoying Ham Radio ever since.

In this issue of the Ham Rag, I would like to put in a "plug" for the 15-meter novice net, of which I am net control station. The net takes place every Thursday night at 9:00 PM (0300 UTC) on 21-125 MHZ. The novice net is an informal meeting place that allows local Hams to have an opportunity to get on the air and communicate with each other using C.W. It is a good place to receive practice in improving one's code speed.

As the net control station, I try to send at a speed that is comfortable with the Ham onthe other end. For example, if myself and another Ham are sending at 8 words per minute, which he can easily copy, he might want me to increase my sending speed to 10 words per minute for him to copy to help increase his copying skill. The net also helps me to increase my code speed with the help of some of our local hams that have CW keyboards and computers. With this, I might get one of them to sent to me at 20 or 22 WPM for the practice that I need to increase my code speed.

In starting up the net, I send a few CQ's followed by RARA Net and then my call sent a couple of times. After this, I send "QNI" and then K. QNI is one of the net Q signals used as abreviations for often used phrases. There are many Q signals in use on the various Ham Radio nets, but I try to keep things simple and use only a few of them. Here are some of the more common ones.

QNC-all net stations copy/I have message for all net stations  
QNI-net stations report in/I am reporting into net  
QNN-net control station is...../what is NCS?  
QNP-unable to copy you/unable to copy.  
QNX-you are excused from the net/may I be excused from the net?

Getting on the Novice Net is a very good way to get to other members of the club. Usually when there aren't a lot of check-ins to the net, I will try to let each Ham have a mini-QSO with each other Ham on the net. All in all, participation in the net can be an informative and rewarding aspect of amateur radio. This is especially true for the beginner Ham and also anyone wanting CW practice with other hams of the club. That pretty much sums up the "Hows and Why-fors" of the novice net. I invite any interested Ham to join in on Thursday nights; 9:00 pm, 21.130 MHZ.

In upcoming issues of the Ham Rag, other topics

# Potpourri

It's generally known that a bunch of hams meet every morning except Sunday at a restaurant in the Rockford Plaza for breakfast at 9:00. They have a good get-together with interesting things to rag chew about. Many can't make it during the week and quite a few live some distance away. A few do attend there on occasion but there's another group that meets each Saturday morning at 9 AM in Roscoe for breakfast. As many as twenty-five to thirty show up at the Silver Dollar restaurant which is on the northeast corner at the stop and go lights and Hwy 251. Why not join in at one or the other places some morning. It's fun to hear what the other guy is up to and some of the troubles or successes he's had.

Congratulations go to Larry, K9LUX. He upgraded to Extra Class on October 29th with flying colors. Also, moving up to the Extra Class were Jerry, KB9YH and Gene, K9IKP. They moved into the Extra Class sub-bands on November 23rd.

Gertrude, KB9PC, was having a QSO with Y11BGD is Iraq. She called Larry so that he could add Iraq to his list. The chap in Iraq said he could not copy K9LUX and wanted to know if he was QRP. The reason was that a few minutes before, Larry had been working split. HII HII We all make a "boo boo" once in a while. I guess Larry got wise and found the reason why he wasn't doing so good and finally made contact.

Other countries KB9PC hooked up with are: TR8CR, Gabon; AP2MQ, Pakistan; ZL4OY, Auckland and ZD9BX the Island of Tristan de Cunha. His name is Mike and is usually on between 2000 and 2300 Zulu. Incidentally, his QSL manager is KA1DEZ. ZL4OY/A has a new QSL manager who is VK3DWJ. Nice going Gertrude!

Most everyone in the area knows by this time that a new repeater is about to go into operation. The Byron Amateur Radio Club has been formed and will operate an open repeater. Input will be 147.270 Mhz - Output 147.870 Mhz. This will provide good communication from around Rockford to the South of Byron in the Dixon, Sterling and Rochelle areas.

**PSST!** If you should ever have correspondence with the FCC be sure that you give them your address. I overheard a chap say that he waited several months for them to mail his license to him. Finally they wrote and said they must receive his address in order to send it to him-???

Activities other than ham radio come to light at this time of year. There are people in this world who think of others and want to bring joy to those who need help and not as fortunate as we are. Three of our club members will go to Muhl School on December 14th, to surprise the exceptional kids there. Frank, WB9QGD, will be Santa Claus, Shari, WB9SFT, and Herb, K9AMJ, will be elves. They will use an HT to call Santa who will then appear from the outside. Little things like this are worth while when you see the kids eyes open wide and almost pop out of their heads. I think there are many things in this life to do besides pound brass and rag chew with other hams. Fine business Santa and Elves.

Hope you have been good little boys and girls. It's your neck if you haven't been 'cause this is the month when Santa makes a run down from the North Pole. You can't tell, he just might drop off something like a computer or an old burned out radio tube. HO! HO! HO!

Merry Christmas Everyone.

**Chuck, N9CCH**

**P.S.** The new membership directory was distributed to those present at the last meeting. Names and Call Letters are listed alphabetically and in a larger type. One copy is free to each member, an additional copy may be purchased for .25¢. We salute JoAnn, KA9DNQ and Dale, KB9WD, for the fine job. KA9OIY, Kay is now a Tech. and OM N9BXQ, Marvin, is now an Advanced.

Congratulations!!!

**Chuck**

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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.