

# Ham Rag

Rockford Amateur Radio Association  
October, 1982

**VOTE**  
**VOTE**  
**VOTE**



# President's Log

## Fellow Members,

For those who did not make the last meeting, the main discussion centered on the possible use of the ROCK VALLEY HAM STATION. Your Board of Directors have proposed, to the college, possible operating hours during the week and on weekends. Also proposed was the club furnishing monitors to see that the station was open at the proper time, the equipment was used properly, and that the equipment and room was properly secured at closing time. Some of these requirements were suggested by the college. We also requested that the hours suggested could be modified as necessary to meet the needs of the amateur community.

The progress, to our use of the equipment, has been very slow. The main stumbling blocks are liability of the college in case of damage and/or injury and possible damage to computer equipment now in the radio room, and used by students for certain courses. Hopefully these problems will be solved shortly and the station will be available to us.

I would like to thank Larry/K9LUX for obtaining the video tapes of *FIELD DAY* from the local TV stations and showing them. Since I had not seen them before, it was quite interesting to see everyone's efforts on the tube.

As an added attraction we also had a cartoon at the end of the *FIELD DAY* show. Moe/N9CCE was nice enough to have taken a small sample of the festivities at the annual RARA Picnic by the use of a video camera. However, lacking knowledge on how to operate the camera, he managed to take primarily pictures of everything between the lower neck and the lower lip of the navel. When he managed to finally remember we had heads he did get some good shots. There was K19G and her feathered hat; the roast pig; a bearded moose/KC9BN; a hungry alligator looking at the pig and moose/KB9KH; various other members drinking, eating or jaw boning. Some of the best things were on the sound track which we can not print here. It is probably safe to say now we know why he has so much trouble with six meters!

The program for October will be on the use of computers for amateur use. This will be given by local club members who have on hands experience. This should be very informative for anyone who is interested in getting into this area of ham radio. They should be able to answer many of your questions and show some practical uses for a computer.

This club meeting is also the annual election meeting. It is your opportunity to voice your preference for those who will lead our club next year. If there has been something that has been getting your dander up - **COME OUT AND VOTE!!!** Better still, run for an office. Don't gripe about how it was or wasn't done. Get in there and change it. I have heard too many rumors, etc., about clicks and so on. Now is your chance to form your own. Your present leaders had big ideas. But due to a lack of time, money, help, space etc. many things talked about just never got off the ground. Maybe you have the right answer. *So come to the meeting and VOTE!!!* Just don't complain if you fail to come to the meeting and at least **VOTE** your preference.

The following is a tentative list of those who felt like giving some time to the club as of the "HAM RAG" deadline:

### PRESIDENT

Shari Harlan .....	WB9SFT
Bruce Hamilton .....	KB9OW
Robert Davidson .....	WA9NTT

### VICE PRESIDENT

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Gary Hilker .....	K9LJN
LeLand Group .....	KC9CL

### SECRETARY

Paul Plasters .....	WA9FFL
Kay Becker .....	In Mail

### TREASURER

Brad Ambro .....	KA9LTR
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As you can see there are some old timers who have previously held office and some new names. We even have one who just took her Novice test. Give all some good consideration. **Hopefully there will be some nominations from the floor.**

See you on October 8th, at 7 p.m. Room 222, ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE.

el LAME-O DUCK-O  
FRANK/KB9KH



# Guest Editorial

The other day I received a visit from a local ham who frequently uses the repeater. This individual uses a 1 watt hand held unit. His complaint was that twice during the last week he had tried to break into the repeater to relay emergency traffic and he was unsuccessful due to the fact the machine was tied up. Now I realize 1 watt will not capture the machine over a 40 watt transceiver - so what's the solution? How about a longer pause between transmissions so that if someone with emergency traffic does want to break in he or she will be able to.

While I'm in the subject there are a few repeater tips each of us should be aware of. These are in the 1980 ARRL Handbook.

1. Monitor the repeater to become familiar with any peculiarities in its operation.
2. To initialize a contact simply indicate that you are on frequency. "This is W1XYZ" will suffice. One practice that is looked upon with disfavor throughout the United State and Canada is calling CQ on a repeater.
3. Identify legally: You Must transmit your call sign at the begining and end of each contact and every 10 minutes in between. At the end you must also identify the station you were in QSO with. *It is illegal to key a repeater without identification.*
4. Pause between transmissions. This allows other hams to use the repeater (someone may have an emergency). On most repeaters a pause is

necessary to reset the timer.

5. Keep transmissions short and thoughtful. Your monologue may prevent someone with an emergency from using the repeater. If your monologue is long enough you may "time-out" the repeater.

6. Use simplex whenever possible. If you complete your QSO on a direct frequency, there is no need to tie up the repeater and prevent others from using it.

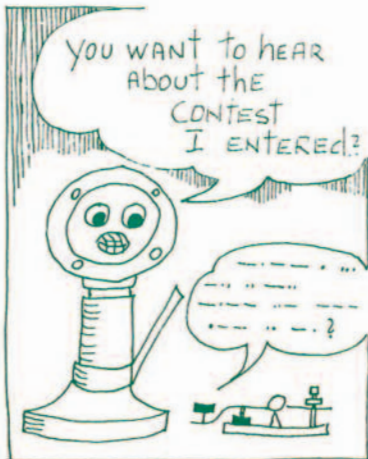
7. Use the minimum amount of power necessary to maintain communications. This FCC regulation minimizes the possibility of accessing distant repeaters on the same frequency.

8. Don't break into a contact unless you have something to add. Interrupting is not more polite on the air than it is in person.

9. Many repeaters are equipped with autopatch facilities which, when properly accessed, connect the repeater to the telephone system to provide a public service. The FCC forbids using an autopatch for anything that could be construed as business communications. Nor should an autopatch be used to avoid a toll call. Do not use an autopatch where regular telephone service is available. Abuses of autopatch privileges may lead to their loss.

10. All repeaters are assembled and maintained at considerable expense and inconvenience. Usually an individual or a group is responsible and it behooves those who are regular users of a repeater to support the efforts of keeping the repeater on the air.

-73, WB9SFT, SHARI





# CQ Contest

Some of us get on the radio to unwind a hectic day at the salt mine (*hopefully not in the unemployment line*). Our particular form of relaxation can take on many various forms: stalking DX, chasing prefixes, chewing the old sock, and so on. Whatever we do is done because we enjoy doing it. One of the local hams has recently finished an on the air project that very few of us would even consider starting. Russ/N9AUZ, has worked and confirmed all 3075 counties in the United States. His involvement with amateur radio during the past three years has almost approached that of a full time job. The heartiest of congratulations on a job well done Russ. His last comment was along the lines of doing it all over again on CW. Some people never learn.

Since none of the latest magazines have appeared in the mailbox and the *Ham Rag* presses are almost ready to roll for this month, I will save the few contest results for next month along with any that will probably show up in the mail tomorrow. Oh well, I hear about the rare DX the next day on the repeater too.

The super biggie domestic contest of the year is almost upon is again. What I am referring to is the ARRL November Sweepstakes. There is still plenty of time yet to make sure that the antennas and rigs are in tip top shape for this one. The CW portion will take place the weekend of November 6 and 7 while the phone version will happen on November 20 and 21. Along with the individual competition, there is also a club competition for

those affiliated with the ARRL. In the past RARA has shown a fairly respectable turnout in the number of logs submitted. There is a place on the summary sheet to indicate to which club your score will be credited. Please notify me (*AK9N*) of your intention of working the SS contest, since a list of members who will be submitting scores for RARA has to be sent in to the ARRL. Do not be afraid of only sending a dozen or QSO's as a log. If twenty people submit fifty contacts each, those of us who get into this madness a bit more seriously will not be able to top you. Find a buddy in town and challenge him/her to a QSO duel, with the loser picking up the first round, or steak, or what have you. Nothing too serious, contesting is supposed to be fun.

The SS exchange is somewhat more involved than 59 Illinois. A typical exchange would be:

*NR 123 A AK9N 77 Ill*

*NR is the QSO number beginning at 001*

*A means I run low power (no linear)*

*B if you do*

*AK9N is self explanatory*

*77 is the year I was first licensed*

*(if 1954 send 54)*

*Illinois is our ARRL section.*

Sending out your information is the easy part. The fellow at the other end will send back something similar and it all has to be received correctly for the QSO to count. There is space for all of it on the log sheets which will be available at the next two club meetings.

Here's hoping we run into each other on the air or at one of the club meetings.

-73, GENE

**VOTE**



# CQ DX

Hi Gang!

Summer is just about over, so I hope everybody has got their antennas and towers up. This summer has been a little bit different propagation wise. Remember what it was like 3 or 4 summers ago. Yes, the sunspot cycle is starting to decline. Now everyone will have to listen more and wait for an opening. When these openings do occur, they will probably be at different times compared with what they were before. Ten meters will be down more than likely, but will still open briefly. Fifteen and Twenty meters will be the DX bands, but don't forget Forty and Seventy-Five. As the cycle declines Forty and Seventy-Five pick up. You might have to lose a little sleep though, they are primarily evening and early AM bands. Antennas will be of the highest importance on these bands. Be sure to have a remote VFO or separate receiver for these bands because of split operations. Slopers, Beams, Verticals and Delta Loops are the best antennas for these bands in general. Fifteen has had some good openings in the evenings to Japan and Asia. Twenty is good to Europe in the late afternoon and early evening.

ZA-Albania; lots of talk of activity but nothing yet. So we'll have to wait and see.

XZ-Burma; one DX operator there trying to get permission, nothing so far.

BY-China; still on CW. Possibly SSB this fall. *A real wait'n see'r.*

Congratulations to Duane/WB9LEF. The latest QST DXCC list has him at 204 confirmed, all SSB, barefoot, with a HQ-1 Mini Quad around 40 feet high. So it can be done.

With the cycle declining, you might get out the old dusty key. There is a lot of DX on CW when SSB is not possible.

W9SS was to the National ARRL Convention in Cedar Rapids in July. Also attending was W3AZD/Don Search the DXCC Manager of the ARRL. I hear they had a nice chat.

K6YRA (exW9YRA) will operate from FM0-Martinique during the CQ DX Contest this month. Al is a super operator, look for him.

Gunnar/W6YB/3D6 is still active from Swaziland and the Republic of South Africa, (ZS6BCZ).

Tip from KB9YH and K9LKA; when sending QSL's to DX countries NO NOT put any call signs on the envelopes. In some places the people in the postal operations check mail and loot it. Call signs are a tip off to them of possible money or IRC's.

Among the locals attending the W9DXCC Convention in September were K9RX, K9LUX, K9LKA, W9OPD, K9ORU, K9UIY, W9UO, and K9IKP. K5VT and K9AJ showed slides and talked about operations from Africa, Ceylon and Nepal. Hope to see more DX'ers from Rockford there next year.

F6FIC/TZ	Mali	K9LUX	20 SSB
A22Bw	Botswana	K9LUX	20 SSB
T32AB	Kiribati	K9LUX	20 SSB
ZM7JT	Tokelaus	K9LUX	20 SSB
3DZER	Fiji Is.	K9LUX	20 SSB
TU2LC	Ivory Coast	KB9LN	15 SSB
5N9GM	Nigeria	KB9LN	15 SSB
C53EK	Gambia	KB9LN	15 SSB
J28ET	Djibouti	KB9LN	15 SSB
ZS6AGM	South Africa	KB9LN	10 SSB
FG7AX	Guadeloupe	KB9LN	10 SSB
9M6VW	E. Malaysia	KC9BN	20 SSB
VK9	Norfolk	KC9BN	20 SSB
VK9NL	Norfolk	K9LJN	20 CW
9V1TL	Singapore	K9LJN	20 CW
FW0AG	Wallis Is.	K9LJN	20 CW
C3ond	Andorra	K9LJN	20 CW
457WP	Ceylon	K9LJN	20 CW
CE9AT	S. Shetland	K9LJN	20 SSB
A35JI	Tonga	K9LJN	20 SSB
A9ZP	Bahrain	K9LJN	20 SSB
9H1CH	Malta	K9LJN	15 CW
5B4LY	Cyprus	K9LJN	15 CW
HV2SJ	Vatican	K9LJN	15 CW
VQ9WB	Chagos	K9LJN	15 SSB
C07AM	Cuba	K9LJN	40 SSB
ZL40Y A	Aucklands Is.	W9SS	
ZL4PO A	Campbell Is.	W9SS	
A4XJO	U. Arab Emir.	W9SS	
TA2BK	Turkey	W9SS	
FR7CG	Tromelin	WB9LEF	1100z 14.225
457FA	Ceylon	WB9LEF	1100z 14.220
FK8CR	New Caledonia	WB9LEF	1100z 14.230
6W8AD	Senegal	WB9LEF	October; ops- 6W8EJ & 6W8MD
ZL40Y A		WB9LEF	28.540
OD5IG	Lebanon	WB9LEF	14.297
TR8R	Chad	WB9LEF	0200z 21.032
TR8JD	Gabon	WB9LEF	0200z 28.600

K9LKA/Larry has 337 confirmed. He is currently living in Rockford but will QSY to W4 land soon for the winter. His total is the highest around here. At the W9DXCC banquet W9ZM was the last to sit down with 364 confirmed. As you can see, Larry has done an outstanding job as most of us probably will never get that high. Congratulations Larry!!

The CQ DX Contest is this month. See the latest CQ magazine for rules and information. Work some new countries in the contest and help your DXCC count.



# HAM RADIO ANAGRAM

IF AMATEUR radio is your hobby, you will have loads of fun working this puzzle. Those in other branches of electronics will have almost as much fun trying to figure

out the lingo that isn't so familiar to them. After you think you have all the correct answers, turn to page 8 for the solution.

## ACROSS:

1. Radio-frequency effect
4. 8 kc. is the second - - - - - of 4 kc.
10. No
11. Same as #2 down
12. Positive terminal of grid bias voltage source
13. Famed manufacturer of electronics gear (abbr.)
15. Changeable current (abbr.)
16. Positive grid of a vacuum tube (abbr.)
18. Wire tiedown point
20. The maximum input - - - - - permitted for operating a transmitter with a novice class license is 75 watts
23. Short for crystal
24. Voltage (abbr.)
25. Capacitance (abbr.)
26. Power output (abbr.)
27. Are you troubled by atmospherics?
30. Tube and associated components
33. Many beginners learn to send code with one
34. Current used
35. Federal radio communications regulating agency (abbr.)
37. Transmitter stage (abbr.)
38. You are QRMing
39. Not a regular wire circuit (abbr.)
40. Wife
41. Type of national defense (abbr.)

42. Abbreviation for #31 down
43. Quadrature-phase subcarrier signal (abbr.)
45. Current that is not undecided which way to flow (abbr.)
47. Going out of the network
49. - - - hams should join the ARRL
51. Bunch of inter-connected relay stations
52. Letter symbol for power
53. The strength of your signal is . . . . .
54. Intentional loss
56. Send your information "QNC"
58. Type of magnet (abbr.)
59. - - - - directional antennas radiate equally well in all directions
61. Cathode resistor (abbr.)

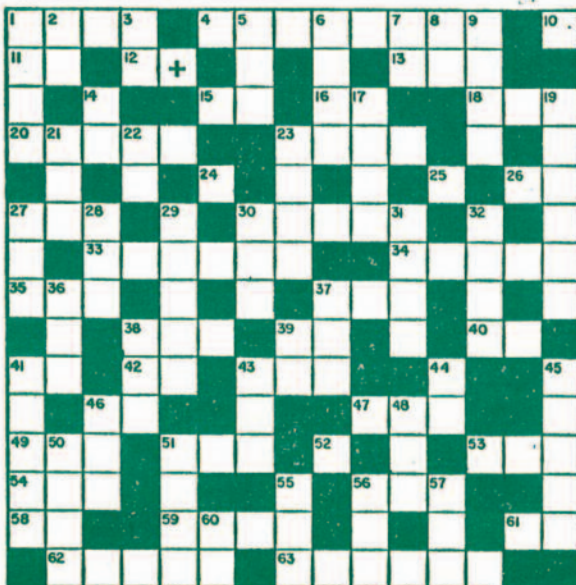
62. Radiotelephone
63. Class of amateur radio license

22. Resistor voltage drop (abbr.)
23. Short for something that generates and emits
27. Means network isn't busy
28. Major broadcasting network (abbr.)
29. Odor associated with electrical discharge in air
30. Short for says
31. Magnetically induced circulating current
32. K-King, L-Lewis, M- - - -
36. Could
37. Modulated continuous waves (abbr.)
38. Signal concerning network communications
39. Circuit etched on wafer (abbr.)
41. Series-tuned Colpitts oscillator

## DOWN:

1. Wave reflection phenomenon from ionosphere
2. One thousand watts (abbr.)
3. Broken or open circuit connection (abbr.)
5. Volume compensating circuit (abbr.)
6. Antenna support
7. Not far away
8. Current in vacuum tube cathode circuit (abbr.)
9. What's your - - - - sign?
14. Switch (abbr.)
17. Deck switch
19. Type of earthy radio wave
21. Operator

43. Stop transmitting
44. Not a distant oscillator (abbr.)
45. Ham's lair
46. Received
48. Type of transistor (abbr.)
50. Light source
51. Inert gas
55. It is a - - - - to say amateur operators aren't of great help in time of a national emergency
56. Shall I send a series of VVV . . . . .?
57. How many telegrams have you received?
60. Objective case of pronoun I, or the one who wrote this puzzle!





# Potpourri

Our good Editor Jim, K19F, caught me in a weak moment when I said I would try this assignment. I've had a little trouble collecting things to say. Sorry that I missed the September meeting but I hope to scrape up a few tid-bits before the next issue of the RAG.

I don't think I'm the only one to remark about our picnic this year but it is worthy of mention again and again. As before, it was a dandy and many thanks for a job well done goes to the committee and especially to Dale/KB9WD, and JoAnn/KA9DNQ.

Is the Blackhawk Valley chapter of ten-ten international fading out of the picture? Only one of two check-ins during the summer were made on Wednesdays at 9 P.M. Even if you don't care to hang around and rag chew, why not check in anyway and let the net control know you are alive. Who knows, maybe someone has something of interest to say and you might learn something.

Many of the old timers in this area remember most of the hams shown in the June issue. Fred/W9PGO is one and I have been doing my best to needle him into getting a rig so that we can keep closer check on him. He is retired and lives in

Stoughton, Wisconsin (*actually on Lake Kegonsa*) from about May to October then goes south to his winter retreat in Nokomis, Florida.

I paid a visit to Larry's/K9LUX shack recently and learned why he is known as a power freak. His linear is a monster! I could hardly budge one end of the thing and I think I have a pretty good back and a good pair of arms. (*I'm only a little jealous Larry*) We were at a Ham Fest where he "stole" a heavy duty rotor. It was a dandy and the price was right. He is like a lot of us - he just can't pass up a bargain. I think a lot of us are that way.

Gene/KA9BOD, put up a Swan three element tri-bander a few weeks ago and it gave him fits until he took it down over Labor Day weekend to check it over. It worked OK on 20 meters but a rather high standing wave on 10 and 15. I'm not sure how he made out but I am sure he managed to get the matter corrected.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE IN THE EARS & RARA ELECTIONS THIS MONTH. THE BALLOT NOT CAST IS LOST!**

Well, I hope to learn something Nasty to say about someone as time goes by. If anyone hears something that would help me insult somebody, please let me know. I promise not to reveal my source of information.

**CHUCK**

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

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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.