

Ham Rag

Rockford Amateur Radio Association
May, 1983



OLE TIMERS NIGHT!

President's Log

Well, we are finally into some of the years extra activities. Meetings, of course, are going well and with good attendance. April 9th, which was the **Awareness Day**, is now history. I certainly would call it a successful first happening of the year. Jim did a fine job of directing it. We would like to thank all who involved themselves with it. Even with the weather as it was, many club members managed to stop by to support and share their hobby with the public. The club owes a big Thanks to the North Towne Mall for their help and cooperation. It was even suggested that maybe we should try and hold another such event close to the start of the next Novice Class.

Not that we have yet been approached as a club, but I am beginning to hear of lots of activities coming up this summer. Many of these will give us lots of opportunities to become involved, mostly by way of 2 Meter activity.

A good percentage of us are members of both RARA and EARS. So, when things begin happening this summer and people are needed, try to give a hand now and then. You'll have some fun with your hobby to-boot,

Speaking of 2 Meters, EARS had a meeting April 17th. Now, I hate to be one of those guys saying "*Boy, you should have been there*" but if you knew about the meeting and didn't think it would be interesting, you'd have been wrong. That is to say that although the topic wasn't Ham Radio in the strictest sense, it was related. There are some areas in which we own it to ourselves to be as informed as possible. Art Reis, K9XI from Crystal Lake came over to talk to us about city and country ordinances as pertaining to tower heights... more specifically the Burbank, Illinois case. Art is Broadcast Engineer for WIVS, as well as an active Ham. He was very involved in the case and gave us a very informative talk.

Back to RARA. Just by way of clarification since there was a comment or two. Our Treasurer, Brad, KA9LTR, wasn't really representing us at the Kansas State ARRL Convention. Officially or unofficially. It just so happens he has relatives near Kansas City and took the opportunity to see both.

As usual, there was a fair group of Rockford Hams who made the trip up to the Madison Hamfest. As K9RAR used to say when he was around here... "Some people must be mad at their money..." right Jerry?

Although, at this writing, we haven't exactly put a name on the May program, it has in the past gone by such titles as Past Presidents Night Old Timers Night and the like. So plan to attend and hear from some of your old friends and enjoy looking back into the history of RARA. We think you will find it interesting, as well as fun.

See you there... May 13th, Rock Valley College, Building 1, Room 222.

Guest Editorial

THE CASE FOR 2 METER SSB

The 144 to 144.5 MHz range is for CW and SSB according to the ARRL Band Plan. This portion of the band is used by many SSB and CW operators and the number is growing by the week.

If you have an all-mode rig and have just an omni-directional antenna or a vertically polarized beam you may have come to the conclusion that there is no activity at the low end of 2 meters. The fact of the matter is that you are not hearing the stations due to the cross polarization. Remember that there is 20 dB, or more, loss between the two polarizations. Horizontal polarization is used at the low end of the band.

Using the same amount of power that you use on FM you can expect two to three times greater range on SSB and CW. The surrounding states, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Michigan and Indiana, can be worked during run-of-the mill band conditions. During the warmer months many distant states can be worked. You can work ground wave, tropo, Sporadic E, meteor scatter, EME, and Aurora at the low end of the band.

The organization representing operators at the low end of 2 meters is SWOT, (*Side Winders On Two*). At the present time there are approximately 2,500 members throughout the U.S.A. and Canada. There are around thirty-five SWOT Nets around the country. The Tri-State SWOT Net, the Indy SWOT Net, and the Minnesota SWOT Net can be checked into from this area.

The ARRL now has the VHF-UHF Century Club Award for working one hundred Grid Squares on the VHF-UHF bands. The chances of working one hundred Grid Squares on FM simplex are quite remote but possible on SSB and CW.

Why not put some excitement into your 2 meter operations by trying SSB or CW? Why be satisfied with the limited range of FM?

73, Dan, WA9UBI — SWOT 1929

KC9IJ/SK

Dale R. Harner died in his home in Egan, Illinois on March 27, 1983, after a short illness.

Dale was born on October 8, 1933²³ in Egan. He graduated Rockford High School in 1941. A Navy veteran of World War II, he worked at Camcar of Rockford for 28 years before retiring. He married Unadine Hillman of Rockford on April 8, 1960.

Dale was a member of the United Methodist Church in Leaf River; President of the Egan Cemetery Association; member of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association and the Experimental Amateur Radio Society. He was a graduate of the RARA radio classes and was first licensed as KA9BTA.

Services were held at the Morrison Funeral Home in Byron and burial was in Egan Cemetery.



Cartoon from **Cedar Valley ARC Bandspread**.

ET, PHONE HOME! As a result of the deregulation of the telephone industry, most local operating companies are now openly encouraging customers to buy their own phones. One unpleasant side effect is that these companies are increasingly reluctant to take steps to cure telephone interference.

Mike Maxon, N8ADQ, who designs telephone circuits for one of the major manufacturers advises the use of high- μ ferrite devices on the incoming line. You'll probably want to get as close as possible to the telephone itself, particularly to the new "electronic" telephones. (*I've been setting off the automatic redial on mine when tuning up on 30 and 40 meters! - Ed*) Although the ideal location for a high- μ toroid would be inside the telephone where the incoming line attaches to the circuit board (there's plenty of room), opening the cover may void the manufacturer's warranty and/or FCC type acceptance. There is not need to make direct electrical connection to the lines. Just loop the wire through the toroid a few times.

The ARRL Letter

CQ DX

Guess I owe a pizza to some of you. The bands have changed a lot from a year ago. There will be openings, but they will be shorter and you will have to be there and ready.

We are sorry to lose a fellow DX'er. KC9IJ, Dale. Dale just got started working DX. He was a very good operator as well as being a tremendous person. He was really working DX and had a commitment to be an honor roll member someday. We understand that there were some new DX cards in his pocket at the funeral. Dale was a very active member of the club and our DX group. We all will miss him.

Another sad note is the group DX's that went to 1S Spratly Island. Their boat was fired on and communications with them ended at that time. Several rumors have been passed. At this time I have not heard any official word about them. We hope they are safe, but is is uncertain. 1S Spratly Island is southeast of Vietnam. The last group that went there were also fired on. They found one island that was unoccupied and operated 72 hours. K4SMX, Stu, spoke at the NIDXA and showed photos of the military bunkers on one of the islands. With this kind of danger, I think the ARRL should delete this island. This would discourage expeditions from going there. Southeast Asia may not be at war, but actual situations happen daily in an area like that. Let's hope the DK's are ok and the ARRL will delete it until conditions are better.

VK0JS, Heard Island cards are starting to come in. W9SS now has 323 confirmed and K9IKP has climbed to 308 (boy they are coming in slow now).

ZL1AMO/C Chatham Island was quite active in April. Lots of locals worked Ron for a new one. Ron is a super DX operator. KU9S worked him 6 times in 24 hours. 3 on SSB; 3 CW on 10, 15, and 20. Hey Gary, K9LJN, did AK9N work Chatham or not??? KS9B is now DXing with twins, KU9S is into RTTY.

NOTES FROM LIDX

TT8AD Chad 10-15 & 20 Meter
BY1PK-BY8AA Rotates each day on 14.049 Ce
FB8WI Crozet 20 meter CW
KC6MM E. Caroline Island May, 10-15 & 20 Meter
HZ1AB Saudi Arabia 1827 Kc 0200UTC
S79MC Seychelles 10 meter SSB
S79WHW Seychelles 20 meter SSB
3C1 Equatorial Guinea
3C0 Annobon
S9 Sao tome Early May by F6BBJ
FB8ZQ Kergulin Island 7.002-7.004 0100UTC
VU7 Andaman or Laccadive May we hope!

LATE SCOOP: N9CCH Chuck now has 41 countries; KB9UR, Bill has 60; K9GH, Heorge has 71; keep going fellows, we all started at zero. In the 1982 CQWW WPX CW contest RARA had a third place finisher. Jack, WD9DBC, had a total of 141,414 points. Congratulations!

You might want to work the CQWW WPX CW (1983) contest coming up May 28-29. It might be a good opportunity to work several new countries.

Next month AK9N, Gene will be MC. Wonder if he worked Chatham?73, and gud DX

Gene, K9IKP





Photos & Layout, Carol KI9G

Digital/Micro Corner

Well, I just couldn't resist. The VIC 20's price got so low, I just had to but one. Unfortunately since I bought one for \$139, I've seen it advertised for \$88!!! Just like the days of the pocket calculator. Where will it end?

The VIC 20 has many neat features such as color graphics, sound, and a super Basic which is quite easy to use. In addition there are provisions for Joysticks, paddles, light pen, cassette recorder, printer and a disk drive. It also has an expansion port for extra memory and games plus a user port so you can interface items you might want to turn on and off.

There are programs available for RTTY, ASKII, and Morse Code send and receive, plus a modem for connecting to your phone lines.

I've had a great time playing an adventure game called Pirates Cove. If you've never tried an adventure game you are missing out on some great entertainment. It really causes you to think and use your imagination.

There is one thing that I don't like about the VIC 20 and that is the memory map. Depending on how much memory is added depends on where the Basic programs are located and where screen memory is located. I find it kind of strange the way they chose to arrange the system, but I suppose they had their reasons.

If you decide to run right out and get one, I suggest you also purchase the **VIC 20 Programmer's Guide**. It has an abundance of information that is not contained in the users manual that comes with the computer. Also you should pick up an issue of **Compute** magazine. It's got a fantastic amount of information and programs for the VIC 20 and 64 plus it covers the Apple, Atari, OSI, Radio Shack Color Computer, and the ZX81. When they write a program in Basic they list it several times giving it exactly as you need to enter it for the computer you have. In other words you don't need to convert the program to the BASIC language needed by your computer. If you haven't tried this magazine, I think you should.

To sum it up, I've had a lot of fun with the VIC 20. For the money, at the present time, I feel it has about the most to offer. If only I could get it to paint the garage.....

73, Gene, WB9MMM

The Next RADXG meeting will be at Roscoe's Silician Pizza Parlor, Monday, May 18, 7:00 P.M. This is for DX'ers or prospective DX'ers. Bring your want lists, QSL information, etc.

Autopatch Quiz

Do you operate two-meters? Ever operate through an Autopatch? In most cases, the answer will be affirmative to both. So here's a quiz, based on known FCC rules and interpretations as to what kind of phone calls are legal on the autopatch. How many can you get right?

1. Through the autopatch, is a licensed amateur permitted to secure a grocery list for his home needs?
2. Can a licensed amateur make an airline, bus, or train reservation for a personal trip via autopatch?
3. Can a ham at a sports event give scores or descriptions of plays by autopatch to another ham?
4. Via autopatch, can a licensed amateur report an accident to police?
5. Can an amateur call a local pizza parlor to place and order via autopatch?
6. Assuming your home phone is tied up, can the autopatch be used to phone a plumber for an emergency?
7. Through the autopatch, can a ham call to cancel an appointment with his dentist?
8. Some autopatches allow an outside phone to call "in" to the repeater autopatch to reach a mobile, etc. Would this be OK to use to contact a ham/doctor in an emergency?
9. Is it possible to contact any licensed amateur by dialing capability in case of an emergency?
10. Can the autopatch be used by a licensed radio amateur to call a local electronic parts house to see if they stock a particular transistor?
11. Can a ham call a motel via autopatch to ascertain if they might have available room?
12. Can the autopatch be used to contact another amateur to discuss details of purchasing his low-band transceiver?
13. While stalled on the highway, can the autopatch be used to call a garage to see if they have a necessary part?
14. While aiding a Red Cross fund drive, can the autopatch be used to contact Red Cross headquarters regarding the fund drive?

Now here's the answer based upon the questions posed to the FCC: 1. Yes; 2. No; 3. No; 4. Yes; 5. No; 6. Yes; 7. No; 8. No; 9. Yes; 10. No; 11. Yes; 12. Yes; 13. Yes; 14. Yes. Some of the answers are obvious, some are tough. All of the NO answers involve violation of the rule prohibiting traffic where a third party derives monetary gain from the transaction. No. 12 would be no if the ham is in the business of dealing in ham gear, and even if they aren't the FCC recommends not discussing prices on the air. Calls to commercial establishments are permitted if the purpose of the call involves, at least in part, the welfare of a person or persons, as in No. 11 and 13. The crucial key depends upon how desperate the situation is regarding the welfare of one or more persons. The discussion of the price of the article or service should be avoided.

Thanks to K0RXT, in **Worldwide News**, and W5EKP and **73 Magazine** via FM Scanner from Twin City FM Club, for all the above information.

Tech Topics

It's got to be spring. I just heard one ham say he had a TH7DXX on order, and now is working on plans for a tower to put under it. Another has the trees trimmed back, and we will talk him into a tower yet. There's a hole dug up north for a tower to sprout from, and there's always a chance 60 feet could become 90 feet in one back yard. (*anyone guessing who all these hams are gets a free ticket to the next antenna party send all replies to Shari*). To accomplish these feats of construction, some information is required, and a bunch of planning is necessary. The information is easy, check the handbook, magazines indexes, and send for Rohns' Ham Tower Catalog, it's got almost everything you need to know to do things right. The address is below and the price was only \$2.00 in 1981, so it can't be much more now.

Putting up a tower has many possible pitfalls, of which the largest is lack of planning. Draw it, plan it, walk it through, but the hardware, and plan it again. Then do all the preliminary work and an antenna party will be simple. Now what should be done before the group shows up?

1. Dig the hole — it's going to be about 2 feet square and 4 feet deep because it has to be below the first frost line around here. While you're down in the hole drive a couple of ground rods. Let's face it, you've got a head start, and the tower should be grounded someplace.
2. Put up the first section or even two sections with ground wires attached to the ground rods, and some gravel in the bottom of the hole to guarantee drainage of rainwater or condensation in the tower legs (*this is important*), put the bottom sections in place, level them up with a string and plumb bob, attach and seal the ground connections, and pour the concrete. Note- this is about two-thirds of a yard of concrete and may rate a small party already unless you really love mixing Sackrete.
3. Install the guy anchors- the screw in anchors will do if you use the larger ones (*about 6 inch diameter*) which get you a reasonable depth in the ground. Soil type has a big effect because wet clay flows better than you think while sand and rocks may be solid. A safe way is the Rohn way which requires you to dig a hole (*not so bad*), pour concrete in it around the guy anchor (*about 1.5' to 2' square and 1' thick at a 3' depth*) which with the base concrete is enough to justify Redi-Mix. If the distance from the tower to the guy anchors are short you may consider a tall, strong pipe (*4 or 5" diameter*) or a tower section buried in a few feet of concrete for an anchor. This can allow attaching the guy wire six feet or so up which makes the guy angle better (*you want the pull sideways, not up*) and doesn't clutter up the yard.
4. Get the guy wires, torque bars, and turnbuckles ready— you can pre-cut some of the guy wires, and should if you are putting in insulators. Use torque bars, most of our antennas get big and whippy, and most towers twist down then they fall. Count all the materials, read the Rohn catalog, and practice some of the assembly where you aren't familiar.
5. Assemble the antenna. That can take a day, and shouldn't be hurried.
6. Call the volunteers, get the beer, arrange for rain. Don't forget gin poles to lift sections and antennas with rope. Also make sure the guys climbing the tower have safety belts available. Most likely your volunteers can guide you- or talk it up at meetings or nets.

Next month— how much can that mast take?

Now that Rohn address:

Unarco-Rohn; P.O. Box 2000, Peoria, Illinois 61656, (309/697-4400)

73, KB9IW

Potpourri

A SALUTE TO DALE HARNER — KC9IJ

On March 26, we heard the sad news that Dale Harner had passed on. A true ham for sure and he will long be remembered as a very friendly individual and was liked by everyone. Words can not do justice to describe his friendliness and joviality. We will all miss Dale at our meetings and future activities.

Lloyd, K9KGV, has returned to Rockford from his retreat in Mesa, AZ. During his stay there, a pin (*mysteriously*) came out of the base of his tower. His beam antenna came tumbling down resulting in quite a mess. Lloyd learned about it while he was still south so he bought a new beam down there just in case the damage was extensive. It's funny how that pin grew legs! We hope he could salvage at least some of the antenna and rotor and that new antenna will give equal or better results.

Fred, W9PGQ, has returned from his winter home in Florida. We will hear him on two meters and probably on the low bands soon as he says he will get a rig very soon.

The recent swapfest at Madison was well attended including a number of Rockford area hams. I didn't hear about any area big spenders but saw several rigs and boxes of stuff being carried out as we left there. N9CCH now has that large tree in the backyard severely trimmed which will permit the erection of some kind of beam in the near future.

KC9BN, Dale has upgraded to Extra Class. He said he will keep his present call sign. Congratulations Dale.

Awareness Day at the Northtowne shopping center has come and gone. Jim, WD9FVF, did a fine job of organizing and pushing the program through to a success in spite of the inclement weather. Each of the crew assigned to their respective duties also deserve a big hand for their efforts in bringing this hobby before the public. Thanks to the following hams who contributed to the display of old parts, rigs and pictures of days gone by. Ed, KA9IMZ, Chuck, K9SAN, Clark, W9COX and Floyd, K9CUQ

73, Chuck

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

OFFICERS		1983		DIRECTORS		
President	Bob Davidson	WA9NTT	877-6274	Frank Hirsch	K59X	397-6966
V. Pres.	Chuck Henley	N9CCH	633-6524	Jim Ambruso	WD9FVF	654-3620
Sec'y	Kay Becker	N9DRL	397-3169	Maurice Bolte	N9CCE	877-5439
Treasurer	Brad Ambro	KA9LTR	398-1648	Dale Mather	KC9BN	399-2002

HAM RAG Editor

Sharon Harlan WB9SFT 398-2683

Ham Mart

FOR SALE: Kenwood TR2400 2 meter Handheld and ST-1 Base charger — **\$225.00** — **Call Ray Anderson at 623-2961**

FOR SALE: Drake 2B Receiver; 2BDQ Multiplier; Heathkit SB 301 and SB401 receiver and transmitter; Millen transmatch type 92200 amplifier; Simpson voltmeter; various tubes and meters; wattmeter. — **PRICED TO SELL** — **Call Gerry Seidl at 397-1538.**

FOR SALE FROM THE ESTATE OF DALE HARNER, KC9IJ

1. Linear amp SB 200. 2. Hallicrafter SR150, power supply with mike, MA meter. 3. 24 hour clock. 4. Autek filter QF1. 5. Hy-Gain SWR watt. 6. Monitor Scope. 7. Swan WM6200 SWR watt. 8. Johnson Matchbox. 9. Heath dummyload. 10. Heath oscilator. 11. Antenna Switch. 12. Low pass filter, adjustable. 13. Simpson 260 VOM. 14. 12 watt power supply. 15. Hallicrafter 101-A; Hallicrafter SR160-12 volt power supply. 16. Azden 2-meter FM. 17. Solder station; new coax; tube tester model 88; Weller soldering gun; 5 wire rotor control cable. **Call Bill Rogdon, KA9BBQ at 963-3391.**

IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED IF YOU REFRAINED FROM CALLING MRS. HARNER.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

ROCKFORD, IL
Permit No. 230

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.