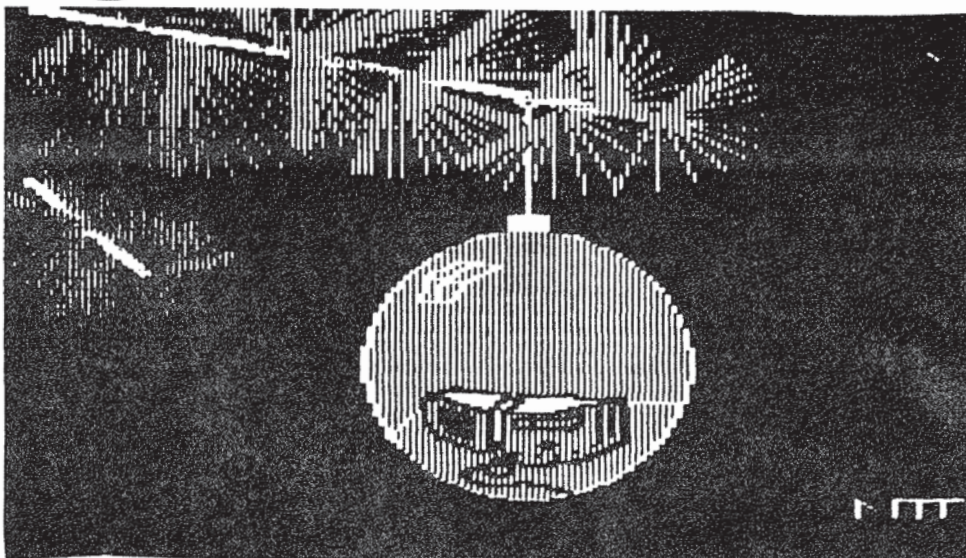


Ham Rag

Rockford Amateur Radio Association



DECEMBER 1984



**RARA MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 1984
7 PM RVC**

President's Log

Since our October meeting is one of our most important meetings of the year-business-wise, I thank each and every one of you who turned out for the election. It was a well attended meeting, as it should be, and shows you do care about the continued leadership of our local club. In case we don't cover it later in the issue, those who are willing to give their time and were elected are as follows: President-Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, Vice-President-Gene Duncan, K9IKP, Secretary-Zygmunt Podgorny, W9MOS, and Treasurer-Jeanne Luse, KA9QZV.

As the year is rapidly drawing to a close, I can think of many areas in which we can improve as a radio club. With new officers come new ideas and I look forward to a year of exciting things. Still, this year has been good with enjoyable as well as instructional meetings. Speaking of instructions, with our election night we were not without some very beneficial coaxial cable soldering instructions and demonstration. This came from our own Gene, K9TKP and you can be sure he knows what he's talking about. He has probably handled more cable already than I ever will. Thanks, Gene.

By now I believe most of you know that we have been accepted or designated a ARRL Special Service Club. As I look through the manual we have received there of course is no doubt in my mind that this club can continue to meet all the requirements to stay in good standing. For our club I can see the manual being used as a very important source of information. I encourage all of you to try to get the manual and read through it at some time. The program is going to be an exciting and valuable link between the local group and the ARRL. I dare say we probably don't take enough advantage of what is available to us through the ARRL. Maybe this will be the link we need.

73.

Bob, WA9NTT



MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM THE CLUB

OFFICERS AND

HAM RAG STAFF



Secretary's Log

Bob, WA9NTT, opened the October meeting at 7:10 P.M. It was great to see so many people there. Welcome to Wayne Hansen, KA9IMX and James Merriman, KA9RVQ. Wayne is a graduate of a RARA Novice class, and James just moved here from Elgin. Hope to see you again! Welcome back to Roger, WB9VLN. It was great to see you!

Gene, AK9N, issued a November Sweepstakes challenge in behalf of his 10 m. team to any other team. Gene, AK9N, Gary, K9LJN, Russ, KI9G, and Jack, NA9J will be a low power team. Winner will be determined by the total score. The losing team will treat the winning team to pizza and beer at Sam's following the December RARA meeting. Complete contest rules are on p. 90 of the October QST. Any takers?

Brad, KA9LTR, questioned if it would be worthwhile to start up the 15 m. Novice net again. There aren't many check-ins. He will start it if there is an interest, or if someone else would like to run it, that's okay too. Any suggestions?

Gene, KA9ROD, informed us of the status of the club station at RVC. Work is being done on the roof of the building. The station hasn't been operating because of antenna problems. There was also a broken switch inside the rotor; so that has been sent in for repair. Right now the tribander is tied down with ropes. Gene and the others helping him are waiting for the rotor to come back.

Carol, KI9G, reported that there are 9 people in the Novice class and 11 in the General class. 4 of the 9 in the Novice are between 13-15 years old. That's great! Classes are moving along nicely. Carol also reported on the VE program. Nine of our club members are involved with this program which is being done through DeVry Institute in Chicago. DeVry is the VEC for the 9th call area. So far DeVry has been absorbing all costs. If you know of someone who wants to upgrade, tell them about the VE program here.

For information on next month's meeting listen to the nets. Father Moran is scheduled to visit RARA on November 23rd. Stay tuned!

73. Kay, N9DRL

W9FL/SK

Maurice Nelson, W9FL, one of amateur radios' pioneers died Tuesday, October 30, 1984 in Swedish American Hospital. He was born February 5, 1906 in Rockford where he lived all of his life. He married his wife Mercedes August 8, 1936. He was employed as chief engineer of former radio station KFLV and the current WROK for 39 years. One of our present club members remembers Maury as the nicest boss he ever had. He was recently employed by W. A. Whitney Corp. before retiring. Maury was a member of the Rockford Amateur Radio Association having served as president of that organization. He was for many years trustee of the club station W9AXD. He operated his own amateur radio station for 66 years starting at the age of 12. He attended Rockford schools and graduated from Valparaiso, Ind. Maury also, was a radio operator aboard ship on the Great Lakes as a young man.

W9MMM 1985 RARA President



I was born in Waverly Iowa in 1944. During junior high school I read many books from the library on electronics and had an interest in ham radio due to my barber and a high school friend that were hams. I moved to Waterloo and promptly forgot about electronics because I made another discovery, GIRLS!! Photography was another hobby I persued further after high school by attending Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, Calif. After attending Brooks, and not finding a job available in photography, I went to work for Osco Drug and stayed with them for 11 years. Shari and I moved from Waterloo to Sioux City, Iowa to Rockford during this time.

In 1973 Ray, W9VTL, who was a good customer at Osco, would come into the store and tell me of all the neat places he had talked to. Finally I asked what I needed

to do to get my license. Ray advised me and finally gave me my novice test.

Being exposed to electronics, I found it quite enjoyable and it became obvious to me that I was not progressing with my job to my satisfaction. I made a decision to start going to RVC to get an electronics degree (1974-1978). Along came with it a change in jobs: Rockford Instrument Lab (2 yrs.) followed by W. A. Whitney (6½yrs) which led to my present job at Arachnid as engineer, designing electronic games.

My family consists of my wife, Shari, WB9SFT, son Shawn, KA9RXA who also works at Arachnid and Wendy who is a freshman at East High.

K9IKP 1985 RARA Vice President

Age 44-first licensed as a novice, then a short time as a Tech. In 1958 I passed the general test. I went to the Army in 1959 and to Okinawa where my call was KR6KV. I also operated KR6QW where we ran phone patches to the states. I also operated Army Mars.

In 1962 I was employed by J & M Electronics. In 1968 I moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa where I became WAØWMV. I worked for Galaxy Electronics. HyGain Antenna Corp. bought Galaxy and I worked for them for 6 months. Moved back to Polo in 1971, about that time I passed my Advanced test. Moved to Monroe Center in 1974. I have been active in DX'ing and current totals are 314 worked and 312 confirmed and I hold a 5 band DXCC. I hold an extra class license and work all bands. I'm a life member of ARRL and employed by J & M Electronics. Sidelines are eating pizza and chasing YL's.



W9MOS 1985 RARA Secretary



Lived in Rockford for some 60 years coming from Dubuque, Iowa. Retired from Barber Colman Co. after some 40 years with various jobs in their temperature division. I am 69 years of age, married for 30 years and have no children.

I received my license shortly before being called to active duty in Naval reserve. Served from December 1940 to December 1945. Art, W9WSG, another Rockford amateur and I were shipmates for a year and a half as radio operators on a destroyer during the war. I was stationed at various west coast bases and ended up in the Aleutians Islands at wars end.

I did not get back into amateur radio until the last 10 years. Other hobbies include wood working and building of things. I will try to do a good job as your 1985 secretary and with everyones cooperation we will continue to have an active club.

KA9QZV 1985 RARA Treasurer

I am basically an Iowa farm girl, but we have lived east of the Mississippi for nine years. I am married and the mother of two sons who now attend college. KD9KX is past president of Iowa State University Amateur Radio Club WA0KHF. At age 35 I graduated from college and was a substitute teacher for 7 years in special education. My hobbies are crocheting, sewing, photography, tending 80 house plants, refinishing furniture, gardening and amateur radio!! I'm happiest when enrolled in some course of study, whether it be quilting, psychology, or amateur radio.



This is a close up look at your new club officers for the coming year. We hope this will help you get to know them. Congratulations to all of you. We are looking forward to working with you next year. The four directors to complete the board are: WA9NTT, N9CCH, N9DRL, and KA9LTR. WB9SFT will continue as editor of the Ham Rag.

Hello again, from Little Toy Radio. Summer is just about over and if past years are good indicators, fall won't be too long-lasting of a season. Then winter sets in with usually a lot more leisure time. A good use for this time might be studying with the purpose of upgrading your present ham license.

It doesn't take a college degree to obtain a higher class of license - I don't hold one myself and I made it to extra. Anyone else can too. Now then, with that statement, I'll get down to the "brass tacks" of the matter. There are two areas of study to work on in order to get a better license: the code and the theory. I'll try to share with you what worked for me and maybe it will be of some help to you (I hope).

As far as the code is concerned, whether you are trying to increase your speed from 5 to 13 or 13 to 20 wpm, it's best to realize that it's going to take some EFFORT on your part to do this. I found a few things that helped me get my code speed up. One of them was copying WIAW's code practice transmissions. Another help was the 15-meter Novice net, which I made an announcement about at the October RARA meeting. Being the net control station, it's very easy for me to send any code speed that the other person might want to try to copy. All I have to do is enter the desired speed into my keyer and it will send the exact speed that it's set for. This lets me send to the other person a little faster than what he can copy comfortably, helping to increase his code speed. Another big help in raising your code speed, using the same principle, is to listen for another ham that is sending a little faster than you are used to copying. Start up a QSO with him at his speed and try to copy as best as you can. You may not copy all the characters 100% correctly, but it will help to increase your code speed. When doing this, try to find a station with a fairly strong signal, if possible.

Upgrading also requires learning additional radio theory and regulations that will be needed to pass the written F.C.C. exams. There are a few ways to go about doing this. Our club conducts general class theory courses that you can enroll in. This gives you a chance to study with others; which can make the process of learning easier and more enjoyable. If you are unable to enroll in a class, you can still do it by yourself. But as mentioned before, working with others can make learning easier and more fun.

When studying by yourself, there are different ways to go about doing it. One way is to purchase an instruction course; such as Heathkit offers for sale. If you don't want to go that route, you can obtain your own study materials. Many hams suggest using the ARRL License Manual along with the Radio Amateur's Handbook or the book by Mr. Schrader, Electronic Communication. These will give you a very thorough knowledge of ham radio theory needed to pass the exam(s). But it will also require a substantial amount of study time and effort.

Now that the Volunteer Examination Program is in effect, the value of "bash books" is practically nil. So it is imperative that you take the time to become more proficient in both the code and theory areas. Remember that anything worth having is worth working for - if you really want it.

Fr. Moran was born in Chicago 78 years ago. He arrived in India in 1935 and in 1949 went to Nepal where he has been ever since. He expects to stay in Nepal as long as his health permits.

Even though he is now 78 years old, he still rides a motor-bike but admits he doesn't drive as fast as he did ten years ago. Also, he has turned over the administration of the boys' school to a younger person but Fr. Moran still teaches several classes every day but likes his new arrangement because it gives him more time for ham radio.

9N1MM is the only resident ham operator in Nepal but over the years several non-resident hams have obtained temporary calls but none in the past five years. This makes a QSO with Fr. Moran a much sought after contact. Several Rockford hams, including W9SS, KI9G, and KS9R have cards to prove their contacts with him.

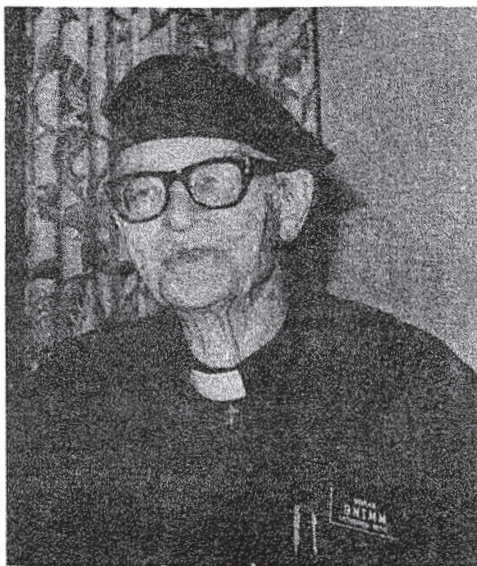
Fr. Moran stays out of local and national politics but did know the late Indira Ghandi very well as well as the late prime minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru.

While in the United States this fall, he will have visited about 35 radio clubs and travel about fifteen thousand miles in the process.

His "on the air time" is about two hours per day when the band is open and averages about 75 contacts per week. Perhaps the greatest aspect of Fr. Moran's life is the time he spends for others when he is needed for all types of emergencies, including handling traffic for his area of the world.

Always a great speaker and one who feels he will do his life duty until he is called by HIS BOSS but seeks no rewards for himself.

Paul Klein, K9VJJ
PIO
RARA



NEW PRODUCT FRUSTRATIONS

I always wanted a good tuner to keep the SWR low. Now that I have a Kenwood TS930S with solid state finals, I have to keep the SWR on the low side. I asked a good friend of mine and an "old timer" of a ham, W9UFH, Al Horton, what he thought of a Nye Viking MB V 3000 Watt tuner. He said that Mr. Nye makes one of the best tuners around.

What is a Nye Viking model MB V tuner?

"The Nye Viking MB V antenna matching network is a Pi network system consisting of a large variable silver plated copper ribbon inductor, a split section high voltage variable capacitor and a bank of high voltage fixed capacitors to provide a wide range of input-output impedance ratio." (From the instruction manual)

I like the built-in direct reading SWR meter and peak watts forward meter. It sure helps in tuning up.

One day while Kay and I were sitting in the garage late in the afternoon, the UPS truck came. Hot dog! There's my new tuner. "Thank you Mr. UPS man." Now open the box. A pretty tuner. Look at all those buttons. Let's see how they work. Oh! Oh! One button for the fixed capacitors does not work. It won't do its thing. I got mad and called the president of Nye Viking. Wm. Nye told me to look at the inside and fix it if I could or send it back. So I sent it back. They fixed it for nothing-but for two weeks I was without a tuner. Now I put it in line with the TS930S. Sure works good!

While switching the antenna switches from by-pass to the antenna, the switches did not work. Boy, was I mad. I opened the cover and studied how the capacitor switches worked and found that a slide bar on the antenna switch was not being pushed back by the spring steel spring. So I used a screwdriver to push it back. Something must have stuck.

There's a 9 volt battery in the tuner, but the two lights for the meters don't come on yet. There's a plug-in for a 12 volt outside power supply that may have to be used to run the light. I have yet to find out.

So far I like the tuner, as it really can get the SWR down. The main reason I like it is because it can handle 3000 watts of power.

Maybe I just had some bad luck in the beginning with those switches, but they are built like a battleship.

The darned thing is not cheap. It goes for about \$479.00, but it should be the last one I buy.

Anyone is free to come over and try it if they are interested in Nye Viking products. P.S. Call first and I'll have the coffee pot ready.

73, Marvin, KC9WF

In future Ham Rags there will be a complete list of equipment from the estate of Maury Nelson W9FL. Anyone interested should contact Mrs. Nelson at 399-3537.

As I sit here, having been given a reprieve by our dear editor in getting this in, I am recovering from all together too much stuff going on at once. I have therefore decreed a period of insanity. This is precipitated by one of my regular contributors (hecklers), compounded by memories of various conversations with other fellow amateurs, and proven by astute observation and even some reading. These apply particularly to amateur radio (whether you are a homebrewer, ragchewer, or DXer), although you may find more universal usefulness. The first you will find quite familiar.

In any undertaking, anything that can go wrong will go wrong.
Corollary One-Everything goes wrong at the same time.

Corollary Two-If several things can go wrong, the one that goes wrong will do the most damage.

Corollary Three-With no help at all, things will go from bad to worse.

Corollary Four-If everything seems to be going well, you have overlooked something.

It is impractical to worry beforehand about interference, someone will always supply some for you.

Corollary One-The knowledge that you should change frequency will come to you after the band goes dead.

Corollary Two-It may be easier to go where the interference is than to try to avoid it.

As you wrestle with a problem, the observations that are obviously correct, beyond all doubt, contain all the errors.

Corollary One-No one you ask for help will see the errors.

Corollary Two-Any nagging intruder who stops by with unsought advice will spot any error immediately.

In any problem, if you find yourself doing an untold amount of work, the answer is obvious.

Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

Corollary -No radio will be built simply if a way can be found to make it complex and wonderful.

Any ailing piece of equipment will cure itself in the presence of a six pack and a technician.

Step One-Ailing equipment must be approached in a confident manner.

Step Two-Wave the service manual at the equipment to insure your competence.

Step Three-Recite Ohm's law to the equipment (even if you have to read it form the handbook). This removes all doubt of your knowledge.

Step Four-Brandish a large screwdriver in order to convince the equipment of your knowledge of the deadly "short circuit" fix-it technique.

Step Five-Tap the equipment on the side with the handle of the screwdriver, this should complete the process

A thought for success-don't believe in luck, rely on it.

When plotting SWR curves (or other data) draw your curves first, then plot the data (on the curves, it will look better).

A record of what you've done is useful, it indicated you have been busy.

Finally, remember TIPOIO (The Inate Perversity Of Inanimate Objects) will always get you in the end.

Insanity prevails-when hitchhiking about the galaxy, don't forget your towel.

de Steve, KB9IW

Astronaut Tony England, WØRE, says that a second ham is now scheduled to fly with him on his mission next spring. John-David F. Bartoe, W4NYZ, is a Payload Specialist for the mission. Ground work for the project is proceeding on the assumption that formal notification of acceptance from NASA will be coming forthwith. ARRL Letter.

November 20, 1984: The ARRL committee of tellers met today to count ballots in the election just concluded for director and vice director. The number of votes credited to each candidate is as follows. The first listed candidadt is declared elected for the next term of office. Central Division for Vice Director, Howard S. Huntington, K9KM 2924; Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 1217. Edmond A. Metzger, W9PRN, ran unopposed and was declared elected for the position of Director of the Central Division. These people take office January 1, 1985.
de WIAW

HAM OF THE YEAR NOMINATION BALLOT

NOMTNEE _____

CALL _____

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

Signed _____

Call _____

Potpourri

Well, our fall season is off to a flying start. The September meeting was well attended and very interesting. Dave's uncle from Milton, Wis., W9MA, gave a very interesting talk about his trip with nine other men on a 105 foot ship above the Arctic Circle around Greenland and Ellsmore Island.

It's also time when hams plan ham shack changes and antennas. K9LJN, Gary Hilker, was among the first to get a tribander up on a new 50 foot tower. Dave, KZ9U, has all the stuff to get up a 50 foot tower, Chuch N9CCH, is adding a 10 foot section to his tower and is changing the miniquad to a Moseley TA 33 Jr. Larry KS9B, has moved to his new QTH and has one of his towers up. KA9OYT, Tim, is going to have a new 50 foot tower up soon. Dale, KT9P, has put up a vertical, I suppose to work the 10 and 15 meter bands; Roger, WP9VLN, has a new butternut vertical and KA9NDQ is replacing his miniquad with a TA 33.

Most area hams know about the motorcycle mishap that Marv, KC9WF, and Kay, N9DRL, had this past summer. Son Bill, N9DTD, also had to get into the act. He got tangled up with a car in the Colonial Village shopping center lot. Bill came through better than his parents did with only bruises and a knee injury but no broken bones. There are a lot of people that have a great love for the two wheelers and continue to ride with the wind. A guy has to be brave to get on one but I guess I'm a sissy. As if the accidents were not enough bad luck, Kay has had her handy talky stolen. She left it in her car which was parked in the driveway overnight and had failed to lock the car.

Our snowbird friend Fred, W9PGQ, has departed from his QTH on Lake Kegonsa to his Florida retreat for the winter. K9LKA, Larry, is also gone for the winter to Naples. Don't you wish that we all could? We will see both of them next spring.

Floyd, K9CUQ, and his wife are back home after their trip out west and south. As they passed through Nebraska, they were surprised to hear W9TET on 2 meters and gave him a call. You can never tell who you might hear as you travel around.

November, 1984, was a milestone to be remembered by Carol, W9TET, who has been a ham for 50 years. His wife, Dorothy, KA9IMV, invited area hams to a surprise party to help him celebrate the occasion. The party was held at the Roscoe United Methodist Church. Refreshments were served and needless to say the honored person wasn't the only one who had fun. Many more happy years of hamming Carol!

PLEASE NOTE!! The 1985 Awards Banquet will be held at the Warsaw Inn, 5011 East State St., Rockford on January 12th. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to be there for a fun evening and a good family style meal. You might be lucky and win an attendance prize.

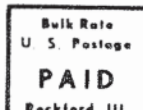
73,
Chuck, N9CCH

Ham Mart

FOR SALE: 1 D-104 ASTATIC MIKE with G stand, \$15.00
1 CODE MASTER CW practice set with tone and volume control and standard key, \$18.00
AMECO model CN VHF converter with power supply, \$17.50
Heath Kit A-tl converted to 6 meters
Speech amplifier and modulator for above.
6 volt switches for both speech amplifier and antenna change over relay.
HQ-140-X Hammarlund all band receiver. Ideal for a short wave listener. (Might develop a new novice)
Prices not quoted subject to discussion.
Can be seen at W9ZZL, Lee Shelain, 1303 Rebecca Dr. 61107

FOR SALE: Yaesu FT 107M Transceiver, all solid state instant band changes, with YM 34 desk mic and FT 107E external power supply/speaker console. All for \$600.
HQ-1 Mini-quad antenna used one year. Asking \$100.
Call Chuck, N9CCH, 633-6524

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



NETS:

28.7 Mhz. Monday 8:00 P.M.

50.4 Mhz. Nightly 9:00 P.M.

146.01/.61 Mhz. Mon. 8:00 P.M.

Black Hawk Valley

Ten Ten International

28.925 Mhz. Wed. 9:00 P.M.

21.130 Mhz. Thur. 9:00 P.M.