

HAM RAG

Rockford Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Visit our web site for more club and area ham information in the Rockford area at <http://rara.tripod.com>

January 2003

Presidents Log January 2003

Happy New Year to everyone, I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Holiday Season.

This months log starts with a Thank You to **Gene Harlan, WB9MMM**, and **Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ**, for their leadership and service to the club as officers and board members for the last 4 years. Also Thank You to **Jeff Anderson, N9ZUT**, and **Chuck Gooden, N9QBT**, for their service to the RARA Board of Directors for 2003. Thank you to everyone.

I would also like to welcome and introduce you to your new Board of Directors for 2003, **Vice President John Auerswald, KA9SOG**, **Secretary Wendy Owano, KC9BCF**, **Treasurer Rich Ludwig, K9PK**, **Board Members Joe Rolling, N9HEZ**, **Larry Snyder, K0HNM**, **John Birly, AA9SK**, and **Shari Harlan, N9SH**.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Awards Dinner on Friday January 10th at Thunder Bay Grille. Also would like to thank **Shari Harlan, N9SH** for being the chairperson for the dinner again this year.

Please also keep in mind this is dues time again, please see **Rich Ludwig, K9PK**, with your membership dues. New cards with the new autopatch code will be sent out at the end of March. If you know of any hams that are not members of

RARA or some of the members that have not been to a meeting in a while, please invite them to our next meeting.

As always, your comments and/or suggestions are always welcome, your officers and board members are here to serve you.

73, and see you at the meeting.

Scott, KB9YRW



Erick, KC9AVP, Keith, KC9CPE, Dan, KC9AIE, Aerial, KC9BKU, Stephanie, KC9BKV, and Katie, KB9YSM, from McHenry County. Giving the presentation on Tape Measure Antennas in December.

Next Meeting:

(map on page 7)

RARA Banquet 2003

January 10, 2003

Thunder Bay Grille

7652 Potawatomi Tr. Rockford, IL

Cocktails at 6 P.M. Dinner at 7 P.M.

Articles from Amateur Radio Newsline

HAMS RESPOND TO SO-CAL. GAS LEAK

Ham radio is there to provide communications as a gas leak hits Huntington Beach California. Gloria Morrison, KE6ATG, is the Huntington Beach California Fire Department Emergency Services Coordinator. She was in the process of briefing the new Police Chief, Kenneth Small, on routine procedures on Wednesday, December 11th when the meeting was interrupted by a report of a natural gas leak. Nine fire companies were assigned to the incident. Public Works and Police Department personnel were also sent to the scene.

First order of business a near-by 55-unit apartment complex had to be evacuated. Fire Battalion Chief Jacques Pelletier requested that a Care and Reception Center be set up for displaced resident. Huntington Beach RACES was soon activated. It established a net and began logging-in availability of members for the response. 20 RACES made themselves available.

Meanwhile, a call was made to the Community Emergency Response Team Shelter Leader to activate five volunteers for service at the Care and Reception Center location. Tim Sawyer, WD6AWP, acted as net control operator. Huntington Beach RACES Chief Radio Officer Steven Graboff, W6GOS, responded to provide Amateur Radio, cell phone, Red Cross and fire radio communications. Other RACES operators were deployed to the Emergency Operations Center and the Fire Incident Command post at the gas leak scene.

Within 90 minutes, the incident was over. The shelter was closed down and the residents went home. No injuries to the firefighters or the RACES volunteers were reported. RACES communications was utilized exclusively throughout this event because the city's cellular

telephone system was not working at the time.

Bruce Tennant., K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

~~ARES ASSISTS FOLLOWING~~ MISSISSIPPI TWISTER

The ARRL Letter says that Amateur Radio Emergency Service teams from Jackson and Meridian Mississippi converged on the tiny community of Newton last week. This, to provide emergency communication following a devastating tornado on Thursday, December 19th.

The mid-day twister struck a Wal-Mart filled with holiday shoppers, blowing out the front windows and collapsing part of the roof. The tornado also damaged a furniture factory. According to news accounts, some 70 people were hurt, but no one was killed. Property damage in the town was said to have been widespread, and Governor Ronnie Musgrove has declared a state of emergency in Newton.

According to Mississippi Section Manager Malcolm Keown, W5XX, about a dozen amateurs from the Metro Jackson ARES and the Lauderdale County ARES groups turned out. They took turns supporting relief agencies in Newton which has no ARES organization of its own.

Keown said the ARES teams helped the Red Cross with damage assessment and with shelter communication. Hams also assisted the Salvation Army and the Southern Baptist Men's Kitchen canteen operations as well as making themselves available to local emergency management officials.

In the tornado's immediate aftermath, telephone service and electrical power were out in much of the town of nearly 4000 and in surrounding Newton County.



PROBLEM - NEW SOLUTION?

The FCC is using a new diplomacy to deal with an old problem. Its telling a repeater owner that he will be held responsible if an unlicensed individual is relayed over his system.

Wayne Curley, WA6NRB, of Montrose, California finds himself receiving an interesting warning letter from the FCC. Curley operates a popular repeater serving the Los Angeles area. It's on that repeater where the Commission alleges that Richard Burton, the former WB6JAC, has been appearing.

Burton and the FCC have a long history. Burton is a former ham who had his license revoked back in 1981. The following year, he was convicted on four counts of transmitting without a license and two counts of making obscene transmissions.

That conviction got him sentenced to 8 years in a federal prison. But the judge then suspended all but the first six months. Burton appealed. The Ninth District Court of Appeals threw out his obscenity convictions but let stand the charges of operating without a license. But it doesn't end there.

The Commission says that Burton transmitted without a license while on probation in 1984, 1990 and again in 1992. After a second conviction, he was fined \$2000 and received a year's probation. On his third unlicensed operation conviction, he was sentenced to serve 7 months in prison and do a year on probation.

In 1992, Burton decides to try and get his ham license reinstated. The FCC says no. So he waits four years. In 1996, he passes a Technician class exam. Burton is issued the call sign KG6GKS but that license grant is short lived. As soon as the

Commission realizes that the new license has gone to Burton, it sets the license aside, putting Burton off the air again, at least as a Commission licensee.

In May of 2000, another federal grand jury indicts Burton for operating without a license. He's arrested that August. In January of 2001, Burton agrees to serve three months in jail. He does his prison time at a federal detention center near Fort Worth, Texas. Burton is also placed on one year's probation following his release -- and he's ordered to undergo psychological counseling.

Now, the FCC says that Burton is back on the air again, this time, using Wayne Curley's Los Angeles repeater. And it appears that--this time--the FCC has decided to simply give him no place to operate by holding Curley, as repeater operator, responsible for letting Burton's unlicensed signal to be relayed.

On December 4th, the FCC issued a Warning Notice to Curley. The letter reminds Curley that a repeater licensee is responsible for continuing violations of Commission rules. And it tells Curley that enforcement action against him may result if he fails to prevent violations from occurring over his repeater. The FCC says this could include fines, license suspension or even revocation if Curley fails to act.

But the FCC also gives Curley some advice. It tells him he has several options available to prevent recurring and deliberate violations of FCC rules from taking place on his repeater. This includes locking rules violators out...or using access tones...or even limiting the repeater's operation.

But the Commission also adds a warning. If he is not able to do this, the FCC says, Curley must take his repeater off the air.

David Black, KB4KCH.
Amateur Radio Newsline

HAMS HELP OUT DURING OKLAHOMA TELEPHONE EMERGENCY

Hams responded with emergency communication when Broken Arrow, OK, a town of 75,000, experienced a citywide telephone outage on December 23. A request went out for amateurs to assist with emergency effort at the local Emergency Operations Center and three area hospitals.

Several hams from the Broken Arrow Amateur Radio Club responded to the call, staffing positions at the Broken Arrow EOC and three hospital emergency rooms.

The operation lasted about five hours, with messages between the EOCs and hospitals being passed. Lines of communications were also opened with the Oklahoma State Department of Civil Emergency Management in Oklahoma City via the HF amateur station in the Broken Arrow EOC.

The trouble with the phone system was created by the loss of SS7 signaling, a digital protocol for call routing. Unable to route a call out of the local exchange, Broken Arrow phone customers could not call outside the city limits. As a result, the City of Broken Arrow implemented its Telecommunications Failure Plan.



K7IJ REPEATER SYSTEM ATTRACTS RENEWED FCC ATTENTION

The FCC has sent a Warning Notice to the owner of the K7IJ Grizzly Peak repeater system in California's San Francisco Bay area citing "numerous rule violations" on the machine since last April. In a November 26 letter, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth reminded repeater owner Bruce Wachtell, K7IJ, of his responsibility to ensure proper control of his repeater. Almost four years ago, the FCC shut down the Grizzly Peak repeater after it determined the system was out of control of the licensee and his designated control operator.

"Since the repeater bears your call sign, it is important for you to understand that you are responsible for its proper operation," Hollingsworth told Wachtell, whose residence is in Carson City, Nevada.

"The decision to operate a repeater is a totally voluntary one. Repeaters are a convenience in the Amateur Radio Service, not a necessity." Hollingsworth said repeater control operators "must ensure immediate proper operation" of the system, regardless of the type of station control. If Wachtell cannot regain control of his repeater, then he must shut it down, Hollingsworth concluded.

Violations cited included failure of users to identify or to identify correctly, intentional interference from "certain users," use of the repeater by unlicensed operators and "lengthy carriers and key-ups."

Hollingsworth told Wachtell that it's his responsibility to prevent recurring and deliberate violations. *"If you are unwilling or unable to prevent violations on your K7IJ repeater, then your operator and station licenses will be subject to enforcement action by the Commission,"* warned Hollingsworth, who raised the specter of fines, suspension and license revocation.

ENFORCEMENT: SORRY THATS NOT REPEATER INTERFERENCE

The FCC says that the signal being heard by another Ohio ham cannot be considered as interference because the ham is listening from far to high of a location. Commission spokesman Daryl Duckworth, NN0W, explains the situation and why the agency declined to get involved:

Duckworth: "The complaint of Kim Lozier, N8ZW, of Portsmouth Ohio was dismissed. Lozier complained about what he perceived as interference from the KF8HL repeater. Our letter pointed out that Lozier was listening from an 800 foot altitude and that merely hearing another repeater with no disabling interference was sharing -- not interference, and that frequency coordination is not necessarily exclusive use."

In a related matter a petition for reconsideration from the KF8HL repeater group in West Virginia was also dismissed as untimely. That petition had sought reversal of an earlier Enforcement Bureau ruling that KF8HL was an uncoordinated repeater and had the primary responsibility -- but not the sole responsibility to prevent interference to the KC8FKP system located near Portsmouth Ohio.

RARA Officers for 2003

President: Scott Allshouse KB9YRW
Vice President: John Auerswald KA9SOG
Secretary: Wendy Owano KC9BCF
Treasurer: Rich Ludwig K9PK
Director: Shari Harlan N9SH
Director: Joe Roling N9HEZ
Director: John Birly AA9SK
Director: Larry Snyder K0HNM
Newsletter and Web Site:
John Auerswald KA9SOG



Have you studied?

**THE NEXT AMATEUR RADIO
EXAM SESSION IN LOVES
PARK, IL AT 9AM SATURDAY,
JANUARY 18, 2003.**

**North Suburban District Library
6340 N 2nd St.
Loves Park, IL**

Check-in is from 9AM till 11AM. We require two signature ID's (one must be a photo ID).

If you are a licensed amateur radio operator bring your original current license and a copy.

If you are using a CSCE for an element credit bring the original and a copy.

Copiers available at site. (We need to see the originals & keep a photocopy of each document used for element credit.)

The test fee for 2003 is \$12.00. Walk-ins welcome.

There were 2 applicants at the test session on Saturday December 21 resulting in 1 New Technician **James T. Thomas III, KC9CYR.**

Thanks to **Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV, Richard Tidberg, WF9J, Mike Oberg, AB9AY, Ray Quimby, AA9YC, and Shari Harlan, N9SH,** for making this session possible.

ARRL Concludes 5-MHz Experiments, Awaits FCC Decision on New Band

With its experimental license having demonstrated the desirability and feasibility of a domestic 5 MHz amateur allocation, the ARRL has allowed WA2XSY to expire on January 1, 2003 rather than request renewal. Last May, the FCC proposed going along with the ARRL's 2001 request for a new domestic secondary HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.4 MHz.

15 Amateur Radio clubs and individual amateurs took part in the 5-MHz experimental operation that began in January 1999 and largely concluded in 2002. ARRL chose not to request another renewal of the WA2XSY license because it already had obtained sufficient information to justify its petition for the band.

In a letter filed with the FCC last August after the comment deadline had passed, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration recommended that the Commission not go forward with the 5-MHz proposal. The NTIA said several government agencies with allocations in the proposed spectrum had expressed reservations about allowing amateurs to use the band.

The ARRL has been working with the government to resolve the impasse. The ARRL has called the 5 MHz allocation an urgent priority of the Amateur Service and said that a new band at 5 MHz would aid emergency communication activities by filling a propagation gap between 80 and 40 meters. In the meantime, experimental operations on 5 MHz continue on a very limited

Have anything or would like to submit an article to be put in the Ham Rag or the website. Contact me by Email at ka9sog@arrl.net and visit <http://rara.tripod.com> for any late breaking news and



Katie, KB9YSM, Dan, KC9AIE, Aerial, KC9BKU, (in background), Stephanie, KC9BKV, Keith, KC9CPE, and Erick, KC9AVP, work on constructing their Tape Measure Antenna during the December RARA meeting.



Aerial, KC9BKU, and Erick, KC9AVP, preparing a radio for testing of the constructed

Next RARA Board Meeting is at 7:00 P.M. on January 28, 2003 at Saint Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford. Go to main entrance due to meeting rooms sometimes change month to month.

VHF SS January Contest

The VHF SS January Contest is the focal highlight of the year for most hams active in VHF-UHF-Microwave. Research has shown that there has been a decline in both the number of participants and number of log entries in this contest. Please use this information to encourage your club members to try to be active for this activity.

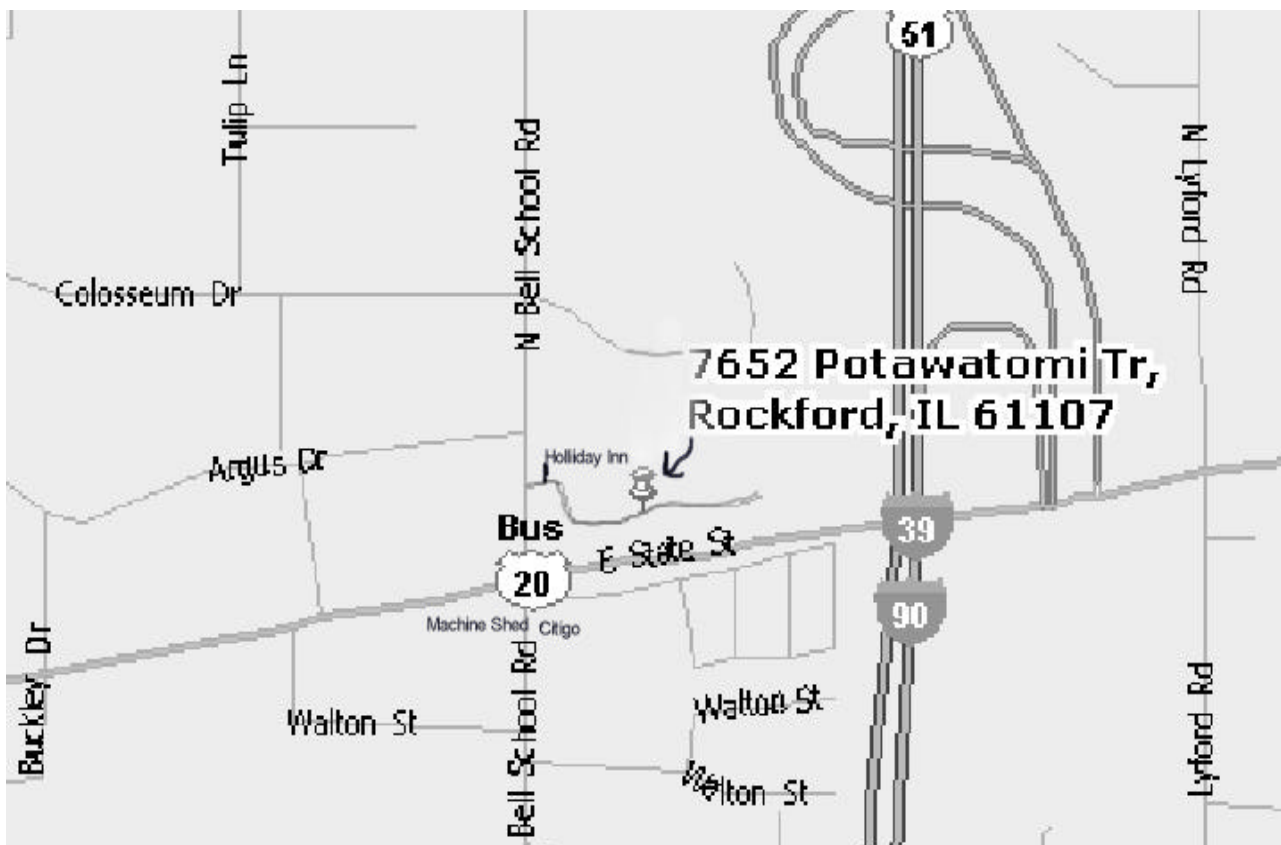
"Many hams already have equipment for 6 meters and higher bands. Others have FM handhelds for 146, 222 and 446 and maybe even 1296. Some have bought low band rigs that cover 6-meters, while others might have the newer rigs that include 50, 144 and 432. This is an open invitation for them to participate, if only for a few contacts, a few hours, or on a band or two. They will find plenty of activity, courteous and cooperative hams, and a willingness to 'make the contact.' Try it! You'll like it!"

This applies to many of the traditional HF contest community that may feel a little out of their

comfort zone above 30 MHz. Until recently, the number of non-FM VHF contacts that I had made was just a few -- it took a lucky acquisition of an old TS-600 all-mode 6-meter rig to get me on for some VHF contests. Those of us that have purchased a IC-706, FT-847, TS-50, or other allband radio should give the VHF contests a try. If you don't have directional antennas for those bands at home, give mountaintopping or rover-ing a try. Even in January weather, you can have a lot of fun with a trip to a local high spot or a lightly-populated grid square.

If you've never tried it -- type "VHF Contesting" into Google or one of the other search engines. You'll get a ton of choices to browse -- NS9E's Web site has some good tutorials, for example - <http://www.lionlmb.org/vhftest.html>. Dan N9RLA also has a nice rover-oriented page at <http://www.qsl.net/n9rla/>. With the great new radios we have access to, there's really no reason not to give it a try. And be sure to send in your log, no matter how small!

Rick, K1DS, Editor of the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club newsletter "Cheesebits",

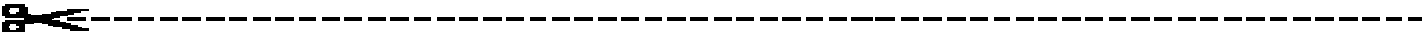


Rockford Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126
Phone: 815- 248-3102
E-Mail: ka9sog@arrl.net
Web Site - <http://rara.tripod.com>

The
Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

Renew your Membership



ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION

DUES REGULAR/INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY \$25
SENIOR 62 OR ON DISABILITY INCOME \$10
HAM RAG ONLY \$5

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
HOME PHONE _____
WORK PHONE _____
EMAIL _____
RENEWAL _____ NEW _____ RETIRED _____
RADIO INTEREST _____
OTHER INTERESTS _____
SUGGESTIONS _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:
ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 8465
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126

