

# RIVER CITY RADIO RAG



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Amateur Radio Club

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THE RIVER CITY RADIO RAG is published monthly by :

The Iowa City Amateur Radio Club  
1410 Keokuk Street  
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Deadline for submission of materials is the 20th of the month preceeding the desired month of publication. Any article dealing with any aspect of amateur radio is welcome.

It is not our intent to edit prospective articles, however we reserve the right, out of necessity, to delay publication of an article due to space limitations.

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Iowa City Amateur Radio Club Officers  
1974

President: Steve Towle KØSVW  
Vice-Pres.: Robert Lucas WAØDXZ  
Sec'y-Treas : Doris Delaney WNØKBD  
Program Chairman: Mike Nowack WBØHOG

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Dues for the Iowa City Amateur Radio Club are \$6.00 per year (including subscription). Permission to reprint granted if credit is given to author and publication.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to Jack Haldeman, WØMIE for his fine work in organizing this year's picnic. The picnic, combined with the 2 meter transmitter hunt, was a great success, with an estimated 3 dozen people attending the picnic. It was especially nice to see some spouses... we see each other and talk to each other often, but rarely get the entire families together. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and if the club would like, we can to it again this summer, either the transmitter hunt alone, or again combined with another picnic. Let's hear a few comments at the meeting Wednesday, pro or con!

The club has been growing in membership, with about 3 new members per month, and I think that this is great. One reason for the increased membership is the meetings themselves. Good attendance by the "regulars" and a good program each month.

A note to the Repeater Association: There have been some rumors of dissatisfaction among some of the members for various reasons. We understand that there is Heliac available to replace the coax currently being used, and a new transmitter is in the works. Many members have asked among themselves for a meeting of the Repeater Association, entirely separate from the Club Meeting sometime in August. Might be a good idea for the 2 meter people to get together and see if we can iron out some of these problems, or we may not have people "re-enlisting" next year. Comments?

See you again at the meeting August 14th. Bring a friend!

WAØDXZ

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

de WNØKBD

Steve Towle called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM and members and guests introduced themselves. Minutes and treasurer's report were read and accepted. Discussion of the recent WØJV "Pink Ticket" received during FD operations followed. New exam points for the FCC exams were announced. Note that Davenport was dropped and Rock Island was added, on a monthly basis.

Future programs were announced: August includes KØUJJ, Craig with a solid state primer, September is a film, produced by the ARRL on Amateur Radio, October is KØFLY, and KØDDA from Cedar Rapids (The Cedar Valley ARC) presenting a program on their use of Amsat. Field Day results were announced by Mike Nowack, WØJV receiving a respectable 2542 points.

New logging rules for amateurs were reviewed by Steve Towle, procedures have been much simplified (see Stray in later part of newsletter).

Steve announced he will be out of town until November, and Bob Lucas WAØDXZ will take over the helm until he returns.

WBØMCX suggested sending a "thank you" to the County Park Board for the use of Scott Park during FD. KØOBU will do so.

Discussion followed as to the promotion of amateur radio in the community, and any plans were tabled for lack of interest at this time.

The formal program was given by Mike, WBØHOG, and he showed some slides and gave a short discussion on the satellite launching from California last month.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT was submitted this month by WBØHOG, because our regular contributor, Dee, missed it. Thanks for all help!

## DX QSL'ing

de KØSVW

I have been approached twice lately about DX QSL'ing and with an increased interest in HF activity in and around the Iowa City area, a note about how to obtain a DX QSL card might be appropriate.

Why both seeking a DX card? For some it seems foolish, for others the card is as exciting as the QSO!! Some object to the expense while others take pride in the awards which they bring. I will not debate this matter, but rather offer some of my observations as a DX'er and as an ex-DX station. Over the past 15 years, I have observed that it is getting harder to obtain DX cards, and certainly more expensive.

As a DX station in the Far East for some 30 months, I received requests for over 6000 cards! As you can imagine, this presented problems. I received a request for a card just about every QSO. What the U.S. amateur should bear in mind is that it is he who requests the card, and it is he who should probably bear the cost of the return postage and should make QSL'ing as easy as possible for the DX station. For example, always use GMT (now Coordinated Universal Time) to prevent the other station from having to search through his logs. Use a separate card for each band if you are requesting multiple confirmations, and use a single format for DX QSL'ing, with all of the information on one side, and only that info which is pertinent, i.e., station, date, time, RST, band and mode. See figure one. This enable the DX station to see all data at one glance.

DX QSL'ing continued...

There are several ways you can send or receive QSL cards:

1) Via ARRL QSL Bureaus. This is a volunteer non-profit clearing house for Incoming cards. The cards are collected from individual DX'er or from foreign bureaus, sorted, and forwarded to U.S. hams who send in envelopes and postage. If you are expecting incoming DX cards and you wish to receive them via the Bureau, you may send several envelopes (self-addressed) and sufficient postage for return to your district bureau. (see footnote). Enclose stamps loose so that the bureau manager can use only the postage required and instruct him to send your cards every month or every quarter or whenever there are 5, 10, etc. He will notify you when he has sent the last envelope so you can provide more. The main advantage of the bureau system is that it is inexpensive but it is very slow. It often takes 3-6 months or more and probably elicits less than a 50% response, and even lower than that if you consider the bureau's response from "rare ones".

2)

WØ's c/o Reggie Hoare WØOYP  
P.O. Box 115, Mitchellville, IA 50169

KØ, WAØ, WBØWNØ: c/o Dr. Phillip D. Rowley KØZFL  
5209 Road 5.3 South  
Alamosa, Colorado 81101

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DX QSL'ing...

Fig. 1

IOWA

**KØSVW**

STATION	DATE	GMT	RST	2 WAY

EX - KAZAS  
KATCQ  
KA1DX  
HL9TS

73

STEPHEN L. TOWLE, M.D.  
1410 KEOKUK STREET  
IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240

Fig. 2



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\*\*\*STRAYS\*\*\*

NEW LOGGING CHANGES:

"FIXED AND PORTABLE STATIONS NEED ONLY RECORD CONTACTS INVOLVING THIRD PARTY TRAFFIC OR DURING WHICH AN OPERATOR OTHER THAN THE STATION LICENSEE WAS AT THE CONTROLS".

For most of us, this eliminates 90% of our required log keeping, though we may want to continue to keep a log for our own personal reasons (DX contacts, etc.)

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FOR SALE: Johnson Viking Challenger 80-10, CW and AM, crystal & VFO. 120w CW 70 w. Phone. Priced at \$40.00 ....also Johnson Viking Adventurer transmitter: 50w. CW 80-10 meters. Both have Pi-Net Tuning. This one is \$30.00.... also have Hy-Gain 14AVQ Vertical 40-10 meters \$25.00 and also a TA-33 Jr. Beam (tri-Bander) \$40.00 from Dave Hueholt Ph. 351-2210 at 3016 Radcliff, Iowa City IA

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FOR SALE : 8 over 8 Skeleton Slot 2 meter FM antenna. FB Condition, nice price, also misc. aluminum antenna elements and booms of Hy-Gain origin. Gene Weiner, KØCKX 511 5th Avenue Coralville.

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DX QSL'ing continued...

3) Via QSL Managers. Because of the large volume of work involved, many DX stations allow volunteers to handle their QSL activities, and these people are called QSL managers. Some are stamp collectors, invalids, or just interested in helping. They receive logs(usually duplicates) from the DX stations, have some cards printed and standby to answer requests. So, when you work a DX station, ask him if he has a manager, or check a late callbook or CQ or QST, which all maintain manager lists. Then, make out your card and send it, along with an SASE and you will have a card back within a few weeks. Often the lag is due to the fact that the DX station will only send in his log every month or two. This method is relatively fast, and costs only 2 10¢ stamps at present.

4) Direct: This is the most expensive method, but carries a high rate of response. You can ask the DX station for his address, or get it from the DX Callbook. If you wish to supply return postage ( to insure the highest return rate) you can buy International Reply Coupons at any U.S. post office. (see figure two). By international agreement, an IRC can be exchanged in almost any country for sufficient postage to send 1/2 oz. surface world wide. Of course, you can send 2,3 or more if you wish an airmail return. IT is best to supply an SASE as well. IRC's currently cost 26¢ ! Current U.S. Airmail rates for International mail are 21¢ per 1/2 ounce to North, South and Central America, as well as the Caribbean . It is 26¢ per 1/2 ounce to the rest of the world. By the way, 1/2 ounce easily carries the outer envelope, your QSL, an IRC and an SASE. Any time a DX station has an APO, FPO or a zip code in the address you can send a card utilizing normal U.S. postage and he can use U.S. stamps.

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CONT'D p. 18

New members:

The club continues to grow, with the welcome addition of these new members:

Jerry Cooper  
606 Brookside Dr.  
Iowa City 52240

Wm. W. Bonney, Jr.  
1021 Wylde Green Rd.  
Iowa City IA 52240

Dan Rosen WBØMED  
RR#2 Box 36  
Kalona, Iowa 52247

Cort Nygard  
RR#2 Box 82  
Iowa City IA 52240

David Meyers  
228 West Benton  
Iowa City 52240

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Lloyd, KØDDA, a Cedar Rapids amateur has plans to move to Iowa City in the next month or so. Lloyd is one of Iowa's most active hams, running on 2 meter FM, RTTY, Amsat, among other interests. He is an excellent traffic handler, and is currently a Net Manager for the Iowa 75 Meter SSB Net. We hope he enjoys Iowa City, and will become active in club activities.

\*\*\*\*\*

KØCKX, Gene, is off to Europe for about three weeks, with his wife Jean and daughter Janice. They plan expensive auto touring, as well as by bicycle. The last time WAØDXZ saw Gene, he was packing the final bike into the trunk of his car, preparing for the trip !!

\*\*\* STRAYS \*\*\*

TO OPERATE IN CANADA THIS SUMMER send for an applications "For Certificate of Registration of Radio Station License of United States of America for Operation in Canada". It is good for the period of your U.S. license. Write: Deptl of Communications, Radio Regulations, 55 St. Clair Avenue, East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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1750 Meter DX of 780 miles recorded with 1/100 wavelength wire antenna and one watt input reported by W6DAO, on 189.5 khz !! New book on VLF coming out by W2IMB for anyone interested in VLF.

\*\*\*\*\*

WBØHOG is moving to east Iowa City, putting up a 50 foot tower and TH3 beam. WAØDXZ just put up a 3 element 20 meter array at 60 feet. HF activity is growing, with KØUJJ putting up a vertical on HF.

\*\*\*\*\*

Kingman Reef had a short life: 30 hours after landing, they were driven off the island by rain and wind, but managed to make 5300 contacts anyway! QSL to W6WX. KØSVW worked them, anyone else locally?

\*\*\*\*\*

Those who worked the special ITU calls a few weeks ago can get a list of all calls issued and the regular call to which it was issued for q QSL purposes via HR REPORT, Greenville, N.H. SASE requested.

## ICARC PICNIC & 2 METER TRANSMITTER HUNT

Last Sunday, July 28th, the club held its first social event of the year, and also the first VHF transmitter hunt that I know of.

The day began early as evidenced by much activity on WRØACU. I have never heard more 2 meter activity on any single day. Teams were testing their transmitter hunting antennas, their attenuators, and planning their strategies.

The Hunt itself started at 1300 hours with myself as the hidden transmitter. I chose a frontage road near Hickory Hill Park and the Oakland Cemetery as the hiding place. I used an IC 20, capable of 1 or 10 watts output and a 5/8 wave whip and operated from my car. I transmitted 30-60 second carriers each each 1-2 minutes on 146.52 mhz.

Just before hunt time the teams identified themselves; WBØDSH & KØUJJ, KØHLB & KØOAM, WBØKBA & WBØHOG, KØRLT & wife Andrea, WØOEF & WBØIBH, WBØMED & friend Chris, KØLUM & WAØHFW, KØOBU & son.

Filled with confidence, (most of it false,) the "hounds" started their pursuit. I was really surprised at how soon several of the teams arrived. Paul, KØRLT and his wife pulled up at 1317, followed by UJJ and DSH at 1321, OAM and HLB at 1332 OBU & son at 1338, and OEF & IBH at 1340. As the teams arrived, we popped some brew, and did not announce their arrival, to keep the suspense going.

The last three teams floundered significantly, WBØMED was so far away that I could hardly hear him, KØLUM and WAØHFW and WBØHOG and WBØKBA needed appropriate clues and finally a street address to find us.

A great time was had by all participants, and Paul, KØRLT will be awarded a ham magazine of his choice for a year, as his prize, by the ICARC.

I've already heard comments related to the next hunt:

## PICNIC /TRANSMITTER HUNT

cont'd...

and my suggestions might include 1) KØRLT as the winner to be the fox next time 2) all entries start from the same spot 3) WBØMED get his brakes fixed 4) The fox carry more beer than I did !

The group then migrated to Scott's Church Corner where 35-40 people met Jack, WØMIE, for beer, pop, burgers and pot luck grub. Dennis Kahler and company furnished an old wooden ice cream maker, and gallons of mix and we all enjoyed home made vanilla ice cream. The companionship was enjoyable, the food superb, the sun welcome, the flies overwhelming.

I want to thank all who helped and participated in making this an enjoyable day.

de KØSVW

### \*\*\*STRAYS \*\*\*

An Executive Meeting of the ICARC was held July 28, 1974, at the home of KØSVW. Present were KØSVW, KØUJJ, WAØDXZ, WBØHOG and WNØKBD. Plans were discussed for the programs and events for the rest of the year. It was decided that WAØDXZ is to take over the helm while KØSVW is in Europe. Mention was made of TVI problems in the future, and KØUJJ was appointed to the position of RFI /TVI /AFI Chairman. He will handle all calls concerning TVI or other matters supposedly caused by amateurs. Notice will be given to the Iowa City Police Dept., Johnson County Sheriff, Coralville Police and VA Hospital switchboard. It was noted that the membership of the club was again increasing. Plans were discussed for the upcoming General Class License classes. The meeting broke up after about 2 hours.



\*\*\* MORE STRAYS! \*\*\*

WAØDXZ has FOR SALE a slightly lived in  
8x10' tent. 351-1488 CHEAP!

\*\*\*\*\*

Glad to hear that KØHLB wasn't seriously injured in  
his recent car accident, which reportedly totalled  
his car. Oh well... any landing that you can walk  
away from...

\*\*\*\*\*

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 28 : Iowa City ARC Club Picnic. Located at  
Scotts Church Corner (same place as FD). Transmitter  
hunt to begin about 11:00 AM, picnic around 2:00 PM.  
All hams and families invited. A covered dish would  
be appreciated!

August 14 : ICARC meeting 7:30 PM basement of  
1st National Bank in Towncrest. KØUJJ giving program  
on solid state devices.

September 11: ICARC meeting. ARRL Film to be shown.  
Winner of club DX contest announced?

October 9: ICARC meeting: KØDDA and  
KØFLY giving program on AMSAT operation.

WHO'S WHOM

de WØMIE

One of the few Iowa City hams that are acutal 'natives'  
is Max Otto, WØLFF. Max was first licensed as W9LFF  
at the tender age of 15 years. This was in 1932. He was  
later graduated from University High School in Iowa  
City, IA.

Max served his time in the Navy and was fortunate  
enough to be stationed in Brazil, although, of course,  
unfortunately hams were off the air at that time--I'm  
sure Max was thinking of all the DX he could have  
been working. Incidentally, maybe Brazil is the reason  
Max likes to drink coffee so much.

May 1st, 1974 was the retirement date for Max, from  
the F.A.A. at the Cedar Rapids-Marion Airport; when  
Max joined it 33 years ago it was the old C.A.A.  
Max is married, and has three sons.

Our friend is past president of the ICARC, is now  
secretary of the Iowa 75 meter SSB Net. It has not been  
officially announced yet, but my grapevine tells me that  
Max has been appointed the new SCM for Iowa by the  
ARRL.

Max operates 75-40-20 meters with a Galaxy GT550A  
and Hunter Bandit at home, and another GT550A  
in his car. Two meters is covered with an HR212 and  
a 5/8 wavelength ground plane.

Its always nice to hear Max's friendly voice come  
on the air over Iowa City.



# BRAIN TEASER

de WBØHOG

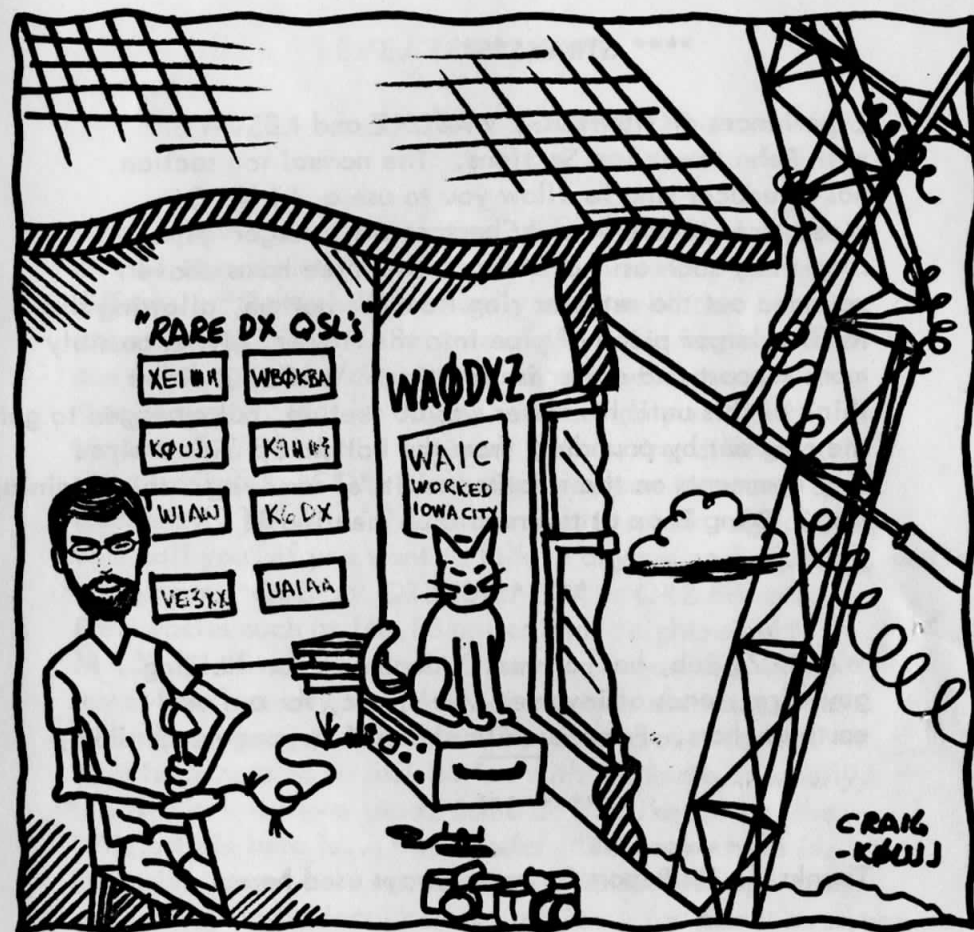
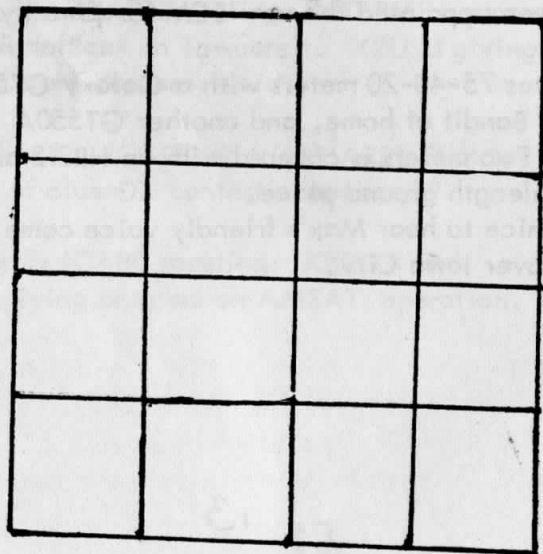
## LAST MONTH'S ANSWER :

If clock A keeps perfect time, while B gains one minute per day and C loses one minute per day, then clock B must gain 12 hours and clock C must lose 12 hours. At the rate of one minute per day, it will take 720 days. (12 hours X 60 min/ hour X) equals 720 min . Now 720 days from April first, 1898 will be on March 22, 1900. The trick here is to remember that 1900 was NOT a leap year because it is not divisible by 400, even though it is divisible by 4. The year 2000 will be a leap year as will be 2400, but not 2100, 2200 or 2300.

A bit sneaky, but a good problem!

KØSVW submitted a brainteaser this month, so we will hold the one submitted by Mike for next time, to give him a breather! Here is SVW's :

How many squares do you see here?



"THE GREAT DX'ER!"

\*\*\*\* STRAYS\*\*\*\*

Experiences at WBØHOG, WAØDXZ and KØSVW with Rohn tower Top Sections. The normal top section has a reducer ring to allow you to use a 1 1/4" OD pipe. Unfortunately, most beams take a larger pipe than that, such as 1 5/8" etc. The three hams above pounded out the retainer ring from the bottom, allowing them to fit a larger piece of pipe into the tower, giving possibly more support and easier installation. WAØDXZ didn't think of this until his tower was 60 feet up, but managed to get the ring out by pounding from the bottom up with a pipe. Any comments on the relative merits of removing this retaining ring? Bring it up at the next club meeting !!

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WAØDXZ, Bob, has 6 small "headmen" for holding guy wires, ends of inverted Vee's, etc, for use as earth anchors. Price is quite cheap if anyone needs them!

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Thanks to HR Report for some Strays used here.

\*\*\*\*\*

WBØHOG looking for a slightly used TR44 or AR44 rotor. Any available locally.?

\*\*\*\*\*

REPEATER NEWS

de KØØBU

What is life like on two meters? It's a lot different than on HF! Newcomers to two meter FM find many things different. "Q" signals are hardly used, with the exception of "QRZ". Because of the noise free operation and local contacts, most questions and answers are just "spelled out", that is, saying "Where do you live?" instead of "QTH'?" . The most outstanding difference is the absence of "CQ". Normally, you can just come on frequency, ID, and if someone wants to talk to you, they will call you. If you want to talk to anyone on frequency, you often hear "QRZ" or QRZ Iowa City or QRZ 88, etc. Frequencies such as 146.88 are called "eight-eight", 146.52 is "five-two" etc. Operating procedure differs somewhat from city to city. Some groups such as LA or Chicago may use the 10-Code, but most groups look down on this because of its affiliation with CB Radio. Locally, the 10-Code is never used. Some do not like things like "The handle here is..." but prefer "The name here is...". Excessive use of call letters often offends some operators, because of mostly local communications, just about everyone knows everyone on frequency. FCC rules say you must ID the other station's call and yours at the beginning and end of each contact, and ID yourself every ten minutes. You need not send your call, and the other stations call every time you turn it over. The use of "Over" or "Go" is not normally needed because the carrier goes away when you release the mike button. Rag chewing is not done on the repeater frequency; you may meet a station on the repeater, and then move off to a simplex frequency to rag chew, to allow others to use the repeater. So far, few problems have developed, but as 2 FM gets more popular, we'll have to be more careful.

KØØBU

DX QSL'ing, continued...

Using a combination of the above methods, I have achieved about a 90% return rate in the last 4 years. I personally send out a card when I work a station in a new country, and once it is confirmed, I don't bother with later cards from that same country. I hope that these suggestions might clear up a subject which I found initially confusing.

de KØSVW

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FOR SALE: Hr2A 2 meter transceiver with all crystals, 110v power supply, pre amplifier, mike. Will sell 2 eleven element beams with the transceiver if wanted. Bob Lucas WAØDXZ 351-1488 356-2175

FOR SALE: Stereo Tape Deck; Allied, two matched mic's, splicer, head demagnetizer, 35 tapes. Package deal only. Craig Fastenow KØUJJ 351-8258.

FOR SALE: Brand new FT-101B with fan, CW filter, 160 meter xtal, CB xtal, plus FV-101 outboard VFO and FP-101 Speaker/Patch Console. New, in cartons. Steve Towle KØSVW 338-7255

FOR SALE: Swan 270B, one year old. Five Band SSB xcvr with built in AC power supply. Best offer to Fred Regennitter WAØHFW 331 S. Lucas Apt. #9, 337-3528

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\*\*\* STRAYS \*\*\*

KØRLT took his FT101B and some siren with him on his vacation and worked into Iowa City with a 40 meter dipole from Central Wisconsin.

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KØHLB has moved to higher ground (so he can work into the Davenport Repeater?) and he now lives on St. Clements in North Iowa City.

\*\*\*

Steve, KØSVW is leaving us for an extended stay in the United Kingdom and Scandinavia and the European Continent. He, Diane and Chad are picking up a VW Camper and will spend three weeks vacation touring Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Scandinavia and he will be mobile with an FT101B and Hustler Antenna. He will live in Edinburgh, Scotland in September and in London in October where he has appointments with two British Hospitals.

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The impossible may happen! KØUJJ may get on the air! He is planning a 14AVQ vertical ground mounted in his back yard. He has Heathkit gear to generate RF on the lower frequencies, and is looking for a buyer for his tape deck, so he can purchase some 2 meter gear. Need some tape equipment? See Craig Fastenow!

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\*\*\* STRAYS \*\*\*

Mike Valdez got his Novice ticket, and his call is WNØNCX! Congratulations, Mike!

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Gene, KØCKX was recently heard doing a duet with Louis Armstrong on 2 meters. It seems the trouble was traced to a remote speaker problem.

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The Iowa 75 Meter picnic will be held at Riverside Park in Marshalltown August 25 and will include pot luck dinner, trunk sales and a lot of fun. This event usually attracts 350-400 people, and several locals usually attend,

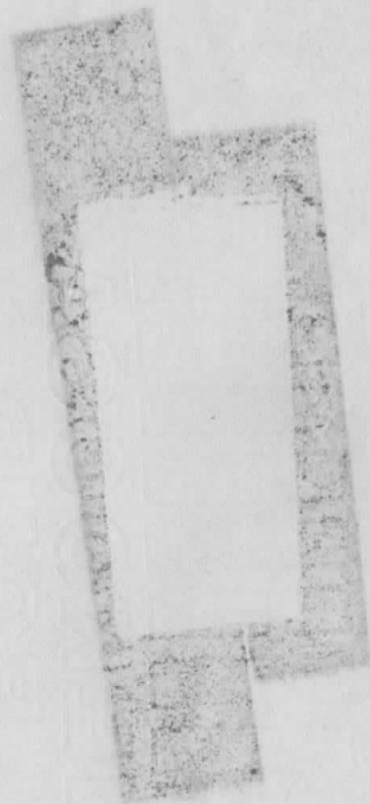
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New address effective 1 August :

Fred Reginnitter WAØHFW  
331 S. Lucas Apt. # 9  
Iowa City IA 52240

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New Address :  
Steve Russell  
152 H  
University Village  
Ames, Iowa 50010



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