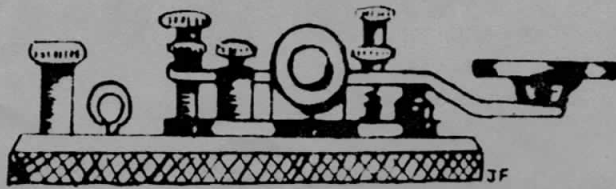


# RIVER



# CITY



## RADIO RAG

PUBLISHED BY **THE IOWA CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
AND **THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA A.R.C.**

VOL. VI, No. 1      January 1979

### A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has confidence in me to be president.

The other officers and I have several projects to help manage this year, such as: The Mall Project, Novice Classes, Field Day, Fox Hunts, etc.. We will need help from all of you.

I am sure at one time or another you have said, "I wonder why they don't do this or that". Don't be afraid to speak out and voice your opinion, you pay your \$5.00 too, take part!

We are fortunate to have individuals of various occupations in the ICARC. Due to our different educational backgrounds, we have ample topics for conversation, whether it be on the air or in person. This group makes our club one of the better ones in the area.

I'll do my best to keep it going, with help from all of you. Remember, it is your club and it is what you make it.

...-.-  
Kenneth Kucera WBØZXU  
Rt. 2 Box 52A  
Riverside, Iowa 52327

\* \* \* \* \*

WELL, ANOTHER YEAR HAS COME and gone. It's been quite a year. There were some very good times and some very sad times. I would like the outgoing officers to realize our appreciation for a job well done. Chuck(WBØVRQ), Ken(WBØZXU), Bob Lucas(WAØDXZ), Craig(KØCF), and Ray(WBØPJU) have all made the year one to remember for me. Dorothy(WBØVMX), Dick(WBØVMV), and Ken(WBØVRN) have made certain that I will have a hard act to follow.

Congratulations are due the officers-elect. Ken(WBØZXU), Russ(AEØR), Craig(KØCF), and Gary(WDØAWH)- good luck in '79!

The rag will continue this year, but only with the help and support of the club. That means YOU! This publication will be only what you make of it, nothing more or less. Therefore, please submit any articles, comments, ideas, etc., and make it a good rag for 1979.

DE WDØGDL- 337-7678

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THE FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR of the Iowa City Amateur Radio Club will be held Wednesday, Jan. 10 at the Towncrest branch of the 1st Nat'l Bank at 7:30 P.M.

## OPERATING NOTES

THERE ARE SO MANY types of amateur radio activities: SSTV, satellites, construction, DX, contests... the list is endless. Beginning with this issue of the Rag, there will be a monthly feature describing one of these. This will require some input and cooperation from you, the reader. Why not let us know what your favorite activity is? It need not be exotic- what interests you is bound to interest many others. To get the ball rolling, I am relating some of my experiences in handling third party traffic.

I can't remember exactly what motivated me to check into a CW net for the first time, but prior to doing so, I had read the article, "Checking into Slow-Speed Nets", which appears in the ARRL Net Directory. This article promised that net participation would help improve my code speed, sharpen operating skills, and give me an opportunity to associate with the best operators in the business. All this, and more, has proven to be true. I have found it to be an enjoyable and satisfying activity, and have made some very good friends in the process.

Many people seem to be scared away because of the special "Q" signals and procedures, not to mention fear of not being able to copy fast enough. In reality, Iowans have available to them an easy entry into the world of traffic handling, namely, the Iowa Code Net (ICN). The net meets MWF at 7:00 PM (TThSat at 0100Z) at 3713 kHz. Only a few Q signals are needed to get along here: QNX- you're excused from net; QNI- please check-in; QRU- no traffic; QTC- I have traffic for \_\_\_\_\_. The ICN runs at a speed of 10-15 wpm, but the NCS will slow down, if necessary, to whatever speed you send at when you QNI. The article mentioned above is a good introduction to CW net procedures, and more information can be found in Operating an Amateur Radio Station and CD Form 218, all of which can be obtained free of charge from your best friend Max, WØLFF.

Okay, now suppose that you have an Aunt Mildred in Pensacola, Florida, whose birthday is coming up in a few weeks. Why not surprise her with a radiogram? All you have to do is write your message in standard ARRL format, QNI ICN, and do what the NCS says. You will probably be sent off frequency to send the message to a designated station, who will in turn relay it through the National Traffic System. In this case, the traffic would be relayed via the Tenth Region Net to a representative to the Central Area Net, then to the Fifth Region Net (believe it or not, Florida is in the 5th region of the NTS), and on down the line to one of the Florida nets. The message will probably be delivered to Aunt Mildred the following day, due to the time zone differences. In her delight, she may ask the delivering station to originate a return message, which would follow the same route in reverse. While Aunt Mildred's birthday is not an earth-shaking event, the relaying of her birthday message has given a number of amateurs that much more practice in preparing for the possibility of a real emergency.

All of the NTS nets are conducted in the same basic manner, the only differences being speed and the amount of traffic handled. Those wishing to upgrade will find the 13 wpm General code test is no problem after sufficient experience in ICN. A little participation in TFCN, and the 20 wpm Extra test is a piece of cake. It's fun, and no fancy or high-powered equipment is necessary. Why not give it a try?

-Russ AEØR

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NOTICE: Dues for ICARC were due on Jan.1. If you wish to continue receiving the rag, pay up! Dues is \$5.00 (\$1.00 for each additional family member).

DE Craig(KØCF)- treasurer.

FOR THIS MONTH'S INTERVIEW, I have chosen an old friend of the Iowa City radio community that all of us on two meters have worked frequently. Few of us know him well, though. This station has been licensed approximately six years, but will lose his call this May. This station has never been known to attend a club meeting. Which is just as well because he's never paid dues. In case you haven't guessed it yet, this month's interview is with WRØACU.

Q. There's been some talk lately about the proper use of you. Any comments?

A. Well, as far as I'm concerned, adherence to the Rules and Regs is the important thing. Like proper identification. Did you know that it's illegal to key me up without identifying? Also, when signing clear, it's imperative to give not only your own call, but also at least one of the calls of the stations you were in contact with.

Q. How do feel about ragchewing?

A. You must remember that I am here first and foremost for any emergency or priority traffic. (And I do pride myself on my abilities to always be prepared in the event of an emergency.) Following that, I am most helpful to mobiles, who, without me, may not be able to cut the mustard. One of my favorite jobs is providing a place for the local hams to meet. You see, I love to bring people together. As for ragchewing, like any privilege, it should not be abused. Chewing the rag is fine as long as there are plenty of pauses between transmissions to allow others in.

Q. I understand there are a couple of new guys in town. How do you feel about that?

A. I think it's great! Have never had the privilege of chatting with them, though. You see, all three of us are rock bound, so to speak. Seems to me that PJU/R hangs out on 147.75-.15. And VRQ/R is fond of 147.96-.36. I wish them the best of luck and hope they have as much fun as I have had. But, as things stand now, I have a couple of extra features that they don't.

Q. Like the autopatch?

A. Well, yes, there's the autopatch. But I also can edit QSO's. I call it the 'ole three second mute'. It's great fun. A lot of the local guys aren't too happy with me because of it, though. I guess they don't think a repeater should have a mind of its own!

Q. I can understand that. Well, ACU, thanks for the interview. May you and the new repeaters have many happy years ahead of you. And, in case no one has mentioned it lately, you've been doing a FB job. We all appreciate it.

WRØACU DE WDØGDL clear. 73.

\* \* \* \* \*

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Jim Claypool (KAØCWY), Mike Alexander (KAØCXC), and Masatomo Oka (KAØCXD, alias JHLCTV) on the arrival of your novice tickets! Happy operating to all!

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"IF THE RIGHT side of the brain controls the left side of the body, then only left-handed people are in their right minds."

\* \* \* \* \*

FOR SALE: Receiver- Yaesu FRDX-400, 160-2 meters. 338-3084(Wesley Richard KAØBYJ).





BRAINTEASER OF THE MONTH.....

THERE WERE THREE men in a room. One was blind and the other two were blindfolded. A box in the room contained five metal headbands, two of silver and three of gold. Each man took a headband and placed it around his forehead. Naturally, no one knew if his headband was silver or gold.

The first man took off his blindfold and saw the bands the other two men were wearing but not his own. He said, "I don't know if my band is silver or gold." He put his blindfold back on.

The second man took off his blindfold and looked at the other two men, but not at himself. He said, "I don't know if my band is silver or gold either." And he put his blindfold back on.

The blindman then spoke: "From what you two have said, I can tell what metal my band is made of." And he told them.

Was the blind man's band silver or gold? How did he know which it was???

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