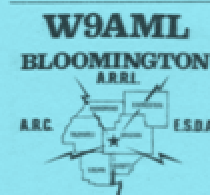


Next Meeting Wednesday April 24, 2013

Central Illinois Radio Club April 2013 Newsletter

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



April 2013

From the President

**April Meeting,
Wednesday the 24th
7:00 PM at the Red Cross**

Message from the President

Hope everyone is doing OK with the tremendous rain we have been getting. The storms have not been too severe, but put down lots of water.

We have things to address at the meeting starting with the Radio Room Manager committee, Field Day planning and discussions, start the sign up list for the McLean County Wheelers Metric on June 8th and anything else I can think of to put on the agenda.

Having this real spring weather reminds us to be completely safe during storms to disconnect antennas and AC power so we don't have any loss of equipment. My shack is in the basement and in last year's dry conditions, when we did get a pretty substantial rain, I got water on the floor of the shack. Took out my old carpet and got the fans and dehumidifier running to dry things out. I have old brick foundation on the south wall and our rain barrel filled and over flowed to the foundation and seeped in at the bottom.

I have been told that the ISU Math and Science Day at Redbird Arena was a success. Thanks to all those that we able to help.

I will see you on Wednesday April 24th at 7pm.

73

Gary KD9F

CIRC Minutes

March 27, 2013

President Gary (KD9F) opened the meeting at 7:04 pm. Twenty-two members were present. Gary passed around copies of the Red Cross Radio Room requirements for discussion later. Gary Huber (AB9M) made a motion that we accept the minutes. After a second by Jim Baker (WB9EDL), the motion passed. Norm (N9ZKS) gave the Treasurers Report. We have \$1465.05 in our checking account. Jeff Lovell (KC9QQM) made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Darren Erickson (KB7VPI) seconded it, and the motion passed.

Old Business: Jim reminded the group that the Wheelers ride with be June 8th at Comlara Park. We will need to

plan for the base and radio stations along the route. Gary H said the club has a N1MH 700 radio at the Red Cross that could be used. Contact Jim is you can help.

Norm reported that he has received the dual band antenna for the Red Cross. We need a good weather day to remove the old one and install this one.

Ed Deutsch (KC9GF) reported on plans for the ISU Family Science Fair. It will be held from 11 am to 5 pm at the Redbird Arena. We can setup from 9 am to 11 am. We plan to have a couple of operating stations, mores code sets, old radios, and so forth. Contact Ed if you can help.

Josh led a discussion on the handout about use of the Red Cross Radio Room. There were some good questions and suggestions. Items included that 2 adults or one adult and a related minor should be present, use a sign-in/sign-out sheet, a plan for checking out equipment , and we need a Station Manager to oversee the room. Josh said he would update the plan and share it for a final approval.

New Business: Gary asked how the CW practice was going on 28.2800. Josh Golladay (KC9UJS), Dennis Miller (KE9UA), Ed, and, Tom Planner (KJ9P) are still on the frequency and others are welcome to join them.

The next Social Dinner will be Thursday, April 18th at Herradura. This is a Mexican restaurant between Culvers and Thortons gas station at 909 N Hershey Road.

Duane Benjamin (KC9PIQ) gave a detailed review of our insurance policies for general liability, damage to the Red Cross building, equipment coverage and so forth. He had a number of questions and will do further research to see what are the best policies for the club.

Norm mentioned that we need to make our yearly dues to the repeater association. Rick Kempf (WD9HRU) will find out what we need to do at the April 20th meeting of the association.

Jim Shaffer (AB9UWA) reported that ECHO Link is still not working. The wireless connection on the tower is not working. A tower climb is needed to repair it. We need to check into the Comcast cable that is at the sight and see what it would cost to get a connection to it for the internet.

Gary reminded the members that we have our Coffee Klatch at 9:00 am, Monday to Friday, at the Dairy Queen on Veteran's Parkway. All are welcomed to attend. Bring a friend. And don't forget to check in on Tuesday's to the ARES Net at 8:00 pm, the 10 meter Net at 8:30 pm and the 2 Meter Net at 9 pm. Anyone with an item for the Newsletter should send it to Norm or Ed.

Mike Sallee (KC9FWL) made a motion that we adjourn. After a second by Dennis the motion passed.

Submitted by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL), Secretary

Family Science Day

Ed, KC9GF

Another Family Science Day (FSD) is done and we had a good time. And, all the kids with their parents enjoyed all we had to show.

Duane, KC9PIM, and I started setting up at 8:30. This year we had two tables. The plan was to show off a few old radios as well as some new gear. Jeff, KC9QQM, brought his Yaesu FT-101 to display and Chuck Legg brought two of his restored broadcast receivers. I met Chuck last year at FSD and invited him to show off some of his work. The radios not only are beautiful but they work.

Those were the old radios, now for the new. Duane set up his Flex 3000 with a second display so the FSD goers could see what was going on with the Flex. No matter what, there will invariably be something go wrong. Duane had a problem with the Flex software. He did get it to receive after quite a bit of coaxing.

I set up my digital station with my FT-847. We had to share the dipole antenna and most of the time Duane was using the antenna. All was not lost though; I recorded about 15 minutes of PSK31 from 40 meters while at home and played it back into the computer so it looked like the real thing on the display.

The big draw of the day was the morse code keys and oscillator. Tom, KJ9P, printed a stack of Morse code charts with our club information that we handed out to the kids. We challenged the kids to send their names using the charts.

Now comes more fun for the kids. Josh, KC9UJS, brought beads and pipe cleaners for the kids to make their names in morse code using the beads. They had to first send their names using the keys. That was lots of fun for them. One little girl brought three of her friends back so they could make bracelets too. Great idea Josh!

Oh, I forgot to mention the FSD moved to the Red Bird Arena from the Horton Field House where it was for the last couple of years. The new venue is better than the old for a couple of reasons. We were at the south entrance on

the mezzanine level; perfect location to rout the coax to the outside. The easy access to the outside made it easier to run back a fourth to our cars.

This year the FSD landed the robotics competition. In the past the competition was held in Peoria. I didn't have a chance to roam around to see what was on display but, what I could see from up on the mezzanine looked high tech.

Singing the praises of unsung heroes

Nov. 29, 2012 by [Glenn Bischoff](#) in [Urgent Matters](#)

Hams worked with the American Red Cross to bring vital communications to dozens of shelters in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

A couple of weeks ago, I spoke with David Sumner, the CEO of the [American Radio Relay League](#) (ARRL), which represents the amateur-radio community. Sumner was to be the keynote speaker at the [Radio Club of America's](#) annual awards banquet in New York City a couple of days later. Since it had been a while since I last spoke with him — far too long, really — I thought this would be a good time to catch up.

He told me that amateur radio was alive and well. This surprised me, though I don't really know why. I suppose it's because a lot of things that were popular in my youth — hula hoops, for instance — have fallen by the wayside in this era of technological one-upmanship that makes the Cold War arms proliferation look like a potato-sack race.

Sumner completely understood my reaction. "The perception is that we're stuck in the Sixties," he said. "But the number of licenses continues to grow. In fact, this is the sixth straight year of growth."

He attributed the increased popularity in part to the do-it-yourself movement that is sweeping the country — if you doubt this, then spend some time surfing your cable or satellite system's program guide. According to Sumner, DIY clubs are popping up from coast to coast. He told me of one in Washington, D.C., that operates in a church basement.

Members can access a wide variety of equipment and tools — the type of gear that is problematic to store if one dwells in a condo or apartment, as many D.C. denizens do — that can be used to build an even wider variety of things. A few members started to build ham radios just for kicks, and this led to the formation of an amateur radio club, Sumner said. He further predicted that more of these DIY clubs likely will be spawned as the reurbanization of America continues.

Periodically, we have written stories about the vital role that amateur-radio operators play in the aftermath of a

major disaster, when commercial and public-safety communications infrastructure often is rendered inoperable. I recall that the hams were the only source of information for several days following the December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami that killed 230,000 people and displaced 1.7 million more.

Sumner told me about the role that hams played in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. Though public-safety communications systems fared very well in the 10-state region impacted by the disaster, that didn't stop the amateur-radio operators from getting involved. They worked with the American Red Cross to establish

communications at dozens of shelters that popped up across the affected area. For many victims, the hams were the only way that they could get word to family and friends that they had survived.

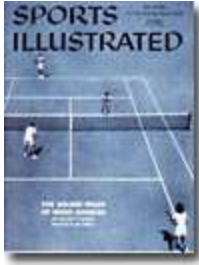
So, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for their service. Amateur-radio operators tend to do their thing in anonymity. But when it hits the fan, they are front and center, right where you need them. America is better for it.

You might be (and probably are) an Amateur Radio operator, if:

by [w5evh](#) » Fri Mar 04, 2011 12:35 am
You might be (and probably are) an Amateur Radio operator, if:

1. You have bought black electrical tape in ten packs.
 2. You have stripped wire with your teeth.
 3. You have told your child, "One day, all this will be yours," and he or she did not respond at all.
 4. You would rather help another Ham friend to hook up new equipment, or to put up a new tower, than to mow your own lawn.
 5. You have grabbed the wrong end of a hot soldering iron.
 6. You have gotten an RF burn from your own antenna.
 7. You have given out RST reports while you were on the telephone.
 8. When the microphones or visual aids at a meeting did not work, you rushed up to the front to fix them.
 9. You have told the XYL, when she noticed a new rig in the shack, "Why, that has been there for years."
 10. You have set your watch to UTC only.
 11. You have had to patch your roof after an antenna project fell onto it.
 12. You have put a GPS tracker in the XYL's car or on the riding mower, just so you could watch it on APRS.
 13. You have tapped out "CQ" or "HI" on the car horn in Morse Code to another Ham.
 14. Your teenager has refused to ride in your car because it looks like a porcupine.
 15. You know the Latitude, Longitude, and Elevation of your home QTH.
 16. You have gone into the local Radio Shack store, and the store clerk has asked you where something is and how it works.
 17. You have answered the telephone with your call sign, and then finished the conversation with "73" and your call sign.
 18. You have looked for antennas, radios, and Morse Code in movies and television shows.
 19. When you look at anything made of wire or metal tubing, you wonder if it could be used as an antenna.
 20. Your call sign is listed on one or more of your hats, T-shirts, or other garments.
 21. You regularly carry one or more tools in your pockets at any given time.
 22. When any kinds of batteries go on sale, you get really excited.
 23. When you look at a barbecue grill, it creates ideas about ground plane antennas.
 24. You have designated all your friends as Hams or Non-Hams.
 25. You have referred to your Ham friends by their call sign suffixes instead of their real names.
 26. You have intentionally confused Non-Hams by telling them that the only things you talk about on the air are pork products.
 27. You have intentionally scared Non-Hams with the word "RADIATION"!
 28. You have looked at telephone poles and power line towers as potential antenna supports.
 29. You have thought you were still hearing CW, SSB, or SSTV tones, even when your Ham radio was off.
 30. Your Go-Bag has more clothes in it than your dresser does.
 31. You have a SKYWARN sticker on your back window.
 32. Your significant other sits in the back seat, and your radios ride in the front.
 33. Your neighbors wonder if you are a "Narc" (narcotics officer), a Spy, or a Federal Agent.
 34. The cops pull you over because they want to see the inside of your car.
 35. Your cell-phone's ring tone is your Ham radio call sign, sent in Morse Code
- Bob, W5EVH
RACES District 83 DRO, Skywarn Coord.,

The Battle Of The Hams



The star of CBS-TV's 'Eye on New York' reports on a hobby—amateur radio—that is distinguished by one of the most grueling international competitions in all sport

Bill Leonard

On the night of February 7, 1958, a few moments before 2 a.m., Canadian Army Sergeant Elvin Veale of the U.N. Emergency Force stepped out of his quarters into the bitter night air of the Gaza Strip. He was tense, excited, braced for the job ahead. At the same moment, in a Tokyo suburb, Haruo Yoneda, a Japanese TV executive, pushed back a final cup of breakfast tea and disappeared into the tiny room from which he emerged 48 hours later, glassy with exhaustion, and utterly happy.

Sergeant Veale, Mr. Yoneda, Ludvík Klouček of the Mongolian People's Republic, Empty in Johannesburg, Eva and Alex in Casablanca, Nose in Hawaii, this reporter and a multitude of others—from Pitcairn Island to Punxsutawney, Pa.—were about to begin play in the oddest, toughest and by any standards the most international of all sporting competitions. This was the start of the 24th annual DX contest for radio amateurs of the world, sponsored by the American Radio Relay League.

DX means distance in the abbreviated jargon of hams (amateur radio operators)—and the object of a DX contest is for one station to talk to as many other stations in as many other places as possible in a prescribed length of time. The Grand National of the many DX contests sponsored annually by clubs, organizations and magazines in dozens of countries (including Russia) is the ARRL's affair. There are more American hams (140,000) than in all the rest of the world combined (60,000), and in this biggest of electronic scrambles operators in the U.S. and Canada compete against each other and talk only to foreign stations. Overseas hams contact only Americans and Canadians.

It takes about six months before logs, sent from the six continents, can be tabulated and checked. So this year's winners won't be officially known until the results are published in an early autumn issue of QST, the official magazine of ham radio. But on the basis of claimed scores, still subject to cross-checking, George Morrow, W8BKP, of Washingtonville, Ohio, and Robert Cheek, W3LOE, of Catonsville, Md., may be the U.S. high scorers for voice and code respectively. Outside the U.S. Katashi Nose, KH6IJ, of Hawaii swept both the voice and code contests for the first time ever.

These, and the other winners in foreign countries and various sections of the United States and Canada, cart away no cash or golden wassail cups. Certificates (suitable for framing—but barely) are the only visible rewards of this tense and exhausting competition. The thrills are not in the prizes or the honors but in a kind of fish-and-hunt excitement, with a voice 6,000 miles away in Rarotonga or Rio de Oro as the quarry.

Depending on just how serious he is on the subject, the DX contest man will not only kill himself in a contest, but he will spend the better part of a year getting ready for the exquisite torture of 48 hours of almost continuous operating. He will plan, assemble and erect, usually at considerable cost and occasional risk of limb, an endless succession of antennas, designed to make his station sound just a little louder in Minsk than the fellow who beat him out last year. He will memorize (if he doesn't know them all to begin with) the names and call-letter prefixes of every "country" in the world (there are nearly 300 "countries," for hams count many islands and possessions as well as motherlands). He probably has written or talked previously on the air with a hundred hams half a world away arranging crucial schedules for the contest period. He has experimented with diet and sleep habits, stay-awake pills and coffee strengths and has literally gone into training for the contest ordeal.

He does all these things and, in addition, takes a lot of perfectly sensible abuse from what are laughingly referred to as loved ones, because ham radio in general, and a DX contest in particular, is more fun than beating Yale. It may indeed be true that while golf is a game, bridge a hobby and girls an avocation—ham radio is a passion. Like most passions, it is pretty much a mystery to those who are not in love.

Amateur radio, like the airplane, is no longer a crude Kitty Hawk baby. Once it did take a garage full of fairly frightening equipment to say almost nothing to almost nobody almost no distance away. And it took an odd breed of nose-in-the-formula duck to master the intricacies of the spark gaps, tickler coils and reflex audions, to say nothing of the dots and dashes. Today, a transmitter-receiver combination no bigger than a portable typewriter is on the market, easily capable of regular communication with all parts of the world. It is about as difficult to operate as a home hair-rinse kit.

A great deal has been written about the work of hams in national and local emergencies—floods, wrecks and hurricanes. Hams are proud of their public-service record. Perhaps just as important, and frequently overlooked, is the fact that hams are among the nation's best ambassadors abroad. An estimated 10,000 conversations between U.S. and foreign hams take place *every day*. The Voice of America considers ham radio of such vital international interest that one of its few programs in English, beamed to Europe and Asia, is a weekly ham show.

There are hams who are housewives (girls allowed) and bandleaders (Gene Krupa), politicians (Herbert Hoover Jr.) and comedians (Arthur Godfrey), kings (Prince Abdullah Feisal of Saudi Arabia) and writers (Ernest *Sweet Smell of Success* Lehman), ship captains (Kurt Carlsen of the ill-fated *Flying Enterprise*) and captains of industry (Hazard Reeves, president of Cinerama), guardians of the air (Air Force Vice-Chief of Staff, General Curtis LeMay) and of the seedy (New York Prison Warden Ed Dros). There are hams who are doctors, lawyers, and a sprinkling of Indian chiefs, in India.

Of course, every American knows how radio works, just as he understands television, refrigerators, reciprocating engines, women's minds and other everyday miracles. But we shall risk a word about how amateur radio fits into the broadcasting scheme.

Radio energy can be pictured as waves, all traveling at the same speed, the speed of light (light, incidentally, is just very, very short radio waves, and our eyes a remarkable radio receiver that tunes in on light waves). Some radio waves are long, only a few of them passing a given point each second. Others are short waves, hardly any distance between crests, but many waves passing a given point each second. The wave lengths used for regular broadcasting are quite long (around a quarter mile from trough to trough). TV uses much, much shorter wave lengths, its channels falling in the so-called VHF (very high frequency) and UHF (ultra high frequency) range. Most of the bands assigned to hams fall in the wave lengths in between, where almost all long-distance radio transmission takes place, not only amateur but military, plane to plane, ship to shore, commercial services, international broadcasting and overseas radio telephone. In the range between 10 and 100 meters the radio waves exhibit the remarkable property of bouncing off a vast electrified layer of the upper atmosphere, called the ionosphere, and returning to earth thousands of miles away. It is a tricky business predicting just how and when which waves will bounce how far, for conditions change violently almost minute to minute, according to a dozen factors, including the season of year, light, darkness and sunspot activity.

Hams can operate in seven narrow ranges, the so-called 10, 11, 15, 20, 40, 80 and 160 meter bands where international DX is common. In addition other VHF and UHF bands are set aside for more or less local work. Hams can use either voice or code, the original and still popular dot-dash method of radio communications.

There is too little space on the highways of the ether for the great number of stations traveling on them. So the ham at his own station has to contend with the problem of interference from other hams, as well as the never-ending job of keeping his gear in workable shape. In the early TV days neither ham equipment nor television sets were designed to keep the ham signals from interfering. Now, ham techniques and equipment and TV receivers have improved to the point where television interference from amateurs is a steadily diminishing problem.

Actually, ham radio (ham is a 50-year-old corruption and contraction of amateur) is not simply one activity but many. For the competitive, the rigorous contests are available. But just as all motorists aren't race drivers, so most hams pursue quieter aspects of the hobby. For the tinkerer and do-it-yourself addict there is equipment to put together, tear apart and put together again, equipment handsome enough and complicated enough to satisfy any hi-fi bug.

The gabber gets a chance to talk endlessly on the airwaves, and the listener can eavesdrop to his heart's content. It's not unusual for round-table *Kaffeeklatsch* QSOs to embrace a dozen hams all on one wave length, but located on all six continents. English is the international ham language. English, plus a set of pidgin abbreviations like OM for old man, hangovers from the all-code days when contractions were the natural result of attempts to speed up dot-dash conversations. Also hams use some of the international "Q" signals, which translate, in any language, into key phrases. A QTH is a location; QRN is static.

There is a little of the collector in us all. Hams carry the stamp dodge one better. For many of them it isn't enough just to have made contact with the remote Russian republic of Uzbek. Who would believe there was such a place? So every ham has his own QSL, or confirmation cards, proof that the QSO (communication) took place. Cards from all 48 states earn a special Worked-All-States certificate. Even tougher is a DX Century Club award, confirmations from 100 countries. A couple of thousand hams have this one, and a handful have cards from 275 countries, which are almost all there are. Another award (issued by the ham magazine CQ) divides the world up into 40 artificial zones, and the trick is to get cards from hams in all of them. Zone 23 is mostly tundra and Tibet, and hams there are as rare as centerfielders. Robert Ford, an R.A.F. radio operator, put Zone 23 on the map, operating from a monastery for a few months eight years ago. Then he was captured by the Communists and became famous as a man who survived five years of attempted brainwashing and Red torture. When he was released in Hong Kong three years ago, the first Westerner to greet him was a British colonel. The officer was a ham first and an Englishman second. He threw his arms around Ford and cried, "Thank God you're alive, Bob. I've been sweating out your QSL card for six and a half years."

Some hams concentrate on message handling (two New Jersey high school boys have handled over 1,500 telephone patches—relays—for our Antarctica base personnel), others get their kicks out of Civil Defense work and still others use their sets only to keep in touch with one or two friends who are also hams.

Just as strangers almost always start to converse in generalities, often inanities, so do hams. The wonder is—and this is the secret thrill of the game—that you can talk at all, that the little black box you built yourself puts your voice and your mind's eye into the home and the consciousness of a human being who may be a missionary in the Congo, an undertaker in Sweden or a schoolboy in Uruguay. Whoever he is you will call him by his first name, even if—and this has happened countless times—you are an Air Force mechanic and the other ham is a four-star general. You will probably not know, and if you do you won't care, whether the lad with the outstanding signal on the high end of 20 meters is tall or short, black or white, Democrat or Republican, Jew or Gentile. And any ham can tell you something about the meaning—or lack of it—of national boundaries. The chances are the fellows he likes to talk to most live a day's flight and a visa away. Through radio they are in his "shack" daily.

To this aficionado, who has been hamming for just a quarter century, and whose shacks have included an airplane over Addis Ababa, a chicken coop in Vermont, a movie house on Broadway and a hotel balcony in Haiti, the ham DX contest is the hobby at its zestiest. The big one just concluded embraced four weekends in February and March—two weekends of 48 hours each for voice operators, two for CW (code) men. There is no law, except common sense, preventing a single operator from working all 48 hours all four weekends. Indeed, the Hawaiian school teacher named Katashi Nose, whose call is KH6IJ, who is this year's champion, regularly does just that. Along with a Virginian (Vic Clark, W4KFC), Nose is just about the best all-round contest man. He builds his own equipment, including a set of huge antennas on towers he raised and climbs himself. He is equally adept at key or microphone. His endurance seems endless. Favored with a location comparatively close to the U.S., he regularly exchanges contest serial numbers and reports with 3,000 U.S. hams in a single competition. He and Clark, year in and year out, are among the top scorers in the world.

The toughest grind is going it alone. The ARRL rules are very strict about single-operator participation. No one else may assist you in any way, either in keeping logs or repairing equipment and certainly not in touching the key or the mike. There is not much more than the honor system to support the operational rules, although there is a log check on contacts.

A milder version of most DX contest hamming, including this year's ARRL affair, is so-called multi-operator participation. Here, a group of hams, prizing sleep more than honor, will get together and take turns operating one or more transmitters at a single chosen station. This is equivalent to joining a relay team, instead of going the mile alone. It's lots of fun, but hardly as demanding.

Perhaps the most elaborate multi-operator station extant is owned by Hazard (Buz) Reeves, K2GL, a superb technician, whose electronic know-how has paid off handsomely in business. He is president of half a dozen successful companies, all with radio overtones. A sizable section of his Tuxedo Park, N.Y. hilltop mansion and surrounding grounds is devoted to a ham station de luxe. Dominating the landscape are two towers, loaded with antennas, both over 100 feet high. The antennas on the towers rotate—squirting the radio signals in favored directions.

The shack is a 30-by-35 upstairs room, dominated by three 1,000-watt transmitters, three top-quality receivers, a room-long workbench, tools by the hundreds, a tape recorder and special operating chairs designed for minimum back strain, in one of which this particular operator collapsed as utterly as if he had stopped a Robinson left hook, at the end of contests in the years when he used to go it all alone.

It was in this luxurious setup that we shared this year's ARRL contest. Reeves flew up from Florida to join six others for one weekend of high-speed contest fun. Reeves does little operating himself. His kicks come from keeping the maze of complicated equipment in operation. Most of the talking was done by Dick Dorrance, a New York advertising executive; Fred Capossela Jr., son of the noted track announcer; John Ryan, an Anaconda Copper heir, who regularly flies across the continent to operate from K2GL because he considers it the best station in the world; Gene Kern, chief of the New York office of the Voice of America; and David Rosen, a young radio announcer.

In the first half hour of the contest we touched all continents. Signals churned into receivers from Japan, New Zealand, Morocco, Portugal, Argentina and nearly every other nook that man has wired for electricity. Contest contacts are quick—an exchange of identifying reports, a time check, serial numbers, hello, goodbye, that's all. But there was time to find out that one of our first contacts was operating from a 1953 station wagon in the Argentine pampas.

Four hours on, four off was our schedule, and before the next day had gone we had worked a rare station in Sarawak, British North Borneo. One of the most unusual of all countries is tiny Kermadec Island, 500 miles off the coast of New Zealand. There is only one ham there, and he operates on a band that usually carries just a few hundred miles. But with a lot of effort and the help of a New Zealand amateur, we made contact with him.

A DX contest score is arrived at by multiplying the number of contacts by the number of countries, working each station only once. But as you operate on a different band of frequencies you can contact the same station all over again for another multiplier. It's quite a trick to catch the same overseas station on all HF bands; in fact, not two stations in an average year manage to swing it. But luck was with us, and in a single four-hour period we talked to Bill Vrooman, HH2Z, who runs Haiti's International Country Club resort, on all seven bands.

The thrills piled up, but so did the problems. Sunday morning the rotating mechanism on one of the towers jammed. We operated at something like half-effectiveness, while Buz fixed it in two hectic hours. Toward the end of the contest a power transformer went west. John Ryan figured out a way to make a replacement spare do the job. Somewhere along

the line we were inspired to fashion an extra antenna on the off-chance that it might be useful on a little-used frequency. It wasn't.

At the end of the weekend we had exchanged reports with 600-odd stations in exactly 100 countries, a creditable score, considering we had only participated one weekend out of two. It was far from a record. We had simply had our fun—enough to tire but not exhaust.

But around the world, Veale in the Gaza Strip, Yoneda in Japan, Nose in Hawaii, and a hundred others who had gone it alone staggered red-eyed to their sacks, surfeited with DX, the voices of the whole earth ringing in their battered ears, vowing they would never go through anything like that again. And they won't. Not until next year—when it's DX contest time again.

-Nets in the Area

Mon thru Sat	9:00 A.M. CT	14.2475 (HF) Displaced Peorians
Tuesday	9:00 P.M.	146.255 (103.5 PL) Woodford County
Tuesday	7:15 P.M.	146.910 Tazwell County ESDA Net
Tuesday	8:00 P.M.	146.790 (103.5 PL) McLean County ARES/Skywarn Net
Tuesday	8:30 P.M.	28.450 CIRC Open 10 meter Net
Tuesday	9:00 P.M.	146.940 (103.5 PL) CIRC Open Net
Wednesday	9:00 P.M.	147.060 Open Net Has Newslines
Wednesday	9:00 P.M.	442.250 103.5 PL ARES Open Net
Varies	147.100	103.5 PL Sometimes Trader's Net follows ARES Net held on 442.250
Thursday	7:00 P.M.	50.135 Open 6 meter Net
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.760 (162.2 PL) Open Net with Newslines
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.850 (103.5 PL) Open Net Peoria
Sunday	08:15 A.M.	1.915 Open 160 meter AM net
Sunday	7:00 P.M.	146.985 Clinton ARC net
Sunday	8:30 P.M.	147.075 Open Net with Newslines
Sunday	9:00 P.M.	146.730 123.0 PL Open Net

(Please help me keep this list correct. I know it may not be up to date at this time. Norm N9ZKS)

Regular Calendar of Events

Daily Coffee Klatch Monday thru Friday **NOTE CHANGE**

.....9:00 a.m. at Dairy Queen Veterans at Cub's

Weekly ARIS/SKYWARN Net

Every Tuesday evening on the 146.790 repeater at 8:00 p.m.

Weekly 10 Meter Net

Every Tuesday evening at 28.450 MHz- at 8:30 p.m.

Weekly 2 Meter Net

Every Tuesday evening on the 146.940-repeater at 9:00 p.m.

Weekly 6 Meter Net

Every Thursday evening at 50.135 MHz at 7:00 P.M.

Weekly 160 Meter AM Net NOTE FREQUENCY

Every Sunday morning at 1.915 MHz at 8:15 A.M.

CIRC Meeting

Fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Red Cross building in Bloomington (Just north of the airport)

AREA EXAM DATES

Following is the schedule for W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exams for the year 2013. at the **Normal Fire station at 1300 E College Avenue. It is at the intersection of College and Blair Street, with parking behind the Fire Station, entry off Blair.**

Setup is from Noon to 1:00 normally. Exams begin at 1:00 P.M.. Questions may be directed to Keith Hanson via email preferably ac9s@mchsi.com or (309) 378-4416

Please bring two forms of identification. You must have a Social Security Number. We cannot administer a test without your SSN. You will need a copy of your Current license plus any CSCE you want to apply.

Remaining Test dates for 2013 will be the following Saturdays:

May 11

July 20

November 9

Central Illinois Area Repeaters

Freq	Callsign	Location	PL
145.390	N9EZJ	Lincoln WX RACES	103.5
146.730	K9HGX	Decatur(Echolink)	123.0
146.790	WD9HRU	Bloomington	103.5 Anti PL on 107.2
146.850	K9PEO	PAARC	103.5
146.940	W9AML	McLEAN CO ARES	103.5 CTCSS
146.985	KA9YPK	Clinton	
147.015	NX9M	Normal ARES Alt.	88.5 (open*)
147.075	W9UVI	Washington	103.5 CTCSS
147.105	WA9RTI	Decatur	103.5
147.150	WD9FTV	Bloomington	103.5
147.345	K9ZM	Lincoln ESDA	103.5
147.390	WB9DUC	Pontiac FARA	127.3
442.250	WA9RTI	Decatur (ARES)	103.5
442.700	WB9UUS	Normal	107.2
443.800	K9HGX	CENOIS ARC	123.0
444.175	K9MCA	Decatur	100.0

* Repeater is currently in open mode with pl for those with QRM

Central Illinois Radio Club

P.O. Box 993

Bloomington, IL 61702-0993

<http://www.qsl.net/w9aml/>

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Treasurer: Norm Huber N9ZKS
(309) 378-4674

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The CIRC is a not-for-profit ARRL special service club whose purpose is to advance the service of Amateur Radio. Located in Central Illinois, CIRC and its members welcome all to use the 146.94 repeater and to attend club meetings.

Submissions for the newsletter should be received by the 15th of the month and may be snail or e-mailed to the editor at:

Norm Huber
19266 US Highway 150
Bloomington, IL 61705-5855

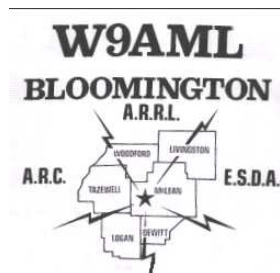
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Next Meeting Wednesday April 24, 2013

Central Illinois Radio Club

April 2013 Newsletter



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