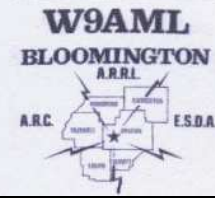


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



July 2006

From the President

VE Testing

Our next testing session is Saturday, July 22 at the Bloomington Police Department. As usual, I need volunteers with W5YI numbers to help. At this point I have had email interest by at least one person on an upgrade, so hopefully we won't be skunked!

Field Day

Final update on Field day - Our claimed score is 2324; It is a little more than originally estimated because we forgot that the power multiplier applied to all the transmitters. Thank goodness for the scoring software. I have both the electronic and paper portions of the submission forms off to the ARRL, so it is all over, but the shouting. Thanks again for everyone who participated - it was great fun.

July Meeting

I intend to do an overview of my logging software, if I can get a projector to use with my laptop. If anyone else has logging software please let me know and we can do a side by side comparison. I am not sure if I can get an internet connection at the Red Cross, but if so we can also cover Log Book of the World. It is integrated with Logic, the software I use and the combination LOTW and logging software is pretty seamless. At this point I could apply to the ARRL for DXCC completely from LOTW, with no paper cards to submit. It sure makes QSLing simple and cheap, although in my humble opinion there is nothing quite like receiving a rare QSL card in the mail, especially if it is one of the nice full color photo jobs. Paper is also a

much nicer thing to hang on the wall and show visitors.

Repeater

We have two items going on with the '94 repeater. First, Eric, N9DOA, has volunteered to do the tower work to properly attach the lower half of our feed line. This is something we have put off way too long; it surely would have been a shame to have had that expensive feed line ruined because we never managed to secure it correctly. The work is planned for Saturday, July 15. We can report on how it went at the next club meeting. Secondly, the repeater is acting up intermittently and we do not yet have the problem isolated. The gross symptoms are that it works correctly for a few minutes, up to 10 or so, and then appears to lose the transmitter. Jim, WB9UWA, has been methodical in recording the details. We intend to do some close observation after the feed line event, so more to come.

Take care everyone - this is an abbreviated letter; Norm needs to get the letter out early because of Philmont. See you Wednesday, July 26 at 7:00pm at the Red Cross on Rout 9 East,

Thanks -

Keith
AC9S

NOTE

If you are getting this by snail mail and have an email address, please give the newsletter editor the email address. That will insure we can get you an Adobe copy of the newsletter in time for the meeting and will lessen the pressure on the treasury. Thank you all.

Late News

We had a great day Saturday the 15th at the repeater site. Eric, N9DOA, had a hot time on the tower installing the remaining co-ax clips to properly secure the co-ax we installed last year. While he worked on the tower, Jim, WB9UWA and Gary, AB9M worked on diagnosing the problems on the repeater as well as doing some preventive maintenance. They also scoped out the planned control circuit modifications.

Keith - AC9S, Rick - WD9HRU, Mark - KC9HLT, Dan - K9OAT and Norm - N9ZKS were all there to provide support and material.

Initially it was verified that the SWR and tuning of the antenna was as designed. After a session of insuring all the boards were well seated and contacts were clean, we powered the repeater up and sadly we still had our problem. We dove back in and determined that when we tapped one area on the "mother board", we initiated the problem. A closer examination of the area showed a possible cold solder joint and another area where there might have been a cracked solder connection. So out came the solder gun and some repairs were made. This time we seemed to have done some good as further testing had the repeater working well.

We also checked out the 440 antenna on the tower for future use in the control circuit and installed an adequate ground tying the repeater and co-ax to the common ground. After that work some of us adjourned to Famous Dave's for a bit of lunch.

Nets in the Area

Mon thru Sat	9:00 A.M. CT	14.2475 (HF)	Displaced Peorians
Monday	9:00 P.M.	146.730	123.0 PL Open Net
Tuesday	9:00 P.M.	146.255	(103.5 PL) Woodford County
Tuesday	7:15 P.M.	146.910	Tazwell County ESDA Net
Tuesday	8:30 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 Newsline
Wednesday	9:00 P.M.	442.250	103.5 PL ARES Open Net
Wednesday	Varies	147.100	103.5 PL <i>Sometimes</i> Trader's Net follows ARES Net held on 442.250
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.760	Open Net with Newsline
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.850	(103.5 PL) Open Net Peoria
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.895	North central IL Traders Net
Sunday	08:15 A.M.	1.815	Open 160 meter AM net
Sunday	7:00 P.M.	146.985	Clinton ARC net (NEW)
Sunday	8:30 P.M.	147.075	Open Net with Newsline

Central Illinois Area Repeaters

Freq	Callsign	Location	PL
145.390	N9EZJ	Lincoln	103.5
146.730	K9HGX	Decatur	123.0
146.790	WD9HRU	Bloomington	
146.850	W9UVI	Peoria	
146.940	W9AML	Bloomington	103.5 CTCSS
147.015	NX9M	Normal	88.5 (open*)
147.075	W9UVI	Washington	103.5 CTCSS
147.100	WA9RTI	Decatur	103.5
147.150	WD9FTV	Bloomington	
147.345	K9ZM	Lincoln	103.5
147.390	WB9DUC	Pontiac	127.3
442.250	WA9RTI	Decatur	103.5
442.700	WB9UUS	Normal	107.2 (open**)
444.350	W9EX	Normal	107.2

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

** Repeater RX with tight carrier squelch and loose tone squelch (107.2)

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

LOCAL DX PACKET CLUSTER INFORMATION

"DX spotting network" - N9PE (Memorial Station) 144.91 MHz - 1200 baud - Connect to N9PE - Contact AB9M or KB9LNS for more info.

USEING THE TEMPn-N NETWORK

APRS is a tactical-real-time-local digital communications network designed for rapid deployment in the field using come-as-you-are equipment for a LARGE number of simultaneous stations. APRS is PERFECT for Field Day with HUMAN operators at all stations. This is not at all what most APRS users are familiar with on a 24/7/365 basis.

But the ARRL Field Day rules make it difficult to use APRS on Field Day because the APRS System on that Day must include one temporary and portable digi and be independent of the existing global APRS infrastructure on 144.39.

THE SOLUTION: USE THE TEMPn-N NETWORK INSTEAD:

TEMPn-N is an ALTERNATE APRS emergency network hopefully on the North American APRS alternate input frequency of 144.99. This channel is normally used as a 144.39 +600 alternate input for low power

stations to get cross digipeated over to 144.39 but without any congestion on the input. In this case, these cross band digis only need to support WIDE1-1 as an alias to serve this purpose. But they can also be set up to support TEMPn-N emergency digipeating too. In this case, they serve as the final hop to get packets from any temporary mobile D700 TEMPn-N operation into the 144.39 system.

BUT FOR FIELD DAY WE MUST USE ENTIRELY TEMPORARY SYSTEMS, so we must not operate on 144.99 that day, but 145.01. This allows us to SET UP during Field Day (or at any time!), an AD-HOC digital communications system for communications with as many Temporary APRS FD stations as we can. Using TEMPn-N allows for a near instantaneous shift of everyone's home and mobile and portable stations to an independent general purpose packet system for either Field Day or in response to an emergency when a WIDEn-N system cannot be reached.

USING the THOUSANDS of D700 MOBILES FOR TEMPORARY

DIGIS: Although we have about 1000 permanent digis across the USA, we are overlooking the value of the THOUSANDS of mobile D700's that can act as digis if needed. The problem has always been that we do NOT want mobile digis 99.99% of the time, but it is a shame not to have them available when needed. The solution is to simply turn them on as digis ALL THE TIME, but only to support the path of TEMPn-N. This makes them always out of sight, but always useable if needed. (including Field Day!). They can be used on 144.39 if needed, but by having the permanent +600 alt-input digis listening for TEMPn-N traffic on 144.99too, this gives those remote D700 emergency digipeaters a standby-ready-to-use-anytime link into the 144.39 network from afar.

The D700 mobile makes an excellent digi, but to activate the UITRACE parameter for digipeating, you must use a PC via the serial port and set "UITRACE TEMP" and "HID OFF". The radio will remember these settings. But since we can keep TEMPn-N in place always without problems for normal operations, it

should become the permanent default of all D700 mobiles.

Other Mobile DIGI settings: The above TEMPn-N settings are independent of the front panel APRS menu functions for digipeating. For those, it is best to have the APRS MENU parameter called UIDIGI set to WIDE1-1 so that your digi can also act as a fill-in digi for other mobiles as needed. In most dense areas of APRS, the menu setting of DIGI should be OFF however, to avoid any unintentional QRM when not specifically needed.

See how to apply this to Field Day

Lets get the word out.
de WB4APR, Bob
<<http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/fd2005.html>>* **



The antenna to the right is our current repeater antenna.



Planning the job.

Bloomington VEC Exam Dates - 2006

7/22 Osborne Room
11/11 Osborne Room

1:00pm

Osborne Room
Bloomington Police Department
434-2290
305 S East St
Bloomington, Il

Keith R Hanson
AC9S

(309) 378-4416
AC9S@mchsi.COM

Morton Testing:

Generally, testing will be held on the third Saturday of the even numbered months.

Testing starts at noon and will end at my discretion.

If you plan on testing be sure to be there by noon.

Testing fee is \$14.

Dates are as follows:

08/19/06

10/21/06

12/16/06

Test location:

Morton Public Library

315 W Pershing St.

Morton, IL

Call (309) 263-2200 for more info



Eric shows us how much he enjoys the view

Central Illinois Radio Club

P.O. Box 993
Bloomington, IL 61702-0993

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

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Secretary: Chuck Kostelc N9RZV
(815)-842-4058

Treasurer: Norm Huber N9ZKS
(309) 378-4674

Newsletter Editor: Norman Huber,
n9zks@earthlink.net
(309)-378-4674

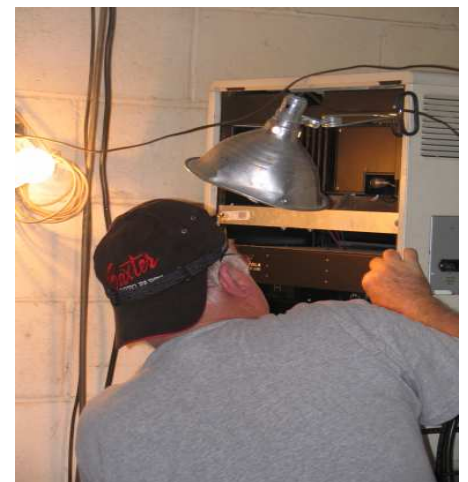
The CIRC is a not-for-profit ARRL special service club whose purpose is to advance the service of Amateur Radio. Located in Central Illinois, CIRC and its members welcome all to use the 146.94 repeater and to attend club meetings.

Submissions for the newsletter must be received by the 10th of the month and may be snail or e-mailed to the editor at:

Norm Huber
19266 US Highway 150
Bloomington, IL 61704-5855

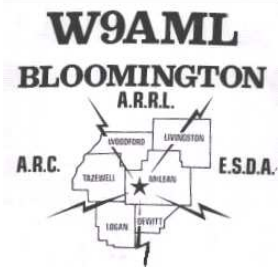
e-mail n9zks@earthlink.net

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Meeting Wednesday July 26

Central Illinois Radio Club July 2006 Newsletter



Central Illinois Radio Club
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