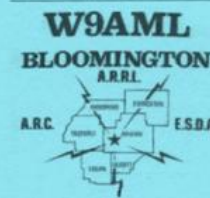


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



April 2011

From the President

April Meeting,
Wednesday the 27th
7:00 PM at the Red Cross

Hope everyone has been able to avoid any severe weather this past week. Spring and weather alerts are on the rise.

A great time was had by those that helped out at the Math and Science Family Day at I.S.U. Thanks to Ed, KC9GF, Rick, N9CKL, Keith, AC9S, Gary, WA8MCD, Thomas, KC9LYP. I was there from 1 to about 3:15pm and there was good traffic and lots of interest in the keys brought by Ed and Rick. Ed had his digital set up there, but no success with getting a signal to it. Keith had his SDR radio there and I could hear signals on it as we talked with the visitors to our booth. Thomas brought his Arrow satellite antenna setup for more conversation. There were a half dozen or more adults that expressed interest in getting licensed. That is really great!

Coming events for us to participate in is the Kickapoo Pow Wow at Leroy on the first weekend in June and the McLean County Wheelers Metric at Comlara Park on June 11. Please sign up when the lists are passes around or contact me or Ed to get on the lists. I have a family vacation conflict and will not be able to get to either one this year.

If you have not sent an email in support of modification of H.R. 607 to **not include** the removal of 420-450Mhz portion of the amateur band, please do. The ARRL website has instructions and a video about the situation. They have blank forms to use and can tell you what your representative is for your area.

Finally, we will be looking to discuss the preparations for Field Day 2011.

73,
Gary KD9F

CIRC March Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2011
President Gary Dearth (KD9F) called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Twenty-two members were present. Gary commented that the minutes from the February meeting were in the newsletter. Gary Huber (AB9M) made a motion

that we accept the minutes as published. After a second by Chuck Kostelc (N9RZV) the motion passed. Treasurer Norm Huber (N9ZKS) reviewed the financial status of the club. He reported that the checking account had \$1,961.05 and the savings account had \$642.96 for a total of \$2,604.01. Some of the money is for the ECHO Link project. Gary H made a motion that we accept the report. After a second by Jim Baker (WB9EDL) the motion passed.

Gary D opened the discussion to items of Old Business. He distributed certificates to the members who participated during the Special Event Day for the club's anniversary. A special thanks to Tom Planer (KJ9P) for the great looking certificates. Chuck Henderson (WB9UUS) reviewed the work that has been done for the ECHO Link project. The link has been made to the repeater tower and a few more items need to be completed. Ed Deutsch (KC9GF) talked about the Family Science Day at ISU in April. Ed, Norm, Gary D and Rick Suhadole (N9CKL) will continue to work with club members so that we can have an exhibit at the event. The date is Sunday, April 17 from 1 pm to 5 pm. Ed made a motion that we allocate \$50 to purchase material from ARRL that we can handout at the event and also during Field Day. After a second by Norm, the motion passed.

Ed discussed the ordering of material from ARRL for any of the members. He passed around two catalogs and sign-up sheets and those interested recorded what they wanted to order. Ed said he would place the order and then when he will collect from the members when the material is distributed. Jim Baker mentioned that the McLean County Wheelers would like to have our club assist with their ride on June 11 by providing communication along the routes. They plan to use 2 meters and 440. Let Jim know if you can help.

Mike Sallee (KC9FWL) led a discussion on the plans for Field Day. He talked about the need for various Captains to coordinate things like publicity, operator stations, antennas, food, and so forth. Mike passed around the Field Day Handbook and asked people to sign-up to handle the various items listed in the handbook. The need for good filters, coax switches and headphones was also discussed. Norm asked anyone that has club equipment to send him an email so he can update the club's inventory list.

Gary D open the discussion for new business. Gary H mentioned that the N1SF club is looking into loaning its equipment to the CIRC club so that we can use it and help store the equipment. Let him know if you can help out. Ed said he contacted the B/N Convention and Visitors Bureau and we can be listed on their website. Norm said he would work with the bureau and get them the information they need.

Gary H talked about a project he is doing via DX Lab that will allow you to determine what band you are on. He bought a band decoder for \$19 and with DX Lab he plans to be able to control switching the antenna tuner for the band he is on. Ed talked about a code practice oscillator and keyer that he is trying to get working again. Norm mentioned that he is beta testing some software that is used to find repeaters and program any Kenwood radio for the repeaters you want. He also uses ARRL Travel Plus. The beta testing is for a version that will work with Windows 7.

Ed suggested we have some members serve as the chairpersons for events and activities the club is doing. Examples would be Field Day, ECHO Link, Ham Fest in Peoria, Public Relations and so forth. Mark talked about some of the antennas that Jim Shaffer (WB9UWA) and he are making for Field Day. He also thanked some of the members who helped him take down and put back up his 40 meter antenna.

Gary reminded the members that we have our Coffee Clutch at 9:00 AM, Monday to Friday, at the Dairy Queen on College Avenue and the 10-10 breakfast at IHOP the 1st Saturday of each month at 8 AM. 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.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike and seconded by Ed. The motion passed.

Submitted by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL)

Motorcycle Mobile Storm Spotter

Norm Huber – N9ZKS

My trip to Houston Texas for the MS150 was a little different than most of my rides. I only spent one day on the two lane roads. My first day I headed down US 51 all the way to Caro, crossed the Ohio into Kentucky and continued on into Tennessee and Mississippi. I stopped at Holly Springs MS for the night. There were weather reports calling for a front with severe weather to pass through the area during the night. I awoke to find that the front was just arriving. I dawdled over breakfast and left in light showers and rode out of the "weather" towards the west and a planned ride along the Mississippi on US 61. I then made a decision to jump onto I-55 and ride down to I-20 at Jackson. I thought I had lost too much time waiting for the front to pass by. What I didn't do was look at my radar app. and note that the front curved west south of northern

Mississippi and my newly chosen path went right through it. Soon after getting on I-55 the rain started again and kept getting heavier. Traffic slowed to 45 and just about everyone had their flashers on. Just north of Jackson MS there was a break and I topped off my fuel and continued into the heaviest rain so far with **hail** and **strong gusty** winds. I rode out of that just south of the Natchez Trace and found out that the particular cell I had ridden through had spawned a tornado which caused power lines to block I-20 just ahead. The traffic was sent off to find its way due to the damage. The remaining miles to Houston were without incident.

We had great weather for the charity ride both Saturday and Sunday, with tail winds on Sunday that resulted in the earliest finish in memory. That is another story and you have to see the DVD to get an idea of the size and scope of the event.

We took a fun ride after Monday breakfast which was eventful. We had a rider suffer a flat and spent a while plugging that. The strobes and LEDs were of great use. No sooner did we resume our ride when three of our riders went down on a bad off camber uphill corner when a truck coming the other way crowded their lane. That did result in one rider ending up in the hospital with serious but not life threatening injury.

That sort of trashed the mood and I decided to skip the trip for BBQ and asked the GPS for the route home. I made it to Plano TX north of Dallas before sundown and settled in at a motel. Morning found me with about 800 miles to go so I got on the road early. As I approached St. Louis in the afternoon I realized I was riding just ahead of a front with tornado warnings again. Wasn't a real problem until I turned north on I-55 and started to cross the front. Here came the pouring rain and gusty wind again. I left the Interstate and found an open VFW/American Legion club and nursed a coke at the bar until my smart phone and the weather channel agreed that the worst cells were past and returned to riding in the rain to Bloomington.

All in all it was just another 2500 mile long weekend for the Iron Butt type rider.



Some Additional BP MS150 Pictures



The above picture is what we see almost every mile until late in the afternoon when the pack thins out.

The picture to the right is what we prepared for and what we hope we will never need. I believe this year there were no air flights.



AREA EXAM DATES

Following is the schedule for W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exams for the year 2011 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.

Test dates for 2011 will be the following Saturdays:

January 8 Done

March 12 Done

May 14

July 16

November 12

The club thanks Keith for his hard work in heading this testing.

Peoria Area Radio Club Testing

In addition on the alternate months VEC exams are held in Morton Public Library.

Contact Bob Bush W9WTF at tigrbob@gmail.com for more information on the Peoria Radio Club testing.

ECHO Link Project

Many of you are user of ECHO Link and others are planning to become users of this additional form of communications available to hams. ECHO Link has many uses, including allowing our members who travel to distant locations or spend some time in a distant city to easily communicate with other members of our club.

Thanks to the generous support of our members, we have succeeded in matching the seed donation and are finishing up the acquisition of equipment for the installation of the ECHO Link Project. The assembly and set up is continuing.

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 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	7:00 P.M.	50.135 Open 6 meter 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
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 (162.2 PL) 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
Sunday	8:30 P.M.	147.075 Open Net with Newsline
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)

Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

Daily Coffee Klatch Monday thru Friday
.....9:00 a.m. at Dairy Queen College Hills

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 Wednesday evening at 50.135 mHz at 7:00 P.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)

KC9LYU Echolink Update

The Frequency Is now set to 146.410 Simplex - NO PL
To Connect To Node By Node Number - Dial (DTMF Commands) its Node number
To Reconnect Last Station Dial *69
To Connect To Random US Repeater Dial 011 - The 011 command takes just a minute to connect.
To Connect To Random Link Or Repeater Dial 01
To Disconnect Dial #

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	McLEAN CO ARES	103.5 Anti PL on 107.2
146.850	K9PEO	PAARC	103.5
146.940	W9AML	Bloomington	103.5 CTCSS
146.985	KA9YPK	Clinton	
147.015	NX9M	Normal	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

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

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(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:

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