



Cross building. Another idea was to pair up one on one with a mentor from the club and a new ham. Richard suggested inviting the new ham to attend a club meeting and host them during the meeting. Keith said they could do more at the class they teach at Heartland. Larry suggested presenting the new ham a certificate at a club meeting.

Andy discussed the recent ARES meeting. They are working with EMA to get some training and find ways to become active in the community. The main need at this time for EMA is weather spotters. Gary talked about using APRS to assist with things like Search and Rescue. Keith said they are deciding how to participate, including the September drill with a shift change. Andy reminded everyone that each person needs to join the EMA and be 18 years or older. Andy provided EMA application forms. He suggested an article on ARES for the newsletter and mentioned that both hospitals have ham stations, which we could use during an ARES event. Keith and Andy would welcome any ideas for activities during the September drill. We have 10 hams in the ARES group at this time.

Mike 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 10 meter Net at 8:30 PM, the 2 Meter Net at 9 PM, and the ARES Net at 9:30 PM.

The focus of next month's meeting will be planning for Field Day. Gary made a motion that we adjourn. After a second by Mike the motion passed. The presentation for the evening was given by Richard Kempf. He discussed the work of the National Weather Service and activities at the Lincoln, IL center.

Submitted by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL)

### Remaining 2009 VEC Test Dates

Please note the location change. We will now test at the: Red Cross Building - Route 9 East - Conference Room

Time: 1:00pm

On the following Saturdays:

7/18

11/14

I am trying to find a better venue, but I want to get the dates published. Rhea at the Red Cross did schedule us for the class room for a couple of the dates, but we are on for the conference room also and it is easier to list a single location.

Thanks --  
Keith

## CIRC March Meeting Minutes March 25, 2009

President Ed Deutsch (KC9GF) called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Thirty members and two guests were present.

Treasurer Norm Huber (N9ZKS) provided a summary of the financial status of the club. He reported that we have \$1,339.58 in the checking account and \$646.03 in the savings account. Gary Huber (AB9M) made a motion that we accept the report. After a second by Keith Hanson (AC9S), the motion passed.

Ed opened the discussion to items of Old Business. Keith provided a status on emergency training. Monday six club members attended the Weather Spotter Class at the Law and Justice Center. Ed, Mark Snyder (AM9MP), and Chuck Kostelc (N9RZV) talked about adding an ECHO Link at the tower. They visited with Corn Belt Electric (tower owner) and found that only a data line goes to the tower. They checked with the phone company and it will cost \$90/month to get an internet connection. Chuck talked about other ways to get an internet connection to the tower, including wireless or laser line of site transmissions. We talked about some past problems with ECHO Link, items like operating procedures, control of the link, and so forth. We also discussed using another repeater in town. Gary Huber made a motion that the topic be handled outside of this meeting by those interested and then have them report back to the club with a recommendation. After a second by Keith, the motion passed.

Ed discussed the procedure to get Floyd Hoffman (W9EX) listed as a Silent Key with the FCC and request his call for the club. Ed already has requested the Silent Key and he will make the request for the call sign with the FCC in a few weeks. We also discussed notifying the ARRL, Quarter Century Club, and CQ magazine to list Floyd as a Silent Key.

Keith and Roger Singley, WQ9E, completed an inventory of Floyd's equipment and now they are working to value it to assist the family in selling his equipment. It was suggested that the club purchase his automatic tuner for use during Field Day. The club wants to get the best price for each item to help the family. Maybe we will offer the equipment to the club members first and then take the remaining items to some Ham Fests. It was also suggested we use Floyd's call during Field Day or on the 440 repeater. Gary suggested using his call sign for the radio at the Red Cross.

Keith discussed the last class at Heartland Community College. They had four in the class, and

three passed to become Technicians and the other person earned his General. He also reported that at last Saturday's testing seven people passed their exams. The club welcomed new member and new Technician Dwayne Benjamin (KC9PIM).

Keith discussed the location for Field Day. He has requested the Old Town Township Hall, which has many options for antennas. He is also going to see if the Red Cross building and grounds will be available that weekend. Some members were interested in using the Old Town Township Hall, as that was where one of the early Field Days was held (1957).

Jim Baker (WB9EDL) talked about the Wheelers Race/Ride set for June 13 at Comlara Park. He needs three to five people to help provide communication along the route. The event will run from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Jim and Gary plan to participate in the ride. Please let Jim know if you can help.

Ed opened the meeting to New Business items. A question was raised about ordering more shirts for club members. Mark Snyder (AB9MP) reported that he received the order for club patches and passed around some patches for the members to review. Norm moved that we pay Mark \$170.00 to cover the cost of the patches. After a second by Keith, the motion passed. We discussed how much to sell the patches for, since they cost \$1.75 each. Richard Kempf (WD9HRU) made a motion that we sell them for \$5.00 each. After a second by Mark, the motion passed.

Ed reminded the members that we have our Coffee Clutch at 9:00 AM, Monday to Friday, at the Dairy Queen on College Avenue. All are welcomed to attend. Bring a friend.

Keith discussed the plans to provide radio communications during the Kickapoo PowWow the first weekend in June. The dates/times would be Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 5:00 PM, Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 AM to Noon. Please contact Keith if you can help.

Rick made a motion that we adjourn. After a second by Grant Zehr (AA9LC), the motion passed. Ed provided a quiz on weather spotting as a way of introducing our guest speakers, Kurt Hawk and Eric Baxter (KC9NHO) who discussed emergency communications.

Kurt said the local EMA organization is interested in having our club assist with radio communications. Examples included weather spotting, public events like Triathlons, Search and Rescue, and so forth. Ways to get involved included RACES, ARES, and as a club. We agreed that the ARES format was best for us. We agreed that Ed, Andy Stubblefie

(WX9RSO), and Keith will serve as the Emergency Coordinators for the club.

Kurt discussed the need for those involved to complete an EMA application and a series of online classes. They already have plans to support Triathlons in May and June. They do 3 to 4 events a month, which keeps the 26 volunteers very busy. The volunteers put in 500 to 700 hours per year. The agency has a number of radios that we can use. Gary suggested we take an inventory of what they have at the Command Post and backup Command Post and then determine what is needed. He also said the State Farm Club, N1SF, might have some radios to donate.

Our ECs will need to work with Kurt and Eric to create a letter of understanding, define classes, review procedures and so forth. The membership was very interested in again becoming involved in support local emergency support efforts by providing communications support

Submitted by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL)

## Travel With Your Equipment

I started to write this article about travel with you radio equipment, but after a little thought I considered travel with any delicate equipment. It is important for safe arrival at your destination to pack your equipment properly. I can tell you how I have done the job and you may have some other ideas for your needs or situation.

### To the Limit:

You will be limited to only the most important pieces because of weight and/or space limitations. If you are concerned with how many pieces of luggage you take that might also limit what you take. Some airlines are charging for the 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of luggage. American Airlines doesn't charge for the 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of luggage so I was able to take most of what I wanted. But, my wife, Cristina, wanted to send presents to all 4 of our grandchildren. That was another limiting factor. How did I get it all in?

### Wrapping for Packing:

You certainly don't want to get to your destination and find out your equipment was damaged in transit. You may have brought your radio in vane and now it is just a weight in your bag. Here is what I did. I have a large roll of plastic wrap that I used to wrap all pieces to keep dust and moisture out. It may also help keep thing from being scratched. To keep the weight down I used my clothes to wrap each item. For the MFJ power supply I cut a piece of cardboard for the front to protect the meter face.

## Downsizing Spring Sale

### W9NUP

#### It's in the Bag:

Now everything had to be put in the suitcases. I put everything I could in the center of the suitcases. The radio had to be in the center with other pieces of clothing all around it. The tuner went in the other suitcase but as long as it was well wrapped it could be just about anywhere. The power supply and watt meter went at the end of each bag where the carrying handle is so when I picked up the bag at the end no other items were on top of it. The sound card interface was easy; it's small and could go anywhere. The biggest challenge is to balance the weight between bags. The airlines only allow 50 pounds per bag.

#### Suitcase Sharif:

When I arrived I found a note from the TSA that they had opened one of my bag for inspection. It is no wonder they were curious about all the electronics they saw in the x-ray.

#### It's a Setup!:

The picture shows the setup. I mentioned the sound card interface I packed. That is for operating PSK31. The software that I use for PSK31 is much easier to use if you use two monitors. My son-in-law just happened to have a spare monitor I could use. My room is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of my daughter's house with a desk for my equipment. I used three piece of insulated, stranded wire for an antenna. Total length is about 75 meters. You can see the pear tree in the picture taken from my window where I connected the far end. It seems to work fairly well. I have made several 20, 40 and 80 meter contacts here in Europe. One of the 40 Meter contacts was with a ham in the Chicago area that was using a radio in Switzerland and connecting through the internet. (Not EchoLink.) PSK31 on 80 meters is really hot at night. I have my pick of what country I want to make a contact with.

All in all I must say the effort to take my equipment was well worth it. Packing would be easier if I owned a smaller radio but my FT-847 is just a little bigger than some of the small radios. Travel to Europe and South America is a bit easier than some other locations because of reciprocal licensing agreements. For more information on agreements check the FCC or ARRL web sights.

73's  
Ed, KC9GF/DL (For now)

Astron RM-50A  
Rack mount 50 amp. Not original front  
Panel. \$120

M2 2M9SSB 2 meter yagi  
9 elements on a 14.5' boom. 12 dBd gain.  
\$80

Homebrew 432 yagi  
11 elements. Gamma match. Tuned to 432.100.  
All metal. \$25

MFJ 202B RX Noise Bridge  
Measure antenna impedance and more  
using your receiver. \$20

MFJ 209 1.8 thru 170 Mhz SWR Analyzer  
Analyze nearly any 50 ohm antenna system 1.8 to  
170 Mhz. Includes grid dip oscillator option. \$85

DSI 5612 Frequency Counter  
50Hz to 1Ghz. \$25

Bird 43 No elements  
Used but not abused. \$115

Pelican case for Bird 43 & elements  
Weatherproof case and foam interior for Model 43.  
Room for several elements. Identical to Bird CC-6.  
\$40

40' Push up mast  
Galvanized steel. No rust. Heavy duty. \$40

30' Push up mast  
Galvanized steel. No rust. Medium duty \$30

### Amateur Radio Supports BP MS-150 "Silver Celebration"

Here is the write up from the ARRL on the ride I've been participating the last four years. Norm N9ZKS

The BP MS-150 is a fundraising bike ride from Houston to Austin, Texas, organized by the Lone Star Chapter of the National MS Society. It is the largest bike ride in North America with 13,000 riders, 3,000 volunteers, supporters and spectators.

Amateur Radio is an integral part of the communication system, which includes public service agencies, commercial radio systems, and the non-licensed Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS). The 150

Amateur Radio volunteers represented independent operators, local radio clubs across Texas, and ARES. The event was held April 19, 2009.

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, was chairman of the communications committee that coordinated the linking of a dozen repeaters over a distance of 150 miles. Many of the operators were veterans of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike. Their ability to adapt, respond and overcome was evident this year.

ARES Training -- 34 ARES members (including photographer) from South Texas attending training in Houston (photo Joseph Gadus III, KE5BVQ)

All communication network controls were located in the Houston Command Post. Two nets were established with back-up capabilities: One net was designated for general traffic and supply coordination, with the second net designated for medical emergencies.

David Taylor, WD5DST, coordinated the amateur operators for medical assignments. Three ambulances, ten first responder teams, two supervisors and one medical transport unit were strategically placed along the route to respond to emergencies. Amateur operators were assigned to these sixteen vehicles. Medical units were equipped with APRS, allowing the prompt dispatching of the closest units.

The eyes and ears along the route of the MS-150 were the motorcycle marshals. Many of these motorcycle volunteers obtained their ham licenses through classes conducted by Jerry Irwin, WAØGLD, who also coordinates the marshals. Sixty-two motorcycles were operated by Amateur Radio personnel, with twelve being APRS-equipped.

Cyclists exit rest area past one of the many Amateur Radio stations along the route. (photo Joseph Gadus III, KE5BVQ)

Breakpoints were positioned every ten miles along the route. These rest areas provided water and snacks, medical aid, bicycle repair and restroom facilities. A team of amateurs including ARES members from Harris and Waller counties was assigned to each breakpoint to report conditions, request supplies and summon ambulances.

ARES provided a large contingent of operators for the event. Many served independently at the command post and in medical and supply vehicles and the motorcycle marshals. As a group, ARES was tasked with establishing and operating the Special Assistance Group (SAG) responsibility for the transportation of cyclists who were unable to continue, from each breakpoint forward to Austin. The DEC's from the South Texas Section districts 1 and 14 responded with volunteers. Christine Smith,

N5CAS, District 1 DEC, recruited volunteers from Waller County, while Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, District 14 DEC, worked with his group in Harris County. Walter also coordinated the operations of all breakpoints and their associated functions. The SAG stops used Amateur Radio and MURS radios to coordinate buses, trucks, vans and personnel.

ARES employed the Incident Command System of the National Incident Management System to develop incident action plans, training sessions with table top exercises and leadership development meetings to provide consistent operations along the route.

The planning and training responsibility fell into the capable hands of veteran Del Partridge, W5QQ. In addition to their SAG responsibilities, the ARES members were originally tasked with operating the majority of the Amateur Radio stations at the breakpoints.

MS Society Lone Star Chapter President Mark Neagli stated "volunteers are what make this event so successful." The difference between an event and an incident is that events are planned and incidents are not. By participating in these events, Amateur Radio operators gain valuable experience, learning to adapt to changing conditions and work with the assets that are available. To learn more about multiple sclerosis and rides in your area, contact the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. For Amateur Radio information on the BP MS-150, contact Jeff Walter, KE5FGA, District 14 DEC, or Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, Communications Committee Chairman -- article by Joe Gadus, KD5KTX, Porter, Texas

### Stereo Solar Flux

Solar flux is the product of sunspots on the sun's earth-facing hemisphere. The sun rotates every ~27 days. When a sunspot rotates out of view, we can assume/hope that it will appear again on sun's opposite limb ~13 days later, but it could shrink or disappear during that interval. New sunspots also form on the solar hemisphere facing away from earth, rotating onto the earth-facing hemisphere as much as 13 days later.

In October 2006, NASA launched two identical spacecraft destined for solar orbit: one ahead of the Earth, and the other trailing behind. Their objective is to trace the flow of energy and matter from the Sun to Earth, and to reveal the 3D structure of coronal mass ejections. This mission, known as STEREO, also provides alerts for Earth-directed solar ejections because the two satellites provide a view of the solar hemisphere not visible from earth. They also detect sunspots.

At present, the spacecraft known as Ahead is 48 degrees ahead of earth in its solar orbit, and the

spacecraft known as Behind is 47 degrees behind earth. In this diagram, Ahead is labeled A in red font, and Behind labeled B in blue font:

<<http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/where.shtml>>

The sun's left-to-right rotation means that Behind gets a preview of what's about to rotate into the sun's earth-facing solar hemisphere. With a 47 degree separation, that preview is  $(47/360)*27 \Rightarrow 3.5$  days. Ahead and Behind will continue to separate; two year from now, Ahead will be 90 degrees ahead of earth in its solar orbit, and Behind will be 90 degrees behind earth. This will provide a complete view of the solar hemisphere facing away from earth, enabling us to monitor the birth, growth, shrinkage, and death of sunspots there without interruption.

This web site shows the latest solar images from Ahead and Behind:

<<http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/>>

As you can see, Behind's image shows a pair of new spots about to rotate onto the earth-facing solar hemisphere. Let's hope they are cycle 24 spots, and a harbinger of good things to come.

Assuming the above web page is updated frequently, STEREO should provide DXers with an excellent tool for predicting solar flux.

73,

Dave, AA6YQ

If you click Today's Images (under Resources on the left of that page) it takes you to a page with a variety of STEREO Ahead and Behind images, as well as SoHO images of the Earth-facing solar hemisphere. Note that SoHO is not providing data today, but usually it is.

### Dayton Hamvention

Another year and another Hamvention. It did not disappoint.

Thursday night after arrival in Dayton, Gary and I went to the Pine Club for the outstanding beef in the beautiful dark paneled ambiance. Certainly worth the trip.

We also attended the South West Ohio DX dinner and heard a great pair of speakers. They were John Stanley, K4ERO and Ruth Stanely, WB4LUA who have spent their lives traveling the globe installing, maintaining and training personel for religious international short-wave stations. Perhaps you have their calls in your log. By the way, Ruth is the primary tower climber as John says she is lighter and therefore it's safer that way. Those stations they work on have antenna towers in the hundreds of

feet. Now that's a XYL that supports ham radio as a hobby.

I had a great time with time spending quite a bit of time at the the Boy Scout booth in the ARRL area. I also spent Sunday at the Bicycle Mobile Hams of America forum. We had a great assortment of vhf, uhf and hf equipped bicycles and tricycles.

Saturday we had a ride which was almost washed out by the rain, which has to come to Dayton sometime during Hamvention weekend. We simply waited out the showers in a convenient restaurant. There are some great trails in the Dayton area for those reluctant to ride strange streets.

I will be back again next year for both the BMHA forum and the Boy Scout area. The Scout staff is getting ready for the National Jamboree and the staff of the K2BSA station use the Hamvention as a chance to meet and prepare.

### Just thought u might like to know.....

#### Tallest Radio Tower

The 2,120 foot (646 meter) Warsaw Radio tower in Konstanyńów, Poland was not only the tallest radio tower ever built, it was the tallest structure ever built. It was completed in 1973, but collapsed in 1991 while being renovated, killing three people and injuring twelve. The original transmitting frequency was 227 kHz, but was later changed to 225 kHz. The mast was one-half-wavelength high at the transmitting frequency and therefore had a very high base-impedance. Because the transmitting power was two-megawatts, it was necessary to stand the tower on a two-meter-high base insulator that had a 120 kV break-over voltage. The transmitter building was approximately 600 meters from the tower base. It contained two one-megawatt transmitters constructed by Brown-Boveri and Cie that were operated in-phase to produce two-megawatts of amplitude-modulated RF power.

Holy Schmoly !

Be careful when trying to bookmark the Today's Images page. The URL to bookmark is:

<http://stereo-ssc.nascom.nasa.gov/browse/>

When you go to that URL the server automatically adds the current date. For example today it will come up as:

<http://stereo-ssc.nascom.nasa.gov/browse/2009/05/08/>

If you bookmark the URL with date appended, you will always get data for that date instead of the current date.

73,

Paul N1BUG

## 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	8:30 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
Varies	147.100	103.5 PL	<i>Sometimes</i> Trader's Net follows ARES Net held on 442.250
Thursday Newsline	9:00 P.M.	146.760	(162.2 PL) Open Net with
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 ( <b>NEW</b> )
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 Coffeeklatch 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.  
 10/10 Breakfast  
 First Saturday of every month at 8 a.m. in the IHOP in the Lowes lot near the Red Cross on Rt. 9.  
 CIRC Meeting  
 Fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Red Cross building in Bloomington (Just north of the airport).

## Central Illinois Area Repeaters

Freq	Callsign	Location	PL
145.390	N9EZJ	Lincoln	103.5
146.730	K9HGX	Decatur(Echolink)	123.0
146.790	WD9HRU	Bloomington	
146.850	W9UVI	Peoria	
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	
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**)
443.800	K9HGX	Decatur (ARES)r	123.0
444.175	K9MCA	Decatur	100.0

\* Repeater is currently in open mode with pl for those with QRM  
 \*\* Repeater RX with tight carrier squelch and loose tone squelch (107.2)

## 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 Radio Club

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

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

**President:** Ed Deutsch KC9GF  
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**Vice President:** Mike Sallee, KC9FWL

**Secretary:** Open

**Treasurer:** Norm Huber N9ZKS  
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**Newsletter Editor:** Norman Huber, n9zks@verizon.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:

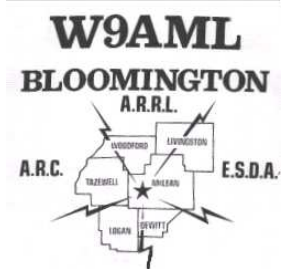
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**Meeting Wednesday May 27**

# Central Illinois Radio Club April-May 2009 Newsletter



Central Illinois Radio Club  
P. O. Box 993  
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