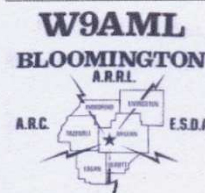


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



April 2010

From the President

**April Meeting – Wednesday, April 28th at 6:30 pm
At the QTH of Dennis Stott, N9ZVK in Ellsworth.
(note the change in time)**

Dennis has offered to cook hotdogs on the grill and even have some chili for those who want. The club will provide drinks, chips and paper products.

Directions to Dennis' QTH: Take Rout 9 to N 2850 East road. From Towanda/Barns road it is 9.7 miles. Turn right (South) and go 2.3 miles to Ellsworth. Dennis' house is the second house on the right. He has a trailer out front with 5 canoes on it. We will be monitoring 94 if anyone needs help finding Dennis' house.

Reason: Dennis is trying to sell 7 tube testers and lots of tubes. He also has some '60's am/fm radios. These items belong to a widow whose husband collected them.

I asked Dennis if it would be OK for us to bring our items to sell. It would be kind of a mini hamfest. He was open to the idea, so bring those items you want to sell.

From the President

This months meeting will take place in Ellsworth at the Ellsworth community center. (After we eat) Rick Suhadolc, N9CKL will give a presentation on the antenna analyzer software, specifically the 4NEC2 software. Even if you only need to use antenna analyzer software once in a while this software will do the job and it is inexpensive: FREE! I made an attempt at using the software and wasn't very successful. I only need a little touting and Rick will give it to us at next Wednesday's meeting. Should be interesting. I am going to load the software on my laptop so I can follow along. Bring you laptop if you can. Bring a guest to the meeting. Everyone is welcome.

73's and see you at the meeting,
Ed, KC9GF

CONTEST SCHEDULE

There are too many contests to list, so I only listed the ARRL schedule. At the end of the ARRL schedule you will find links to web sights that list contests and dates.

ARRL Contest Schedule

June	12 - 14	ARRL June VHF QSO Party
	19	Kids Day
	26	ARRL Field Day
July	10 - 11	IARU HF World Championships
August	7 - 8	ARRL UHF Contest
	21 - 22	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest
September	11 - 13	ARRL September VHF QSO Party
	18 - 19	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest
November	6 - 8	ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)
	20 - 22	ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)
December	3 - 5	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
	11 - 12	ARRL 10 Meter Contest

<http://www.contesting.com/>
<http://www.ng3k.com/Contest/>
<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/awards.html>

Ham Events:

May 14, 15, 16: Dayton Hamfest
June 5-6: Princeton Hamfest
June 5-6: Pow Wow
June 12: Wheelers bicycle ride
June 26-27: Field Day
Tour DeWitt: ?

AREA EXAM DATES

READ CAREFULLY - NOTE LOCATION CHANGE

Following is the schedule for W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exams for the year 2010 at the Normal Fire Department. 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 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.

We are changing the testing location from the Red Cross to 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.

Remaining dates for the year 2010 (Walk-ins are welcome)
5/08
7/17
11/13

Peoria Area Radio Club Testing

In addition on the alternate months VEC exams are held in Morton Public Library. The remaining dates for this year will be:

June 19
Aug. 21
Sep.(Superfest),
Oct. 16
Dec. 18,

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

FOR SALE

Yesu FT-2800M
2 meter mobile
Never used – In Box

Icom FTIC-T2H Hand Held
8 AA Battery Pack Radio
Used Little – In Box

\$200 for both.
Contact: Fred – WR9E
309-828-3955 (Or aty coffee in the morning)

What Have You Been Missing??

KJ9P, Tom Planer

Having recently moved to Normal, Illinois from Northwest Indiana, I soon discovered the W9AML repeater. It only took a few QSOs before I was invited to the monthly Central Illinois Radio Club meeting. The meetings are held on the forth Wednesday of the month, and was I surprised when I got there!!

First of all was the attendance. There were at least forty people. I am used to about ten to fifteen members showing up at my old ARC meetings.

Then there was the normal “business” at hand. It was very short and to the point. Not the typical unorganized boring business meeting you may be used to suffering through.

That allowed time for something I though was great. A period of the meeting set aside for members to bring a sample of what homebrew projects they have in the works. It gave me encouragement to build a 4:1 coax balun. Thanks to the tip on how to check out the balun from **WB9UWA**, Jim Shaffer, I was able to verify that it worked. It worked so well, that I made two of them and sent one to an old friend in Indiana. Of course I sent him the “pretty” one and I will bring the first one to the next meeting.

What are you building, or have built that we might get some ideas from?

Of course there is also that part of the meeting where a speaker is invited to give a demo on something. If you missed the meeting where **AC9S**, Keith Hanson, gave a very good explanation of how to get started on **LogBook of the World**, you missed a very good one. The process is a lot easier than it was a year ago.

The members made me feel at home and I now have some new friends in a new town. So what have you been missing? Come to the next meeting please, I would like to meet you and here about your projects.

73

Tom, KJ9P

A Weekend Of Service

Norm N9ZKS

I have been participating in a great service opportunity for the last five years. It is the Houston to Austin Texas BP MS150 held every April to raise money to fund the eradication of Multiple Sclerosis. It is the largest fund raiser in the US for MS. This year they have \$12,600,000 already and are hoping for \$18,000,000 for a grand total. They limit the participants to 13,000 bicycles for safety and Jerry, WA0GLD has organized a group of better than a 100 motorcycle owners that vie for the privilege to support the bicyclists as communicators, medical support and mobile mechanical support. I say “vie” because Jerry opens the list for volunteers for the next year’s crew on Tuesday after the ride and as I write this there are 77 riders signed up for next year. We limit the number of motorcycles on

the course to 90 to avoid excessive traffic on the road. Current requirements to join the team include having a ham license and having a dual band radio for communication. The ride depends on the ham clubs and repeaters of the area to provide communications for the entire support organization. There is an operation net, medical net, emergency net held on multiple frequencies each day and a scooter net held on a simplex frequency.

When I was single, I rode down the first time taking a long route allowing me to ride a "Saddle Sore 1000" and a "Bun Burner 1500" which are 1000 miles in 24 hours and 1500 miles in 36 hours motorcycle rides. I also would plan routes down and back through the Ozark Mountains for the great riding and scenery. I'm thinking of returning to those routes next year with my wife.

The ride itself is hard to imagine. Even with almost 100 miles for the day's ride 13,000 bicyclists mean that one cannot find a section of road where there are not almost a solid string of riders in sight. There are movies on YouTube if you would like to see what I mean. Just Google "BP MS100". You can see that the use of motorcycles for support is necessary as the presence of that many cars or vans on the road would severely threaten the safety of the riders. This is especially true when you consider that the riders needing support are usually the riders with less fitness and experience. Sunday this year, I noted that before I got to the first rest area at the 10 mile point, there were riders at the 50 mile point.

The event is a spectacle with people setting up entertainment along the route such as a bag piper, fiddlers, and disk jockeys. Victims of the disease place themselves along the route to cheer on the riders working for a cure for the disease. Teams place signs along the route to motivate particular riders as well as the team as a whole. At the end of the day we see people walking up the hills trying so hard to finish under their own power.

We, the motorcycle Marshalls, have three major duties. First, we provide communication of any even information regarding

conditions, accidents or hazards along the route. All communications are linked by radio or IRLP to the MS150 headquarters in Houston. A number of the vehicles are APRS (A system by which our position by GPS is sent via radio) equipped so that the HQ can see immediately where we are.

Second, we carry basic first aid supplies to offer to a victim of an accident although we are not providing first aid unless we are certified EMT's etc. There are also a good number of EMT's riding the route on bicycles who provide medical support until rescue personnel arrive.

Third, we provide mechanical support for the bicycle riders along the road. This is hopefully the primary duty we perform the whole day. We carry spare tubes, tools and pumps so as to be able to fix minor problems on the bicycles of the participants. It is amazing how happy a rider is when you ride up with a floor pump with gage as he starts to change his third of so flat for the day. It makes one want to see a return of "tire savers" which were popular in the 70's to "wipe" bits of glass, thorns or other puncture inducing material off the surface of the tire before they worked their way into the tube.

The final duty, and the one most of us enjoy the most, is to accompany the last rider across the finish line at Austin. Most of the crowd which cheered the early finishers is gone and the workers have started tearing down the finish area. We and the SAG Vans, and Ambulances follow the "Turtle" across the finish lines with horns, sirens and flashing lights to back up the PA announcer cheering the rider for his hard work riding the better than 150 miles during the two days.

With that another MS150 is complete and we head our separate ways. This year it was a very successful MS 150 in that we had no serious injuries requiring life flights. We lucked out in that the rain missed the riders for the most part with only a few sprinkles during the ride.

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	9:00 P.M.	147.060	Open Net Has Newline
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 Newline
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 Newline
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.

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)

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	103.5
146.730	K9HGX	Decatur(Echolink)	123.0
146.790	WD9HRU	Bloomington (ARES)	
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 (Normal ARES)	103.5
442.700	WB9UUS	Normal	107.2 (open**)
443.800	K9HGX	Decatur 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)

Central Illinois Radio Club

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

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

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 (309) 828-2227

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Secretary: Mike Sallee, KC9FWL

Treasurer: Norm Huber N9ZKS
 (309) 378-4674

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:

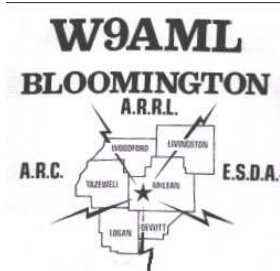
Norm Huber
 19266 US Highway 150
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Next Meeting Wednesday April 24, 2010

Central Illinois Radio Club April 2010 Newsletter



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