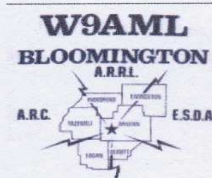


# CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

## Short CIRCuits



August 2008

### From the President

**July Meeting – Wednesday, July 23, 7:00pm at the Red Cross on Route 9 East.**

We devoted the program portion of the meeting to a Field Day deconstruct - critique.

**August Meeting – Wednesday, August 27, 700pm at the Red Cross on Route 9 East.**

I have some ARRL videos that I will share after the business meeting. The league has quite a collection of videos which the State Farm Radio club acquired a few years ago. There are some nostalgic looks at early ARRL as well some come more current topics, including some dx-pedition videos.

### Wishful Thinking!!

This month's Scientific American has an article on giant solar storms and the possible effect on modern communications and electronics. There have been gargantuan storms in the past which caused aurora as far South as the Caribbean and knocked out early telegraph lines and power distribution systems. I am not sure what prompted the timing of this article, but the solar flux has been stuck at 66 or 67 for months and we can only dream of solar storms which typically occur at solar maximums. It looks like the new sunspot cycle is stalled at a minimum!

### Reminder – Antenna Practicum

We have scheduled September 6 as a work day to help Rick Sudholz lower his tower and antennas. This is intended to be a practicum on safe tower climbing and antenna work for anyone new to the subject. It should be fun as well as neighborly thing to do. One of the aspects of hobby that

reflects really well on us is the way we come together to help one another with our projects. It is community in the finest sense.

### Tuesday Night Net

It looks like check-ins for the W9AML Tuesday Night Net have been decreasing. Perhaps it is just the summer doldrums, but I would encourage those of us with 2 meter capability to check in each Tuesday night at 9:00pm on 146.34/94, tone 103.5. It is directed net, but very informal. The only real objective is to be a connecting point for local hams.

### 160 Meter Net

The Sunday morning 160 meter net is suffering even more than the 2 meter net. It meets each Sunday at 8:30 on 1830 Khz – AM. If you have 160 meter capability please give it a try. It doesn't take much of an antenna to communicate across town. Even if you don't have a 160 meter antenna almost any HF antenna can be tuned up at low power – 10 watts or so – to check in. 160 is a really excellent local band and it doesn't take much of an antenna to talk around the county at that time of the morning. The net dates back a very long time; I believe it has been in continuous operation since the 30s. Pretty impressive.

### 10 Meter Net

As long as I am on a net theme – we have a 10 meter SSB net that meets at 8:30 on Tuesdays – a half hour prior to the 2 meter net. It is completely informal; anyone is welcome to check in and we just generally rag chew for a half hour prior to moving up to the 34/94 net. Sometimes we have openings and people from around the country stop by.

Take care everyone. I will see you at 7:00pm at the Red Cross building across from the Route 9 Airport Fire Station.

73's

Keith  
AC9S

### Central Illinois Radio Club

P.O. Box 993  
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<http://www.qsl.net/w9aml/>

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

Norm Huber  
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Bloomington, IL 61705-5855

e-mail n9zks@verizon.net

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## 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 Newline  |
| 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      | (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 ( <b>NEW</b> )  |
| Sunday       | 8:30 P.M.    | 147.075      | Open Net with Newline   |

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

## 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**) |
| 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)

## 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 Baker's Square at Vernon Ave. and Veterans (Just south of College Hills Mall).

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 #



## JOTA BADGE BLANKETS STOLEN

To:  
JOTaskedbook@yahoogroups.com  
Hello Scouts...

During the last night of the Jamboree in Ireland someone is stolen my Radio scouting and JOTA Badges collection.

This are about 300 rare Badges. Many of you know this collection. In Ireland at the last day of the Jamboree the most of the scouts where schocked, that anybody stolen a collection of a Scout... They are doing here many, but till now there is no luck. please have a eye open for me, when any Scout want to sell many JOTA badges or show a big JOTA collection.

Next monday I will send you a mail with a picture of this blanket. When you want to see which badges are on this blanket you can see it under [www.radio-scouting.de/badges](http://www.radio-scouting.de/badges) . PLEASE help me that this thief had no fun with this collection.

The police here in Ireland knows already about this problem and will also look for them. I think also many scout here in Ireland.

Many thanks for help...

YiS  
Jochen DK8ZM

### A FOLLOWUP ON THE ORIGINAL POST BY DAVID FERRINGTON – MOXDF

A HAM I know, Jochen DK8ZM, is a keen collector of Scout Radio badges and had possibly the largest collection anywhere until they were unfortunately recently stolen (approx 300 rare badges). Anyone who collects radio ephemera will understand the upset this will have caused. I would like to politely request everyone to keep an eye out and if you hear of any unusual or large numbers of JOTA or radio scouting badges appearing then please do let him know (or me and I'll pass the message on).

Further to that mail, he sent:  
I don't know Jochen well but I was lucky enough to operate from GB100J and worked with him there, he's a really nice guy and I know the collection was his pride and joy and holds many Scouting and radio memories for him so the further we can publicize this the better. There are better pictures of the individual badges here: <http://www.radio-scouting.de/badges/>

I reckon we have the communications these days to tell the radio and scouting world in a very short time so the more people who know the better. He's not looking to catch the thief, in typical fashion he would just like the collection back. Fingers crossed for a favorable outcome.

73 de MOXDF, K3 #174, FISTS #12575  
David Ferrington ASL - 2nd Bracknell Scout Group

### TWO METER NET REPORT

*Please let your newsletter editor know if you would like to continue seeing this*

*type of information in future newsletters.*

### August 19, 2008 and the Tuesday Night net on the W9AML repeater.

KB9RAB (Deane), N9DOA (Eric), W9NUP (Ron), and AB9MP (Mark) all checked in short time.

N9ZKS (Norm) stated the mini field day would be September 6 at Comlara Park, with additional information at the club meeting on August 27. KC9LU (Justin) is trying to finish some outside jobs while the weather is cool, at least for the middle of August. K9LJR (Lou) checked in from Clinton, IL. Lou is also enjoying the cool August and encouraged operators to check in to the Clinton net on Sunday evening at 7 p.m. on 146.985, no pl tone. A total of seven check ins. Net control for the evening was KB9NPH (Larry).

### Meeting Minutes

23 July 2008

Meeting called to order at 1900.  
Treasures Report

- o \$674.80 in Checking
  - o \$645.21 in Savings
- No meeting minutes from previous CIRC meeting

Old Business:

- o DX Spider is not completed yet
- o Jerry Comer upgraded to General at the last testing session – Congratulations!
- o Rick Sudholc's antenna lowering party – Sept 6. This will be a practicum in safe tower work.

New Business

- o Next Testing session is November 15.
- o Rohn is now locally owned and back in Peoria
- o Discussed an alternative Field Day location – Norm will reserve a Comlara Park site for \$6.00. This will give us a concrete alternative location & given the low cost of the deposit we will be under no real obligation to use it.

- o Grant Zehr, AA9LC, showed his work on the homebrew contest winner QRP transceiver featured in QST. He has the receiver working at this point. Very nice project!
- o Gary Huber, AB9M, presented his work with DXLAB – a comprehensive set of Ham radio modules centered on a full featured logging program. It is a free download and the software Gary used to contact the Boy Scouts during their recent trip to Cache Lake in Canada. He and Norm, N9ZKS, had daily PSK31 skeds.  
Program – was an evaluation of our Field Day operation.

### Estate equipment

Chuck Tarbox K9GGN

- Uniden Scanner
- Bearcat Scanner
- Kenwood TS520 - \$200
- MC50 Microphone - \$50
- Vibroplex bug - \$105
- Yaesu FT209R – 2M – \$25
  - o Includes MC-15
- SWR meter
- DC Power Supply
- Powerstrip
- Tri-bander – old Mosley or Hy-Gain – Free
- Cushcraft Boomer? – 2M
- Hustler mobile & loading coils for 75, 40, 15?, 10
- Fluke Multimeter 8020A

See John Schumucker for pricing (309) 452-7216

### LOREN GRABER - K9ILP'S ESTATE

I will be bringing this equipment to the meeting Wednesday. See it at my truck before the meeting. It will go to the Superfest after that.

- 1 Hammerlund Super Pro
- 1 Hammerlund Power Supply
- 1 Micky Mouse X-mitter
- 3 Heath Kit Single Bander SSB 40 M
- 1 Heath Kit Single Bander

- SSB 80 M  
 1 Heath Kit Power Supply  
 HP-23  
 1 Heath Kit Power Supply  
 HP-23-A

Miscellaneous meters, microphones, and parts.

\*\*\*\*\* NO LEFT TURNS \*\*\*\*\*

*This is a wonderful piece by Michael Gartner, editor of newspapers large and small and president of NBC News. In 1997, he won the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing. It is well worth reading, and a few good chuckles are guaranteed.*

My father never drove a car. Well, that's not quite right. I should say I never saw him drive a car. He quit driving in 1927, when he was 25 years old, and the last car he drove was a 1926 Whippet. 'In those days,' he told me when he was in his 90s, 'to drive a car you had to do things with your hands, and do things with your feet, and look every which way, and I decided you could walk through life and enjoy it or drive through life and miss it.' At which point my mother, a sometimes salty Irishwoman, chimed in:

'Oh, bull----!' she said. 'He hit a horse.'

'Well,' my father said, 'there was that, too.'

So my brother and I grew up in a household without a car. The neighbors all had cars -- the Kollingses next door had a green 1941 Dodge, the VanLanings across the street a gray 1936 Plymouth, the Hopsons two doors down a black 1941 Ford -- but we had none.

My father, a newspaperman in Des Moines, would take the streetcar to work and, often as not, walk the 3 miles home. If he took the streetcar home, my mother and brother and I would walk the three blocks to the streetcar stop, meet him and walk home together.

My brother, David, was born in 1935, and I was born in 1938, and sometimes, at dinner, we'd ask how come all the neighbors had cars but we had none. 'No one in the family

drives,' my mother would explain, and that was that. But, sometimes, my father would say, 'But as soon as one of you boys turns 16, we'll get one.' It was as if he wasn't sure which one of us would turn 16 first. But, sure enough, my brother turned 16 before I did, so in 1951 my parents bought a used 1950 Chevrolet from a friend who ran the parts department at a Chevy dealership downtown. It was a four-door, white model, stick shift, fender skirts, loaded with everything, and, since my parents didn't drive, it more or less became my brother's car. Having a car but not being able to drive didn't bother my father, but it didn't make sense to my mother. So in 1952, when she was 43 years old, she asked a friend to teach her to drive. She learned in a nearby cemetery, the place where I learned to drive the following year and where, a generation later, I took my two sons to practice driving. The cemetery probably was my father's idea. 'Who can your mother hurt in the cemetery?' I remember him saying more than once. For the next 45 years or so, until she was 90, my mother was the driver in the family. Neither she nor my father had any sense of direction, but he loaded up on maps -- though they seldom left the city limits -- and appointed himself navigator. It seemed to work. Still, they both continued to walk a lot. My mother was a devout Catholic, and my father an equally devout agnostic, an arrangement that didn't seem to bother either of them through their 75 years of marriage.

(Yes, 75 years, and they were deeply in love the entire time.)

He retired when he was 70, and nearly every morning for the next 20 years or so, he would walk with her the mile to St. Augustin's Church. She would walk down and sit in the front pew, and he would wait in the back until he saw which of the parish's two priests was on duty that morning. If it was the pastor, my father then would go out and take a 2-mile walk, meeting my mother at the end of the service and walking her home. If it was the assistant pastor, he'd take just a 1-mile walk

and then head back to the church. He called the priests 'Father Fast' and 'Father Slow.'

After he retired, my father almost always accompanied my mother whenever she drove anywhere, even if he had no reason to go along. If she were going to the beauty parlor, he'd sit in the car and read, or go take a stroll or, if it was summer, have her keep the engine running so he could listen to the Cubs game on the radio. In the evening, then, when I'd stop by, he'd explain: 'The Cubs lost again. The millionaire on second base made a bad throw to the millionaire on first base, so the multimillionaire on third base scored.'

If she were going to the grocery store, he would go along to carry the bags out -- and to make sure she loaded up on ice cream. As I said, he was always the navigator, and once, when he was 95 and she was 88 and still driving, he said to me, 'Do you want to know the secret of a long life?'

'I guess so,' I said, knowing it probably would be something bizarre.

'No left turns,' he said.

'What?' I asked.

'No left turns,' he repeated. 'Several years ago, your mother and I read an article that said most accidents that old people are in happen when they turn left in front of oncoming traffic. As you get older, your eyesight worsens, and you can lose your depth perception, it said. So your mother and I decided never again to make a left turn.'

'What?' I said again.

'No left turns,' he said. 'Think about it. Three rights are the same as a left, and that's a lot safer. So we always make three rights.'

'You're kidding!' I said, and I turned to my mother for support. 'No,' she said, 'your father is right. We make three rights. It works.' But then she added: 'Except when your father loses count.'

I was driving at the time, and I almost drove off the road as I started laughing.

'Loses count?' I asked. 'Yes,' my father admitted, 'that sometimes happens. But it's not a problem. You

just make seven rights, and you're okay again.' I couldn't resist. 'Do you ever go for 11?' I asked.

'No,' he said 'If we miss it at seven, we just come home and call it a bad day. Besides, nothing in life is so important it can't be put off another day or another week.' My mother was never in an accident, but one evening she handed me her car keys and said she had decided to quit driving That was in 1999, when she was 90. She lived four more years, until 2003. My father died the next year, at 102.

They both died in the bungalow they had moved into in 1937 and bought a few years later for \$3,000. (Sixty years later, my brother and I paid \$8,000 to have a shower put in the tiny bathroom -- the house had never had one. My father would have died then and there if he knew the shower cost nearly three times what he paid for the house.) He continued to walk daily -- he had me get him a treadmill when he was 101 because he was afraid he'd fall on the icy sidewalks but wanted to keep exercising -- and he was of sound mind and sound body until the moment he died.

One September afternoon in 2004, he and my son went with me when I had to give a talk in a neighboring town, and it was clear to all three of us that he was wearing out, though we had the usual wide-ranging conversation about politics and newspapers and things in the news.

A few weeks earlier, he had told my son, 'You know, Mike, the first hundred years are a lot easier than the second hundred.' At one point in our drive that Saturday, he said, 'You know, I'm probably not going to live much longer.'

'You're probably right,' I said. 'Why would you say that?' He countered, somewhat irritated.

'Because you're 102 years old,' I said.

'Yes,' he said, 'you're right.' He stayed in bed all the next day.

That night, I suggested to my son and daughter that we sit up with him through the night.

He appreciated it, he said, though at one point, apparently seeing us look gloomy, he said: 'I would like to make an announcement. No one in this room is dead yet'

An hour or so later, he spoke his last words:

'I want you to know,' he said, clearly and lucidly, 'that I am in no pain. I am very comfortable. And I have had as happy a life as anyone on this earth could ever have.' A short time later, he died.

I miss him a lot, and I think about him a lot. I've wondered now and then how it was that my family and I were so lucky that he lived so long. I can't figure out if it was because he walked through life, Or because he quit taking left turns. '

Life is too short to wake up with regrets. So love the people who treat you right. Forget about those

who don't. Believe everything happens for a reason. If you get a chance, take it. If it changes your life, let it. Nobody said life would be easy, they just promised it would most likely be worth it.'

### From a New Member

Hi Guys and XYL's, YL's etc. I have been licensed since 1957. Used to head up FD 40 M CW for Woodstock Club (McHenry County Wireless Assoc.)

I am partially disabled, retired transmitter maintenance supervisor for WTTW-TV, WTTW-DT, and WFMT-FM at Sears Tower, Chicago, IL.

Member ARRL Diamond Club. First rig in 1957 was a Johnson Viking1. (4032 Final – 6146 not in full production yet. (Viking II))

My Reciever was a Hallicrafters S-40B w/Heathkit Q-Multiplier, 40 M Dipole. Just got a yaesu FT60 dual band handheld. Look forward to meeting all.If not July, probably August.

73  
Don

Donald Geigner, K9HOQ

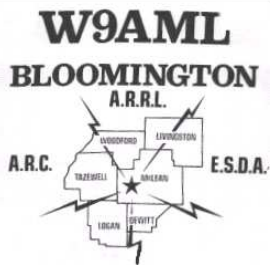
### Just a few pictures from Field Day showing the hard work.

See he web site for more pictures.



**Meeting Wednesday August 27**

# Central Illinois Radio Club August 2008 Newsletter



Central Illinois Radio Club  
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Bloomington, IL 61702-0993