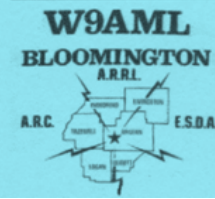


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



August 2011

From the President

**August Meeting,
Wednesday the 24th
7:00 PM at the Red Cross**

August is here and the temperature is much more tolerable. Dick, AA9BS, was taken care of by a fine crew of workers. He was very impressed with the speed and efficiency that the work was done. Thanks to all that assisted with the work.

I have started to put my equipment back together to get on PSK31 and get a little more digitally active. We have a number of forms of digital communications, but I did not realize there was digital voice other than D-STAR. I have read a couple of articles about HF digital voice communications. Some are receiving it about like some of our earlier generation hams received the introduction of SSB in place of AM. What good is it...it sounds different...I have to get an addition to my station to copy it...and so on. Some still play with AM. I am going that route this fall when I work on my Heathkit DX-100 I have in that garage and put it on the air. SSB has also been that subject of enhanced audio enthusiasts. I have seen any number of hams on QRZ.COM that have audio boards installed at their station that make it look like a good commercial broadcast studio. We should be progressing, but I am pretty comfortable with what I have. Oh, by the way, to transmit HF digital there is a \$500 device to go between the microphone and the transmitter. There may be some freeware available on the net, but I have not found them that allow transmitting. I have found a couple of sites that have a receive only option of freeware. I am going to give it a try. There is a net at 14.233 or 14.236 range that meets at 1800UTC to 2000UTC on Saturday and Sunday.

This is just another facet of amateur radio that can be looked for the winter months.

I will have a short DVD presentation on HF digital voice for the program.

73,
Gary KD9F.

CIRC July Meeting Minutes

CIRC meeting minutes for July 27th 2011

President Gary, KD9F, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. 24 members and one guest were present.

Gary asked our guest, David Brooks, to introduce himself to the members. He is working on his ham license. Gary also had each of us give our introductions also.

Tom, KJ9P, moved to accept the June minutes and Gary, AB9M, seconded with a unanimous acceptance by the members.

Norm, N9ZKS, reported that we have \$693.90 in checking and \$648.44 in savings. He also reported that we have collected \$1342.34 for the EchoLink/AllStar repeater project.

A motion to accept was made by Gary, AB9M, and seconded by Dwayne, KC9PIM, and was unanimously accepted.

Gary, KD9F, reported on what he found out about a backup battery and smart charger for the repeater. A commercial battery would cost \$300 but a less expensive battery could be used because in an emergency someone could take a generator and/or a spare battery to the sight.

Keith asked what the difference and benefits between a pulse charger and a trickle charger.

Tom just bought a smart charger and will e-mail the .pdf of the manual.

Chuck, WB9UUS, told us that the repeater and computer are using separate power sources and if the commercial power went down the emergency power would only power the repeater.

Tom, KJ9P, brought a diagram of the repeater showing all the new hardware connected to the repeater.

Jim and Chuck demoed the key down beep they added. Using the new software change, will hopefully cut down on doubling. Chuck also demoed the single, double and triple courtesy beep which indicates internet connection status. 1 beep means no internet connect, 2 means there is a connect or link and 3 beeps means the connected station has un-keyed.

Tom, KJ9P, is updating the e-mail list of club members.

The old W9AML Yahoo group is gone but a new group is being set up. To sign up for the new group go to the W9AML web page, <http://www.qsl.net/w9aml/>, and enter your e-mail address. You will get a confirmation e-mail that you will have to respond to. To send a message to the group send it to W9AML@midlandsnetwork.com.

Ed, KC9GF, reported on the Field Day results for this year. We made 3800 points.

Ed also reported on restaurants for our Christmas party/dinner. Several more restaurants were suggested then a vote was taken. The vote went to Hibachi restaurant.

Update: We have our reservation at the Hibachi restaurant for Thursday December 1st at 6:00 pm. The restaurant is in the Clearwater Plaza at Veterans Pkwy and Clearwater.

Dwayne, KC9PIM, offered space in his machinery building in rural Towanda to store the clubs items.

Update: Norm has taken some items to Dwayne's for storage. (Many thanks to Dwayne!)

Norm is working on updating the club's database (big project).

Gary, AB9M, suggests a "hold harmless" agreement with Dwayne

He also discussed adding a section or two to the Red Cross tower.

Gary, AB9M made a motion to accept Dean Lacey's, AA9BS, offer of a donation of his tower and antenna which was seconded by Keith, AC9S and unanimously accepted by the members.

Update: Jim, WB9UWA, Keith, AC9S, Eric, N9DOA, Norm, N9ZKS, and Mark, AB9MP successfully took the tower and antenna down.

Norm, N9ZKS, suggested a monthly get together for members and guests for dinner at different restaurants. (Not acted on.)

Rick, WD9HRU, asked if we should re-activate our QCWA chapter. (Not acted on.)

Jim, WB9UWA, has a \$70.00 bill for voting system equipment and Chuck, WB9UUS, needs about \$200.00 for equipment needed for repeater electronic parts. Tom, KJ9P, moved to make a check for needed equipment and Gary, AB9M, seconded the motion and voted to accept.

Jim and Chuck gave a report on the progress of equipment being assembled, tested and implemented. Things are going well.

Rick, WD9HRU, moved to adjourn and Tom, KJ9P, seconded and all were in favor.

Rick, N9CKL, put on a presentation of the dangers of arc flash and lightning. GREAT presentation!

Presented by ED KC9GF

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-Done
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.

HAM radio sale

Astron RS-20A power supply, Alinco ALR-22HT radio, ICOM 2100H radio, Comet SBB25 antenna, AR210 portable TNC. **All for \$225.** Must have HAM radio license.

Luke Chubick
309-824-1801
l.chubick@comcast.net

ECAC Studying ARES/NTS Issues

A committee of the ARRL Board of Directors has tasked the League's Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC) with studying and making recommendations for possible changes in the structural and functional relationships between the venerable National Traffic System and ARES. Specifically, the charge to the committee states: "The Amateur Radio

Emergency Service and the National Traffic System exist as the ARRL's implementation of the basic principle stated in 97.1(a), 'Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary non-commercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.' The Emergency Communications Advisory Committee is hereby tasked by the Programs and Services Committee to recommend improvements to ARES and NTS so that the amateur service can better serve the public in providing emergency communications. Specific topics should include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) ARES and NTS objectives and organizational structures; (2) integration between ARES and NTS; (3) Training, certification, and credentialing; and (4) relationships with served agencies. Progress reports should be submitted to the PSC every 90 days and the final report should be submitted by June 1, 2012."

In discussions with ECAC Chairman Dale Williams, WA8EFK, his feeling is that the study is an opportunity to take a fresh look at the overall organizational structure and look for improvements in several areas, including how we are perceived by served agencies: local EMA versus FEMA at the national level, and the programs' roles in multi-jurisdictional incidents. Williams says the committee should study questions such as how well we fit our goals with their needs; how they view our ability to fill their needs; and how promptly we are able to respond.

On the messaging side of the equation, questions the committee will consider are how well we handle messages including tactical versus strategic messaging, and speed versus accuracy. What is our error rate? Is the standard NTS message format sufficient for contemporary needs?

Williams said that there is a feeling that the "last mile relationship between traffic handlers and ARES members seems to be broken. Neither feels an affinity towards the other. NTSers in general don't join ARES and vice-versa, yet both groups have claims on abilities to handle traffic in an emergency. Fixing this may also be a goal of the committee."

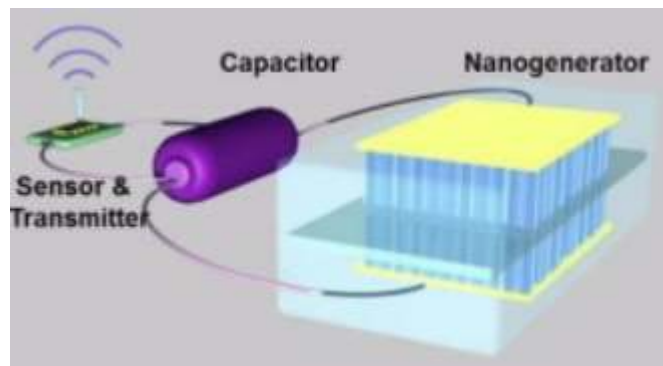
The committee met in teleconference on August 3 to consider and edit drafts of surveys planned for release to gain field input on these questions of ARES and NTS, and possible integration. The surveys should be sent to the field soon. The committee meets again on September 7.

Readers are invited to contact their ECAC representatives to provide their own input on these questions: Chairman [Dale Williams, WA8EFK](#) (Great Lakes); [Jim Cross, WI3N](#) (Atlantic); [Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO](#) (Central); [Jim Zahradnicek, KD0S](#) (Dakota); [Jim Coleman, AI5B](#) (Delta); [Jim Mezey, W2KFV](#) (Hudson); [Reynolds Davis, K0GND](#) (Midwest); [Dave Colter, WA1ZCN](#) (New England); [Gordon Grove, WA7LNC](#) (Northwestern); [James Latham, AF6AQ](#) (Pacific); [Charlie Miller, AE4UX](#) (Roanoke); [Jeff Ryan, K0RM](#) (Rocky Mountain); [Rick Palm, K1CE](#) (Southeastern); [Grant Hays, WB6OTS](#) (Southwestern);

[Glen Reid, K5FX](#) (West Gulf), and [Doug Mercer, VO1DTM](#) (Radio Amateurs of Canada). The Board liaison is Mickey Cox, K5MC, and the ARRL HQ liaison is Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC.

Power From Movement

The award-winning **Global Challenges/Chemistry Solutions** podcast series of the **American Chemical Society's (ACS)** explained in its new episode about a nanogenerator that can generate energy from a person's movements which can be used, for example, to charge an iPod



Nanogenerator produces energy to power a wireless transmission in an advance toward a new genre of wireless devices

In the podcast, Zhong Lin Wang's, from Georgia Institute of Technology, described the first actual model of this device. Wang with his colleagues increased the energy output by thousand times and voltage by 150 times when compared to previous devices used for that purpose. His achievement was announced at the ACS National meeting in Anaheim, California.

Wang and his team, also demonstrated that they can incorporate such a nanogenerator into an electronic circuit device. The generator has the ability to perform wireless transmission of information to a radio station located up to a 30 ft distance. It can generate electricity using energy derived from simple movements such as blowing air, people walking, and other sources.

According to Wang as stated in the podcast, this discovery paves the way for producing portable electronic devices that can be activated by body movements, without batteries or electrical outlets. These nanogenerators can change lifestyles of people in future, he added. Some nanogenerator examples include, personal electronic devices controlled by nanogenerators affixed to one's shoe sole, environmental sensors operated by nanogenerators using atmospheric air, and embedded insulin pumps generated by a heartbeat.

Source: www.acs.org/globalchallenges

-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. | 146.940 | (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 | (103.5PL) CIRC Open Net |
| Wednesday | 9:00 P.M. | 147.060 | Open Net Has Newslines |
| 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 |
| Thursrday | 7:00 P.M. | 50.135 | Open 6 meter Net |
| Thursday | 9:00 P.M. | 146.760 | (162.2 PL) Open Net with Newslines |
| 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 Newslines |
| 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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
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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 Thursday 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 | Bloomington | 103.5 Anti PL on 107.2 |
| 146.850 | K9PEO | PAARC | 103.5 |
| 146.940 | W9AML | McLEAN CO ARES | 103.5 CTCSS |
| 146.985 | KA9YPK | Clinton | |
| 147.015 | NX9M | Normal ARES Alt. | 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

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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:

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