

# CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

## Short CIRCuits



February 2008

### From the President

#### DX Spider

Update – We went ahead and purchased the TNC for the Spider via the State Farm Radio Club and I believe the hand-off to Ralph Bellas was made in the last week. Expect to hear more on the DX Spider in the near future. Ralph has graciously agreed to host the Spider at his QTH.

#### January Meeting

Dan Beer gave us a great presentation on the practical design and creation of printed circuit boards. This is a practical skill that I would venture is in decline. Thanks Dan for volunteering your time and expertise.

#### February Meeting

**Cherry Pie Night** – Be sure to bring something cherry related to share. I expect us to all leave the meeting gorged! ☺ ☺ ☺

Chuck Kostelc, N9RZV, and Rick Suhadole, N9CHL are going to demonstrate the repair of a TS440. I believe the finals need to be replaced. This should be an excellent demonstration of hands-on radio repair for those of us who do not normally crack the case of our radios.

#### Heartland Class

Dan Beer, N9NSN, and I are again teaching an introductory class on Ham Radio at Heartland. The course ends with the Technician exam, which will be given on March 20. Mark Snyder has agreed to help proctor and we will need at least one additional member of our usual testing team. We have 5 students, all of whom seem very interested in the hobby. Classes are Thursday evening at 7:00pm in room WDC1404 at Heartland.

### Propagation

As I am writing this we are stuck at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. QST recently reported that NASA and NOAA have announced the arrival of Cycle 24 with the appearance of a high latitude, reversed polarity sunspot on Friday January 4. Experts are split on whether this will be a strong or weak cycle, but no matter which it turns out to be, we are sure to have better propagation on the higher frequencies over the next few years.

However, even at the bottom of the cycle there is still a lot of DX to be worked. This morning I managed contacts with VP6DX, Ducie Island (near Pitcairn) on 80 SSB, 40 CW and 17 CW. A quick CW QSO with Kaliningrad on 20 CW; in addition, I had leisurely SSB contacts with a couple of Italian stations and a gentleman in Switzerland on 17 SSB. So, even though we are at the bottom of the cycle, we can still have a lot of HF fun. I should note that 17 has been particularly good in the early morning to Europe. Signals are strong and most of the QSOs leisurely.

### AM and Classic Radio

I have been checking into an AM net at noon on 3875, called the noon time forum. It is an interesting group of guys, some of whom have a wealth of experience and knowledge they are willing to share. It looks like AM and classic radio tends to cluster around 3875 to 3890. There is almost always someone on during the daytime. In addition, there is a classic radio swap net Saturday mornings, 7:30am on 3885.

Take care everyone. See you Wednesday, February 27 at 7:00pm

in the Red Cross on Route 9 East, across from the Fire station.

Thanks –

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  
19266 US Highway 150  
Bloomington, IL 61704-5855

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

## Central Illinois Area Repeaters

Freq	Callsign	Location	PL
145.390	N9EZJ	Lincoln	103.5
146.730	K9HGX	Decatur	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
147.100	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)

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

### Time to Get Ready For Field Day

REVISED Feb 10, 2008 15:00 ET  
Field Day 2008 Rules and Forms  
Now Available

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for Field Day, ARRL's flagship operating event. Field Day, held the fourth full weekend in June, brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says there are several rules changes this year, mainly concerning "Get on the Air" (GOTA) stations and the elimination of the Demonstration Mode Bonus Category. The complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site. A full 2008 Field Day page on the ARRL Web site will be coming in the next few weeks.

### 2008 RULES CHANGES

GOTA (Get on the Air) stations are those stations set aside by Field Day teams designed to get non-hams or newly licensed hams on the air. Unlike in past years where GOTA stations were limited to only the HF bands, the 2008 rules state that

these stations may operate on any authorized HF or VHF Field Day band. Keep in mind that only one signal may be transmitted from the GOTA station at any time.

Henderson said the eligibility for operating the GOTA station has changed slightly: Anyone who has been licensed since Field Day 2007 is eligible to operate the GOTA station, regardless of license class.

For 2008, the Demonstration Mode Bonus category has been eliminated and replaced by an Educational Activity Bonus worth 100 points. "This bonus is intended to encourage clubs and groups to do some more formal educational activity during their Field Day operation," Henderson said. If you have any questions concerning what activities might be appropriate for this bonus, Henderson said you should submit them via e-mail.

Be sure to read the Field Day rules and FAQs in the 2008 Field Day Packet for details of these changes. There are also numerous small changes in the FAQs and support materials in the packet that should help groups and individuals as they plan their Field Day activities, Henderson said.

### Get the Word Out!

The 2008 Field Day Packet also includes an expanded Press Kit, thanks to the work of ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. Included in this expanded portion of the packet is a sample "Field Day Proclamation" for those groups who work with local city or town officials toward getting a Field Day Week declared in their location.

"We are excited that historic station K6KPH will once again participate transmitting the W1AW special Field Day Bulletin on the West Coast," Henderson said. More details are available in the Field Day Packet.

Information concerning the popular Field Day pins and T shirts will be announced in the next few weeks.

Henderson said that those wishing to obtain a complete Field Day Packet via US mail need to send a 9 x 12 inch self-addressed, stamped manila envelope with 5 units of postage to Field Day Packet Request, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

If people wish to order display kits for their tables at Field Day, please contact Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, ARRL Education Manager, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, tel 860-594-0296. The cost for the display kit ranges from \$8-\$12 depending on shipping. To ensure having the kits in time for Field Day, you are encouraged to order them no later than June 13.

### **2008 Field Day Logo: Ride the Waves**

ARRL member Mary Von Lintig, KV2M, suggested the slogan for Field Day 2008: "Ride the Waves." A member of the South Jersey Radio Association, Von Lintig, inspired by the 2007 Field Day "bug" in last year's logo, enjoys VHF contesting and ARRL Sweepstakes and recently joined the Frankford Radio Club. "And, I like ARRL Field Day of

course," she says. "I usually operate 21 hours of the event!" An avid portable radio operator, she has even been on-the-air while operating her lawnmower. "They also call me the YL on rollerblades." Mary and her husband Richard Van Lintig, KV2R, live in Voorhees, New Jersey. This year's logo was designed by ARRL Graphic Arts Supervisor Sue Fagan, KB1OKW, and Senior Technical Illustrator David Pingree, N1NAS.

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### **Preparation Can Be a Big Help.**

Scott, N7FSP, a friend of mine, called recently after he nearly died due to a misdiagnosis and shared a few thoughts with me. His story is not as important as the message he wanted to share with others in the amateur community and that is just what will happen to our stuff when we are gone. I don't want this to appear to be all gloom and doom, but let's face it, we are all going to become a silent key (SK) at some point. If that were to happen unexpectedly, do you have your shack in order? This article is to promote a bit of thought process when you are sitting in the shack, and the bands are a bit slow.

#### **What Is This Stuff?**

We recently lost a fellow here, and he, like many of us, was a total pack rat. It appears that he was not able to walk through a hamfest, flea market, yard sale or any location related to acquiring stuff without bringing some of it home. He passed away quietly in his sleep, and his daughter was left to dispose of his "stuff." I have been involved in a number of SK estate sales, and know first hand what can happen when the survivor, be it a daughter, son, wife or husband, has no idea what things in the shack even are let alone what they may be worth. And I think we have all seen at some point what happens when the "vultures" move in after the death of a ham. Items that may be worth thousands of dollars are let go for pennies. I was fortunate to have been called by the widow of another local ham who told me she would like to just give the stuff away to Goodwill. I talked her out of that, and after taking an inventory and making a trip to a local swap meet, she was shocked when I was able to hand her a check for nearly \$5000.

#### **SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT**

Now as I write this, I am guilty of not being prepared myself, but I felt it more important to share this information with others, to get folks thinking about this before another untimely death leaves a survivor wondering just what to do with it all.

So, here are my suggestions, but I think they are sound ideas

1. Like the title of this article states, designate a friend or two who can help if something were to happen to you. Ask them first, of course, and make sure others know about them. Perhaps even name them in your will. (You might check with your lawyer about this.)
2. Make an inventory of everything in your shack that you feel is worth more than a buck. Okay I know this may take some time, but you can work on it waiting to nab that "rare one" or while listening in on the local net. If you have a box of things that are just miscellaneous items list them as such, but if you repack or rearrange them later, make a note in your list.
3. For all the items that are higher dollar amounts, list the price you paid and the amount it is worth now. You may need to update this every few years, but it will help those who need the help when the time comes. Just because you paid \$800 for it new does not make it worth that now. Many estate sales fall into this trap in that "well we paid that much for it." We all know that the value of gear drops pretty fast for most items, so let's give our survivors a good head start on the price.
4. Towers, masts and feed lines: If you are the only one on the planet who knows how you got that 85 foot tower up in your 60 x 20 back lot, let someone in on the secret. I have helped to take down many towers over the years and some of them were real buggers until we figured out how they were put up. Hams are very creative at tower installations, and when the procedure is lost with the original installer, things can go wrong. A map or diagram of how the feed lines and control cables are routed out of the shack and out to the antenna support is very handy as well.
5. Repeaters and packet nodes: These are another whole problem, if you are a packet sysop, or repeater owner, do you have a plan so your most often used equipment will continue to serve the amateur community? Does anyone know who your leases are with? Are they written or verbal? If verbal does anyone know whom to contact to make arrangements to take over the lease? And then what becomes of the

equipment? Are you planning to donate it to a club or group if you depart this world? Or will someone be forced to have to deal with it after you're gone? I hold two leases for packet nodes with thousands of dollars worth of equipment. Do I have a "successor" for these sites? No, but I am working on it now. Do you have a written plan for your site?

This could go on forever with things to think about, but is intended to get your thought process going on just what will happen to your gear. I know I am going to work on mine so if anything happens, those who live on will not be left with a burden to remember me by. Much of this could have legal implications, so if you do have a will it

would be beneficial to talk to your lawyer to insure what you have stated is what will actually be done.

*Mark Tharp, KB7HDX, has been licensed since 1989. He is involved in search and rescue as well as other service organizations in the Yakima valley. He has served as president of both the Yakima ARC and Yakima County Radio Amateurs. He is currently ARRL Eastern Washington Section Manager.*

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Enclosed is a copy of the club application form to due to the fact that I do not have a record of your dues payment for the current year.**

Your Treasurer, Norm N9ZKS

# Central Illinois Radio Club Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Membership dues are **\$15** per person or **\$20** per family (multiple members at one address). You do not need to be a licensed amateur radio operator to join CIRC.

**\*\* Required information.....**

**\*\*NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First M

Additional Memb. NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street / RR etc.

**\*\*CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\*STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\* ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **LICENSE CLASS:** \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_--\_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_--\_\_\_\_\_

**ATTENTION Snow Birds!** Please list alternate address and when to use it.

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ TO: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Demographic Information:** Parts of hobby you are active in?

- Are you a member of other Central IL Clubs? \_\_\_\_\_
- If so, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you a member of any of the following: ARRL \_\_\_\_ McLean County ESDA \_\_\_\_
- Local ARES \_\_\_\_ Other ARES Group \_\_\_\_\_ American Red Cross Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT ARE YOUR SPECIFIC INTERESTS WITHIN THE HOBBY?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> HF                       | <input type="checkbox"/> ATV                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VHF/UHF                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Packet Radio             | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> QRP                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Satellite Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> EchoLink         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Service Events    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fox Hunting              | <input type="checkbox"/> Contesting               | _____                                     |

What would you like to do at meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

What activities do you think the club should participate in or sponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

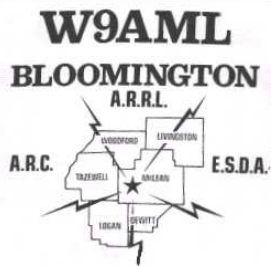
You can turn in your membership application at club meetings (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month 7:30 PM, at the Red Cross building in Bloomington, One Westport Court) or mail it and a check payable to the Central Illinois Radio Club to:

Office Use: Access # \_\_\_\_\_

**Central Illinois Radio Club**  
**P. O. Box 993**  
**Bloomington, IL 61702-0993**

**Meeting Wednesday February 27  
Cherry Pie Meeting !**

# Central Illinois Radio Club February 2008 Newsletter



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