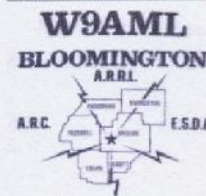


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



February 2011

From the President

**February Meeting,
Wednesday the 23th
7:00 PM at the Red Cross
on Eastport Ct.**

Cherry Pie night is in full swing! Plans are to have regular and sugar free cherry pies and also, regular and sugar free ice cream to go with it. Thanks to Tom, KJ9P, for making arrangements on the Yahoo network.

We have come to the end of February and what a change. The first of the month brought blizzard conditions and activation of a number of operators from A.R.E.S. in support of McLean County EMA for communications between shelters and EMA garage. It was some the worst winter weather we have seen in central Illinois in a number of years. The Illinois A.R.E.S. net was activated on 3.905 Mhz for about 36 hours. I made one session and there was reported to be 44 counties that had representatives on the net. Not much traffic, but good to know that people were available, if necessary.

This brings up the subject of emergency power. My son-in-law was without power here in Pontiac for about six hours. We did not know it until later, but he and our granddaughters could have come to our house, as the outage was only located in his part of town. Our daughter, his wife, was delayed in Palm Springs, California at a hair show. Tuff, I know, but she was delayed 36 hours getting in to Chicago Midway. Something new for her. To get back to emergency power, we do not have a generator nor does our son-in-law. My wife and I have talked about getting one in the 5KW range just to run a few lights and the circulating pump for our hot water heating system. I have a part time job at the IRS National Distribution Center out on Mitsubishi Motorway. I was talking to a gentleman there that lives in Standford and just this fall had installed a 10KW system at his house. He was without power for 18 hours and had 11 guests take advantage of his preplanning. Everyone may not want to go to that extreme but he was really happy he did!

With warmer weather coming we will see severe weather occurring more often. We can always use more spotters for A.R.E.S. If you are not interested in getting out in the weather for that there is also and opportunity for spotting from home with spotter training and SKYWARN. I will bring more information on that to the meeting. Much of

spotter training is available on National Weather Service website.

It is only four months until Field Day! Keep that in mind!

73,
Gary KD9F

CIRC January Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2011

President Gary Dearth (KD9F) called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Twenty-three members were present. Thomas Zerebny (KC9LYP) commented that the minutes from the December meeting needed to be corrected to show the correct time for the 6 meter Net. Tom Planner (KJ9P) made a motion that we accept the minutes as corrected. After a second by Jim Baker (WB9EDL), the motion passed. Treasurer Norm Huber (N9ZKS) reviewed the financial status of the club. He reported that the checking account had \$546.05 and the savings account had \$642.96 for a total of \$1,189.01. Ed Deutsch (KC9GF) made a motion that we accept the report. After a second by Mark Snyder (AB9MP) the motion passed.

Gary opened the discussion to items of Old Business. He reminded people that a Weather Spotters class will be held at Heartland Community College on February 22. The McLean County EMS will also have a class on April 4th. ARES members and others are encouraged to take one of the classes. The Special Event Day for the 77th Anniversary of our club was held on Saturday, January 15. We made about 140 contacts. Gary Huber (AB9M) is collecting the paper and electronic logs and combining them into one log. Keith Hanson (AC9S) lead a discussion of what kind of a QSL card or certificate we should send to those requesting confirmation of their contact. Tom said he would design and print the certificate and asked if anyone had a picture of Floyd at an early Field Day to use. Also during that day, a number of members brought their new SDRs (Software Defined Radios) and worked on them and tested them with the help of others. Everyone said they learned more about the radios and how they work. A special thanks was extended to Richard Suhadole (N9CKL) for creating and coordinating the Special Event Day. Way to go Richard!!

We had a lively discussion about adding ECHO Link to the W9AML repeater (146.940). Pros and cons were discussed and in the end most members agreed that it

would be a good way to allow members traveling some distance to keep in touch. And others could contact our members using this option. Tom mentioned an article in this month's QST that talked about adding more young hams via options like repeaters and ECHO Link. We will need to provide an internet connection to the tower site for the repeater via a microwave link, a computer, cables and so forth. One member offered to match \$500 in contributions to be used to install ECHO Link. If we raise \$500 or more, the member will donate \$500. If we are not able to raise \$500, then the donor will not provide any matching money.

Gary Huber (AB9M) made a motion that we accept the offer and request donations or pledges in the next Newsletter and at our February meeting. He also suggested that a summary of the equipment and costs of this project be shared with the membership. After a second by Keith, the motion passed. So, plan **NOW** to make pledge or donation to our ECHO Link Project. This is a **great opportunity** to add an additional service for our club. Contact Gary Dearth, Ed Deutsch or Norm Huber to make your pledge or send your check.

Gary opened the discussion to items of New Business. Gary Huber discussed the APRS system and the status of N9PE that provides APRS in our area. He talked about how APRS can be used and the value it has to others. He also talked about changes with the N1SF club at State Farm. Jim Shaffer talked about converting a battery pack for his handheld to accept regular rechargeable batteries. Keith reminded us that the next testing date will be March 12th and that Daniel Beer (N9NSN) and he will be teaching a class for those wanted to earn their Technicians License at Heartland Community College starting February 10th.

Ed mentioned that Mike McKnight of the Red Cross would like to renew our agreement between the Red Cross and the club. It details what we will do for the Red Cross and what they will provide the club. Sondra Hayes of the Red Cross would like to have us check out communicating with their offices in Streator and Fairbury. We also need to consider how we are going to help with the 7 state exercise (based on an earthquake along the New Madrid Fault) in early May.

Norm discussed an offer from the Bergner's stores, where we would sell coupon books for \$5 and keep all them money. The coupons would be used on Saturday, February 26th to get discounts on purchases in the store. After some discussion, Tom made a motion that we not participate. After a second by Gary Huber, the motion passed.

Ed reminded everyone who has not received their shirts and jackets (with our club logon printed on the back and your name and call sign on the front) to contact him to pay for them and pick them up. Any article related to ham radio would be welcomed and should be sent to Norm for the newsletter

Gary 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 1st 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 ARES Net at 8:00 PM, the 10 meter Net at 8:30 PM and the 2 Meter Net at 9 PM. Anyone with an item for the Newsletter should send it to Norm or Ed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Richard Kempf and seconded by Gary Huber. The motion passed.

For the evening program Gary Dearth talked about handling messages in the military. He provided a handout about WSPRing and discussed the handout. WSPRing is an acronym for Weak Signal Propagation Reporter. It was a very interesting presentation about talking around the world with very low power.

Submitted by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL)

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
March 12
May 14
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.

ECHO Link Project

Many of you are user of ECHO Link and others are planning to become users of this additional form of communications available to hams. ECHO Link has many uses, including allowing our members who travel to distant locations or spend some time in a distant city to easily communicate with other members of our club.

Thanks to the generous offer of one of our members, if the club raises ***\$500 or more in pledges and donations he will match \$500.*** This should provide enough funding to install ECHO Link on the W9AML repeater on 146.940.

This is a unique opportunity to expand the services that the club provides to our members and other hams. Please make a plan to pledge or donate to the ECHO Link Project. If each of us make a donation we will soon have ECHO Link available! To make a pledge or donation contact Gary Dearth (Gary Dearth, Ed Deutsch or Norm Huber today!

Please read the minutes from the January club meeting for more details. If you would like to know more about this great opportunity or how you can benefit from an ECHO Link on our repeater, contact Gary Dearth (KD9F), Ed Deutsch (KC9GF), Norm Huber (N9ZKS), or Tom Planer (KJ9P).

Please make your pledge or donation TODAY. We don't want to let this unique opportunity get away from the club.

6 Meter Repeater

Just a note to those of the club that have six-meter capability. There is a six meter repeater in Decatur Illinois. Perhaps this will create some more interest in this band.

6 mtr repeater 53.230.00 receive 51.530.00
1.7 spilt - 103.5 pl DECATUR ILL

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
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.

Weekly 6 Meter Net

Every Wednesday 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	McLEAN CO ARES	103.5 Anti PL on 107.2
146.850	K9PEO	PAARC	103.5
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	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

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 (preferred) to the editor at:

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