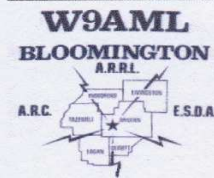


# CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

## Short CIRCuits



January 2009

### From the Past President

**January Meeting – Wednesday, January 28, 700pm at the Red Cross on Route 9 East.**

All right!! First meeting of the new year.

### Elections

Radio Club – Our club elections were held at the November meeting and I am pleased to announce that Ed Deutsch, KC9GF, was elected to the presidency. CONGRATULATIONS ED!!!! All other positions remain the same. Mike Sallee, KC9GF, is VP, Norm Huber, N9ZKS, is Treasurer, Chuck Kostelc, N9RZV, is Secretary.

### Christmas Dinner

Our Christmas dinner was on Thursday, December 4 at 5:00 in the Swinger's Grill – It was a good dinner, just like last year; Swingers has excellent food. I really believe this is one of the best venues we have had – in the lower meeting room, overlooking the driving range. I believe we had 28 people attending, although I do not have the sign-in sheet as I am writing this. That is about the same attendance as the previous year.

### Emergency Communications

Andy Stubblefield and I are still in the process of getting training organized, so stay tuned for more info. Kudos to Andy for taking the lead on this!

### It has been nice

I have enjoyed serving as club president the past 3 years, but I am

super happy to turn the reins over to Ed. I intend to stay active in the club and will contribute wherever it makes sense. I'll stay active with Andy in emergency communications, continue to run VE testing in Bloomington and plan to continue with the Heartland class with Dan.

I do want to say thanks to everyone who has helped, the officers and all the volunteers, whether for testing, field day, programs, or administrative stuff. You are all a great bunch and it sure makes it fun to be a part of the club.

My only frustration is the solar cycle!! When I started this I was counseling everyone to have patience – that the minimum would soon be over, sunspots would return, and propagation would improve. Three years later I am singing the same song. Actually, propagation remains good (not excellent) all the way through 18 meters. 20 is the primary dx band during the day with 40 serving in the night. Unfortunately, we still do not have much on 15 through 10, other than sporadic E on 10.

Anyway, that is a pretty small lament; it has been fun, and will continue to be!!

73's

Keith  
AC9S

### From the New President

Greetings to all

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. For those of you who don't know yet I will be the president for our club for 2009. I am Ed Deutsch, KC9GF first licensed in

1978 about the time I moved back to Bloomington from Jacksonville, IL. I retired from Cat in August of '08. Now I will have plenty of time for ham radio and the volunteer work I enjoy doing. I am looking forward to a fun and prosperous year for the club.

We have had a lot of exciting things happen in amateur over the years. Technology continues to bring us new hardware and software to improve our operating skill and fun. Amateur operators have been a key to the communications in emergencies, both here in the US and around the world. Field day has certainly helped us prepare for emergency situations.

This coming year we, as a club, will have a chance to become even more involved in emergency communications. Next fall there will be a "major event" here in McLean county, put on by the EMA (Emergency Management Agency). (See October's news letter "Emergency Communications" written by Keith, AC9S.) As a club we need to step up and do our part and get involved. Some of our club members are already doing just that. There will be more discussion at the club meetings. In the meantime check out the FEMA website for some training. <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/S100a.asp>

### New Year's Resolutions

It isn't too late to make your New Year's resolutions, if you haven't already. You can also add to or modify your resolutions too. I have made several resolutions for the New Year relating to ham radio. I haven't operated CW for quite a few years and this is the year I am going to get back on the air using CW. I have a couple of antenna projects I

want to do and this spring I will complete them. But, the major resolution I have made is to complete the FEMA courses. These courses will be required for all volunteers. (They are IS100 and IS-200.)

I hope, as the new president of the club, I will continue to bring the same level of excitement for our club and the hobby as the previous presidents have.

Ed, KC9GF

### NOTICE FROM YOUR TREASURER

Just a reminder that the ended. Check the address label for your membership's expiration date. If you get this newsletter by email you will have a message with it telling you your membership expiration date.

Please include the application with your check/payment as the application lets me check that my data is correct as well as making sure I credit those hard-earned dollars to your membership.

A *CURRENT* application form is included in this newsletter. No fair using those three or so year old ones floating around with the old dues amount.

73, N9ZKS

### 2009 VEC Test Dates

Please note the location change. We will now test at the: Red Cross Building - Route 9 East - Conference Room

1:00pm

On the following Saturdays:

1/17  
3/14  
5/09  
7/18  
11/14

The police department now wants a \$100 deposit each quarter; Bloomington Public Library will not schedule more than 3 months in advance; and Normal Public Library will not even allow us to use a room since we charge a fee.

I am trying to find a better venue, but I want to get the dates published. Rhea at the Red Cross did schedule us for the class room for a couple of the dates, but we are on for the conference room also and it is easier to list a single location.

Thanks --

Keith

### Nov 26, 2008 CIRC meeting minutes

(transcribed from Larry Mays KB9NPH)

Keith AC9S opened meeting. Norm N9ZKS gave treasurer's report CK 877.99, SV 645.62 for total of 1,523.61

Rich WD9HRU motioned to accept, Ed KC9GF seconded, carried.

Norm N9ZKS motioned to accept minutes, Larry KB9NPH seconded, carried.

Christmas dinner next Thursday evening, Dec 4th at Swinger's grille, 6pm

The club had 2 members, Ed KC9GF & Jim Earl WB9UWA upgrade to Extra class license. Congratulations!

Coffee Klatch to move to I-HOP near Lowes, also 10-10 breakfast moves there starting 12/6/08.

Need secretary nominee, other offices slated.

President: Ed KC9GF  
Vice-pres: Mike W9FWL  
Treasurer: Norm N9ZKS  
Secretary: tbd

Director: Rick WD9HRU  
Past pres: Keith AC9S  
Repeater trustees: Rick WD9HRU & Jim WB9UWA

Motion to accept new officers Keith AC9S, Grant AA9LC seconded.

Keith mentioned the entry level amateur license class we put on at

Heartland was left off their published class scheduled, this has been corrected & scheduled for the spring session.

Jim WB9UWA gave update on repeater, control link on & a preamp has been added to help capture threshold.

We still experience some clicking static during wet weather. testing without the trasnmmitter, it goes away.

Testing will resume to determine cause & possible solutions.

According to the sign in sheet, we had 2 visitors: Hteik Nosnah, callsign S9CA and Andy Stubblefield, WT9RSO.

Hteik (pronounced Hi-tech) was a wealth of knowledge & quite good in his mastery of the English language. A consummate multi-mode DX chaser, Hteik is up on the latest sunspot numbers, as well as equipment reviews.

Recently retired in his country home, he & his wife Eitten enjoy their large yard, wildlife & soon home for a new tower soon. His QSL card would be a worthwhile addition to anyone's logbook.

Andy is a Blomington firefighter and active in many area Emergency Response groups. He & Keith have had some

discussions what the new requirements are for disaster volunteers & our role as amateur radio operators.

There are some basic training classes we must take to be certified. Some are on-line and some are in-person;

Kurt, head of Mclean county EMA, said he will be happy to conduct classes as he can fit into his schedule.

NIMS on-line courses: Like amateur radio license classes, pre-requisites are the lower level classes for the next higher level certification.

Basic: modules 100 & 700

Advanced: modules 200 & 800

Commander: modules 300 & 400

There are also ARRL courses and ARES courses available besides the NIMS certification training.

For any ESDA/ARES members, Andy will help get our ID cards updated.

Dates to remember: December 13th @ Heyworth school, IL Rte 136 off Rte 51, 9a-1p, tabletop disaster drill

Much discussion ensued on various emergency topics IESMA, IMERT, WT9J Terry Jones, POD hospitals, 4-H fair, etc, too much for the newsletter.

In conclusion, Andy sent a sign-up list around for people to be notified by email when training & other

emergency response activities come up. His goal is to set up an ARES meeting to kick-off ham participation.

That concluded Andy's portion.

Following we had a presentation by Mark AB9MP on his homebrew power supply. Mark has been working on it for some time now & it shows. Very well laid out, similar in size, weight to an Astron 30amp unit. Uses a 723 comparator circuit, crowbar shutdown. homemade meter face for volts & amps, switchable. Was suggested to Mark to submit story & photos to ARRL for hobbyists corner in QST. Chuck N9RZV took photos & sent to Norm, N9ZKS for newsletter

& to Mark for his possible use in QST.

### Illini Space Jamboree 2008

Norm, N9ZKS

I mentioned in the November newsletter my participation in the Illini Jamboree at Chanute AFB Museum. One of the participants has uploaded video to the web. I'm somewhere in the deep shadows with the large group shown listening to the exchange. It is fun to see the young men excited about our hobby. See the following link.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsL4OkZb9CQ>



Grant Zehr AA9LC checks out Mark Snyder AB9MP's homebrew power supply



Mark Snyder AB9MP and his homebrew power supply



Front View of Mark's power supply



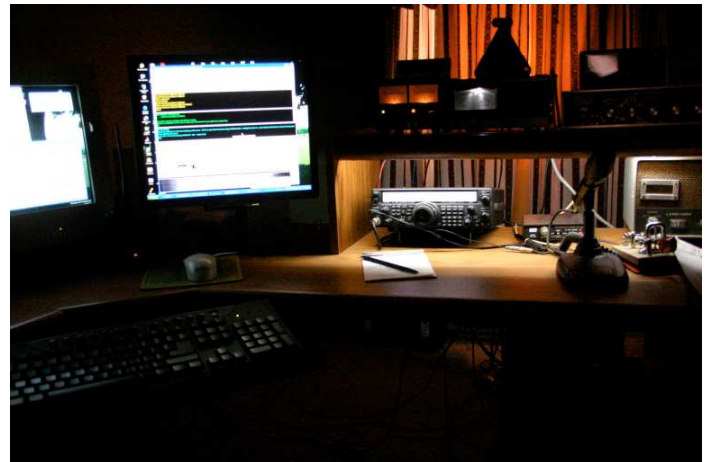
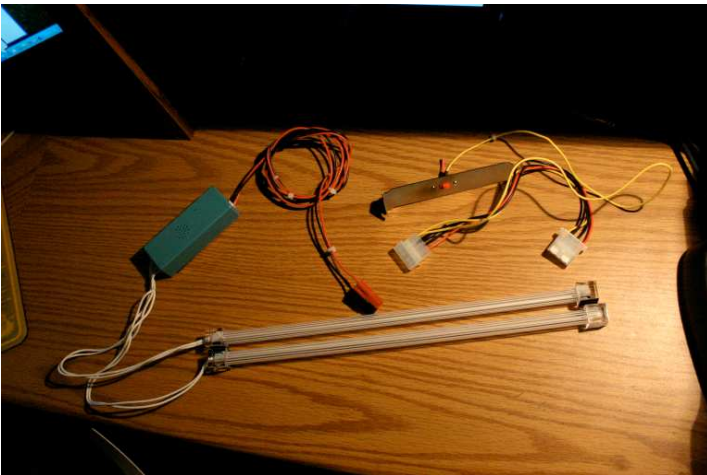
Rear View of Mark's power supply

### A simple project or "Let there be light"

The way my operating station is set up I wasn't getting enough light on my radio and sound card interface. I just needed some sort of light that would mount under the front edge of the riser where my power supply, antenna rotor control and tuner are. It had to be low profile so the light or fixture couldn't be seen from the front. The overhang was only 1 3/8 inches, so whatever I selected had to fit in that space. I found some CCFT (cold-cathode florescent tube) lamps at All Electronics. Their price is \$15 for the 2 tube, 1 ft each. I stopped at Computer Deli at Towanda and Empire, after I bought mine from AE, and found theirs to be only \$9.95. Rats, I paid too much again.

These lights are for mounting inside a computer case, so they have the 4 prong plugs commonly found on computer components. Since they run on 12V. I merely replaced the 4 prong plugs with Anderson type plugs. (See Pictures) When I turn on my power supply the lights come on. Problem solved! Now I have plenty of light under the shelf to light the radio and interface.

Ed, KC9GF



\*\*\*\*\*

**Hello,**

My name is Brad Dearing. I have a technician class license (KB9SJR), and I am looking to upgrade to General at an upcoming VE exam session. I am looking mainly for an HF rig and antennas to start a ham

shack between Danvers and Bloomington, but am interested in other radios as well. Is there a local trading board or do you know of any hams in the area that may be looking at getting rid of any radios or other equipment?

Thanks,

Brad Dearing

309-963-4932 home  
309-530-2418 cell

bmdeari@ilstu.edu

**CIRC – October 22, 2008**

*These October Minutes of the Monthly meeting by Mike Sallee are being published late due to the oversight of failing to insert them in the November newsletter*

Keith Hanson, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Seventeen members were present at the Red Cross building.

Glenn Shepard, N9RYR, was a guest and he was introduced to the others.

Norm Huber reviewed the Treasurer's Report. We have \$677.99 in the checking account and \$645.62 in the savings account for a total of \$1,323.61. Gary Huber made a motion that we accept the report. After a second by Rick, the motion passed.

Keith reminded everyone that the minutes of the last meeting were contained in the October newsletter. Gary Huber made a motion that the minutes be accepted as published. After a second by Eric, the motion passed.

Keith reported that the DXSpider antenna would soon be mounted on a tower at Ralph's house. It should be up and operational very soon. Chuck agreed to lead a Nominating Committee for officers for next year. Erla offered to help.

The annual Christmas Dinner will be held at Swinger's December 4<sup>th</sup>. Keith passed around a menu for everyone to suggest a couple of possible choices. We will start the social hour at 5:30 and have meal at 6:00. Please mark this on your

calendar and plan to bring your significant other.

Keith talked about attending the McLean County Disaster Committee exercise. This was a dry run for next year's live disaster exercise. We are planning for the club to be an active participant in next year's exercise. He also talked about touring the Peoria Center and how the local hams were very involved in any of their disaster efforts. Springfield also has a very active group of hams. There are a couple of online courses that each person needs to complete in order to assist local agencies.

OLD BUSINESS - There was a reminder that the 10-10 breakfast is now taking place at IHOP. Gary asked about next month's meeting since that will be the day before Thanksgiving. After some discussion, Mark made a motion that we stay with that date for the November meeting. After a second by -----, the motion passed.

Mark reviewed the drawing of the patch for the club. The cost will be between \$1.75 and \$2.00 if we purchased 100 of them. The patch would be about 4 inches. Larry made a motion that we order the patches. After a second by Gary, the motion passed. Mark will follow-up and take care of the order.

NEW BUSINESS - Andy reported that on Saturday, December 13, Heyworth High School will have a tabletop disaster drill. Anyone interested as welcomed to attend and be an observer. Rick asked if we were planning to assist with the Kickapoo Pow Wow next year. Keith confirmed that we will be helping out and that the planning will start

shortly. Norm and Keith said they will attend the planning session.

Andy provided an overview of 911 Dispatch Center. The center is located next to the Federal Express office on East Empire Street. They do dispatching for Normal, McLean County and various police, fire and ambulance services for the towns in the county. Bloomington and Illinois State University do their own dispatching, but the center monitors and assists as needed. They provide backup for Bloomington. They have both battery backup generators for the Center. The antennas they use are located on the top of Watterson Towers at ISU.

Five people work on one of two shifts each day, for 7 x 24 coverage every day of the year. All cell phone calls also come to them. Those for Bloomington are switched to them. The Enhanced 911 calls provide details on where the call is coming from (location and caller). Cell phones with GPS options provide their location also.

The center is connected with the State Police and their Star Com system. Medical calls are dispatched based on the severity of the emergency.

After Andy's presentation, Larry moved that we end the meeting. After and second by Mike, the motion passed. We left to meet at the 911 Dispatch Center for a tour. It was a fascinating place, with state of the art equipment and some unique challenges. The community is very fortunate to have top quality center providing protection for each of us.

# 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 7:00 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**

## 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 Newsline
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 Newsline	9:00 P.M.	146.760	(162.2 PL) Open Net with
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 Newsline

(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)

## 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 #

## 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 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).

## Central Illinois Radio Club

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

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

**President:** Ed Deutsch KC9GF  
 (309) 828-2227

**Vice President:** Mike Sallee, KC9FWL

**Secretary:** Chuck Kostelc N9RZV  
 (815)-842-4058

**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:

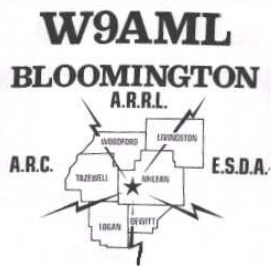
Norm Huber  
 19266 US Highway 150  
 Bloomington, IL 61705-5855

e-mail n9zks@verizon.net

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**Meeting Wednesday January 28**

# Central Illinois Radio Club January 2009 Newsletter



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