

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



July 2009

From the President

**July Meeting – Wednesday,
July 22nd, 700pm at the Red
Cross on Route 9 East.**

We have been without a secretary so Mike Sallee, KC9FWL volunteered to move from the VP position to the secretary position. That means we need a new VP. We will vote on any candidates for the VP spot. Bring your nominations or if you want to volunteer to be a candidate come to the meeting. You can also e-mail nominations to me at: KC9GF@yahoo.com.

Field day is history once again. For all who participated in any way: Thanks and hope you had a good time. It was a very successful weekend. I hope more will be able to come out and participate. If for no other reason than to be with people that have the same interest: Ham Radio.

At the meeting this month we will be discussing some of the highlights of Field Day. I will have pictures to pass around and if I have time I will have a CD with all the pictures taken by Mike KC9FWL, Jim WB9UWA, Eric N9DOA and myself. If you have any pictures please e-mail them to me so I can include them on the CD too. Bring any ideas or suggestions with you to the meeting. The more the better.

It looks like the bands are starting to open up. 10 meters has been open and if 10 is open you can count on the other HF bands to be open. During the Tuesday night 10 meter net (8:30 PM on 28.450 MHz) we are hearing stations from east coast and west coast.

Speaking of the net, join in on Tuesday night at 8:30 on 28.450 MHz and on the 146.94 repeater at 9:00 p.m.

The after meeting program for the meeting will be Ralph Bellas talking about two of his most recent DXPeditions. This should be an interesting presentation.



Can you imagine being here and too busy with the pile up to see the scenery?



Where are the welcoming bar maids with the cervesa?

Ed, KC9GF

**CIRC June Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2009**

President Ed Deutsch (KC9GF) called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Twenty-five members and no guests were present.

The newsletter contained the minutes for the May meetings. Ed asked if there were any corrections to the May meeting minutes. There were none and Gary Huber (AB9M) made a motion that the minutes be accepted as published. After a second by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL), the motion passed.

Treasurer Norm Huber (N9ZKS) sent a summary of the financial status of the club to Ed. Ed reported that the checking account had \$1,080.58 and the savings account had \$646.28. Income to date was \$453.00 (dues) and \$0.25 interest. Expenses to date are \$277.00 for insurance, \$92.19 for Floyd's funeral, \$170 for patches, \$25.00 for radio equipment, and \$3.22 for repairs. Jim Baker (WB9EDL) made a motion that we accept the report. After a second by Keith Hanson (A9CS) the motion passed.

Ed opened the discussion to items of Old Business. There was no news to report on the effort to add Echo Link to our repeater. Ed said he purchased the ARRL book on VOIP and hoped that will help. Jim talked about a very successful Wheelers Race/Ride. He presented a thank you letter from Tom Breithbarth, President of the McLean County Wheelers. Ed read the letter to the members and also read the names of our members who assisted during the event and thanks them for the efforts. Jim mentioned that the riders raised \$5,000 for cancer research and the Wheeler's club.

Ed also said the Kickapoo PowWow was a success. Keith thanked all the members who helped and said that everyone had a great time. They were very happy with our efforts and have asked us to help again next year. We agreed to have more discussion about establishing a formal mentoring program for new hams. Ed read an article from ARRL about the history of Field Day. Our club participated in the first Field Day back in 1933.

Ed opened the meeting to New Business items. He mentioned that Vice-President Mike Sallee has offered to become the club Secretary. So anyone interested to help the club, as the Vice-President should contact him. Ed discussed his interview on WJBC to discuss Field Day. The interview was with Rod Ross, who is a ham. He also mentioned that Carlos Meranda from The Pantagraph is a ham and he will be invited to come out and join us for Field Day. Ed is also going to contact the Mayor of Downs.

Ed read a letter from a group in Clinton that is going to host a bicycle ride for charity on July 25th. We have been asked to provide communications as we just did for the McLean County Wheelers. A number of questions were asked and Ed said he would get more details on the route and what they need from us. We discussed the logging program for contesting and verified that the club has a subscription that we can use for Field Day.

Rick Kempf (WD9HRU) suggested we get magnetic signs for our cars that show we are part of the CIRC/ARES communication team. This is so people at events we work will know to contact us. Andy Stubblefie (WX9RSO) said he would check into what kind of signs we can get. Don Pratt (N9RGG) asked if we could get the Governor or Mayors of Bloomington and Normal to issue a proclamation for Field Day. We agreed to make sure we do this next year.

Gary made a motion that we adjourn the meeting and continue discussing plans for Field Day. After a second by Rick the motion passed.

Ed 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 10 meter Net at 8:30 PM, the 2 Meter Net at 9 PM, and the ARES Net at 9:30 PM.

We discussed plans for Field Day in detail. Jim discussed the layout of the Old Town Township building and grounds and his plans to put up a number of different antennas. We agreed that those having breakfast via our special chief Gary would make a donation to help pay for the food. Mike suggested a donation of \$5.00 per person. He also asked that additional donations be made to cover the cost of food for dinner and drinks for the 24 hour event. We also discussed the setup of the server, router, and laptops that will be used to log our contacts. Mike asked members to sign up to bring food for dinner, equipment, various supplies, and to operate the radios. We will operate four stations and we reviewed which members will be bringing radios, generators, antennas, and so forth. The four stations will be: (1) Digital – Gary and Norm Huber, (2) HT sideband – Mark Snyder (AM9MP), (3) Code - Keith, and (4) 6 meter – Jim Shaffer.

Submitted by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL)

Remaining 2009 VEC Test Dates

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

Time: 1:00pm

On the following Saturdays:

7/18

11/14

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

Field Day

There has been so much talk about Field Day, both before and after, it seems like everyone knows what went on. Well, not so. Some couldn't make it out to the Field Day sight because of other commitments, family events or work. What ever the reason you can't do everything. If you didn't make it this year we hope to see you next year.

Here's our final score:

Totals Contacts:	
CW 236	472 Points
Digital 150	300 Points
Phone 421	421 Points
Claimed Score (2X)	2386 Points
100% Emergency power	300 Points
Media Publicity	100 Points
Set-up in Public Place	100 Points
Information booth	100 Points
W1AW Field Day Message	100 Points
Total Bonus Points	750 Points
Total Score	3136 Points

View from the CW station at W9AML Field Day

Well, CW was a moderately productive mode this year. We mostly used an excellent antenna – the long wire hung from the large tree in front of the Polling Place. It was very productive on 80 and 40 meters; I almost felt as if I were using the amp from home, there were very few station called that didn't answer on the first call. Although I didn't have long runs, we held our frequencies without much trouble. A strategic error was not spending any good time on 20; we will need a better strategy next year.

I do believe the major issue with CW on Field Day is the limited number of operators willing to work the mode. You do not need to be a super op to spend productive time and help the club. I really believe the middle of the night is an EXCELLENT way to work up your code speed. Activity is generally down, especially in the higher end of the bands and you can work station after station as slowly as you need. There are plenty of operators on running very slow speed and they are more than willing to repeat as much and as slowly as necessary. I would be super happy to work with anyone who wishes to burnish their CW during the contest. And – when you get better than me (won't take long) you can work with me to polish my skills. One undoubted advantage of the mode is the narrow bandwidths available. It allows us to work stations that would otherwise be buried in manmade and natural noise.

So - I am looking forward to next year. It was great operating from inside a building. We didn't get nearly as cold and tired as in past years.

See you next year!

--... ..--

Keith
AC9S

Digital Station (Field Day)

This year the digital station was setup in Norm's (N9ZKS) travel trailer. The trailer was located at the back of the lot at the Old Town Township. The location was away from the CW and phone station to minimize interference from the digital station.

We strung the 80 and 40 double bazooka antennas and an R7 vertical. Once we finished the antennas we set to the task of setting up the station. Lots of wires and gadgets to hook up in a digital station. But, with a little patience we got everything hooked up and time to give it a try. Sometimes everything seems to be hooked up correctly, but for some reason things don't want to work.

Well this is one of those times. The transceiver wouldn't put out any power. What to do. We decided to tare down and hook up Norm's (N9ZKS) digital station. Same thing: No power output. Gary (AB9M) suggested taking everything apart and start over. We hooked up the original station and WOW it worked. The only thing we could think of is that we had a bad connection to the power supply.

We lost 2 ½ hours trying to get the station going. After we did get started, everything worked without another problem. Gary, Norm and I did most of the operating, but Mike, KC9FWL, took over and made a few contacts too.

The night was long and we didn't get much sleep. I got about an hour and a half and I think Norm slept for an hour or so.

The digital station was easy to operate. Gary and I pre-programmed macros to send CQ, station contest information, etc. As the night went on we modified the macros to better suite our purpose.

We had a fairly successful digital station this year. Contacts were made clear up to the last few seconds of the contest. The final count was 150 contacts. Digital contacts count for 2X for a score of 300.

All in all we had a good time with the digital station. We could have used a few more operators to cover some of our rest/sleep time. So, maybe next year with a few more operators we can bring the score up.

Ed, KC9GF

2009 FIELD DAY OPERATIONS

HF phone station

Rig was an Icom 706, Antennas were, a 3 element tri-band yagi on a 40ft tower, 20 meter 5/8 wave vertical. The high winds we had part of the day that put a strange twist on its aerial, and two dipoles, one for 40 and one for 80 meters. No antenna tuner was used.

The site was ideal for this operation and it was quite exciting to use emergency power for the whole event. The antennas were spaced far enough apart reaching a goal the club set for it self several field days before. We did still experience some interference from the CW and digital stations, the CW station did comment on some interference for the phone station. There were 50 or more feet from the phone stations, CW and digital stations and the vhf station. There were at least a hundred between the digital stations antenna. I would like to have had the opportunity to swap antennas with the CW station.

There was quite a bit of 10 meter activity which I did enjoy a lot. On Saturday afternoon 20 meters was a fiasco, making contacts difficult to make so I tried to stay on 15 and 10 as much as I could. The large number of stations on 20 made it necessary to operate there. Sunday morning I operated 40 meters holding a frequency for nearly an hour, Earl WB9UWA logging.

I arrived late Saturday morning and missed out on breakfast. I dropped off a truck load of hardware and left to see my grandson play T-ball. When I returned all but 1 of the antennas were up thanks to everyone present and operations were about begin. Jim WB9EDL helped me set up the 20 meter vertical.

We used his homebrew socket to drive the anchors, a pretty handy device, thanks Jim.

I have only been a Ham since 2005. My first field day I didn't know anybody and walked around looking at things, learning, the next year I helped set up and did a lot of operating, stayed up all night long. This year's field day experience thanks to efforts of everyone involved was the best so far, and I expect nothing less next year.

Thanks again to all.

73

Mark Snyder (AB9MP)

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	8:30 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 (162.2 PL)Open Net with
Thursday Newline	9:00 P.M.	146.760	(103.5 PL) Open Net Peoria
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.850	North central IL Traders Net
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.895	Open 160 meter AM net
Sunday	08:15 A.M.	1.815	Clinton ARC net (NEW)
Sunday	7:00 P.M.	146.985	Open Net with Newline
Sunday	8:30 P.M.	147.075	123.0 PL Open Net
Sunday	9:00 P.M.	146.730	

(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 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 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**)
443.800	K9HGX	Decatur (ARES)r	123.0
444.175	K9MCA	Decatur	100.0

* 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 #

Central Illinois Radio Club

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

<http://www.qsl.net/w9am/>

President: Ed Deutsch KC9GF
 (309) 828-2227

Vice President: *OPEN*

Secretary: Mike Sallee, KC9FWL

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:

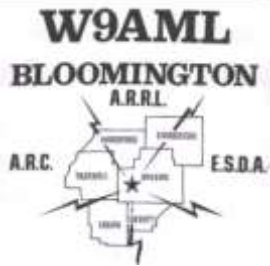
Norm Huber
 19266 US Highway 150
 Bloomington, IL 61705-5855

e-mail n9zks@verizon.net

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Meeting Wednesday July 22

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