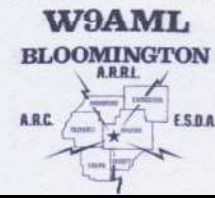


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



March 2007

From the President

Repeater Problem

Our loaner repeater seems to be working just fine and Jim, WB9UWA, has found "blown" finals in our regular one. At this point Rich, N9YAY, has inquiries in to some of his friends in the Motorola field who might be able to help identify parts sources. I think we had a low power problem for quite a while because I can hear 94 much better in Tanglewood than I have in the recent past. Thanks again to Rich for the loaner.

FCC Rule Changes – No Code, New Frequencies

Norm, N9ZKS, upgraded to General at our paper only session during the February club meeting and completed the sweep during our regular test session last Saturday, 3/17. We had nine people at the session, all of whom upgraded. Outstanding! Club members who upgraded include:

Rachel, KC9JXO – General
Harlan (Keith), KC9KAN – General
Don, N9RGG – General
Norm, N9ZKS – Extra

Other upgrades include:

Thomas Wachtel, KB0WUP – General
Michael M Hanson – Technician
Ted E Snider – Technician
John K Swearingen, KB9QLA – Both General and Extra
Albert C Wilson – KC9AUU – General

Also – congrats are in order to the following club members who upgraded right after the rule changes, just prior to our last club meeting:

Les, KC9HLS – Extra
Eldon, KB9PZA – General
Eric, N9DO/.//eneral

Heartland Class

Dan Beer, N9NSN and I completed the regular class sessions at Heartland and will do a review session followed by testing from 7 until 9PM on March 22 in room 2100 at Heartland Community College CCB building. Anyone else who wishes to test at that time is certainly welcome to do so. Our review will be for the Technician class, but anyone can sit for any exam.

Larry Keeran's Challenge

At our February club meeting no one had taken up Larry Keeran's challenge to the club to take the classes required for ARES certification. He was going to give a French pocket watch to the first person who completed all the classes necessary for us to participate formally in county disaster exercises. I know that a couple of people are pursuing the courses, I don't know if Larry's challenge still stands, but we do need to get certified – including myself!

February Meeting – February 28

Cherry Pie night! There were lots of good pies and deserts. I wonder if we shouldn't do this more often. Also – I am going to try have a pot of coffee brewing – seems like a more congenial atmosphere with the smell of coffee in the air.

Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, came down from Chicago to give us an outstanding presentation on D-STAR, the new Icom digital technology. I for one was impressed and I heard

some conversation after the meeting about picking up D-STAR compatible radios. We don't need a repeater to communicate with D-STAR, just two compatible radios. I think the most impressive aspect to me was the clarity of voice communications under weak signal conditions. Although you can probably copy regular FM at lower signal levels, D-STAR maintains perfect clarity until it finally just stops and it is clear way beyond the point at which FM is uncomfortable to listen to.

March Meeting – March 28

Ralph Bellas is going to do a presentation on his part of the dxpedition to ZL8 – Kermadec. This was a first rate operation and Ralph, for one, kept the pileups under control. It is amazing what a difference a class op makes when running a rare one. In case you hadn't looked closely, Ralph is in the middle of the group picture on the ICOM ads for the IC-7000 in the last couple of QSTs.

Rich – N9YAY is going to present ARES needs. It is getting to be storm season and we need to get ourselves organized so that we can participate in weather spotting. Thanks for running with this Rich.

Take care everyone. See you Wednesday, March 28, 7:00pm at 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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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
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Youth Net

Ham radio is an excellent hobby. However, in recent years it has been decreasing in popularity and active members. Many are quick to blame Internet and various technologies, which being of the so-called "Nintendo generation", I must agree. These are contributing to the decline of our glorious hobby.

Honestly, the only way to save our hobby is to expand. It isn't a secret that many current hams were influenced by elder hams that took them underneath their wing and provided help and knowledge. In fact

if it weren't for several hams in this area I wouldn't be writing this article. Many of us gladly accepted the generous help of others to allow us to follow our hobby in the manner that we have. However, the problem seems to me that few of us have stepped to the plate and brought someone into the world of Amateur radio.

I acknowledge that we do have a club that takes the proliferation of our hobby seriously. This is a rare thing as most clubs I've been a member of only a select few do anything productive to better the club. However there still is more that could be done. My opinion on this is simply to bring someone into radio. Everyone knows a kid, or even an adult, that has interest in ham radio. Give them some information, websites, contacts, anything that might spark enough interest for them to seriously follow through.

With this I would also like to propose an idea that has been upon my mind since I entered ham radio back in 2004. I was asked since then about my personal interest in starting a Ham radio net on 2m fm with the soul purpose or networking teens and those who are interested in getting teens into ham radio. Being that I didn't know of practical the net would be I let the idea sit idle in the Eham.com forums till I got an idea of just how many would participate in such a net. In recent months I've received many email of interest in starting such a net. However, due to the limited equipment of many of the teen hams only have 2m Fm capabilities. Also due to the varied distance the only viable situation is utilization of a repeater within Bloomington area. The net would be similar to the CIRC net in operation and maintain a set time and day. The main situation is getting permission to use a repeater that is easily accessible to those interested in this net. So far those interested are from areas such as Kankakee, Rantoul, El Paso, and Lexington. It would be a stretch for us from Rantoul and Kankakee but if the 146.940 W9AML repeater still has the Echolink

capabilities it would stand as the best option.

Any additional interested may contact me via

Email:

M_anstrom@hotmail.com

Or

Cell: (217) 898 3878

73's

Mykal J. Anstrom

KC9FJE

DX IS! If You Worked It

Last week we came across one of the local QRPers and we just had to ask him what was new in the world of DX. "It's the DXCC rules that I've been thinking about.", the QRPer replied, "You know, for once they are very logical and straight forward in their thinking." This was a rather sudden change of attitude. We recalled just a few months ago how this same QRPer had stormed up the hill in indignation when it became clear the league wasn't going to buy his 5A0RR QSL. We had to learn more, so we put on our best poker face, "How so?", we asked. "It's that Minimum Size rule.", he replied, "It sure gives credibility to the DXCC program. Makes certain all these little rocks like Scarborough Reef won't count. And it's about time too!"

Son of a Gun! We had heard all the arguments on this one and this one had been voiced many times. But there was something wrong here, for this QRPer had done an about face on his opinion of the DXCC committee in the past six months. We had to know more. "The league hasn't ruled on BS7H yet," we replied, "and the jury is still out on whether it will count. It met the rules when it was on the air. There's talk the ARRL will count it." The QRPer glared at us. "Don't give me any of that Buster," he replied, his voice

raising ever so slightly, "I saw the pictures of it. It doesn't have a chance. And it doesn't help to have you know-it-alls saying it might count, either! Leave well enough alone."

We were beginning to get a glimmer of light here. "Well, if you are right", we said in a sombre tone, "then it's likely the end of St. Peter and Paul Rocks too. And maybe even Trindade. They're pretty shakey when it comes to that new rule." The glimmer turned into a spotlight! We'd hit the right nerve. "Never mind the PY0s!", the QRPer retorted. "Just leave them alone. There's no need to bother the DXAC with them. They're just

fine as they are." We decided this one was worth pursuing just a bit further. "Maybe you are right," we replied, "especially since we here on the east coast have them confirmed several times over." "That's my way of thinking," the QRPer replied, a sly grin beginning to show on his face. "Heck, that BS7H was never workable east of W9-land anyhow. I'm glad you see it my way!" And with that, he was off, happy in his conviction that another one hadn't gotten away. We sat in silence for a moment. We hadn't bothered to tell the QRPer that we'd tucked the BS7H in the log early one morning on 20-metres before he

got up. We had a slightly different opinion on the Minimum Size rule and its application to Scarborough Reef! We wondered if we were in keeping with the amateur's code as we dug out our QSTs to see how many W6s were on the DXAC! DXing is war! Survival of the fittest is our motto. DX IS! And DX IS! even more when we've worked it and the QRPer hasn't! As Albert so often said, "Everything is relative, some things more so . . ."

Nets in the Area

Central Illinois Area Repeaters

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 (NEW)
Sunday	8:30 P.M.	147.075	Open Net with Newslines

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

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

* Repeater is currently in open mode with pl for those with QRM
 ** Repeater RX with tight carrier squelch and loose tone squelch (107.2)

LOCAL DX PACKET CLUSTER INFORMATION

"DX spotting network" - N9PE (Memorial Station) 144.91 MHz - 1200 baud - Connect to N9PE - Contact AB9M or KB9LNS for more info.

Be Prepared

In reading a report in one of the ARRL reports about ARES support of the work done in Oneida NY in the aftermath of the propane train car derailment I found the following paragraph. Way to go CIRC for being up on the curve!

A key to success for this response was pre-positioned radio and antenna hardware at significant locations (i.e., the Red Cross Headquarters), resulting in efficiency. Oneida County RACES also played a key role, providing on scene communications information to the Oneida County Office of Emergency Services.

Norm N9ZKS

FEMA Courses

Below are examples of an error in Incident Command Post placement. Remember, the Incident Command Post is to be positioned outside of the present and potential hazard area, but close enough to the incident to maintain command.



I'm kidding. These are pictures from the Scarborough Reef Dxpedition. I sure hope a storm doesn't blow up!

**FIELD DAY 2007 OFFERS
A LEARNING
OPPORTUNITY FOR HF
NEWCOMERS**

Although Field Day 2007 is still more than three months away, many ham radio clubs and groups already have begun making plans for this year's event, Saturday and Sunday, June 23-24. Field Day has always been an ideal time for new hams to become more proficient operators and for prospective licensees to get "bitten by the Amateur Radio bug." That may be even more the case during Field Day 2007, as many radio amateurs gain new HF operating privileges because of the rule changes that went into effect February 23.

"This is an opportunity to get new or upgraded licensees on the air for some active mentoring and active learning," says ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Field Day 2007 will be a chance to learn and grow, but above all, it will be a lot of fun -- and for many there is perhaps nothing more fun in ham radio than ARRL Field Day."

The numbers support that claim. Last June, more than 32,500 operators took part in ARRL Field Day -- some as individuals but many more as part of a club or group. The League saw some 2200 Field Day log submissions for the 2006 event, during which nearly 1.24 million completed contacts went into the log -- not a record but up a little from the previous year.

While no longer a licensing requirement, Morse code (CW) remains a very popular Field Day operating mode, perhaps because CW QSOs are worth twice as much as phone contacts. Last year some 56 percent of Field Day contacts took place on SSB, while nearly 42 percent were on CW (the rest were digital contacts).

Henderson points out two small changes in the Field Day rules starting this year. First, participating stations may only complete one satellite contact for bonus points via a single-channel FM-mode spacecraft (Rule 7.3.7.1), and it must be an Earth-satellite-Earth contact. "This will allow more stations to access this very limited resource," he says.

Second, an individual Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station operators will earn 20 points for each 20 contacts, up to a maximum of 100 per GOTA operator. Henderson notes that no partial point credit is available, and GOTA operators may not "pool" contacts toward any 20-QSO GOTA station bonus.

"Amateur Radio stands at a juncture where we can embrace both the old and new," Henderson says. He notes, too, that the variety of available operating modes -- traditional and experimental -- contributes toward Field Day's status as the most popular annual operating event.

"Field Day is truly the time where we bring Amateur Radio to Main Street USA -- a great time for 'the Bug' to bite as many people as it can," Henderson says. "Use Field Day 2007 to open up Amateur Radio to the next generation of radio amateurs on your Main Street! It's up to us to make it happen."

Complete information on Field Day 2007 packet is available on the ARRL Web site [<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/>](http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/).

February Meeting Minutes

Feb 28, 2007

Keith AC9S noted there are a lot of new faces at tonight's meeting. Welcome.

Norm N9ZKS gave treasurer's report

644.16 ck
641.01 sv
1285.17 total

Rick WD9HRU motioned, Connie KB9IGT 2nd

Keith AC9S asked for minutes as in newsletter
Chuck N9RZV motioned to accept, Mike KB9WFL 2nd

Old business:
ARC beam work. Small group discussed schedule as weather permits safe completion.

Heartland class - 6 students, update by Dan N9NSN

Dayton table fee \$100 sent in

Larry K9ORP unchallenged for ARES certification prize, Rich N9YAY has class coming up.

Paper upgrades can be submitted tonight if you have all CSCE's, paperwork filled in ready to submit, otherwise will be done at the regular March VE session.

New business:
Repeater (both new/old machines)
Status: up/down, new converted pager dropped output to virtually nothing, Rich N9YAY loaned us a primitive 2 radio & controller setup to maintain coverage during repair.

Hill radio has offered to allow Jim WB9UWA to repair on spare time at Hill.

QST news March issue, ICOM, 7000 ZL8 Kermadec, DXer Ralph K9ZO in middle of photo

Connie KB9IGT asked if K9ZO will be in the swimsuit edition.

Next meeting, Rich N9YAY will discuss ARES needs.

Ralph K9ZO will do slide presentation of Kermadec DXpedition, plus will show a BBC antenna V-array in New Zealand.

Connie KB9IGT discussed EYH seminar Saturday March 24 class times, details, mention on Tues night net, plus handout how to get your license, club people, Keith AC9S and/or Dan N9NSN as contacts, invitation for EYH students to Field Day. 2pm to 8pm suggested to.

Norm ZKS - Mikal KC9FJE has talked to Rachael KC9JXO about setting up a youth net. She has also been submitted to the Hiram Percy Maxim award at Dayton for her work in emergency communications. Good going Rachael!

Next regular test 3/17 VEC session at Bloomington Police station, 2nd floor meeting room.

Dan K9OAT wants more check-ins on Tues night net, Mark AB9MP has offered to do it as well

Net Controller schedule
 Week 1 Dan N9NSN
 Week 2 Dan K9OAT
 Week 3 Larry KB9NPH
 Week 4 Keith AC9S
 Week 5 fill-in/spare Norm N9ZKS

Rick WD9HRU asked about choosing FD site, this has already been done in previous meeting/year from Past Pres Larry KB9NPH, Les KC9HLS motioned to continue at/accept ARC as noted, carried.

Reminder 10-10 breakfast first Saturday in March.

Congratulations went to upgraders: Les KC9HLS upgraded to Extra Eldon KB9PZA to General Eric N9DOA to General

Connie KB9IGT suggested to Keith AC9S to pitch for more VE examiners, Rick N9CKL said he would like to sign up to help.

Floyd W9EX asked for a raise of hands for Extra class holders to see how many we had in the group, didn't get a count but it was a majority number of the group.

Connie KB9IGT motioned to close meeting, Norm N9ZKS 2nd, all carried.

Cherry Pie snacks, consisting of cake, pie, ice cream & other amenities were consumed immediately afterwards prior to the main program.

Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, down from the Chicagoland area, put on a wonderful & informative program on the new digital mode capabilities utilizing D-Star topology. While developed & available by ICOM, the Japan Amateur Radio League JARL standardized on this design topology and determined that any new radios carrying digial modes should be complaint to this specification.

It allows simultaneous voice & low speed data channels (GPS, ID) on 144mhz 2m, 440mhz 70cm & high speed data 128kbaud Internet TCP/IP on 1.2GHZ 23cm on selected models. Imagine doing mobile Internet, APRS, Echolink,IRLP,CQ100,file sharing, all while having a conversation. He had many handouts available to read on & for new options to consider when buying new equipment.

CIRC thanks Mark for coming downstate & pitching this new technology to near record attendance.

by Chuck N9RZV

Bloomington VEC Exam Dates - 2007

Dates for 2007 Exams

May 12
 July 21
 Nov 10
 Osborne Room
 Bloomington Police Department
 434-2290
 305 S East St
 Bloomington, IL

Keith R Hanson
 AC9S

(309) 378-4416
AC9S@mchsi.COM

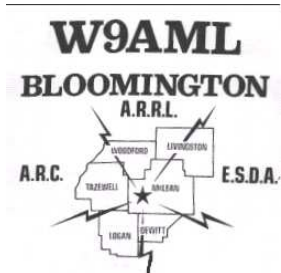
Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

- 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 Baker's Square at Vernon Ave. and Veterans (Just south of College Hills Mall).
- CIRC Meeting
Fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Red Cross building in Bloomington (Just north of the airport).

Meeting Wednesday March 28

Central Illinois Radio Club March 2007 Newsletter



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