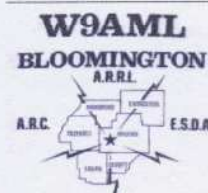


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



March 2008

From the President

DX Spider

No current news on the Spider.

February Meeting

I wasn't there, but I understand everyone enjoyed Cherry pie and or Cherry desert permutations. The TS440 repairs went very well – with the radio operating at rated output with new finals when the job was done Great hands-on demonstration! Thanks much to all involved for showing practical radio repair.

March Meeting

We are going to have a two part program. Mike Bill, N7MB and Gary Huber, AB9M are going to discuss lightning protection. Mike is going to focus on proper ground systems and Gary will talk about AC safety in the shack. This is an especially appropriate topic, since it is lightning outside as I write this.

As a passing note – our house has been struck by lightning four times, with the fire company called twice. Although I lost all consumer electronics in the house with one of these strikes, I have never had a ham radio loss – because I am religious about disconnecting my station when it is not in use. That includes antennas, AC, Phone lines, rotator cables, everything. My radios have no connection to the outside world when I am not in the shack. Now watch what my bragging gets me – probably a direct hit with everything destroyed!

Heartland Class - update

The class has gone well and the final exam will be this Thursday, March 20. Mark Snyder has agreed to help proctor and we now have enough

testing volunteers. Thanks guys for taking up the slack while I am slacking off on vacation! Dan instituted a real service for the club and we should all thank him for it again.

Propagation

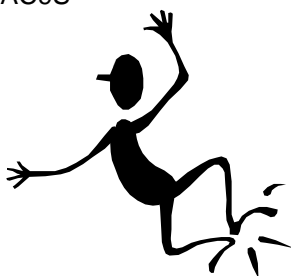
I guess it is formal, NOAA, Boulder and the ARRL have all agreed the new cycle has begun. About time I think!

However, we are still close to the bottom of the cycle and HF propagation should look a whole lot better in a couple of years. However – we can still work a LOT of DX, even at the bottom. The Clipperton Island dxpedition was on the last couple of weeks and provided a nice opportunity for a semi-rare one; I was able to work them on all bands: 160 through 10. That is right – even now we had strong openings on 10 and 12 meters. They are only 2435 miles SW in the Pacific, right off the Southern coast of Mexico, but still, we had great propagation at times – on all bands. Give a call occasionally on 15, 12, and 10. You never know who might come back.

Take care everyone. I won't be at the meeting on Wednesday, March 26th at 7:00pm in the Red Cross on Route 9 East, across from the Fire station.; Mike Sallee will run the meeting while I am on vacation.

73's

Keith AC9S



Central Illinois Radio Club

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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
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Don't forget the daily coffee klatch at the Dairy Queen at 1528 E. College, Normal Monday through Friday at 9:00 AM

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).

Bloomington VEC Testing Dates

3/15
5/10
7/19
11/15

All at the Osborne Room at the Blomington Police Department.

Testing from 12:00 to 2:00. Setup at 11:30.

Keith, AC9S

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

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)

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 #

Bicycle Mobile APRS Norm Huber – N9ZKS

Recently a question was brought up in a group I belong to regarding APRS on bicycles. The application is very useful if a rider is supporting a charity event as a bicycle mobile communicator, medic or marshal. It also would keep family and friends aware of your progress when you are on that epic trip.

I use APRS on all my vehicles when I am on the road. I use it for the support of the annual Houston to Austin MS150 ride from my motorcycle. It allows the event coordinator to position support vehicles as well as knowing exactly where help is needed if an incident is reported.

I use the same setup on both my road bike and my track bike.

Antennas and Mount

I purchased clamp on racks to mount on my seatposts. My road bike is carbon fiber with no touring lugs so I didn't want to use anything that clamped to the stays. Since most of the clamps on racks have a hollow tube under the rack platform I attached a flat plate to the rear of the rack which I drilled to accept a SO239 mount and cable. Get an appropriate length cable/mount set but do not cut the prepared cable as many of the pre-made cables are cut to help limit SWR.



Radio and GPS and Mount

Early on in my ham experience I purchased a nylon chest pack designed to hold an HT with a pocket to carry accessories or a spare battery. This has been modified with the addition of a piece of aluminum bent into an "M" shape with a tail which I covered with Velcro. The "M" provides a shape to hold my Garmin III+ or Garmin V which I use with a Kenwood D7AG. I have used Velcro to hold my radio and Garmin in place for quite a while but will probably have to replace it because it is not holding as it once did. I now use a single bungee cord for added security.

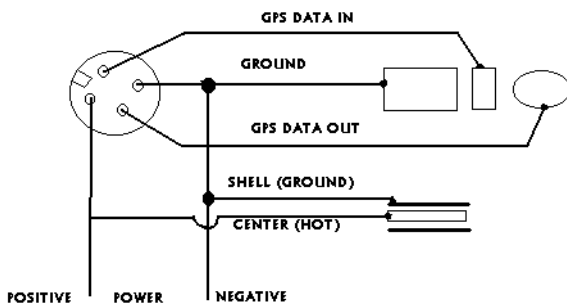


I then mounted plain straight tri-bars on the handlebars of both my fixed gear track bike and my Giant 980C Road Bike.
 The pack had a set of loops, which I first used with nylon cord to fasten it to my tribars. I switched to “shock cord” which makes it a lot easier to switch between bikes.



INTERCONNECTIONS AND ACCESSORIES

One thing that was obvious was that an additional battery would be needed for extended use as I like to talk. I purchased some plugs for the Garmin and made up the wiring adapter below. This powers both the D7 and the Garmin while at the same time provides communication for the NEMA signal exchange between the radio and GPS. The cable is much longer than needed for the current application because it was originally built for use on my motorcycle with the GPS and radio separated



The battery I use is a 12 volt gel-cell video camera battery. It's available at most battery suppliers and fits nicely in the pack.

HEARTLAND CLASS

The 2008 spring class put on by Keith, AC9S and Dan, N9NSN at Heartland is history. Four of the participants took the FCC test Thursday and all passed with flying colors. Congratulations to both the instructors for the excellent job they did and to the students for their hard work. Welcome these new hams to our fraternity.



From Left to Right -- Denny Devine, Chris Burkiewicz, Dan Beer N9NSN (Instructor), Eric Baxter, Jon Maurer

A note of congratulations must be given to Keith and Dan for the excellent record of success they have amassed in preparing their students for the test over the past few years.

EDITOR'S QUESTION

As the VE's sat around at the test session at Heartland we were wondering if there is interest in the club for a General or Advanced course. The instructors have demonstrated their ability, so anyone needing that little push should have an excellent chance of doing very well on the test if they were to join such a class. Let us know if there is interest enough to set up such a class.



The antenna I am currently using is a Comet C757 dual band that goes great with the Kenwood D7A/G to give me great range for a handheld. If I run into rain, a large clear plasti bag such as a gallon Zip-Lock can just be slipped over the whole bit and will work great.



For those of you going to Dayton, I am planning to take the track bike and ride it if there is a ride this year. I'll be at the Bicycle Mobile Hams of America (BMHA) forum on Sunday morning. See you there - 73

STATION LOCATOR SERVICE NEW FOR FIELD DAY 2008

This year, for the first time, the ARRL has put together a Station Locator to help amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day site near them. According to ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, many amateurs have been asking for something like this for many years.

If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started. Just go to the Field Day Station Locator Web site

<<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>>

and follow the instructions.

To help you out, Henderson has prepared a FAQ for the Field Day Station Locator.

Q) How does our Field Day site get listed on the map?

A) A club official or Field Day Chairman needs to go to the Web site. Once there, click on the link for "Add a Station" and follow the instructions.

Q) I put in the name of the park where we will be holding Field Day but got the message that the program can't find it. What do I do?

A) You should use a street address for the location. Unfortunately, the mapping program doesn't have a 100 percent complete database of park names and public site names. You may use a latitude/longitude -- enter the values separated by a comma (e.g. 42.345N, 85.445W) and set the city to NONE).

Q) I put in a street address but the map locator put me it in a wrong location on the street. What do I do?

A) While in the data input or edit screen, use your cursor to move the red "pin" to the correct location on the map.

Q) What if I put in the wrong information or something about our Field Day operation changes?

A) The person who input the data will be able to edit the entry. Simply follow the "Add a Station" link and then select "Edit this entry" next to the one to correct.

Q). I tried to enter my club's information, but I was denied access. What do I do?

A) To help ensure that only one person is managing a club's entry, you must be logged onto the site with your ARRL member ID and password. If you are not an ARRL member, ask a member of the club who is to be responsible for adding the club's information to the site.

Q) I am looking for a Field Day operation to attend. How do I use the site?

A) Begin by typing in the city and state where you would like to search, something like "Brooklyn, New York" or "Anaheim, California." Depending on the geographic location, the map will take you to the area you list. If a Field Day operation has been registered for that general area, a red "pin" will show on the map. If you click on the red pin, the details for that site will appear in the box on the right hand side of the screen. If you don't see a red pin, scroll out a level to find one near the location you listed. It is also possible to drag the map to other areas by holding down the left button on your mouse and then moving the map around. You can also scroll in and out using the \pm buttons on the left side of the map. You may also zoom in and center by double-clicking with the mouse near the red pin.

Q) I found a red pin near where I will be. Where do I find the information on that site?

A) Each entry has a contact person with either an e-mail address or phone number who should be able to help you. It will appear on the right side of the box when you click on the red pin for an entry.

Q) I found an entry with wrong information. What should I do?

A) Please contact the person whose name appears as the contact person for that site. ARRL HQ does not have detailed information on the site.

Q) I want to check on our club's information. What should I do?

A) Type in the call sign that will be used and you will be taken to the location and club information.

ARRL Field Day will be held June 28-29. For more information, please visit the Field Day Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>.

Meeting Wednesday March 26