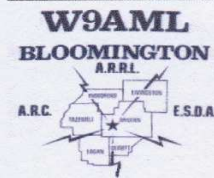


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



March 2009

From the President

March Meeting – Wednesday, March 25th at 7:00 pm at the Red Cross on Westport Ct.

It's time for your spring cleanup. The winter has played havoc with your yard and worst of all with your antennas. My hope is you don't have much work to do to get them back in good operating condition. With such a good bunch of hams in our area, if you need help with a major antenna project just ask. I didn't have any antenna damage, but I do have a couple of projects I want to get done this spring.

We have lots of old business to talk about at this month's meeting. Several topics will deal with emergency communications and weather spotting. There are a few field day items to talk about. After this month's meeting Kurt Hawk will talk to us about emergency communications and what our place will be.

I hope to see you at the meeting!
Ed, KC9GF

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all who tested the past couple of weeks. There was another very productive testing session at the Red Cross. . It resulted in a number of new hams as well as upgrades.

The course at Heartland was also completed and testing preformed. All members of the class passed the test and are waiting processing of the applications and assignment of their new calls.

Welcome the following new members of the club:

Michael S. Gravitt
Duane R. Benjamin
Thomas R. Hazlett
Gayle E. Lane Jr.
Justine L. Aldred
Justin S. Aldred

A NOTE TO OUR YOUNG HAMS

We have just had a class graduate from Heartland and a testing session resulting in more new youngsters, *that's under 20 years old for those of us who have forgotten*, getting their licenses. Let's welcome them and Elmer them.

Is there a chance we could set up some sessions at the Red Cross operating on the club equipment? Do you new hams

have an interest in Emergency Communications? The young hams of the club could start their own net. Also it would be really great if you would show your friends the fun of the hobby and get them to get their licenses.

It is a great hobby, with lots of different types of operation allowing many different levels of involvement. Just don't become inactive.

We welcome you to the club and are around to help you find your interests.

73

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:

5/09

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

Looking For Equipment

I received a request the other day for some equipment for a new ham. It made me wonder if we could gather some old/spare equipment, at the Red Cross for instance, and sign it out to members who needed it for. This would be a help for new hams as well as others have a need for a short period.

Coax, ladder line, radios etc would be useful. Some one would have to keep track of the equipment inventory and current location, but that should be done anyway. That reminds me that I have a tower and antenna in my garage, both of which need to be maintained and gotten back to the Red Cross BEFORE Field Day.

This equipment would also be of use if we were to have an emergency to respond to. Let's think about this when you are looking at the shelf with the dusty equipment with the drying capacitors.

Thanks,
Norm- N9ZKS

CIRC February 2009 Minutes:

CIRC Meeting Notes

25 Feb 2009

- Meeting called to order at 1900.
 - Treasures Report
 - o \$1214.58 in Checking
 - o \$646.03 in Savings
 - o Motion to accept – Gary Huber
 - o Seconded – Keith Hanson
 - o Motion passed
 - Old Business:
 - o Keith, AC9S, covered Emergency Communications training required to work in McLean County – basically IS100 and IS700. Both courses are on-line and can be found by Googling IS100. Andy Stubblefield is working with Keith Gehrand(sp) to develop a Saturday course to cover both classes – we will still need to take the test on-line.
 - o Gary Huber proposed that we move the State Farm IC706 to the EOC and use the old SF call of WX9WX for EOC communications. Will decide later.
 - o Weather spotter's class is March 23 at 6:30 in the Law and Justice Center.
 - o One item we picked up from our meeting with Kurt Hawk is that he is interested in weather spotters, not chasers. We will need to maintain discipline and stay on our assigned locations when participating in weather spotting.
 - o EchoLink – the president, KC9GF, will check with Cornbelt to see if we have and can use a phone line to the repeater building so that we can provide Echolink.
 - o We Discussed potentially using a direct link back to Ed's place.
 - o Floyd's Hoffman – W9EX – We discussed getting the family's written permission to retain Floyd's call with the club – potentially when we go to his house to take pictures for an equipment inventory.
 - o Club archivist / historian – discussed creating a club historian to preserve club memorabilia and memories.
 - o Pow Wow – We have volunteered to provide communications for the Kickapoo PowWow the first weekend in June. It will require a commitment during Friday afternoon, All day Saturday and Sunday morning. This will stress our manpower, but should be an excellent ARES exercise.
 - o Ham Class – the class is going well and testing will be the evening of Thursday, March 19.
 - o Field Day – Keith is checking with Old Town on the use of the Township hall. This venue is particularly significant this year, given that is the location of the first Field Day in McLean County – Floyd, W9EX, was a part.
 - o Wheelers Race / Ride – June 13 at Compara – 4 to 6 people will be needed. Jim Baker is Coordinating.
 - o Coffee Clutch – Everyone is welcome at the Dairy Queen on College, 9:00am weekdays.
 - o Flowers for Floyd – Norm, N9ZKS, made a motion that we spend \$90 out of club funds for flowers at his funeral. Rick, WD9HRU, seconded. The motion passed.
- New Business
 - o Jim Baker is suggested creating a PDF of club Names and Calls
 - Motion to adjourn – Rick, WD9HRU
 - Second – Rick, N9CKL

KA9QPN

Vital to Ham Radio

There is one thing that is vital to DX on the HF bands; the sun. (As a side note, pretty much all life on Earth depends on the sun.) More specifically, we rely on sunspot activity to shake loose electrons in the upper atmosphere to reflect radio waves. And to the purists: to

bend radio waves. This article is to give you some facts about the sun I found interesting. Quit a bit of what I am writing about comes form a back issue of National Geographic magazine.

The sun, our local star, has been in existence and giving light for 4.6 billion years. The physics behind its complexity has been hidden from scientists until only recently. Most of what we know now has been hidden because of its intense brightness.

Scientists are using what is called "Helioseismology" to look below the surface of the sun. It is the same technology geologists use to look below the surface to the earth. Kind of like a sonogram. With this technology they can see the movement of the plasma that make up the structure of the sun.

They have found through this technique that the inner and outer layers of the sun rotate at different speeds. The visible photosphere and the convection zone just below make a complete rotation, at the equator, in 26 days. At the poles it takes 36 days to make a complete revolution. The inner layer takes 27 days to make a complete revolution. That is still faster than at the poles. This difference in speed of the layers and the shear between them is the dynamo that generates the sun's main magnetic field.

The solar astronomers believe the shearing motion stretches the magnetic lines giving them more energy, like stretching a rubber band. These magnetic lines or ropes are buoyant enough that they poke through the surface causing the familiar sunspots.

Sunspots can range from 1500 miles to several times the size of the earth. These spots are cooler, as much as thousands of degrees cooler, than the surrounding area because the magnetic lines that poke through the surface impedes the "flow of convection".

Sunspots come in pairs. They align themselves parallel to the suns equator. Further more, the pairs have opposite magnetic polarity.

Every 11 years the sun's polarity reverses, the north becomes the south and the south becomes north. This could account for the 11 year sunspot cycle (you think?). The same dynamo phenomenon that creates the sun's magnetic field also creates the earth's magnetic field. And, the earth's magnetic field also reverses, but at much grater and more random interval. The last reversal was 780,000 years ago. For those of you who are interested I have provided a link to a web sight that talks about the earth's magnetic field.

Normally the sunspot cycle is 11 years average. It can be longer or shorter. One

example of the cycle being longer than normal started in 1645 and lasted until 1715. During that 70 year period there was more cosmic radiation bombarding the earth. This was proven by a physicist by the name of Jack Eddy who studied growth rings of trees of that era. A higher amount of carbon 14 in the growth rings was the clue. Another sunspot minimum was from 1460 to 1550. These two minimums coincided with what was known as the Little Ice Age in Europe. This shows the link between sun spots and terrestrial weather.

Lets hope, as hams, we don't have to wait much longer for the sunspots to return. There is still some good DXing, but we have to work a little harder.

For more information and pictures follow the first link to The National Geographic. The second link is about the earth's magnetic field. And the third link is to a NASA web page that gives some interesting facts about the sun.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0407/feature1/index.html> National Geographic article
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/09/080926105021.htm> Earths magnetic field
<http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/> NASA

**Reminder from:
mcleancountyaresgroup
Yahoo! Group**

Title: McLean County EMA
Weather Spotters Class

Date: Monday March 23, 2009
Time: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Next reminder: The next
reminder for this event will be sent in 3
days, 4 minutes.

Location: McLean County
EMA Operations room

Street: McLean County
Law & Justice Center 104 W Front St
City State Zip:

Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone: 309-888-5020

Notes: You will need to
enter the Law and Justice Building
though the front security entrence and
the proceed to the basement. Also all
ARES member we will hopefully taking
your photo id card. Thanks

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 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
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

(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 CTCS
146.985	KA9YPK	Clinton	
147.015	NX9M	Normal	88.5 (open*)
147.075	W9UVI	Washington	103.5 CTCS
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 #

Central Illinois Radio Club

P.O. Box 993
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<http://www.qsl.net/w9aml/>

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 (815)-842-4058

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 (309) 378-4674

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 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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**ARRL YOUTH EDITOR
YOUNG PEOPLE CAN HELP WITH
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS, TOO!**

ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, of Prairie Village, Kansas, says many young hams want to help out with Emergency Communications and ARES activities, but really don't know where to start. "One disadvantage of being younger hams is the fact that legal guardians are a must for most situations," MacLachlan said. "While a young ham may not be able to go out and save the day with a handheld transceiver after a large storm, there are many ways they can aid in emergency operations."

MacLachlan said that the first step in helping to support Emergency Communications is to join the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) or a local club that works with city or county to provide emergency communications services. "When you approach your EC -- the Emergency Coordinator, basically the president of that ARES group -- I recommend that you have discussed with your parents what you can and can't do in an emergency in terms of Amateur Radio response. If your parents are like mine, chances are they're not fond of the idea of having their kid running around a disaster zone in the name of emergency communications. I'd recommend asking your EC if there is a position you could fulfill from home, or even in the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) where operations are carried out."

One example of a duty that a young ham could fulfill at the EOC would be Net duty. In an emergency response effort, MacLachlan said that hams establish a Net to relay emergency traffic or other information to the people responsible for responding to the event: "Chances are the Net will last longer than 10 hours, and since hams are human, the primary Net Control (NC) will need a break at least several times in that time period -- you could help as back-up. Another duty that could be performed is shadowing various emergency response personnel for the city. Believe it or not, not a lot of Emergency Managers have their Amateur Radio license. If they go out to drive around and survey damage, they need to have a link to the ham radio Net in case they hear anything they need to respond to."

MacLachlan recommends that young hams contact their EC and ask what roles there are that they could perform for the group in an emergency. "If you know your parents' threshold of what you can and can't do, let the EC know upfront that you do have limits," he cautions. "Make sure you participate in as many emergency communication drills as you can and consult with your EC and other members."

According to ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, young hams also need to check with their local government officials, as well. "Due to legal considerations, not all emergency management officials can have young people in their domains, such as an EOC," Dura explained. "While you can still help out with your ARES group, you might not be allowed to help out in the EOC."

MacLachlan strongly encourages local Emergency Coordinators to think of ways of creating positions that younger hams could fulfill in an emergency. "We're the next generation," MacLachlan said, "and starting emergency response at a young age is the best training for when we're ready to take the helm."

