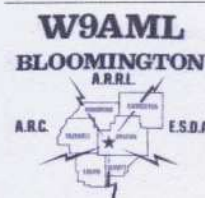


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



March 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Heartland Class Update

Dan Beer, N9NSN, and I coming toward the end of the Technician Class at Heartland and we will be testing this Thursday, at Heartland in the Board Room at 7:00pm – the day after our club meeting. Obviously we will need a couple of VE volunteers to help. Equally important, the testing session is open to anyone who wishes sit in. The normal test rules apply, as does the fee, which is \$14.00

VEC Testing

I'll extend the same invitation as last month to anyone that would like to join the test team. To be a formal part of the team you need to register with W5YI. It is a simple process; I have application forms or you can obtain them from W5YI on the web.

We held our normal VE testing session last Saturday, March 18, 2006 at the Normal Public Library. Unfortunately, I had to bail out at the very last minute due to an illness in the family – my son and his family in Carbondale - many thanks to Dean, AA9BS, for proctoring the session. Unfortunately, no one showed up. The one person who had inquired about our session successfully tested elsewhere. I guess the important thing is that a new ham was added to the ranks

March Meeting

Our March meeting will feature a speaker from the Lincoln weather service – thanks to Rick, WD9HRU, for arranging. This is great timing since the spring weather season is upon us. We need look no farther than the Springfield tornado last week to realize what an important role we

can play in public safety. I look for you all at the presentation – Wednesday, March 22, at 7:00pm in the Red Cross Building across from the Fire Station on East Route 9.

Family Science Day Update

Last month I reported that John, KB9LNS, had received an invitation to attend a briefing at the Challenger Learning Center on a Family Science Night. I sat in for John since he had a prior obligation.

Janet Moore of the Challenger Center briefed us on the Science Night. It began 2 years ago with the ISU Physics Department providing about 10 displays and approximately 150 elementary students attending. Last year the Chemistry Department helped; there about 50 displays and 750 K through 5th grade students attended. The goal for this year is to have attendance of 1000. The purpose: "Challenger Learning Center's Family Science Day 2006 is a science public outreach event to raise friends and funds for the CLC in partnership local businesses and organizations"

John, KB9LNS, Ralph, K9ZO and I briefly brain stormed this Friday and came up with enough ideas so that I am going respond to Janet that we will have a radio presence at the event which is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, September 24th from 2pm – 7:30pm. We can discuss at the club meeting. I think Janet can accommodate almost any reasonable idea.

Storm Spotting Class

The following notice from Rich Ranson, N9YAY:

The McLean County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is hosting the annual Storm Spotter's class on Tuesday, April 4th, at 7:00 p.m. A representative from the National Weather Service office in Lincoln will conduct the course. This two-hour training will cover the basic elements you will need to be a storm spotter in McLean County. Storm behavior, safety and reporting techniques will be emphasized. First-time spotters, those wanting to refresh their skills, public safety personnel, Emergency Managers, and the public are encouraged to attend this event. Please enter through the north lobby doors of the McLean County Law and Justice Center, sign in and proceed to the basement. The class will start promptly at 7:00 p.m.

For questions on this event or to obtain driving directions, please call the McLean County EMA Office at (309) 888-5020 Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ARES

Rich Ranson, N9YAY, is back in town and organizing a local ARES group. He will be scheduling an informational meeting this spring. We will send info to all of you with email addresses on file with the club and we will publicize on the Tuesday night 94 net. Rich states that Storm Spotter class will be mandatory for participation in ARES. I took quite a few notes during a discussion with Rich this week and will discuss at the club meeting if Rich's work schedule doesn't allow him to attend.

We will see you at the meeting Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00pm at the Red Cross building on Route 9.

Thanks –
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	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
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)

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.

2-22-2006 CIRC Meeting Minutes

Keith AC9S recited account balances, Chuck N9RZV read minutes of last, carried as read.

Note from Dan N9NSN & Keith AC9S that the Heartland class got enough students and has started.

Field Day coordinator decision carried over until next month per Gary AB9M.

State Farm Radio Club N1SF will have an Ten-Tec Omni VI and an ICOM 706 available for use at CIRC FD.

Discussion to plan # of active stations, networking & UPS needs.

Jerry ZDY has commercial UPS available but needing work, Chuck N9RZV to check out, needs batteries at minimum.

Rick has self-supporting tower from the Chenoa estate sale for use as well.

Dan K9OAT said we could decide ARC is the best choice & just vote on it instead of all the discussion we do

every year on the same topic & do the same thing. Chuck N9RZV 1st, Les KC9HLS 2nd on having FD at ARC, end of discussion.

CW station had problems with other station interference, Gary AB9M made stubs which helped last year. discussed site plan for antenna installs, phasing, station layout, grounding, band plan.

Gary AB9M talked of Scouting Ham radio demo done at the ARC earlier this month on Feb 7th. Some contacts were made and was well received by the attendees. Should be good public relations.

One of the dads used to listen to short-wave and foreign broadcast & is interested in studying for the amateur hobby.

In a poll of scout attendees, it seems the boys are more interested in Ham radio than the girls.

Gary AB9M checked local libraries for the Tommy Rockford amateur radio primers booklets, not at libraries currently but will check to see if available through inter-library loan.

Family Science day Sunday 9-24-06 at ISU Bone Student center, John Chubick KB9LNS sent info to Keith AC9S, possible for us to setup a display booth if people are interested to do so. Rick WD9HRU to get video of ARISS contact finished to show either at meeting or for events like this.

Larry K9NPH, Dan K9OAT & Dean AA9BS went to Parkside junior high one year, attendee age was so young there was no interest in radio.

Lonnie Butler had series of strokes, N9CEF, Keith to send a card from the club. Connie KB9IGT made motion, Mark KC9HLT 2nd'd.

Eldon KB9PZA said ARISS contact scheduled for Streator schools, firm date not yet set.

Floyd W9EX, old repeater amplifier not working, Craig Smith spent a lot of time working on it and new repeater. Craig has a need for a heat sink that size, Floyd asked for motion to give our unit to him for all his efforts.

Gary AB9M moved, Rick WD9HRU 2nd, carried.

Larry K9ORP says repeater list in newsletter needs updating, our URL says W9MAL, not W9AML; some machines not working, different calls on others - Keith AC9S passed around list to get updated.

Rick gave brief IRA update, next meeting April 22, Norm N9ZKS has request from Rick WD9HRU to pay dues. Eastland suites conference center.

Larry motion adjourn, Lon 2nd at 8pm

More discussions and cherry snacks were enjoyed after the meeting closed until 9:30

Rodger WQ9E 2nd.
19:50 meeting closed

Norm N9ZKS & Gary AB9M put on radio demo at the ARC club station.

Bloomington VEC Exam Dates - 2006

1/21	Normal Public Library - Community room
3/11	Normal Public Library - Community room
5/06	Bloomington Police Department – Osborne Room
7/22	Osborne Room
11/11	Osborne Room

1:00pm

Osborne Room
Bloomington Police Department 434-
2290
305 S East St
Bloomington, IL

Keith R Hanson
AC9S

(309) 378-4416
AC9S@mchsi.COM

Morton Testing:

Generally, testing will be held on the third Saturday of the even numbered months.

Testing starts at noon and will end at my discretion.

If you plan on testing be sure to be there by noon.

Testing fee is \$14.

Dates are as follows:

02/18/06

04/22/06

06/17/06

08/19/06

10/21/06

12/16/06

Test location:

Morton Public Library

315 W Pershing St.

Morton, IL

Call (309) 263-2200 for more info

Keeping Amateur Radio Alive

The following is a copy of a letter submitted to World Radio. Pictures of the bumper stickers mentioned in the article follow

Dear Nancy,

I read your Editor's Log in the March 2006 issue of WR. I agree that something needs to be done to bring new hams into the fold, but I think our biggest downfall is the fact that we don't advertise ham radio. Yes, we go to hamfests, club meetings and help out with communications during public events, but I see those things as "preaching to the choir". We need to make Amateur Radio a household word, as common as words like "Internet, network, cell phone, and hard drive". To do that, we need to saturate the public's eye with our presence.

Sure, I agree that Elmering is important and we should help the newcomers as much as possible to hone their skills, but finding people to Elmer can be difficult. If we get a new employee at work, I try to introduce them to Amateur Radio by giving them an FAQ document and show them photos of my ham station but in the 12 years I have worked there, none have been interested enough to take the plunge and study. Most of the time they show a casual interest and say "that's cool" or something like that and blow it off. I haven't had anyone to Elmer since August 2001, but I am not giving up on my search.

Here are some things I do to make our presence known. When I go to town even if it is to run errands, I wear my callsign badge on my coat and wear my callsign hat. Also, I carry in my van a set of Frequently Asked Questions (6 page document), which I wrote. Whenever someone asks me what my 3 antennas are for on my van, I briefly tell them about ham radio and hand them my FAQ document which contains my name, address, phone number, e-mail address and the ARRL website address. Also, from time to time I stop by my doctor's office and drop off a copy of QST, CQ or Worldradio and inside, I stuff one of my FAQ documents. The public NEVER sees our ham magazines or has the foggiest concept of what we are all about. Most of the time we get confused with CBers.

Last Saturday I picked up 500 bumper stickers from a local printer, which I designed myself. One says "Ask me about Amateur Radio...You will be /amazed!" /and the other says "Ask me about the last COUNTRY I contacted on my HAM RADIO! Amateur Radio ROCKS!" They are written in white on a blue background and they are made of vinyl, so they will be weatherproof. Besides having both of them on the back bumper of my van, I am going to be selling them at hamfests and contacting local clubs to see if I can make some sales there. We need to INVITE people to ask us about Amateur Radio. We need to let them know that we don't bite. These bumper stickers put out that invitation. Another thing these bumper stickers do is identify us as Amateur Radio operators. The public has no clue about our ham license plates. Those callsigns mean absolutely nothing to them. By the way, if any of your readers would like to order a bumper sticker or two, they can e-mail me at the address below. I am selling them for \$2.00 each plus 50 cents for postage.

I have also made up some business cards with Amateur Radio Operator at the top, AA9UF below that, my name, address, phone numbers, e-mail address and the last two lines read "Celebrating 27 years as a licensed operator. Below that

are the words "Extra Class". On the reverse side, I have "This card confirms personal contact with:

Time: _____
Date: _____ Location: _____

So, any time someone wants my phone number or address, they see my card and know I am an Amateur Radio operator. All of the above is what EVERY able-bodied ham should be doing.

Another thing I would like to do when I retire 12 years from now is to introduce schools to Amateur Radio. I just don't have the time now because I work 10-hour days 5 days a week. When Friday rolls around, all I want to do is sit down in the recliner and have a beer after work. In the summer, my two-acre yard keeps me busy mowing grass every weekend. That is at least an 8-hour job.

I hope this letter sets a fire under some fellow hams to get off their duffs and ADVERTISE!

73,
John Gercken, AA9UF
35998 E 400 N Rd.
Bellflower, IL 61724-9674
aa9uf.gercken@gmail.com



If any of the CIRC members would like some of these bumper stickers, please e-mail or contact John at the address above.. He is selling them for \$2.00 each plus postage.

Houston MS-150

I am planning to participate in the following event as a Motorcycle Marshal. This is what was published on the Motorcycling Amateur Radio Club list a while ago. Ham radio is still doing its bit. Jerry by the way is a Airline Pilot and holds the call WA0GLD

"I COUNTED 113 NAMES ON THAT LIST OF MOTORCYCLE VOLUNTEERS THAT WILL BE WORKING THE TX MS-150 CHARITY EVENT". "OF THOSE 113, 39 OF THOSE VOLUNTEERS ARE LICENSED HAM RADIO OPERATORS".

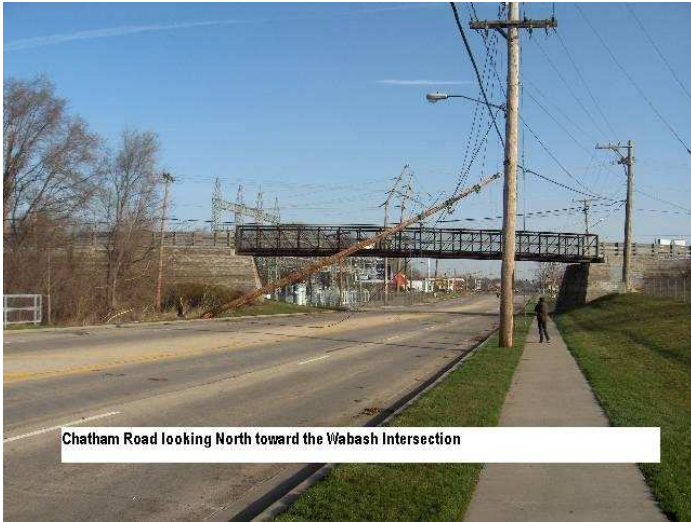
I just wanted to point this out to our other MARC Members around the country/world to illustrate what a terrific job Jerry is doing (As Motorcycle Marshal Coordinator) for the National MS Society and all the work it takes to accomplish such an extraordinary undertaking.

MARC members remember, there are 13,000 bicyclists on this 2 day MS-150 bicycle ride from Houston to Austin, so it takes thousands of volunteers to pull this off without a hitch and Jerry and his motorcycle marshals play a huge part in seeing that the event is a success.

God Bless you Jerry and thank you from all the other MARC Members around the country/world for all you do for the MS Society and for MARC.

Storm Damage

Here are a few pictures of the damage in the Springfield Area. We were lucky that that cell weakened and slipped by us. Do not forget the storm spotting classes. Let's Be Prepared!



Chatham Road looking North toward the Wabash Intersection



Utility poles, snapped in half, dangle from the lines they once held up over the intersection of Chatham Road and Wabash Avenue Monday morning. Justin L. Fowler/State Journal-Register



POWER POLES DOWN ON ARCHER ELEVATOR ROAD



One bus is overturned and others are damaged by debris and falling utility poles at Laidlaw Transit, 555 S. Dirksen Parkway. Chris Young/SJ-R



POWER POLES LYING ACROSS CHATHAM ROAD, NEAR ILES AVENUE

Central Illinois Radio Club

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

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

President: Keith Hanson AC9S
(309) 378-4416

Vice President: Dan Beer N9NSN

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

Treasurer: Norm Huber N9ZKS
(309) 378-4674

Newsletter Editor: Norman Huber,
n9zks@earthlink.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 61704-5855

e-mail n9zks@earthlink.net

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"Hello" Campaign Provides Rallying Point to Promote Amateur Radio

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 15, 2006-- The first components of the ARRL's "Hello" Amateur Radio public relations campaign now are available. "This campaign will give hams the tools they need to reach out in their communities to non-hams and influence their perception of Amateur Radio," says ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, who conceived the campaign and is its principal Headquarters contact. The "Hello"

campaign is aimed at recasting Amateur Radio in the light of the 21st century and focus on its universal appeal. At the same time, it will mark the 100th anniversary of what many historians consider the first voice radio broadcast in 1906 by Reginald Fessenden.

"For years, ARRL public information officers (PIOs) and others interested in promoting Amateur Radio have been looking for leadership and a rallying point from which we can join together in a major promotion for ham radio," Pitts said. *This is it!* Tools include a distinctive "Hello" Web site and radio and TV public service announcements.

Pitts describes the promotion is "quite simply the largest PR campaign that ham radio has ever attempted." Based on the word "Hello," which he calls "possibly the most pleasant word in any language," the coordinated campaign will set "a positive, upbeat tone that highlights the international capabilities of Amateur Radio," he explained.

The "Hello" Web site is designed for *non-hams* to learn a little bit about Amateur Radio and to arouse more interest, Pitts explains. "We stay upbeat, positive and hopeful. Nothing threatening, too difficult or scary is included."



Ham radio allows hundreds of youngsters each year like these at Central Park Middle School in Schenectady, New York to speak directly with the crew of the International Space Station.

Offering a Warm Welcome

Pitts says the site points prospective Amateur Radio licensees to groups that have indicated they will provide a warm welcome to newcomers--a good "Hello!" The national "Hello" campaign can bring curious people into contact with ham radio groups, but it will be up to local radio amateurs to make them truly welcome, Pitts maintains.

"The key to creating a new ham operator is to develop a relationship with a current ham operator," says Pitts, who spent the better part of the past year meeting with various ham radio groups and leaders to sort out "what could realistically be done" to make the campaign take off. Behind the effort is "an army of dedicated, truly motivated PIOs and others who want to see ham radio flourish," Pitts says.

"I believe that by placing good tools into your hands, you will use this opportunity to the fullest," he added. "There will be more to come as the year unfolds."



ARRL Field Day, held the fourth weekend in June, offers a great opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to young and old alike.

What's Available Now?

A series of 30-second radio public service announcements (PSAs) has been developed for the "Hello" campaign. The plan is make a new one available about every eight weeks. These "mini-commercials" for ham radio are already being played on dozens of

stations across the country, and the numbers keep growing.

"You can help by downloading the PSAs from the ARRL Web site onto a CD and taking it to your own local radio station," Pitts suggests.

A broadcast-quality video for the "Hello" campaign will be available in April.



Experienced radio amateurs like ARRL Web Youth Contributing Editor Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM (left), "Elmer" or mentor younger licensees or prospective licensees.



Copies of the special four-page "Hello" brochure are available from ARRL Headquarters.

Copies of the special four-page "Hello" brochure are available from ARRL Headquarters for use during presentations to non-ham

groups. (Full details on the "Hello" campaign plus a pull-out copy of the brochure are available in the April issue of QST.) Pitts suggests the brochures are suitable for talks to schools, clubs, displays and other venues promoting Amateur Radio to the public. There is a space on the back page to add your local club info.

"For 100 years, the magic of the human voice over radio has brought imaginations to life. It opened a whole new era of human communication," the brochure declares, urging, "It's *your* world. Get on the radio and say "Hello."

To obtain copies, [e-mail](#) the "Hello" campaign. Donations are welcome (make checks out to "ARRL") to help cover return postage to ARRL, Public Relations, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"Hello" logo [bumper stickers](#) will be on sale through the ARRL on-line catalog. Buttons for the "Hello" campaign will be available at Dayton Hamvention and at other major Amateur Radio events. Banners for the "Hello" campaign will be flying at Dayton Hamvention and at the National Association of Broadcasters convention in April. After that, they will be made available for use at major events in 2006.

Ham Radio on the New Main Street

The "Hello" campaign will show that despite the Internet and other technologies, the possibility of being able to talk with everyday people around the world and sometimes in exotic locales--coupled with the surprise, art and uncertainty of DXing--remains a major attraction for Amateur Radio. The "Hello" campaign also will take advantage of FCC action--anticipated this year--to drop the Morse code requirement at least for General class applicants.

"ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, was correct in stating that the Main Street of today is not the same as the Main Street of yesteryear," Pitts says. "To reach out today, the very first requirement is that Amateur Radio operators be perceived as friendly and trustworthy. That's a true public relations goal and the primary focus of the campaign."

Reminder

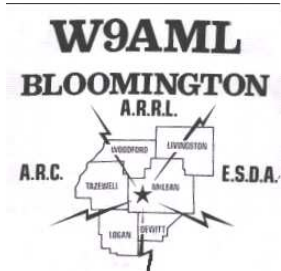
Just a reminder to those who receive this via snail mail. If you have an email address please drop an email to n9zks@earthlink.net so I can speed your newsletter to you via PDF file.

It even let's you blow up the display to allow the pictures (as well as the text) to be seen more easily.

73
Norm

Meeting March 22

Central Illinois Radio Club March 2006 Newsletter



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