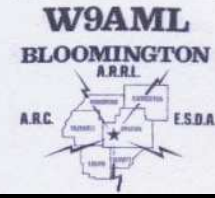


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



May 2006

From the President

VE Testing

Congratulations to three people who upgraded during our last testing session. We have two new Extras and one new General who upgraded during the May session at the Bloomington Police Department. Thanks to all who helped. I think it helps put the club in a very positive light. Note that our remaining 2006 sessions are all at the BPD.

Note – The FCC still has not acted on the proposal to abandon CW for amateur licenses. I expect that to be announced at any point, but I also expect there to be about a year's delay from the time of that announcement, so if any of you are waiting for the code to go away, you might just hit the practice sites and do the upgrade now.

Please let me know if there is any interest in a General Class class. We might be able to arrange something through Heartland or elsewhere. I would also be willing to do another code class if there is enough interest.

May Meeting

Our May meeting will focus on Field Day planning. We do not have a formal program planned, other than Field Day, so please bring your ideas. I asked Sondra of the Red Cross for permission to bury ground rods in the field day site, but so far do not have an ok. She needed to take it to the building and grounds committee and I have not yet heard of their decision.

This could be a good contest. We have permission to use State Farm's Ten Tec OMNI 6 Plus, an excellent

high dynamic range transceiver, Gary, AB9M is thinking of bringing one of his Ten Tec's and I plan on adding a couple of additional band pass filters to the 40 meter I picked up last year, if I can find them at Dayton, so hopefully we can avoid the dreaded cross band interference problems of past years. I have a tentative offer of a motor home, I believe Norm will be there with his trailer and I bought a new tent, for the operation, so a few things are beginning to come together. Please contact Rick, WD9HRU, or Mike, KC9FWL, the coordinators with any ideas and offers.

ARES

Rich Ranson, N9YAY, held an initial ARES meeting on Saturday, April 29th. It was well attended by club members, approximately a dozen of us sat in. Rich handed out a plethora of written information on emergency communications that we are going to make into reference manuals. He is modeling our ARES group in the very successful Springfield organization. We plan upcoming net practice sessions and have initial plans to participate in communications for a July triathlon at Lake Evergreen.

Dayton

As I write this Nettie and I are in final preparations for our annual jaunt to Dayton. It is one of those events that galvanizes the ham community. Last night I read the mail on 40 meters on Rob Sherwood and a group of other Colorado hams who were planning their trips. Rob is the guy who presented some excellent work on HF receiver performance at Dayton a few

years ago and perhaps as much as anyone sparked the current focus on close-in dynamic range as a critical measure of HF receiver quality. Note that QST is now listing 3rd order IMD Dynamic range and 3rd order intercept at 20, 5 and 2 kHz. The manufacturers are responding and we are beginning to benefit from much improved receivers, especially for contests and DXing. Notable examples include the Icom 7800, Yaseu FTDX9000, the Ten Tec Orion and Orion II and the Elecraft. I see Yaesu has a new replacement for the venerable FT-1000 and I'll bet it has better close in specs than its predecessor. These may be very high end rigs, but it is just a matter of time until that performance percolates downward to more affordable radios.

If there is time before we send the newsletter out I will write an addendum on what I saw and learned at the Dayton.

We will see you at the club meeting Wednesday, May 24 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 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	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 (<i>NEW</i>)
Sunday	8:30 P.M.	147.075	Open Net with Newslines

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.

Minutes April 26, 2006 CIRC MEETING,

First off, Eric Hodges N0ZOZ & Rich Ranson N9YAY gave tours & information on the Emergency communications van while still had daylight before the formal meeting started.

Eric continued with presentation on Katrina/Wilma hurricane response in Louisiana.

Norm N9ZKS reported current club funds
483.39 checking
637.81 savings
=====

Chuck read minutes, all in favor.

Keith AC9S presided-

Challenger Learning Center mid-Sept event a location for a station

Old Business - Field Day activities, ground rods approval letter needed for Sondra ARC, Mike N9FWL Rick WD9HRU, Gary AB9M planning NVIS antenna arrangement to plan the site and help reduce

interference, overload problems. Jim WB9UWA commented on 80M noise, general qrm.

Question on shelters, tents or, 350-500 va UPS's for each station, to cover filtering & the bumps generally seen on generators.

Jerry WB9ZDY to bring Club's vertical SS tower to club meeting to test out.

New Business:

Repeater, audio low, dirty pot, Gary AB9m fixed.

plus W9AML control operator, grounding lightning protection ups backup.

Keith introduced Speaker-Rich Ranson N9YAY, new EC at ARES ESDA, 1st mtg Sat 10am 4/29/2006, @ EMA garage on Main St. near the pool.

Some of his goals are to:
Define personnel list, capabilities, equipment, develop logistics plan, radiograms, net control, net operations, etc. Coordination with

hospitals, other groups. Bring a copy of your license, note taking materials, join McLean city ARES Yahoo group.

Rich requests use of W9AML for primary ARES response use, Gary AB9M brought to vote, motion carried.

Keith AC9S mentioned to stay trained, active.

Rich stated group becomes mutual aid after setup

He is also president of IRA, mentioned W9AML should contact W9AZ to resolve interference.

Jim WB9UWA suggested power poles connectors so any equipment could be used & immediately connectable. Keith mentioned the club could subsidize a purchase.

meeting closed Jerry ZDY 1st, Don EZJ 2nd

Meeting adjourned for many to Denny's restaurant for snacks & chat.

de Chuck N9RZV

Central Illinois Radio Club

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

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Treasurer: Norm Huber N9ZKS
(309) 378-4674

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(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:

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Bloomington, IL 61704-5855

e-mail n9zks@earthlink.net

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Bloomington VEC Exam Dates - 2006

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:

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

HIGH SCHOOL TO OFFER "RADIO AMATEURS AND DISASTER OPERATIONS" CLASS

A California high school that's participating in the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP--also known as "The Big Project") will offer a year-long elective course, "Radio Amateurs and Disaster Operations" (RADIO), starting this fall. Moorpark High School math and meteorology teacher Tom Baker, NC6B, says the course is the first of its kind anywhere in the US. The class curriculum was created in conjunction with the ARRL, the American Red Cross and various Ventura County agencies. ARRL ETP Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, gives the new course high marks and says it has a great chance to succeed.

"This program has in place all three components that will be necessary for success: a motivated teacher, supportive school administration and strong support and involvement by the local ham community," Spencer said. He attended an April 4 meeting at the school to discuss its "Learn

and Serve Program," and he believes the support shown at that session will greatly boost the RADIO initiative.

"The meeting was well attended, and the attendees included representatives of all the emergency management participants in the program, the mayor's office, the school and district office, school support staff and the ARRL Division and Section," Spencer said. Among those on hand were ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, and Santa Barbara Section Emergency Coordinator Jennifer Roe, AA6MX.

The elective RADIO course is open to students in grades 9 through 12, and it will feature instruction from certified experts in their respective fields. After studying, testing and meeting any practical skills requirements, all RADIO students will come away with an Amateur Radio license (at least Technician class), American Red Cross First Aid Training Certification, American Red Cross CPR Training Certification and American Red Cross AED Training (Automated External Defibrillator) Certification.

Students will learn about and how to seamlessly interface with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), Incident Command System (ICS) and local government infrastructure. They'll also learn search-and-rescue techniques among other disaster and emergency preparedness skills. RADIO participants will even learn peer mediation skills.

The RADIO course not only will provide service-learning opportunities for students but will make them prime candidates as volunteers for service organizations and, later, as potential service professionals.

Moorpark High School, which has an enrollment of approximately 2700, established its Amateur Radio club, W6MHS, last August, and it became an ARRL-affiliated club in October. In

December, W6MHS won an ARRL ETP grant and received station equipment through the program (some 170 schools now participate in the "Big Project"). This August, Moorpark High School will host one of the ARRL ETP Teachers Institutes.

"We are very excited about this program," said Baker of the RADIO

course. He has offered to help other schools in the US to establish RADIO curricula. "This will be quite a challenging and enjoyable class. It will give students skills to become positively and directly involved with their community, and it gives this high school a pool of talented, trained individuals who can assist with many on-campus situations."

Contact Baker (805-378-6305) for more information or visit the RADIO page on the school's Department of Meteorology Web site <<http://www.mhsweather.org/pages/10/index.htm>>.

Taken from the ARRL newsletter.

Dayton 2006

I attended as an Exhibitor in the NCG (Comet, Maldol, and Diawa Distributor) booth this year and can tell you what the other side is like. I spent four days on the floor and only about one hour looking at other booths. It can be busy.

The weather was great if you do not count the thunderstorms and hail that rolled through on Thursday morning while we were setting up the booth. We were very lucky in that Ray rode Casper to the Arena and had the bike installed in the booth before the rain/hail started.

The great weather meant that the crowd could spread out in the flea market and didn't keep the inside isles packed full of people only interested in staying dry or cool like they are when the rains or hot sun rule.

I was there with the Motorcycling Amateur Radio Club "Chairman of The Board" Ray Davis who at 74 years old will have put 100,000 miles on that white Goldwing in the last 28 months. We gathered a number of new members, sold a number of our exclusive antenna mounts, talked to hundreds of interesting hams and generally had a great time. We also provided a little information on the antennas of Comet. All in all, it was tiring but a great experience.



Ray, KD6FHN with Casper



Keith, AC9S; his lovely wife Nettie; Norm, N9ZKS and Rick, WD9HRU at The Hamvention.

de Norm N9ZKS



0900 May 19th – The gates are open!