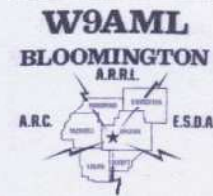


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



November 2009

From the President

**November Meeting,
Wednesday the 25th
7:00 PM at the Red Cross
on Eastport Ct.**

At the meeting last month I started having attendees to the meeting report on their building projects and what they have been doing on the air. Keith, AC9S, gave a very nice report on what he has been doing on the air and Mark, AB9MP, talked about his antenna tuner. Mark even brought his tuner to the meeting for a show and tell. I brought my "to-go-kit" to show the power adapters I put together with Anderson Power Poles. The adapters will fit almost any radio or device.

This month Jim, WB9UWA volunteered to talk about his contacts and activity on EME. I know Jim is working on a few building projects relating to his EME activity. I hope he will give us a short report on his projects.

If you have any building projects going please let me know or just bring them to the meeting. And, if you would like to report on your activities on the air we would like to hear from you.

Testing was done at the Red Cross on the 14th. We will have a report on the turnout and results.

This month is election month. Keith, AC9S, has volunteered to take the nominations for club officers. If you are or know someone who is interested in any position please let Keith know.

The after meeting presentation this month will be on antenna analyzer use, mainly the MFJ-659 and MFJ-269. I have the 269 but didn't know how to use it, other than SWR. I am sure others are in the same boat as me, so I thought it would be a good presentation for the meeting. Jim Shaffer, WB9UWA, will give the presentation. **If you have an analyzer, bring it to the meeting.**

Hope to see you at the meeting.
73's
Ed, KC9GF

Election Time

Send your nominations to Keith, AC9S, before the meeting. This is the month for elections, so come to the meeting.

CIRC October Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2009

President Ed Deutsch (KC9GF) called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Twenty six members and one guest were present. We welcomed one guest Jeff Lovell (KC9QQW) to our meeting.

The newsletter contained the minutes for the September meeting. Ed asked if there were any corrections to the September meeting minutes. There were none and Gary Huber (AB9M) made a motion that the minutes be accepted as published. After a second by Ralph Bolt (KOHLT), the motion passed.

Treasurer Norm Huber (N9ZKS) provided a summary of the financial status of the club. He reported that the checking account had \$477.01 and the savings account had \$646.76. A number of members paid for their magnetic communication signs, but Norm will show those in next month's report. Gary made a motion that we accept the report. After a second by Keith Hanson (AC9S) the motion passed.

Ed opened the discussion for Old Business. He routed a couple of menus from Swinger's and asked the membership to select 4 or 5 items they might like for the Holiday party on the 3rd of December. Ed reminded us to pay Norm for the magnetic communication signs we ordered. Richard Kempf (WD9HRU) reported that he received a second call sign for the club (KC9QKC). Now that we have two call signs, he will return the new one and have it replaced with Floyd's call sign (W9EX).

Keith gave a short program on operation of his station. He focuses on contests and he talked about how he prepares a list of contests for the year and selects those that he will participate in. He talked about propagation being great and it was much easier this year to make contacts with lots of other amateurs around the world. Mark Snyder (AB9MP) gave a short presentation of a

project he is building. He showed us his tuner project and details about it from the ARRL Antenna book. It is a simple circuit, but it still needs some adjustments. Grant Zehr (AA9LC) showed us his project, which is a control box so that an operator and logger can use headphones and microphones and switch between talking on the air and to each other. He decided to build the box after Field Day, since we had a number of stations close to each other and it was hard to keep the conversations from one station from bothering the other stations. Keith and Norm showed us their GO Kits, which include a radio, antenna, and all the spare parts needed to operate and make repairs in an emergency communication situation.

Keith provided an update on testing dates for people to get or upgrade their license. The next date will be at 1:00 PM November 14 at the Red Cross building. Keith and Dan Beer (N9NSN) are working on the next Technician class. It will start in February at Heartland Community College. Chuck Kostelc (N9RZV) talked about the work he is doing to use two commercial dish antennas to connect the tower with internet. He will be checking with Illinois Power to make sure they do not have any concerns.

Ed opened the discussion for New Business. He talked about the need to do more outreaching projects to our community. ARRL headquarters has material that can be used for ideas and handouts. We should get our monthly meeting published in the local newspapers. Did you know that we have almost 600 hams located in our community? How many of them know about our club? What can we do to get them to visit and join us for events like Field Day? Ralph suggested a day's event at a local hotel, with various booths showing activities, equipment, ARES, Field Day, and so forth. We could invite Ron Ross from WJBC, who is a ham. Norm mentioned that next October 1, 2 and 3 the Boy Scouts will have a major meeting hosted in town. He hopes we can provide a couple of booths, one for scouts to operate and another to contact the International Space Station. Anyone interested in helping please contact Norm.

Ed reminded the membership that in November we will vote for the officers for 2010. Please let Keith know if you are interested in a position or want to recommend someone for a position. We discussed providing a copy of the membership at our website. Gary Huber (AB9M) agreed to publish the list and Ed will send him a copy. We agreed that it would only contain the name and call sign of the members. Ed mentioned that Dan was collecting candy from Halloween to send to the soldiers overseas. He got the idea from a couple of his patients who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ed reminded the members that we have our Coffee Clutch at 9:00 AM, Monday to Friday, at the Dairy Queen on College Avenue and the 10-10 breakfast at IHOP the 1st Saturday of each month at 8 AM. All are welcomed to attend. Bring a friend. And don't forget to check in on Tuesday's to the ARES Net at 8 PM on 146.790 (103.5 PL), the 10 meter Net at 8:30 PM, the 2 Meter Net at 9

PM.

Grant Zehr made a motion that we adjourn. After a second by Connie Kostelc (KB9IGT), the motion passed. Gary Huber (AB9M) gave a detailed presentation on APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System). He covered the history, usage, equipment, activities, and many uses for the packet network. He also provided some detailed handouts.

Submitted by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL)

THE ARES LETTER

First off I want to personally thank Earl WB9UWA and Eric N9DOA for getting the Low Band antenna project out at the EMA garage finished last Saturday I know the EMA operations staff is very appreciative for the effort. At our October meeting it was decided by all the members that they would like to hold monthly meetings and that they wanted to hold them out at the EMA garage. Also at that meeting we discussed the county wide disaster drill the good and bad of the drill and the lessons learned from the drill. Andy also passed out a sheet with the new tactical simplex frequencies that our ARES group will be using on events. Our group also had two new members join our group we welcome Larry KB9NPH, Gary KD9F, at our November meeting we had discussion on getting ourselves back into the Packet radio/APRS and hopefully will be getting some computer hardware donated to us in the near future. Our next meeting will be Wednesday December 16th at 1800 hrs with a holiday dinner.

Andy Stubblefield, K9EMA
Acting EC McLean Co. ARES

Monopoly - Did you Know?

You'll Never look at a MONOPOLY Game the same

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape.. Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When

approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes,' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany, or Italy where Allied POW camps were regional system. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set -- by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets.. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war. The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that, 'Get Out of Jail Free,' card!

I realize most of you are (probably) too young to have any personal connection to WWII (Dec. '41 to Aug. '45), but this is still interesting.

Story verification:

<http://blogs.wsj.com/informedreader/2007/11/19/wwii-pows-perk-monopoly-with-real-money/>

With this website, and word wrap, be sure that you have the complete URL posted in your address bar.

SRD

SRD stands for Skywarn Recognition Day. It is held on the first Saturday in December. This year it is on Dec 5th from 0000 UTC (6 pm on Dec 4th) until 2400 UTC (6 pm on Dec 5th). It is joint effect between the NWS and the ARRL to recognize the contributions of Ham Radio to the NWS.

The object is to contact as many NWS offices as possible. If you only contact one office, that is all need for a SRD certificate. The exchange involves your weather in addition to your name, QTH, signal strength, etc. More information can be found at

www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/index.php.

Lincoln WX will on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 using Phone, CW, PSK 31. We will be using Echo Link, 2 m, 70 cm. Repeater contacts are welcome since this is how ILX maintains contact within the CWA. There will be a sked of when we will be on the various repeaters. It will be on the ILX web site. www.crh.noaa.gov/ilx or www.weather.gov/ilx. You can contact the weather offices on as many modes or frequencies as you can. We will be using the club call sign of WX9ILX.

73 de Rick, WD9HRU

The following pictures are from the drill held September 18th.





DO NOT FORGET.. THE CHRISTMAS PARTY IS DECEMBER 3RD AT 6 P.M AT SWINGERS RESTAURANT, 1304 CROSS CREEK DRIVE, NORMAL

Nets in the Area

Mon thru Sat	9:00 A.M. CT	14.2475	(HF) Displaced Peorians
Tuesday	9:00 P.M.	146.255	(103.5 PL) Woodford County
Tuesday	7:15 P.M.	146.910	Tazwell County ESDA Net
Tuesday	8:00 P.M.	146.790	(103.5 PL) McLean County
ARES 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 Newline
Wednesday	9:00 P.M.	442.250	103.5 PL ARES Open Net
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 Newline
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 Newline
Sunday	9:00 P.M.	146.730	123.0 PL Open Net

(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)

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 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 CTCSS
146.985	KA9YPK	Clinton	
147.015	NX9M	Normal	88.5 (open*)
147.075	W9UVI	Washington	103.5 CTCSS
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**)
443.800	K9HGX	Decatur (ARES)r	123.0
444.175	K9MCA	Decatur	100.0

* Repeater is currently in open mode with pl for those with QRM

** Repeater RX with tight carrier squelch and loose tone squelch (107.2)

Central Illinois Radio Club

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

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

President: Ed Deutsch KC9GF
 (309) 828-2227

Vice President: *Jim Shaffer*

Secretary: Mike Sallee, KC9FWL

Treasurer: Norm Huber N9ZKS
 (309) 378-4674

Newsletter Editor: Norman Huber, 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

Permission is granted to Amateur Radio-related organizations to reproduce contents of Short CIRCuits provided full credit is given.

