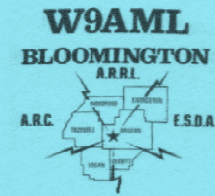


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



November 2011

From the President

**November Meeting,
Wednesday the 23rd
7:00 PM at the Red Cross**

'Tis the Season as a lot of people are saying. We have had the last of some very nice days in November and even had the gales of November! We have our Christmas dinner coming up on December 1st at the Habachi Grill and looking forward to a wonderful meal.

For those not in attendance at the October meeting, it was voted to have our leadership team to stay in office until May when the club constitution says that we are to elect officers. They will then be installed at the September meeting.

Now that the weather is becoming cooler and the evening is upon us an hour earlier, it's time to think about those indoor projects or activities. One project on my list to refurbish a Heathkit DX-100 that has been sitting around for a long time. My cousin obtained a capacitor kit from a supplier in Iowa and sent it to me for my birthday. I have no excuse for not getting started on it, other than I have to clear a space on the work bench! I have another project ready to go also, which is replacing the dial lamps in my FT-3000M two meter rig I use on a daily basis. I have blue LEDs to install instead of the orange that Yaesu put in at the factory. Think about trying some small projects. I see a 2 watt transmitter using logic chips build in a big box with point to point wiring!

If all of your projects are done or on hold, there is always the winter contest schedule. We have the CQ WPX CW contest on the last weekend of November. The ARRL 160 meter contest is December 2-4. The ARRL 10 Meter contest is December 10-11 and for a real laid back "contest" is the ARRL Straight Key Night that runs 0000Z to 2400Z on January 1st. I put contest in quotes because it is more of a social event and you are encouraged to talk about the particular straight key or keys you are using or have been using for the event. I don't know if my Speed-X straight key is a classic, but I am going to do some practicing and give it a whirl.

Hope everyone has a good Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas, if I don't see you before then.

73,
Gary, KD9F

HEARTLAND RED CROSS, McLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

DISASTER OVERVIEW CLASS

Roberta Preston KC9RMB

It is a video driven course. It will include American Red Cross History and Key Figures which everyone will find interesting. It will include the fundamental principles and values of delivery of care during a disaster. It will include the disaster cycle which is:

Prepare - Respond - Recover and how each of those things is accomplished. It encompasses what the American Red Cross does and what effect volunteers have in response, recovery, and rebuilding efforts.

The class includes workbooks and handouts to support what you learn in the class. (And usually SNACKS & COFFEE!)

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Mass Care groups and Services, Sheltering, Feeding.

Disaster Services and how they are handled most effectively.

Interoperability. Those A.R.E.S. members of us are learning a lot about Interoperability. The SkyWarn group will also be learning about Interoperability.

It is fast becoming the "Word for today".

How the Red Cross, EMS, Government, the community and faith based organizations work together.

The process of Volunteering.

How ARC works with individuals and communities before and after a disaster.

Basic types of common disasters and the concerns and needs that arise from them.

emergency Response Vehicles and their function.

DISASTER ASSESSMENT CLASS

Gathering and evaluating data in a disaster!

Determine needs of additional resources and radio that info to ARC Headquarters.

Communications at a disaster site:

Report info regarding safety concerns, property damage and disaster needs.

Provide for general communication needs.

Be Liaison communications for the Am Red Cross and other organizations.

The Red Cross, A.R.E.S., EMA, EMS, HEALTH SERVICES, SKYWARN and Illinois Amateur Radio groups all have somewhat of their own communications quirks.

AMATEUR RADIO PREPARATION

In order for any of this to work there has to be a basic process to follow. During the Olympia, MO tornado event a call was put out through various agencies for amateur radio operators. I'm sure that if the need had been worse than it was, many of you would have given some thought to going there with your equipment and provide communication assistance. Do you know that most of the people here would not have qualified to participate? Do you know that some of the A.R.E.S. members would not have qualified to participate?

There is a minimum of two FEMA online courses that you have to master.

THE NEXT STEP

Our Memorandum of Understanding between the American Red Cross Heartland Chapter, the Central Illinois Radio Club and McLean County A.R.E.S./SKYWARN will be signed by our president this evening.

In a minimum of words, it says, "we" will help them, in their time of need, by providing Adjunct communications to their operations. What it does not say anywhere in the M.O.U. is that they expect that help for which the American Red Cross Heartland Chapter will provide these facilities for us. Application forms are available for you to take home. Please read them over, fill them out and bring them to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

It is short notice, but, the Disaster Overview Class, which is free, is this Saturday from 8:00 A.M. to Noon.

Taking this class may help you decide whether you can be a part of this effort. I need to know right now who will be taking the class so that credentials may be made in advance. The Red Book is the sign up book.

As a club, we need to "field a team" of our own. It will involve commitment. It will involve improvements and versatility to our own radio stations. It will involve furthering our own education in Amateur Radio. The part of Amateur Radio we can not leave to someone else is what we do. This is a function that can't be lumped onto the existing A.R.E.S./SKYWARN group.

This has to be a function of regular club members in addition to the other groups. With that Mr. President, I propose a small committee be formed to decide how this club will "field a team" of American Red Cross Volunteer communicators.

It would be my hope that a club member, not affiliated with A.R.E.S./SKYWARN volunteer for this endeavor.

KC9RMB-ROBERTA
KJ9P-TOM

"4:1 Coreless Balun" and a Long Wire

Ed KC9GF

I found the article in the April 2010 issue of QST. The baluns look simple and easy to build. So, I started with the coax version first. I knew what I wanted to do and that was

to put up a wire antenna for 160 through 10. I have plenty of wire to use but it is #22 stranded wire. The plan was to try it out and if it worked I would replace the #22 with coperweld wire that would survive the winters of the mid west.

After building the balun I had to figure out a way of supporting the wire from the bottom of my tower to the top. Then over to a tree to the east, then to the south west of my property where I got permission to attach it to the restaurant's sign.

I used PVC pipe for the supports going up the tower. (see pictures) The balun is held on the bottom support with wire ties. I used blade connectors to connect the antenna and ground wires to the balun. I cut a slot in the center support just wide enough for the wire to slip in and the hose clamp holds it tight.

For insulator at the tree I used a clothesline separator with a pulley so the wire would slide back and forth in the wind. Unfortunately the wire slipped off the pulley and in the wind a week ago it broke. It was easy to fix and I was back in business.

How does it work you ask. Quite well. On 80 meters I was getting 59+ signal reports from all over the US. On some bands, like 80 meters I could tune the match to 1:1 but on 160 3:1 was the best I could do. I might get better results by changing the length of the wire one way or the other but it works now and winter is coming.

The balun was easy to build and install, so if you feel you need a wire antenna for the lower bands this is quick and easy. Give it a try.

I will have a few copies at the meeting on Wednesday night.



AREA EXAM DATES

Following is the schedule for W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exams for the year 2011 at the **Normal Fire station at 1300 E College Avenue. It is at the intersection of College and Blair Street, with parking behind the Fire Station, entry off Blair.**

Setup is from Noon to 1:00 normally. Exams begin at 1:00 P.M. Questions may be directed to Keith Hanson via email preferably ac9s@mchsi.com or (309) 378-4416

Please bring two forms of identification. You must have a Social Security Number. We cannot administer a test

without your SSN. You will need a copy of your Current license plus any CSCE you want to apply.

Test dates for 2012 will be available soon:

The club thanks Keith for his hard work in heading this testing.

Peoria Area Radio Club Testing

In addition on the alternate months VEC exams are held in Morton Public Library.

Contact Bob Bush W9WTF at tigrbob@gmail.com for more information on the Peoria Radio Club testing.

Pictures From The Past – Do You Remember When



-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.	146.940	(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	(103.5PL) 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
Varies	147.100	103.5 PL	<i>Sometimes</i> Trader's Net follows ARES Net held on 442.250
Thursday	7:00 P.M.	50.135	Open 6 meter Net
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.760	(162.2 PL) 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
Sunday	8:30 P.M.	147.075	Open Net with Newslines
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 Coffee Klatch 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.

Weekly 6 Meter Net

Every Thursday evening at 50.135 mHz at 7:00 P.M.

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 WX RACES	103.5
146.730	K9HGX	Decatur(Echolink)	123.0
146.790	WD9HRU	Bloomington	103.5 Anti PL on 107.2
146.850	K9PEO	PAARC	103.5
146.940	W9AML	McLEAN CO ARES	103.5 CTCSS
146.985	KA9YPK	Clinton	
147.015	NX9M	Normal ARES Alt.	88.5 (open*)
147.075	W9UVI	Washington	103.5 CTCSS
147.105	WA9RTI	Decatur	103.5
147.150	WD9FTV	Bloomington	103.5
147.345	K9ZM	Lincoln ESDA	103.5
147.390	WB9DUC	Pontiac FARA	127.3
442.250	WA9RTI	Decatur (ARES)	103.5
442.700	WB9UUS	Normal	107.2
443.800	K9HGX	CENOIS ARC	123.0
444.175	K9MCA	Decatur	100.0

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

Central Illinois Radio Club

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

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

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(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:

Norm Huber
19266 US Highway 150
Bloomington, IL 61705-5855

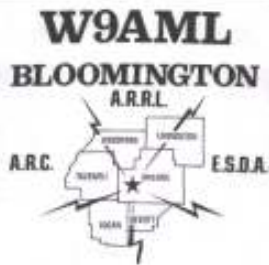
e-mail n9zks@frontier.com

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Next Meeting Wednesday November 23, 2011

**Christmas Club Dinner – Thursday DEC 1
Hibachi Grill**

Central Illinois Radio Club November 2011 Newsletter



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