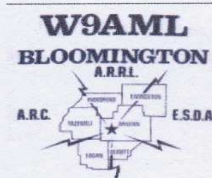


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



September 2008

From the President

September Meeting – Wednesday, September 24, 700pm at the Red Cross on Route 9 East.

Gary Huber, AB9M, will give us a presentation on DXLabs. This is full functionality freeware, similar to the Logic package which I presented last year. It includes basic logging/database, integrated digital modes, award tracking, spot logs, QSLs, LOTW; virtually everything you might need in ham radio station software. It is organized in modules so that you can implement only what you are interested. I am looking forward to learning more from Gary. It sounds like the developer is very responsive to bug reports and enhancement requests.

Solar Minima

The solar disc still remains spotless with the solar flux hovering around 66-67 and the sunspot number at 0! This week had a report of a new cycle sunspot, but it quickly faded from view and the number is back to 0. However, I am still working a lot of DX. 20 remains open into the evening and with the lowering of summer noise 40 and 80 will be very productive.

It looks like the experts are divided. Some claim a year's minima with little solar activity is fairly normal. Others seem to feel there is something anomalous going on. In any event, we can still enjoy world-wide communications. If this is as bad as it gets, it isn't too bad!!

Antenna Practicum

Our September 6 work day to help Rick Sudholc lower his tower and antennas went well. There were a number of us in attendance, including Eric, N9DOA, Norm, N9ZKS, Don,

N9RGG, Mark, AB9MP. I know I am forgetting someone – apologies!! At this point Rick has the tower back at his intended height and I am going to help him place his tri-bander in place the Sunday after Peoria.

Peoria Superfest

By the time you read this the Peoria hamfest may already have taken place. I am looking forward to the event because it is probably the largest close-in Central Illinois hamfest to us. Floyd, W9EX, has secured the same site as in previous years – right in the middle of the main flea market aisle in front of the exhibition hall. I hope to see you there.

Command Technologies

Command Technologies has recently been purchased by Palstar. So, the maker of BIG antenna tuners will now have a line of BIG amplifiers. Sounds like a healthy move that should be good for us. Both product lines have excellent reputations.

QST Archives on-line

I don't know about you, but I have a vast collection of old QSTs. Nettie will probably applaud the ARRL's decision to place all QST, QEX, Ham Radio and NCJ articles on-line. Currently they have everything from inception through 2004. I just did a search on "amplifiers 1969" and found an interesting piece on the SB200. It looks like there is even less of a reason to keep all those old musty QSTs around – other than nostalgia.

Sick Call

Dean Lacy, AA9BS, has had been laid up with neck problems. He has been in tremendous pain, but recently had surgery and is now recuperating at home. I am sure he will appreciate your thoughts, cards and prayers.

Elections

Radio Club – not National, hi hi! Our club elections are rapidly approaching. Chuck, N9RZV, is heading the nominating committee, so please let him know if you are interested or even willing to run for an office. I believe a club like ours needs a steady turnover in its officers if it is to remain healthy, so please consider serving in one of the positions.

Take care everyone. I will see you at 7:00pm at the Red Cross building across from the Route 9 Airport Fire Station.

73's

Keith
AC9S

Amateur Radio And The Internet

Today the World Wide Web offers extended range for much of the population but before the internet radio amateurs ventured beyond the local neighborhood through the magic of radio. For decades, long before the internet, hams would use radio as a means to maintain friendships, stay in touch with loved ones and help others contact family in remote places of the globe.

Long distance chess was once a popular on air activity. Amateur Radio operators would set up chess boards and moves were exchanged over the air. Each radio operator maintained their chess board according to the moves transmitted by each other. Often these games would be played out over the course of days or weeks during scheduled contacts. The activity was not about finishing the game quickly as it was about meeting on the air often.

A lot of naysayers have claimed the internet to be the death of Amateur Radio. In fact some non-radio people when asked about ham radio will respond with "hasn't the internet made that obsolete?" On the contrary, if anything the internet has enhanced Amateur Radio. Think about the many ways hams use the internet.

RADIO CLUBS

Club members can stay informed all the time through the use of e-mail reflectors. Various users groups allow people to exchange ideas and information about their favorite piece of equipment or operating mode. If you think about it these user's groups are like virtual specialty clubs for people with a shared interest. Many clubs use the internet to distribute electronic newsletters and maintain websites to keep members informed and attract new members.

THE DX GAME

Some of you may remember two ringers, when your buddy would call your house and let the phone ring two times then hang up. This code was to let you know about some hot DX that was on the air. Of course you would not dare answer the telephone before the second ring for fear of someone incurring a long distance charge. Today, through the use of the internet we can utilize real-time DX spotting networks to find out which stations are on the air. If you have your rig interfaced with your PC using the appropriate software the network will automatically switch your transceiver to the DX's operating frequency.

The internet has enhanced the DX game in other ways by providing Dxpediton log information on line while the Dxpediton is still in operation. This helps eliminate the "insurance" QSOs and allows the Dxpediton work as many stations as possible while limiting the number of duplicate contacts.

There are software programs available that monitor the DX cluster and if a needed DX station is spotted you will receive an e-mail alert on

your Blackberry or other personal e-mail device. How cool is that? Just look at it as the digital version of the "two ring" DX alert.

CONTESTING AND AWARDS

ARRL's Logbook of The World would not be possible without internet technology. LoTW's use of public and private keys lets users all over the world to upload electronically signed logs and when QSOs are matched the users receive credit for their contacts to be used toward awards. More information about Logbook of the world can be found on the ARRL website. <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>

Contest scores are now published on the internet allowing participants to quickly sort and analyze the data.

PUBLIC SERVICE

A variety of public service groups such as ARES use the internet to call up volunteers, maintain databases of people and equipment available for disasters and to inform the public of their services.

Being able to transmit digital information via radio and then inject it into the internet electronic mail system has allowed radio amateurs to move messages much faster than was possible using the antiquated relay system.

LICENSING AND EDUCATION

Today many people will prepare for their Amateur Radio license exam by using one of the many practice exam websites. These sites will randomly quiz the user from the VEC question pools and score the results. This undoubtedly eases some of the test jitters and exposes areas of strength and weakness.

ARRL offers an on-line license class for those applicants who may have scheduling conflicts with traditional classes or just enjoy doing things at their own pace. <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/Tech.html>>

In addition to licensing courses ARRL offers a series of Emergency Communications courses (EmComm Level I, II, III) and other subjects such as Antenna Modeling, Radio Frequency Interference and HF Digital Communications. <<http://www.arrl.org/cep/>>

ON THE AIR

The Internet Repeater Linking Project (IRLP), Echolink and remote base stations could not exist without the internet. These technologies have opened the world of Amateur radio to a whole new group of users as well as offered areas of experimentation to seasoned radio amateurs.

Adaptability

Traditionally the Amateur Radio service has always made use of whatever was available. Whether salvaging parts from discarded television sets in the 1950s, repurposing surplus military equipment in the 1960s or integrating electronic hardware today, hams have always utilized technology in creative ways to suit their needs. An internet connection in the ham shack is as common as the J-38 straight key once was. The fact that you are reading this e-letter demonstrates the positive influence the internet and computers have had on Amateur Radio.

ROHN 25 WANTED

I'm looking for one or two sections of Rohn 25 tower. Email is n9iua@arrl.net / lunny@mchsi.com

Thanks N9IUA - Calvin K Lunny

TWO METER NET REPORT

Please let your newsletter editor know if you would like to continue seeing this type of information in future newsletters.

September 16, 2008 and the Tuesday net on the W9AML repeater. KB9RAB (Deane) and N9NSN (Dan) checked in short time. K9HOQ (Don) reported having a nice day and enjoying the cooler weather. Don

also has a home in Dupage Co. and hoped it was still in tack after IKE stormed in. K9OAT (Dan) was hoping his new project of a house boat docked in Henry IL, stays docked as flood waters are threatening that area. KC9LYU (Justin) reported being busy relocating his Ham Shack and had recorded 5.5 inches of rain over the weekend. Also checked in to the 10 Meter Tuesday night net. AB9MP (Mark) Checked in with the 10 Meter group, also had a little moisture in his basement. AC9S (Keith) was in Carbondale this last weekend to visit his son and family. They reported high winds and heavy rain. Keith also reported special event stations honoring route 66 was on various HF bands. N9ZKS (Norm) spent the weekend at Chanute Air Force base with a Scout Jamboree, with various events for Scout participation including contact via Echo link with the International Space Station, with the fixed station in Hawaii. They also reported high winds and broke camp Saturday afternoon when they heard hurricane IKE was approaching. WB9DUC (Daryl) checked in via mobile was just getting home and reported 9" of rain over the weekend. K9GUN (Tom) was on vacation this week, spent the weekend at the Indy Speedway and motor cycle races. First time these races were held in Indy since 1909. Noted were the worlds fastest motor cycles and the best of the best drivers. However like other weekend activities the race was reduce from 28 laps to 20 per bad weather and hurricane IKE. A total of 10 check ins for the evening with net control KB9NPH (Larry).

JOTA BADGE BLANKETS FOUND

Last month I published an article about the theft of a blanket with 300 rare JOTA Badges. I am happy to report that the badges have been recovered. It just may be another example of the power of the Internet to help hams.

Norm N9ZKS

Meeting Minutes

27 August 2008

Russell Murray & Glenn Barnhill asked us to provide communications to a pow-wow, events including buffalo rides, etc. Princeton weekend 2009, we'd be under a canvas tent, Location near Leroy near Morraine View. It is a farm donated to the Kickapoo to hold gatherings June 5-7, 2009

Minutes as published approved, Motions by Rick HRU first, Chuck RZV second, carried Treasurer's report accepted as reported

Old business

Rick N9CKL gave brief chat about a tower lowering project at his home, 2816 Phillip place, off Hershey, Wellington way, 2-3 blocks Carl, left on Phillip, 1 block long.

Sat Sept 6, 9am. Keith AC9S has a tower jack, gin-pole as needed, rope, Rohn 20, 25year old.

Keith asked if Norm N9ZKS had an update on explorer venture crew. The answer was no.

FD dissection, talk about going off site. Norm checked Comlara park, near south boat ramp. He asked about

locking down the registration instead of the ARC. Roger WQ9E mentioned boating not running resistive wires would increase the noise floor

Also Dan N9NSN offered his place again with full generator use,

However Comlara is public & we get additional points. Rick mentioned many years ago we did at the windmill on St. Joe's Hospital property.

Eldon KB9PZA, said there is no advantage to get Princeton tickets early (no double stubs like last year)

Continued comments on the Indian event. a show of hands of about 12 interested folks to help cover the

3 day event. Keith will call them back to let them know we are interested. Attendance is about a 1,000 people

Norm also suggested an officer nominating committee. Keith agreed. Chuck N9RZV spoke up & Roger set the hook.

Norm also mentioned the JOTA/camporee at Howard Virgin Forest in Leroy by Rt150.

Another camporee in Sept held in Rantoul; plan to do satellite, radio badges for scouts.

Larry KB9NPH mentioned about net check-ins, who checked in, published log. Keith & Norm use the form and Larry uses paper.

Rick WD9HRU asked about Christmas party; Keith to check 3-4 places, CJ's was another choice.

Rick N9CKL said the hurricane Gustav is going to hit the west coast; fill up as gas prices will go up again. typical hurricane spotter sit around 14.325 USB, 3.925 LSB.

Roger voted to close meeting, Loren Graber's estate gear present to review, bid. Norm has a contact wanting to bid the whole lot.

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: Mike Sallee,
KC9FWL

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(815)-842-4058

Treasurer: Norm Huber N9ZKS
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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.

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 Newline
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 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

(Please help me keep this list correct. I know it may not be up to date at this time. Norm N9ZKS)

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**)
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)

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 Baker's Square at Vernon Ave. and Veterans (Just south of College Hills Mall).

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 #



REWARD OFFERED

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of this

desperate criminal. Hop-a-long Capacity, this unrectified criminal escaped from a western primary cell where he had been clamped in Ions

awaiting the gauss chamber. He was charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named Millihenry who was found choked and robbed of valuable

joules. He is armed with a Carbon Rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving a DC motor over a Wheatstone Bridge and refusing to let the Band-Pass.

If encountered, he may offer series of

resistance. The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believed he had returned Ohm via a short circuit. He was last seen riding a Kilocycle with his

friend Eddy Current who was playing a Harmonic.

For Those Who Understand, No Explanation Is Necessary.
For Those Who Do Not Understand, No Explanation Is Possible.

Geigner, K9HOQ

DECATUR OLD FASHIONED HAMFEST

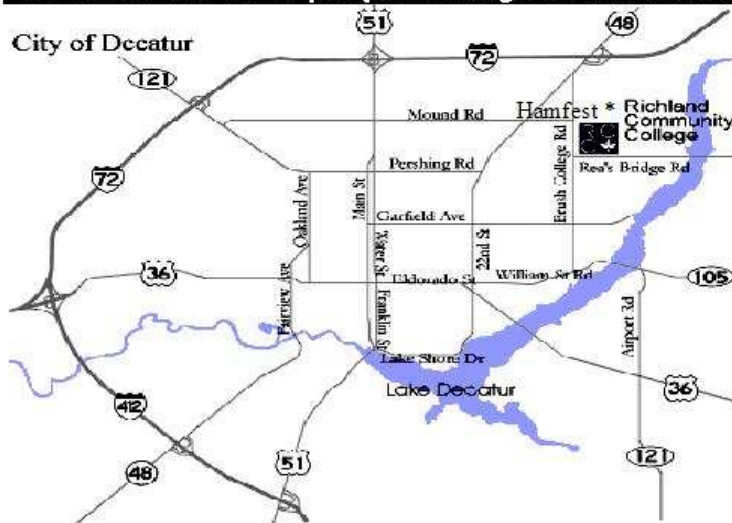
SATURDAY - Oct. 18, 2008

8:00AM - 1:00PM Richland Community College
Corner of Rea's Bridge & Brush College Roads

DECATUR, ILLINOIS

OUTSIDE FREE FLEA MARKET SETUP AT 8:00AM

Admission fee \$5.00 per person, age 16 and above.



Indoor Flea Market and Commercial Space Available— \$5/table Come Rain or Shine!!!
Hamfest Info: Will Jahr, K9VQA, Chairman
Ph. (217) 429-6434
E-Mail: k9vqa1@juno.com

License Exam starts at 10:00 AM Walk-In Only
CONTACT: Spencer Carter, N9LVW
Ph. (217) 692-2460 E-Mail: n9lvw@msn.com

Valuable Main Drawing held at 1:00pm
--PLUS Hourly Drawings

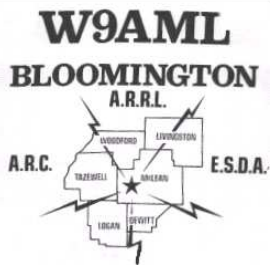
Refreshments will be available

Talk-in Frequencies
146.730- pl 123.0
442.250+ pl 103.5



Meeting Wednesday September 24

Central Illinois Radio Club September 2008 Newsletter



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