

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



September 2009

From the President

**September Meeting,
Wednesday the 23rd
7:00 PM at the Red Cross
on Eastport Ct.**

Friday September 18th was the disaster drill put on by several local agencies and the two hospitals. On Thursday morning a few of us went to St. Joseph's hospital to check out the operating position for the event. They thought there is an antenna on the roof for a ham radio but no one knew where the coax from the antenna is located. After a test we decided a hand held wouldn't do the job. We could access 94 but not 79. Norm brought (will bring) a mobile radio and power supply to cover St. Joseph's. BroMenn has a radio with and antenna on the roof, so there wouldn't be a problem there. I am writing this before the event so I can't tell you here how thing went. (I am also having trouble with present and past.) You will undoubtedly hear more at the meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting look for an article next month in the news letter.

Wednesday we will finalize the details for the magnetic signs for those who ordered them or want to order them. Andy will take the list and money so they can be ordered. Don't forget to bring money or check. Make the checks out to the club and Norm can make a check to the sign company.

W9EX: There was plenty of help at Floyd's house to take down the tower and antennas. Everything went very smoothly, as I saw it. I wasn't there to help with the tower. Rick, WD9HRU, and I were there to pick up the rest of the radio equipment and miscellaneous components. The plan is to take all the remaining things to the Peoria Hamfest.

Last Sunday (September 13th) I met my daughter in Springfield to take bicycle ride. It was a sponsored event by the Sangamon Valley Bicycle club. The reason I am writing about a bicycle ride here is because of the communications for the event provided by the Sangamon Valley Radio Club (<http://www.svrc.org/>). The club had several portable APRS packages they put into the SAG vehicles. The net control was then able to keep track of each vehicle. I finally finished installing my FT-50R HT on my bicycle and was able to join in on the communications for the event. (See pictures at the link

below) It was a good time, not only having a radio but it was a good time riding the event with my daughter. If you want to see pictures of the ride, from the ham radio prospective, follow this link. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/yodudedan/page2/>

Grant Zehr will give a presentation on satellite communications after the meeting. If you are only slightly interested in satellite you won't want to miss Wednesday's meeting.

This month's meeting will be lead by Jim, WB9UWA. My wife and I are going on a vacation and we weren't able to schedule our trip any later.

73's

Ed, KC9GF

Another Question Answered

by Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

(Originally Published in the West Coast DX Bulletin)

One of the younger QRPers was up the hill last week, anxious as the young always are to gain DX stature. "I keep hearing about the Mysteries of the Ages," he charged us, "but what are they? And why are they so difficult to understand?" We almost heard a tiny sigh within us when we again heard these words for well we know how the young and restless are always questioning. But they must have their answers so we hauled him up the back roads to the hill to the Old Timer, who listened to the query stated again.

"What will you do when you get the 300-DXCC sticker?", the Old Timer asked, and the QRPer had to stop and think. "I guess I will just keep on going," he said. "Jut keep looking for a few more I need and any new stuff that comes along. What else is there to do?"

The Old Timer was silent for awhile before speaking again. Finally we heard the words again, "Eventually, most will learn some of the Mysteries of the Ages," he said, "though understanding may be long in coming. But keep in mind, as you may just have indicated, that the young often tend to believe that things go on forever. The old realize that there is an

end to everything, even DX." And that was that. For as Albert would so often say, all things are relative, some more so. And on the way down the hill the QRPer was still asking his questions. "What does he mean?" he asked and we realized again how difficult it is to understand the Mysteries. But we tried to explain. "DX is a state of mind," we said, possibly for the thousandth time, "and each day is a day of DX to itself. Enjoy the good days of DXing while you can. But one of these days you will realize that the good days of DXing, maybe even the Great Days of DXing, come to an end."

The QRPer was silent for awhile but later on he spoke again. "You know something," he said. "I think that when I am a little older I will understand these things better. But right now what could be more interesting than working some new DX?" And we left things at that for everyone gets a bit smarter with the years, and the old lose the fears and uncertainties of youth. And all of this may be a bit hard to understand but if you do, certainly you are ready for more of the Eternal Enigmas.

August Meeting Minutes.

By Erla Shaffer

Meeting was at Bromenn hospital in the heart unit. The meeting room also doubles as the hospital command center during disaster events. The room is where the emergency command center will be set up for the disaster drill on Sept 18th. Mark Lareau of Bromenn explained some of the command center equipment and showed the club members features of the room. There is a radio to be used there that can be used on the 146.79 repeater (or other local repeaters) and it was demonstrated by Andy (K9EMA). He contacted the Emergency center in Eureka as a demonstration of the potential for the radio.

The meeting was officially called to order retroactive from 7pm at 8:30pm by President Ed (KC9GF). The president asked for a vote on whether or not the club should pay for ½ the cost of the emergency/event identification signs for our vehicles when we are called to do weather spotting, an emergency or event. Connie Kostelc made a motion to table the vote until a regular meeting so that more members could attend and time to gain more information on the cost and amount needed. Keith (AC9S) seconded and the motion carried.

Chuck (N9RZV) gave an update on the installation and internet connection at the repeater site. Christmas dinner will be the **first** Thursday of December at 6:30pm at Swingers in Bloomington with a motion made and by Gary (AB9M)

and seconded by Mark (AB9MP) motion carried.

Keith (AC9S) reported on the Kickapoo thank you meal and said they want us back next year and may ask us to do other special events with them in the future.

Andy (K9EMA) gave a short presentation on ARES and passed around applications to join.

Keith and Ed gave a recap of the ARES call up for the storm and made some suggestions on how to be more efficient in the future.

Rick (N9CKL) announced a tower removal party at Floyds on September 12 with a backup date of September 26th. Meeting was closed by President and all members agreed.

The Local Club Resource

I am very fortunate to be in a position at ARRL which allows me significant interaction with our members. It is very fulfilling to be able to put a smile on someone's face by helping them find a solution to their problem regardless of the complexity. Sometimes it is not possible to be as helpful over the telephone or with e-mail so I will try to direct the individual to a local club where they may be able to get some side-by-side coaching. The local radio club is without a doubt the place where most of us received our ham radio education. The club is where we learned the jargon and techno-speak used on the air and where we met folks to emulate and folks who we swore we would never be like. Everything that we know about ham radio that didn't come from a book was probably learned at club meetings or late night Field Day chats over burnt coffee. Personally I have made many longtime friendships from my involvement in local radio clubs and I am sure many others can say this as well.

Clubs, by definition, are groups of like-minded people who share a common interest. In reality a club is an eclectic assembly of individuals each with a unique perspective of their activity. The dynamic of a club is no different than that of a large family.

Think of your last family get-together and then take a look at your radio club. If everybody was the same, life would be very boring. In every club there is the usual cast of characters that add their distinctive flavors to the stew and make things interesting. It is diversity that makes a club work well. I have seen that no matter how varied the

personalities are in a club, most of these personalities are also eager to help. Helping each other is characteristic of radio amateurs.

How often have you experienced something like this: Two hams will be in QSO, perhaps discussing an antenna installation or radio repair when another radio operator will break-in with a helpful suggestion? This situation may have happened to you or you may have even been the breaking station. The same thing happens (or should happen) at club meetings. If you need help with something the closest resource is your local club. On the surface the club may appear to be dysfunctional, but once you are involved you will find that it is actually very productive.

The Pareto principle, commonly know as the eighty-twenty rule is a simple expression that 80% of the effects come from 20% of the causes. As applied in the business world this would be 80% of the sales are driven by 20% of the customers. In a club the percentages may be slightly different but the fact remains that a small percentage of the membership is responsible for making things happen. This is not to suggest that eighty percent of the members do not participate, but without a "sparkplug" some things would never get started. These people are the doers. The doers don't take no for an answer and are always willing to take on more responsibility. But where is the fun in jump-starting a project without someone telling you it would never work? Of course it would be much more fun without the negative comments but that goes against human nature. Ever since man tried to open a coconut with a rock someone was right beside him offering a thousand excuses why it won't work. "You'll smash your thumb." "The rock will break." "You should invent a wheel and roll it over the coconut." "Let's just eat the bananas." The cynics of the world are an essential part of society, and of our clubs. They challenge us and make us work harder to prove them wrong. Learn to accept these people but never let them distract you from moving forward.

You only get as much from a club as you put into it. A majority of the club bashers tend to be long time hams with a "been there, done that" attitude asking what a club has to offer them for them. To borrow from President John F. Kennedy, "ask what you can do for your club." Of course we took more than we had to offer when we were younger and inexperienced. But over the years we have gathered knowledge that we can share with the newcomers. Based upon my countless interactions with hams of all levels of experience, the novice has much to offer the old-timer even if it is just reliving the joy of discovery. The local radio club has something for everybody who is willing to get involved.

Don't know where you local club is? Use the ARRL Affiliated Club

search.

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/clubsearch.pht>

Taken from the ARRL newsletter - Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Editor

QST DE KA9QPN--

We have met the enemy and he is us...

**I have rarely seen such a panorama of disinformation as the swirl following the announcement of the 145.61MHz ARES Digital System. The hall at Peotone barely cleared on 19 July, and we were off to the races with pronouncements on why this was the wrong mode/frequency/implementation/ETC. I liken this system to the Illinois EMA and FEMA 'Doomsday' Radios. These sit at idle and are only used in the gravest extreme except for test and exercise purposes. So it will be with the ARES Digital System. It replaces nothing. No one is compelled to migrate an existing digital station onto it, although some folks have done so, and I am personally grateful. In fact, when we are successful, this might be the largest 'repurpose' project ever undertaken. We're finally using a frequency designated by the coordinator several years ago. The mode was chosen as it is supported by freeware usable on slightly 'experienced' computers. I fully expect this system to be largely built from older radios, unused antennas, dusty computers and forgotten TNCs, as is my intention for the planned node in Sandwich EMA's EOC. I imagine this great collection of unused equipment transformed and polished into a living, breathing infrastructure, with which we can demonstrate our resourcefulness to Served Agencies and show our Service as a viable, relevant one. To those who are enthusiastically participating, I thank you. To the skeptics: please let's give this the time that it needs to become viable. Remember that we had nothing Section-wide until the morning of 19 July. And no prior competitive ideas until this plan was announced.

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Get informed...

**It's not too early to start thinking about the Illinois QSO Party, once again ably sponsored by the Western IL ARC. It's on 18 October. Brad W9FX notes that this is not unlike some of the ARES exercises: trying to put all IL counties on air at once. There are some places where we're really thin on hams, let alone active ones. Think about operating during this event.

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**Interestingly, we hear from the LaMoine Emergency ARC that the club was able to support both a Field Day effort and a local public service event. That's some kind of dedication, folks!

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**Our neighbors in Iowa are having their own QSO party on 17 October. It's a shorty: 9 hours. It's also the first Iowa QSO Party in a while. Let's help out our neighbors by playing.

Late Breaking Message

From: Lareau, Mark A. (Emergency Services) [mailto:MLareau@bromenn.org]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2009 21:34
To: gscott@mcleancountyems.org; bhumer@mcleancountyems.org; dotymeister@gmail.com; Hawk, Curtis; Clark, Bob; Fauber, Maretta (GE Indust, ConsInd); Fanis, Kate; Mike McKnight; sondra@archearthland.org; Stubblefield, Andy; Stubblefield, Andy; AC9S@mchsi.com; mhumer@normal.org
Subject: Thank you.

I wanted to thank all of you and the others from your agencies for whom I do not have email addresses. I believe our exercise today was the most successful ever for BroMenn. I'm sure we'll identify many opportunities for improvement, which is the point of an exercise, but we also practiced many things that have never been done in a drill before and many things went right. None of this would be possible without the assistance of you and your organizations. I am truly proud of our community and our ability to work together so well. Please share my appreciation with anyone in your organization who assisted with this exercise and for whom I didn't have email addresses to include in this email.

Also, I would very much appreciate it if you would share any feedback that you might have for BroMenn regarding this exercise. I am especially interested in how things went between BroMenn and the EOC and the Transport Officer, but I will welcome all comments.

See some of you at Heyworth in the morning and LeRoy in the afternoon! Thanks again.

Mark Lareau, RN, BSN
Emergency/ Disaster Preparedness Manager
BroMenn Regional Medical Center
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Normal, IL 61761
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mlareau@bromenn.org

Controlled Net Operations

- 1. Monitor the Frequency For Activity
- 2. Transmit Your Call Sign
- 3. Wait For Net Control To Acknowledge You
- 4. Monitor the Net
- 5. Communicate only with Net Control (You May Ask Net Control For

- Permission to Communicate Directly With another Station If Necessary)
- 6. Report Significant Events (see following)
- 7. Notify Net Control When Leaving the Net

**STAY SAFE - STAY CALM
STAY ALERT**

Significant Events For Weather Net

- Tornado
- Funnel Cloud
- Wall Cloud
- Hail (dime size or larger)
- Wind Gusts (+40 mph)
- Storm Damage
- Flash Flooding

Hail Sizes

Pea	0.26"
Half Inch	0.5"
Dime	0.75"
Nickel	0.88"
Quarter	1.0"
Half Dollar	1.25"
Ping Pong Ball	1.5"
Golf Ball	1.75"
Hen Egg	2.0"
Tennis Ball	2.5"
Tea Cup	3"
Grapefruit	4"
Softball	4.5"

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
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<http://www.qsl.net/w9am/>

President: Ed Deutsch KC9GF
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Vice President: *Jim Shaffer*

Secretary: Mike Sallee, KC9FWL

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:

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

e-mail n9zks@verizon.net

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**SOME PICTURES FROM FLOYDES
TOWER REMOVAL**



Some thought it was a good show



Mark is getting impatient, that's a cut off wheel



Eric looks like he's getting tied up



Getting ready to emove the heavy piece



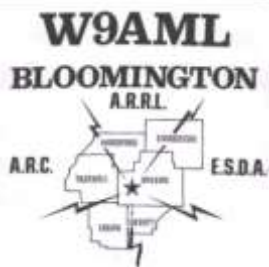
The ground crew is on the ropes



We conquered iit!

Meeting Wednesday September 23

Central Illinois Radio Club September 2009 Newsletter



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