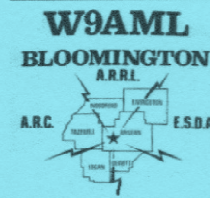


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



September 2011

From the President

**September Meeting,
Wednesday the 28th
7:00 PM at the Red Cross**

Just how prepared are you for an extended power outage? I know that I am not! I have a solar panel and a 12V 7AH batter that I can charge, but it won't run anything other than my IC-703 at 10 watts. What brings this to light is the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) scheduled for October 1st. The scenario is that we will be hit with a super Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) causing widespread power and communications outages. The largest recorded was September 1859 by Richard Carrington. It was so intense that spark discharges shocked telegraph operators and set paper on desks on fire. Aurora effect in the atmosphere was detected as far south as the Cuba and other Caribbean islands! The prediction is out that we will be more likely to have a super solar flare during the next few years as they occur during the peak of sunspots.

Reportedly, in August 1972 a large solar flare occurred that knocked out long-distance telephone communications across Illinois. Another large solar flare occurred in March 1989 that generated geomagnetic storms that affected generating stations in Quebec and putting 6 million people into loss of power for 9 hours. Some of the other articles are even predicting that it would be such a big event that power out be out for a very long time because of transformer damage in the power distribution system that there would be a shortage for large transformers and distribution transformers.

The main point here is that we are even more electronically connected that any of those occurrences. Two stories I have read other than the one from NASA that I got this information from predict the "possibility" of extended power outages that could stretch far longer than 9 hours! Will it happen? NASA says that a Carrington - class flare is a once in a half-millennium event. Let's hope they are correct.

Just in case, I am seriously considering purchasing a generator. Probably not big enough to run my home normally, but big enough to run the furnace and refrigerator and maybe a microwave oven.

If anyone has any projects to share, by all means bring them and show us what you are working on.

73,
Gary KD9F

August CIRC Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2011

President Gary Dearth (KD9F) called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Twenty-three members and two guests were present. A special welcome was extended to guest Sharon Durham from Colfax. She plans to join the club and is getting her Technician license. We also welcomed Duane's (KC9PIM) wife. Gary commented that the minutes of the July meeting were in the newsletter. He asked if there were any corrections. It was noted that in the comments on the Yahoo group that to send a message to the group the address should be W9AML@mindlandsnetworking.com. The "ing" was left off in the minutes. Tom Planer (KJ9P) made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. After a second from Gary H (AB9M) the motion passed. Treasurer Norm Huber (N9ZKS) reviewed the financial status of the club. He reported that the checking account had \$655.48 and the savings account had \$648.44 for a total of \$1,303.92. Gary Huber (AB9M) made a motion that we accept the report. After a second by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL) the motion passed.

Gary opened the discussion of Old Business. Tom gave a report on the ARES group. We accepted being an affiliate of the Tri-County Group. The Peoria group is planning to drop out. Our group and the Tri-Country group would like to add members to assist in the events that are supported. At our August meeting Greg Scott, head of the Mclean County Emergency Services, gave a presentation on the various tasks they do and services they provide. Tom is checking with Gregg to find out what services the hospitals could use from our ARES group.

Gary led a discussion on the need for a backup battery and smart charger for the repeater. The smart charge is needed so that it will sense when the battery is charged and shut itself off. We discussed batteries, charges, how to set them up to operate so that the repeater can operate if power is lost. We need this for both the club and the ARES group, as they use the repeater as the primary frequency. We also talked about how long we could run on the battery and what we would need to do to get someone to the repeater site to add a portable generator until the power was restored. Gary will continue to price batteries and smart chargers.

Ed Deutsch (KC9GF) was not present, but he wanted to let everyone know that the Christmas Part would be held

on Thursday, December 1 at the Hibachi Grill and Supreme Buffet. It is located at 1407 N Veterans Parkway in Bloomington. We will have a separate area for our group. It is near the old K's Merchandise store.

Gary opened the discussion to New Business. Jim Shaffer, a former officer, got a letter from the Secretary of State for the club. He will give it to Tom and Tom will review it and see how we need to respond. We think it is for registering the club with the current officers.

Gary Wightman (WA8MCD) discussed his experience getting his equipment insured under his Homeowners policy. He found out that if the equipment is located in the basement, he needs a writer for possible water problems like sewer backup. He also checked with ARRL and the rate is \$1.40 per \$100 of value. He suggested we all look at our Homeowners policy and see how the coverage and cost compares to that from ARRL. Most of us were not aware of the possible issues, so a special thanks to Gary.

Gary routed the September issue of QST and pointed out the article on those winning The ARRL Foundation 2011-2012 Academic Scholarships. Richard Suhadolc's (N9CKL) son Matthew (KC9TMG) received the Edward H. Metzger Award. Congratulations to Matthew and Richard! Connie Kostelc (KB9IGT) mentioned a couple of books on disaster preparedness (like Are You Ready) that she has and can give copies to those interested. We also discussed the recent earthquake and the impact on communications on the East Coast. Gary H routed a copy of the QRZ DX publication. It comes out by mail as a 4 page publication with 15 issues per year. Let Gary know if you would like to get a copy. The cost is \$25/year. It contains lots of information on DXing.

Connie also mentioned that she has plans on how to use plants and rain barrels to capture water and reuse it. This might help with all the flooding lately. And we have had to deal with plenty of that recently. We also discussed grounding issues and various situations that can cause injury or death. Many of them come from old wiring and connections (like the power line into a home) where the insulation is cracking and leaving wire and connections exposed.

Gary reminded the members that we have our Coffee Klatch 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 8:00 pm, the 10 meter Net at 8:30 pm and the 2 Meter Net at 9 pm. Anyone with an item for the Newsletter should send it to Norm or Ed.

Norm made a motion that we adjourn. After a second by Tom, the motion passed. For the presentation portion of the meeting, Gary reviewed a DVD on digital HF. It was very interesting and another new area that is gaining popularity for Hams.

Submitted by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL)

McLean County ARES/SKYWARN September Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2011

Member Andy Stubblefield (K9EMA) called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Eleven members were present. Andy passed out an agenda for the meeting and we proceeded to review the items.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday the 19th of October at the Normal Fire Department Station 1. It is located on E College and N Blair streets.

1. Tom Planer (KJ9P) passed around the signup sheet for members to select times to run the Tuesday night ARES Net (8 pm). This will be the net control operators for the 4th quarter.
2. Andy passed out an information sheet about the October 1, 2011 SET drill. This SET (Simulated Emergency Test) is based on a solar flare that disables power lines and power stations. Tom encouraged everyone to call into the Net or at least listen in and gain some experience working with a Net. We could use our station at the Red Cross.
3. Andy discussed the MCDC drill set for October 8th. We will not participate. The drill will focus on communications via cell phones between ISU and local hospitals and doctors. Next year we will be heavily involved.
4. Let Andy know if you want to get an ARES shirt from us. We have not ordered any since the first order. He is checking on the prices, but last year they were around \$20. He will need to know the size and number you want.
5. We discussed those doing SKYWARN that are not part of our ARES group. Many of them are very experienced with weather spotting experience and are great resources for the weather service in Lincoln, IL. We agreed that they would be helpful to us also. Tom made a motion that we accept SKYWARN members as helpers and members of our group. When we are activated by the EMA, they would not be able to do the same things we do. After a second by Gary Dearth (KD9F), the motion passed. We will also mention this at the CIRC meeting next week.
6. Keith Gehrand has agreed to teach the four IC classes. He will need about 4 hours on a Saturday. After the class, you will still need to go online and complete each class, pass the test and print off the certificate. But this will be very good preparation for each class. Andy will talk to Keith about when he can teach the classes.
7. Andy and Tom are interested in any ideas for training. Please let them know what you would like to get some training on and experience with.
8. For our October meeting the Normal Fire Department will make a presentation on Haz Mat.

9. For the November meeting we will have a presentation on the MRC (Medical Reserve Corps.)
10. We discussed ideas for a Christmas Party. It was agreed to have a dinner at the Grand Café in downtown Bloomington on Wednesday the 16th of November. We will start at 6 pm. Members and spouses/significant others are welcome.
11. Andy attends the MDCDC meetings for us. The next meeting will be Wednesday the 12th of October at 1 pm in the Astrof Building at Heartland Community College.
12. The next meeting of the Tri-County ARES group will be Thursday the 22nd of September in German Town Hills at 7 pm. We have become affiliated with them and Andy is working on a better understanding of how we would be assisting each other.

Norm Huber (N9ZKS) discussed his attempts to setup a meeting with the Red Cross to create of Letter of Understanding between them and us. He pointed out that we need to know what they are expecting from us and then we have to make sure we can provide those services. We also need to update the LOU between the Red Cross and CIRC. Norm will setup a time and invite ARES and CIRC officers to attend. We will discuss this at the CIRC meeting next week.

Those attending were: Andy, Norm, Tom, Gary W, Gary D, Thomas, Josh, Ron, Mike, Ed, and Rick.

Submitted by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL)

Below are some pictures of a previous meeting and the facility at which ARES/Skywarn meets



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 2011 will be the following Saturdays:

- January 8 Done**
- March 12 Done**
- May 14-Done**
- July 16 Done**
- November 12**

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.

10 Commandments of Electronics

1. Beware the lightning that lurketh in an undischarged capacitor, lest it cause thee to be bounced upon thy buttocks in a most ungentlemanly manner.
2. Cause thou the switch that supplies large quantities of juice to be opened and thusly tagged, so thy days may be only on this earthly vale of tears.
3. Prove to thyself that all circuits that radiateth and upon which thou worketh are grounded, less they lift thee to high frequency potential and cause thee to radiateth also.
4. Take care thou useth the proper method when thou taketh the measure of high voltage circuits so that thou doth not incinerate both thee and the meter; for verily, thou hast no account number and can easily be replaced, the meterdoth have one, and as a consequence, bringeth much woe unto the supply department.
5. Tarry not amongst those who engage in intentional shocks, for they are not long for this world.
6. Take care thou tampereth not with interlocks and safety devices, for this will incur the wrath of thy seniors and bringeth the fury of the safety officer down about thy head and shoulders.
7. Work thou not on energized equipment, for if you doth, thy buddies will surely be buying beers for thy widow and consoling her in other ways not generally accepted by thee.
8. Verily, verily I say unto thee, never service high voltage equipment alone, for electric cooking is a slothful process and thy might sizzle in thine own fat for hours on end before thy Maker sees fit to end thy misery and drag thee into His fold.
9. Trifle thou not with radioactive tubes and substances, lest thou commence to glow in the dark like a lightning bug, and thy wife be frustrated nightly and have no further use for thee except thy wage.
10. Commit thou to memory the works of the prophets, which are written in the instruction books, which giveth the straight dope and which consoleth thee, and thou cannot make mistakes, sometimes, maybe.

Author unknown

How I almost electrocuted myself - Thanksgiving 1998

Here is the "post" I made to the Drake and Heathkit reflector shortly after arriving home from the hospital at around 2:30am on the morning after Thanksgiving 1998. I had just spent several hours in the emergency room. This

is unedited from my original wording of the event. Its intent was to serve as a **warning** to others who work around HV circuits and who might be tempted to play "**fast and loose**" at times - **and that is why I have included it here on my page.** I had been hit with HV numerous times in the past, probably the worst was the incident with a grounded D104 in one hand when my other arm touched the modulator plate cap on a 32V1 - I thought that was bad - and it was, but that was only a lead-up to what this felt like and the physical damage I suffered. I was careless and it almost cost me my life. The memory of that evening now becomes very vivid to me every time I even come close to lethal voltages.

This made its way around the internet, appearing on various reflectors and lists. [HERE](#) is one that still comes up with a Google search

Friday Nov.27, 1998

"Hi All, I usually don't post to multiple lists but thought my recent reminder of the dangers of getting to comfortable around HV should be shared in the hopes it will prevent someone else from going through what I just did this eve - OR WORSE. ...Spent most of the day putting the finishing touches on a very nice SB-200 I just picked up - had put the top shield on and just had it on the bench "burning in" this evening as my family and I had our Thanksgiving dinner etc. I went downstairs to my BA bench to give it a look and for some reason I put my right hand on the right side, feeling for heat from the bleeder resistors safely inside. My little finger must have curled under a bit and what happened next is just a blur as it came in contact with the 2400 volt runner on the outside edge of the PS board - felt like I had been hit with a sledgehammer. My right little finger split open like an overcooked hotdog. The amp sounded liked firecrackers going off and fire came from under the board - I was in too much of a daze to even turn it off - finally tripped the breakers. After returning from the emergency room about an hour ago, where I had a painful session of having skin cut away, etc., I checked the amp out (yes, my wife could not believe that either), runners burnt open, most of the bleeders open, meter pointer bent -- all of this damage caused by my skin sticking to the board. .. I have been working with this stuff for 39 years and I know better, been inside the Collins KW-1, the Johnson KW, T368, and numerous linears. I am a radio tech by trade - guess all of this low voltage stuff can make us forget what is just an inch away. I certainly am thankful to God for sparing me this time, and I just wanted to remind all of you how easily and quickly this can happen - yes I know all about it too, but as I look at my bandaged hand, I realize we all need a reminder from time to time. I realize this may be a bit off topic, so thanks for your time. ...BTW - It sure is hard to type now. -- 73, Dave - W3NP Ft. Ashby, WV

-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

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

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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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