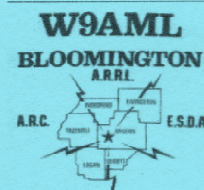


Next Meeting Wednesday Aug 28, 2013

Central Illinois Radio Club July 2013 Newsletter

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



July 2013

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

CIRC June Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2013

SORRY

Your July newsletter is late because I was busy at the Boy Scouts National Jamboree as a staff member for K2BSA. It was fun even if we had to walk four miles just to get to and from our tent to the station. The youth enjoyed the opportunity to talk to others using radio, taking part in Amateur Radio Direction Finding, earning the Radio Merit Badge and the contact with the Italian Astronaut aboard the ISS. A number of them earned their licenses.

Norm, N9ZKS

From the President

I have been missing my duties as the president of getting something written for the newsletter.

Here is something that would be nice to do next week. K2BSA at the Boy Scout National Jamboree will be on the air starting July 15 on SSB and PSK31. They will be on this weekend for the IARU HF Championship operating SSB and CW. There will be overnight operations by the staff members so anyone wishing to get a QSL from K2BSA will have the opportunity to contact them.

Thanks to Jeff, KC9QQM, for the work done on the W9AML website. Looks great!

Tom, KJ9P, is encouraging anyone with interest in SKYWARN to join the group at their meet which is now at the Red Cross building on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Specifically, observers are needed on the West and Southwest side of the Bloomington-Normal area. Come to the meeting at 7pm and join in the efforts.

Hopefully, Ed, KC9GF or Mike, KC9FWL, can put together a picture presentation of the Field Day activities for after the meeting on Wednesday July 24th at 7pm.

Hope to see everyone there.

73,

Gary, KD9F

President Gary Dearth (KD9F) opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Twenty-one members were present. Gary D asked if there were any questions about the minutes. Duane Benjamin (KC9PIM) made a motion that we accept the minutes. After a second by Gary Huber (AB9M) the motion passed. Norm (N9ZKS) gave the Treasurers Report. We have \$1229.05 in our checking account. Gary H made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. After a second by Grant Zehr (AA9LC) the motion passed.

Old Business: The group reviewed Field Day and noted items to be addressed before next year's event. Grant reported that we made 1313 contacts and we got on the air at 1:15 pm. A special thanks goes to Gary and his wife Linda for cooking breakfast this year. Dennis and Duane asked that we send a special thank you letter to Sunbelt Rental for the use of the lift. Dennis made a motion that we pay Gary \$61.34 for the expenses related to breakfast at Field Day. After a second by Ed Deutsch (KC9GF) the motion passed. Issues noted were:

1. We had interference between stations. We need to get stubs and filters to block out the other stations.

2. We should have a practice day or two, maybe at the Red Cross. We should find the best ways to stop the interference between stations.

3. We need to look at the best location for the antennas in relation to each other.

4. We spend too much time each year getting the long wire installed. We need to plan better how we are going to install it.

5. The room is very noisy and we need to use headphones to reduce the distraction from each other.

6. We should have a UPS systems for the network router and server so that if we lose power we will not have a problem with our logging program.

7. Using a foot switch is a great idea as it allows you to log much easier.

8. We should keep a list of the miscellaneous tools, equipment, spare parts, cables, connectors and so forth that we used so that we make sure we have those items next time.

9. We should check out the digital station and antenna before we need it. For that matter, it would be good to have a "practice Field Day" a couple of times to see how many problems we can resolve.

10. We should decide early on the number of stations and what kind of operations we will use with each

station. We could check out band pass filters to see how well we can reduce interference between the stations.

11. Dennis Mills (KE9UA) said we have tubs full of stuff and much of it we just don't need. We should have a garage sale and sell what we don't need.

12. We should have people sign up for time slots to operate a given station. In the evening and early morning we had a number of stations not being used.

Gary D made a motion that we review these notes again in February 2014 and use them to prepare for Field Day. Mike Sallee (KC9FWL) seconded the motion and it passed.

Rick Suhadolc (N9CKL) suggested we have Field Day next year at the B/N Water Reclamation District plant south of town. He talked about the site and what it offers. A couple of members offered to go with him to review the site. We need to check with Darren Erickson (KB7VPI), Radio Room Manager (RRM), for the status of the Red Cross Radio Room. We still need to get the dual band antenna installed for 2 meter and 440 and also for 40 and 80 meters. This will require a tower climb. We also discussed the need for an internet connection at the repeater tower. We cannot use EchoLink at this time. Norm asked Chuck Henderson (WB9UUS) and Jim Shaffer (WB9UWA) to review what repairs and equipment we need to replace at the repeater. After some discussion, they were asked to prepare a list of parts and costs so we can decide what to do next.

Gary D asked Mike to follow up with the Challenger Learning Center at Heartland Community College to see about a time to talk to the International Space Station. Josh Golladay asked if we still wanted to participate in the 4-H fair. He has a special call sign that can be used. Andy Stubblefield had asked for a space for us with the emergency departments like the Fire Departments and EMA. Josh will check into what is available at this time.

New Business: Norm reviewed the 2103 Boy Scout Jamboree starting July 15 and the different stations they will have. Take some time and try to make a contact with them. Rick Kempf (WD9HRU) discussed the Skywarn Recognition Day (the first Saturday in December). The weather station in Lincoln will be operating on a number of frequencies and they would love to have us call in and make a contact. The event runs from 6 pm Friday until 6 pm Saturday. Ed asked if we should be a not-for-profit organization. Mike said he would check into what we would have to do to qualify. Gary D said we needed to have a Nominating Committee to recommend officers for 2014. While the current officers have done a fine job, we need to change them from time to time. Dennis, Greg and Gary H agreed to be on the committee. They will report back with a slate of officers at the next meeting. We will need four officers and one Board member.

Mike reviewed the meetings from the meeting of the McLean County ARES/SKYWARN meeting of June 19, 2013. With the resignation of Andy Stubblefield (K9EMA) Tom Planner (KJ9P) was appointed the new ARRL

Emergency Coordinator. Tom reviewed the current status of the group and various activities he is involved with to reform the group. We have 13 certified members and we want to grow to at least 24. We talked about how we plan to run the net and select who will be Net Control each week. We will do various exercises, including during the weekly net, to sharpen our skills. The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the Red Cross. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Gary H made a motion that we have Jeff Lovell become the webmaster for the club. After a second by Greg the motion passed. The club thanked Gary H for the great job he has done for many years as webmaster. Jim Baker (WB9EDL) read a thank you letter from the McLean County Wheelers for our help at their Spring Metric bike ride. Duane reviewed the insurance available from the ARRL. We have paid for liability coverage and now we need to cover our club equipment. We will need an inventory of the equipment to provide with the application. He also reminded everyone that on Thursday we will have a social meeting at Flat Top Grill at 6 pm. Gary H suggested we update our constitution and publish it on the website.

Gary D reminded the members that we have our Coffee Klatch at 9:00 am, Monday to Friday, at the Dairy Queen on Veteran's Parkway. 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.

Dennis made a motion that we adjourn. After a second by Grant the motion passed.

Submitted by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL), Secretary

McLean McLean County ARES/SKYWARN June Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2013

File: 1306-Rev-1

Member Tom Planer (KJ9P) called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Fifteen hams were present. Tom passed out an agenda for the meeting and a sign-in sheet for attendees.

1. Tom read a prepared statement, which had been mailed to all CIRC members prior to the meeting. He discussed the need to reform the ARES/RACES/SKYWARN group. According to the Section Emergency Coordinator, the current McLean County ARES/SKYWARN group "is null and void". We will start with a clean slate, the past is over and we will look to the future.

Tom was appointed the McLean County ARRL Emergency Coordinator on June 1, 2013. He invited others to apply for the position, but no one

applied. Tom appointed Keith Hanson (AC9S), Mike Sallee (KC9FWL), Gary Dearth (KD9F), and Norm Huber (N9ZKS) as Assistant Emergency Coordinators with special assignments.

2. Tom is checking with Andy Stubblefield (KC9EMA) on the status of the existing Yahoo group. It needs to be closed, but he is not sure he will hear back from Andy. When operating as Net Control, use your call sign. We have used WX9EOC, but that should not be used. Josh Golladay (KC9UJS) will contact Andy Stubblefield and find out the status of the website.
3. Tom is working with the EMA to determine what kind of an ID we will need and how we will get it. Tom offered to Thomas Rutherford (KC9HXP) to print the new IDs. To be certified by the EMA, each ham will need to complete four online classes. We currently have 13 members who have completed all the classes. NOTE: (Since the meeting, Kathy, KC9SKF has completed all four required sections. Tom)
4. In the past, members signed up to be Net Control. In the future, the next person on the list will be the next Net Control operator. If that person has a conflict, they should trade with another member. SKYWARN members cannot be Net Control. They will be asked to check in after the roll call for the ARES members.
5. Tom is working on a way to call members when they are needed. He is looking at a calling tree, using the primary number for each person (home or cell). Thomas R is the contact with the EMA and he would be calling our ARES group when we are needed. NOTE: (Since the meeting we have resolved the call-up procedure. Look for additional info soon. Tom)
6. We agreed that during the Net it would be good to get some training. An example would be to call that the frequency is not working and the Net is moving to another frequency. We also agreed that we should have training on how to operate from the EOC in downtown Bloomington, the EOC garage in Normal, the EMA Communications Van, and the Red Cross.
7. To be effective, we need more than 12 certified members. With 358 hams registered in McLean County, we should be able to get more members.
8. Ron Roeder (KB9FPY) suggested we have some goals. Tom mentioned that his goals include training for members, practice drills, and increasing the membership to 24 hams or more.
9. Rick Kempf (WD9HRU) mentioned that under the new plans within the state, he will be the single point of contact for the NOAA weather station

(ILX) in Lincoln, IL. SKYWARN members would report weather to our ARES group, we would report it to the EMA, and they would decide what to report to ILX.

10. Josh asked if we were going to have a display at the McLean County Fair. We decided we did not have enough time to prepare a display for this year's fair.
11. Tom said he had a link to a video for the 2 day class on emergency operations that he attended last year. He will share it with us.
12. Rick suggested that we make a report on our meeting to the CIRC at their next meeting. Mike said he will do this.

The next meeting will be July 17th at 7 pm at the Red Cross building.

Those attending were: KC9FWL Mike, KC9RLQ Jay, KC9RMB Roberta, KC9SKF Kathy, N9ZKS Norm, KC9WVR Greg, KJ9P Tom, KB9FPY Ron, KC9HXP Thomas, WB9UWA Earl, KC9GF Ed, WB9EDL Jim, WD9HRU Rick, KA9CYJ Dwight and KC9UJS Josh.

Submitted by Mike Sallee, Secretary (KC9FWL)

McLean County ARES/SKYWARN July Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2013

File: 1307

Member Tom Planer (KJ9P) called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Eleven hams were present. Tom passed out an agenda for the meeting and a sign-in sheet for attendees.

1. There were no questions for Mike Sallee (KC9FWL) about the minutes from the June meeting. Keith Hanson (AC9S) did not have anything to report from the hospital AUXCOMM or McLean County Disaster Committee. Norm Huber (N9ZKS) had reported to Tom that the Red Cross wanted to be able to contact other Red Cross offices in an emergency. Gary Dearth (KD9F) did not have anything to report.

2. Tom reported that working with the McLean County EMA has come to an end. Curt Hawk from the EMA fired him yesterday as our contact with the EMA. Tom provided details that lead to this

result. At this time we are no longer working with the EMA. We might be able to work as a part of SKYWARN or maybe with the McLean County Area Emergency Medical System. And we can continue to support the Red Cross.

3. We still need to increase our membership. With those who work during the day and those who live far out of town, we only have a few members who can be activated for an weather event or an emergency.

4. Tom opened the meeting to a discussion of what the group wants to do. Tom reported he is checking with the weather station at Lincoln, IL to see if they can use our help for storm watching. He will also make sure they understand our position with the EMA.

5. Since ARES is a service of the ARRL, we are still an active ARES group. Overall the group wanted to continue to support the Red Cross. In addition to 2 meters, we need to provide HF communication with other Red Cross offices. We want to continue to have our net each week and practice operating in a net environment.

6. Keith will check with the hospitals to see how we can help them. He will make sure they understand we are not working with the EMA.

7. Tom reported that he still needs to get the net report each week from the person who was net control. He needs to have a count of the number who participate so he can report this to ARES.

The next meeting will be August 21 at 7 pm at the Red Cross building.

Those attending were: KC9FWL Mike, KC9WVR Greg, KJ9P Tom, KB9FPY Ron, N9OSU Doreen, AC9S Keith, WD9HRU Rick, KC9GF Ed, KD9F Gary, KE9UA Dennis, and KE9BA Dave

Submitted by Mike Sallee, Secretary (KC9FWL)

Vertical Thursday

CQ CQ looking for any vertical 10 meter stations. We have been meeting every Thursday night at 8PM on 28.450 Mhz using vertical polarization. Please join us. We encourage you to try vertical, but if you are horizontally polarized, you are welcome too, but signals may be difficult. Several of us regularly use vertical and we are finding that with simple verticals mounted only 20 feet off the ground our signals are over S9 to each other and often well over S9. This is a vast improvement compared to using horizontal yagis that are often pointed the wrong direction resulting in weak signals. We welcome you to experiment here on this net and as with the other, it is totally casual. To set the net apart from the other 10 meter net, we are calling it Vertical Thursday. Please join the fun.

73, Jim Shaffer, WB9UWA.

APRS Digi-Peater

Some may not know there is a very good APRS digipeater here in Bloomington. N9PE-2 144.390 is on top of State Farm with good coverage. It also notifies people passing through of the 94 repeater, its frequency and tone. It also reports our monthly meeting location and date & time. Most users of APRS use it just to put their position out for friends and family. It may also be used for sending messages to specific addresses. APRS is also extremely useful for weather spotting and emergency use as well as support of bicycle rides, runs etc. Objects can be displayed showing the locations of spotters or support personnel in the field as well as reported tornados, or accidents.

-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 Tazewell County ESDA Net
Tuesday	8:00 P.M.	146.790 (103.5 PL) McLean County ARES/Skywarn 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 Newline
Wednesday	9:00 P.M.	442.250 103.5 PL ARES Open Net
Varies	147.100	103.5 PL Sometimes 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 Newline
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.850 (103.5 PL) Open Net Peoria
Sunday	08:15 A.M.	1.915 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 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)

Regular Calendar of Events

Daily Coffee Klatch Monday thru Friday

.....9:00 a.m. at Dairy Queen Veterans at Cub's

.....**XYL's Join the OM's Monday and Friday**

Weekly ARIS/SKYWARN Net

Every Tuesday evening on the 146.790 repeater at 8:00 p.m.

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.

Weekly 160 Meter AM Net **NOTE FREQUENCY**

Every Sunday morning at 1.915 mHz at 8:15 A.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)

AREA EXAM DATES

Following is the schedule for W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exams for the year 2013. 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.

Remaining Test dates for 2013 will be the following Saturdays:

November 9

Central Illinois Area Repeaters

Freq	Callsign	Location	PL
144.390	N9PE-2	Bloomington APRS	Digipeater
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 should be received by the 15th of the month and may be snail or e-mailed to the editor at:

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