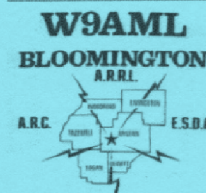


**Next Meeting Wednesday Aug 27, 2014**

# Central Illinois Radio Club August 2014 Newsletter

# CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

## Short CIRCuits



August 2014

**August Meeting,  
Wednesday the 27th  
7:00 PM at the Red Cross**

### From the President

It's August and we should be in the 'dog days' of summer, but it's still been a mostly pleasant summer. I'm enjoying the nice weather while it lasts!

It's antenna season for sure. Several CIRC members are working on big antenna projects. Dennis KE9UA has finally cleared all the obstacles and has his SteppIR up at 60 feet in the air. Early reports indicate the DX has been rolling in. Keith AC9S has also been at work on his SteppIR getting it ready for installation. I've been working on rebuilding a Cushcraft A3S tribander (which really needs to find a new home) and have been fiddling with a homebrew Off-Center-Fed (OCF) dipole. It needs to work on 75 and 40 meter bands at my station, and results so far are mixed. Others are working on similar repairs and upgrades.

Any discussion of antenna projects these days must unfortunately include worrying about how to get "permission" from the local authorities to build it. Some communities are more welcoming to radio amateurs than others. In some parts of Central Illinois the process of getting permits for building antenna systems is pretty easy. But we also have communities which make the process very difficult. Which brings us to HR 4969. HR 4969 is a bill which has been introduced in Congress and which addresses some of the problems amateurs have had in getting permits for antennas and antenna support structures. At our meeting this month Tom Planer KJ9P will give us an update on House Bill HR 4969, which affects all of us who like to put up towers and antennas. In this case there is something important you can do to help!

Our meeting this month will be at the Red Cross building at 7:00 on August 27. Mike KG9DW has been re-scheduled to give his presentation on D-STAR digital radio. Mike has a lot of experience with D-STAR and has set up a D-STAR repeater near his home in Heyworth. There will be a presentation and demo of a D-STAR contact. We all need to learn more about D-STAR, and this will be a REALLY good chance!

See you at the meeting on Wednesday!

Grant Zehr AA9LC

CIRC meeting – August 27, 2014

### Agenda

1. Introductions and new members -AA9LC
2. Minutes of June 2014 meeting - KC9PIM
3. Treasurer's report -N9ZKS
4. CIRC table at Peoria Superfest -AA9LC
5. HR4969 -KJ9P
6. Old Business
7. New business
8. Adjourn
9. Program – D-STAR Update -KG9DW

### Minutes Minutes of the July 23, 2014 regular meeting

#### of the Central Illinois Radio Club (CIRC)

The regularly scheduled meeting of CIRC was called to order by President, Grant Zehr (AA9LC) at 7:00 PM, July 23, 2014.

Members present at the meeting then introduced themselves by name and call sign. Guests present included Scott Zehr (K9GKC), brother of Grant Zehr.

It was noted that the minutes of the regular May 2014 meeting had been sent by email to all members on the CIRC reflector. On motion by Dennis Mills (KE9UA) and second Gary Huber (AB9M), the minutes of the June, 2014 regular meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Norm Huber (N9ZKS) submitted a written report to the members that indicated a balance on hand of \$1,780.16 as of meeting date. On motion by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL), seconded by Dennis Mills, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Norm Huber discussed the request for assistance from the club by the "Miles of Smiles" group. This bicycle ride for charity is set for July 26<sup>th</sup> and will include various routes through Downs, Saybrook and Gibson City. Several members indicated they would be available for communications and other assistance for the ride.

Mike Sallee reviewed the results of our field day operations. There was a general discussion of what we did well this year and what areas could use improvement.

Members were encouraged to submit their suggestions for improvements to Mike.

Gary Huber discussed K9CT's recent operation as W1AW/9 from Illinois. He recommended all members check in from their home locations in December when Illinois will again be the host state.

Norm Huber mentioned that the Ingersol Scout Reservation would be hosting a "Jamboree on the Air" during the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in October. It was noted that Farmington was over an hour away. We will discuss possible participation at a future meeting.

On motion by Gary Huber, seconded by Dennis Mills, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Benjamin (KC9PIM), Secretary

### Important Current Event

ARRL Illinois Section

Section Manager: Thomas T Ciciora, KA9QPN

[ka9qpn@arrl.org](mailto:ka9qpn@arrl.org)

\*\*In the hopper of Congress is a measure shorthanded as HR-4969. The full title is the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014. An FCC study was mandated by Congress in 2012 on "the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief" (NOT "public service communications", thank you very much!). One of the obstacles to Amateur participation in EmComm and such are the increasing prevalence of covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) incorporated by home owners associations (HOAs) in new communities. A lot of new subdivisions have these things as a condition to the sale. Frankly, many of them contain severe restrictions if not outright prohibition of outdoor antennas. This constricts our ability to operate and leaves many with indoor or attic or no antennas. The FCC, in reporting the study results to Congress, essentially said that if they were ordered by Congress to extend PRB-1's 'reasonable accommodation' standard to HOAs and CC&Rs, the Commission would do so. HR-4969 does that. It was introduced by Illinois' own Adam Kinzinger (R-IL/16) and Connecticut's Joe Coonnecticut's Joe Courtney (D-CT/2). Right now, the push is to get as many co-sponsors on board as possible, so as to make passage inevitable and support overwhelming. The

playbook is on the League's website at <http://www.arrl.org/hr-4969>. Note that we're still using the same methods as in the past: letters go to HQ for collection and are hand delivered by our lobbyist to the individual Congresspeople in person. This also bypasses the toxin and hazmat screening delay that occurs if you mail comments directly. We need all hands on deck for this one again. I know from my conversations with you at events that this is a big concern of many. Please pitch in as you have so well in the past and let's get this done.

### WAC, DXCC and WAS

The following is from the Bicycling Hams of America discussion group. It may be faster with a beam at 90 feet but this shows tenacity. West Chester is about 25 miles west of Philadelphia, PA

This discussion group seems to have been pretty quiet lately so i thought I'd post this update on my bicycle mobile activities and maybe stir up some activity.

Last year I completed DXCC from my bike, I'm now at 156 and new ones are getting pretty hard to work. Earlier this year, I finally worked Antarctica for WAC from my bike. I worked Antarctica twice, RI1ANR on CW and KC4AAA on SSB...that was a thrill, I never thought I'd get Antarctica from my bike. Although it was dark out and I was juggling mic and iPhone, I managed to take a short video of the QSO with KC4AAA and put it on youtube. Had the op at KC4AAA not paused to ask for mobile stations, i never would have made that contact. You have to laugh at the guy on the video that says "YEAH RIGHT!" when he hears that I am bicycle mobile! Here's the proof pal!

[KF3CD/Bicycle Mobile QSO with Antarctica KC4AAA](#)

Last night I worked Montana, my final state for bicycle mobile WAS. Most all contacts were made at 35 watts, none higher than 50 w, all with hamstick antennas, a Yaesu FT-100 and 7 AH gel cell for power. Wonder if anyone else has completed all 3 from a bike?

73 and happy biking and hamming!  
Mike, KF3CD  
West Chester, Pa.

## Antenna Quiz

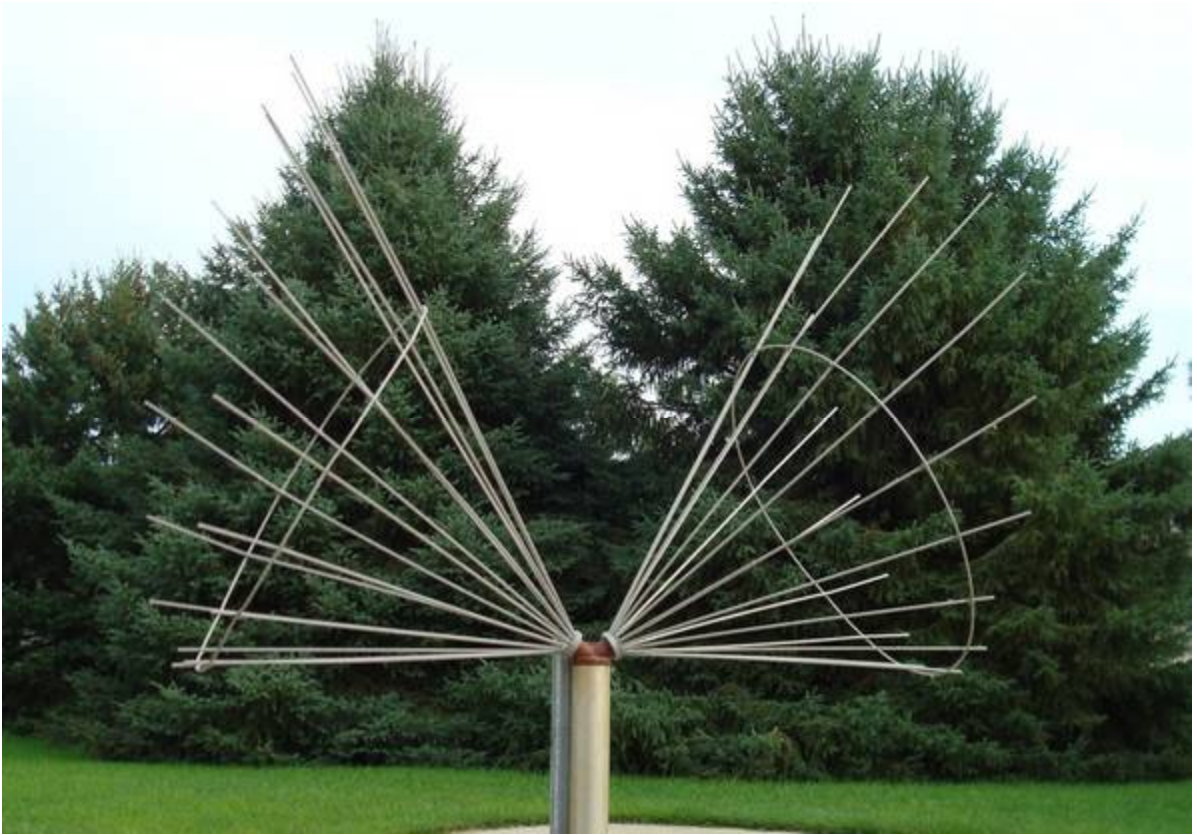
Grant Zehr AA9LC

Here are photos of a couple of antennas which I set up in the driveway recently. They are not your typical yagi or vertical ground plane. Who can identify the general design type for each antenna, band coverage, polarization, and its use before it was retired (to amateur duty)? Send Norm your answers for the next Newsletter. (No fair getting help from members who learned the answers to these questions at Coffee!) Each tripod leg is 36" long.

Antenna #1







Antenna #2







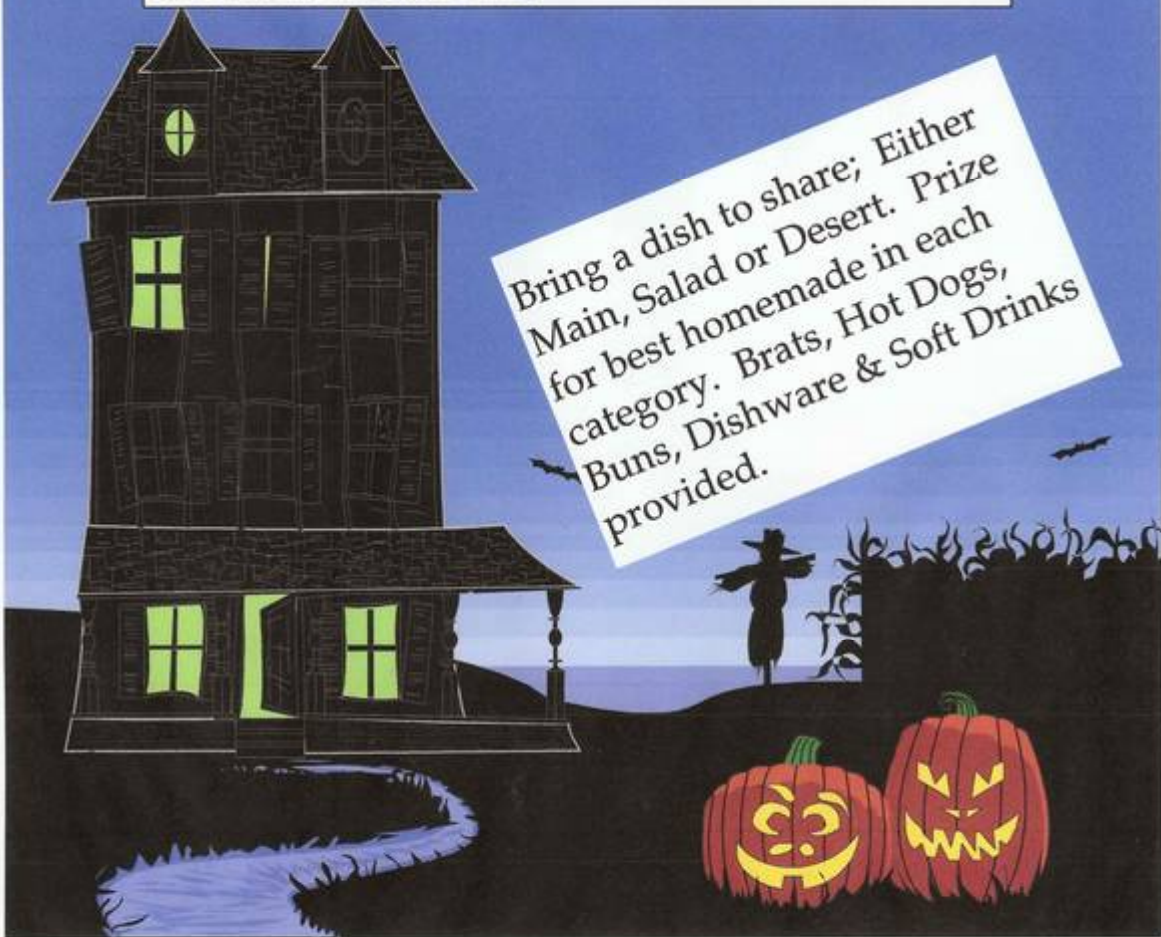
# CIRC 2nd Annual Wiener Roast

**WHEN: OCTOBER 11, 2014; 6:30 PM**

**WHERE: Duane & Susan Benjamin Farm;  
24251 E 1900 North Rd, Towanda, IL**

[Take Towanda-Barnes Road to Towanda. Road turns East at Towanda and becomes 1900 East Rd. Go exactly 5 Miles (just past power substation). Blue Tri-Level on South side of road. Event in heated machine shed with tables & chairs. Extra chairs welcome. Wiener sticks and marshmallows available for those that want to test out the bonfire]

Bring a dish to share; Either Main, Salad or Desert. Prize for best homemade in each category. Brats, Hot Dogs, Buns, Dishware & Soft Drinks provided.



## -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	8:30 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
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 Newslines
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:30 P.M.</b>	<b>146.730 123.0 PL Open Net</b>

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

## Central Illinois Area Repeaters

Freq	Callsign	Location	PL
144.390	N9PE-2	Bloomington <b>APRS</b>	Digipeater
145.390	N9EZJ	Lincoln WX RACES	103.5
146.730	K9HGX	Decatur(Echolink)	123.0
146.790	WD9HRU	McLEAN CO ARES	103.5 Anti PL on 107.2
146.850	K9PEO	PAARC	103.5
146.940	W9AML	CIRC Club - ARES	103.5 CTCSS
146.985	KA9YPK	Clinton	Back Up
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**

### Web Page

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

**President: Grant Zehr (AA9LC)**

**Vice-President: Earl Shaffer (WB9UWA)**

**Secretary: Duane Benjamin (KC9PIM)**

**Treasurer: Norm Huber (N9ZKS)**

**Newsletter Editor: Norman Huber**

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:

**Norm Huber**

**19266 US Highway 150**

**Bloomington, IL 61705-5855**

e-mail **[n9zks@frontier.com](mailto:n9zks@frontier.com)**

**Permission is granted to Amateur Radio-related organizations to reproduce contents of Short CIRCuits provided full credit is given.**

## AREA EXAM DATES

Following is the schedule for W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exams for the year 2014. at the Community Room of the Bloomington Public Library located at the intersection of of E. Olive St. and S. East ST. Entrance off of S. East St.

**This is a CHANGE of LOCATION.**

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@hotmail.com](mailto:ac9s@hotmail.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.

**The first test dates for 2014 are the following Saturdays:**

1/18 - Done

3/15 - Done (9 participants - All got Tech 2 also got General)

5/03 - Done

**7/19 - Unknown - the library if I can get it. Date may change if needed to obtain the library.**

**11/08 - Unknown - the library if I can get it."**

**Exams' in Morton** are held at the Morton Public Library, 315 West Pershing at 12:00 Noon the third Saturday of even numbered months or as noted. Feb 15, Apr 19, Jun 21, Aug 16, Sep 20(Superfest), Oct 18, and Dec20

Contact Bob Bush at [tigrbob@gmail.com](mailto:tigrbob@gmail.com) for more info.