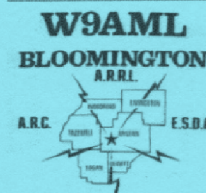


Central Illinois Radio Club December 2014 Newsletter

Next Meeting Wednesday Jan 28, 2015

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



December 2014

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

From the President

As we head into the December holidays and the year end, it is a good time to reflect on the year past and look ahead to the New Year which is fast approaching. At the CIRC we had a busy year during 2014 and perhaps it's appropriate to take a look back at the past year for the CIRC.

2014 began with a lot of work getting our club station up and running and dealing with a lot of equipment which had accumulated in the station area. Tom Planer KJ9P, our station manager, led the way putting in a lot of his time. Our January meeting featured a silent auction, during which many of the surplus items found new homes, and some money was raised for CIRC. With our station tidied up we held our Grand Opening of the new club station and took some time to get familiar with our HF equipment.

As the weather began to warm up we hosted Mr. S. Suri VU2MY who was visiting in our community following his appearance at the Dayton Hamvention. It was a truly international gathering and a memorable evening for the CIRC. During the spring months we got ready for Field Day, making a few adjustments based on a membership survey. Mike Sallee headed up the big FD effort and the club put together another good outing. We had lots of fun and ran up a pretty good score.

There were plenty of operating events through the year. We participated in the ISU Family Science Day, participated in Special Event Communications, and a local Emergency Services drill. Several CIRC members participated in the ARRL – W1AW Centennial operation from Illinois, operating as W1AW/9 – IL from their home stations.

In the fall, the first stop was the Peoria Superfest where we again set up tables and did the usual buying, selling, and visiting. Duane KC9PIM again hosted the CIRC Halloween Party at his home with a wiener roast and pot-luck dinner. Then it was time to head home and finish up the outdoor antenna work before cold weather set in for the winter. We finished up antenna work at the club station in early December, installing a needed feed line. So, it has been a good year for CIRC and I hope for you and your family as well. Best Holiday greetings to one and all and we'll see you at the next meeting in January! Grant Zehr AA9LC

CIRC meeting – January 28, 2015 Agenda

It's a bit early to put together a final agenda for the January meeting, but we should start thinking about items which will be on the agenda.

Our repeater (the 149.940 machine) has had some technical problems. Fortunately Jim Shaffer WB9UWA has been able to repair the repeater, finding only some connector problems so far. It is a reminder that our repeater is in a precarious position and may need to be replaced or relocated in the near future.

An active group of CIRC members has been working on a D-STAR repeater and have made substantial progress. We should learn more about what they've been working on and whether D-STAR could be an option if (when?) we need to replace our repeater.

Our dues structure was discussed at the last meeting. There was some feeling that our current dues were perhaps too high for some members. It was generally agreed that we did not want our dues to deter individuals from joining CIRC. Duane KC9PIM has a proposal which he will bring to the meeting as a starting point for discussion of the question. Bring your ideas to the January meeting.

Norm Huber is wearing dual hats as our CIRC Station Manager and our ARES coordinator. He will update us on current ARES activities, and also bring us up to date on the status of the club station.

We want to have a "Saturday at the Red Cross" day again this winter, so check your calendar and watch your e-mail. We may get something together before the January meeting.

I have been asked to get a talk together on Amateur Satellite Operating for the Peoria Amateur Radio Club at some time in the future. If time allows, I may practice my talk on the CIRC membership following the January Business Meeting.

I'll get a more formal agenda together for the January newsletter. There will be lot's to do in the New Year! Grant Zehr AA9LC

CIRC Membership Proposal

At the last CIRC meeting, members expressed some concern with the cost of CIRC membership. The discussions did not propose any specific actions with respect to the appropriate level of club dues,

but they did identify the competing components of our current membership structure.

On one hand, it is the goal of the club to increase and diversify membership. In short, we want to attract more members, especially younger members, to share the current goals and activities of the club and to continue these on in the future.

Competing with this goal, at least in part, is that the level of dues that we currently charge for membership in the club potentially inhibits growth in club membership. Younger individuals, individuals caught in the recent economic slowdown, and individuals who have not yet fully developed their interest in our hobby simply may not be willing to pay \$30 annually for club membership.

To better balance these competing forces, I propose, through a change in the By-Laws, that we separate the competing interests of Membership and Funding into two separate sections.

Following is a set of bullet points that outline such a change.

1. Membership in CIRC shall be free. To be a member, an individual only needs to fully complete an application (Name, Contact info, licensing, if any, etc.) and agree to abide the laws governing amateur radio and the rules of this club.
2. Membership is open to anyone, whether or not they hold an amateur radio license, but holding a club office or voting shall be restricted to amateur radio operators in good standing (with the FCC).
3. Recognizing the need to raise money for capital projects and ongoing operations of the club, the officers shall, at least annually, organize a volunteer fund raising drive amongst members to solicit, but not require, contributions from members in amounts, if any, to be set by the individual member.
4. Other than for internal control purposes, the club Treasurer or other officers shall not keep or publish lists of individual contributors and their contributions without the express consent of the contributor.
5. The club shall, as the opportunity presents, seek other funding from the public.

There may be variations of the above that the membership would find satisfactory or the

membership may decide not to make any changes at this time. There was a consensus at the last meeting that the officers would consider whether changes should be made and what those changes could be. This is one such proposal.

We do have the practical problem that current membership dues are payable at the January meeting. We will not have a December meeting to discuss this issue. So, if we are to make any changes this year, we will need to make and apply them all in the same January meeting.

Sincerely,

KC9PIM – Duane Benjamin

CIRC Secretary

shagnsty@outlook.com

KP1-5 DXpedition

Re: Navassa (KP1) DXpedition

Dated: 22 October 2014

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has notified the KP1-5 Project that they will be the team to activate Navassa Island (KP1) in January 2015. The DXpedition will be a maximum of fourteen days. The exact dates in January will be determined by USFWS mission requirements and weather windows. Our experienced team of fifteen is complete and is ready for the challenge. The weeks ahead will be extremely busy as the team has less than 90 days before the DXpedition comes on the air.

January is the month of minimum bird nesting activity and this is the primary reason USFWS is asking that the operation be completed during that month. However, the weather is unpredictable in January and because Navassa is surrounded by cliffs, this may preclude a safe landing by boat. For safety reasons and in order to maximize our time on the Island and on the air, a helicopter operation is planned. Navassa is over 100 miles (160 km) from the nearest helicopter staging point and as many as ten round trips will be required at the beginning and end of the operation. Obviously, this means that there will be a significant cost for activating this #1 ranked DXCC entity.

In the next few weeks, we be working with USFWS and as details firm up, we will issue periodic press releases. **Check our webpage, <http://www.kp1-5.com>** for more details of the operation and how you may financially support this DXpedition.

The KP1-5 Project team has committed to fund 50% of the total costs. We are hopeful the DX community at large will fund the remainder. for The KP1-5 Project,

Bob Allphin, K4UEE, President

Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, Vice-president

Mike Thomas, NA5U, Secretary

A Glowbug's Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas
And all through the shack
Not a heater was glowing
In all of the rack.

Sitting totally silent and quiet that night
The old HRO shed nary a light.
The Johnson exciter and its homebrew final
Felt cold as leftovers, or seat-cover vinyl,

I drowsed at my workbench feeling tired and weary,
The print in the Handbook looked fuzzy and smeary.
I thought, "I'll make coffee", and groaned to my feet
When I heard a loud clatter outside in the street.

What the--? I wondered and turned on the lights
And there I beheld a wondrous sight:
A battered old van heaped high with components
And a grizzled old ham with a bagful of doughnuts.
I noted a callsign-- can't recall it today--
But a patch on the side read "FMLA".
I opened the door and hollered "Come in!
The coffee pot's heating, and we'll sit down and chin!"

He spoke not a word but whistled in Morse
A "GE OM", and "By golly, I'm hoarse.
Too many contests and contacts and hot rosin smoke."
I nodded and poured him a mug of jamoke.

He emptied the doughnuts in a pile on a plate
And explained in a whistle, "I'm running real late.
I've new 6L6s and fine 211s, 6146s and good 'SN7s.
And 866s and OB2s, type 45s and mil-spec 807s."

"For the regennie crowd, 201s by the score
And good ol' type 30s and 19s galore.
I haven't neglected the passive-parts run
There's lots of good iron by old Thordarson."

I nodded and smiled, suppressing a chortle
As he reached in his pack and left me a 304TL.
He whistled, "I'm leaving, the coffee was great,
But I'm overdue in the neighboring state."

"Keep everyone building the rigs of their choosing
Or we'll lose the bands that we're lazy in using.
Transistors or tubes-- any project is fine--
Just keep on constructing and sharing on line."

He leaped to his feet and waved a gloved hand
As he sprang for the door of his rusty old van.
I heard him exclaim as he drove away from me,
"Merry Christmas, you Glowbugs, and to all 73!"

-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	8:00 P.M.	28.450 Vertical polarization is encouraged but not required
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
Sunday	8:30 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. **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 APRS	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
		Back Up	
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

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: Kathy Huber (KC9SKF)

Newsletter Editor: Norman Huber (N9ZKS)

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

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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 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 - Done

11/08 - Done

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 for more info.