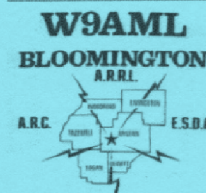


**Next Meeting Wednesday Feb 26, 2014**

# Central Illinois Radio Club February 2014 Newsletter

# CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

## Short CIRCuits



February 2014

**February Meeting,  
Wednesday the 26nd  
7:00 PM at the Red Cross**

Grant Zehr AA9LC

CIRC meeting – February 26, 2014 Agenda

### From the President

Here we are at the end of February and getting ready for the February CIRC meeting on Wednesday. We had a big day Saturday at the CIRC station at the Red Cross building. Tom KJ9P gave us a report on all the work he did preparing the station room and running all the needed lines to the station. Thanks for all your hard work, Tom! In addition to the general visiting and coffee drinking, we had training sessions for the HF station radios in the club station. We have a number of members now checked out on the Kenwood TS-570 and Ten Tec Omni 6 transceivers. Thanks to Gary AB9M for helping out on the Omni 6 session. Each of the rigs has a few peculiarities and the explanations were welcome. We'll get better use of the equipment if we understand how it works.

I brought my noise generator and laptop computer to demonstrate a method of checking receiver filter shape and performance. Jeff KC9QQM brought his new solid state RF signal generator and display set up. I was busy and didn't get a good look, but maybe we can convince him to bring it for a club meeting sometime. Norm N9ZKS spent some time getting his dongle plus HF converter radio working. I'm not sure if it was running by the end of the morning, but he seemed to be getting plenty of advice from the on-lookers. Ed KC9GF brought his key collection with some CPO's to test them out. Jim WB9UWA brought his microphone tester, and there were others with 'show and tell' items, but I honestly didn't make all the rounds. My apologies if I missed your contribution.

We had a first look at the Field Day Survey results. I'll go over the results again at the club meeting Wednesday (February 26, 2014) at the Red Cross building. Thanks to everyone who responded with survey returns and comments. We had some very helpful comments and are deciding what changes to make to improve our Field Day operation.

And since we're talking about Field Day, Spring can't be too far off. That's a good thing in my opinion!

See you at the meeting on Wednesday!

1. Introductions and new members
2. Minutes of November 2013 meeting - KC9PIM
3. Treasurer's report -N9ZKS
4. Repeater Committee report -KJ9P
5. New CIRC call sign trustees -AA9LC / KE9UA / AC9S
6. Roster for Tuesday 2 meter net -AA9LC / AB9MP
7. Weather related & SKYWARN -KJ9P
8. Field Day survey results - AA9LC
9. Field Day assignments – part 1 - AA9LC
10. New business
11. Adjourn
12. Program – Use of Club equipment (Bird Wattmeter & MFJ Antenna analyzer) - KJ9P & AC9S

### Minutes of the January 22, 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 7:40 PM, January 22, 2014.

Hams present at the meeting then introduced themselves by name and call sign.

It was noted that the minutes of the regular November 2013 meeting had been published in the November Newsletter. As usual, there was no December 2013 meeting as it was replaced with a social dinner held at Jim's Steakhouse. On motion by Tom Planer (KJ9P) and second by Dennis Mills (KE9UA), the minutes of the November 27, 2013 regular meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

Treasurer Norm Huber (N9ZKS) reported that the balance on hand was \$1,112.50 as of meeting date. On motion by Mike Sallee (KC9FWL), seconded by Greg Kellerman (KC9WVR), the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Tom Planer then reviewed the successful results of the recent Skywarn test of communication on 80 meters

involving various Illinois District 6 and District 7 stations. It is anticipated the test will be repeated in the next couple of months on other HF bands.

Prior to the beginning of this meeting, Station Manager Tom Planer held a silent auction of the club's excess equipment and parts. Many of the items were donations from the estate of Silent Key KA9CGA and from the dormant SFRAARC amateur radio club. Treasurer Norm Huber (N9ZKS) indicated the auction had raised \$255.00 for the club. With the sale of the excess equipment, Tom Planer indicated he was able to make additional room in the club station in preparation for a formal open house.

Duane Benjamin (KC9PIM) then indicated that he and Gary Huber (AB9M) had drafted a contract between CIRC and the State Farm club (SFRAARC) for the loan of certain radio equipment to CIRC. A copy of the proposed contract had appeared in the January Newsletter. With one suggested change and attachment of a list of equipment, the contract will be ready to be presented to officers of both organizations for signature.

On behalf of the repeater committee, Rick Suhadolc (N9CKL) reported that Bloomington was in the process of filling the vacancy in its legal department. It is likely we will soon be able to resume negotiations regarding the repeater site.

Grant Zehr indicated there has still been no response from the Route 66 event committee. It appears the club will not have the opportunity to participate in that event.

The President then noted that the club needed to make changes to the positions of Trustee of the club's two FCC licenses. Further, we need to approve a representative to the Illinois Repeater Association.

On motion by Tom Planer, seconded by Keith Hanson (AC9S), Dennis Mills (KE9UA) was nominated to be the Trustee for the W9AML license. The motion was unanimously approved.

On motion by Tom Planer, seconded by Keith Hanson (AC9S), Dennis Mills (KE9UA) was nominated to be CIRC's representative to the Illinois Repeater Association. The motion was unanimously approved.

On motion by Gary Huber, seconded by Dennis Mills, Keith Hanson was nominated to be the Trustee for the W9EX license. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jeff Lovell (KC9QQM) discussed management of the club's website. He asked for input on possible changes to the webpage. He noted there is now a calendar on the lower right area of the web page.

Keith Hanson noted he has had problems communicating with the fire station regarding use of their facilities for

administering testing for amateur radio licenses. He has contacted the Bloomington Public Library for use of their facilities in 2014.

It was noted that Grant Zehr had reported to the QST and the FCC regarding Ellen Hardy's status as Silent Key. Tom Planer indicated he had done the same for CIRC member Rodger Fitchorn. The QST printed acknowledgement will appear in about 3 months.

A discussion was then held regarding who should make meeting cancellation or other time sensitive announcements and the best methods for transmitting such information. The President, or other officers in his absence, will normally be responsible for making the determination with regard to formal CIRC meetings. Since almost all members are signed up to the CIRC reflector, that will be the primary method of making announcements. Further, the CIRC repeater will be used, either manually or through programming, to make timely announcements.

Grant Zehr indicated he will be working with Mark Snyder (AB9MP) to formalize a schedule of net controllers for the Tuesday night 2 meter net.

Gary Huber then discussed the I-Gate that Mike Brown (KG9DW) has setup and is operating in Heyworth. Club members indicated their appreciation of this service and acknowledged the expense and effort that goes into such a project. Gary suggested that the club list all such local independent services to the ham community and that we consider offering financial support to such efforts.

Dennis Mills then reported that the most recent E-Bay sales of items from the estate of SK Helen Hardy had earned, after E-Bay expenses, another \$273.91 for the club treasury.

A brief discussion of the 2014 field day was held. Grant Zehr indicated he would be circulating a survey of member's intentions and preferences with respect to future field day events.

It was announced that the Club will hold a combination open house for the radio room and electronic projects day on February 22, 2014 from 9 AM till early afternoon. More details are to follow.

On motion by Tom Planer, with second by Ed Deutsch (KC9GF), the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Benjamin (KC9PIM), Secretary

## Using a Noise Bridge to Evaluate Receiver Filters

Grant Zehr AA9LC

I've been working on the crystal filter in my homebrew 40 meter rig recently. After trying a number of schemes to evaluate my progress, I found a simple way to look at receiver filter shape.

A broadband noise generator is connected to the receiver's antenna connector. This provides a high level of noise across the entire HF spectrum, including the band you are tuned to. The receiver 'hears' a strong signal at every single frequency. The audio from the receiver is connected to your PC sound card. By using audio analyzer software you can see which frequencies are being passed by your receiver and which are being attenuated. I used a free program called Visual Analyzer which plots the frequencies and measures the signal strength against the frequency. Here are a few samples.

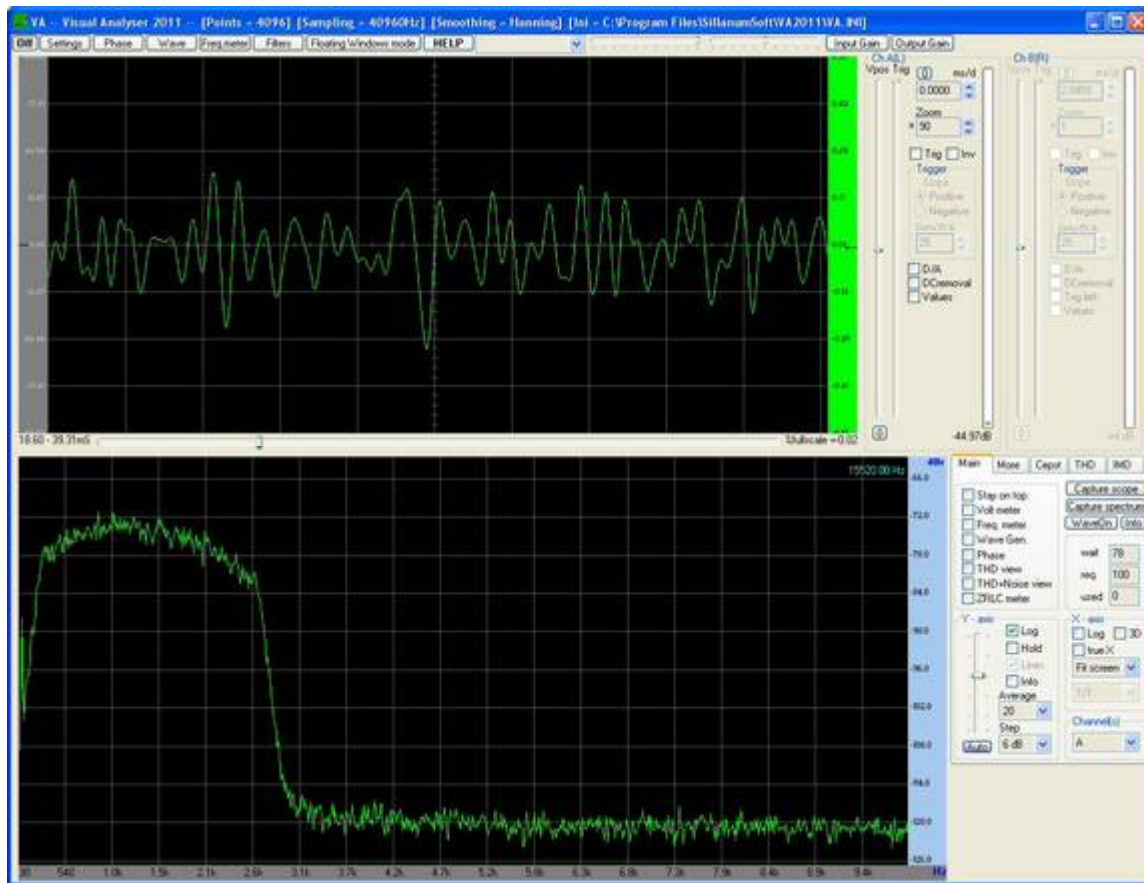


Figure 1 – 2.400 kHz filter in my Icom 756 pro II

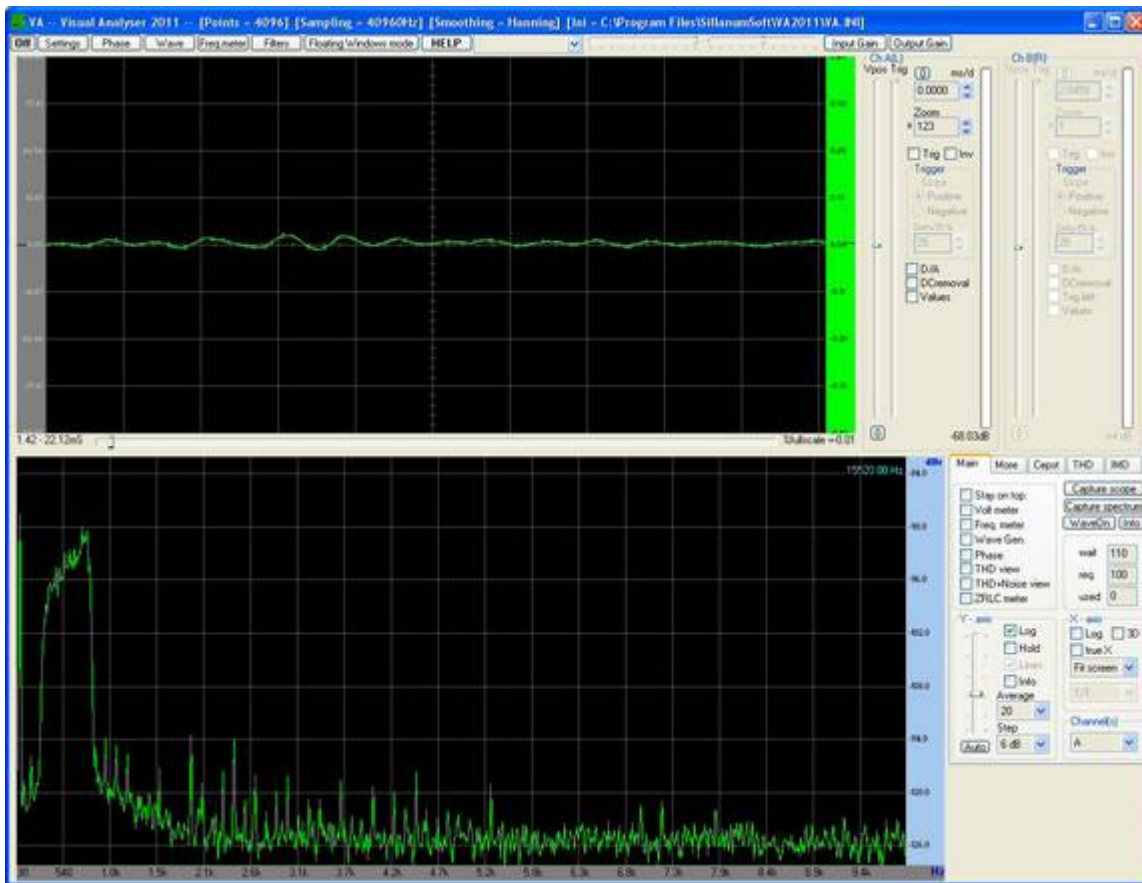
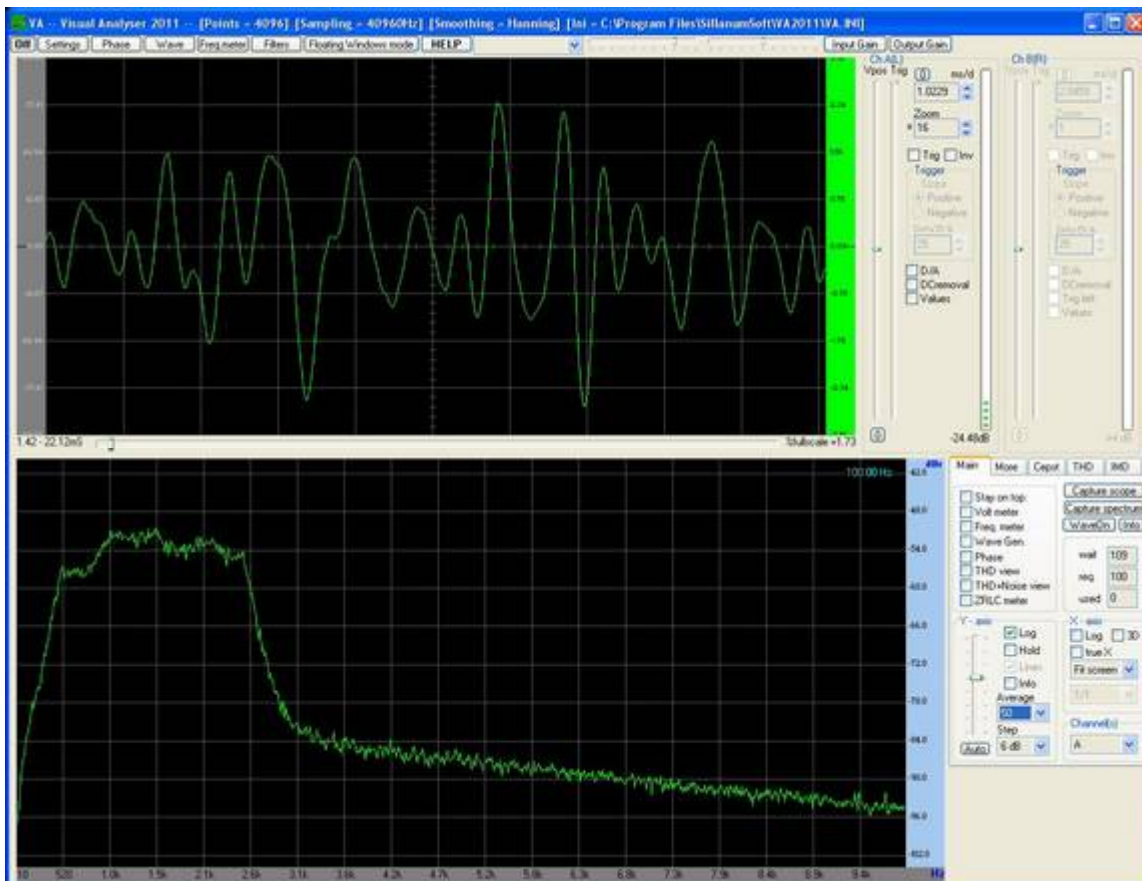


Figure 2 – The 300 narrow CW filter in the Icom 756 pro II



2Figure 3 – Homebrew 2.1 kHz SSB filter built for 40 meter transceiver



## -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/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 <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 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
<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 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

W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exams are held in Bloomington 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@mchsi.com](mailto: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.

### The test dates for 2014 are the following Saturdays:

3/15 - Bloomington Public Library

5/03 - Bloomington Public Library

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.

## 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 Back Up	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

P.O. Box 993

Bloomington, IL 61702-0993

<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.

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