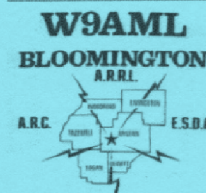


Next Meeting Wednesday Mar 26, 2014

Central Illinois Radio Club March 2014 Newsletter

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



March 2014

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

From the President

I'm writing this on what is supposed to be the first day of spring. The pile of snow at the end of the driveway is down to a foot or so in height, so I guess spring is really coming. It's even been warm enough for our porch roof to melt off and dry out. So, on one of our warm days I was up on the roof for some antenna work. Actually the antennas were fine, but an N type connector had pulled off the end of the coax, which confused me for a while. I had to untie the cable and drag it down to the shack for some surgery. I think this will be the year to check out cables and connectors around here

I hope you have had a chance to get on the HF bands during the past month. The ARRL DX contests (CW and SSB) were both held during the past month and they are a great way to work some "new ones". HF propagation has perked up and there has been lots of DX to hear and work on the ten and twelve meter bands, which are often rather quiet. Keith AC9S tells me he is working lots of new stations on 12 meters using only a Cushcraft vertical antenna mounted on a post in his yard.

This would be a great time for you techs to make some contacts on ten meters. You have phone privileges from 28.300 up to 28.500 MHz, which is where most of the ten meter action takes place. If you don't have an HF station set up yet, get together with a club member who has some DXing experience and operate from the new CIRC club station some weekend. It would be a great way to spend a Saturday morning.

Since our last meeting I had a phone chat with one of the zoning people at the Town of Normal office. I will bring you up to date at the meeting. On the topic of antenna zoning, I ran across a very enlightening interview on YouTube. It was part of the 'Ham Radio Now' series of on-line programs. The moderator interviewed Fred Hopengarten K1VR regarding antenna zoning and permitting issues. The episode is entitled "The WW8N Tower Case" and is episode 135. If you Google 'Ham Radio Now episode 135' you'll go right to it. Fred is a well known attorney who is also an amateur radio operator. He specializes in legal aspects of antenna zoning and permits professionally. He wrote the ARRL book on antenna zoning and has a web

site on the subject (www.antennazoning.com). The YouTube video is about an hour long and provides a good general explanation of antenna zoning issues. I recommend that you all view the video and visit his web site. If you're thinking about putting up a tower, then you should get the ARRL Antenna Zoning book and read it through before you start the process.

For our March CIRC meeting, Dennis KE9UA will be presenting some tips on keeping your PC running smoothly. With our stations becoming more and more dependent on computers it's a timely topic. The March meeting will be at 7:00 pm on March 26 at the Red Cross building. See you there!

73

Grant Zehr AA9LC

CIRC meeting – March 26, 2014 Agenda

1. Introductions and new members
2. Minutes of February 2014 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. Family Science Day at ISU -KC9GF
8. Upcoming Communication events -AA9LC
9. Field Day - KC9FWL
10. New business
11. Adjourn
12. Program – Tips for Keeping your Station Computer running smoothly - KE9UA

Minutes of the February 26, 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 7:05 PM, February 26, 2014.

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

It was noted that the minutes of the regular January 2014 meeting had been published in the November Newsletter. On motion by Tom Planer (KJ9P) and second by Dennis Mills (KE9UA), the minutes of the January 22, 2014 regular meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

Treasurer Norm Huber (N9ZKS) submitted a written report to the members that indicated a balance on hand of \$2,031.48 as of meeting date. On motion by Jim Baker (WB9EDL), seconded by Tom Planer, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Tom Planer gave a Repeater Committee report indicating the equipment at the Corn Belt site had received water damage from the recent rain and resulting snow melt which flooded that site. Chuck Henderson (WB9UUS) reported that we were still running on a back up system and that the cost of replacement parts for the primary system would be under \$400. Dennis Mills indicated he had some replacement parts that he would donate. After some discussion, Gary Huber made a motion that the club authorize up to \$300.00 for repair of the flood damaged computer and battery back up system. Chuck Henderson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A discussion was then held on the status of the current repeater site and the possibility of moving same. During the discussion, Rick Kempf (WD9HRU) indicated that his tower site was available to host a temporary replacement if we were to loose the Corn Belt site.

Mike Brown (KG9DW) then related his ongoing experiments with the D-Star system. It was noted that Mike's Heyworth location brought access to the system much closer to most members than the current Peoria node. Although only a few members currently have D-Star capable radios, there was considerable interest in Mike's work.

In response to a status request on transferring trusteeship of the clubs two licenses, Keith Hanson (AC9S) indicated the paperwork on the W9EX license had been completed and sent. Dennis Mills indicated he had collected all the necessary documents for the W9AML license and will be mailing them in the next few days.

Grant Zehr discussed setting a roster of moderators for the Tuesday night 2 meter net. Following some discussion, there was a consensus that we should try to adopt a format similar to what we now use on the Sunday AM net. This would entail creating a spreadsheet of participants and then rotating the moderators based on their position on the list. Grant Zehr and Tom Planer will work in creating the spreadsheet and adapting the current protocol to the new format.

Using the overhead projector, Grant Zehr presented a graphic display of the results of the Field Day Survey and some of the comments on selected individual questions that he had received. The survey results essentially validated our current approach to Field Day, but gave some indications of where we could do better. In this initial review, It was decided that Mike Saltee (KC9FWL) would be our Field Day Chairperson and that Dennis Mills would be in charge of the network. Further Field Day discussions are planned for the March meeting.

New Business

Jim Baker said he had again been contacted by the Wheelers Club, asking for our help with their event to be held on June 14th, 2014. On motion by Rick Suhadolc and second by Earla Shaffer, the club unanimously agreed to provide fixed and mobile communication services to the Wheelers Club event.

Dennis Mills then advised the club that he had finally received a permit from the Town of Normal to reconstruct his amateur radio tower and antenna. Dennis enumerated his many problems with the Town and the extreme expense involved in submitting to their requests. A discussion ensued on the chilling effect on amateur radio of the Town's ordinance and its interpretation of same.

On motion by Tom Planer, with second by Norm Huber (N9ZKS), the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Benjamin (KC9PIM), Secretary

DX Challenge

For those of us who ride bicycles perhaps we should take up the challenge. I took this from the Bicycle Mobile Hams of America group. Norm N9ZKS

I'm happy to report that I recently worked Antarctica from my bike to complete a Bicycle Mobile WAC. We have had an unusually brutal winter here in southeastern PA, with snow once or twice a week, every week for the past 3 months solid but I have braved the cold on occasion to ride and have managed to work a few new ones from the bike this winter. I'm now at 152 DXCC entities worked from my bike, with 120 of them confirmed, since I started this little obsession in 2010. I thought I'd never get Antarctica but recently saw RI1ANR on the DX Cluster on 17 meters and for once, I could hear him very well...BUT he was operating CW. Most all of my bicycle mobile contacts are in SSB but

I had to try to work him, one way or another...so I plugged in my mini "Paddlette" key and worked him on the first or second call. Doesn't matter how you work 'em, as long as you work 'em!

73 de Mike, KF3CD/BM

West Chester, Pa.

Rig: Yaesu FT-100, usually at 35 watts

Antennas: Hamsticks

Power: 12V 7AH gel cell

FOR SALE:

Small office desk – FREE

I am clearing out the basement and this desk is no longer needed. The top surface measures 45.5 x 30 inches and 29 inches tall. It has one file drawer and one drawer for small items. The top looks bad, as the simulated wood grain has worn badly. The top is smooth and even and quite functional. No rust on the metal that I can see. It's free to anyone who can haul it away.

Grant Zehr AA9LC



-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
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 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 2014. at the Community Room of the Bloomington Public Library located at the intersection 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 - 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 for more info.

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 Back Up Clinton	103.5 CTCSS
146.985	KA9YPK	Normal ARES Alt.	88.5 (open*)
147.015	NX9M	Washington	103.5 CTCSS
147.075	W9UVI	Decatur	103.5
147.105	WA9RTI	Bloomington	103.5
147.150	WD9FTV	Lincoln ESDA	103.5
147.345	K9ZM	Pontiac FARA	127.3
147.390	WB9DUC	Decatur (ARES)	103.5
442.250	WA9RTI	Normal	107.2
442.700	WB9UUS	CENOIS ARC	123.0
443.800	K9HGX	Decatur	100.0
444.175	K9MCA		

* 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

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