

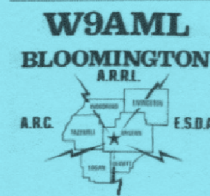
Central Illinois Radio Club April-May 2015 Newsletter

Next Meeting Wednesday May 27, 2015

**Thank you for your 2015 dues!
The club appreciates your support.**

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



April-May 2015

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

6. Old Business
7. New business
8. Adjourn
9. Program – Using the N1MM logging program – K9ZO

From the President

May has come and spring is here in full force, with hints of summer weather appearing. The gardens are getting planted and the non-gardeners are mowing like crazy. A number of lucky club members went off to Dayton for the 2015 Hamvention, and most everyone came home with something special. Dennis KE9UA picked up a DX QSL card directly from the operator, who was attending the Hamvention. Dennis was quick on his feet and recognized the call sign and had a nice visit, in addition to confirming a new one. Keith AC9S ordered a new Flex transceiver, which should be a nice addition to his station. Better keep a close eye on the porch, Keith. Lots of us would be happy to give the Flex a test run for you!

I was in the Left Behind group this year with other commitments which just couldn't be budged. Oh, well, I understand they're having a Hamvention again next year!

With the warm weather it's time to get our Field Day planning into high gear. Our CIRC Field Day Committee met this week and discussed options with our CW team. The result will be a simpler layout this year, with only two stations. We'll have a full time CW station, and a second station operating phone part of the time and digital part of the time. At least that's the committee's recommendation. We'll discuss it at the meeting.

We're also going to try a new logging program this year. The N1MM program is by far the most popular logging program for serious contesters and Dxpedition, and we're going to try it out this year at FD. Since this is a new program for many of us (including me), we've asked Ralph K9ZO to give us a training session at the club meeting on Wednesday. This is important, since if you want to log QSO's at Field Day you'll need to know the basic functions of the program! Even if you can't make it to Field Day, you should learn how to use N1MM.

See you at the meeting!

Grant Zehr AA9LC

CIRC meeting – May 27, 2015 Agenda

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Introductions and new members | -AA9LC |
| 2. Minutes of March & April 2015 mtgs. | KC9PIM |
| 3. Treasurer's report | KC9SKF |
| 4. Repeater Project | -AA9LC |
| 5. Field Day 2015 | KC9FWL |

Minutes of the March 25, 2015

CIRC Meeting

The regularly scheduled meeting of CIRC was called to order by President, Grant Zehr (AA9LC) at 7:00 PM, March 23, 2015.

Grant began the meeting with self introductions of all members present and the passing of a sign in list. New member Alex Prose (KD8SGK) was welcomed to the club.

On motion by Tom Planner (KJ9P) and second by Dennis Mills (KE9UA) the minutes of the February 25, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Kathy Huber (KC9SKF) presented a financial report which indicated a current bank balance of \$3,343.61. It was noted that the donations for the new Yeasu repeater amounted to \$1,080. On motion by Gary Dearth (KD8F) and second by Jim Baker (WB9EDL) the Treasurers report was unanimously accepted.

Ed Deutsch (KC9GF) discussed the upcoming Family Science Day event. The club would be Exhibitor #11 with the booth located in front of the south doors of the ISU arena. A discussion of setup related items ensued and a sign up sheet was passed.

Secretary Duane Benjamin (KC9PIM) indicated he had updated the club By Laws based on the general instructions previously approved by the members. The following sentence was recommended to be added to Section 2. of the By-Laws:

The President may waive annual dues for any individual or family membership if, in his opinion, the dues would be a significant financial burden to that individual or family.

On motion by Tom Planner and second by Norm Huber, the recommended change to the By-Laws was unanimously approved.

Tom Planner indicated the Nominating Committee was actively encouraging members to consider running for office at the upcoming officer election. The committee will present its recommendations at the next meeting.

Grant Zehr then discussed the AARL Band Plan Survey. He indicated the major change would be an increase in the portion of the 75 meter band that is allocated to data.

Grant Zehr reported on the March 11, 2015 combined meeting of the CIRC Board and the Repeater Committee. He gave an item by item analysis of the status of the current tower, the new repeater and options for future.

Following the report, a discussion of the new repeater ensued. Tom Planer made a motion that we suspend the purchase of the new Yeasu repeater. After considerable discussion, the motion was seconded and a vote was called. The motion was defeated and the purchase of the Yeasu repeater with volunteered funds will go forward.

Norm Huber then reported that the "Miles of Smiles" bicycle event, for which the club has previously supplied communication, will not be held this year.

Grant Zehr reviewed the Saturday Workday member event held at the Red Cross building. The members that attended worked on building a couple of electronic key kits and on repeater repairs.

Harri Rebba then gave a report on a recent DX-pedition he had attended.

On motion by Dennis Mills and second by Josh Golladay (KC9UJS), the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Benjamin (KC9PIM), Secretary

Minutes of the April 22, 2015 CIRC Meeting

The April 2015 meeting was preceded by an excellent and informative presentation from Craig Thompson (K9CT) of his recent DXpedition.

The APRIL 2015 regularly scheduled meeting of CIRC was called to order by President, Grant Zehr (AA9LC) at 7:00 PM, April 22, 2015.

Grant began the meeting with self introductions of all members present and the passing of a sign-in list. Guests present included Craig Thompson, Bill Axelrod (K3WA) and Ralph Bellas (K9ZO).

Due to technical difficulties, the club newsletter, which included the minutes of the March 2015 meeting, could not be distributed. Consideration of the March 2015 minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

Treasurer Kathy Huber (KC9SKF) presented a financial report which indicated a current bank balance of \$3,393.61. On motion duly made and seconded, the Treasurers report was unanimously accepted.

Ed Deutsch (KC9GF) reported on the club's participation in the Family Science Day event at ISU. He indicated that because of loss of certain funding, this may have been the last such event. This year's event, however, was quite successful. The club had interactive exhibits involving Morse code keys, Flex radios, old AM radios, oscilloscopes and making bracelets with names in Morse Code.

Grant Zehr reported there would be a second combined meeting of the CIRC Board and the Repeater Committee. The results of the meeting will be distributed on clubs reflector site.

Tom Planer (KJ9P) reported on his informal discussions with Repeater Association members when he attended the recent association meeting. He also passed on a concern that our repeater was exhibiting certain technical problems. Earl Shaffer (WB9UWA) and Chuck Henderson (WB9UUS) agreed to check into the problem and correct it. Dennis Mills (KE9UA) agreed to contact the association to update their records to indicate that he is now the Trustee and to report on any corrections we make regarding the reported "dead carrier" problem.

Jim Baker (WB9EDL) reminded everyone that the Wheelers bike ride is scheduled for June 13th. The club has agreed to provide communications for that event.

On motion by Tom Planer and second by Dennis Mills, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Benjamin (KC9PIM), Secretary

FIELD DAY

The Field Day Committee met on May 20, 2015 to review plans for our Field Day (FD) Outing in June. Present were members of the CIRC Field Day committee Mike Sallee KC9FWL, Keith Hansen AC9S, Jim Baker WB9EDL, and Grant Zehr AA9LC along with Ralph Bellas K9ZO and Bill Axelrod K3WA who are helping with CIRC Field Day this year.

Discussions covered a variety of options, with the goal of coming up with a plan to reduce interstation interference, to make lots of contacts and to have the most fun possible.

After considering a number of possible options, our committee is recommending the following plan for Field Day 2015.

1. For 2015 2A operation is recommended (operating with 2 transmitters and emergency power). This will consist of one CW station and one Phone/Digital station with alternate hours for Phone and Digital modes

2. The Old Town Township site will be used again this year, although it is small for a 2 station operation. Selection and arrangement of antennas and the use of filters should help us reduce interstation interference.
3. The CW station will be provided by Ralph and Bill (and Craig Thompson K9CT) and will consist of an Elecraft K3 transceiver, a SteppIR beam (for 20, 15 and 10 meter bands), and wire antennas for 80 and 40 meters.
4. The antennas for the CIRC Phone/Digital station will consist of separate wire dipoles for 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters (with the 40 meter antenna serving on 15 meters as well). The Club Ten Tec Omni 6 transceiver will be the radio for the Phone/Digital station.
5. A 6 meter VHF station is planned, using a transceiver with lowest possible phase noise (to minimize interference to the other stations).
6. A new logging program is recommended, the K1MM contest logging program. This is available free of charge and is used by most serious contesters and DXpeditions.
7. No computer networking will be used. The log files will be merged following the operation
8. CW and Phone stations will be arranged as far apart as is possible at our FD site, with wire antennas arranged end-to-end to minimize interference between them.

To Do List:

1. All operators will need to become familiar with the N1MM program. K9ZO will do a training session at the May club meeting.
2. Some wiring and interface work may be needed to operate the Omni 6 on phone and digital modes. Gary Huber AB9M will help set up the Omni 6.
3. Wire antennas for the Phone/Digital station need to be built and checked out. Supports for the antennas also need to be configured. WB9EDL has agreed to take the lead in planning these antennas. Baluns (1:1) for these antennas are recommended.
4. Since there will only be one station for Digital and Phone operation, a schedule will need to be made and used to maximize operating time for operators with various interests.

W9AML Repeater Plan

April 9, 2015

Bloomington, IL

Based on feedback from the last Board Meeting and Monthly club meeting it has been decided that the Central Illinois Radio Club (CIRC) wishes to continue to maintain a VHF FM repeater with analog input and output and tone control, continuing the same repeater service our club has provided for many years with the W9AML repeater on the IRA coordinated frequency pair of 146.940/146.340 MHz.

Our current repeater location is in some jeopardy, however, since the current site owner (Cornbelt Electric Co-op) is not using the tower where our repeater is located and has put the property up for sale. In addition, we have heard informally from the City of Bloomington that we might be offered the opportunity to locate our repeater at the Hamilton Road water tower.

Status of our current repeater site:

Tom KJ9P recently visited with the Cornbelt Electric Co-op representative who reported that while no sale has been made, there are 2 potential buyers, and initially both of these buyers indicated they would be willing to allow the W9AML repeater to remain at the site. If the tower is sold and CIRC is given the option to continue to remain at its current site, it is the board's recommendation that we continue to utilize the current tower site as either a repeater location, or as a secondary receiver location.

If we are able to reach a satisfactory agreement with the new owner, CIRC should re-evaluate the current repeater installation and repair or replace antennas and feed-lines if needed. Consideration should be given to installation of a wireless internet antenna installation if tower work is planned. Until we know the long term plans for the tower, the only work recommended is work needed to keep the repeater on the air.

If the tower sells and the new buyer does not agree to our use of the site, we will need to remove our equipment. We have been reassured by the current owners that we will be given the opportunity to remove our equipment before the property changes hands. We anticipate that we will have enough time to remove our equipment in that case. Therefore, it is the board's recommendation that we leave repeater equipment needed for normal operation at the site for now, rather than removing it.

Status of the Hamilton Road Water Tower site:

Chuck WB9UUS, has made additional contacts with the City of Bloomington, and has continued to receive positive responses, meaning that City officials seem to be open to the idea of CIRC relocating the W9AML repeater to that site. The matter is still awaiting action by the City Attorney who will need to prepare an agreement for us to consider. Because it now seems more likely that the Hamilton Road site will become available the CIRC repeater committee will explore the feasibility of visiting the water tower site and beginning the Engineering plan for installation of a repeater there.

If the Hamilton Road site does become available for use by the CIRC it is the recommendation of the board that the CIRC proceed and utilize the site as either a repeater or secondary receiver location.

Status of the Red Cross building as a repeater site:

If CIRC loses its current site for the W9AML repeater, and if the Hamilton Road Water Tower site is not yet available when that occurs, then it is the board's recommendation that the W9AML repeater be temporarily relocated to the Bloomington Red Cross building in the CIRC club station until a more satisfactory arrangement can be made.

In addition:

If any changes to the W9AML repeater are needed which warrant IRA notification or re-coordination, it is the board's recommendation that the CIRC repeater committee, the W9AML license trustee, and the CIRC continue to work with the IRA to maintain the W9AML VHF repeater as a coordinated repeater.

It is the recommendation of the board that the club's new Yaesu DR-1 Fusion repeater be installed at the current repeater site when it arrives, configured so that it can be accessed by CIRC members using their existing FM transceivers.

Grant Zehr AA9LC
Central Illinois Radio Club

v. 1.1

Member's Tale

Here are a few pieces of information about of a member of the club important in the history of our club.

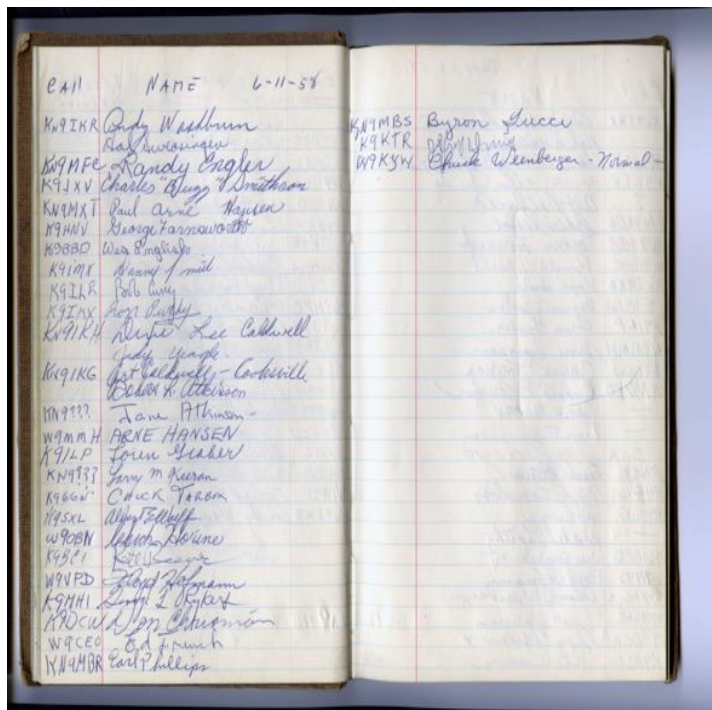
Larry Keeran was an active member from about 1958 until 2007. He held various offices including President which he held on more than one instance. He also was involved in ARES.

I remember doing communications at the airport before the new terminal was built where the drill including a comindere plane missing the North-South runway and crashing into the home that used to be there, setting it on fire.

I also remember a Cherry Pie Night where the entertainment was tapping out code with your left foot.

Notice the name of the club included the word amateur, making the initials CIARC.

At the bottom are pictures of Larry and his wife Marie Antoinette in 1985, 2010 and 2015. They now reside in France where Larry now has a call of F8WAJ.



Port Blair – A&N Islands

As mentioned in the minutes of last month's meeting we were offered a description of the warm welcome received by CIRC's members, Harri Rebba and his family, on their arrival. Here are some pictures.



We also had a good showing at the Hamvention. Here are some pictures of some of our members enjoying the great Hamvention Experience. Pictures by Harri Rebba.





-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 Newslane
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 Newslane
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 Newslane
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

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 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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Central Illinois Area Repeaters

Freq	Callsign	Location	PL
144.390	N9PE-2	Bloomington APRS	Digipeater
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	
		Clinton	
146.985	KA9YPK	Normal ARES Alt.	88.5 (open*)
147.015	NX9M	Washington	156.7 CTCSS
147.075	W9UVI	Decatur	103.5
147.105	WA9RTI	Bloomington	103.5
147.150	WD9FTV	Pontiac FARA	127.3
147.390	WB9DUC	Decatur (ARES)	103.5
442.250	WA9RTI	Normal	107.2
442.700	WB9UUS	Hayworth	141.3pl
442.825	KG9DW	CENOIS ARC	123.0
443.800	K9HGX	Decatur	100.0
444.175	K9MCA	Normal - DStar	
444.2375	WX9WX	Hayworth - DStar	
444.700	KD9AKF		

* Repeater is currently in open mode with pl for those with QRM

AREA EXAM DATES

Following is the schedule for W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exams for the year 2015. 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.

Setup is from Noon to 1:00 normally. Exams begin at 1:00 P.M..

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.

1/24 Done

3/21 Done

5/23 confirmed

7/25 tentative

11/07 tentative

All tests are at the Bloomington Public Library - Community Room.

Tests begin at 1:00pm.

Please refer any questions to:

Keith Hanson, AC9S

(309) 378-4416

AC9S@hotmail.com

Exams' in Morton are held at the Morton Public Library, 315 West Pershing at 12:00 Noon the third Saturday of even numbered months and. Sep 21 (Superfest),
Contact Bob Bush at tigrbob@gmail.com for more info.