

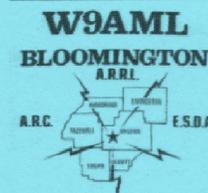
Central Illinois Radio Club November 2016 Newsletter

Next Meeting Wednesday Nov 16, 2016

**The end of the year is here, It is time to renew your membership. Remember, I have changed the form to allow me to record payments without a new form. Please bring your payment and review your form to be sure it is up to date and I'll update the expiration and it will be all done. Thanks.
Your Treasurer, Norm N9ZKS**

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



November 2016

FROM THE PRESIDENT

For the club:

Well, I have been thinning down the spare parts stored on the shelf's collected these last couple of years purchasing SK estates and sorting items out and listing them on Ebay, Facebook and QTH and doing very well at placing hard to find NOS items into the hands of hams who still "home brew" their own radio gear such as transmitters and antenna tuners. I even found a NOS still sealed in the bag a "galena xtal" radio kit with the paper work that now is in the hands of a happy ham reliving his youth with a "cat whisker" radio receiver. I had the exact same xtal radio when I was about 8 years old given to me by an uncle in Clinton who had a small radio and TV repair shop. I spent many nights with friends at my home trying to see who could find the AM broadcast station the farthest away. I still have the WWII 2,000 ohm high impedance headphones my uncle gave me with it. The fellow who purchased this last week wrote me a nice long letter thanking me for putting this hard to find vintage "cat whisker" radio up for sale.

Still chasing DX on HF bands and concentrating on 40 meters until winter sets in to finish up my 5 band DXCC ARRL award. I also enjoy getting in with the contesters to "cherry pick" countries I need for other awards and that works out well when they all upload their logs to LOTW after the contest is over and the country count is rising each time.

I have been running a Johnson Valiant transmitter though the paces up on my work bench these last couple of weeks after I did a total rebuild on it and corrected a whole bunch of wiring mods that were wrong and poorly done. A fresh set of tubes in the modulation

stage and it sounds really good on audio listening with my Flex-5000 with the Valiant into a Heathkit dummy load. Lots of good RF carrier output with these old boat anchors and if you ever want to hear how good they sound on the air; tune in on Sundays at 8:15am @ 1.915MHZ and listen to Ray KE9KEY's Valiant that he rebuilt and also Mark AB9M's restored Johnson Valiant. I plan on being setup this Sunday with my old AM station which will have this Valiant plus a boat anchor receiver and see how it does on the air.

On this months club meeting I plan a short demonstration with my RigExpert AA-230_PRO analyzer using my laptop and a web cam pointed at the analyzer screen to be able to display on the main projector screen on the wall for all to see just what the analyzer is doing and we will run a TDR sweep of lengths of coax and I will have one that will have a fault at a certain distance and show that the analyzer will locate the fault and tell you the exact distance to the problem as other neat features of this analyzer.

We could use some other presentations by other club members and let us know what your doing your radio shack.

Hope to hear you on the bands sometime.

73,

Dennis KE9UA

**November Meeting,
Wednesday the 16th
7:00 PM at the Red Cross**

Central Illinois Radio Club August 2016 Meeting Minutes

The August 2016 regularly scheduled meeting of CIRC was called to order by President Dennis Mills (KE9UA) at 7:00 PM on August 24, 2016. Dennis began the meeting by asking the members and guests to introduce themselves. He also passed around a sign-in list. Seventeen members were present.

Secretary Mike Sallee (KC9FWL) read the minutes from the July 2016 meeting. On A motion by **Tom Planer (KJ9P) and second by Duane Benjamin (KC9PIM), the minutes were unanimously** approved. The Treasurer was absent, so Dennis reported that the current cash balance in our checking account is \$1,248.46. **Duane moved that we delay voting on acceptance until the next meeting when the treasurer would be present.** After a second by Ed Deutsch (KC9GF) the motion passed.

Old Business

1. Jim Baker thanked the members who provided communication for the HOP for HOPE fundraiser bike ride on Saturday, August 6, in LeRoy, IL. Greg Kellerman work as Net Control and Tom Planer was backup.
2. Duane Benjamin reminded us that we should have had an election of officers in May. He made a motion that we re-elect Dennis Mills President, Greg Kellerman (KC9WUR) Vice-President, Mike Sallee Secretary, and replace Treasurer Kathy Huber with Norm Huber. After a second by Tom, the motion passed.

New Business

1. Dennis reviewed the installation of the new hardline and antenna. It was decided not to sell the old hardline until we are sure of the status of the Corn Belt tower. Grant Zehr (AA9LC) reminded everyone that we need to get the club equipment insured. Dennis will re-inventory the club equipment (item, serial number, club inventory number, and replacement value (to replace with equipment of like kind and quality). We need to include the repeater items in our inventory.
2. Dennis said we need to replace the door on the equipment room at the tower. The current door is not secure. It needs to be replaced and a new lock installed. Once this is done, he will install the new repeater. It was also mentioned that any equipment at the Red Cross building in Bloomington needs to be insured.

3. Duane reminded everyone that the 4th Annual Weiner Roast will be held at his farm on Saturday, October 15th starting at 6 pm. Bring something to share, like a main dish, salad, vegetable. Susan and Duane's house is located at 24251 E 1900 N Road, Towanda, IL. He provided a flyer for everyone with all the details.
4. Jim Baker recommended that the Membership Application and Membership Renewal forms include a Release Statement so the member's picture, voice, and so forth can be used by the club.
5. Please check with Norm for tickets for the Peoria Ham Fest in a few weeks. No one was sure if we had a table reserved to sell items.

Dennis announced a 10-minute break to get some coffee and snacks.

6. After a break, Rick Suhadolc gave a very informative presentation on lightning and station grounding. He also provided a handout on how to determine an earth ground design.

On motion by Tom and second by Ed, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Sallee (KC9FWL), Secretary

Central Illinois Radio Club September 2016 Meeting Minutes

The September 2016 regularly scheduled meeting of CIRC was called to order by President Dennis Mills (KE9UA) at 7:00 PM on September 28, 2016. Dennis began the meeting by asking the members and guests to introduce themselves. He also passed around a sign-in list. He mentioned that the presentation by Grant AA9LC about DXing was cancelled as he had some family business that he needed to handle.

In the absence of Secretary Mike Sallee (KC9FWL), the minutes from the July 2016 meeting were not read. The Treasurer's report was given. On a motion from Tom Planer (KJ9P) to accept the report and a second by Duane Benjamin (KC9PIM) the motion passed.

Old Business

1. Duane reminded everyone that on October 15 Susan and he will be hosting a Halloween Weiner Roast at their home from 6 pm to 9 pm. Please bring a dish to share and costumes optional. The location is 24251 E 1900 N Road, Towanda.
2. Everyone was reminded to check our website on a regular basis and make sure you are on the email site (W9AML by Google). The newsletter can be found on the email site and many other interesting items.
3. Norm Huber (N9ZKS) talked about the Half Marathon and said "thanks" to all who helped with the event. Dennis also thanked those that helped. Norm said he is still working with the NARC – North American Radio Club Pow Wow.
4. A motion was made to close the Old Business section by Ed Deutsch (KC9GF) and seconded by Tom Planer. The motion passed.
3. Dennis said he has some club equipment at his house, like the old repeater. Keith Hanson (AC9S) commented that our club needs to decide what State Farm club equipment we want to purchase.
4. There was a general discussion about our location at the Peoria Superfest.
5. Duane said we need to start documenting a club policy about our equipment and how club members will go about borrowing and returning it. We have some equipment that should be added to the policy. He also reported that a large box containing Field Day equipment is falling apart. Norm said he may have something we can use and he will check.
6. Norm has an inventory list, but it needs to be compared with the State Farm club's list. He also mentioned that any members that are military retirees get a 10% discount at Home Depot and Lowe's.

New Business

1. Dennis said that the new Fusion repeater is up and running as of today (9-28-16) with full remote control in Analog mode only. He mentioned that the building at the tower is in terrible shape and Corn Belt has been non responsive to our attempts to contact them. We are getting good coverage to the south, as far as Decatur and Cerro Gordo. We are also getting better rejection in the Kankakee area.
 2. Norm said the radio room at the Red Cross is ready and the furniture will be returned soon when Mr. Logistics gets back. Norm said that the rotor on the tower does not work and did not work even before the room was shutdown. We need to check the rotor system and repair it as needed.
 7. Duane said at the next meeting we should create a policy regarding Silent Keys on the check in lists. The officers will resolve this issue. The club has purchased flowers in the past for funeral home visitations where a SK is being laid to rest.
 8. Tom mentioned for Norm that Chris Bock is our ARES contact and our Served Agency is the Red Cross. The need for Go Boxes was discussed. Ed said he tries making the Nets and the ARES net gets more check ins than the W9AML club Net.
 9. There was a general discussion of Handhelds, Pizza Pans, Rubber Duckies and antenna upgrades.
- Dennis announced a 10-minute break to get

Summary of CIRC Minutes – October 26, 2016

By Mike Sallee, Secretary

some coffee and snacks.

1. Dennis gave a presentation on how he is using used HP power supplies with his equipment. They are cheap on EBAY and Amazon. One example is Model# DPS-800GBA. A breakout box is also available. Ed asked about RF Noise concerns with power supplies. Dennis said these supplies are very clean.

2. Ed talked about a 2M/220/440 radio he purchased at the Peoria Superfest. It cost \$130.00, Chirp software comes with it and the output is about 20 watts.

3. Norm discussed Rabbit Ears, a Field Strength Meter with a 10 turn coil. He has parts for interested people. There was also a general discussion of toroids, Carolina Windom antennas, and uses for an RF Ammeter.

4. Dennis gave a demo of the W9AML repeater remote controls. We had a general discussion of the repeater pattern. The current antenna height is approximately 190' feet, which was considered good and it so it did not make sense to try to get the antenna to the top of the tower. At the top there would also be physical stability issues and possible interference.

5. Duane said we should still be pursuing other locations for a backup should anything happen to current location.

6. Norm suggested we consider setting up the old repeater as a portable? We discussed that there being is no battery backup system for the repeater, but the new repeater has its own internal backup. UPS devices were also discussed.

On motion by Tom and seconded by Duane, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

(The minutes were prepared by Greg Kellerman (KC9WVR) Vice-President in the absence of Mike. Mike edited the minutes.)

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Sallee (KC9FWL), Secretary

Summary - After a review and approval of the Treasurer's report and the minutes from the August and September meetings, Gary Huber talked about how we could assist the families of Silent Keys. Dennis mentioned that the door on the shack at the tower needs to be replaced. We discussed purchasing used equipment that the State Farm radio club wants to sell, but no one was sure what they had for sale and how much they wanted.

Dennis talked about his experience selling ham equipment on QTH, QRZ, and eBay. Items are more expensive on eBay and it cost the seller about 15%. QTH and QRZ are more focused on the U. S. market. Grant gave a very interesting presentation on the challenges and rewards of DXing on 80 meters. It is a requirement to confirm several contacts on 80 meters for some awards. Dennis demonstrated many unique features and various tests that can be performed with a RigExpert AA-230-PRO. He almost passed up purchasing the meter at an estate sale.



A typical coffee klatch group at the Dairy Queen. Come join us!



The group of Trick or Treaters at Duane's Halloween party. We had lots of fun and good eats.



Some pictures of the participants at the half marathon.



Dhruv Rebba

Age: 12

"Community service means to be kind and caring to others, to help out those who are less fortunate. It is when you take time out of your life to do something that will better other people."



Leadership/Involvement

Central Illinois Radio Club

We Care Twin Cities Marathon Race

McLean County India Association

Telugu Association of Bloomington



Dhruv Rebba, KC9ZJX, was one of the youth awardee of 'YICU Service Award' from FBT for his achievements and community services. Ten finalists who were chosen of the 25 nominees for YICU.



-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	Sometimes 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

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
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	NB9O	Clinton	Back Up 162.2 CTCSS Echolink 61727 or NB9O-R
147.015	NX9M	Normal ARES Alt.	88.5 (open*)
147.075	W9UVI	Washington	156.7 CTCSS
147.105	WA9RT1	Decatur	103.5
147.150	WD9FTV	Bloomington	103.5
147.390	WB9DUC	Pontiac FARA	127.3
442.250	WA9RT1	Decatur (ARES)	103.5
442.700	WB9UUS	Normal	107.2
442.825	KG9DW	Hayworth	141.3pl
443.800	K9HGX	CENOIS ARC	123.0
444.175	K9MCA	Decatur	100.0
444.2375	WX9WX	Normal - DStar	
444.700	KD9AKF	Hayworth - DStar	

* 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: Dennis Mills (KE9UA)

Vice-President: Greg Kellerman (KC9WVR)

Secretary: Mike Sallee (K9UA)

Treasurer: Norman Huber (N9ZKS)

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 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.

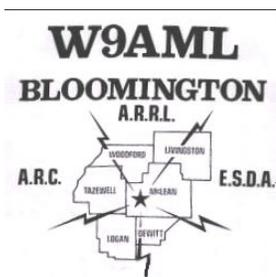
Setup is from Noon to 1:00 normally. Exams begin at 1:00 P.M.. Please bring two forms of identification. You must have a Social Security Number. We cannot administer a test without your SSN. You will need a copy of your Current license plus any CSCE you want to apply.

1/24 Completed
3/26 Completed
5/28 Completed
7/30 Completed
11/5 Completed

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.

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