



CIRC Christmas Dinner @ Jim's Steakhouse

# Short CIRCuits

January  
2017

SERVING CENTRAL ILLINOIS AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1921

IN THIS ISSUE

## From The President

by Jim Baker WB9EDL

Merry Christmas

I would like to thank Duane and Susan Benjamin for making the arrangements and Becky Baker for playing her steel drum for the C.I.R.C. Christmas dinner at Jim's Steak House. The food was great, the music was wonderful and good times were had by all.

Are you busy planning for the holidays, families to arrive and waiting and hoping for FedEx, UPS or the USPS to bring new radios, antennas or books? I hope you are able to spend time operating this season.

New Year's Eve has a fun event. It's the ARRL Straight Key Night. It's intended for slow oldtime rag chewing CW fun. Dust off your old

vintage radio or boat anchor find the straight key and have fun.

I will be firing up my old HeathKit SB-102 and J-38 key. This is a nice throwback to novice days.

Everyone be safe, enjoy your families and Ham-It-Up.

73,

Jim EB9EDL



### Member Bio

Start of a series of articles about our members



### Everyone has an Elmer

Who was the one for you?

## Member Bio's - AB9M

by Gary Huber AB9M



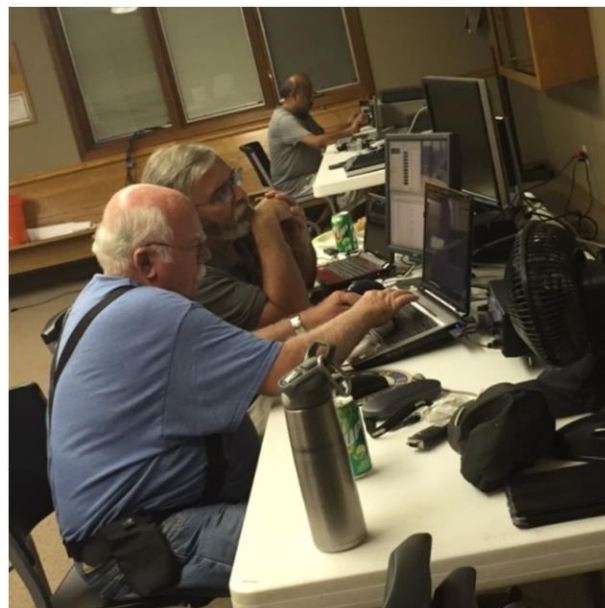
Gary Huber was first licensed 7-1-1973 as WN9NEH at 800 South Broad, Knoxville, IL. As a Novice, (75 W input and crystal controlled transmitter at first, later VFO control) he received ARRL certificates for the Rag Chewers Club, Worked All States, and Worked All Continents before upgrading by taking the General and Advanced tests with 13 WPM code exams (five minutes with one minute consecutive error free copy) at Rock Island, IL. His new assigned call was WB9NEH effective 6-1-1975. About three years later, Gary returned to Rock Island, IL to take the 20 WPM code test (multiple choice) and Amateur Extra examination, receiving his new callsign of AB9M on 7-15-1978. During the time he operated in Knoxville, Gary was active with several SSB traffic nets, was a member of ARMY MARS, helped build one of the first VHF repeaters in Knox County, and became the ARRL Emergency Coordinator, while participating in contests and chasing DX.

In late May 1979, Gary moved with his family to 1717 Jacobssen Drive, Normal and started work along with Linda at State Farm Insurance (different buildings). He soon had his station running and was chasing DX. In December 1980 Gary changed departments and jobs at State Farm to work in telephony, operating the State Farm nationwide telephone network (voice and permitted data), as well as purchasing, installing, operating, electronic Private Business Exchange equipment and communications facilities. As State Farm began to use two-way radios,

paggers, and cell-phones, Gary was assigned the responsibility of application development and standards for the equipment manufacturer and models based on usage.

By 1985, Gary's sole responsibilities at State Farm were in "wireless application development" and support of corporate wireless operations which ultimately included over twenty-five UHF repeaters and over 800 hand-held radios. With four other amateur radio operators, he formed the "State Farm Amateur Radio Club" which later became the "N1SF Amateur Radio Club."

After attending a "packet radio" forum, at Dayton, Gary received a Special Temporary Authority from the FCC to operate a packet radio network on commercial VHF frequencies (for disaster recovery). At the conclusion of the STA and test, the equipment was repurposed to Amateur frequencies and the investigation of the OSI model through tests using the DX-packet cluster and various networking protocols including NET-ROM and G8BPQ. See <http://csm-gh.com/N9PE%20DXSpider.htm> for more information.



In November 1985, Gary and his family moved to his current location, 9679 Heron Bay Road, Bloomington, IL from which the majority of packet radio networking and OSI model investigations were done. The DX-packet cluster certainly helped drive Gary's DXCC totals as notifications for new DXCC entities were sent first to email, then his pager, his cell-phone (as text) and the DX-packet cluster interface of his Kenwood D-7-AG handheld. As long as he didn't miss meetings, completed his scheduled work,



and put in the required time each week, he could leave work to chase rare DX when he received the alerts, and his DXCC totals soared.

Prior to Desert Storm, AB9M rejoined the ARMY MARS program and became the Central Area Phone Patch Coordinator. The three major telecommunications companies including AT&T, GTE, and Sprint, who had contracts with State Farm, each gave Gary free access for MARS calls to US locations. By the end of Desert Storm, Gary Huber, AAV5TC had competed over five hundred phone patches for overseas service personnel.

Gary retired from State Farm Insurance, during the fall of 2002, after losing his good friend Paul Hammond, N9PE shortly after 9/11 2001. Gary is trustee of N9PE (in memoriam), N1SF, and WX9WX, all callsigns of the State Farm Retirees and Associates Radio Club.

In 2017, AB9M completed 5 Band DXCC, Phone DXCC, and CW DXCC. He is working on Digital DXCC, using the FT8 mode. His verified DXCC (mixed) totals are currently 348 (including deleted entities) 338 (current list), needing only Crozet Island to complete the current entity list.

AB9M uses a ground mounted vertical antenna (HF-2V w/160) for 160, 80, and 40 meters, a TH-7 DXCC at about 50 feet for 20, 15, and 10 meters, and a receive only K9AY Loop System. With a few minor exceptions, the station equipment remains the same as the included picture. Gary's primary interest is working DX, if the equipment remains competitive in that venue, he sees no need to change it

## ARTICLES AND EVENTS

We need your input, please send any articles, links, interests or upcoming events you want the club to know about to Jeff Lovell  
KC9QQM@gmail.com

# Remember Your Elmer

by Rick Suhadolc NgCKL

Everyone has an Elmer. Denny Chestney KM9L was mine. Way back in 1982 I was a fledging Ham. After 4 years of Engineering School and finally getting a rental house on Reinthaler Street in Bloomington I was ready for my Ham License. I signed up for classes held at the Mclean County EMCS in the basement of the Law and Justice Center.

KM9L Denny Chestney and AG9E Dave Meiser were our CIRC Instructors with Ham Classes every Monday Night. Starting with code practice 0-5wpm. Books on the FCC rules and regulations, and finally theory of radio. Denny and Dave had us up to 5wpm in three weeks and were able to give us a novice test after five weeks instruction. Everyone in the class of 15 passed the Novice exam.

However, then the next hurdle was to go to Chicago and take the next exams at the FCC.

I passed my Technicians Class on the first trip to Chicago but took two trips to get to Advanced Class, Denney Chestney and the CIRC club was always there to help us along the way. KM9L Denny Chestney will be missed



Picture taken December 2011. Gary Huber, AB9M at home QTH. Equipment in line: TenTec Omni VII w/ FLEX-1500 sub-RX, Titan 425, Model 253 Antenna Coupler, Array Solutions K9AY Loop Control, Hy-Gain rotor control, AOR TDF-370, AEA MM-3, and Bencher Paddle. Also on the desk and shelf: TenTec Corsair II w/ remote VFO, switched in line with Dow key and NCS Multi-Switcher, computer monitor, Alinco DR-135, and Kantronics KPC-3 TNC for APRS, TT-715 RF-clipper, Heil Quiet Pro w HC-5, Dentron SuperTuner, Timewave ANC-4, and W2



# Antenna Structure Calculations

by Rick Suhadolc NgCKL

Antenna and Antenna Structure Calculations below assume:

Rohn 25G, 10 ft mast and cables with 1/2" ice  
 20ft Tower --- 15 sq ft  
 30ft Tower ---- 21 sq ft  
 60ft Tower---- 42 sq ft  
 Tribander 4 element Mosley with 1/2inch ice 30 sq ft

## Self supporting Antenna Mosley 4 element Tribander 25G Antenna Structure at gomph with antenna

20ft Moment 12,424 ft lb force at base  
 30ft Moment 18,399 ft-lb force at base  
 60ft Moment 39,141 ft-lb force at base

## **Antenna Mosley 4 element Tri-bander 30ft 25G Antenna Structure at gomph with antenna with one sets of (3) Guys:**

Down force 309lbs.  
 Horizontal force 285lbs  
 Guy Tension 416 lbs

## **Antenna Mosley 4 element Tribander 60ft 25G Antenna Structure at gomph with antenna with two sets of (3) Guys:**

	<u>Inner set</u>	<u>Outer set</u>
Down force	415lbs	358 lbs
Horizontal	358 lbs	614 lbs
Guy tension	551 lbs	716 lbs

These calculations would need to be certified by the Professional Structural Engineer for formal submittal to the Authority Having Jurisdiction. (These are only an example.)

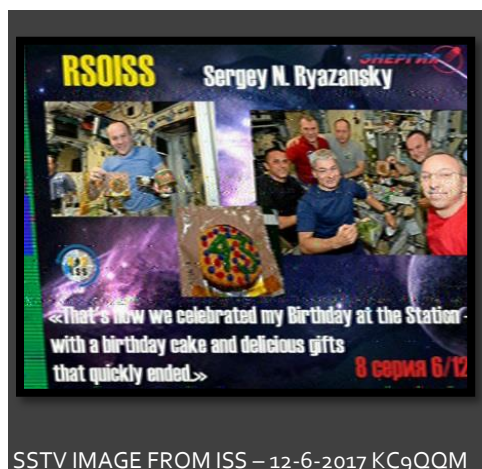
# FCC Manufacturer Data

by Rick Suhadolc NgCKL

The US Federal Communications Commission (or FCC) regulates interstate and international communications by radio and television, wire and cable, and satellite. They have very specific guidelines for "equipment authorization" which requires vendors to go through a certification process for any device that uses or may interfere with the radio spectrum and will be marketed or imported into the US.

These devices shall be labeled with a uniquely assigned "FCC Identifier, or commonly known as FCC ID".

1. Find the FCC ID on the device. Sometimes this is in plain view on the back.
2. Once you have the FCC ID, visit the following page: <http://www.fcc.gov/oet/ea/fccid/>
3. Now enter the "Grantee, or Applicant" code which is the first 3 letters of the FCC ID, followed by the remainder of the ID known of the Product Code. (Note that the Grantee Code will always be three alphanumeric characters and the Product Code may consist of hyphens and/or dashes.)
4. Click Search!
5. You should see a list of all applications submitted regarding this particular device.
6. Click on Detail and you'll see information such as the original cover letter application for the device, external photos, internal photos, test reports, etc. all available as PDFs for download.



SSTV IMAGE FROM ISS – 12-6-2017 KC9QQM

## FAST FACTS

## S.O.S.

The Titanic was the first ship to send this in 1914.

## 100 million

The number of volts in a lightning strike @ 30k amps!

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Have an upcoming event that the club might be interested in attending or supporting?

CONTACT JIM BAKER WB9EDL  
Or bring it up at the next club meeting

## AREA EXAM DATES

Following is the schedule for W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exams for the year 2018. 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.

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.

## 2018 Testing Dates

Jan 27 – 9:00-11:00am  
Mar 24 – 1:00-3:00pm  
May 26 – 1:00-3:00pm  
Jul 11 – TBD  
Nov 10 – TBD

## AREA NETS

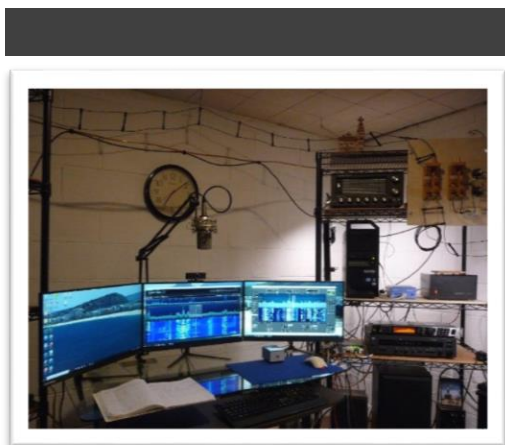
**Mon thru Sat 9:00 A.M.** 14.2475 (HF)  
Displaced Peorians  
**Tuesday 9:00 P.M.** 146.255 (103.5 PL)  
Woodford County  
**Tuesday 7:15 P.M.** 146.910  
Tazwell County ESDA Net  
**Tuesday 8:30 P.M.** 28.450  
CIRC Open 10 meter Net  
**Tuesday 9:00 P.M.** 146.940 (103.5 PL)  
CIRC Open Net  
**Wednesday 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  
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 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.** 147.075 156.7 PL  
**Sunday 8:30 P.M.** 146.730 123.0 PL Open Net



Masa's Shack AB9MQ



# Regular Calendar of Events



## Masa's SDR station

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/](http://www.qsl.net/W9AML/)

*President: Jim Baker  
(WB9EDL)  
Vice-President: Rick Suhadolc  
(N9CKL)  
Secretary: Duane Benjamin  
(KC9PIM)  
Treasurer: Tom Planner  
(KJ9P)  
Newsletter Editor: Jeff Lovell  
(KC9QQM)*

*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, the 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 emailed to: Jeff Lovell  
e-mail [kc9qqm@gmail.com](mailto:kc9qqm@gmail.com)*

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# Short CIRCuits

P.O. Box 993  
Bloomington, IL 61702