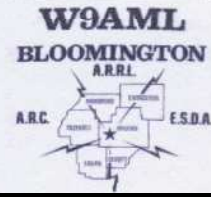


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



April 2007

From the President

Repeater Problem

Jim, WB9UWA reported at the last club meeting that the blown finals were expensive. He is going to generate a parts list and maybe can find replacements less expensively at RF Parts or even Dayton.

Heartland Class

Dan Beer, N9NSN, Mark, AB9MP, and I tested our Heartland class on March 22 and all passed. Outstanding performance by everyone in the class..

Larry Keeran's Challenge

Sad to say, no one took up Larry's challenge and he took back the grand prize – a very nice French pocket watch. If we are to get anything going with local ESDA we are going to have get ourselves certified.

March Meeting –

Ralph gave us another outstanding presentation on his DX travels. We are particularly lucky, because he has been invited to give the same presentation at the Dayton DX forum – I believe it is Friday morning for those of you who are attending. ZL8R, Kermadec, was one of the rare ones until Ralph and group activated it. It was a class operation all the way around.

Red Cross Antenna

Thanks to Ralph for straightening the reflector on our beam. It was loosened during the December ice storm and we managed to

procrastinate on fixing it until Ralph stepped in last weekend. Thanks a bunch.

Field Day

QST published the rules for Field Day 2007. We basically have two meeting left until the contest, so we probably ought to start planning, get a coordinator, and any committees formed. I recently read that Field Day is the most popular of all ham radio contests. It is easy to see why with the collegial club orientation. It is a great way to mentor newer hams. Since we have many newly licensed and upgraded hams this ought to be a great event. I am really looking forward to it.

April Meeting – April 25

Rich – N9YAY was going to present ARES needs. but he has to work that night. I will give a demonstration of a nifty new piece of software that I came across in a QST article. It is called HAMCAP. Basically it provides a real time model of the ionosphere and propagation to any point in the world. It interfaces with another package called IONOPROBE which provides a real time feed from Boulder. This will give instantaneous warning of geomagnetic disturbances, solar flares as well as the current solar flux, and a and k indices. These two now run in a small window on my computer whenever I am on the air. I find HAMCAP particularly useful in dxing and in contests in that I can see where I have propagation and which are the optimal bands.

Take care everyone. See you Wednesday, April 25, 7:00pm at the Red Cross on Route 9 East, across from the Fire station.

Thanks –

Keith
AC9S

Central Illinois Radio Club

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<http://www.qsl.net/w9aml/>

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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 must be received by the 10th of the month and may be snail or e-mailed to the editor at:

Norm Huber
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New 160 Meter Repeater Planned

For Evansville, IN

A new experimental repeater will soon be going on line in the Evansville area. The new repeater will operate in the 160 meter band using converted commercial broadcast equipment. The input frequency will be 1.850 MHz with an output of 1.950 MHz. Since FM is not legal on that band this new repeater will actually operate in the AM mode. Power output will be approximately 1000 watts. The antenna system will consist of an eight-bay vertical phased array. This new repeater will provide the basis for a new communications system utilizing the recently announced FT-160R 160-meter HT from Yaesu. The final location of the repeater has yet to be determined. Bosse Field and Reitz Bowl are currently under consideration as possible sites as their fields would be of sufficient size to contain the duplexer needed for

this system. The duplexer itself will be homebrewed and will consist of six converted grain silos. An application for a new club call for this repeater has been submitted. The new call will be WC9AFD. One might note that the AFD suffix coincides with the first letters of the phrase "April Fool's Day." More information on this new repeater will be available in next April's Sparks. Stay tuned!

Willie Wilson WD9FHA
Newburgh, IN

FOR SALE

I took down my tower this past weekend. The wife says it's time to down size the house as she is tired of cleaning rooms we don't use. Available for immediate purchase: 60' of Rohn 45 tower, top plate, rotor plate, thrust bearing on top plate, 3 torque arm guy brackets, guy wires

with insulators, turnbuckles and a 10' section of 1 7/8" OD mast pipe. CDE Ham III Rotor, rotor box and approximately 150' of 8 wire rotor cable. The rotor is good for up to 12.5 square feet of antenna wind surface. I have the owners manual and it has a Delay 5 installed for brake. Yes it works perfectly.

Climbing belt - Bashlin brand - model Wrangler 1511N and size is D22 (22" between back of D rings see <http://www.bashlin.com/lineman/climbing.htm> for sizing information).

Quality belt used only by ham radio operator not a lineman. Five inches wide in the back with tape thong and 4 leather tool loops. Includes 6' pole/tower strap.

Make me an offer I can't refuse on any one or all three of the items.
Dave Meiser, AG9E
Cell 309-838-4041

Nets in the Area

Mon thru Sat	9:00 A.M. CT	14.2475 (HF)	Displaced Peorians
Monday	9:00 P.M.	146.730	123.0 PL Open Net
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 Newslines
Wednesday	9:00 P.M.	442.250	103.5 PL ARES Open Net
Wednesday	Varies	147.100	103.5 PL <i>Sometimes</i> Trader's Net follows ARES Net held on 442.250
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
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.895	North central IL Traders Net
Sunday	08:15 A.M.	1.815	Open 160 meter AM net
Sunday	7:00 P.M.	146.985	Clinton ARC net (NEW)
Sunday	8:30 P.M.	147.075	Open Net with Newslines

(Please help me keep this list correct. I know it may not be up to date at this time. Norm N9ZKS)

Central Illinois Area Repeaters

Freq	Callsign	Location	PL
145.390	N9EZJ	Lincoln	103.5
146.730	K9HGX	Decatur	123.0
146.790	WD9HRU	Bloomington	
146.850	W9UVI	Peoria	
146.940	W9AML	Bloomington	103.5 CTCSS
146.985	KA9YPK	Clinton	
147.015	NX9M	Normal	88.5 (open*)
147.075	W9UVI	Washington	103.5 CTCSS
147.100	WA9RTI	Decatur	103.5
147.150	WD9FTV	Bloomington	
147.345	K9ZM	Lincoln	103.5
147.390	WB9DUC	Pontiac	127.3
442.250	WA9RTI	Decatur	103.5
442.700	WB9UUS	Normal	107.2 (open**)
444.350	W9EX	Normal	107.2

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

** Repeater RX with tight carrier squelch and loose tone squelch (107.2)

LOCAL DX PACKET CLUSTER INFORMATION

"DX spotting network" - N9PE (Memorial Station) 144.91 MHz - 1200 baud - Connect to N9PE - Contact AB9M or KB9LNS for more info.

Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

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.

10/10 Breakfast

First Saturday of every month at 8 a.m. in the Baker's Square at Vernon Ave. and Veterans (Just south of College Hills Mall).

CIRC Meeting

Fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Red Cross building in Bloomington (Just north of the airport).

Here's An Interesting Website With a Great Historical Movie On Ham Radio

This message was sent to me by a fellow ham radio operator, Dave, KF6PRZ. It is an interesting film if only for the views of the equipment, and all the NEW (old) automobiles. Take note of the so called handi talkies.

In 1955, The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, an association of mobile amateur radio operators, provided emergency communications during the devastating flood of August, 1955 along the Delaware River, and in the Pocono Mountains following Hurricane Diane, the sixth costliest U. S. hurricane of the 20th century... fifty years before Hurricane Katrina.

In 1959, the club produced this short film to explain amateur radio, and especially mobile communications as practiced by the club.

(The main film begins after a three minute interview with Jim Spencer, W3BBB, produced by a local cable channel many years later)

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=2943570522939177086&hl=en>

The movie will be about 23 minutes total.

Here are some pictures from Ralph's presentation on Kermadec Island.



RAOUL



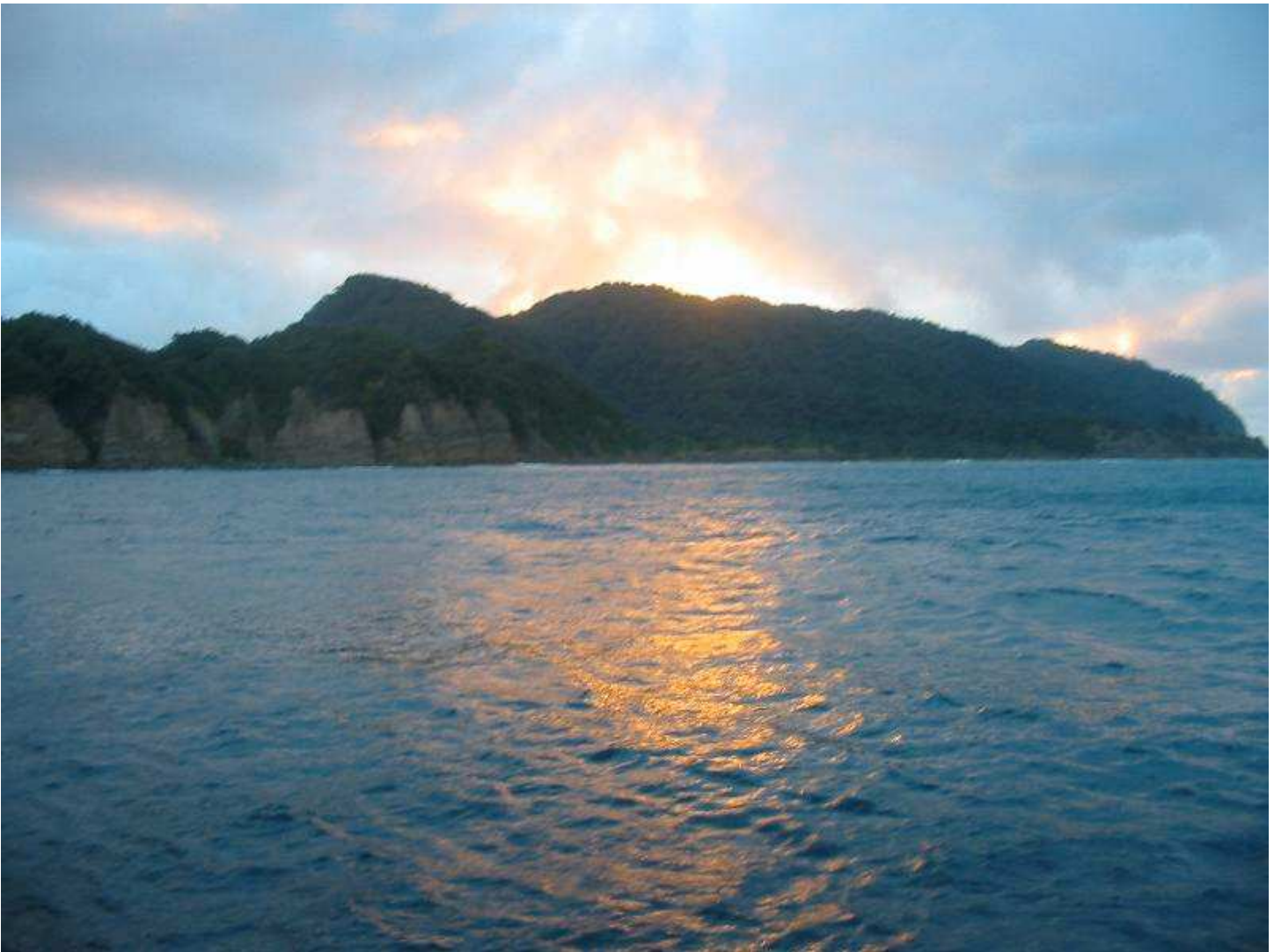
Operating site



K9ZO operating from ZL8R October 2006



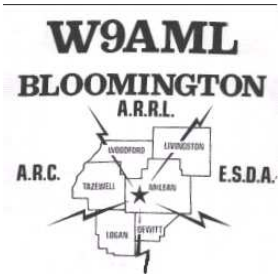
System for bringing gear onto the island



Rauol in the Kermadec Islands

Meeting Wednesday April 28

Central Illinois Radio Club April 2007 Newsletter



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