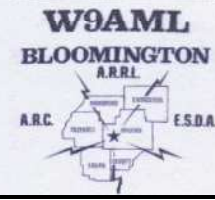


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



January 2007

From the President

November Meeting – 11/22 – Elections

Elections were held and the following were elected:

President – Keith Hanson, AC9S
Vice President – Mike Sallee, KC9FWL
Secretary – Chuck Kostelc, N9RZV
Treasurer – Norm Huber, N9ZKS

Thanks to Dan Beer, N9NSN, who served so ably as Vice President last year.

Christmas Dinner – December 2006

I think we had an excellent Christmas dinner – lots of camaraderie and good food in good surroundings. I hope each of you had the very best Christmas possible and here is to an outstanding New Year for each of us.

Thanks all for the great program ideas.

Ten Tec / I.C.E report

In the last newsletter I mentioned that I built an Elecraft signal generator. The reason I did so was to check the sensitivity on Ten Tec Orion II – which seemed to have declined precipitously. It had and I sent the radio back to Ten Tec for repair. I have to compliment Ten Tec on their service. The technicians I spoke to on the phone were outstanding – very knowledgeable and suggested a number of things I could try prior to sending it in. Total turnaround was about two weeks. The problem was blown diodes in the front end. I suspect the cause was induced high voltage levels from my wire antennas. I have since added I.C.E lightning

arrestors to all my coax lines. I highly recommend I.C.E. Their arrestors use gas discharge tubes and a blocking capacitor like other arrestors on the market, but also add an inductor on the antenna side to bleed off high static levels and a resistor on the receiver side to do the same for anything that makes it through the antenna side components. Plus, they cost less than the competition. They only advertise on the Internet and are located in Indianapolis.

Officer's Meeting - January 6 Ten-Ten Breakfast

We combined an officer's meeting and planning session with the January Ten-Ten Breakfast. We have a first shot at a program schedule for 2007. If last year was any indication this will change as the year develops, but at least we have initial planning done. Norm will include the schedule and program idea list from the Christmas dinner elsewhere in the newsletter.

Ice Storm!!!!

We had an outstanding December ice storm with trees down, power out and new antenna work scheduled for good weather. I lost my beam when the boom broke on the director side of the mast. What a mess, it took down all my wire antennas when it fell, so for a while my only capability was 2 meters.

The beam, a Bencher Skyhawk, turned out to be less than advertised. There was a gap in the boom splice where two pieces were supposed to butt together. The net was single wall thickness in the boom where there should have been a transition from triple to double wall thickness – right where the boom failed. I think mine

was the only total beam failure in the twin cities, although others had more minor damage. I know Ralph Bellas, K9ZO, had a minor element bend on a 204BA – at least until I basically dropped the antenna while helping him take it down and bent a whole lot more elements. Apologies Ralph!

Thanks to Eric, N9DOA and Jim, WB9UWA, for helping me take down the remnants of my Skyhawk. And raise the driven element section back up. They did NOT bend any additional elements. You guys were great!! It exemplifies the best ham spirit of helping each other.

FCC Rule Changes – No Code, New Frequencies

I am sure everyone now knows about the new sub band expansions. Basically the old novice bands were eliminated and the phone bands expanded. I think it has made a difference on 75 meters, where we gained the most space.

No Code – This is a little newer. Code has been eliminated from all tests. Technicians will now have access to all the previous Tech Plus HF frequencies, including phone on 28.300 to 28.500.

The big change is that one can upgrade to General or Extra just by passing the written exam. I expect a large number of applicants at our testing sessions this spring. Depending on the demand we may want to schedule additional testing sessions.

Note – this will not take effect until it has been published in the Federal Register for 30 days. Look for the ARRL to send an email notifying us.

Heartland Class

Dan Beer, N9NSN and I are planning another Technician class at Heartland. Details are in the Heartland course catalogue. The dates are February 15 through March 22 from 7 until 9PM in room 2100 at Heartland Community College CCB building. Please steer anyone who might be interested in our great hobby our way.

January Meeting – January 24

I will give a presentation on the Log Book of the World (LOTW). LOTW is an outstanding service sponsored by the ARRL – it allows us to upload our log files to a massive database where our contacts can be automatically cross checked with other log files. Contacts validated by the LOTW are eligible for DXCC and WAS credit. It is possible to have DXCC awarded solely on the basis of LOTW contacts without any paper QSLs. I don't think this is going to eliminate paper QSL, but it sure is less expensive and a lot easier.

Take care everyone. See you Wednesday, January 24, 7:00pm at the Red Cross on Route 9 East, across from the Fire station.

Thanks –

Keith
AC9S

Packet Emergency Network

I am asking packeteers to place a reliable emergency powered 24/7 digipeater on 147.555 for EOC-EOC Emcomm. My goal is a network to cover our power plants and the Springfield EOC.

Can you help with this project?

The current gaps are:

Ottawa to Rochelle and
Morrison/Quad Cities
Springfield to Bloomington
Bloomington to Magnolia
Bloomington to Clinton

73

Joe Tokarz – KB9EZZ

Bloomington VEC Exam Dates - 2007

Dates for 2007 Exams
When you read this the first will past.

Jan 20
Mar 17
May 12
July 21
Nov 10
Osborne Room
Bloomington Police Department 434-2290
305 S East St
Bloomington, IL

Keith R Hanson
AC9S

(309) 378-4416
AC9S@mchsi.COM

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.

The Good Old Days

One of the local QRPers was up the hill last week. We talked of things important. Such as the conditions of the bands, the price of gas, and the unusually warm winter in some parts of the world, although lately it seemed the deep freeze had returned to many.

"In another couple of years," the QRPer said, "I guess we'll be seeing a lot more rare DX like the XT2C and VU7RG operations. The flux will come roaring back, and yet I can't seem to get too excited about it. Things aren't like they were in the good old days." We had to think this over for we did remember when this QRPer, back in the mid-90's, insisted on listening to dead bands at the bottom of cycle 22. "You never know when I might hear something I need," was always the explanation.

We reminded the QRPer of those days of a decade ago and he chuckled. "I was hungry," he said, "I was always tuning and looking for DX. I remember how excited I got when I worked my first EA. It was a real thrill! And then there was the day I worked Germany, Portugal and Norway all on the same Saturday morning. And all of them were new ones. Those sure were the good old days."

We had to ponder those words for often we hear DXers talk of those happy memories of other days. We thought about it carefully before we spoke, and finally said, "Wouldn't it be great to only have about fifty or sixty confirmed again? And to be struggling to get one hundred confirmed so we could get our DXCC certificate? Wouldn't it? And just think of the fun it would be to start all over again? To wipe our DXCC

credits clean! To delete them all from the ARRL's records and start everything over from scratch?"

Son of a Gun! You would have thought we had our hand on his wallet. The QRPer was on his feet, excitedly waving his arms and there was a sweat breaking out on his forehead. "Like old heck it would!" he bellowed, "no one is going to take my hard earned DX countries away from me without a fight. No one!" We were sure that this was but an initial reaction and that the QRPer would see the logic and reason in our position. "But everyone would be starting over on an even playing field," we argued, "and think of the fun and joy of having all that DX to chase again. You'd have 335 or 340 or so, depending on the way the winds were blowing in Newington, rather than the ten or twelve that you need now. Wouldn't that be wonderful?"

It didn't sell. For though many like to talk of the good old days, the days when the mornings started earlier, the sun was warmer and brighter and the winds gentler, few really want to go back." And while many an established DXer will sometimes be heard to say, "Wouldn't it be great to be sixteen again . . . and chasing all those girls!" few will get enthusiastic about having 325 countries to work again.

For as Albert would say: "All things are relative and some more than others." And Tom himself would often say: "You can't go home again!" These are the things that old DXers and new DXers have forgotten. All a DXer can do during the Low Days of DXing is to realise that the sunspots will return, and with them so will the

propagation to the far and distant lands beyond the horizon. But the good old days will not return. They will not return because the good old days are just around the corner. Be a Believer! Follow the advice of Lord Baden-Powell, the Hero of Mafeking, and "Be Prepared!" Listen to what Sunspot Louie is saying about the current cycle. The ones you need will come around again. They always do. Although it may be a few more years, or even a lot more years! DX IS!

Scouting 100 Radio Award

From the Jan. 5th 2007 ARRL Letter (via email)

* World Scout Movement announces centenary of scouting ham radio award: The World Scout Bureau is sponsoring the "Scouting 100 Radio Award" for contacting Scout stations via Amateur Radio during 2007 -- the centenary of Scouting. This international award is also available to short-wave listeners (SWLs). Stations may be worked/logged on all bands and modes including EchoLink and IRLP, and endorsements are available for special modes or bands, such as "All Satellite Contacts" or "All QRP Contacts." Award activity will focus around the international Scout frequencies

<<http://www.home.zonnet.nl/worldscout/Jota/frequencies.htm>>

(in the Americas, use 7270 kHz as the 40-meter SSB frequency; on 80 meters, avoid RTTY/digital DX on 3590 kHz). Complete details are on the Scouting 100 Radio Award Web site

<<http://www.scouting100award.org/>>

Meanwhile, special event station V13JAM <<http://www.v13jam.com/>> will be on the air until January 13 from the 21st Scouts Australia Jamboree, and the Scout Radio and Electronics Service Unit will activate special event V13SAA throughout 2007. Both events are part of the World Scouting centenary activities, and commemorative QSL cards will be available.

FOR THOSE WITH HEARING PROBLEMS

I recently purchased a pair of Siemens CENTRA Hearing Aid instruments, which have 4 memories for different situations. As a "DXer" I chose the HEIL HC-5 audio response curves for the "telecoil" memory (M4) enabled by the magnetic coil of a telephone handset or communications headset. For DXing with a "speaker" I chose to have the HC-4 audio response curves in memory (M3). Thus far I'm impressed with my new hearing aids and their ability (with the HC-4/HC-5 audio response curves) to pick stations and reasonable audio out of noisy situations while using my Ten-Tec OMNI VI+.

Above cut and pasted from page 3, Issue 2006-48E, QRZ DX Best regards,

Gary – AB9M

FYI.... FROM BOB HEIL

To: [GARY HUBER](#)

Sent: Monday, December 04, 2006 11:34 PM

Subject: Re: HC-4 & HC-5 audio curves in Siemens CENTRA Hearing Instruments

Hi Gary

Thank you for your report on your hearing aid. IT truly is a simple part of science.....obviously the audio community does not pay attention to the Fletcher Munson curve of the human hearing AND the speech intelligence and articulation that is so necessary.

I was fortunate to learn much of this from the great Paul Klipsch, founder of the folded horn and a leading innovator of 'hi-fi' systems in the early 50's. He taught me so much about how we hear and what we need to hear to understand the spoken word.

So happy that you have things all working well.

Appreciate your report.

73
BOB HEIL, K9EID
www.heilsound.com

SPACE CONTACTS COMPETE WITH ROCK BAND, BRING SCIENCE TO LIFE

Scouts at Australian Jamboree 2007 (AJ2007) applied their ingenuity January 7 when an on-site rock concert threatened to drown out a scheduled Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact with the campers. They responded by piling bales of hay to create an insulating bunker around the building where the contact with ISS Expedition 14 Flight Engineer Suni Williams, KD5PLB, took place. As a result, the 20 scouts who won a "What would you ask an Astronaut?" competition were able to ask their questions in comparative quiet. One Scout asked Williams to comment on the possibility of life elsewhere in our solar system.

"I would think with all the stars . . . all the billions of stars out there that there's got to be life somewhere out there," Williams replied from NA1SS. "So I think we'll be able to find evidence of life at some point in time." She told another Scout that the ISS crew hadn't seen any aliens in space, adding, "but maybe we will. I'll be up here for another six months."

The contact marked Williams's debut in handling an ARISS educational contact from NA1SS. Williams noted that she had been in Girl Scouts.

Responding to another question, Williams said it takes more than a month for ISS crew members to accommodate fully to Earth's gravity after spending an extended time in the microgravity environment of space.

"We go through about a 45-day rehabilitation program when we get back, and you're pretty much back to normal after about a six-month stay," she said. "However, really being able to work out -- like being able to run the way you did before you left -- is probably going to be

about a one day-for-one day time, so probably about six months."

Philip Adams, VK3JNI, organized the event, which attracted upward of 400 onlookers. Earth station for the AJ2007 contact was Bill Lynd, VK4KHZ. A Verizon Conferencing teleconference link provided two-way audio between the Jamboree site in Elmore and VK4KHZ.

ARISS-Australia Coordinator Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, the Wireless Institute of Australia and Amateur Radio Victoria assisted. AJ2007 is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Scouting. It concludes January 13.

At Sherman Elementary School in Henrietta, New York, the possibility of a human space flight to Mars has been the focus of teacher Andrea Catena's fifth grade science pupils. The youngsters expanded their knowledge of life in space when they spoke via ham radio January 8 with Suni Williams. ARISS arranged the direct VHF contact between W2SKY at the school and NA1SS. Responding to one question, Williams explained that it takes more than a day to get ready for a spacewalk from the ISS.

"Part of the reason is that we breathe pure oxygen, so we don't want to get 'the bends' when we go out into space, so, we have to start 'pre-breathing' the oxygen the day before" Williams told the youngsters. "And then, to get all the tools together it takes a good four or five hours."

Williams, who joined the Expedition 14 space station crew in December, said the most exciting part of her mission so far was her first spacewalk. "Actually coming out the door and seeing the world in your face for the first time, it was absolutely exhilarating!" she recounted. Williams, 41, said she first thought about becoming a member of the NASA Astronaut Corps "later in life," after she'd become a test pilot.

Members of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA) set up the

necessary Earth station equipment at the school to make the QSO possible. "We had an excellent ARISS experience at Emma Sherman Elementary School yesterday," said RARA Education Committee Chairman Pete Fournia, W2SKY, who loaned his call sign for the occasion. "The school took full advantage of this opportunity

making it a very memorable experience for the entire school and a very gratifying experience for the teams that participated," he said.

The youngsters squeezed 16 questions into the nearly 10-minute ISS pass. The ham radio event attracted generous media attention

from newspapers and television stations.

ARRL is an international educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

Just a few pictures of the Christmas party. It was enjoyed by all there.



Don't forget, Meeting Wednesday January 24

TIME TO RENEUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Please fill out the membership application included with this newsletter.

Central Illinois Radio Club Membership Application

Date: ____/____/____

Membership dues are \$15 per person or \$20 per family (multiple members at one address). You do not need to be a licensed amateur radio operator to join CIRC.

**** Required information.....**

****NAME:** _____ CALL: _____
Last First M

Additional Memb. NAME: _____ CALL: _____

****ADDRESS:** _____
Street / RR etc.

****CITY:** _____ ****STATE** _____ **** ZIP:** _____

****E-Mail** _____ **LICENSE CLASS:** _____

Home Phone (____) _____ -- _____ Work (____) _____ -- _____

ATTENTION Snow Birds! Please list alternate address and when to use it.

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

FROM: ____/____/____ TO: ____/____/____

Demographic Information: Parts of hobby you are active in?

- Are you a member of other Central IL Clubs? _____
- If so, which ones? _____
- Are you a member of any of the following: ARRL ____ McLean County ESDA ____
- Local ARES ____ Other ARES Group _____ American Red Cross Chapter _____

WHAT ARE YOUR SPECIFIC INTERESTS WITHIN THE HOBBY?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> HF | <input type="checkbox"/> ATV | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VHF/UHF | <input type="checkbox"/> Packet Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> QRP | <input type="checkbox"/> Satellite Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> EchoLink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Service Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fox Hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> Contesting | _____ |

What would you like to do at meetings? _____

What activities do you think the club should participate in or sponsor? _____

You can turn in your membership application at club meetings (4th Wednesday of the month 7:30 PM, at the Red Cross building in Bloomington, One Westport Court) or mail it and a check payable to the Central Illinois Radio Club to:

Office Use: Access # _____

Central Illinois Radio Club
P. O. Box 993
Bloomington, IL 61702-0993