

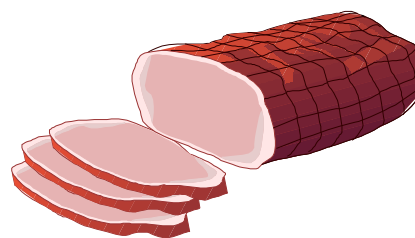
The Starved Rock Radio Club (SRRRC) meets on the first Monday of every month, unless otherwise scheduled, at 7:00 p. m. at the SRRRC clubhouse in Leonore, Illinois. Club nets are held on the SRRRC repeater (W9MKS) every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The W9MKS repeater is located at the SRRRC clubhouse in Leonore, Illinois, and it operates on a frequency of 147.120 MHz (+103.5 PL). The Starved Rock Radio Club was organized in September of 1933, and has remained an ARRL affiliated club since 1934.

The mission of the Starved Rock Radio Club has continually been to give faithful, co-operative service and assistance for the betterment of amateur radio, in the promotion of interest in amateur radio communications, for the advancement of the radio art, for the use of amateur radio for public service and welfare, and for the maintenance of fraternalism and the promotion of good fellowship along with a high standard of conduct. Visit us on the web at www.qsl.net/w9mks

SRRRC To Get Out of Soft Drink Business

At the March meeting, Matt, KB9VZH, reported that the Bureau County Fair Board had entered into a contract with a soft drink distributor that required any vendor selling soft drinks or bottled water to purchase those items only from that distributor (at \$16.00 per case of bottled pop). Undoubtedly there is some remuneration to the Fair Board, and in this economy, makes sense from the Board's point of view. Matt pointed out to the Board Secretary that our contract with the Fair Board did not mention that restriction, and we

shouldn't be held to it, but the Board did not agree. Unfortunately, that restriction cuts into the club's profits on those items, and since we are not the sole vendor of soft drinks at the hamfest, the club voted to stop selling canned pop. Several options were discussed to get around the restriction, such as selling cups and ice, and giving away the pop, but ultimately the club decided to sell lemonade and iced tea in addition to



As long as we're considering selling things other than soda pop....

Illustration courtesy of the Inside Joke Dept. of Static

coffee. By the way, Matt's still looking for volunteers to work the hamfest, so get in touch with him if you can fill any slots.

History of the Starved Rock Radio Club

Written by Hugo Borri, W9LIG for the 25th Anniversary Program in 1959

Officers

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| President: | |
| Jesse L. Risley | KB9TMA |
| Vice President: | |
| Rich Grimshaw | N9OUW |
| Secretary: | |
| Frank Carraro | KF9NZ |
| Treasurer: | |
| Francis Kmetz | WB9VLW |
| Directors: | |
| Steve Michalski | KB9UPS |
| Mark Gebhardt | K9ZQ |
| Kurt Clausen | KB9RKU |
| Static Editor: | |
| Dirk Wolgast | W9QA |

Amateur radio spread to the Starved Rock area in the Illinois Valley as it had done in other parts of our country. Local experimenters, hobbyists, and others fascinated in the wireless and who were awed to the capability of being able to transmit and to receive messages from away worked day and night on their hobby.

World War I terminated their operations, but they were back again after the

war with greater interest and enthusiasm than ever. As Time brought changes in other fields, /time also brought changes to amateur radio. Spark coils gave way to vacuum tubes as the crystal receivers gave way to simple rf and regenerative sets and as they in turn gave way to the super-het, and in a similar way the old timer gave way to the new comer.

And so in the early 1930's that interest in amateur radio increased greatly and

became widespread in this Illinois Valley and this great influx of new persons interested in amateur radio.

In 1932, it was the practice of two ardent radio amateurs, W9MKS (nicknamed Lopyy) and W9LIG, to visit any and all amateurs that were active in the area. Visiting as they did, they found that the majority of amateurs only knew of the existence of amateurs in their



The Editor's Shack

March appears to be a slow month for club news. Fewer submissions than usual were received for inclusion in the newsletter (that's quite an accomplishment, considering the low level of previous contributions). I researched some of the old *Static* editions for filler material, and found that the March editions all seem to be low on data, so I guess we'll continue the tradition.

Francis Kmetz, WB9VLW, approached me at the February meeting and provided me with a copy of *Voices in the Air* by Robert Bonebrake. Francis advised that Mr. Bonebrake gave his permission to reprint material from the book as I saw fit. Francis' timing could not have been better. I have been off work recuperating from surgery, and the doctor, who is obviously not a ham, wouldn't give me green light to don a climbing belt and redecorate my tower, so that gave me chance to read the

book, practically in one sitting. Francis thought that printing a chapter a month might be a good idea. At first, I wasn't sure about that, because I didn't want to hurt book sales, but I realized that printing the material in that manner would take a period of two years. My hope is that once you read a chapter or two, you'll be motivated to purchase *Voices In the Air*, so you won't have to wait that long to see how it ends up.

I'll have to say that, even though I didn't get my start in electronics and radio until the 1960's, about thirty years after Mr. Bonebrake did, a lot of what I read in the book was all too familiar. It also brings to mind a potential source for new material for this rag. How about an article featuring a specific club member and how he or she got interested in the hobby? I'll be glad to write it, but I've got to get the info from somewhere. Send me something about

yourself, please. Don't make me call your mothers!

Due to a slight change by my DSL provider, I seem to have some storage space on Yahoo's servers, so I thought about just putting the latest edition of *Static* up there, and sending out a link via e-mail when its ready, rather than sending it as an attachment, since I seem to be bumping up against folks storage limits. Eldon seems to get the current edition on the club's web site in rather quick fashion also. I know that would potentially require an extra step for some people, but it seems to be a way around the problem. Does that seem reasonable? Let me know your thoughts on the matter.

73, W9QA

March Meeting Notes

Frank Carraro, KF9NZ - SRRC Secretary

Twenty-five members and three guests attended the March meeting. Kurt showed a color chart for the deck stains, and we voted for one of them. Members were urged to remember that the door knob turns to the RIGHT after you punch in the combination. If you turn it hard enough left, you can break it again.

We received 97 notebook computers from the folks in Batavia, and about 77 appear to work. Some will be used for parts. If you have an IBM 560 without a diskette drive, there will be one available for loan at the clubhouse. Just check it out by leaving your name/call on the whiteboard.

There was some news from the hamfest committee. We have 17 tables reserved, the 4H will be doing the food concession again, and the Fair Board has a new Secretary. The bad news is that the Fair Board signed a contract with a distributor and only soft drinks supplied by that distributor can be sold on the Fairgrounds. We agreed to put up a sign explaining why we can't sell soft drinks, and that we will sell lemonade, iced tea and coffee.

We approved the installation of a local telephone line. for the repeater.

KB9UPS reported that school contacts with the ISS will continue. W9DON won the QSL contest, and the new tar-

get is N0UIJ, Oakville Mo.

News from the reflector (03/07/03):

The telephone line should be turned on early next week. Don't know the number yet. YES, they have internet service! \$17.95/ month unlimited. Better rate than I have! It's 56K dial-up only, but at our distance from the C.O., we should get full 56K easy.

Club History continued from page 1

own city or town, or they knew only those amateurs that they had worked over the air, while they were almost completely ignorant of the presence of the vast majority of hams that were working on other bands even though they were living only a few miles away.

Enjoying the fun and pleasure of visiting in person, and holding personal rag chews, of exchanging ideas, of learning new methods concerning amateur radio, of making strong understanding friends, and yes, of being invited to "stay and eat" (Loppy's greatest weakness), it became apparent to them that something was still lacking in their hobby. They thought there should be something to provide others the same benefits and pleasures that they were enjoying...an amateur radio club would fill this need.

The formation of a radio club was then suggested, proposed and encouraged in all their future visitations. Local amateurs were asked to help spread the word in order to stimulate interest. Some of the fellows felt that it was not quite the time in the midst of the great depression for this organization as though it would not be supported.

In 1933, after more visitations and after receiving more assurances and encouragement, especially from W9HAE, W9IJB, and W9IEP, these two amateurs sent invitations to all local amateurs that they knew, to meet at the shack of W9MKS in Granville, on Saturday evening, July 22nd.

Answers came quickly back. Many amateurs said that they would be there, but many others sent word that they would not be able to attend this meeting as they had other plans made for that evening. Without seeing or waiting for the outcome of this meeting, they made plans to hold another meeting two weeks later at the Winfield Radio Shop in Spring Valley to accommodate the number that could not attend the first meeting.

The results of these two meetings were

awaited with great interest and anticipation. W9MKS got his shack in order while W9LIG made sure that the 201 tnt oscillator was red hot.

The Granville Record, weekly newspaper, of July 27, 1933 states the following about the first meeting:

Amateur Radio Operators Meet Here Saturday

"An interesting meeting was held last Saturday evening at Leslie Anderson's broadcasting station in Granville when a group of amateur operators got together. The Dxers will form a club when they meet with Emerson Charles at Spring Valley next week. Cookies and lemonade were served at the conclusion of the Saturday get-together. The operators range in age from fifteen to fifty. Those present, their calls and addresses are: W9IEP C. B. Skeels, Lostant; W9DSW, E. R. Karr, Princeton; W9EXD, Clyde Campbell, Princeton; W9IVU, Rolland Hoover, Princeton; W9NIU, Nic Nickolson, Lowell; W9NGG, H. L. Luger, Lowell; W9HAE, James Troglio, Granville; W9MKS, Leslie Anderson, Granville; W9LIG, Hugo R. Borri, Mark; W9MJS, Delane Murdock, Ottawa; W9NXZ, Virgil Hoag of Ottawa; W9MHQ, Elmer Ebersol, Ottawa; W9IJB, Emerson Charles, Spring Valley; and others that were present were Charles Quickle of Princeton; George Keith, Jr. of Lowell; and Al Yarc, Arthur Vietinghoff, Jr., and Archie Colby of Granville."

The second meeting was an even greater success as 30 amateurs crowded into one of Emerson Charles' rooms. Emerson Charles presided. He told of the need of such a club and the benefits that could be derived from one. Those present showed their interest and quickly started proposing a name for the organization. The two most popular were: Illinois Valley Amateur Radio Club and the Starved Rock Radio Club. Then officers were nominated. Elections were to be held on the next meeting, September 1, 1933.

The local paper ran the following story on the third meeting:

RADIO CLUB IS ORGANIZED HERE FRIDAY

Amateur Radio Operators Have Big Meeting Here

"Amateur license radio operators of the Illinois Valley district, met at the Winfield Radio Shop here Friday evening, and decided to form a definite organization to be known as the Starved Rock Radio Club.

Thirty operators, most of them licensed, were present for the meeting, which was presided over by Emerson Charles.

It was decided that Spring Valley shall be the headquarters of the club and that meetings should be held on the first Friday of each month at the Winfield establishment. At the September meeting officers were elected and further plans discussed.

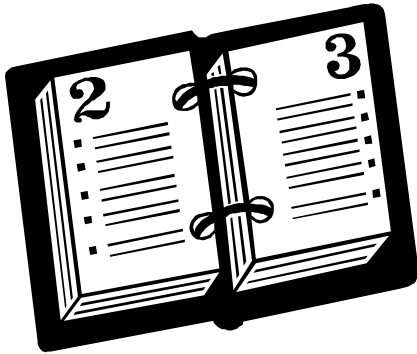
The program last night was an informal nature and included discussions on the future policies of the organization. The various operators told of some of their air experiences and stunts and systems used in the construction and adjustment of their various sets.

A transmitter is now being constructed at the Winfield shop. While it will be for radiotelegraphy at first, it is hoped that a phone set will be constructed in the future.

Most of the following, who are to be associated with the club, were present last night: Clyde Campbell, W9EXD, Princeton; James Troglio, W9HAE, Granville; Virgil C. Hoag, W9NXZ, Ottawa; Harvey Huger, W9NGG, Utica; Ross HOLEY, Tonica; Arthur V. Johnson, Granville; Edward Acton, Spring Valley; George Keith, Jr., Utica; R. M. Nicholson, W9NIU, Tonica; Leslie Anderson, W9MKS, Granville; Elmer Ebersol, Jr., W9MHQ, Ottawa; Fred C. Smith, W9MXY, Ottawa; H. Gilbert Oberschelp, W9NLO, Princeton; Earl Pinter, Zearing; Arthur Pinter, W9NRS, Zearing; Tony Remenih W9NXC,

Activities Calendar / Upcoming Events

By Jesse L. Risley KB9TMA



◆ **The Sterling-Rock Falls ARS will host their annual hamfest on Sunday, March 16th at the Challard Middle School in Sterling.** For more information, visit <http://www.sterlinghamfest.com> or contact Lloyd Sherman, KB9APW PO Box 521 - Sterling, IL 61081 - Phone: 815-336-2434 or Email: lsherman@essex1.com.

◆ **The North Shore Radio Club presents NS9Rcfest Sunday March 23.** This annual giant is attended by amateur radio operators and electronic engineers and computer hobbyists from all over the Midwest. It is a great place to find bargains and to make professional and hobby connections. This

all indoor event, will be held at the Lake County Fairgrounds Routes 45 and 120, Grayslake, IL. To learn more, check out <http://www.lightwriters.com/nsrc/NS9RCfest.htm>

◆ **Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint--CW/PSK31--sponsored by New Jersey QRP Club from 0000Z-0400Z Mar 24 (Monday in the U.S.).** Frequencies: QRP CW and PSK31 frequencies on 80-10 meters, CW and PSK31 are considered separate bands. Exchange: RST + SPC + Output Power. QSO Points: 2 pts for QSOs made with Commercial Equipment, 3pts for Homebrew Xmtr or Rcvr, 4 pts for Homebrew Xmtr+Rcvr or Xcvr, 5 pts for Homebrew PSK31 station, kits are okay for homebrew. Score: QSO Points × SPC (counted once per band) × power multiplier. Power Multiplier: 0-250 mW = ×15, 250 mW-1 W = ×10, 1-5 W = ×7, >5 W = ×1. For more information--<http://www.njqrp.org/data/qrphomebrewersprint.html> <http://www.njqrp.org/data/qrphomebrewersprint.html>. Logs due 30 days after the contest to n2cq@arrl.net (text only) or Ken Newman, N2CQ, 81 Holly Dr, Woodbury, NJ 08096.

◆ **CQ WW SSB WPX Contest--SSB--sponsored by CQ Magazine, from 0000Z Mar 29- 2400Z Mar 30 (CW is May 24-25).** Frequencies: 160-10 meters. Categories: SOAB, SOSB, SO-Assisted, -HP, LP, and -QRP, MS (10-min rule), MM, SO-Rookie, SO-Tribander-and-Single-Wire, SO-Band-Restricted. SO operate 36 hours max with off times at least 60 min. Exchange: RS(T) + serial number. QSO Points: different continents--3 pts (14-28 MHz) and 6 pts (1.8-7 MHz), with North America--2 pts (14-28 MHz) and 4 pts (1.8-7 MHz), with own country--1 pt. Score: QSO points × prefixes worked (i.e., N8, KA1, HG73, JD1) counted only once. For more information--<http://www.home.woh.rr.com/wpx/>. Logs due May 1 (CW, July 1) to wpxssb@kkn.net (wpxcw@kkn.net).

◆ **The Illinois Valley Radio Association (IVRA) will hold their next monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 1st 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Henne-**

See Calendar, page 7

Club History continued from page 3

Peru; Hugh Middaugh, W9MDA, Princeton; Eugene Kaar, W9DSW, Princeton; Emerson Charles, W9IJB, Spring Valley; W9CBJ, George Speery, Washburn; Joseph Baltikauski, Spring Valley; Delane Murdock, W9MJS, Ottawa; Carroll Skeels, W9IEP, Lostant; Hadden Perdew, W9BIN, Henry; Hugo Borri, W9LIG, Mark; O. F. Weissenburger, W9NNH, Zearing."

From the Putnam County Record of September 7, 1933

Radio Club Elects Officers

"The Starved Rock Radio Club met at the Winfield Radio Shop in Spring

Valley last Friday evening, Sept. 1st, and elected the following officers: Carroll Skeels, of Lostant, president; Lyle Hoover, of Princeton, vice-president; Clyde Campbell of Princeton, secretary; and Emerson Charles of Spring Valley, treasurer."

Because of the fact that so many different towns were represented, it was felt this area should be divided into three separate areas, each representing a chapter of the club. One chapter was made of the Ottawa amateurs; the second chapter took in Princeton and Zearing areas, while the third was made up of the towns south of the river. Each chapter was to hold another meeting in between the regular meetings.

It seemed as though the people in the

south chapter had greater luck and success with their meetings than the other two chapters. As time went by, the second meeting was discontinued.

It was not surprising that the membership elected Carroll Skeels, W9IEP (now W8TBP) from Lostant as their first president. Carroll (better known as Skipper) was possibly the most instrumental amateur in getting so many amateurs started in this fascinating hobby. His encouragements and neat and precise way of running a ham station helped many as they got started in the amateur game; and the good times that were had in his ham shack will long be remembered. Skipper led the club through its first two years of existence in 1933 and again in 1934.

And so the club was formed.

Northern Illinois Emergency Frequencies

Rob Sobkoviak K9NYO, who is the EC for Will County, compiled the list of active frequencies for ARES and Skywarn activity you see below. Check the following link for updates: <http://www.prlham.org/wcares/northeast.html>

Why not throw a copy of the list in your glove compartment or wallet? You never know where you'll be when severe weather strikes. Even if you don't want to get involved at that point, you'll know where to listen for the latest bulletins. Better yet, if you

have one of the newer radios with a gazillion memory channels, why not take the time to program the frequencies in. You may still have to refer to the list, but at least you won't have to remember how to program the radio!

| County | Type of Traffic | Repeater | Tone |
|------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| Boone | Weather/emergency (county) | 147.375 | 100 |
| Cook | SKYWARN (wide-area) | 146.67 (WAFAR) | 107.2 |
| Cook | Weather/emergency (local) | 146.805 (Tri-Town) | 107.2 |
| Cook | Weather/emergency (local) | 147.09 (Maine Township) | 107.2 |
| Cook | Weather/emergency (local) | 145.23 (Schaumburg) | 107.2 |
| Cook | Emergency (wide-area) | 146.76 (SATERN) | 107.2 |
| DeKalb | SKYWARN/ARES (county) | 146.73 (Malta) | 100 |
| DuPage | Weather/emergency (local) | 145.39 (Wheaton) | 107.2 |
| DuPage | Weather/emergency (local) | 443.05 (Naperville EMA) | 114.8 |
| Grundy | SKYWARN/ARES (county) | 147.27 (Morris) | |
| Kane | SKYWARN/ARES (county) | 146.79 (Elgin) | 107.2 |
| Kankakee | Weather/emergency (county) | 146.94 | |
| Kendall | SKYWARN/ARES (county) | 147.375 (Yorkville) | 103.5 |
| Lake | SKYWARN/ARES (county) | 147.18 (LC RACES) | 127.3 |
| LaSalle | SKYWARN/ARES (county) | 147.12 (Ottawa) | 103.5 |
| LaSalle | SKYWARN/ARES (local) | 145.29 | 103.5 |
| LaSalle | SKYWARN/ARES (local) | 146.895 | 103.5 |
| Lee | SKYWARN/ARES (county) | 146.97 | 82.5 |
| Livingston | SKYWARN/ARES (county) | 147.39 (Pontiac) | 127.3 |
| McHenry | SKYWARN/ARES (county) | 146.835 (Woodstock) | 107.2 |
| McHenry | Backup (county) | 145.41 (McHenry) | |
| Ogle | SKYWARN/ARES (county) | 147.045 | |
| Will | SKYWARN/ARES (county) | 444.55 (WC EMA) | 114.8 |
| Will | SKYWARN/ARES (local) | 147.33 (Bolingbrook) | |
| Will | SKYWARN/ARES (local) | 146.715 (Plainfield) | 107.2 |
| Will | Backup (county) | 146.82 (Joliet) | 107.2 |
| Winnebago | Weather/emergency (county) | 147.195 | 114.8 |

This list was last updated on March 12, 2003 at 0400 UTC

Emergency Reference Information for Amateur Radio Station _____

Telephone Numbers
(List name and/or number)

State/Province Police _____

Local Police _____

Sheriff _____

Fire Department _____

Ambulance _____

CD _____

SM _____

SEC _____

National Weather Service _____

Red Cross _____

Salvation Army _____

Net Manager _____

DEC _____

EC _____

What to report:

Caller's name

Location

Situation

Injuries: number, extent

Fire?

Traffic blocked?

Need assistance?

Weather conditions

ITU Phonetic Alphabet

Word list adopted by the International Telecommunications Union

| | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| A | Alfa | N | November |
| B | Bravo | O | Oscar |
| C | Charlie | P | Papa |
| D | Delta | Q | Quebec |
| E | Echo | R | Romeo |
| F | Foxtrot | S | Sierra |
| G | Golf | T | Tango |
| H | Hotel | U | Uniform |
| I | India | V | Victor |
| J | Juliett | W | Wiskey |
| K | Kilo | X | X-ray |
| L | Lima | Y | Yankee |
| M | Mike | Z | Zulu |

Chapter I - The Hobby Club

Excerpted from *Voices in the Air—The Fascination of Radio*

Reprinted with permission of the author, Robert Bonebrake. This 174-page book is available at the Streatorland Historical Society Museum or from Francis Kmetz, WB9VLW, at \$12.95 each. The club has a copy at the clubhouse, which can be checked out. It is enjoyable reading.

I was working with my balsa wood sticks, tissue paper, and airplane glue, when one of my friends asked if I had seen the thing that Bill Hill and Bob Seymour were building.

The time was 1938. The place was Streator, Illinois, and I was in the fifth grade at Garfield School. On Friday afternoons the usual school routine was set aside in favor of hobby and club activities. A forerunner of the modern "Show and Tell", perhaps, except that the only things we had to tell were the answers to questions that other students might ask about our particular activity.

Leaving my model airplane, I went to the table where Bill and Bob were working. They had a strange apparatus consisting of some fine wire wrapped around a cardboard tube from a roll of

toilet paper, a thing made from several small aluminum plates which rotated when a shaft was turned, and other mysterious looking parts all wired together and connected to some batteries. There was another device that looked like a glass bulb. I recognized this as something used in radios, because I remembered seeing one in the family "Atwater Kent" radio that occupied a prominent place in our dining room.

Bill was discouraged because he couldn't hear anything in the earphones he had on his head, and Bob was suggesting that they take the apparatus home and ask Bill's uncle to help them find out what was wrong with it. As they began to dismantle it and pack it into a cardboard box, I asked what it supposed to do. Bill told me it was a "Shortwave Radio", and said that he should be able to hear voices in the earphones.

I had already learned how to operate our Atwater Kent radio. I needed to know, so that I could adjust the dials to the right spot in order to hear Tom Mix, Jack Armstrong, and Little Orphan Annie every day after I came home from school. On school holi-

days, when I was home, I noticed that my mother adjusted the dials differently to hear "Pepper Young's Family" and John's Other Wife", while doing her housework. My father turned the dials still another way on Sunday nights so he could hear Jack Benny and Fred Allen.

Other than knowing how to adjust the dials, (my mother always said, "Turn this one until it sounds clear, and then turn the other one to make it louder or softer") the only thing I knew about our radio was that when I looked into the back of it, I could see that it was all dusty and dark except for the strange glow from the glass bulbs. I also knew that I was supposed to keep my hands out of it, but once I looked inside with a flashlight and saw that the bulbs had numbers on them like, 27, 45, and 80. Probably the prices, I guessed.

Bill didn't tell me what "shortwave" meant, and I didn't ask. But it didn't really matter because I was already consumed by interest and curiosity. I had no way of knowing then, but seeing his radio would affect the course of my life from that time on.

Calendar, continued from page 4

pin, IL town hall. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting.

◆ **The 56th Annual Streator Hobby Show will be held at the Streator National Guard Armory (IL Rt. 18 West) on April 3rd, 4th, and 5th 2003.** The hobby show is a non-commercial civic event that is free of charge to both visitors and exhibitors. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and view the wide and varied number of hobbies on display, which belong to folks from around the country. There will be an amateur radio booth on display, with all types of amateur radio

related information, including a working CW & HF/VHF station! The Streator Amateur Radio Club, K9CAU will be sponsoring this display, and volunteers are needed to help work the amateur station and answer questions from visitors. If you would like to sign up to work at the table, contact Jim, N9PLM at 815-673-1752. We hope to see everyone at this years Hobby Show!

◆ **The next regular meeting of the Starved Rock Radio Club will be held on Monday, April 7th 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the SRRC clubhouse in Leonore, Illinois.** Everyone is welcome and encourage to attend the

meeting. There is a "pre-meeting" over dinner, held prior to the regular meeting, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Smitty's Grill. Come on over for some casual chat, and enjoy the evening steak dinner special!

73's DE

Jesse L. Risley, KB9TMA (Activities Chairman)

THE STARVED ROCK RADIO CLUB

Post Office Box 198
Leonore, Illinois 61337

General Email: w9mks@qsl.net
Email for *Static* submissions: w9qa@arrl.net



Old SRRC Clubhouse and membership, circa 1938

SRRC archive photo