



The Starved Rock Radio Club (SRRC) meets on the first Monday of every month, unless otherwise scheduled, at 7:00 p. m. at the SRRC clubhouse in Leonore, Illinois. Club nets are held on the SRRC repeater (W9MKS) every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The W9MKS repeater is located at the SRRC 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

A New Ham, A New Member, And A New Public Service Opportunity

Jeff Martin, who was recently license as KC9DLA, attended the April meeting of SRRC as a guest, and before he left he became a new member. Welcome to the club, Jeff.

Jeff is a long time Ottawa resident, having attended OTHS, IVCC, and WIU, with a major in corporate finance. He currently works for Cardinal Transportation of Coal City in Accident / Claims Investigation. Jeff has radio in his blood. His maternal grandfather was part of the US Army Signal Corps in WWII, and was

eventually promoted to Company First Sergeant for training. His fraternal grandfather, John Martin, was a producer for NBC, and was also a ham. Jeff became a ham to carry on the tradition, and for emergency communications work.

Jeff said, " I also wanted to be able to land a radio wave in Saddam Hussein's back yard".

Jeff is looking for approximately five volunteers with portables or mobiles to assist with a 5K run / walk /



bike ride being sponsored by Christ Episcopal Church, and benefits Habitat for Humanity. The race is on May 10th, and registration begins at 7:30 AM. Contact Jeff as jjpmottawa@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.

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

FCC Adopts Changes To Repetitious Applications Rule Reprinted with permission from the ARRL Web

The FCC has amended its rules to prohibit the filing of repetitious license applications in the wireless radio services--including the Amateur Radio Service--within a year after it has denied or dismissed "a substantially similar application" with prejudice. The FCC also has streamlined §1.937 by combining the first two subsections of the rule into a single paragraph. The FCC invited comments on the proposed changes more than a year ago in ET

Docket 02-57.

"Our amendment of §1.937 will simplify and clarify our prohibition against repetitious applications," the FCC said in a Report and Order (R&O) released April 16. The FCC said the new language reflects the rule's applicability to all types of license applications. The revised rule also "sufficiently distinguishes applications dismissed without prejudice from those either dismissed with prejudice or denied," the Com-

mission said.

While the change applies to the Amateur Service, it would prohibit only a handful of applications filed by new and renewing hams. Most dismissed amateur applications--such as vanity dismissals--are turned down without prejudice because of procedural deficiencies. The FCC now allows such rejected applicants to correct their mistakes and file again, and it will continue to do so.



The Editor's Shack

Hamfest season is here – for our club and many others. Matt, KB9VZH, is still in need of volunteers; please contact him to sign up. I just did. The only reason I had to wait so long was to see if I could get the day off work. Because of our new schedule, and the many summer vacations, it's always a crapshoot whether the powers that be will let anyone take a Saturday or Sunday off. But I digress. We all should get behind the effort to make the event a success. Attendance has been down in recent years, but that trend seems to be universal. It would be a shame to see the hamfest go extinct. Did I mention that the first hamfest I attended was Starved Rock, back in the 1960's well before I became a ham? I think that was a major factor in deciding to

join the club many years later.

While I am on the subject of hamfests, the annual pilgrimage to Dayton, a/k/a Hamvention, is less than a month away. I resisted that urge for many years, but now wouldn't miss it for anything. If you've never been there, you owe it to yourself check it out. If you are looking a specific piece of equipment or part, its almost guaranteed that you'll find it there, but remember the number one rule of Hamvention: If you see it and want it, buy it now, because it won't be there when you come back.

Mark, K9ZQ, will be attending his third Hamvention with the group I go with, and we hope to indoctrinate Jesse, KB9TMA, into the ways of Dayton this

time around. By the way, we still have one opening in our rooms at University of Dayton. It isn't the Ritz, but how much more than a place to sleep, shower and shave do you need? Its also one of a ham's favorite things: inexpensive. If you'd like to get in with us, drop me an e-mail or get a hold of WA9DH at davidchoffman@yahoo.com - he's our "travel agent".

I also highly recommend Skyline Chili when in Dayton – its not KB9EZZ's "road kill" chili, but it is very good, and you don't have to pick any possum fur out of it, either!

That's it from me this month.

73, W9QA

Repeater Status Report

By Frank Carraro KF9NZ



REPEATER TELEPHONE ACCESS

We now have a phone line connected to the repeater. We could get the autopatch feature back working, except that we do not have a wide area dialing package, and you could only call out to Leonore and Tonica. The cost of adding this service is considerable, and, with the light use we had of the feature when it was at Ottawa - even with all 815 dialing available - it is questionable if we should spend the money. However there is a feature that I have described before and it may be useful. It is the reverse autopatch. It works this way:

1. Someone dials the autopatch phone number from a conventional telephone.
2. The controller answers with the message "AUTOPATCH ANSWER"

3. The telephone user enters a DTMF code to initiate the reverse patch.

4. The repeater begins transmitting the message "AUTOPATCH CALLING"

5. A repeater user, hearing the message, transmits a different DTMF code

6. The telephone user and repeater user may now talk just the same as a regular autopatch call.

Is there any interest in using this feature? If so, the codes will be published for member use. Another possible use was also discussed. It is possible to provide individual dialing codes to members for a fee. For example, if I wished to have this service, a code, say "123" would be programmed into the controller so that it would call my home. Then another member could have "345" to call his home, and an-

other could have "666" to call his home, and "583" to call his work, etc. The cost of this service would then be paid by those members who have the codes according to some agreed formula. The legality and complications that such a use might entail are unknown, but I guess it's worth talking about. Toll-free (800) numbers can be dialed, as well as 911 - which gets the Sheriff's Dispatcher in Ottawa - with the service we have. Let's have your comments and ideas at the next meeting.

FLASH - INTERFERENCE FOUND!!

The cause of the interference at K9PHW's house has been found and eliminated! Now the UHF transmitter is dropping out - but that's a different story.

de KF9NZ

April Meeting Notes

Frank Carraro, KF9NZ - SRRC Secretary

We still need to get the floor joists under the back room jacked up and reinforced. If you like to work in dirty, cramped spaces you should talk to KB9RKU. He has just the job for you. If you want one of the club's salvaged notebook computers, Kurt is the guy to talk to about that too. We have all degrees of them from barely useable to just a little bit obsolete. The hamfest is getting close. We need LARGE water coolers to dispense the lemonade and iced tea. If you have one (or more) you can loan the club it would be a big help. The Membership Committee (Mark K9ZQ) has a suggestion and would like your comments. Is there

any interest in creating a "lifetime" membership?

The interference on the repeater was discussed. It seems to be coming from Joe K9PHW's immediate area, and ties up the site when it is active. The dial line is now installed and active on the repeater. It will be used mainly to control the repeater, but a "reverse" auto-patch feature is available. Further details on this are in a separate item in this newsletter. Steve, KB9UPS told us that the ARISS school contact is moving forward. There is a possibility it may be moved up to this summer, but more likely it will be next year. Steve

needs volunteers to give talks on different phases of ham radio to the students. The new door code has been set up. If you need it, talk to one of the Officers - if your dues are paid!

KA9CAI, Silent Key

Joe Cassata, KA9CAI, passed away on March 24, 2003. Joe, owner of the Coax Connection, was a long-time vendor at the SRRC Hamfest, and an all around great guy. Our condolences go out to his family. He will be missed.

Training Report

By Joe Tokarz KB9EZZ

AMERICAN RED CROSS

DISASTER TRAINING for IVAC

INTRODUCTION TO DISASTER SERVICES
Learn about disasters, the community response, and the role of Red Cross Disaster Services. This class is a prerequisite to all other disaster training.
Wednesday, April 16
Section 1: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Section 2: 1:00 - 4:00 pm

MASS CARE: AN OVERVIEW

Develop a plan of action for matching your skills, interests and abilities for further involvement with delivering Red Cross Mass Care service. This class is a prerequisite for Shelter Operations and Simulation
Wednesday, April 30
Section 1: 9:00 am - Noon
Section 2: 1:00 - 4:00 pm

SHELTER OPERATIONS

Prepare to effectively and sensitively manage shelter operations as a team.
Wednesday, May 7
Section 1: 9:00 am - Noon

Section 2: 1:00 - 4:00 pm

SHELTER SIMULATION

Shelter Simulation offers an opportunity to practice the knowledge and skills learned in the Shelter Operations training.
Wednesday, May 21
Section 1: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Section 2: 1:30 - 5:00 pm

INTERMEDIATE DISASTER TRAINING

DISASTER HEALTH SERVICES

This course is only offered to those who have already taken the "Introduction to Disaster Services".
One session only: Friday, April 11
1:00 pm-4:30 pm

HEALTH SERVICE SIMULATION

This course is only offered to doctors and nurses (LPN or higher).
One session Only: Saturday, April 12
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

CONNECTING YOUR COMMUNITY

Learn how to assist individuals who are

trying to locate loved ones in a disaster -torn region. This course is only offered to those who have already taken the "Introduction to Disaster Services".

One session only: Saturday, May 3
9:00 am - noon

FAMILY SERVICES

Learn about the family service function, and how to conduct an effective interview, fill out the case record and the disbursement orders.

One session only: Saturday, June 21
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Please sign up for either Section 1 or Section 2 for each class. Class size will be limited to 15

Location: Illinois Valley Chapter ARC at 1605 4th St. in Peru

Contact: Sarah Stasik, Director at 815-223-0922 or ivarc@theramp.net

VE Session Update

20-May-2003

Sponsor: FOX RIVER RADIO LEAGUE

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: DOUGLAS A RENEKER (630)355-0190

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: NORTHGATE SHOPPING CENTER

BASEMENT OF FORMER BANK BLDG

900 N LAKE ST

ROUTE 31

AURORA, IL 60506

24-May-2003

Sponsor: STARVED ROCK RADIO CLUB

Time: 3:00 PM (No walk-ins)

Contact: JOSEPH J TOKARZ (815)433-2347

Email: KB9EZZ@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: STARVED ROCK RADIO CLUB

73 TABOR ST

NEXT TO TABOR GRAIN

LEONORE, IL 61332

27-May-2003

Sponsor: ROCK RIVER ARC

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: BRION C GILBERT

(815)652-3367

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: LOVELAND COMMUNITY HOUSE

513 W 2ND ST

PRE-REGISTRATION 2 WEEKS

PRIOR

DIXON, IL 61021

Activities Calendar / Upcoming Events

By Jesse L. Risley KB9TMA



◆ There will be a Ham Radio Saturday Breakfast at the Bright-Spot - 801 E Norris (Rt 6) in Ottawa from 8-9 AM April 19th. Come and join us for some casual chat and a nice meal!

◆ The Lewis & Clark Radio Club will host their annual hamfest at the Lewis & Clark Community College in Godfrey, IL on Saturday, April 26th. For more information, visit <http://k9ham.cargodog.net/> or contact Chris Holland, N9WHH at 618.254.9465.

◆ The Area Amateur Radio Operators (AARO) will host their annual hamfest in Galva, IL on Sunday, April 27th. For more information, visit <http://www.qsl.net/aaro/index.html> or contact Matt Bullock, W9SIX at 309.856.7111.

◆ The Peru Area March of Dimes

Walk-a-Thon will be held on Sunday, April 27th. Kick-off will be at the YMCA, and amateur radio assistance is always needed/requested. Anyone interested in helping provide communications and assistance for this event should meet at the Peru YMCA on Sunday, April 27th between 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM.

◆ The Cenois Amateur Radio Club will sponsor their annual "Decatur Old Fashioned Hamfest" on Sunday, May 4th 2003 at Richland Community College in Decatur. For more information, visit <http://www.cenois.com/2003hamfest.html> or contact Jerry Sebok, N9RBQ at 217.423.2095.

◆ The Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club will host their annual Dekalb Hamfest at the Sandwich, IL fairgrounds on Sunday, May 4, 2003 from 8 am to 1 pm. Vendors set-up - 6 am. \$5.00 Advance Ticket (Double Stubs) or \$6.00 Admission at the Gate (Single Stub). For more information, visit <http://www.w9icu.com/flyer.html> or contact Bob Yurs 'W9ICU' KARC Pres. at 815-895-3219 or email bob@w9icu.com.

◆ The next regular meeting of the Starved Rock Radio Club will be

held on Monday, May 5th 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 Schmitty's Grill. Come on over for some casual chat, and enjoy the evening steak dinner special!

◆ The Illinois Valley Radio Association (IVRA) will hold their next monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 6th 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hennepin, IL town hall. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting.

◆ There will be a 5k run/walk/bike on May 10th beginning at Christ Church of Ottawa. The race starts at 9:00 AM. Course is still being developed. Needed 4 to 5 people with handhelds/ mobile units. If you would be willing to help, contact Jeff Martin at jpmottawa@sbcglobal.net

Note: There are neither any major contests nor are their any special events stations in our immediate area for the next 30 days. However, for a complete listing of contests visit <http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/apr.html>

CHAPTER 2 – The Crystal Set

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 could hardly wait to get home that Friday afternoon so I could tell my parents about the shortwave radio I saw at the Hobby Club. They always encouraged me when they knew I was interested in something new, but I'm sure they had never seen me as excited about anything as I was this time. I described in detail what I had seen: "It had a toilet paper tube with wire on it, and a funny aluminum thing, and other stuff, and a battery, and everything!". Of course they didn't know what "stuff and everything" was, but neither did I. I suppose they also wondered about the relationship between toilet paper and shortwave radio.

The next day, my mother told my grandmother about my new interest. She, in turn, told John Roy about it the next time he delivered groceries from Osborn's store. John said that he had a crystal radio set when he was younger, and that he would give it to me if he could find it. That was exciting news for me, even though I didn't know what a crystal radio set was. Another kind of shortwave radio, I supposed. My mother had some doubts about letting me have it, because she had heard that crystal sets cause interference to other radios. That information turned out to be incorrect, however.

A week later when John delivered groceries at my grandmother's house again, he also delivered the crystal set. It was in a thin paper shopping bag along with a pair of earphones. I was a little disappointed when I saw it, because it didn't look at all like a radio. It didn't even look like Bill Hill's shortwave set. What it did look like

was a board about eight inches square. Mounted on the board and shaped like a pancake was a flat, round coil of wire, wound between spokes sticking out of a central wooden hub. The insulation was cleaned off of the wires in one area, and there was a pivoting arm arranged so that a contact on the end of it could be moved to touch any of the wires in the coil. John had explained to my grandmother that I was to adjust the arm to select the radio station I wanted to hear.

Also mounted on the board was a small shiny piece of metal with a little spring that touched the surface of the metal. I learned later that the shiny metal was the "crystal" and the spring was called the "cat's whisker". According to instructions from John, I would have to adjust the position of the cat's whisker on the crystal until the sound in the earphones was loudest. The other items on the board were four screws to which the earphone wires and an aerial wire and a ground wire were to be connected.

My father knew about aerial and ground wires, because he had rigged them up to the Atwater Kent radio. So he helped me drive an iron pipe into the ground, and we strung a wire up into a tree to use for an aerial. I had been allowed to set up a card table in the dining room upon which to conduct my radio experiments. I ran a wire to the iron pipe and connected it and the aerial wire to my crystal set. Now I was ready. I requested silence in the room while adjusting my cat's whisker and station selector arm. I pressed the earphones to my ear and heard – nothing. I re-checked my connections and re-adjusted my cat's whisker. Still I heard nothing. Could John Roy have played a trick on me? I couldn't believe that. My father said we were probably too far from the radio stations for the crystal set to pull them in. After all, we were almost 100 miles from Chicago, where the big stations were. I suppose

he was right, and went to bed tired and disappointed.

The next time my grandmother saw John Roy, she told him about the crystal set's failure and my disappointment. He was sympathetic and said that it should work and that he would come over and help me. The next Saturday, John came in and looked at my setup. He looked at my aerial, and ground wires and shook his head. He said the ground connection was not good enough. The aerial was not good enough either, but might work if we improved the ground. So we disconnected the wire from the iron pipe and ran it across the dining room floor, through the kitchen, and connected it to the cold water pipe under the sink (we didn't have hot water pipes in those days). My mother was afraid she would trip over the wire, so we tried to hide it under the linoleum floor covering.

No we were ready to try again. As John put on the earphones and adjusted the cat's whisker, I noticed a smile come across his face. When he adjusted the contact arm on the coil, the smile got bigger. He took the earphones off and handed them to me. Could I hear it? Yes! I heard it! It was music! I could really hear it! Music was coming through my crystal set and out of my earphones. I could hardly believe it. John Roy had become a hero.

I listened for a few minutes, then laid the earphones down and shouted for my mother to come and hear the music. While she listened I ran to the window and looked at my aerial wire. I imagined I could see the music coming through the air from Chicago, filtering through the tree branches, and sliding down the wire into my crystal set. At that moment I was hooked forever on the fascination of radio.

THE STARVED ROCK RADIO CLUB

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Leonore, Illinois 61337

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SRRC Hamfest, June 1, 1980

K9ZZ photo