



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

March 10th Nuclear Station Drill

There was a well-attended and useful meeting at the clubhouse Saturday the 21st. It included several Grundy County representatives, and two new members signed up during the day - more on that in another place in this newsletter. A number of those present had their portable rigs, and there were packets flying all over the place. It looks like we will have some packet links in place for the drill.



Things have changed since the last drill two years ago - mainly the removal of the repeater from the Etna Road

location. I was able to hit the repeater from the EOC with a handheld before. Now an outside antenna is needed to reach it. There is only one antenna available

for our use in the EOC. That means that we cannot keep a packet radio on-line at all times, but will have to swap rigs or frequencies back and forth for voice or packet. I explained to those present at the Saturday meeting how I hope to operate.

First, the alerting phase: On the morning of the drill day, I will be alerted by a telephone call from the EOC that the drill has commenced. I will get on the SRRRC repeater and alert everyone who will be wait-

See **Drill**, page 5

Officers

President:	
Steve Michalski	KB9UPS
Vice President:	
Kurt Clausen	KB9RKU
Secretary:	
Frank Carraro	KF9NZ
Treasurer:	
Francis Kmetz	WB9VLW
Directors:	
Nick G. Sotiriou	KB9PUT
Mark Gebhardt	K9ZQ
Eldon Akers	KB9PZA
Static Editor:	
Dirk Wolgast	W9QA

New By-Law Proposed: Waiver of Initiation Fee for Successful Examinees

During the January club meeting, a proposal was made to waive the customary initiation fee for club membership for anyone who passed an amateur exam given during a club-sponsored VE session. This was looked upon as a possible means of increasing club membership. Currently, our VE team forwards the entire examination fee to the ARRL VEC, however the ARRL allows

its Volunteer Examiners to keep a portion of the fee for expenses that are incurred during a test session. That amount is currently \$6.00 per exam fee collected. Since the club does incur expenses, such as increased electricity and heating fuel usage when it hosts an exam session, it would be proper to retain these funds, and would certainly offset any loss brought about by the

waiver of the initiation fees.

Because of the nature of this proposal, it must be made as a by-law. The motion was worded properly by Secretary Frank Carraro, and moved and seconded at the February meeting. In accordance with the rules, the motion was tabled, and is published below:

See **By-Law**, page 5



The Editor's Shack

There is lots of club news to report this month: some welcome, some not - so let's get right to it. We learned that Francis, WB9VLW was having some health issues, and was going to have to miss some meetings. Now it seems that WB9VLW has decided that he will have to give up his long-time post as club treasurer. Francis, everyone at the club hopes you get better soon, and we look forward to seeing you at the clubhouse in the near future. I think I can speak for everyone in the group, and if there is anything you need, don't hesitate to call.

The club also received a large donation for the tower fund, courtesy of KC9FGU. The good news is that we may not have to wait too much longer to change the polarization of the tower sections sitting south of the clubhouse from horizontal to vertical. The bad

news is that we now have some digging, concrete mixing, sanding and painting to do. Start eating your Wheaties now.

Nick, KB9PUT begins his chairmanship of the Activities Committee and is providing his first monthly activities report with this issue. I'm sure that the report will grow in size in the future, after you tell him what type of activities you would like him to report on. Nick also has some good ideas for club fundraisers and a "mini-hamfest" down the line. He is requesting that anyone with input contact him at kb9put2002@yahoo.com.

73, W9QA

From the President's Desk

Steve Michalski, KB9UPS, SRRC President

Hello again to all. With spring fast approaching, it's time to organize our plan of attack. I would first like to thank Jim/n9plm for organizing the Streator spotter training activity as it is most needed and is receiving many responses from concerned residents, thanks Jim. I have been informed that the training seminar held in Bloomington will not be held this year, so if anyone has questions concerning seminars please contact Jim for other dates in the area.

We have not had many people sign up with Frank/kf9nz, for the RACES group so far and Frank would like to hear from you soon. Also, the nuclear drill setup day will be held on February 21, in Leonore, "please" all interested bring your equipment and join in.



Steve Michalski KB9UPS

K9JKW photo

ern part of LaSalle County. Those interested can contact Jim/n9plm, Frank/kf9nz or myself. We, as spotters, make a difference.

It's come to my attention that Francis has not been doing very well this winter. In talking with him I have found he would like to have an assistant who may eventually take over for him as treasurer. I would like to see someone fill this position and help take the load off Francis. We will bring this up again at the March meeting. One final note, it looks like a mini hamfest is a good idea as a fundraiser; please bring your comments to the meeting.

We are still short spotters for the south-

CHAPTER 11 – Tubes and Batteries

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

Reprinted with permission of the author, Robert Bonebrake, W9GCQ. 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.

Alfred Morgan, in the chapters following the crystal radio section of his book, described several battery operated radios and also several radios that operated from standard house current. He explained in detail how to build these more complicated radios, similar to the way he described the crystal sets. I had to decide between battery sets and "house current" sets and, after asking my father's advice, I decided on battery sets. He thought the plans for them sounded simpler, and maybe safer for an eleven year old kid.

Having made the decision, I then needed to pick one of the battery models to try first. I decided on the one that looked most like a crystal set in the plans and description. It used a tube instead of the now-familiar crystal and cat's whisker. The tube, I learned, would do two things. First, it would perform the same function as the crystal (picking up the radio signals or "detecting" them; and second, it would provide "amplification", which would give me more volume in my earphones. I also learned that the tube specified in the plans has three functional parts: The "filament" (the part that glows in the dark), the "grid", and the "plate". The grid is made of fine wires encircling the filament, and controls the flow of electric current from the fila-

ment to the plate. The plate is the part most visible from outside the tube, and surrounds both the filament and the grid.

The radio parts boxes failed me now, because none of the old radios that Cyril Girard gave me had the kind of tubes called for in the plans. I needed either a type "30" or a type "01A". To further complicate the matter I was going to need two kinds of batteries: An "A" battery to supply power to the tube filament, and a "B" battery to supply power to the tube plate and the earphones. Battery sets were beginning to sound expensive as well as complicated.

My father suggested that I try to get the tube and batteries at Montgomery Ward. Our local store occupied the first two floors of the Murray Building on Main Street, and I had been there with my parents when they were buying clothes for me. I asked my mother if could go with her the next time she went to town so I could look for my tube and batteries.

The next Saturday found us at Montgomery Ward. Radios were on the second floor, along with other furniture items, and we were directed to the back of the store when we inquired about tubes and batteries. I was excited about seeing radio tubes, but I didn't expect to see so many different kinds. They were sold in little colored cardboard boxes with different numbers on them. I recognized some of them, like 27, 45, and 80, as being the numbers I first saw on the tubes in the old Atwater Kent radio

(and thought they were the tube prices). But that was a year or so earlier when I was just a little kid. Now it was 1940 and I had learned enough about radios to know that they were the tube type numbers.

My mother told the clerk that we wanted to buy a type 30 or a type 01A tube, and asked the prices. I don't remember what they were, but she must have thought that they were reasonable. The 01A was cheapest so we bought one. Next we asked to see batteries. The "A" batteries looked like big flashlight batteries with two binding posts on the top for connecting wires. "B" batteries looked to be about the size of shredded wheat cereal boxes without the pictures of Niagara Falls on the sides. They were marked "45 volts", just what the plans called for. After looking at all the tubes, batteries, and some other radio parts, we left with my 01A tube, two "A" batteries, and a "B" battery. I was really in the radio business now.

Drill, continued from page 1

ing for the word. These operators will then proceed to their assigned locations. No one should show up before the alert is given since the response to the alert is part of the rating we get from the evaluators.

As for the assigned locations - well there are a bunch of questions about that. We still don't know how many locations will actually take part. The governmental subdivisions in the 10 mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) include Seneca, Marseilles, Grand Ridge in LaSalle County, and Verona, Kinsman, and Gardner in Grundy County. The Grundy County EOC will be active on a limited basis as well. Townships will also be included, and Brookfield is always active. We don't know about Manlius Twp. or any of the others. There is also the question of who is going to be available. At this time I have pretty definite yes's from KB9EZZ, KB9PZA, KB9UPS, KB9RKU, KA9VAU, N9MRG, KA9HRO, and AB9EE. The last two named, Frank B and Bob C. will be in Grundy. I have made preliminary assignments to most of these operators, but this is subject to change at the last minute. Final assignment will be made on the air when the balloon goes up.

I will be at the Ottawa EOC on Tuesday morning, March 2 for the statewide tornado warning drill. I hope to be able to use this time as a test of the range available from the antenna we will use for the big drill. If anyone is free during this time, I would appreciate your help. I want to make simplex contacts to evaluate the signals. In the meantime, the packet station at the EOC, KF9NZ-10, is up and active on 145.01. See if you can connect just for fun.

By-Law, continued from page 1

"Any person taking an amateur radio license examination given by the SRRC VE examiners, and which results in their achieving a passing grade for an amateur license, or upgrade of an existing license, will be granted a waiver of the current club initiation fee should such person wish to join the Starved Rock Radio Club on the same day as the examination was taken."

A vote whether or not to adopt the motion as a by-law will be taken at the March meeting.

KB9UPS Updates Website

KB9UPS reports that he will soon be adding a weather satellite page to my web site. It will have links to images, software and sites using the NOAA imaging satellites. Growing interests in up to date weather conditions has prompted him to add current information other than the use of Doppler radar from the National Weather Service. There are interests in meteorological forecasting on the amateur level, thus Steve has decided to research the subject and create a page of information for the amateur meteorologist. Bear with him, as the information resources are very extensive. KB9UPS hopes to have the site up soon. Check out the web site at: www.qsl.net/kb9ups and look for the link, "Weather Satellites & Amateurs"

**Activities Calendar**

By Nick Sortiriou KB9PUT

March 14

Sterling-Rock Falls ARS Hamfest
More info: Lloyd Sherman, KB9APW
PO Box 521
Sterling, IL 61081
Phone: 815-336-2434
Email: lsherman@essex1.com

March 13 8AM to 1PM

WVARA Hamfest
Terre Haute, IN
Northside Bingo Hall
7339 N. Clinton
Terre Haute, IN

March 16 7PM

Severe Weather Spotter Training
Illinois Valley Community College,
Room 316, Oglesby
Host: LaSalle County EMA

March 18 7:00 PM

Pontiac Fire Station
413 N. Mill St., Pontiac, IL
815-844-0911

March 27 8AM to 12N

Michigan City ARC Hamfest
East side of US 212, ½ mile north of
City Airport Michigan City, IN

THE STARVED ROCK RADIO CLUB

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Leonore, Illinois 61337

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

