



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, has remained an ARRL affiliated club since 1934, and was designated a Special Service Club in 2004..

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



SRRC's new banner, produced by Casey MacKay KB9YFW / Cmac Graphics

New Club Shirts and Decals Available

Casey MacKay, KB9YFW, is offering SRRC decals, t-shirts and sweatshirts for sale through his company, Cmac Graphics. Casey's company also produced the club's new banners, which were recently delivered to the clubhouse.

Casey says the SRRC logo decals are vinyl, 6 1/2 inches

square, and available in three colors, black, white and blue. They cost \$5.50 per decal. Sweatshirts and t-shirts are available in blue or black, and come with the club logo on the back, and your name and call on the front. Sweatshirts and t-shirts are \$16.75 and \$13.75 respectively, with 2x and 3x sizes being \$2.00 more.

Casey is donating 50 cents for each logo item purchased to the club.

Casey also has storm spotter magnetic signs and call sign decals available. You can order all of these items via his website at <http://home.insightbb.com/~cmacgraphics/SRRC.htm>

Officers

President:
Steve Michalski KB9UPS

Vice President:
Kurt Clausen KB9RKU

Secretary:
Frank Carraro KF9NZ

Treasurer:
Francis Kmetz WB9VLW

Directors:
Robert Cockream AB9EE
Mark Gebhardt K9ZQ
Eldon Akers KB9PZA

Static Editor:
Dirk Wolgast W9QA

WISER: Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders

Every ham that gets involved in disaster communications should have some knowledge of hazardous materials, or Hazmat, procedures. True, most hams aren't designated as first responders, and even fewer would have responsibility for mitigation of a Hazmat incident, however it is im-

portant to recognize the potential danger of the release of any material from its container.

While it is easy to envision that a hazardous material spill might occur during a fire or explosion at a manufacturing facility, how about a ham who is out

storm spotting in a rural area, when he comes upon a farm where a tornado has touched down, damaging a tank of anhydrous ammonia? Would you know how far to isolate yourself from the tank or what signs to look for that would indicate that you or someone else

See **WISER**, page 2

needs volunteers to run the station. Please contact Joe/kb9ezz or myself. There will be several other area hospitals setting up ham stations soon as well.

There is also a new BBS being worked on in our area with hopes of being used for emergency communications between Grundy and LaSalle counties. So far the program has been looking good, but tests are still being made for best results. Contact Art/n9zzk, Phill/k9nyx, Jim/kc9fgu and they will walk you through any setup questions you1.14



February Meeting Notes

Frank Carraro, KF9NZ - SRRS Secretary

KB9RKY reported that our BBS should be back on the air soon. He is working on a computer for it now.

Hamfest plans are moving along. It is OK for us to start setting up on Friday as long as we stay out of the way of race fans. We are hoping to have the contract with the Fair Board signed for 2006 so we can have tickets and flyers ready at this year's event.

We are having two banners made advertising the club and hamfest. Thirteen tables are sold already.

K9ZQ is going to set up a repeater remote site at his house. Mark had one going there way back when, but it was only temporary. This is intended to be a permanent site. The junction box for

the coax entries to the building was installed, and the three antennas on the new tower are running through the arresters. All other antennas will be run in that way eventually.

We had a show and tell regarding "Outpost", a software program that is compatible with Internet e-mail systems. This will eventually allow messages to be passed between amateur radio packet and the Internet seamlessly (via an igate).

We agreed that we will transfer our liability insurance to the ARRL sponsored insurance provider. We have to be sure there are no gaps in coverage. We are looking at a further change in insurance coverage in our loss and damage coverage.

We will have a table at the AES Superfest in Milwaukee on April 1 and 2. KF9NZ will travel to beer town on Friday to set up and man the table. One or two to ride along would be nice, and we need some members for Saturday April 2.

Tom Chromzack KC9EGB gave a report on the status of BPL in Princeton. The system is partly energized and noise can be heard on 20 Meters already.

IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED SINCE THE MEETING THAT WE WILL HOST THE ARRL ILLINOIS STATE CONVENTION AT OUR HAMFEST! NOW IS THE TIME TO SIGN UP FOR HAMFEST WORK POSITIONS.

ARRL Member's Suggestion Leads To On-line FCC Forms

Reprinted with permission from The ARRL Web

ARRL Life Member Bill Harris, W7KXB, of Mesa, Arizona, recently wondered if there wasn't some way the League could make it possible for members to fill out online some of the various forms on the ARRL Web site.

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, took the idea and ran with it. As a result, it's now possible for Amateur Radio Service applicants to complete two major forms online: NCVEC Quick Form 605 and ARRL VEC Form 605C.

The NCVEC Quick Form 605 permits filing an Amateur Radio application via a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC), such as ARRL VEC. Like the official FCC Form 605, it can be used to apply for an Amateur Radio Operator/Primary Station License, to renew

or modify a license (*free* for ARRL members) or to prepare an application for a volunteer examination session sponsored by any VEC. ARRL VEC

Form 605C is used for new club or military recreation station licenses, modifications, renewals or duplicate requests of a club or military recreation station license. These applications also go to ARRL VEC, which is authorized to handle club station applications.

The only part of Harris' suggestion that the ARRL could not implement was to permit the applicant to use an electronic signature. "For our purposes, original signatures received and on file are needed," Jahnke explained in an e-mail reply thanking Harris for his suggestion. This means applicants must first print and sign the completed form

before mailing it to ARRL VEC.

There's more information on Amateur Radio licensing forms on the ARRL Web site.

Club Calendar

March

3/5/2005 ARRL Int'l DX Phone Contest
 3/7/2005 March Member Meeting Leonore
 3/12/2005 Hamfest Committee Meeting Leonore
 3/13/2005 Sterling-Rock Falls Hamfest Sterling II
 3/26/2005 CQWW WPX Phone Contest
 3/26/2005 Hamfest Committee Meeting Leonore
 3/26/2005 VE Testing & Tech Session Leonore

April

4/4/2005 April Member Meeting Leonore
 4/16/2005 Hamfest Committee Meeting Leonore
 4/16/2005 North Shore Hamfest Grayslake II
 4/23/2005 Lewis & Clark Hamfest Godfrey II
 4/24/2005 Moultrie ARC Hamfest Arthur II
 4/30/2005 Hamfest Committee Meeting Leonore

May

5/1/2005 DeKalb Hamfest Sandwich II
 5/2/2005 May Member Meeting Leonore
 5/14/2005 Habitat for Humanity Run
 5/14/2005 Hamfest Committee Meeting Leonore
 5/28/2005 CQWW WPX CW Contest
 5/28/2005 Hamfest Committee Meeting Leonore

June

6/3/2005 Hamfest Setup? Princeton
 6/4/2005 Hamfest/VE Testing Princeton
 6/4/2005 SVRC Hamfest Springfield IL
 6/5/2005 Hamfest/Convention Princeton
 6/11/2005 ARRL VHF QSO Party
 6/12/2005 Six Meter Club Hamfest Wheaton II
 6/13/2005 June Member Meeting Leonore
 6/25/2005 Field Day TBA
 6/26/2005 Field Day TBA

July

7/9/2005 IARU HF World Championship
 7/10/2005 Fox River R.L. Hamfest Aurora II
 7/11/2005 July Member Meeting Leonore
 7/16/2005 CQWW VHF Contest
 7/17/2005 KARS Hamfest Peotone II
 7/23/2005 Board of Dir Budget Meeting Leonore
 7/30/2005 VE Testing & Tech Session Leonore

August

8/1/2005 August Member Meeting Leonore
 8/6/2005 ARRL UHF Contest
 8/13/2005 Western II Hamfest Quincy II
 8/14/2005 Hamfesters Hamfest Peotone II
 8/20/2005 ARRL 10 Ghz contest
 8/21/2005 BARS Hamfest Joliet IL

September

9/10/2005 ARRL VHF QSO Party
 9/12/2005 September Member Meeting Leonore
 9/16/2005 Peoria Superfest Peoria IL
 9/16/2005 W9DXCC Convention Elk Grove Vill
 9/17/2005 Radio Expo CFMC Grayslake II
 9/24/2005 VE Testing & Tech Session Leonore
 9/25/2005 CQWW RTTY Contest

October

10/3/2005 October Member Meeting Leonore
 10/15/2005 Jamboree On The Air TBA
 10/29/2005 CQWW DX Phone Contest

November

11/5/2005 ARRL CW Sweepstakes
 11/7/2005 November Member Meeting Leonore
 11/19/2005 ARRL Phone sweepstakes
 11/26/2005 CQWW DX CW Contest
 11/26/2005 VE Testing & Tech Session Leonore

December

12/2/2005 ARRL 160 M Contest
 12/5/2005 December Member Meeting Leonore
 12/10/2005 ARRL 10 M Contest
 1/1/2006 ARRL Straight Key Night

STARVED ROCK RADIO CLUB INC. MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM ED 6/2004

COMPLETE FORM AND MAIL TO:

SRRC

PO BOX 198

LEONORE IL 61332

With dues and fees as follows:

1 YEAR DUES..(calendar yr)..\$20.00

NEW MEMBER INITIATION FEE...\$5.00

ADD FAMILY MEMBERS (all)....\$5.00

PART YEAR DUES PRORATED 20/12

(*=REQUIRED FIELD)

APPLICATION TYPE* ____New Member, ____Renewal, ____ Previous Member

NAME * _____ CALL SIGN _____

ADDRESS * _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP * _____ COUNTY _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE _____

ARRL MEMBER? * _____ LIC CLASS _____

NEWSLETTER ("STATIC") via e-mail or U.S. Mail? EMAIL ____ U.S. ____

E-Mail Address _____

LIST OTHER HAM FAMILY MEMBERS LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS:

NOTICE: Dues for each member must be accompanied by this form.

Funds received by the Club without this form are considered donations. Complete rules of the Club (Constitution and by-laws) can be found in the Club internet site, (see www.qsl.net/w9mks) and I agree to abide by them.

SIGNED * _____ DATE _____

CLUB USE: Form recd by: _____ Date: _____ Payment: _____

Recorded by: _____ Treasurer _____ Secretary _____

CHAPTER 18 – The Rest Of The War Years

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.

Even though radio communication between Bill Merritt's house and mine had failed, the transceiver project had an unexpected benefit for me. The transceiver, along with its associated wires and accessories and the other radio apparatus I already had, overflowed my card table and began to spread out on the dining room floor. At that point my mother declared it an unsightly mess and said I would have to find another place to do my radio experimenting. My father, recognizing my plight, went to the local second hand furniture store and got me a small desk that fit nicely in one corner of my bedroom. It was somewhat bigger than the card table, and had drawers in which I could keep radio parts and tools. Another advantage was that I was out of the traffic pattern now, and had more privacy to do my radio work.

There was also an unexpected benefit from being in the radio repair business. I was able to purchase, from a customer, an old "Air Castle" table model radio that had a shortwave band on it. It needed some repairs, but in addition to the regular broadcast band it could receive shortwave frequencies between 2.4 and 7.0 megacycles (now called megahertz). This included the amateur 80 and 40 meter bands. Of course, amateur radio operations had been suspended because of the war, but there were other interesting radio stations I could hear. One was WWV, the National Bureau of Standards radio station in Washington, D.C. (now located in Ft. Collins, Colorado). I could hear it at 2.5 and 5.0 megacycles. The advantage

of the Air Castle radio over the regenerative set that I built, besides having a loudspeaker, was that it had a calibrated dial. Now I could tell exactly what frequency I was listening to, and this gave me a better feel for the way radio frequencies were allocated to the various services.



The Air Castle radio. Note the "tuning eye" tube at the upper left of the dial, and the calibrated shortwave scale at the bottom.

Listening to the shortwave stations on the Air Castle and remembering the excitement of trying to make the transceivers work developed my radio communications interest even further. Although Alfred Morgan's *First Radio Book For Boys* had served me well, it dealt only with radio receivers and didn't discuss how radio communication is accomplished using transmitters, microphones, and antennas. I remembered that during one of my visits with Charlie Burt, he told me about a book published by the American Radio Relay League called *The Radio Amateur's Handbook*. I found the book listed in my Allied Radio catalog for \$1.00, and I sent them an order for it. A few days later the mail man brought my handbook. It was the 1943 issue, and it contained a wealth of information about all phases of amateur radio communication. I spent many hours during the months that followed, studying it and building some of the circuits described in it. I dreamed about the day when I could build some of the radio transmitters it described and operate them on the amateur bands.



The 1943 Radio Amateur's Handbook (reprinted courtesy ARRL)

In 1944 Bill Merritt and I had to dissolve our partnership in the radio business because he and his family were moving to Chicago. I felt sad about losing a radio friend, but we promised to keep in touch by mail and maybe someday by radio. There were a few letters, but soon we both found new friends.

Later in the year I found an old friend. Charlie Burt had been discharged from the army and was home with his parents at the grocery store. I went to see him one Saturday shortly after he returned. At first he didn't recognize me, probably because the last time he saw me I was in the seventh grade and now I was a sophomore in high school. Charlie was checking over his radio equipment, which had been idle for the last several years. He was planning how he would improve his radio station when amateurs were allowed back on the air. I told him about my new radio handbook and the Air Castle radio and the transceivers that Bill Merritt and I had tried to build. He thought it was great that I was learning more about radios, and said that sometime he would come to my house and see my radio equipment. As I left, I could hardly believe what he had said. A real amateur radio operator would be coming to my house! I could hardly wait.

THE STARVED ROCK RADIO CLUB

Post Office Box 198
Leonore, Illinois 61337

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



Next Meeting: March 7, 2005