

Polygons

A New Direction in the Warning Process

Reprinted from the National Weather Service / Chicago website

NOAA's Chicago National Weather Service (NWS) office will participate in the test and evaluation of a new method of issuing local severe weather warnings, called "Polygons". The test and evaluation period runs through October 1, 2005. Feedback will be solicited from customers to assist in our evaluation. Results and recommendations will be forwarded to NWS Headquarters at the end of the year.

Our Vision; To provide geographically concise, timely, and meteorologically accurate warning information to all.

Polygon FAQ

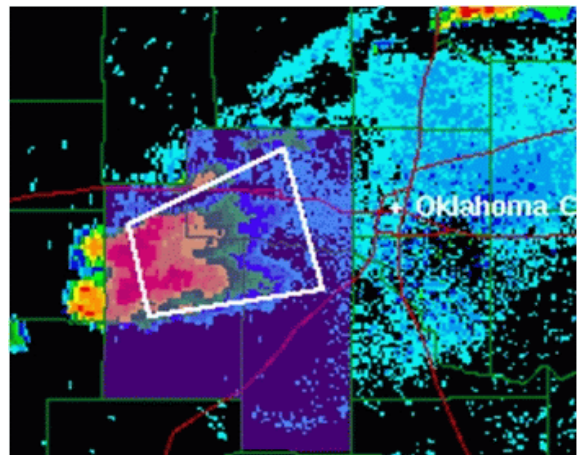
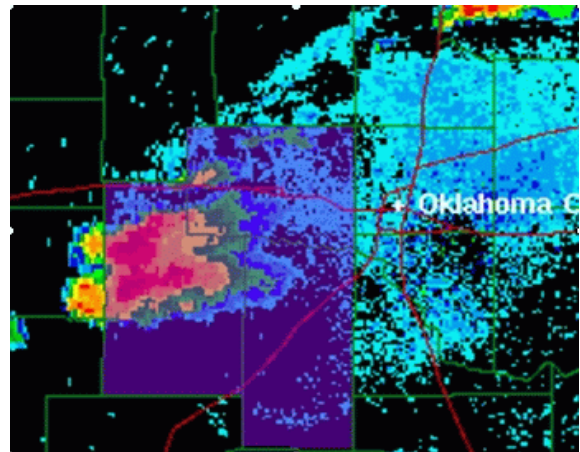
Q. What is the Polygon warning?

A. The polygon represents the area of maximum threat from severe weather. The polygon consists of a set of 4 or more latitude and longitude points that can be displayed graphically.

Q. What are the advantages of polygon warnings?

A. The polygon highlights the area of maximum threat

Here is a comparison of a graphic display of an old county based warning compared to the new polygon warning



and greatly reduces the false alarm area of a warning. Graphical warning displays can assist in the confirmation process by narrowing the warning to the highest threat area

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From the President's Desk

Steve Michalski, KB9UPS, SRRC President

Hello again everyone.

The May business meeting marks the thirty-day warning for our biggest yearly event. Preparations seem to be going well as we draw closer to our hamfest. I ask that anyone that has not signed up for a work detail to please do so as there will be much to do this year. Setup will begin on Friday afternoon the 3rd, with a very early start on Saturday morning. As you know we are hosting the Illinois ARRL State Convention this year and being new to this we will have many extra duties. I have confirmation that the Streator area R/C Flyers will be attending this year for the first time, so lets all make them welcome and build a lasting relationship that everyone will enjoy for many years to come.

Next on the list comes Field Day 2005. I would like to thank the many that help make this event fun and successful for everyone each year. We have been set-



Steve Michalski KB9UPS

K9JKW photo

ting attendance records for several years now and I hope we can again this year have many new faces join in the fun and experience the great hobby of Amateur Radio. I personally enjoy the

fellowship and learning experiences of our great hobby and the young and old that I have the privilege to have met along the way.

The ISS, Northlawn School contact is still in the works and is getting narrowed down. We are still looking at a date near the end of September although the ARISS team wants a summer contact. I will keep everyone posted of changes as they happen. I will be using Field Day as a pre-setup for equipment that will be used for the contact at Northlawn School.

Finally we are looking at JOTA in October and I am being told that this year we will be joining a large group of scouts at Illinois Valley Community College. This will be another new experience for SRRC, and promises to be a fun and exciting event. Come out and join in the fun.

73's and good DX'ing

The 2005 Illinois Repeater Association Annual Meeting

By Frank Carraro KF9NZ

Eight members of the SRRC were present for the IRA meeting at Bloomington Illinois Eastland Suites Hotel. Included were SRRC President Steve KB9UPS, Me, KF9NZ, Eldon KB9PZA, Cecil KB9LNK, Pat KC6VVT, Phil K9NYX, Bob AB9EE, and Bill KA9FER. Most of us were there as representatives of various repeaters for a total of six.

The most important happening was the election of new Officers and three Directors. Bob Hajek, W9QBH has been the President for many years. He was the second holder of that office, succeeding the founding President. Bob Koch KA9FCF has been the Secretary Treasurer for many years also. Both of these gentlemen have been retired for

some time, and Bob Hajek has recently moved to New Mexico.

The new Officers and Directors were nominated without opposition, and declared elected. One Director was elected to a one-year vacancy due to an incumbent Director being elected to the Presidency. The following is the list of Officers:

President: Rich Ranson N9YAY, Springfield (formerly a Director)

Vice President: Tim Childers KB9FBI, Jacksonville (formerly a Director)

Secretary-Treasurer: Larry Schroeder KA9KDC, Wheaton (formerly Vice President)

Directors: Al Wolfe K9SI, Sidney (reelected); Bill Krause KA9FER, Marseilles (SRRC Member!); Steve Look KA9SZW, Monticello (1 year term)

No formal action was taken regarding repeater coordination rules or other important matters. Revival of either the Midwest Area Coordination Council or the National Frequency Coordination Council was discussed. Both of these organizations were attempts at bringing together many of the repeater coordinating bodies of various States, or parts of States. They have both fallen into a state of inactivity.

See **IRA**, page 3

April Meeting Notes

Frank Carraro, KF9NZ - SRRS Secretary

President Steve reported on the activities at AES Superfest. Lots of contacts, but very few ticket sales. He then announced that the Club would have a table at the Streater Hobby Show on the 14th, 15th and 16th.

Another announcement concerned the ISS school contact. Streater Northlawn is coming up this summer or fall. We are being urged to accept a summer date when the schools will be on vacation. There are still unanswered questions, but our turn is coming soon.

There was some discussion about Building and Grounds items. We have ground rods that are exposed to lawn mowers. The cleaning and waterproofing of the deck was again urged, along with getting some progress in the back room.

The FT736 radio was picked up in Milwaukee - fixed for \$268.00, slightly over the estimate.

KB9EZZ told us that he would be on call during both Field Day and JOTA, and we should have someone appointed as backup for him. JOTA will

be held at IVCC in October. All local hospitals will be taking part in a drill. We will need members at each hospital.

Hamfest organization is on target. 18 tables have been sold. The ARRL will not contribute any financial assistance for the convention. Admitting persons who just want to take a VE test was discussed. It was emphasized that we do not charge admission. We request a donation. We are not to deny anyone entrance to the fairgrounds. We have the 2006 contract, and the tickets and flyers for next year will be printed soon.

I gave a rather long repeater maintenance report. I told about the problems with the Midland receiver we had recently. The attempt to get a remote site working at K9ZQ was reported. We'll try again later. We have Echolink working in to the repeater. It looks like we will be free of the K8IE Hampshire repeater. It is being deordinated. Finally, I noted that I have a good radio to replace the Midlands, and I offered to donate it to the Club if they would pick up the cost of the new

channel units.

We then had a recess for refreshments.

When the meeting was recalled to order, we had a more detailed report on some hamfest items from KB9RKU who arrived late.

I reported on the status of our insurance. We have liability coverage, and the policy has been received. No news on the equipment insurance other than our check being cashed.

We were reminded that Mike Jobst, the Emergency Manager will visit our next month's meeting.

It was then moved by KA9FER that the Club pay up to \$150.00 for the new channel units for the GE Radio to replace the repeater radios. It was also announced that W9QA and K9JKW have contributed \$45.00 toward the project. The motion was accepted.

The new door lock code was announced since all present were paid-up members.

IRA, continued from page 2

We were pleased to welcome representatives of the Illinois and Indiana coordinating organizations, but we heard from both of them as well as our own Coordinator about big problems with the Michigan group.

I have saved the best news for last. I have it from the horse's mouth well, the Coordinator's mouth - that the K8IE repeater in Hampshire HAS BEEN DECOORDINATED!! The W9MKS repeater is no longer hobbled by being short spaced with a nuisance repeater coordination. I had this information in a private communication a month ago, but I wanted to talk to

Aaron Collins N9OZB, who is THE Coordinator, and get the details since I had not had any formal reply to my last letter to him.

One last point: The figures regarding the numbers of repeaters are interesting. There are 493 coordinated repeaters in Illinois. The IRA has approximately 190 paid members. Dues in the IRA are \$12.00 per year. If you can afford to support a repeater, you should be able to afford to support the organization that protects it from harmful interference. Three hundred repeater owners don't seem to care.

From KB9EZZ...

Joe reports that during the season's first severe weather net, he used his Tiny-Trak to force a location beacon after immediately after he gave his spotting report on 147.12.

Kevin Nelson was monitoring both the repeater and www.findu.com, and Joe's position was updated on the web page within moments of the beacon. Joe forwarded the screen capture shown on the back cover of this edition of *Static*.

Club Calendar

May

5/1/2005 DeKalb Hamfest Sandwich IL
 5/2/2005 May Member Meeting Leonore
 5/7/2005 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 IL
 6/13/2005 June Member Meeting Leonore
 6/25/2005 Field Day Chief Shabona Park
 6/26/2005 Field Day Chief Shabona Park

July

7/9/2005 IARU HF World Championship
 7/10/2005 Fox River R.L. Hamfest Aurora IL
 7/11/2005 July Member Meeting Leonore
 7/16/2005 CQWW VHF Contest
 7/17/2005 KARS Hamfest Peotone IL
 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 IL
 8/14/2005 Hamfesters Hamfest Peotone IL
 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 IL
 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 IVCC Oglesby
 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

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entire county if a storm is only threatening a portion of the county. Local media can use graphical products to refine the threat area as well.

Q. Will the warning sound differently on NOAA Weather Radio?

A. No. Warnings will still be disseminated on NOAA Weather Radio – All Hazards the same way they have always

been issued, with the tone alert. For those with Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) equipped radios, the county codes will remain the same.

Q. Will the text of the warning look different on the internet or wire services?

A. No. Warnings will still have the same text format that they have had. There will be a string of latitude and longitude numbers at the end of the

warning which will be used to produce the graphic display.

To see the Chicago Prototype Polygon Warning display go to <http://mesonet.tamu.edu/NWS-LOT.html>

CHAPTER 20 – A New Amateur Friend

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.

Charlie Burt was building a separate transmitter and receiver for use on the 2 ½ meter band, rather than a transceiver like mine. So was his friend, John Overocker. I had never met John, but his call letters, W9YBY, were familiar from my earlier days of short-wave radio listening.

When November 15, 1945 finally arrived, John had his equipment ready to operate. Charlie had finished building his receiver, but had not yet completed the transmitter. I offered to loan him my transceiver to use as a transmitter. What an honor I thought it would be for my transceiver to be part of Charlie's first radio equipment to be used after the war ended. Charlie accepted my offer. He thought it was a good idea because he wanted to be "on the air" the first day amateur operation was allowed. He even asked me if I wanted to come to the store for the special occasion. Of course I was thrilled at the thought of that, and I said I sure would be there.

Charlie's parents had closed the grocery store by this time, and most of the shelves and display counters had been sold. The store was quite empty, so we set up his receiver and my transceiver near the front windows. Charlie didn't have outside antennas installed for use on the 2 ½ meter band so we rigged them inside the store. He said we would use "half-wave vertical antennas". On 2 ½ meters a half-wavelength is about 50 inches, so we cut two pieces of stiff copper wire to that length, attached one to the receiver and one to the transceiver and leaned them

up against the wall. John Overocker lived about two miles away, and Charlie said we shouldn't have any trouble hearing him at that distance.

At the pre-arranged time, Charlie turned on the receiver and the transceiver. After allowing a minute for the tubes to warm up, he picked up the microphone and began calling John. "W9YBY, W9YBY, W9YBY, this is W9JAU calling and standing by". I was so excited I couldn't sit still. We listened on the receiver but couldn't hear anything but the usual hiss. Then Charlie repeated the call and we listened again. This time we heard John coming in loud and clear. "W9JAU, W9JAU, W9JAU, this is W9YBY calling and returning". He said he didn't hear Charlie the first time because he wasn't sure where to tune him in on the dial of his receiver. Then he described the equipment he had built, and told us how well he was hearing us. Then he listened for Charlie.

Charlie told John about me being there and that he was using my transceiver, and later in the conversation he asked me if I wanted to talk to John. He introduced us via the radio and then handed me the microphone. At first I couldn't say anything other than my name and "Hello". Then John talked to me. He seemed like a kind and patient fellow, and he asked me several questions to give me something to talk about. Then I started telling him about hearing him on my various radios several years earlier. The one Cyril Girard gave me and also my regenerative receiver. I told him about my crystal sets and the radio books I had used. The words were gushing out now. I imagined I could see them jumping off of the antenna, going

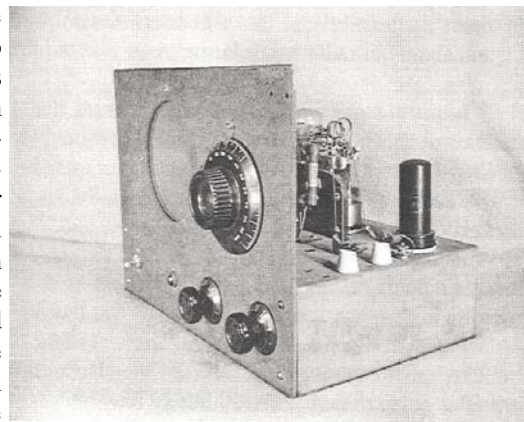
through the wall of the store, and through the air to John's house. I told him about the transceivers that Bill Merritt and I had built and about our radio repair business.

John told me where he lived, and said that I should come to see his radio equipment sometime. He told Charlie that I would be a good amateur someday because I had the "gift of gab". Then he and Charlie talked about the "old radio days" before the war and what they were planning for the future. We talked to John for almost two hours that night.

Finally it was time for me to go home. I was still so excited about the evening's events that I couldn't sleep after going to bed. I kept thinking how my voice went out through the air from short-wave radio equipment I had built myself. Just like I had always dreamed it would someday.

In the years that followed, John and I became good friends. He was considerably older than I was, and had a large family to support, and so never had much money to invest in a m a t e u r radio equipment. But somehow, through the inventiveness that was typical of radio amateurs in those days,

he was always able to build or repair and modify radio equipment to make it operate the way he wanted it to. John was the kind of person who would give a friend the "shirt off his back", and I still use an old microphone he gave me years ago. John Overocker became my fifth and last radio hero.



Charlie Burt's home-built 2 1/2 meter receiver

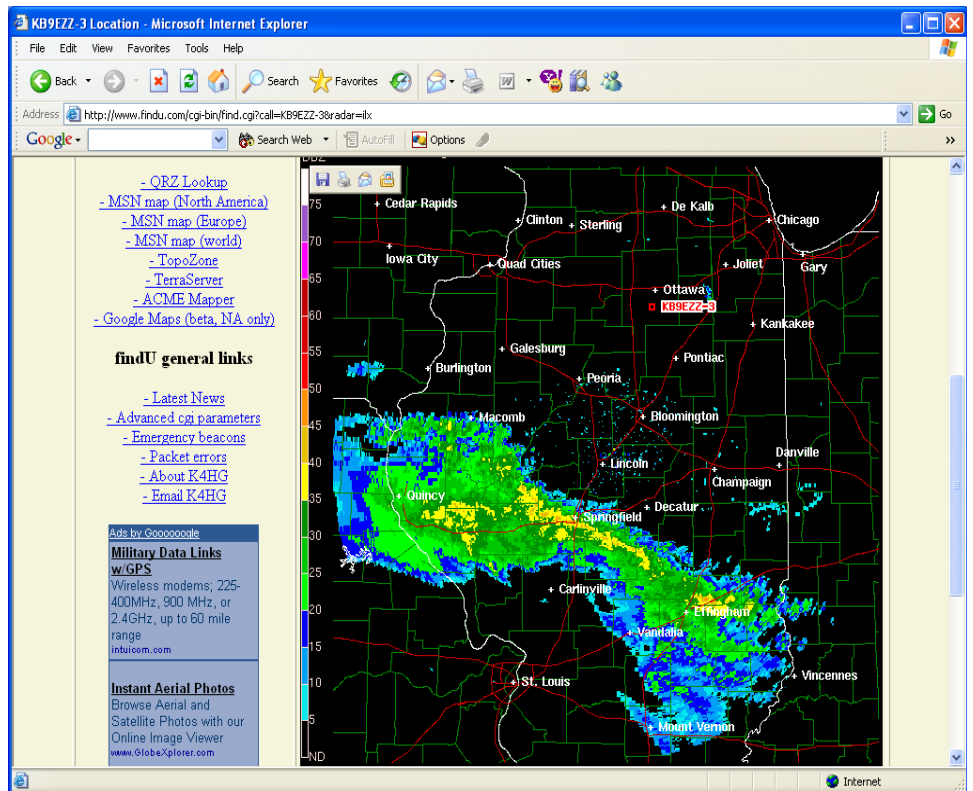
THE STARVED ROCK RADIO CLUB

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**Next Meeting:
May 2, 2005**



Screen capture of APRS report of KB9EZZ's location with NWS radar overlay