

Static

The Starved Rock Radio Club newsletter for September 2009
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Hams needed for event in Chicago

Amateur radio operators are wanted to support a marathon in Chicago. The 26.2 mile Bank of America Chicago Marathon will happen on Sunday, October 11, 2009. Hams will be given radio traffic handling tasks to take care of medical needs, runner dropouts, weather messages, and more. On the Friday and Saturday before the run, hams will staff a booth at the Health & Fitness Expo at McCormick Place. One place to find out more online is <http://www.chicagomarathon.com/HamRadioVolunteers>.

Constitution change approved

Club members voting August 3 approved the requirement that SRRC officers be at least 19 years old and club members for at least a year. That will prevent anyone not old enough to sign a contract from getting a job like treasurer. The language of the club constitution will now require office holders to be one year older than the age of majority in Illinois, which is currently 18. If Illinois law is changed to provide for a different age of majority, the club's minimum officer age will rise accordingly.

New law regulates texting while driving

There are no explicit amateur radio restrictions in new Illinois Public Act 96-130, but hams should consider the implications. It forbids drivers from composing or reading text and email messages while driving. Exceptions are made for drivers stuck in traffic jams with their vehicles in park or neutral, those reporting emergencies, commercial vehicle drivers using devices meeting certain requirements, and drivers who've pulled over to the roadside to handle the message.

Amateur radio isn't mentioned in any of this, however, the bill contains the often invoked "includes but not limited to" construction to instruct judges that the legislature may not have thought of everything when putting together a list for law enforcement purposes.

"Electronic message" includes, but is not limited to electronic mail, a text message, an instant message, or a command or request to access an Internet site.

So if your mobile ham radio work looks like text messaging, it could be restricted. APRS users take note: navigation systems are specifically exempted.

Gov. Pat Quinn signed the bill August 6, 2009. It takes effect January 1, 2010.

Simulated earthquake response exercise

Various agencies will attempt to simulate their response to a major earthquake in southern Illinois Saturday, October 3. LaSalle County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services Coordinator Joe Tokarz (KB9EZZ) is looking for local hams to help test amateur radio communications from this area's hospital locations. It's believed a major earthquake in southern Illinois or southeast Missouri would injure so many as to require help from hundreds of miles around. Joe's pager for the purpose is at 815-767-0527.

Other uses for clubhouse

Secretary Tom Chromzack K9ML and Treasurer Mark Gebhardt K9ZQ announced Sunday, September 13 that the main use of the SRRC clubhouse in Leonore may soon be as something other than a clubhouse. The neighboring grain elevator wants to use the building. A club membership vote on Monday, September 14 was to decide. Mark said Ruff Brothers approached President Eldon Akers KB9PZA "a few weeks ago" about it. As the prevailing sentiment is that *Static* shouldn't include financial and governance matters, the editor refers enquiring readers to the "reflector" email list and the club officers for more.