

# Central Illinois Radio Club

## January 2017 Newsletter

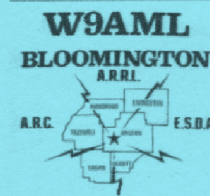
**Next Meeting Wednesday Jan 25, 2017**

**The end of the year is here, It is time to renew your membership. Remember, I have changed the form to allow me to record payments without a new form. Please bring your payment and review your form to be sure it is up to date and I'll update the expiration and it will be all done. Thanks.**

**Your Treasurer, Norm N9ZKS**

# CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

## Short CIRCuits



January 2017

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow CIRCU Members:

Well, we made it though the holiday season ok and on to a new year. Speaking of a new year reminds me of our club membership dues are now due and if you have not had a chance to pay them please attend this months meeting and bring your checkbook with you. The dues help to keep our club going and to support repairs to our club station or the club's VHF repeater. We did not have a December 2016 meeting because of the holidays, but; we had a great Christmas dinner that had a very good turnout at the Ozark House in Bloomington.

Another nice gathering of hams and their spouses was just held a few days ago at Biaggi's Italian Ristorante here in Bloomington with a very nice turnout. your could tell when the food was out as the QRM level went to S1 at the tables. The ladies planned this event and it went very well for all.

As for me, I have been busy working on my favorite boat anchor transmitter; the Johnson Valiant and just finished a full recapping of all the filters and paper capacitors plus changed out all the ceramic disk caps in the complete audio chain of a Valiant I and a few audio circuit mods to improve the modulated audio. This worked out better than expected and the front panel was very nice as well as the chassis and cabinet. After talking on the air on 40 meter AM a fellow in upper Michigan wanted it more than me and it now has a new home and on to my next project. The photos I sent Norm along with this email shows a super nice Johnson Valiant II ( the last version made ) up on my workbench. This one was totally restored by W3HM Howard Mills ( no relation ) and it has been totally stripped and rewired with all new wiring and included W4NPT Dee Almquist's "turbo audio mods" using a pair of KT-88 as modulators instead of the standard 6146's that Johnson used. Several other audio chain mods also were added as adjustable negative feedback to improve the audio punch on positive peaks without clipping distortion. Pretty slick audio changes. So, I am trying to put together a nice AM station and also purchased a RME 45 and a RME 50 receiver to pair up with the Valiant. By the

way, the RME receivers were designed and manufactured right over in Peoria, Il. If you really dig into the past history of ham radio manufacturing of radios and radio parts you will find a lot of them located in Illinois.

Duane ( KC9PIM ) has put together a nice schedule sheet listing important club functions and we as club member need to help add things like what we would like to see as programs for our club meetings besides just a business meeting. Your ideas and thoughts on what you would like to see presented are always welcome. We have had talks on internet security, using a RigExpert to tune remote antennas, satellite reception, vintage bugs and keys and other programs like this. But, it would be nice to hear your ideas on what you would like for our meeting programs.

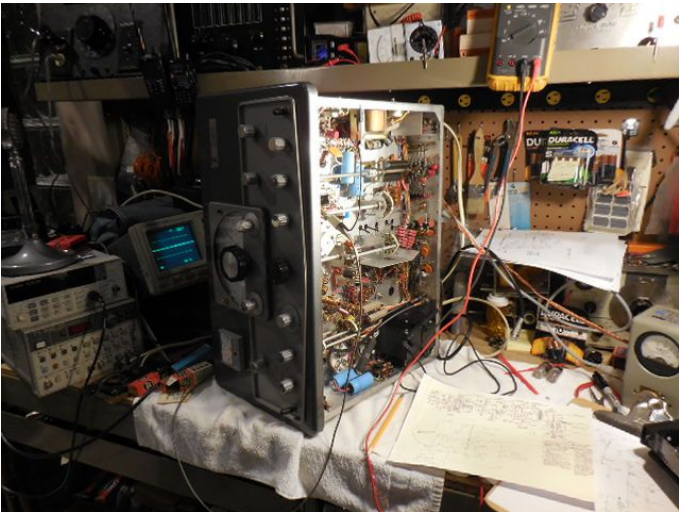
Also, at this months meeting I will be bringing three items that belong to WB9LQX for a short club auction at the end of the meeting. I have a B & W CS-6G grounding antenna switch with six antenna inputs to a common coax, a B & W low pass inline TVI filter and a very nice home brew T-match antenna tuner that was built by K9DW ( Don McLean ) who lives here in Normal. This is a really nice professionally built home brew antenna tuner. These three items will go up to the highest bidder at the end of the meeting coming up Jan 25, 2017.

We need to start our planning for this years upcoming Field Day and get started on this early too. Thoughts and ideas on this event are always welcome.

So, hope to see you all at this coming Wednesday's club meeting.

73, Dennis KE9UA

**January Meeting,  
Wednesday the 25th  
7:00 PM at the Red Cross**



## The Future of Our Hobby

Dhruv has been working with his Chiddix Junior High School partner with Challenger Learning Center, Children's Discovery Museum, Central Illinois Radio Club and ARISS team for one of his projects which involves the school students in 'ARISS' program.

Please include this topic in agenda for our upcoming club meeting.

Here is photo of kickoff meeting with school, CDM, CLC and CIRC officials which was held on January 10th at Chiddix Jr High.



**Illinois RACES/AUXCOMM Granted a Seat at the Big Table**  
**Brad Pioveson, W9FX**  
**ARRL Illinois Section Emergency Coordinator**  
**IEMA State RACES Officer / AUXCOMM Coordinator / SHARES Coordinator**  
**18 JAN 1017**

I am very pleased to announce that, effective 01 JAN 2017, Illinois RACES/AUXCOMM has been granted a seat in the State Emergency Response Center (SERC), typically called 'the Pit' at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The SEOC is the IEMA office facility at 2200 S Dirksen Plaza in Springfield. The SERC is the large area on the first floor of the facility that houses an immense, football-shaped table, and, surrounded by workstations on the perimeter walls, as well, all liberally equipped with PC's and telephones for the use by assigned agency, department, and non-government agency liaisons. Very large screen arrays of monitors are mounted high on the outside walls of the SERC such that feeds from various sources can be displayed for all to see, when necessary. The SERC is populated when deemed necessary by the Governor or the Director of IEMA to deal with exigent circumstances requiring input from critical infrastructure, communications, and health safety organizations agencies and organizations.

Since 2010, Illinois RACES/AUXCOMM has been working in and from IEMA's Rodger Street facility, located a couple miles south of the SEOC, but we had no direct input into the SERC. Anything we had to contribute (or, relay) had to be channeled through IEMA's Communications Manager. With the addition of a RACES/AUXCOMM liaison at the SERC table, we'll be able to be more responsive to agency and organization needs during Illinois crises.

Three RACES/AUXCOMM liaisons have been identified and will be trained in the operation of the tools those PC workstations utilize (WebEOC, *et al*) so that they can communicate directly, by LAN/WAN links and IEMA's intranet, with our State RACES/AUXCOMM team at the Rodger Street installation (NC9IL). The liaisons are Jim Pitchford, N9LQF, Deputy State RACES Officer, Dave Lattan, W9PFD, Deputy State RACES Officer, and, Roger Whitaker, K9LJB, Station Manager for the State RACES/AUXCOMM station which uses the call sign NC9IL on the amateur bands.

Having a representative at this table means that we – our state's 22,000+ amateur radio operators - have, finally, arrived, and are being viewed as full partners, not just hobbyists, by IEMA's Operations Bureau. This is very big news for amateur radio in Illinois. We have, quite literally, gone from being *persona non grata*, having been, essentially, turned away from IEMA from 1993 to late 2009, to having a seat alongside IEMA, IDOT, IDPH, ISP, IDOC, ING, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and, other agencies or NGO's critical to be included in disaster response.

In addition, I can also announce that a separate initiative to develop a unified Strategic Technology Reserve plan for Illinois is underway. Our SWIC (State Wide Interoperability Coordinator), Joe Galvin, is heading up that initiative, and, Joe fully intends for AUXCOMM to be included. So, Illinois AUXCOMM will be a plank-holder in that plan. Work is underway now to put together a state-wide AUXCOMM plan, including building and populating a database of willing AUXCOMM volunteers, which can be used by Communications Unit (COMU) managers need AUXCOMM volunteers for those times when AUXCOMM deployments are needed to assist with emergency communications. We'll be working alongside ITECS (Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications Systems) and UCP (Unified Command Post) vehicles, systems and crews, as well as IESMA's EMAT (Emergency Mutual Aid Team) trailers.

Volunteers who wish to be listed in the new Illinois AUXCOMM database are encouraged to get their paperwork in order now. Specifically, we'll be looking for ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800 course completions as minimum qualifications for AUXCOMM volunteers. Having completed the DHS OEC AUXCOMM course is a definite plus (and, there are two classes scheduled in the near future – more on that in a separate message). We'll be asking that AUXCOMM database registrants provide proof of having completed these courses (any version of them acceptable, old or new) by scanning a transcript of your course work or the actual course completion certificates and uploading them into your database record. More on all of that will be forthcoming as the web-based application is further developed and nearing deployment.

Folks, we're making progress. This is an exciting time to be a part of the RACES/AUXCOMM programs in Illinois!

Posted by: "Brad Pioveson W9FX" <brad@w9fx.net>

## Weather Spotting Classes

Even though we all know tornados can occur ANYTIME during the year the major severe weather season begins soon. It might be a good time to review our training on how to recognize report and protect ourselves. Here are the upcoming class dates.

There are more dates to be added so please check the following link for additions or changes.

<<http://www.weather.gov/ilx/spotter#schedule>>

Wednesday March 8 at 6:30 pm

Richland Community College

Decatur, IL

Thursday March 9

American Red Cross Chapter house

311 West John Gwynn Jr. Ave.

Peoria, IL

Tuesday, March 14 at 6:30 pm

Southpointe Park Community Building

523 South Sycamore

El Paso, IL

Wednesday March 15 at 6:30 pm

Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino

21 Blackjack Blvd

East Peoria, IL

Thursday March 23 at 7 pm to 9 pm

by NWS Chicago Mike Bardou

Livingston County Historic Courthouse

2nd floor 112 W. Madison

Pontiac, IL.

## Central Illinois Radio Club Meeting Minutes

**The November 2016** regularly scheduled meeting of CIRC was called to order by President Dennis Mills (KE9UA) at 7:00 PM on November 17, 2016. Dennis began the meeting by asking the members and guests to introduce themselves. He also passed around a sign-in list. A total of 16 members were present.

The Treasurer's report was given by Norm Huber (N9ZKS). We have \$1,035.89 in the checking account.

Mike Sallee (KC9FWL) read the minutes. Gary Huber (AB9M) made a motion to accept the report. After a second by Keith Hanson (AC9S), the Treasurer's report and minutes were approved as presented.

### Old Business

1. Norm discussed the status of our station at the Red Cross building. The furniture will be delivered soon and we will have about the same furniture as we did before the flood. The key to the room will be kept in a key box and the officers will have the combination. This is to protect our equipment in case of another flood or other changes at the Red Cross building. The concern is that someone might decide to move the equipment and forget to tell us.
2. We had a lengthy and productive discussion about the equipment we have on loan from the State Farm Retirees and Associates Radio Club (SFRAARC). We reviewed our inventory of club equipment, noting the items that are on loan to us. We have equipment stored at a couple of member's homes. We finally got equipment back from the firm that the Red Cross hired to clean and restore the basement. Thanks to Dennis for making many many calls to various people to get items returned. That equipment is also at a couple of member's homes for safe keeping.

Discussions have taken place between SFRAARC and CIRC. The State Farm club needs funds to pay for a few yearly items. They do not need to use the equipment on loan to CIRC. They would like to sell it and have the money for their bills. After a great deal of excellent discussion, it was decided that CIRC would like to purchase the equipment now on loan to us from the SFRAARC. We agreed to offer \$1,400 for all of it and make a payment now of \$600. Then each of the next 4 years we would pay \$200.

After the meeting discussions took place between Dennis and Michael Brown (SFRAARC President) about the price and terms of payment. Finally, an agreement was reached and the offer was accepted by the SFRAARC. Norm made the initial payment of \$600 and the equipment was turned over to a few club members. Now we need to get the items in our inventory and insured. When ready, we will move most of it back to our location at the Red Cross.

Dennis announced a 10-minute break to get some coffee and snacks.

### New Business

1. We discussed the Christmas party and agreed on the



Ozark House. The date was set for

Thursday, December 1 at 6 pm. We will sit in an area of the restaurant and order off the menu.

2. Norm reminded everyone that it is almost 2017 and members should be paying their dues for the year.

3. Dennis gave an interesting presentation of the Rig Expert Antenna Analyzer. He demonstrated many of the special features and discussed the advantages of using it.

On motion Mike and seconded by Greg Kellerman (KC9WVR), the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

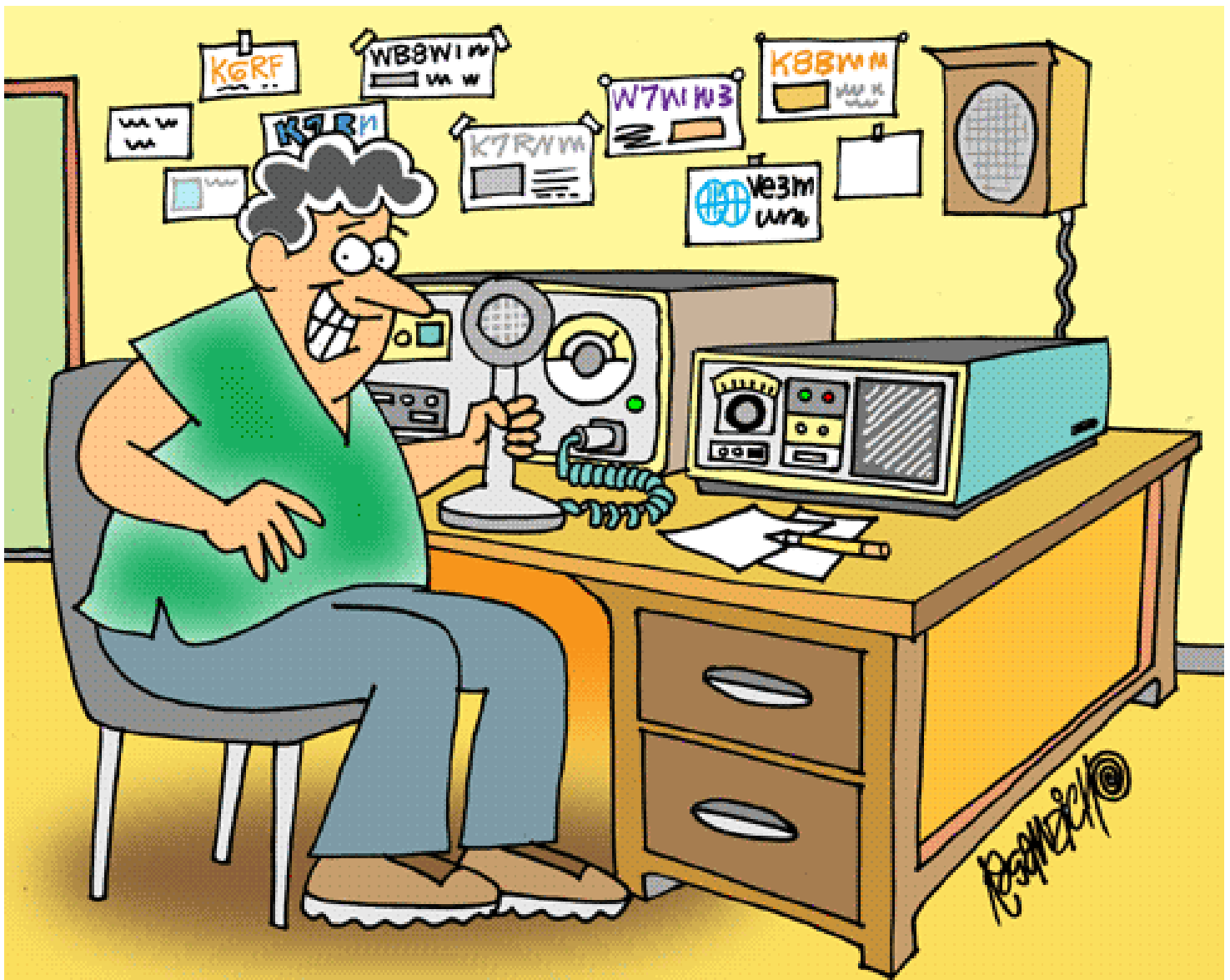
Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Sallee (KC9FWL), Secretary

## Central Illinois Radio Club December Meeting Minutes

The December 2016 regularly scheduled meeting of CIRC was not held. The club had a Christmas dinner (with spouses and significant others) on Thursday, December 1 at 6:00 pm at the Ozark House.

On the regular meeting night of the 28th, the weather was very icy and dangerous so it was decided not to meet.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Sallee (KC9FWL), Secretary



## -Nets in the Area

Mon thru Sat	9:00 A.M. CT	14.2475 (HF) Displaced Peorians
Tuesday	9:00 P.M.	146.255 (103.5 PL) Woodford County
Tuesday	7:15 P.M.	146.910 Tazwell County ESDA Net
Tuesday	8:30 P.M.	28.450 CIRC Open 10 meter Net
Tuesday	9:00 P.M.	146.940 (103.5PL) CIRC Open Net
Wednesday	9:00 P.M.	147.060 Open Net Has Newslane
Wednesday	9:00 P.M.	442.250 103.5 PL ARES Open Net
Varies	147.100	103.5 PL <i>Sometimes</i> Trader's Net follows ARES Net held on 442.250
Thursday	8:00 P.M.	28.450 Vertical polarization is encouraged but not required
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.760 (162.2 PL) Open Net with Newslane
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.850 (103.5 PL) Open Net Peoria
Sunday	08:15 A.M.	1.915 Open 160 meter AM net
Sunday	7:00 P.M.	146.985 Clinton ARC net
Sunday	8:30 P.M.	147.075 <b>156.7 PL</b>
Sunday	8:30 P.M.	146.730 123.0 PL Open Net

(Please help me keep this list correct. I know it may not be up to date at this time. **Recent changes** Norm N9ZKS)

## Regular Calendar of Events

### Daily Coffee Klatch Monday thru Friday

.....9:00 a.m. at Dairy Queen Veterans at Cub's

### .....XYL's Join the OM's Monday and Friday

### Weekly 10 Meter Net

Every Tuesday evening at 28.450 mHz- at 8:30 p.m.

### Weekly 2 Meter Net

Every Tuesday evening on the 146.940-repeater at 9:00 p.m.

### Weekly 6 Meter Net

Every Thursday evening at 50.135 mHz at 7:00 P.M.

### Weekly 160 Meter AM Net

Every Sunday morning at **1.915** mHz at 8:15 A.M.

### CIRC Meeting

Fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Red Cross building in Bloomington (Just north of the airport)

## Central Illinois Area Repeaters

Freq	Callsign	Location	PL
144.390	N9PE-2	Bloomington <b>APRS</b>	Digipeater
146.730	K9HGX	Decatur(Echolink)	123.0
146.790	WD9HRU	McLEAN CO ARES	103.5 Anti PL on 107.2
146.850	K9PEO	PAARC	103.5
146.940	W9AML	CIRC Club - ARES	103.5 CTCSS
146.985	NB9O	Back Up Clinton	162.2 CTCSS Echolink 61727 or NB9O-R
147.015	NX9M	Normal ARES Alt.	88.5 (open*)
147.075	W9UVI	Washington	<b>156.7</b> CTCSS
147.105	WA9RTI	Decatur	103.5
147.150	WD9FTV	Bloomington	103.5
147.390	WB9DUC	Pontiac FARA	127.3
442.250	WA9RTI	Decatur (ARES)	103.5
442.700	WB9UUS	Normal	107.2
442.825	KG9DW	Hayworth	141.3pl
443.800	K9HGX	CENOIS ARC	123.0
444.175	K9MCA	Decatur	100.0
444.2375	WX9WX	Normal - DStar	
444.700	KD9AKF	Hayworth - DStar	

\* Repeater is currently in open mode with pl for those with QRM

## Central Illinois Radio Club

**P.O. Box 993**

**Bloomington, IL 61702-0993**

**Web Page**

**<http://www.qsl.net/w9aml/>**

**President:** Dennis Mills (KE9UA)

**Vice-President:** Greg Kellerman (KC9WVR)

**Secretary:** Mike Sallee (K9UA)

**Treasurer:** Norman Huber (N9ZKS)

**Newsletter Editor:** Norman Huber (N9ZKS)

**The CIRC is a not-for-profit ARRL special service club whose purpose is to advance the service of Amateur Radio. Located in Central Illinois, CIRC and its members welcome all to use the 146.94 repeater and to attend club meetings.**

**Submissions for the newsletter should be received by the 15th of the month and may be snail or e-mailed to the editor at:**

**Norm Huber**

**19266 US Highway 150**

**Bloomington, IL 61705-5855**

**e-mail [n9zks@frontier.com](mailto:n9zks@frontier.com)**

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## AREA EXAM DATES

Following is the schedule for W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exams for the year 2015. at the Community Room of the Bloomington Public Library located at the intersection of of E. Olive St. and S. East ST. Entrance off of S. East St.

Setup is from Noon to 1:00 normally. Exams begin at 1:00 P.M..

Please bring two forms of identification. You must have a Social Security Number. We cannot administer a test without your SSN. You will need a copy of your Current license plus any CSCE you want to apply.

1/21 - Completed

3/25 - Room scheduled

5/27 - Room scheduled

7/22

11/11

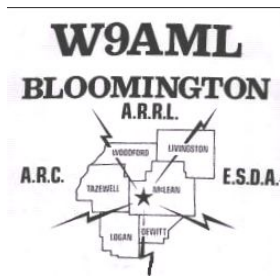
The last two dates have not yet been confirmed with the library.

**Exams' in Morton** are held at the Morton Public Library, 315 West Pershing at 12:00 Noon the third Saturday of even numbered months and. Sep 21 (Superfest),  
Contact Bob Bush at [tigrbob@gmail.com](mailto:tigrbob@gmail.com) for more info.

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Your Treasurer, Norm N9ZKS**



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