



Short CIRCuits

April 2022

SERVING CENTRAL ILLINOIS AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1921

IN THIS ISSUE

President Corner

by Jeff Lovell KC9QQM

Happy almost spring!

The usual March is upon us, with temps varying from the 60's and even the 70's down to the teens with snow as I see right now outside my window.

The club had a great turn out at the social dinner at the Olive Garden, with I think 24 attending. Thanks for coming it was a great time to see each other and talk.

Thanks to Ed KC9GF and Keith AC9S for all the work they are doing on the repeater/tower situation and the grant proposal.

This month we look forward to John KB9LNS giving a presentation on his activities with Parks On The Air.

Next Month, we have Thom W9RY presenting his talk "Earthquake, did you feel it?"

Please attend the monthly club zoom meetings to get in on these presentations.

It has been a quiet March of which I am thankful and I would be amiss not to say a special thanks for all the time and effort our board put in last month to address the various items that needed discussed and resolved.

This will be the first month we have met in person since 2020! Look forward to seeing everyone at 7pm at the Red Cross in Bloomington!!

73,

Jeff KC9QQM

CIRC Happenings

Achievements of our members and club events

Repeater Tips

Provided by Russ Murray WD9FVI

Ham Radio for Bikes

Provided by Norm Huber N9ZKS

Coax Entrance Panel

Provided by Ed Deutsch KC9GF

CIRC Happenings

Repeater Tips

Provided by Russ Murray WD9FVI

DO NOT use CQ or QRZ, these are not considered appropriate for repeater operation. If you wish to contact another station, just call that station. If you wish to notify others that you are listening on the repeater, give your call and so state.

DO NOT key the repeater with your mike button to determine if the repeater is in operation.

DO NOT use the repeater for long "rag chews". Please use simplex frequencies when possible. Short conversations between mobiles and base stations beyond simplex range is certainly permissible. Use common sense about the length of contacts and needs of others for the repeater.

DO NOT abuse auto-patch privileges. Business messages of any kind are not permitted, such as calling time and temperature with a commercial type advertisement, or a business that has a music on hold feature on their telephone system.

DO NOT use the word "break" to interrupt a conversation unless you have an emergency priority traffic. Instead, give your call and wait for the other parties to acknowledge you and allow you to join in with them. Other parties should show common courtesy and allow other stations to use the repeater. "Break" and "Break-Break" is being used on a nationwide basis as a request to use of a repeater for emergency or priority traffic. We wish to develop this practice locally if all will cooperate.

DO pause between transmission to let priority traffic or others indicate the need for the repeater.

DO (at the present time) wait for the "squelch tail" dropout before transmitting.

DO refrain from using the repeater (other than emergency) if you determine it is starting to malfunction and save the equipment from further damage.

DO follow the directions of control stations (they will identify themselves as such) when restrictions are needed in the operation of the repeater.

DO properly identify yourself by giving your call and if mobile or portable and the zone (normally 9) after your call.

Do attend meeting and voice your recommendations, complaints, praise and help maintain the effective operation of the repeater with your support and financial donations as needed.

Coax Entrance Panel

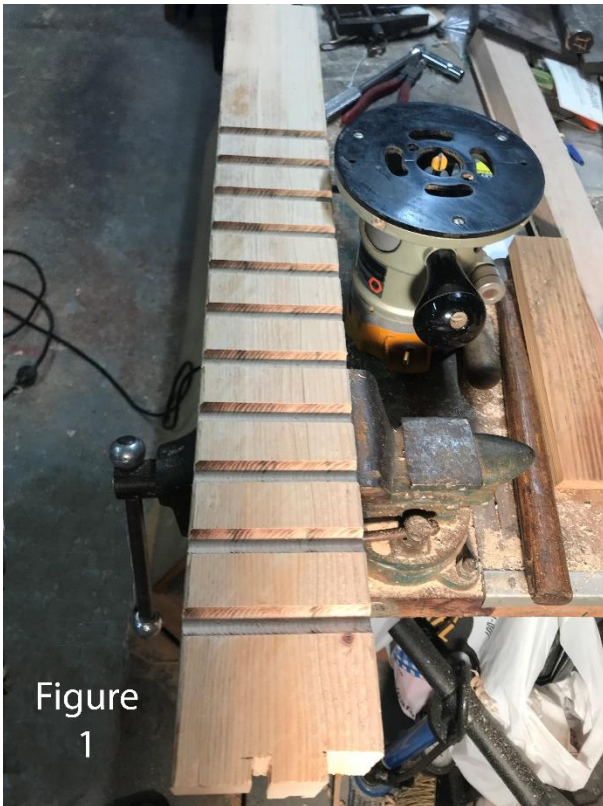
Provided by Ed Deutsch KC9GF

What a mess I had. All the coax cables, rotor cable and ground wire. Every time an impending storm was predicted I had to make sure everything was disconnected and ground (as best I could).

Solution. For quite some time I had planned to re-due all of that "mess" with an entrance panel. The idea wasn't mine but the design was. I saw a similar entrance panel in QST a couple years ago. I just happened to have the metal mounting plate where the coax panel feed through couplers would be mounted. I ordered the feed through couplers. These are the SO-239 type couplers. I have the 1/4" threaded rod to hold the mounting plate at the right distance from where the cables enter through the window. And I already have plenty of wood I needed for the feed through.

Next the construction:

First, I glued two pieces of 2 X 4s together for the size I needed. The window sash would come down on top of that to seal from the weather. I cut a 1 X 4 that would be screwed to the top of the bottom assembly. Carefully marking and routing 1/2", 1/4" deep on both the bottom and top (1 X 2) to match. See figure 1 and 2.



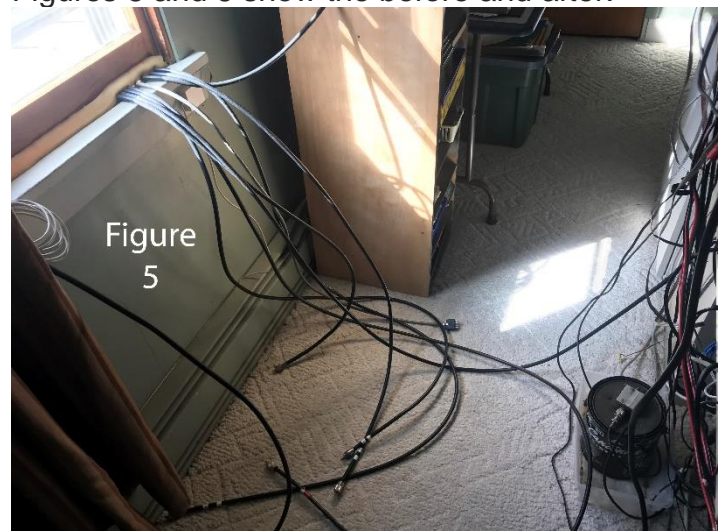
If I carefully marked and routed the 1 X 2 the top and bottom holes will line up. And I did! See figure 3.



Next, I mounted the metal plate that I drilled $\frac{1}{2}$ " holes for the SO-239s, as you can see in figure 4, where I have one SO-239 feed through mounted.



When I was satisfied, I drilled and mounted the rest of the SO-239s. I also wanted to mount a Cinch-Jones plug for the rotor control. So, I machined (by hand) a rectangular hole for the Cinch-Jones plug for the rotor cable. Figures 5 and 6 show the before and after.



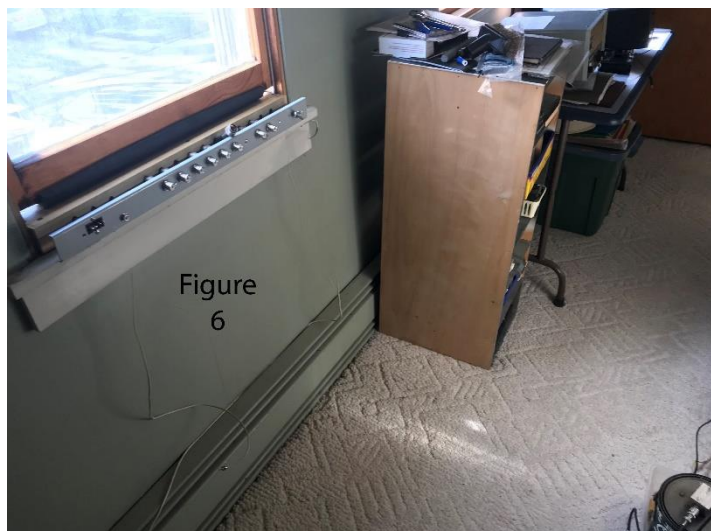
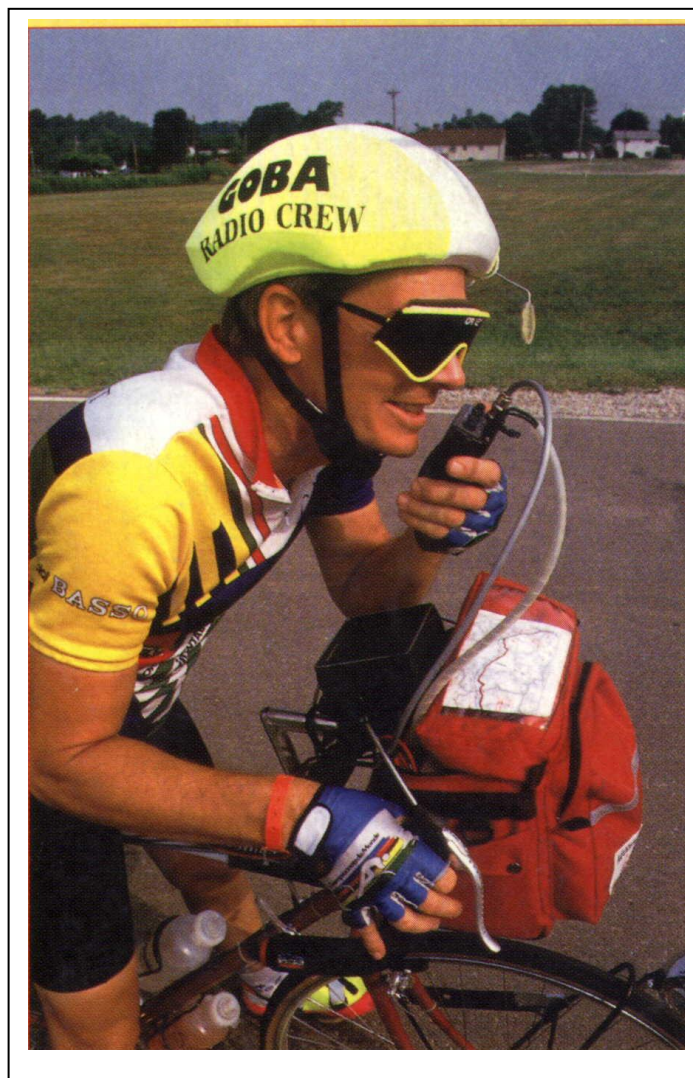


Figure
6

What a difference the new entrance panel made for connecting, disconnecting and grounding made. I no longer have to search for the correct coax for the band I want to operate on. Disconnecting from the panes naturally isolate the radios from the antennas and put the antennas at ground. If anyone is interested, I have more pictures of the construction process and will be glad to share.

Ed KC9GF



Ham Radio for Bicyclists

By Norm Huber, N9ZKS

****Note this is an article Norm wrote many years ago for the club's newsletter****

If you had just gotten into ham radio you would have seen the picture on the cover of "New Ham Companion", of the young man using his VHF handheld (HT) from his bicycle while wearing the identifying marks of an official member of their radio crew. This is obviously one way our hobby can be used by bicyclists. Officials of charity and competitive runs and walks can use the communications offered by a very mobile official or observer on the course. With today's mountain and cross bikes you can go anywhere and do it at an astounding pace.

Bicycles are also used for touring, involving distances from a few miles to trips around the world. Recently there was even a ride around the world by a group of people proving that "physically challenged" is a term which should be only used to describe the external forces acting on the individual. Think of the opportunities offered by a small HT using batteries charged by one of the new flexible solar panels. Believe me, you would cause a pileup if you would break with a call indicating you were bicycle mobile. This would offer an amazing opportunity to meet the people of a new area.

Then there is the matter of getting help on the road. A HT would allow you to report progress or even call for a ride home if you misjudged the helpful (?) Illinois wind. I guess it could also be used to report the "Vehicle from hell" which just threw the Bud can at you if necessary.

If you were to really get serious you can use a small radio and make worldwide contacts. There are bicyclists making CW contacts from bicycles. A number of them use recumbent bicycles, which lets them say they are just lounging around as they cause the pileups and record the addresses for the QSL cards.

AREA NETS

Tuesday 8:30 pm 28.450
CIRC Open 10 meter Net

Tuesday 9:00 pm ~~44.640 (456.7PL)~~Temp on 444.950- 97.4PL
CIRC Open Net

Wednesday 8:00 pm 50.140mhz USB
6M net

Thursday 8:00 pm. 28.450

Thursday 8:00 pm 444.950 (97.4pl)

Sunday 08:15 am 1.915
Open 160 meter AM net

AREA EXAM DATES

Following is the schedule for W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exams for the year 2022. At the Community Room of the Bloomington Public Library located at the intersection of E. Olive St. and S. East St. Entrance off of S. East St.

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

PLEASE – Contact Keith AC9S at AC9S@Hotmail.com to sign up.

2022 dates
TBD

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 at the Peoria Superfest. ***This might be incorrect with changes due to COVID19.

CIRC Meeting
Fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the
American Red Cross

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 (temp on 440mhz)
Every Tuesday evening on the ~~44.640~~ 44.950 repeater at 9:00
p.m.

Weekly 6 Meter Net
Every Wednesday evening at 50.135 MHz at 8:00 pm

Weekly 160 Meter AM Net
Every Sunday morning at 1.915 MHz at 8:15 am

75 Meter HF Traffic handling nets

NET / TIME	FREQ khz
NORTH CENTRAL PHONE NET	
M-F 7:00 A.M. central time	3912
ILL. PHONE NET	
M-F 4:45 P.M. central time	3857
SUN. 8:00 A.M. central time	3940
ILLINOIS SIDEBAND NET	
M-SAT. 6:00 P.M. central time	3905
75 METER INTERSTATE SIDEBAND NET	
DAILY 0100 UTC	3985
ITN INDIANA TRAFFIC NET	
DAILY 1230 UTC	3910 OR
2200 UTC	3912

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 993 BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702-0993

WEB PAGE

[HTTP://WWW.QL.NET/W9AML/](http://www.ql.net/w9aml/)

CLUB EMAIL

centralillinoisradioclub@gmail.com

President: Jeff Lovell (KC9QQM)

Vice-President: Russell Murray (KD9FVI)

Secretary: Mike Sallee (KC9FWL)

Treasurer: Larry Gibson (W9BJG)

Member at large: Duane Benjamin (KC9PIM)

Newsletter/Web Editor: Jeff Lovell (KC9QQM)

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, the CIRC and its members welcome all to use the 146.64 and 444.950 repeaters to attend club meetings.

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