



Short CIRCuits

March 2021

SERVING CENTRAL ILLINOIS AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1921

IN THIS ISSUE

From The President

by Rick Suhadolc NgCKL

This past Monday March 15th Ice Storm could have been another repeat of New Year's Day, the ice accumulation of only .1 inch, and rapid warm up, kept the antennas, and tree limbs in the air.

On April 1st we start Tornado Season in Central Illinois. I am not sure if the CIRC is officially doing weather spotting this year? I welcome all to check in on the CIRC repeater for storm updates during severe weather season.

I hope everyone was able to hear the Ham World during the ARRL International DX Contest?

The CW portion was on February 20 -21st and the SSB portion was March 6-7th. I made many contacts including a few new ones on 20 meters.

Another great upcoming Contest is the CO WW WPX Contest SSB on March 27-28th.

Just a Signal Report and Serial Number are all that's required in the exchange. The overseas stations will be easy to work.

The April QST outlined the Solar Cycle 25 upcoming sunspot data. Per the article the

2023 through 2027 will be the best portion of the 10 Meter HF propagation.

It brings back memories of working Europe on a 10 Meter Ham-stick Antenna with my Kenwood TS-140. The HF 10 thru 20 meter signals can only get better.

I'm glad to see the CIRC Ham Radio Testing begin again in April, Thank You Keith Hanson AC9S.

I am getting my first Covid Vaccine this week and the second by April 8th. Mclean County has opened the Vaccine to 16 years of age and older for those with health issues.

I will welcome getting back to normal again. I would like to propose having the April 28th CIRC meeting in person.

Stay warm and healthy Rick
NgCKL

CW Key Collecting

Article by Ed Deutsch KC9GF

CW Key Collecting

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I was asked how I got started collecting CW keys. My answer was "I'm not sure". Giving some thought to the question this is what I came up with. My interest must have started when I was novice. My novice key was a flame proof CTE-26003A Navy straight key. With the chrome plated steel base, which I made, weighed in at 6.66 lbs. (See Picture) That won't move on my desk! I saw a key at a ham fest, it wasn't too pricy, so I couldn't pass up. Why? I don't really know, I just wanted it. That kept happening until I realized I had become a collector. At what point does that happen?



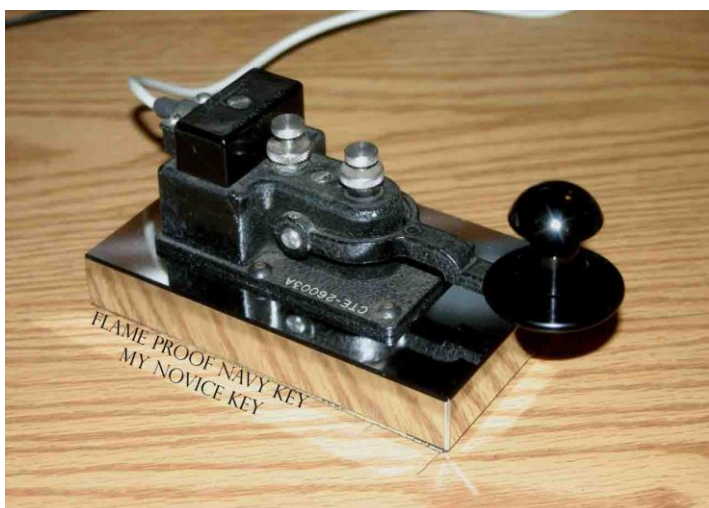
Going to ham fests was and is my main source for keys. But my keys have come from other sources. Some were local, thanks to some local hams, and some from internet auction sights. I always start out telling myself I'm not interested in any more keys; something always comes along I just can't pass up.

To date I have 74 keys ranging from the very basic \$12.95 key to a Begali Stradivarius. I don't look for any particular type or brand just what might come along. Here's a quick list of what's in my collection. 15 different Vibroplex, 2 Bencher iambic, 2 MFJ, 1 Begali, 1 Navy key (my novice key), 1 Chinese, 1 WWII Japanese, 4 WWII German, 2 Russian (one is a special force key made Ukraine), US J-37, 38, 43, 44, 45, JJ-37, US CTE 26003A Navy, 1 US Army Signal Crop J5A, 2 Wm. M. Nye, 1 Remler Co. Ltd. CRL 26012, 2 Himound, 5 British WWII and an H. Tinsley & Co. straight key – London. Also in the collection are some low-end very basic straight keys. A couple of them have a battery powered buzzer. Oh, and I have a sounder that could be a Signal Electric Sounder (1920's) or a Japanese sounder (1950's), (Thanks Grant AA9LC). I have 2 keys that the lever arm are hack saw blades, one of which I made. The other was one of about 200 made in Sweden by Firma Kungsimport.



Some of the keys I acquired were in pretty bad shape. I show some pictures of before and after restoration.

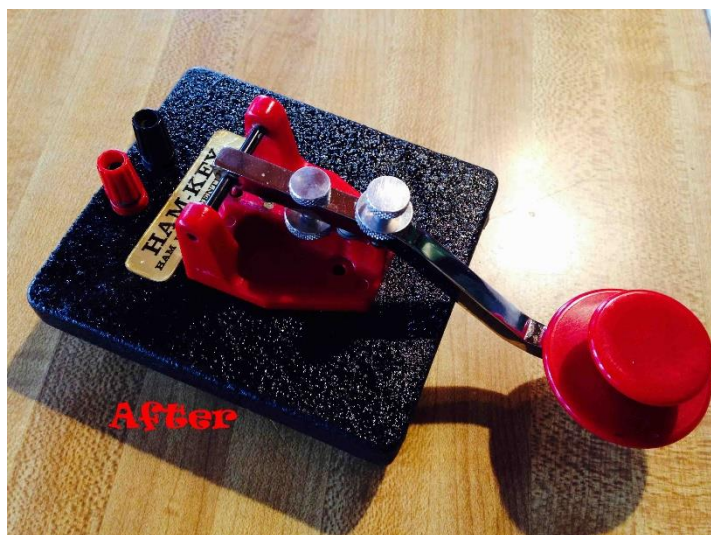
Also, as part of my collection I have a few keyers, all but one is with paddles. I have two Heathkit, a Ten-Tec, Ramsey Kit, Wm. M. Nye and two Pico Keyer kits. Of course, there are keyer circuits in the FT-1000 and Flex 5000 and an IC-7000.



Last December our grandson and I drove to our son's house in Spring, Texas. Cristina doesn't particularly enjoy a long road trip so she stayed behind. Usually, she doesn't bother any of my ham things. But this time she couldn't help herself. She wanted to surprise me and organize my keyer collection. The guys at the DQ coffee clutch helped her with some ideas. When I got home from our trip, she couldn't wait to show me what she did. She cleaned off the dresser and put some shelves up to display my collection. I was impressed: the shelves were straight and level! You can see her handiwork in the picture.



I could go on but this is a newsletter and not a book. Last thing I want to do is thank the local guys who helped with building my collection. Thanks to: Dennis, KE9UA; Gary, KD9F; Tom, KJ9P; Jim, K9GRO; Barry, W8SM/SK; Grant, AA9LC; Larry, KB9NPH; Eric, N9DOA and Stephan a friend in Germany. Muchas Gracias!



Here are a couple very good web sites to look up and learn about Morse code keys:

<http://www.telegraphkeys.com/index.html>

<http://www.navy-radio.com/xmtr-key.htm>

Ed, KC9GF

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Central Illinois Radio Club
<http://www.qsl.net/wgaml/>
Bloomington, Illinois

AREA NETS

Tuesday 8:30 P.M. 28.450
CIRC Open 10 meter Net

Tuesday 9:00 P.M. 146.640 (156.7PL)
CIRC Open Net

Thursday 8:00 P.M. 28.450
Vertical polarization is encouraged but not required

Sunday 08:15 A.M. 1.915
Open 160 meter AM net

AREA EXAM DATES

Following is the schedule for W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exams for the year 2020. 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.

2021 dates

April 17th -1:00-3:00pm Central

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.

CIRC Meeting

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

1 Westport Dr.

Bloomington, IL 61704

** Until further notice the meetings are virtual and only for members. We are sorry for any inconvenience. **

Calendar of Events

Daily Coffee Klatch Monday thru Friday

**** The weekly Coffee Klatch has been moved to the 146.64 repeater for the time being. Remember the new PL is 156.7hz *****

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 146.640-repeater at 9:00 p.m.

Weekly 6 Meter Net

Every Wednesday evening at 50.135 MHz at 8:00 P.M.

Weekly 160 Meter AM Net

Every Sunday morning at 1.915 MHz at 8:15 A.M.

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
2200 UTC	3912

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB
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WEB PAGE

[HTTP://WWW.QSL.NET/W9AML/](http://www.qsl.net/w9aml/)

President: Rick Suhadolc (N9CKL)
Vice-President: John Payne (AC9TN)
Secretary: Rob Cherry (N9TO)
Treasurer: Larry Gibson (W9BJG)
Member at large: Grant Zehr (AA9LC)
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 repeater and to attend club meetings.

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