



# Short CIRCuits

March 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.

73,

Jeff KC9QQM

\*\*I just received word from Norm N9ZKS that starting in April we will be able to meet at the Red Cross facility!!! Note we will still have the Zoom virtual meeting for those that don't feel at ease at being in person!!

## CIRC Happenings

Achievements of our members and club events

**Grant Zehr AA9LC has article published in QST magazine!! See the April 2022 issue, page 34!!!**

## What is Amateur Radio?

by Chuck Kostelc N9RZV

## CIRC Happenings

### What is Amateur Radio?

By Chuck Kostelc N9RZV

*\*\*\* This article was provided by Norm N9ZKS and was written by Chuck many years ago. Many of our members past and present wrote on various aspects of ham radio and I will be presenting them over the next few months. Jeff KC9QQM\*\**

When somebody sees you out using an HT (handy talkie), a headset or have a strange looking antenna on your car or house, do you get asked 'What is that?' or 'Why are you carrying that radio - you a cop or something?' When this happens to me, I just reply that I am an Amateur Radio Operator - if that doesn't click with them - a 'HAM' radio operator. Most people have heard of us, men and women, OM's and XYL's, boys and girls, that enjoy meeting and chatting with people we find all over the world via radio telecommunications. But they really don't know what our charter is, or our purpose for existence. This is when the conversation can get a little difficult, but try anyway; you might get that person excited enough to want to become one of us!

In an effort to answer their questions, I describe Amateur Radio's charter, that we, as a community:

- Provide communications during times of need. While this used to be emergency communications only, it has been allowed to help coordinate safe bicycle/foot races, hikes, etc.
- Help expand the technical knowledge of the radio art, which includes electronics, antennas, computes, etc., and to increase the pool of trained operators, technicians and electronic experts through self-training.
- Show goodwill to all people we encounter in our daily lives, both locally and internationally.
- Cannot accept any payment for our services. Amateur frequencies are only used for nonbusiness communications. Businesses are allocated different frequencies; use equipment designed for business uses and are licensed and controlled differently than is Amateur Radio.

Today it is much easier for the general public to communicate using cellular telephone, GMRS vhf radios, etc. that the need issue is not as gnat but there are times

(earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.) that normal communications are put out-of-service and that's when Amateur Radio people are ready to step in and help.

If you still have their attention, keep going! They might ask 'How much money does it take to set up a station?' or 'What does it take to get a license?' By this time, you pretty well have them interested, and you already have a good idea how much time studying and how much money they'll have to invest to get started. Invite them over to see your 'shack' or extend a helping hand to get them on the air.

Now that we know what Amateur Radio IS, what can we do with, it? Well, then are almost too many things to mention, but here goes. First you must have an FCC license to transmit almost any kind of radio - the Amateur service is no different and you'll need to study and successfully pass at least one exam to get a license.

License classes are: Novice, Technician, Technician Plus, General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra. Most radio clubs hold classes for Novice, Technician and Technician Plus class licenses, and can help you get your first license. Operating privileges increase as you study for and pass higher class exams, which you can study for on your own or with other ham friends you'll be making by joining the ranks. Tests are given at Hamfests (conventions or swap meets) and at scheduled times, usually sponsored by a local Amateur radio club with the proper test administering authority. Get to know when and when the local club meets. Join in the fun then you'll have all the help you need to get on the air.

Depending on your license class and the kind of equipment you have, you can communicate using phone (voice), CW (Morse code), ATV (Amateur TV), and data (computers). Modes are CW, SSB, FM, AM, PACKET RTTY, AMTOR PACTOR G-TOR, SCOTTY I or II, etc. The bands are HF, VHF, UHF, and microwave over a number of frequencies allocated for the Amateur service. The language commonly used is English, however you can talk using ANY language you know, as long as a few simple rules are followed. You can exchange post cards (QSL's) to confirm your conversation between you and your newfound friends. You can even talk using orbiting satellites, to astronauts, or bounce signals off of the Moon! Neat!

# AREA NETS

Tuesday 8:30 pm 28.450  
CIRC Open 10 meter Net

Tuesday 9:00 pm ~~146.640 (156.7PL)~~ 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](mailto: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  
\*As of April 2022, virtual meeting still available to members  
1 Westport Dr.  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
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# 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 ~~146.640~~ 444.950 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
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### NORTH CENTRAL PHONE NET

M-F 7:00 A.M. central time	3912
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### 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
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### 75 METER INTERSTATE SIDEBAND NET

DAILY 0100 UTC	3985
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<b>ITN INDIANA TRAFFIC NET</b>	3910
DAILY 1230 UTC	OR
2200 UTC	3912

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB  
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WEB PAGE

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*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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