

# Short CIRCuits

## November 2018

SERVING CENTRAL ILLINOIS AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1921

IN THIS ISSUE

## From The President

by Jim Baker WB9EDL

I hope everyone enjoyed a Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends. We celebrated with my sister and some local friends.

It appears that winter has made an early arrival. This probably ends the outside antenna work. Hopefully any antenna projects have been completed and are working as expected.

Propagation on the HF bands has been very poor of late. Some of the state wide traffic nets have been switching from 75 meters to 160 meters for their local operations. It is strange that 1000 mile contacts are loud but 50-100 mile contacts are not there. The poor conditions have boosted the interest in the FT-8 mode. DX contacts are reported with low and moderate power levels and are coming in from many sources.

November and December offer many very good contests for both SSB and CW. One contest that I like is the ARRL Straight Key Night 0000 UTC-2359 UTC Jan 1. It is slow paced and fun to use the old tube rigs from our past.

Congratulations to Dhruv Rebba for his award at the AMSAT convention regarding his participation with the Chiddix Jr. HS. ISS ARISS contact. This was a great achievement for him and for the participants from our club that helped.

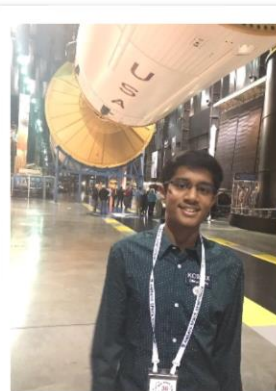
73, stay warm and keep the tubes glowing.

Jim WB9EDL



### Grounding Your Shack!

Submitted by Dennis Mills KE9UA



### AMSAT Presentation

Submitted by Hari Rebba VU2SPZ

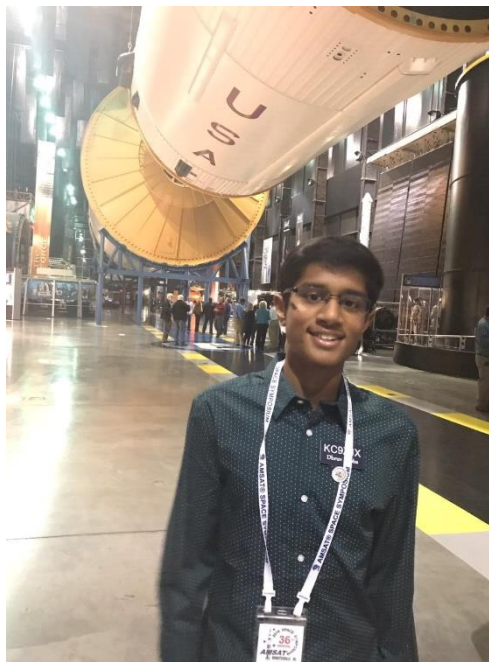
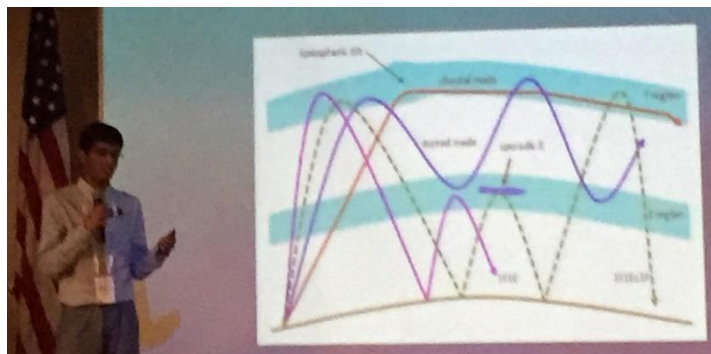
# AMSAT Presentation

Article and photos by Hari Rebba VU2SPZ

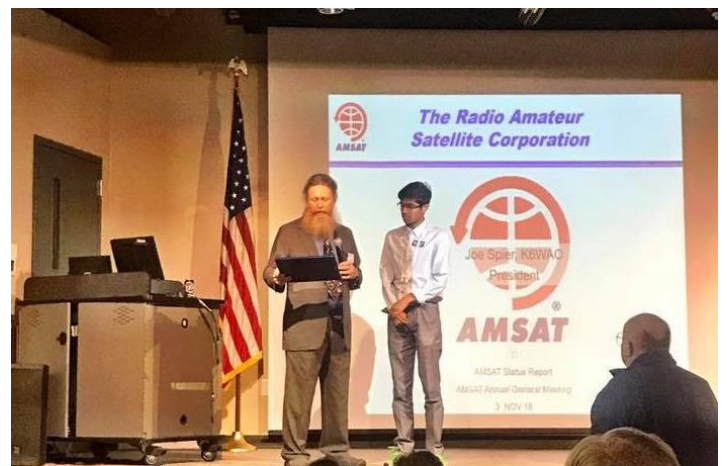
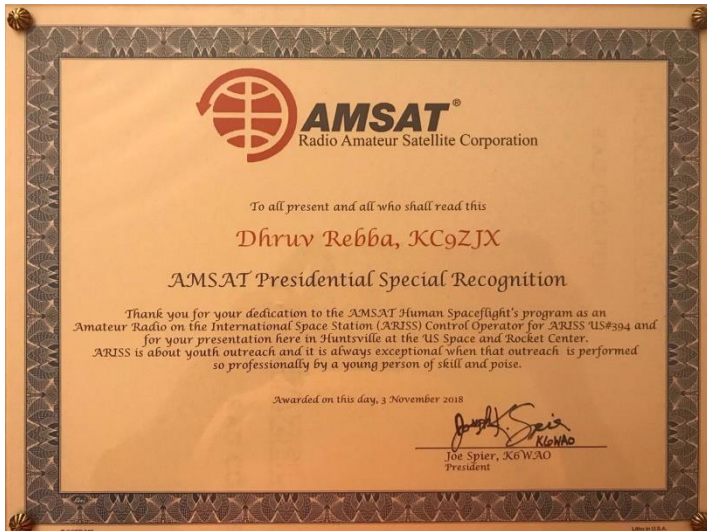
Last week we attended AMSAT Symposium at Huntsville, ALABAMA. Dhruv gave his presentation on chat with ISS ARISS contact US#394.

Dhruv Rebba-KC9ZJX received AMSAT (Radio AMateur SATellite Corporation)- Presidential Award from Joe Spier, President AMSAT.

Thank you Joe for giving this amazing opportunity for presenting at the US Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama.









# Grounding Your Shack

Article and photos by Dennis Mills KE9UA

This is my outside entrance panel enclosure made by KF7P. This enclosure has a solid copper backplate that my Alpha DX lightning arrestors are mounted to plus the rotor cable lightning arrestor in the upper right corner.



I have a 2" entrance EMT conduit that runs from the back of the upper left corner that runs into the home and this conduit runs all across the beam joist under the laundry room heading right at my radio room and exits down through a 90 degree sweep to another ground rod buried right next to my radio room. The 90 degree sweep makes a real nice wide turn and no sharp 90 degree turns are made like a standard 90 does. This also makes for a great pulling run and allows the coax and cables to slide right through the conduit.



This was a big improvement to my coax runs as they now come off the tower leg and right into a weather head next to the concrete pad and then go underground to another weather head right next to the entrance panel. No more tripping or stepping on coax laying on the ground and now there is just a minimal amount of coax exposed to the critters to chew on and this is coated with a critter repellent that seems to work well.



My previous method of getting coax to the radio room was to drill holes large enough to pass the coax and then seal the coax run. So now; the lightning arrestors are not exposed to the weather and much easier to service should something happen. I pulled in extra cords to allow future runs of coax to be added or removed easily when needed.



This installation has given me a piece of mind during thunderstorms now and I believe I have done everything possible to protect my radios and our home. This system is bonded to my tower grounding system and the home's entrance power grounding rod also.

# Regular Calendar of Events

## AREA NETS

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

Tuesday 9:00 P.M. 146.940 (103.5PL)  
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

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If you are wondering where all the nets are, it was brought to my attention that many of these are no longer in operation. I have left the ones the CIRC handles directly.

If you want another net listed, please send me an email directly and please verify it is a current net and I will add it to the list.

Jeff KC9QQm

[Kc9qqm@gmail.com](mailto:Kc9qqm@gmail.com)

## AREA EXAM DATES

Following is the schedule for W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exams for the year 2018. 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.

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.

2019 dates;

tba

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),

Have an upcoming event that the club might be interested in attending or supporting?

CONTACT JIM BAKER WB9EDL  
Or bring it up at the next club meeting

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  
American Red Cross  
1 Westport Dr.  
Bloomington, IL 61704

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB  
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WEB PAGE  
[HTTP://WWW.QSL.NET/W9AML/](http://www.qsl.net/w9aml/)

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(AC9S)  
Treasurer: Greg Kellermen  
(KC9WVR)  
Newsletter 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 146.94 repeater and to attend club meetings.*

*Submissions for the newsletter should be received by the 15th of the month and may be emailed to:  
Jeff Lovell  
e-mail [kc9qqm@gmail.com](mailto:kc9qqm@gmail.com)*

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